

VOLUME 29 ★ NUMBER 16 DECEMBER 18, 2009

THE AUSTIN

# CHRONICLE

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VOL. 29, NO. 16 ★ DECEMBER 18, 2009

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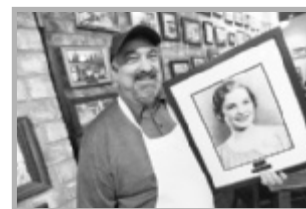
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Austin bloggers cover COPENHAGEN CLIMATE TALKS at Newsdesk > Picture in Picture on WHO'S ON MARS > SAYING GOODBYE to some friends at Earache! > Chronique GETS STITCHED ON DEC. 19 > The Gay Place on Houston's early holiday gift: AN AWESOME LESBIAN MAYOR!

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12 / 18 / 09  
**FRI** 11AM  
-  
12AM

3:00pm - 4:00pm  
4:30pm - 5:30pm  
6:00pm - 7:00pm  
7:15pm - 8:15pm  
8:30pm - 9:15pm  
9:15pm - 9:45pm  
10:00pm - 12:00pm

The Lovers - American spiritual psychedelic folk groove rock  
My Stereo Sunshine - live acoustic singer-songwriter  
Soulution - Rock and Roll with a Hawaiian twist  
Root Dimension Raggae  
Austin Dance India  
Goddess Fire Tribe and Lakota Ceremonial Drum - fire performance  
Marcus Graf

12 / 19 / 09  
**SAT** 11AM  
-  
12AM

12:00pm - 12:45pm  
1:00pm - 1:45pm  
2:00pm - 2:30pm  
2:45pm - 3:15pm  
3:30pm - 4:30pm  
4:45pm - 5:45pm  
6:00pm - 7:30pm  
8:00pm - 9:30pm  
10:00pm - 12:00pm

Sumner Erickson of the Texcentrics  
Roller Derby Bomb Squad Jeerleaders  
Belly Dancers. Raks Helwa Bellydance  
Austin Hula Hoopers and Children's Interactive Circus Skills  
Baker Family Band with BearKat on ukulele featuring Luke Kalloch  
Tribal Moondance and Full Moon Fire Spinners and Live Drums feat. Maranda Pleasant  
Carney, Tindall and Warnock  
Rook - Raggae  
Toast - Experimental jam/rock

12 / 20 / 09  
**SUN** 11AM  
-  
10PM

12:00pm - 1:00pm  
1:30pm - 2:30pm  
3:00pm - 4:00pm  
4:30pm - 6:00pm  
6:00pm - 7:00pm  
6:30pm - 8:00pm  
8:30pm - 10:00pm

Meesh and Jewels of the Jezebelles featuring Alana Shea Bellydancers  
Circus Yogis Troupe Acrobatic Yoga for kids and parents with Maranda Pleasant  
Djembabes  
Aclacble - African Soukous, full drum and dance troupe  
Burners Fire Spinning Troupe  
The Lovers - Rock  
Evoleno - Psychedelic organic funky reggae jam

12 / 21 / 09  
**MON** 11AM  
-  
10PM

12:00pm - 1:00pm  
1:00pm - 2:00pm  
2:00pm - 3:00pm  
3:15pm - 4:00pm  
4:30pm - 6:00pm  
6:30pm - 8:00pm  
8:30pm - 10:00pm

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Special Thanks to  
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# A Constant Marvel

Binder, Beck, and the Big Red Cheese

BY LOUIS BLACK

The last columns took a break from the epic Otto Binder story, but now we continue it. Our story so far: In the early 1930s, Otto Binder and his brother Earl began writing science fiction for the pulps. They used the pseudonym Eando Binder. As the Thirties progressed, Earl dropped out of writing for the most part. Keeping the pseudonym, Otto became very prolific, and was one of the best-known writers in the SF pulp field by the late 1930s. The beginning of the next decade found him starting to work on comic books, which paid much better than pulps. At first, he wrote for many different characters and for many different companies. Soon, instead of science fiction, he was writing comic book scripts exclusively. Around 1942, Otto Binder was hired full time to work for Fawcett, the home of Captain Marvel.

Working for his brother Jack's shop, Otto Binder had begun writing for a number of different comic book companies, including Fawcett, where he wrote for Captain Venture, Mr. Scarlet, Dr. Voodoo, Golden Arrow, and Bulletman. It was a happy relationship and a giddy time, as they soon raised his pay rate to \$4 a page. In retrospect, he realized that Ed Herron was grooming him for Fawcett's star character, Captain Marvel. One day, Herron looked at him and said, "Otto, you're ready for the Captain." His first effort was *Captain Marvel and the Return of the Scorpion*, a Dime Action Book. He was soon writing the Big Red Cheese (as Captain Marvel was affectionately known) for the comics, beginning with *Whiz Comics* No. 38 and *Captain Marvel Adventures* No. 9.

Otto's writing for Captain Marvel worked beautifully, as his whimsical comedic vision and happily wacky ideas that still embraced adventure perfectly complemented the already established style of the Captain's artist, C.C. Beck. Otto thought that he and Beck made a really inspired team, and, according to him, they ate, drank, slept, and lived Captain Marvel. Clearly, the happiest times of Otto's life were the years at Fawcett when he was writing the Big Red Cheese, a time he never spoke of with less than enthusiastic affection. He loved it there, especially when Wendell Crowley became the editor for him and Beck.

Binder's devotion to Fawcett and the Captain Marvel Family (the Captain, Captain Marvel Jr., Mary Marvel, and the Family itself) becomes obvious when considering his output. Between 1941 and 1953 (when Fawcett folded), Otto wrote 986 of the 1,743 Marvel Family stories that were published. This was the source of Otto's greatest fame, and that time was easily his most productive period.

Although in later years Beck would downplay Otto's contributions to Captain Marvel and company, Otto acted in a completely opposite manner, giving Beck full credit for the character's success.

## HOLIDAY HIATUS

The Austin Chronicle offices will be closed on the following days: Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24-25; Thursday, Dec. 31; and Friday, Jan. 1, 2010.

The offices will be open for regular business hours Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 21-23, and Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 28-30, and from Monday, Jan. 4, 2010, until we decide to take another day off (probably sometime in May).

page  
two

There's no question that Captain Marvel was created by Bill Parker, who was working at *Mechanix Illustrated* when Fawcett asked him to come up with a superhero for its new comic book line.

The prototype story had the character called Captain Thunder, but only one or, at most, a handful of copies were made (to get a mailing permit). During the Sixties, whenever the old Fawcett hands got together, they talked about that initial effort and who might have it. They figured it was probably among the rarest of comics. At least one of the printers told me it was just a few pages in a three-ring binder, rather than a comic. Others claimed there was a handful of copies, not just one. But at the time it never surfaced.

Only later did Beck get involved. Still, Otto always thought it was Beck who really brought the character to life. On a number of occasions, Otto told me that he thought (though he wasn't entirely certain) that it was Beck who came up with the Captain's catchphrase, "Shazam." Otto's attribution of this to Beck indicates not just his respect for the artist but the amount of credit he gave him for the character.

Their work was a collaborative effort, driven by this deep respect that Otto had for Beck. When talking about Captain Marvel's success, he always made it clear that he wrote for Beck. Visually, Beck was simply a great storyteller; he had an outstanding story sense and would often change the scripts that Otto sent him to improve the narrative flow or eliminate or revise the weaker parts.

Even better, humor informed Beck's every line – some of his sequences, Otto noted, were splendid, hysterical comedy. Otto hated the criticism that Beck's work was too cartoony; he thought that was its genius. The other Marvel Family members, done by different artists, never approached the Big Red Cheese's market dominance. He loved that nickname, though he couldn't remember who came up with it. The evil Dr. Sivana was the first to call him that, as Otto remembered it. Sivana was a Beck creation, as far as Otto was concerned. Otto may have written him, but it was the drawing that brought him to life.

In a June 1968 letter to Wayne DeWald, Otto wrote: "You ask for my opinion on C.C. Beck's artwork and I'm glad to give it.

"As I've often stated in the past, I always considered Beck among the top three artists in the comic field. Simon-Kirby may have had a 'sensational' style, Bob Kane and others may have been good in their own way, but Beck had something special – a gifted knack for 'telling the story' in pictures.

"Some people criticize his art as 'too cartoony,' but that is what made Dick Tracy, Blondie, and all of the greats in the syndicate field. Applied to comics, this cartoon style with its simple lines and clear-cut actions put over the Captain Marvel stories like no other artist could.

"I truly believe the enormous success of CM ... was due primarily to the story-telling talents of Beck, plus perhaps a fortunate combination of writer and editor (myself and Wendell Crowley) who made up an inspired team and were really enthusiastic over what we were creating – and it was creating. We lived, ate, drank, and talked Captain Marvel." ■

Although my writing on Otto Binder is largely autobiographical, as well as supplemented by notes I took at the time and letters from Otto, crucial to it and to any writing on Otto is Bill Schelly's magnificent biography, *Words of Wonder: The Life and Times of Otto Binder*.

## Postmarks

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must be signed with full name and include daytime phone number, full address, or e-mail 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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### ALMOST 'ON THE MARK'

Dear Editor,

Re: "On His Mark" [Screens, Dec. 11]: I have been an *Austin Chronicle* reader (quasi ... see below) for 10 years, and this is my first letter to the editor. I so enjoyed, and didn't, your article on Richard Linklater's *Me and Orson Welles* by Louis Black. (Linklater, his films, his actors, are a treasure. Brilliant!) I enjoyed it because it was lucid, complex, well-considered, and informative while also being readable. I wish this happened more often with *Austin Chronicle* writers. I didn't enjoy it because, as is the common case with the *Chron*, the article was overlong; thus, perfection was marred. I swear you guys must be paid by the word! I made it to the end of this article by sheer willpower combined with some unhappy skimming.

I rarely finish an *Austin Chronicle* feature article. When poor prose in the guise of erudite commentary gets combined with length, it equals distraction, and I find my attention in the ditch. I fast-forward to the Calendar section, and the *Chron*s pile up in the recycle bin a sadly underused resource. (I actually read your Linklater article online, but the previous sentence remains a metaphor for my frustration.)

Mr. Black, please put yourself on a fixed salary, and if need be, a fixed word count, so that we can enjoy your talent at its maximum. Some of the rest of the writers need salary deductions per excess word and double-deductions when bull-crap jargon is detected.

Charlotte Jernigan

### COPENHAGEN KUDOS

Dear Editor:

Thank you to Katherine Gregor and the *Chronicle* for the story "Austin@COP15" [News, Dec. 11]. It was the best piece of local coverage I've read about the UN Climate Change Conference, and it was inspiring to read about my colleagues Kevin Tuerff and Valerie Davis attending the conference in Copenhagen. I don't know many advertising executives who would travel half-way around the globe on their own dime simply to witness history. If a historic global agreement is reached that addresses – and mitigates – climate change, I'm grateful Austin will have representatives on the ground to testify upon their return as to what happened and how it will affect our future.

Brenda Thompson

### THE FONT'S THE THING

Dear Editor,

All that effort for a cover ["The Play's the Thing," Dec. 11] to rightfully match the article on Linklater's period film and *no apostrophe?! If you are going to pay attention to the details (the weathering, the choice of typefaces, the large half-tone dot on both photos and headline – even changing the paper's masthead), note your quotation marks are not rendered the same as the "apostrophe," as that's a "prime" or "foot" mark. That's a three-fourths-inch gaffe that should have been addressed before the shadows were added in Photoshop. I'm just sayin'.*

Marc English  
Marc English Design

### WATSON NEGLECTED TRANSIT

Dear Editor,

Lee Nichols wrote that Sen. Kirk Watson has been "heavily involved" in transportation issues throughout his political career ["Resizing the CAMPO Tent," News, Dec. 11]. Unfortunately,

CONTINUED ON P.8

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toward the end of his tenure as mayor, Watson was running for state office and largely neglected the massive transportation referendum before voters at that time. The referendum narrowly lost. Had Watson devoted as much energy to passage of the referendum as he did to his candidacy for state office, Austin would almost certainly be 20 years further along in developing mass transit.

Philip Russell

### PROFITING FROM PROHIBITION

Dear Editor,

Re: "Majority Favors Marijuana" [Newsdesk blog, Dec. 11]: Far too many people profit from marijuana prohibition, and the price in terms of human lives is astronomical. We are supporting genocide when we support the policies of prohibition. Yet the profits are too great, and there are too many people happy with things just as they are. Who are they? Who likes the drug wars? Who profits? Cops like prohibition because they get money

and power to harass the young, the poor, people of color, and people with nonregulation haircuts. Gangsters like prohibition because it makes them rich, and wealth makes them powerful. Politicians like prohibition because it gives them someone to blame and stigmatize for the community's woes. Addiction "experts" like prohibition because it assures that they will have a long line of "patients" looking for – or more often, being forced into – "treatment." Lawyers love prohibition because there is always a long list of people to defend at premium prices. Jailers love prohibition because it assures their continued existence. And since marijuana has dozens of proven medical applications – including fighting cancer – Big Pharma likes prohibition because it keeps their competition from flourishing. These people have far more influence over our government than the citizens of the country ever had, which is why I am sure that our government will never legalize marijuana voluntarily. Legal pot and drugs, the abolition of prohibition, will come the same way as same-sex marriage,

legal abortion, women's liberation, desegregation, civil rights, and medical marijuana rights: through the courts and influenced by the press.

Scott Goodman  
Boynton Beach, Fla.

### ENDING THE WAR ON DRUGS

Dear Editor,

Re: "Majority Favors Marijuana" [Newsdesk blog, Dec. 11]: It's no wonder that the legalization movement is picking up steam in our current political climate. People's senses tend to rebel at the idea of spending (between the federal government and state/local governments) \$48.7 billion on enforcing regulations on criminalized substances and diminishing control of our own bodies, especially when the majority of that money goes to regulate a criminalized substance that most in the medical community have acknowledged has little negative effect and, in actuality, offers a lot of medicinal promise.

That's the monetary cost alone. If it weren't enough, there are 1.7 million people arrested annually for drug offenses, more than half (roughly 839,000) arrested specifically for cannabis violations. Of that 839,000, 89% were arrested for merely possessing cannabis. That's 839,000 people not working, not helping to rejuvenate the economy. That's 839,000 people who will likely have a hard time even finding a worthwhile job after they are freed from custody because of the frequency of employer background checks. That's 839,000 people filling our jails for being involved with criminalized recreational/medical substances.

There is no benefit to this senselessness, and the cost is insurmountable. In a day and age where the far-right in this country is more than willing to tell us what we can and can't afford, perhaps it's time they took another look at the war on drugs.

Adam Martin

CONTINUED ON P.10



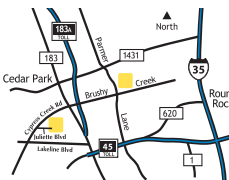
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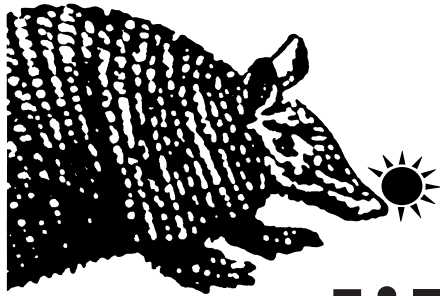


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	8-11 PM.....	Marcia Ball & Pianorama
<b>Friday 18</b>	12-2:30 PM.....	Sahara Smith
	3:30-6 PM.....	Shaidri & Hank Alrich
	8-11 PM.....	Jimmy LaFave
<b>Saturday 19</b>	12-2:30 PM.....	Band of Heathens
	3:30-6 PM.....	Terri Hendrix
	8-11 PM.....	Van Wilks
<b>Sunday 20</b>	12-2:30 PM.....	Rick Trevino
	3:30-6 PM.....	Asleep at the Wheel Quartet
	8-11 PM.....	The music of Stephen Bruton
<b>Monday 21</b>	12-2:30 PM.....	The Biscuit Brothers
	3-3:30 PM.....	Blazing Bows
	3:30-6 PM.....	Joe McDermott
	8-11 PM.....	The Eggmen
<b>Tuesday 22</b>	12-2:30 PM.....	Dustin Welch
	3:30-6 PM.....	Warren Hood
	8-11 PM.....	Albert & Gage
<b>Wednesday 23</b>	12-2:30 PM.....	Shelley King
	3:30-6 PM.....	Guy Forsyth
	8-11 PM.....	Carolyn Wonderland
<b>Thursday 24</b>	12-2:30 PM.....	Slim Richey
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**PONDERING FAME**

Dear Editor,

An argument could be made for including Sir Doug Sahn, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Roky Erickson as nominees to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Sir Doug had as many hits as the Righteous Brothers or Ritchie Valens, and his nomination alongside those of Nick Lowe, Mitch Ryder, and Alex Chilton would restore some legitimacy to the Hall of Fame nominations. The nomination of Stevie Ray before that of fellow Texan Johnny Winter could be the influence of the Ritchie Valens factor, i.e. he's dead. The 13th Floor Elevators and Roky are more deserving than second-rate Stones wannabes like Aerosmith, but so are Lowell George and Little Feat. With the inclusion of the Dave Clark Five, primarily a studio creation, the door is open for the nomination of such pop-hit makers as Sonny and Cher or even Herman's Hermits. If Jackson Browne is deserving of induction, where is Jimmy Buffett's nomination?

Charles Waldrep

**SHARE THE WEALTH**

Dear Editor,

It's reported that UT Austin's football program earned close to \$90 million this year, and the coach got a \$2 million raise. They've got an excellent athletic department, but why not share the wealth? Poor, neglected, and underfunded KUT, the university's flagship radio station, is reduced to running commercials, a violation of Federal Communications Commission rules, just to keep operating. The university's

royal Regents, appointed by the Gov. Perry brain trust, actually hold the nonprofit license, granted by the FCC for educational, noncommercial stations, a license which prohibits commercials. What if a small portion of the UT sports budget, equivalent to the approximately \$5 million the coach gets, were allocated for KUT? Then the station wouldn't have to run those annoying, repetitive commercials and maybe even not have to have begging-bowl fund drives.

John Callaghan

**DECENT HEALTH CARE FOR WORKERS**

Dear Editor,

It's bad enough that the U.S. Senate is seriously considering taxing health care benefits for middle-class families who are fortunate enough to have them. At the same time, the Senate is junking a House funding mechanism that asks the wealthy to pay a small portion of the multitrillion dollar tax break they got over the last eight years so we can all have a better system.

For union members like myself, it's a double whammy. For decades, my union has agreed to take a more modest wage increase in exchange for a decent health care plan to provide security for our families. Now, the rug is being pulled out from under us. We may be socked with a 40% tax on an ever-growing portion of health benefits, but more likely, we will see features of our health plans disappear to stay within the limits so we don't have a "Cadillac Plan."

CONTINUED ON P.12

**THIS MODERN WORLD**

by TOM TOMORROW

**THIS WEEK: ANOTHER MYSTERY FROM THE CASEFILES OF CONSERVATIVE JONES, BOY DETECTIVE! BACK IN THE TREEHOUSE, I SEE.**

**VERY OBSERVANT OF YOU, MOONBAT! PERHAPS WE'LL MAKE A BOY DETECTIVE OUT OF YOU YET! THOUGH I DOUBT IT.**

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**ER--WELL--LEAVING ASIDE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE WATERED-DOWN, INSURER-FRIENDLY BILL WE'RE LIKELY TO GET EVEN QUALIFIES AS "REFORM"---**

**--COULD IT BE BECAUSE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE NO HEALTH INSURANCE? BECAUSE INSURANCE COMPANIES ROUTINELY DENY CARE AND DROP COVERAGE? BECAUSE OUR PATCHWORK SYSTEM OF FOR-PROFIT, EMPLOYER-BASED HEALTH INSURANCE FUNDAMENTALLY MAKES NO SENSE WHATSOEVER?**

**OH, MOONBAT! DO DELIGHTFUL CARTOON ANIMALS FROLIC THROUGH THE FORESTS OF THE FANTASY WORLD IN WHICH YOU SPEND YOUR TIME?**

**NO, THE ANSWER IS MUCH SIMPLER! LIBERALS WANT TO "REFORM" THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM...BECAUSE THEY HATE THE FREE MARKET!**

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**CEASE YOUR PRATTLE, MOONBAT! I'M ON TO MY NEXT CASE--THE MYSTERY OF HOW THIS COUNTRY WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM REAL AMERICANS--SUCH AS MYSELF!**

**OH--I KNOW THIS ONE! THERE WAS AN ELECTION--**

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This is bad for employers and employees, and it sends the message that health care "reform" will come at the expense of those who have insurance and have always played by the rules.

Sincerely,  
Jason Peavler  
Vice president, CWA 6132

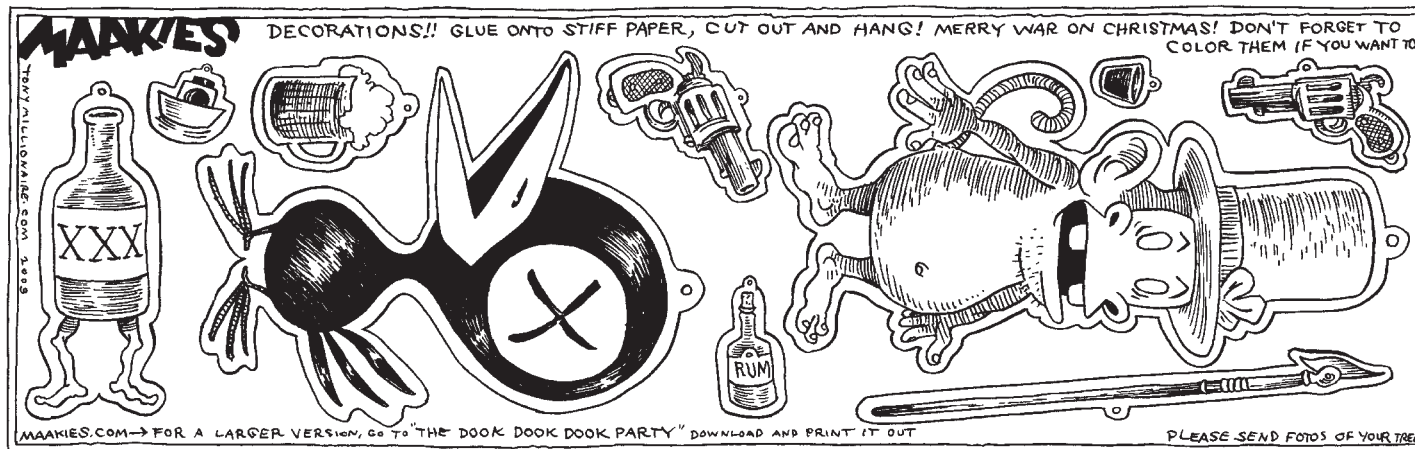
### AFGHANISTAN ADVICE

Dear Editor,

Most Americans view Afghanistan as a place where fundamentalist insurgents plan attacks on America. Those with an interest in world affairs realize that Afghanistan was a crossroads in a battle between Russia and Britain during the British colonization of India and between the Soviet Union and the United States in the 1980s. The war as it stands is another "great game," in this case between Western values collectively and what appears on the surface to be "more traditional values" of cultures of the region.

A more precise description of this might be that the culture of the region is dissolving from exposure to satellite communications, motor vehicles, aircraft, cell phones, and, more generally, "foreign" modes of existence. In many regions clerics are also, in effect, civil administrators, and the acceptance of Western values eliminates their central role in society. This is just as much an economic matter as it is cultural. Many well-established families in the region are exposed to economic insecurities as traditional structures disappear.

POSTMARKS ONLINE UPDATED DAILY  
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There is nothing anyone can do to reverse this process. It will be necessary to ride this out, as we did with the Soviet Union and "communism" in its 20th century guise. NATO should simply become a "tribe" in the region, rewarding people that help and punishing people that cause problems. The West should allow the region to navigate the cultural shoals and not attempt to create a form of government that never existed in the area. If the people accept a society where girls don't go to school and get married at 15, so be it. If someone is attempting mass murder or attacks on any target outside their borders, they disappear in a puff of hellfire. It isn't up to us, however, to build the Afghan nation or sponsor its government.

Meredith Poor

### PASS SPAY/NEUTER LAW

Dear Editor,

In the last year, San Antonio, Dallas, Plano, and Fort Worth have all passed spay/neuter laws. About 35 other cities, including Seattle, Los Angeles, and Albuquerque, already have them in place. Austin can try to sell itself as an educated, progressive, and forward-thinking city all it wants. When it comes to our pets, it simply isn't true. We still ride the ranges here.

Delwin Goss

### CONCERNS ABOUT DEATH PENALTY

Dear Editor,

On Nov. 5, Khristian Oliver was executed for murder. Why was the death penalty on the

charge? Because the jurors consulted the Bible and this passage: "And if he smite him with an instrument of iron, so that he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death." How can we enforce the separation of church and state if the Bible is the very thing we swear on?

Half of those put to death in Texas since the death penalty was legalized in 1977 were put to death during Rick Perry's time in office. Another quarter occurred during Bush's governorship.

But it's especially troubling when religious texts are used to determine someone's fate. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case this year.

Krissy Acevedo



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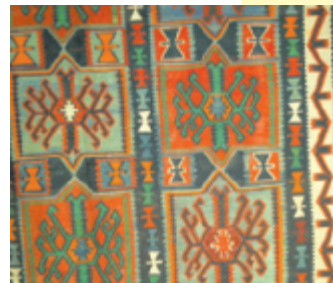


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## Hey Nonprofits!

Send your lists of needs and wishes to Richard, Meghan, and Kate for inclusion in our 2009 holiday wish list.

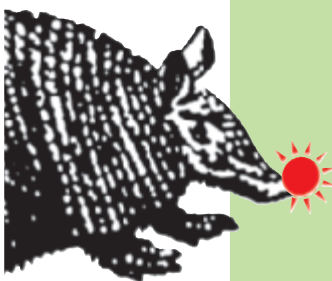
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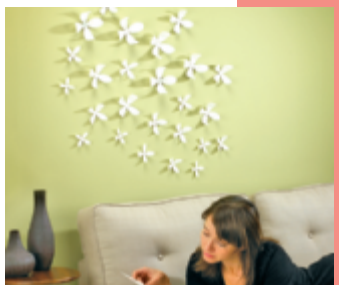
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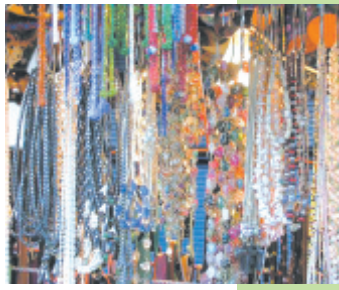


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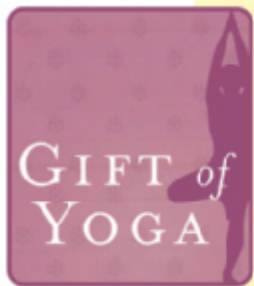
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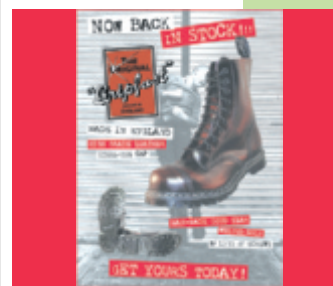


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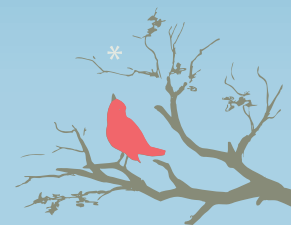
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# news

## Headlines

› There's plenty of chestnuts on the fire at **City Council's** final meeting of the year today (Thursday, Dec. 17) – a new **firefighter contract** is on the agenda (though Council Member Bill Spelman says he'll vote against it, citing equity issues), a **texting-while-driving ban** returns to the dais, as does the controversial **Grayco/South Shore development**, up for third reading. See "No Place Like City Hall for the Holidays," p.22.

› The **U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration** has proposed a total of \$159,600 in penalties against four contractors for alleged safety violations related to the June 10 accident that killed three workers on the **21 Rio construction site**; workers on the project say they have since not been paid \$55,000 in wages due them. On Wednesday, construction workers and the Workers Defense Project held a vigil in memory of the three men: Wilson Joel Irias Cerritos, Raudel Ramirez Camacho, and Jesus Angel Lopez Perez.

› Green acres is the place to be for former City Council Member **Brewster McCracken** (r), who this week secured the top post at the **Pecan Street Project**, a business and enviro coalition looking to test and develop clean energy technologies.



JOHN ANDERSON

› More foreclosures on the wind: Two Downtown **condo construction projects** appear doomed, as the Star Riverside (I-35 and Riverside) and Sabine on Fifth are posted for a Jan. 5, 2010, **foreclosure auction**.

› The long-serving (and struggling) East Austin environmental activist group People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources – much better known as **PODER** – is reaching out to Austinites for financial support under the gun of the economic recession. Last week it held a house party, but if you couldn't make it, you can still contribute at [www.poder-texas.org](http://www.poder-texas.org) or by mail: PODER, PO Box 6237, Austin, TX 78762-6237.

› **Emmis Austin Radio** has announced the lineup for its 107.1FM La Z, with the 6am-noon slot taken by the syndicated *El Show de Don Cheto*, broadcast from Burbank, Calif. The station took over **KGSR's** old space on the dial, while the local station is now at 93.3FM, previously held by Austin's last and now defunct dedicated hip-hop station, Hot 93.3FM.

› So much for the recession-proof Texas economy. Comptroller **Susan Combs** announced Dec. 11 that **sales tax collections** continued their nine-month fall in November, dropping 14.4% from a year before.

› Houston hair-care tycoon **Farouk Shami** (he of CHI beauty products) officially filed for the Democratic nomination for governor on Dec. 15. Now it's Shami vs. Houston Mayor **Bill White** to head up the Democratic ticket next November.

› Speaking of Houston, voters there elected the city's first openly gay mayor on Dec. 12 as city controller **Annise Parker** beat former city attorney and fellow Democrat **Gene Locke** after a bitterly fought run-off.

› Break out the crucifixes and the holy water! Sightings of former presidential adviser-turned-Fox News talking head **Karl Rove** visiting the Associated Republicans of Texas office in Austin have sparked rumors that "Turd Blossom" might be getting back in the Texas campaign game.



JANA BIRCHUM

**An overflow crowd at last week's Central Health board meeting forced abortion foes to watch testimony on a monitor outside the room where board members voted to renew contracts with abortion providers.**

## The City's Tired Story

Fleet Services may be cleaning up those tires, but there's still a big mess

BY MICHAEL KING

We're pleased that, in the wake of embarrassing publicity, the city has taken steps to clean up its scrap tire disposal program. What's not yet clear is whether those steps are anywhere near enough to fix the ongoing problems.

Regular *Chronicle* readers are aware that staff writer Jordan Smith has uncovered tire "disposal" practices at the city's Fleet Services department that are at best incompetent and negligent – and perhaps criminal, since at a minimum the city appears to have violated state law concerning the environmentally safe disposal of the tires. (See "The Tire Mound of Mystery," Dec. 4, and "Untiring Efforts," Dec. 11.) Smith reviewed the city's own state-required records supposedly tracking the tires from their "generation" as discards from city-owned vehicles, through several years, to what should have been their final, environmentally sound resting places. She couldn't find a single completed manifest successfully tracking the tires and instead was provided with randomly filled-out forms completed by people who may or may not have had any legal responsibility for the tires. At the end of this sloppy trail, she found Victor Almaguer of Vic's Tire

Service plaintively wondering what to do with the several thousand city tires he had accumulated at the behest of Fleet management – although without a valid city contract, payment for his work, or the means of finally disposing them himself.

Since the situation was exposed in early December, the city has scrambled to contain the damage and clean up the mess, says it is working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to achieve compliance with state regulations, and even called in the Austin Police Department to go out and have a look at Vic's tire collection – reporting helpfully to Chief Financial Officer Leslie Browder that at least some of the tires "do not appear to have come from City vehicles."

(The city reports magnanimously that it will dispose of those as well.) In case you're wondering, the CFO wrote the memo because Fleet Services is ultimately her responsibility.

All this is summarized in Browder's Dec. 8 memorandum on the affair to City Council, which concludes that the tires and the record-keeping will be cleaned up posthaste.



## QUOTE of the WEEK



"This election has changed the world for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community."

– Annise Parker, who will become Houston's first openly gay mayor after winning a hotly contested runoff election Dec. 12

CONTINUED ON P.19

# Naked City

► **COMMITTEE APPROVES CAMPO BOARD CHANGES** As expected, the Policy Board Composition Committee of the **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization** – the body of elected officials that drives regional transportation planning – recommended on Tuesday both to add to and slim down the CAMPO board. If accepted by the full board as well as the original six CAMPO signatories (Williamson, Travis, and Hays counties; the city of Austin; Capital Metro; and the Texas Department of Transportation), Caldwell and Bastrop counties will become members (each getting one appointment to the board), while state legislators and small-city appointees would be removed, resulting in an overall reduction from 20 members to 16 (see “Resizing the CAMPO Tent,” Dec. 11). CAMPO’s full board next meets Jan. 22, 2010. – Lee Nichols

► **FLDS TRIAL NO. 2 Allan Keate**, a member of Mormon breakaway sect the **Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**, went on trial last week as one of a dozen members indicted in Eldorado on charges related to the group’s practice of polygamy, often with underage girls. The second of 12 to go to trial, Keate faces a sexual assault charge that could land him up to life in prison. The state says that in 2006 he had sex with a 16-year-old whom he took as a “spiritual” wife the year before, resulting in the birth of one of his at least 25 children, reports *The Salt Lake Tribune*. The Texas Attorney General’s Office is prosecuting the case, and, Attorney General **Greg Abbott** showed up for jury selection Dec. 8; he took notes, reports the *Houston Chronicle*, but did not participate in questioning potential jurors. The drop-by is proof that the prosecutions are purely political, charged FLDS spokesman Willie Jessop. Not true, Abbott spokesman Jerry Strickland told the daily: “Any case involving these kinds of serious allegations is an important case, and the attorney general’s office remains committed to seeking justice.” Abbott attended the proceedings as part of the “prosecution team,” said Strickland. – Jordan Smith

► **CITY IN CIVIL RIGHTS SUIT** At press time, jurors in federal court were still hearing testimony in the civil rights lawsuit brought by former **Austin Police Department** probationary Officer **Ramon Perez**, who was fired in 2005 while still a rookie on probationary status. Perez says he was terminated because of his religious beliefs and because he refused a supervisor’s order to use a Taser on a man who he thought was a candidate for heart attack. He says his supervisors and an APD psychologist turned his beliefs into a reason to get rid of him. The city says Perez was terminated not for religious beliefs but because he was not competent: He was making blunders regularly on the street, they say, and having problems with investigation techniques and, importantly, with officer safety. In short, he had become a hazard, they say – even to his own health. The trial is expected to wrap up by the end of the week. – J.S.

► **AISD’S BRIGHT FUTURE** Austin Independent School District’s board of trustees knows where it wants to be in 2015, and it thinks it knows how to get there. On Dec. 14, trustees approved the district’s 2010-2015 **Strategic Plan**, which formalizes the long-stated goal of both the board and Superintendent **Meria Carstarphen** to have all students performing at or above grade level within three years of enrolling in the district. The plan sets year-by-year goals for each core subject and each student demographic. It also adds some new tasks – such as developing a specific plan to improve education outcomes in East Austin – and sets districtwide targets, including having no “academically unacceptable” schools in the district by 2011 and achieving a district rating of “exemplary” in all TAKS subjects by 2015. The board also pushed to implement one key action step (“Ensure that the district’s program for English Language Learners ... includes dual language as a program option across the district”) by approving two new dual-language programs and approving a \$50,000-a-year professional development contract with the Edinburg, Texas-based Dual Language Training Institute. The full strategic plan is online at [www.austinisd.org](http://www.austinisd.org). – Richard Whittaker

## NEWS

# YOU, TOO, CAN BE HISTORIC

## If you think this is a Hustle, you might live in Pemberton Heights

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Even by the usual tedium-inducing standards of the zoning agenda, the scene in City Council chambers last week, Dec. 10, was a real snoozer. Luckily, **Bill Spelman** was there to liven things up.

“You are going to hate me for this,” Spelman said, after dozens of zoning applications were read into the register, “but I would like to pull Items 60 through 84 for collective discussion. ... These are all the **historic zoning cases**.”

Historic zoning dominated last week’s agenda, with some 25 requests for historic zoning allowances before the council – more than the council had taken up previously in the entire year. The backlog partially pertained to the date; to enjoy the historic-zoning tax benefits – a 100% abatement on the home itself and a 50% abatement on the land or \$2,000 credit, whichever is larger – applications must be approved by the first of the year. But city staff said there was another reason.

“What we’ve heard anecdotally,” said City Planning Manager **Jerry Rusthoven**, “is there is an individual who was able to get historic zoning for their house and they are assisting others in filing for historic zoning applications. ... My understanding is that person is charging a fee for their services,” Rusthoven continued, “and they basically have convinced a lot of people in one particular area of town to submit historic zoning applications. And we’ve had those all in the last half of this year.”

Indeed, 14 of the 25 cases in question were facilitated by **Suzanne Deaderick**, a Pemberton Heights resident who handles the legwork required to ascertain whether a home is historically significant – a process accounting for age, appearance, architecture, previous inhabitants, and more. “I gather everything, and I present it to the city staff, Historic Preservation Officer **Steve Sadowsky**, and he determines whether the qualifying criteria is met.” For her services, Deaderick charges a contingency fee (payable only if she’s successful) of 25% of the applicant’s last property-tax bill.

With so many requests, Spelman said, “I’m uncertain as to whether or not the homeowners actually understand the obligations they are undertaking,” which include historical maintenance and upkeep, “in exchange for the tax benefits, which I’m fairly certain they do understand.” And after floating a postponement of the cases into the new year – which he admitted would give some folks “a lot of fits” – council approved all cases on first reading but ordered staff to perform “spot checks” with applicants,

ensuring they understood the ramifications of the abatements. (Deaderick says, “I’m always extremely clear with everybody about their restrictions, because I would never want someone to get this designation and then find out later that they couldn’t do something that they wanted to do, including even changing the color of the house.”) The cases return this meeting, Dec. 17, and Spelman says: “If there are a significant number of people who didn’t know what they were getting themselves into, I think we need to go back to all 25 of them and verify, in fact, that ‘you knew you didn’t know.’ And we might end up having to pull some cases.”

Like the Water Utility’s soon-to-shutter **toilet rebate program**, historic tax abatements have become a victim of their own success. Rusthoven estimated that 2009 cases would cost about \$120,000 in lost revenue, in addition to impacts to other taxing jurisdictions like

Travis County and the Austin Independent School District. So it’s not surprising council’s looking closely at Deaderick’s services to make sure they comply with the law. “**Randi [Shade]**’s been following up on the issues as to whether or not a contingency fee ... is actually legal,” says Spelman, adding, “I’m not certain it is.” Shade says she’s raised two issues:

whether contingency fees are legal and whether the services (which Deaderick says are offered by other researchers also) qualify as lobbying, and therefore must be declared as such. “I don’t have any answers to those two things,” Shade says, but she “did ask the questions” of the city’s legal department. (Deaderick says: “I know of no reason why my fee structure isn’t appropriate for the work that I do. The other agents that I know charge similar fees. ... As for lobbying, I don’t lobby anyone, and I never have. ... I do the research and pull together all of the materials required by the city.”)

While acknowledging the importance of the issue, council dismissed making immediate sweeping changes; Mayor **Lee Leffingwell** said he felt uncomfortable “[changing] the rules in midstream” – and impacting all the applicants – “just because all of a sudden we recognize we have a problem.” But last week should serve as a wake-up call on this once sleepy subject. “If it’s relatively easy for an old house to meet the threshold of historical worth,” says Spelman, “then we might have hundreds of these things every year, and we might be talking about enormous amounts of money.”

Twitter. Hustle. [www.twitter.com/cityhallhustle](http://www.twitter.com/cityhallhustle).



## res publica FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.62.

### THURSDAY 17

**BICYCLE ADVISORY COUNCIL** holds monthly meetings to discuss advising City Council on bicycling issues; all are welcome. 6:30-8:30pm. One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd.

**BUBBLES & BURGERS FUNDRAISER** Singer/songwriter **Larissa Ness** and former NFL quarterback **Jeff Blake** head up this silent auction to raise money for the **Austin Children’s Shelter**. 5:30pm. The Hub, 3815 Dry Creek Dr., 432-5390. \$25 (\$20, in advance). [www.austinchildrenshelter.org](http://www.austinchildrenshelter.org).

**ENDING MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL IN APPALACHIA** Scott Parkin of the **Rainforest Action Network** discusses actions being taken to end this form of strip mining, which literally blows the tops off mountains. 7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop. Free.

**NORTHEAST METRO PARK OPEN HOUSE** Learn about the second phase of construction on this Pflugerville park, set to have hike-and-bike trails, a

skate park, and more. 6:30pm. Travis County Commissioners Courtroom, Granger Bldg., 314 W. 11th.

### FRIDAY 18

**POINT FOUNDATION LGBT SCHOLARSHIPS** Hey students! Apply to the nation’s largest scholarship-granting org for LGBT students of merit. Applications available now. Deadline: Fri., Feb. 12, 2010. [www.pointfoundation.org](http://www.pointfoundation.org).

### SATURDAY 19

**RAISING ORGANIC EGGS** Are the kids asking for a puppy this holiday? This class will sway them toward a more productive pet: a chicken, teaching the benefits of and how to care for laying hens. 10am. PermaCulture Center, 12 Lone Oak Trail, 423-1050. \$15 suggested donation. [www.docjody.com](http://www.docjody.com).

### SUNDAY 20

**GIVE & RECEIVE FOR STEPWISE** All that holiday shopping got you stressed out? Take a break with brunch, appetizers, drinks, spa services, and a silent auction, to benefit Stepwise, a nonprofit working with orphans in East Africa. 1-4pm. Sabia, 1213 W. Fifth, 469-0447. \$45. [www.hosteriaverde.com](http://www.hosteriaverde.com).

**REI BIKE DRIVE** All day, REI will be accepting bike parts and donations for the **Yellow Bike Project**. 601 N. Lamar, 482-3357. [www.austinyellowbike.org](http://www.austinyellowbike.org).

**WASSAIL 2009** A fundraiser for **Kids for Kids**, a charity helping children in Darfur. Carolers, magicians, poets, minstrels, and stories, all for a good cause. 5:30pm. Sri Atmananda School, 4100 Red River, 451-7044. \$10 (kids free). [www.samschool.org](http://www.samschool.org).

### MONDAY 21

**SANTA’S TOY DRIVE** Bring the kids for a photo op with Santa, and don’t forget a new toy for **Operation Blue Santa**. 2pm. Monte Siesta Nursing & Rehabilitation, 4501 Dudmar, 892-1131. Free. [www.daybreakventure.com](http://www.daybreakventure.com).

### TUESDAY 22

**WALLER CREEK TUNNEL PROJECT MEETING** The Parks and Recreation Department is holding a public meeting to discuss tree mitigation related to the Waller Creek Tunnel Project. Participants will walk through the park to discuss particular trees, so dress for the weather. 5pm. Waterloo Park, 403 E. 15th. [patrick.corona@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:patrick.corona@ci.austin.tx.us).



## Hear No Evil

If it happens, that's just terrific. Unfortunately, Browder's memo also suggests that the impulse to deflect official responsibility is very hard to stifle. For example, Almaguer's name gets kicked around a bit for having no contract with the city to handle tires — despite the fact that he's been trying to get the city to accept its responsibilities for several months and has publicly stuck out his own neck to do so (a trait rather more rare among city bureaucrats). Along those lines, Browder claims that only the *Chronicle's* open records requests alerted Fleet management to the inadequate state of its tire records — although when Fleet supplied those records, it made no mention of any such problems, and from Almaguer's inquiries alone there is strong reason to believe that management has been aware of these problems for months if not years.

Similarly, Browder identifies only an "anonymous tip" to the Health and Human Services Department as previously indicating the existence of the scrapped tires, a tip that supposedly died at the desk of Tire Program Manager Bill Janousek, who has since been placed on paid administrative leave. We've since tried to verify this information by means of open records requests but thus far have been stonewalled by the city's legal department. On Wednesday, Browder told me she is trying to determine whether the "anonymous tip" — a phone call — was ever reduced to writing. Citing "pending investigations," they won't supply any documentation of the anonymous tip or any similar communications and have appealed to the state attorney general to withhold any other related documentation — which, according to Browder's memo, doesn't in fact exist.

Which is it?

## Ask Us No Questions ...

Unfortunately, this is par for the course for city legal, which told us that Fleet managers couldn't talk about the scrap tires because of a seemingly unrelated whistleblower lawsuit that has since been dismissed. As Jordan

Smith duly reported, the city's attorneys insisted, despite our puzzlement, that the two matters were related; now Browder has told City Council that "Although the article seems to point to a relationship between the lawsuit and the allegations regarding scrap tire disposal, none exists." (She throws in a few gratuitous sentences celebrating the city's victory in that unrelated lawsuit; we hope they amused the attorneys who drafted them.) Maybe Browder should walk over to City Attorney David Smith's office and ask him to get his story straight.

While she's over there, perhaps she can ask him why the city reflexively hides behind the attorney general whenever somebody asks questions to which the answers might be embarrassing and why the city attorneys inevitably delay the full, statutory 10 business days to file their appeals to the A.G. — even when David Smith knows damn well on day one that he has no intention of responding to an open records request and will instead stonewall for as long as possible.

Late Wednesday, City Attorney Anne Morgan told me that at first the city wrongly thought the whistleblower lawsuit might be related to our inquiries, and subsequently the answers had become part of a pending investigation — either way, we're out of luck.

The *Chronicle* is in fact not asking for legally sensitive documents, just those that very likely reflect that Fleet officials, as well as city managers, knew quite a while ago that Fleet's scrap tire disposal system had long since gone into the ditch, and nobody was paying sufficient attention to clean up the mess. If there are no such documents, then city officials shouldn't have to appeal to the Attorney General's Office to withhold them, and Browder shouldn't have to embarrass herself by attempting to distract the council with "unrelated" information.

As Jordan Smith also reported, the scrap tire fiasco is hardly the only managerial cloud hanging over Fleet Services. But if this is the way the city responds to that rather specific, narrow problem, it hardly inspires confidence that the current crop of managers is capable of adequately addressing the rest of the mess. ■

basis. Call 972-5520 with questions or to make an appointment. [www.cityofaustin.org/health](http://www.cityofaustin.org/health).

**SHOP LOCAL!** Homegrown businesses all over town are holding holiday specials to celebrate the season. Visit [www.ibuyaustin.com](http://www.ibuyaustin.com) for info, and support your local economy!

**SPONSOR A FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS** 'Tis the season for charity. Register online to find a family or individual to help this holiday season; last day to volunteer for Christmas is Dec. 23. *Christmas Bureau of Austin & Travis County*, 7301 Burnet Rd. #108, 453-3950. [www.cbfaustin.org](http://www.cbfaustin.org).

**WASTEWATER AVERAGING** The Austin Water Utility has begun its annual wastewater averaging cycle, which means your billing rates will depend on your usage over the next few months. Conserve now, and save money for all of next year. See [www.cityofaustin.org/water](http://www.cityofaustin.org/water) for details.

## ONGOING

**BARTON SPRINGS SURVEY** The Parks and Recreation folks need your input on Barton Springs. Survey is at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/ksqyrbw](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ksqyrbw).

**BROWN SANTA** needs volunteers to help receive and deliver toys and food to families this season; call 24-SANTA. Or donate nonperishable food, books, unwrapped toys (new or gently used), and cash. Drop off at *Brown Santa Warehouse*, 15400 Long Vista #101, mail to *Brown Santa*, PO Box 207, Austin, TX 78767, or donate online: [www.brownsanta.org](http://www.brownsanta.org).

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# The Rail Learning Curve

Spillar outlines city plan to avoid Cap Metro's missteps

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

Can the city's proposed **Austin Urban Rail** avoid the persistent problems of **Capital Metro's** Red Line commuter project? That unspoken concern hung over City Council chambers last week, as it had in October when Cap Metro interim President/CEO **Doug Allen** presented an eye-opening summation of "lessons learned" to the Transit Working Group of the **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**. (See "Where Cap Metro Jumped the Track," Oct. 23.) Allen provided an unprecedented and refreshingly candid assessment of why the project is two years behind schedule and \$15 million over the original budget.

The preliminary design and engineering work for the central city circulator rail project will be in the hands of the city of Austin, not the transit agency. As evidenced by praise from council members and the city manager at last Thursday's meeting, Transportation Department Director **Rob Spillar** has garnered a high degree of their confidence in his professional expertise and structured approach to a citywide **Strategic Mobility Plan**. Nonetheless, Cap Metro's poor performance has given everyone the willies about trusting not only Cap Metro but the prospects for success of any rail transit system. As Allen summarized them, key things the city should do differently include:

- Emphasize multiline communication throughout the process – both among team members and with the public.
- Invest the necessary resources (capital budget, outside expertise, adequate staff) to do the system right.
- Don't try to invent unproven technical solutions that have not been tested and proven to work elsewhere.
- Establish one department coordinating all major components: vehicles, track, safety systems.
- Use strong project management processes and controls, including a master Project Management Plan.
- Identify, obtain – and maintain – all needed outside expertise for all aspects of a rail-transit system.

- Integrate engineering and construction work within one department or one responsible outside entity.

## RISK AND REALITY

Spillar spoke to these "lessons learned" issues in his own briefing to City Council last Thursday and to the Transit Working Group on Monday. Council authorized a contract of up to \$1 million for preliminary engineering work from **Austin Urban Rail Partners**, a consortium led by national firms AECOM USA Inc. and Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam Inc. (It's funded by the Capital Metro Quarter Cent

Program – so no one can say the transit agency isn't doing its part.) Next week, council is expected to act on hiring **Capital Market Research** to conduct an economic impact analysis for up to \$200,000.

For each problem Allen had identified, Spillar addressed what the city will do differently. City staff and multiple teams of national transit-system consultants are working to deliver necessary information to council by this spring. That includes more complete data and recommendations on the route, ridership projections, engineering and environmental impact findings, a phasing plan, guidance on which "investment segment" should be built first, economic impact, projected costs, and a recommended financial cushion. Last but not least, they'll recommend a funding approach and operator option. (The two potential operators Spillar

DEVELOPING stories



Cap Metro President/CEO Doug Allen



Transportation Director Rob Spillar

recommends least are the city itself and Cap Metro; three other options discussed are **Lone Star Rail**, the **Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority**, or a separate nonprofit agency.)

Council Member **Bill Spelman** asked, "Under what circumstances would you recommend our not bringing this before the voters in November 2010?" Spillar responded that council must decide whether it has enough information by March or April to proceed with

calling a November 2010 rail referendum, at which voters could authorize the project and bond funding. If, at that time, council members feel they still need more information, said Spillar, his staff and consultants will keep working to deliver it – but a rail referendum would most likely be delayed. "Some people never have enough information

in this town, we've seen that," observed Mayor **Lee Leffingwell**, adding, "I'm sure we can make that decision in the spring."

Council Member **Sheryl Cole** sits with Leffingwell on the Transit Working Group; she had heard Allen say there he believed pressure to meet a November 2004 rail referendum deadline had shortchanged the design and engineering work on the Red Line. In Allen's assessment, inadequate early planning, design, and engineering work, combined with a failure to engage sufficient outside expertise, had led to an unrealistic budget

and schedule. That in turn triggered all the delays and budgetary challenges that followed. A "pilot project" was put to voters on the cheap, quoting only \$90 million (now up to \$105 million) for a system unable to run enough trains to meet anticipated demand. Cap Metro then tried to expand the system, but without admitting that the agency would need significantly more time, money, and human resources to do it right. In October's meeting, Allen said the cost of the Red Line commuter rail system "probably could and should have" been \$300 million (to build it out properly, with double tracking) to serve the transit ridership potential in that corridor – still a good price for a 32-mile system.

Spillar said later that he sees the problem differently; he doesn't believe it's fiscally wise to take the project to 60% design before taking it to voters, as Allen had suggested. Rather, he believes it's appropriate to invest in just 15% to 20% of the total design work pre-election – but then build a correspondingly hefty contingency into the cost estimate. The less design work that is completed, he explained, the larger the cushion needs to be, to contain risk and to cover "the unknowns you should know and those you don't know – all the risks you've got to accommodate."

Cole assured Spillar, "I don't think there's any doubt that all of us support rail." But she also told him pointedly, "Even though we're aiming for a November date ... if you become even slightly concerned that we can't deliver by that date or that the city is somehow at risk, do not hesitate to come forward to the city manager or this council and deliver emphatically that message." She added, "I think March 1 would be one of our absolute drop-dead dates, [by which] we would have to have some answers to some of the very big questions." ■

## Cap Metro's Mistakes

Key systems planning errors made by Capital Metro, as cited by Doug Allen, include:

- Violating the rules of operation from the Federal Railroad Administration.
- Trying to use unproven systems and technologies to save money, particularly by combining freight and commuter rail service on the same tracks. This resulted in elements not functioning as intended, including: 1) crossing gates at key locations with train detection system problems, 2) the centralized traffic control system, 3) communication with dispatch, and 4) safety issues from conflicts with freight traffic.
- Incompatibility between components procured from different manufacturers.

## Long Haul for Ethanol in Travis County?

Many local environmentalists are cheered by the growing acceptance of ethanol as a cleaner-burning fuel option for vehicles, but not everyone is keen on the idea of transferring and storing millions of gallons of the flammable stuff so close to home. That could be a possibility if a Houston-based company is able to forge a freight rail service agreement with **Capital Metro**.

**U.S. Development Group** is in preliminary discussions with the transit agency regarding a more efficient system of hauling ethanol, which currently arrives here by truck and then ultimately is distributed to fueling stations that carry the E85 blend of ethanol and gasoline. USDG hopes to switch its transport method to rail, with the help of Cap Metro's **Green Line** in Elgin, which would move the fuel to a planned facility near the intersection of Decker Lane and Lindell Lane, where it would be off-loaded to nearby existing storage tanks at the Flint Hills fuel

plant on Johnny Morris Road. The proposed USDG site would include a rail spur that could accommodate up to 100 rail cars, each with a 30,000-gallon capacity. Those numbers send shivers down the spine of Travis County Commissioner **Ron Davis**, who has spent decades fighting tank farms, landfills, and gravel pits in Precinct 1, which he has represented since 1998. "That's 3 million gallons of fuel," he said incredulously.

Davis is concerned about the project's safety and environmental issues, but he's also angry that neither his office nor others who may be affected by the plan weren't notified on the front end. "It bothers me that Cap Metro has placed this in silent mode," he said. Transit agency spokesman Adam Shaivitz replies that there's little to say at this point. "Capital Metro has had discussions with USDG on the possibility of USDG utilizing our freight rail services for the transport of the

ethanol," he said, adding that the agency is not involved in the development of the proposed facility.

Davis caught wind of the proposal last month from the county fire marshal's office and then sent a mass e-mail to constituents, elected officials, environmentalists, media representatives, and, of course, Cap Metro, with a number of questions about the project. Austin attorney **John Joseph** then contacted Davis' office on behalf of USDG to try to arrange a meeting. Davis declined to meet with him, Joseph said, but at the commissioner's suggestion, he met instead with staff in the county's Transportation & Natural Resources division. USDG expects to submit a site plan to the city and county early next year, Joseph said.

Increased demand for ethanol has been a boon for businesses like USDG, which recently opened a new ethanol transport facility in California, where new rules take effect in January requiring a 10% blend of ethanol for vehicles. — Amy Smith

Capital Metro has hired a new rail contractor to get its delayed MetroRail on track.



JOHN ANDERSON

## Railroaded? Cap Metro vs. Veolia

Depending who you ask, **Capital Metro** either took swift, decisive action to protect the public's investment or stabbed a loyal contractor in the back. Either way, **Veolia Transportation** is no longer charged with completing the much-delayed Leander-to-Downtown **MetroRail** commuter line.

Last week, Cap Metro management issued a stunning press release announcing that, due to a dispute over insurance coverage in contract negotiations, Veolia had been axed from its duties relating to MetroRail and would immediately be replaced by **Herzog Transit Services**. Also, **Watco Companies** (which had been subcontracting under Veolia to run freight operations on the same track) was given a direct contract to continue that work. Within hours of the announcement, the Cap Metro board of directors gave its approval to the decisions.

Cap Metro CEO **Doug Allen** said that the last piece of work to be done to launch MetroRail is the programming of changes to the rail line's signaling system. That work, originally to be contracted directly by Capital Metro, was to be transferred to Veolia, which required a contract change.

"On November 20, we were presented with basically a take-it-or-leave-it type of arrangement where we had to agree to certain concessions to the contract that we were not willing to make because it would put this agency, and therefore the community, at risk financially," Allen told reporters. "So on the 22nd, I contacted my counterpart with Veolia and said, 'Are you sure this is what you want to do?'" Veolia wouldn't back down, he said.

As Allen explained it, the changes would have required Cap Metro, in the event of an accident or other incident, to sort through who was at fault and which insurance to pursue – something Allen said Cap Metro has neither the skills nor the liquidity to do. He also said that on Nov. 10, Cap Metro had been dropped from insurance that was supposed to cover both it and Veolia, and Veolia – responsible for the insurance – had failed to notify the agency.

Veolia's version of events is quite different. Calling Cap Metro's statements "untrue," the company said, "Capital Metro asked Veolia Transportation to assume responsibility for completion of the remaining signal work, which Veolia Transportation was prepared to do, but at the same time wanted Veolia Transportation to assume all liabilities for that system, beyond Veolia Transporta-

tion's proposed scope of work, including potential defects in the design and construction of that system."

Concerning the insurance dispute, the company responded, "At no time has Veolia Transportation lacked the insurances required under the contract and at no time has Capital Metro been dropped from those coverages." Veolia also complained that Cap Metro has not paid fees owed – some \$45,000 per month – since March.

On Monday, Veolia went further, sending an official letter of protest charging that Cap Metro's action constituted an illegal, no-bid contract. Cap Metro spokesman Adam Shavit said the protest letter is under review by agency attorneys. As for the original Veolia response, he would only say: "Capital Metro has paid all management fees due under the contract. Although the Authority disagrees with Veolia's characterization of events and issues, we see no point in continuing to rehash the positions of the parties. Instead, we have moved forward with the next steps in the implementation of MetroRail service."

Cap Metro Chief Operating Officer **Elaine Timbes** said that in addition to clearing up the insurance issue, the switch from Veolia to Herzog would save the agency about \$10.7 million over the life of the contract and that Herzog has a strong safety record. Allen said Herzog has an established record running rail lines in Dallas, New Mexico, and California, and that bringing the company on board would help meet the agency's goal of starting the line during the first quarter of 2010. Cap Metro said it expects minimal financial hardship to Veolia employees, as all 40 or so MetroRail workers would be offered re-employment under Herzog.

This isn't the first time Veolia has been the whipping boy for delays in the MetroRail project. This past spring, Cap Metro announced it would be delaying the launch of MetroRail, which at the time was scheduled for March, after Veolia had been flagged for violations by the **Federal Railroad Administration**. Veolia's response at that time was muted, saying only that it was working with the FRA to comply – but others denounced Cap Metro's finger-pointing. Austin Mayor Pro Tem and Cap Metro Board Member **Mike Martinez** said the real problem was that Cap Metro's management scheduled a launch date before it had worked out problems with the line's signaling and crossing gate system and said Veolia was "scapegoated." – Lee Nichols



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COURTESY OF CITY OF AUSTIN

## A Boulevard for Cyclists ... and Cars

If things work out the way city officials envision, bicyclists traveling north and south through the western side of Downtown will have a smooth ride. But based on an initial (and well-attended) public discussion last week, getting to that point will be anything but. While there didn't seem to be a lot of hardened opposition to the proposed **Nueces Street Bicycle Boulevard** project, there was passionate discussion and disagreement over how it might affect area businesses, whether stakeholders were being adequately included, and even whether it ought to actually be on Nueces.

The plan envisioned by the city would use a variety of traffic-calming tools to make Nueces a bicycle-friendly route for getting through that side of Downtown. It would not, planners emphasize, ban automobiles from Nueces, although it would discourage through traffic, create a bicycle "atmosphere," and "allow motor vehicles and bicycles to mix easily and safely," according to a sheet of frequently asked questions distributed at the meeting held at Pease Elementary.

"The bicycle boulevard concept is fairly new," says city of Austin Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Project Manager **Annick C. Beaudet**, and she admits that "unfortunately, the name could lead people who don't live and breathe this business to believe that it's only for bicycles, and that's not the case. It's basically traffic calming, and everybody in Austin can understand what neighborhood traffic calming is.

"We're recognizing that Nueces already has a very diverse modal split, meaning that it has upward of 7 to 8 percent bicycle traffic during the peak hour, and many buses, many pedestrians, and it does have motor vehicle traffic, but less than the average throughout the city."

Beaudet presented to the community the "toolbox" of traffic-calming devices that might be used to create traffic calming with "a bicycle flavor," including medians, signage, street markings, partial auto "diverters," "green streets" (vegetation incorporated into the street design, slowing traffic), and "pinch points" (narrowed areas that force cars to

slow while allowing bikes to pass on the outside). The design would not include auto-blocking bollards, Beaudet told the *Chronicle*, and she said a recent *Statesman* article claiming that it might was inaccurate.

Several business owners showed up to express concerns that decreased traffic flow might hurt them, although they also emphasized they are not anti-bicycle. Some were concerned about the small segment from 15th Street to MLK. Susan Harris of real estate company Site Solutions Inc. says the quadrant is prime for the type of mixed-use redevelopment also desired by the city for Downtown, particularly since it is not in a Capitol view corridor. "The real-time reality of increased density," she said, "is that it will bring increased vehicular traffic to all the roads within the quadrant. It is my opinion that the elimination of roadway lanes on a significant commercial collector street in this quadrant to accommodate cyclists will hamper future redevelopment in the area."

"We're at the corner of 18th and Nueces, and we just moved in about six months ago; we purchased a building primarily because of the high volume of traffic between 15th Street and MLK, and the fact that it was primarily a commercial district," says Trey Bueché, owner of Bat City Awards and Apparel, which produces trophies, shirts, and other types of promotional products. "Obviously, one of our biggest problems with the plan is the fact that they plan to deter traffic on Nueces, even though it's predominantly established as commercial property, as opposed to some alternatives where there might be more residential usage."

Indeed, the business owners and some cyclists who showed up to express support of the boulevard concept found some common ground on the "alternatives" – many cyclists echoed Bueché's contention that Rio Grande Street, one block to the west, would serve the desired outcome better.

While traffic-dependent retail businesses on Nueces are certainly the minority – "this is not a retail corridor in any way," says Beaudet, and mostly the street is occupied by "appointment-oriented" businesses, especially law firms – there's even less retail on Rio Grande and substantially more residential use, especially close to the UT campus. Also, Rio Grande has **Pease Elementary** and **Austin Community College**, which may both benefit from a traffic-calming project.

Beaudet says that the grade of incline on Nueces was a heavy factor in leaning toward it as a bike boulevard, something she says is a big plus in encouraging cyclists of all experience levels to use it. (My own ride up Rio Grande found that its incline is not much more severe than Nueces, but admittedly, I'm a pretty experienced cyclist.)

Beaudet emphasizes that nothing is set in stone. The city's main desire is just for some sort of north-south connectivity into the **Lance Armstrong Bikeway**, which either street could provide, and "the city is completely open to using Rio Grande," she said, or perhaps some sort of Nueces/Rio Grande hybrid. "We want to find a solution for everyone."

The business owners are anxious to know what that may be. "There's just not enough bicycle usage to make up for the amount of automobile usage that will be lost when you deter traffic," says Bueché, worrying that his young business could get killed in its infancy. "We're not against increased bicycling usage in the Downtown sector, but it cannot be at the expense of the automobiles."

Bueché and the rest of the community will get more chances to weigh in on the proposal in January: The city will hold another discussion and design charrette on Wednesday, Jan. 13, and a design presentation and final commenting period Jan. 27. Both events will be held 6-8pm at Pease Elementary, 1106 Rio Grande.

– Lee Nichols

## No Place Like City Hall for the Holidays

Cramming all the municipal detritus into the year's last **City Council** meeting is as much of a holiday tradition as eggnog, mistletoe, and awkward, alcohol-powered passes at the office winter party – and today (Thursday, Dec. 17) council is determined not to disappoint.

Revisions to the city's **texting-while-driving ban** – passed, but not yet in effect – are in motion (Item 90), although among the careening proposals, there's potential for a three-way collision. First is the original ban, chiefly sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem **Mike Martinez**. Second is today's potential amendment from **Laura Morrison** and **Chris Riley**, which broadly prohibits the use of "other application software" on the road. Meanwhile, a third amendment, approved by both the **Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission** and the **Transportation Commission**, rewires the ban, stating drivers "may not manually operate the keypad of a wireless communication device to create or send a text-based communication," be it text, IM, or e-mail. As mobile computing becomes more ubiquitous, so do questions: "For instance, the [original] ordinance generally permits you to listen to MP3 music while driving, which you'd expect. It would not, however, allow you to use a streaming Internet music service such as pandora.com," writes **Chip Rosenthal**, Tech and Teleco chair, on his blog. "The discrep-

ancy doesn't make sense, would be confusing to drivers, and is bad policy." Will his alternate proposal gain traction or crash and burn? Don't touch that iPhone!

Plans to relocate a South Lamar billboard only feet away from condo dwellers at **Bridges on the Park** are also sowing discord. Item 92 from **Randi Shade**, Riley, and Morrison would spend as much as \$25,000 to relocate the signage, while Item 141 keeps similar eyesores 500 feet away from residential uses. Pointing to loopholes in a 2008 ordinance revision – passed before any of Item 92's sponsors were on the dais – that permitted the billboard next to the commercially zoned, mixed-use development, Shade says the city should rectify its mistake. "This should set no precedent," she says. "This is a special case involving one billboard relocation that was legal under a new ordinance that shouldn't have been," and one that Item 141 addresses. The cost, already fodder for talk-radio blowhards, also comes from billboard fees, not property taxes, and Shade says "negotiations are in progress" on the fee. But some on council aren't yet sold. Via Facebook, Martinez reiterated comments he made to the *Statesman* saying, "I didn't think I could support that item" due to the cost. (Shade says Martinez "doesn't really know very much about this yet, I don't think. ... We haven't visited yet on it.")

Also sparking discussion is the **Grayco/South Shore Planned Unit Development** (Item 126), returning for third and final reading following rebuffs that its affordable-housing contributions were insufficient. Now, the larger question facing council is whether the millions allocated for affordable housing will be centered on the Riverside area directly impacted by the PUD or should address housing needs across the city. Also anybody's guess is whether Morrison and Mayor **Lee Leffingwell** – who twice voted against the original proposal – will remain opposed.

We ain't done yet: Item 82 would extend the city's recycling contract with **Greenstar North America** while the city moves toward creating its own materials recovery facility. Staff recommends a 36-month contract extension with options to renew. According to city documents, the contract currently collects \$7.7 million in revenues while costing \$14.8 million – ergo the need for a revision. Once again, the city's lack of an MRF puts us between a recycled rock and a hard place. Item 43 would ratify the collective bargaining agreement, recently approved by the union, between the city and the **Austin Firefighters Association** – **Bill Spelman** told In Fact Daily he will oppose the contract as too costly and unfair to other city employees. And Item 72 would recommend local firm **Steel Advertising & Interactive** to initiate the long-delayed **city website redesign**. Another contract will be awarded in 2010 for the actual implementation. And if that's not enough, last week's welter of historic zoning requests returns, a matter detailed in this week's "City Hall Hustle," p.18.

– Wells Dunbar

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### A CURRICULUM FOR ADULT LEARNING

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Dreading spending the holiday season with those relatives who get their worldview from **Glenn Beck** e-mails? Time to drop some book-learnin' on them. Start them with **European history** and **economic theory** (*Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, by Jared Diamond, W.W. Norton & Co., \$24.95), then bring them up to speed on **environmental science** (*Field Notes From a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change*, by Elizabeth Kolbert, Bloomsbury, \$22.95) and the latest contemporary **evolutionary theory** (*The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution*, by Richard Dawkins, Free Press, \$30), and then explain how the British learned that invading **Afghanistan** is a bad idea (*The Great Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia*, by Peter Hopkirk, Kodansha International, \$18). It may not change their minds, but it might keep them quiet at the dinner table.



### 'MOAT TO GO' MOAT CONSTRUCTION KIT \$78,704, NIMBYCO

Landed gentry: Up in arms because a **bar, affordable-housing development**, or – heaven forbid – **live music venue** has the nerve to open on the outskirts of your neighborhood association? Well, NIMBYCO's "Moat to Go" package has everything you need to preserve the sepia-toned status of your historic neighborhood. Each made-to-order kit contains locally sourced rock and gravel, plus certificates for earth-movers and day laborers – everything you need to dig a moat around your special slice of Austin. Boost your property values and give those unwashed interlopers no choice but to get off your lawn! (First 20 purchases come with a free **Boards and Commissions** appointment.)

### SANTA BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

A million, give or take

If you're wondering where you and your baby should be keeping warm when the next big blizzard hits (remember last Friday's devastating flurries?), consider the predicament of those **Downtown real estate marketeers**. According to them – and ex-Mayor **Will Wynn** – there are only **400 condos** available for sale Downtown for the next five years! Buy one (or two) for the holidays, while you still can! For example, this week's featured marvels are an 1,869-square-foot, two-bed, two-bath beauty at the Plaza on Republic Square lofts, complete with a private terrace with hot tub (at only \$1.25 million, it's a steal!), and a 1,925-square-foot penthouse beauty over on Rainey Street – a lovely two bedroom with 2.5 bath with "breathtaking" views of Lady Bird Lake, a rooftop pool, and if you get lost or lonely, a 24-hour concierge. Knocked down to \$995,000, you can't afford not to snap it up. On this scale, Christmas wrapping is a little dicey, but the concierge does it all. This and more at [www.austintowers.net/at/downtown\\_condo\\_listings.html](http://www.austintowers.net/at/downtown_condo_listings.html).



### A SIX-PACK OF BEER, BOUGHT ON-SITE AT YOUR FAVORITE TEXAS BREWERY

Priceless

Oh, sorry: You can't have it. No matter how much money you have. In yet another stupid example of the **Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission's** arbitrary rules, state law forbids breweries from selling their product on the premises, even though wineries are allowed to do so. And the **Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas** are determined to keep it that way: They single-handedly killed bills that would have allowed such sales in the 2007 and 2009 legislative sessions. Oh, and FYI: They just endorsed Gov. **Rick Perry** for reelection. What can you do about it? One suggestion is go to Facebook and join **Texas Microbrewery Advocates**.



### YOU CAN GO FOR THAT (CAN DO)

\$25.95, LBJ Museum Store

Like thinking about the happy days when there was a **First Family from Texas** – we mean, one that wasn't a complete embarrassment? Why not give the activist in your life a replica of the upbeat paperweight that **Lady Bird Johnson** kept on her White House office desk? One side is inscribed with "Can Do" (Lyndon B. Johnson's highest praise); the other has a Chinese idiom that translates to: "When someone acquires the discipline of learning, then doing the work comes easily." A reminder that Texas can produce real policymakers and environmentalists if it tries. The LBJ Museum Store: 2313 Red River, 232-2396, [www.lbjstore.com](http://www.lbjstore.com).



### A PARK!

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What to give the loved one who has everything? How about a gift to Austin's parks in his or her name? A \$35 donation to the **Austin Parks**



**Foundation** provides a

cubic yard of **mulch** to nurture aging Barton Springs trees, \$50 buys three **shovels** to plant new saplings, and \$100 buys a **weed wrench** to remove invasive species. Or donate \$500 to fund a new **picnic table**. Want to really make a splash? How about a parks legacy gift? For \$10 million or so, you could lead the funding for a stellar reinvention of **Waterloo Park** programmed by **Project for Public Spaces**. Perhaps the city would be so tickled they'd name the park in your loved one's honor – think "Your Name Here" Waterloo Park. Or with a \$10,000 gift, honor your loved one (and the kids and families of Austin) by helping to fund a "Your Name Here" splash fountain in **Republic Park** Downtown. Give at [www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org). The whole community will thank you!

### TEXAS TRIBUNE

\$50 (\$25, college students)

Former *Texas Monthly* Editor/President **Evan Smith** certainly isn't the first to try nonprofit journalism in the Lone Star State (the *Texas Observer* beat him to that by a good 55 years), but he's the first to try it in such a high-dollar, high-profile way (think of it as a regional NPR) and in a strictly Web-only platform. Is it the future of journalism? Only if you help keep them afloat. Buy your loved one (or yourself) a membership at [www.texastribune.org](http://www.texastribune.org).

## Capitol Dome to Get a Face-Lift

The dome on the **State Capitol** may look impressive, but, as with any tall room, it's tough to clean the high corners. So the **State Preservation Board** has announced a major repair and renovation project for some normally inaccessible areas of the Downtown landmark.

While it looks like it's made of stone, the dome is actually a system of cast iron pillars supporting inner and outer structures of wood and galvanized sheet metal. While board staff does regular maintenance in the reachable areas, much of the paint, woodwork, and outer metal sheeting needs repairing or replacing by craftsmen. "We are really great painters

and plumbers," explained board communications director **Julie Fields**, "but there are things where we don't have the expertise."

In March, after a bidding process, contractors will construct internal and external scaffolding from the seventh floor up, giving them access to the whole structure, including the 199 windows, the roof, and the metal columns on the upper colonnades. There are no structural issues to address, but it's still a major task that can't wait. The dome was last painted during the 1992 restoration, but that paint was not UV-resistant and is now turning into powder – a process known as chalking. The damage is

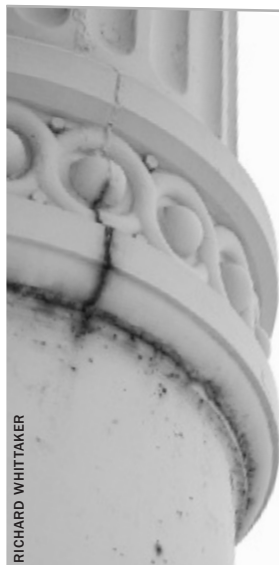
worse in some areas than others, like the southeast view, which is exposed to the worst of the summer sun, and there's visible pockmarking from the May 2008 hail storm. "This will be an opportunity for professionals to put their hands on all the metal, to make sure it's securely in place," said board Executive Director **John Sneed**.

Restoration can be a tricky business; it involves trusting the original builders. Metal contracts and expands with the weather, opening up holes, and the architects knew that when construction started in 1882. Facilities director **Lee Baker** said: "They designed for water to get into the building. They also

designed for it to get out." Asbestos in the eighth level walkway blocked that drainage, leading to water-damaged plaster on the seventh floor. "We've got to remove [the asbestos] so all the moisture gets out," said Baker.

The project should be completed before the 2011 legislative session and is predicted to cost between \$2.25 million and \$2.5 million, paid for with Capitol complex parking fees and store revenues. The scaffolding will obscure the dome, but because the work is taking place above the public spaces, Sneed added, "This will not impact the use of this building at all."

– Richard Whittaker



RICHARD WHITTAKER



# Family Planning Contracts Approved

The **Central Health** (formerly Travis County Healthcare District) board of directors voted unanimously Dec. 10 to approve \$450,000 in contracts to provide abortion care to uninsured low-income women through the county's **Medical Assistance Program**. Hundreds of people attended the meeting, many to decry the notion that the county would use taxpayer money to support abortion.

The contracts are part of a large program of family planning and reproductive health services that the city of Austin has provided for low-income women since the 1970s. When voters created the health care district in 2004, the contracts for family planning services moved from the city to the county. Creating the district was a way to expand services, and that was the understanding of city officials as well, who were previously responsible for funding the three-decades-old women's health care program. "When the City of Austin transferred the MAP Women's Health Services contracts to the healthcare district in 2004, the voters understood that not only would the contractual services be continued, but expanded," Council Members **Laura Morrison**, **Sheryl Cole**, and **Randi Shade** wrote in a letter to the board's nine members. Indeed, City Council promised there would "not be a loss of services," Council Member **Bill Spelman** told the board. Speaking on behalf of the entire council, Spelman said the services should be continued, including "the option to get an abortion."

Spelman's remarks elicited a predictable chorus of boos from the dozens of anti-choice protesters who were among the more than 100 people lined up in the hallway outside the county commissioners' courtroom where the meeting was held. Several speakers noted that some 10,000 people had signed a petition in opposition to the funding, more than the roughly 5,500 votes by which voters approved creation of the health care district in 2004. **Joe Pojman**, executive director of the **Texas Alliance for Life**, noted that if the contracts were approved, Travis County would become the only political entity in Texas spending taxpayer money to fund abortion, a service that many find morally objectionable. That may be true, said Spelman, but "we don't always agree with everything we pay taxes for."

In the end, the nine members approved continuing the contracts to provide services to women who fall below the poverty line. They also approved adding **Planned Parenthood** as a third provider of services, along with **Austin Women's Health Center** and **Whole Woman's Health of Austin**. The contract renewals provide \$450,000 for one year, with three renewal options. The MAP program provides women with counseling, family planning, pregnancy termination, and birth control. County officials said enrollment in the program has been growing and will soon reach 17,000.

— Jordan Smith

## Election News

► **SBOE: CANDIDATES WITH CRED** Two Democrats with doctoral degrees — **Rebecca Bell-Metereau** and **Judy Jennings** — filed for the **State Board of Education** Monday in the seats that include Austin: Districts 5 (south of the river, down to San Antonio) and 10 (north of the river and out toward Houston). They did so with the blessing of someone experienced in running for both seats: Austin state Rep. **Donna Howard**, who had failed runs for 10 in 2000 and 5 in 2002 before winning a spot in the Legislature in 2006. "Making the State Board of Education more accountable and less ideological has been one of my top priorities, and I'm pleased to support candidates who share that goal," she said. District 5 candidate Bell-Metereau, a Texas State University-San Marcos professor, hopes to unseat San Antonio's **Ken Mercer**, a vocal opponent of the theory of evolution. Mercer faces **Tim Tuggey** in the Republican primary, while Bell-Metereau faces **Robert Bohmfalk** and former mayoral candidate **Josiah Ingalls**. District 10's Jennings hopes to replace Richmond's **Cynthia Dunbar**, who has announced she will not seek to retain her seat. Dunbar also was a key figure in the fundamentalist fight against evolution that made Texas a national laughingstock earlier this year. GOPers **Rebecca Osborne** and **Brian Russell** will primary to face Jennings.

— Lee Nichols

► **CHANGE YOUR PARTNERS, CLAP YOUR HANDS** Everybody's doing the do-si-do in the Democratic primaries. **Kinky Friedman** made friends in the party rank and file by dropping out of the governor's race, clearing the path for a showdown between Houston Mayor Bill White and Houston hair-care tycoon Farouk Shami, both of whom have now filed. Friedman then dropped into the agriculture commissioner's race, annoying rancher **Hank Gilbert**, who had made exactly the same jump a week earlier. Rep. **Eddie Rodriguez**, D-Austin, was this week's sole filer in the Travis County delegation.

— Richard Whittaker

► **PRECINCT 4 RACE HEATS UP** Early endorsements in the race for the Precinct 4 seat on the **Travis County Commissioners Court** are solid indicators of a hotly contested Democratic primary race ahead for four-term incumbent **Margaret Gomez** and challenger **Raul Alvarez**. Political action groups typically begin rolling out their endorsements after the filing deadline — Jan. 4, 2010, in this case — but five influential public safety unions have already come out in support of Gomez: the political action committees of the Austin-Travis County EMS Employees Association, the Austin Police Association, the Travis County Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Association, the county Sheriff's Officers Association, and the county Firefighters Association. Another powerful labor group — the Austin-based American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1624 — is slated to endorse its candidate Jan. 9, 2010, according to Jack Kirfman, the group's political action coordinator. It's no secret the union has been unhappy with Gomez's job performance, both as a commissioner and as a member and chair of the Capital Metro board. Alvarez, on the other hand, had strong backing from the group during his time on the City Council, where he served two terms starting in 2000. Alvarez spent the early part of this week on a fundraising sweep, which included a fundraiser Wednesday hosted by former Mayor Will Wynn.

— Amy Smith

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All lease payments include tax credits while supplies last. \*Based on 2008 model year EPA combined estimated fuel economy for AWD and 4WD. Subaru average EPA city estimate is 18.8 MPG and highway estimate is 25.1 MPG. Actual mileage may vary. \*\*With approved credit on select models in lieu of any other offer. Dealer participation may affect final negotiated price. All pictures for illustration only. Offers expire 12/31/09.

# Wish List

## A COMMUNITY FOR EDUCATION

2901 N. I-35 Ste. 2.200, 232-2286. [acestartstrong@gmail.com](mailto:acestartstrong@gmail.com), [www.aceaustin.org](http://www.aceaustin.org)

Desktop printers and copiers for resource rooms  
Graphic design services  
Sets of bilingual books  
Shirts with ACE logo  
Training spaces  
Digital cameras, snacks

## ADAPT OF TEXAS

1640-A E. Second #100, 442-0252.

[adapt@adapt.org](mailto:adapt@adapt.org), [www.adaptotexas.org](http://www.adaptotexas.org)

Equipment to transfer VHS to DVD and cassette to CD or hard drive (or transfer services)

Incentive gift cards (H-E-B, Target, etc.)

PC (Windows XP or newer)

Slope degree measurement devices, tape measures  
Door-pressure testers/fish scales

## ALLGO

701 Tillery, 472-2001.

[info@allgo.org](mailto:info@allgo.org), [www.allgo.org](http://www.allgo.org)

Gift cards (grocery and retail)

Portable flip-chart easel

Digital camera/recorder

Orange pocket folders

Frequent-flyer miles

Flip video, DVD player

## THE ARC OF THE CAPITAL AREA

2818 San Gabriel, 476-7044.

[information@arcofthecapitalarea.org](mailto:information@arcofthecapitalarea.org), [www.arcofthecapitalarea.org](http://www.arcofthecapitalarea.org)

Thermals/sweats (girls' sizes 10-16; boys' 18-20)

Party supplies (cups, plates, napkins)

Books (for children, teens)

Black cloth tablecloths

Computers/laptops

Space heater

Gas cards

## THE AUSTIN ACADEMY

1640-B E. Second #100, 326-8655.

[info@austinacademy.org](mailto:info@austinacademy.org), [www.austinacademy.org](http://www.austinacademy.org)

Pens, pencils, dry-eraser markers, spiral notebooks, other various office supplies

New and gently worn professional clothing

Incentive gift cards (H-E-B, Target, etc.)

Apartment-sized refrigerator

Capital Metro bus passes

New backpacks

Gas cards

## AUSTIN GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE

PO Box 339, Manor, TX 78653, 413-0589.

[info@austingermanshepherdrescue.org](mailto:info@austingermanshepherdrescue.org), [www.austingermanshepherdrescue.org](http://www.austingermanshepherdrescue.org)

Gift cards to pet stores

Leashes and collars

Advertising sponsor

Crates, toys

## AUSTIN GROUPS FOR THE ELDERLY

3710 Cedar #2, 451-4611.

[info@ageofaustin.org](mailto:info@ageofaustin.org), [www.ageofaustin.org](http://www.ageofaustin.org)

Grownup art supplies: canvases, art board, watercolors, wooden and ceramic objects to paint

Electrical-savvy volunteer(s) to set up and wire audio/video equipment

Model train supplies and accessories and a volunteer/conductor

Durable medical equipment: wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs

**AUSTIN OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER, INC.**

8906 Wall #401, 833-0444.

[austinoutreach@aol.com](mailto:austinoutreach@aol.com)

Laptop computer and web-site development

Brochure/pamphlet printing

Couches and chairs

Cabinets

## AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

PO Box 13201, 542-0076.

[info@austinlibrary.org](mailto:info@austinlibrary.org), [www.austinlibrary.org](http://www.austinlibrary.org)

Digital camera

## AUSTIN STATE HOSPITAL

4110 Guadalupe, 452-0381.

[barbara.kelly@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:barbara.kelly@dshs.state.tx.us), [www.dshs.state.tx.us](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us)

Videos: nonviolent, PG-rated, scenic, underwater fish, yoga, etc.

Art supplies: watercolors, acrylics, tempera paint, etc.

Wallets and watches for women and men

Bath sets (no glass, please)

Caps, scarves, and gloves

Bod body spray for men

Transistor radios

New makeup

Warm socks

## AUSTIN STATE SUPPORTED LIVING CENTER

2203 W. 35th, 374-6048.

[michelle.thiebaut@dads.state.tx.us](mailto:michelle.thiebaut@dads.state.tx.us), [www.aussvsc.org](http://www.aussvsc.org)

Gift certificates for fast-food restaurants

Costume jewelry, nail polish, lip gloss, hair accessories

Body spray, cologne, scented lotions, bubble bath, gels

Tube socks, knit caps, rain ponchos

Playing cards, checkers, dominoes

Music CDs, cassettes

12-packs of soda

## AUSTIN VOICES FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH

PMB #21, 3710 Cedar #299, 512/450-1880.

[aaverett@austinvoices.org](mailto:aaverett@austinvoices.org), [www.austinvoices.org](http://www.austinvoices.org)

Sponsors for student internships to provide afterschool

jobs for youth leaders (\$500/semester)

Gift cards (restaurant, grocery)

Donated office space

Printing services

## BADGERDOG LITERACY PUBLISHING INC.

PO Box 301209, 538-1305.

[info@badgerdog.org](mailto:info@badgerdog.org), [www.badgerdog.org](http://www.badgerdog.org)

Flip-mini to video children's performances at readings

Nice cards/envelope sets for thank-you letters

E120 Lexmark toner

Books (poetry, fiction, kids)

Whiteboards and dry erase markers

Crayons, water paints, pencils

## CAMELOT COMMUNITY CARE

1524 S. I-35 #218, 444-0900.

[HShahan@camelotcommunitycare.org](mailto:HShahan@camelotcommunitycare.org), [www.camelotcommunitycare.org](http://www.camelotcommunitycare.org)

Gift cards (children's clothing)

Framed art for the walls

PowerPoint projector

Kitchen supplies

Couch

## CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK

8201 S. Congress, 282-2111.

[communications@austinfoodb.org](mailto:communications@austinfoodb.org), [www.austinfoodb.org](http://www.austinfoodb.org)

Volunteers, advocates, donors

## CAPITOL SCHOOL OF AUSTIN

2011 W. Koenig, 467-7006.

[robh@capitolschool.com](mailto:robh@capitolschool.com), [www.capitolschool.com](http://www.capitolschool.com)

Plastic storage bins with lids

Plastic flashlights

Sand for sandboxes

Beanbag chairs

## CASA OF TRAVIS COUNTY

6330 Hwy. 290 E. #350, 459-2272.

[casa@casatexas.org](mailto:casa@casatexas.org), [www.casatexas.org](http://www.casatexas.org)

New strollers, swings, high chairs, cribs (must be new, by law)

Good colored pencils, a sketch pad, Sharpie markers for older children

Gift cards to Target, etc.

Diapers, sizes 2, 3, 4, 5

## CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION

8509 FM 969, Bldg. 2, 472-1164.

[ktompson@centerforchildprotection.org](mailto:ktompson@centerforchildprotection.org), [www.centerforchildprotection.org](http://www.centerforchildprotection.org)

Rosetta Stone software

Spanish (Latin America), Levels 1, 2 & 3; includes audio companion

Safety hardware: outlet covers and drawer/cabinet locks

Gently used or new Barbie or Groovy Girl dolls

Gift cards (grocery, discount)

Stuffed animals, hand pup-

pets, baby dolls

Diapers, pull-ups, and wipes

New child safety seats

Clay that can air-dry

Metal easel

## CENTRAL TEXAS SPCA

909 S. Bagdad, 512/260-7722.

[www.centraltexasspca.org](http://www.centraltexasspca.org)

Plain clay cat litter (Cheap and nonscoopable is great!)

Trash bags: kitchen or black Hefty bags

Laundry detergent, bleach, paper towels

Hand sanitizer, dish soap

## COUNCIL ON AT-RISK YOUTH

3701 Cedar, 451-4592.

[info@councilonatriskyouth.org](mailto:info@councilonatriskyouth.org), [www.councilonatriskyouth.org](http://www.councilonatriskyouth.org)

Gift cards for food, school supplies, and clothing (H-E-B, Randalls, Target)

## CREATIVE SPIRIT

3402 Little Elm Trail, 512/527-4455.

[carlaheatham@yahoo.com](mailto:carlaheatham@yahoo.com), [www.creativespiritucc.info](http://www.creativespiritucc.info)

Cold-weather items: hats, socks, gloves, boots, blankets, sleeping bags

Nonperishable food items and ramen soup

Backpacks

Toiletries

## EAUST AUSTIN COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY

6002 Jain, 287-5000.

[ncantu@swkey.org](mailto:ncantu@swkey.org), [www.swkey.org/charterschool.html](http://www.swkey.org/charterschool.html)

One-year subscription to National Geographic Explorer Pathfinder edition (class set)

Spanish games (expressions bingo, Maratón, el juego de ¿Qué es eso?, etc.)

Subscription to Weekly Reader

Inflatable solar system model

Magnetic/dry-erase boards

Materials to build garden

School supplies (high school)

## FOUNDATION FOR THE HOMELESS

5202 Balcones, 453-6570.

[slow@foundationforthehomeless.org](mailto:slow@foundationforthehomeless.org), [www.foundationforthehomeless.org](http://www.foundationforthehomeless.org)

Puzzles for children under 5 years old

Infant high chairs

Baby bouncers

CD players

## GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP

2604 E. Cesar Chavez, 971-0487.

[www.grassrootsleadership.org](http://www.grassrootsleadership.org)

Books and DVDs on prison industrial complex and immigrant detention

The end of for-profit incarceration

Well-functioning desktop computer

Office chairs

Desk(s)

## HILL COUNTRY CONSERVANCY

PO Box 163125, 328-2481.

[ann@hillcountryconservancy.org](mailto:ann@hillcountryconservancy.org), [www.hillcountryconservancy.org](http://www.hillcountryconservancy.org)

Flat file cabinet with flat/thin, wide drawers for maps and drawings

Hon four-drawer, black lateral file

## HOPE ALLIANCE

1011 Gattis School Rd. #106, 512/255-1212.

[hopeallianceholiday@yahoo.com](mailto:hopeallianceholiday@yahoo.com), [www.hopealliance.org](http://www.hopealliance.org)

Cleaning products: high-efficiency detergent, Lysol, Windex, dish-washing detergent, Comet, bleach, Swiffer WetJet mop, pad refills, and Swiffer antibacterial cleaner

Toiletries: full-sized shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, body lotion, ethnic hair-care products, Tampax, feminine pads

Baby items: wipes, baby shampoo, diapers (any size), booster seats, baby monitors (working, used or new)

Items for women's gift baskets: Calendars, stamps, note cards/stationery, fuzzy socks, etc.

Board games (Boggle, Apples to Apples, etc.)

Footed baby sleepers, infant trolley

New cologne/perfume

Movie passes

## MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES

5524 Bee Caves Rd., Bldg. M, 328-7299.

[info@mifnow.org](mailto:info@mifnow.org), [www.mifnow.org](http://www.mifnow.org)

Gift cards (grocery, fast food, Target, Supercuts)

Sleeping bags, backpacks

One-night stays at motels

Feminine hygiene products

Travel-size toiletries

George Foreman grills

Prepaid bus passes

Thermal underwear

Electric heaters, sheet sets

RVs

## MONKEYWRENCH BOOKS

110 E. North Loop, 407-6925.

[contact@monkeywrenchbooks.org](mailto:contact@monkeywrenchbooks.org), [www.monkeywrenchbooks.org](http://www.monkeywrenchbooks.org)

New and used radical books

Radical documentaries

Pamphlet stapler

New movie screen, projector

## PROJECT ABUNDANT LIFE

4601 Galapagos, 294-7872.

[projectabundantlife@gmail.com](mailto:projectabundantlife@gmail.com), [projectabundantlife.org](http://projectabundantlife.org)

Up-to-date laptop computers and peripherals: printer,

## Give 'til it helps Part 2

Each year, *The Austin Chronicle* invites local nonprofits to submit lists of the things they need to serve our community. We edit these as space dictates and encourage you to research the details on what specific kinds/brands/sizes/conditions of things are needed (some are legal mandates, so do please call). Here are a few hints: Please don't dump off old or broken items. They always need computer stuff, copies, printing, and your cash and love (i.e., volunteer hours).

So go to it, dear Austin. Show the love to our community givers, and let's support the good they do all year long.

— Kate X Messer

List compiled by X, Meghan Ruth Speakerman, and Richard Whittaker

Overflow and any last-minute additions will appear online. (There is still time to submit your list at [wishlist@austinchronicle.com](mailto:wishlist@austinchronicle.com).)

## KOOP 91.7FM

3823 Airport Ste. B, 472-1369.

[info@koop.org](mailto:info@koop.org), [www.koop.org](http://www.koop.org)

Subscriptions to music and news magazines

Matching set of office chairs

Large wall clock

# the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

## OBAMA'S WAR

Hi-ho, hi-ho, it's off to war we go! Pound the drums loudly, stand with your country proudly!

Wait, wait, wait – hold it right there. Cut the music, slow the rush, and let's all ponder what Obama, Gates, McChrystal & Co. are getting us into ... and whether we really want to go there. After all, just because the White House and the Pentagon are waving the flag and insisting that a major escalation of America's military mission in Afghanistan is a "necessity" doesn't mean it is – or that We the People must accept it.

Remember the wisdom of Mark Twain about war-whooping generals and politicians: "Loyalty to the country always. Loyalty to the government when it deserves it."

How many more hundreds of dead American soldiers (and thousands more who will be mangled and shattered) does the government's "new" Afghan policy deserve? How many more tens of billions of dollars should we let them siphon from our public treasury to fuel their war policy? We've been lied to for nearly a decade about "success" in Iraq and Afghanistan – why do the hawks deserve our trust that this time will be different?

I had hoped Obama might be a more forceful leader who would reject the same old interventionist mindset of those who profit from permanent war. But his newly announced Afghan policy shows he is not that leader.

So we must look elsewhere, starting with ourselves. The first job of a citizen is to keep your mouth open. Obama is wrong on the war – dead wrong – and those who see how wrong he is have both a moral and patriotic duty to reach out to others to inform, organize, and mobilize our grass-roots objections.

This is no time to be deferential to executive authority. It's our country, not theirs. Stand up. Speak out. We are America – and ultimately, we have the power and responsibility.

## FEDERAL EXECUTION COMMISSION

The Federal Election Commission might as well be renamed the Federal Execution Commission, for it repeatedly and ruthlessly takes election reforms down a dark hallway in its building and executes them.

The latest hit by the FEC was on a reform that the Senate passed in response to the Jack Abramoff scandal. Abramoff, the ultrasleazy überlobbyist of the Bush years, used the corporate jets of his favor-seeking clients to create "Air Abramoff." At a moment's notice, he could provide a luxurious, superconvenient shuttle service to key lawmakers who needed a ride to fundraisers or other political events. Congress critics paid only a token amount for these VIP jet rides – during which Abramoff and other influence peddlers got invaluable private time with their grateful passengers.

Even by Washington's rotten ethical standards, this high-flying coziness was too stinky to defend, so senators voted in 2007 to require that any members taking a corporate ride had to pay the prohibitively high rate for chartering the entire plane, effectively stopping the practice.

However, the FEC has now gutted this reform by autocratically and erroneously declaring that the reform law allows senators to pay only the token rate when they are traveling on behalf of party committees. You don't have to be smarter than a senator to see that lawmakers and their lobbyist buddies could fly a 747 jumbo jet through this mammoth loophole, which makes a mockery of reform.

To have an ounce of ethical credibility, Senate leaders of both parties must quickly overrule the FEC and revive the ban on accepting corrupt, cut-rate corporate travel. And, while they're at it, lawmakers need to overhaul the FEC itself, freeing it from the iron grip of party hacks. For more information, contact Common Cause at 202/833-1200 or visit [www.commoncause.org](http://www.commoncause.org).

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

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# Running the UT Numbers

Unless you're the football coach, budgetary times are dire

BY RICHARD WHITTAKER

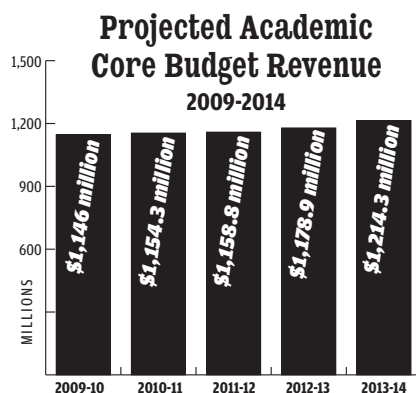
Although Austin has grown significantly in recent years, the state of Texas remains the city's biggest single employer, and with roughly 14,000 employees, the University of Texas at Austin tops the list as a job provider. In the current economic and legislative climate, UT now faces several years for which the most optimistic financial predictions indicate flat-lining revenues. As a result, some employees, including untenured lecturers responsible for much of the teaching of undergraduates, are concerned that strategic reforms that include big-name hires and pet projects will result in budget-driven layoffs and curriculum cuts. In recent days, the local headline news has featured bursting revenues for athletics and a massive pay raise for the football coach – but times are not so rosy on the rest of the Forty-plus Acres.

UT Austin's central administration is based in the Main Building – better known to staff, students, and city residents as the Tower. That's where vice president and Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hegarty oversees the three basic components of the \$2.14 billion operating budget: the academic core (covering staff, scholarships, maintenance and operations, capital improvements, and debt service), academic enhancement (research and dedicated fund projects), and self-supporting and quasi-independent entities like UT Athletics and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. He explained, "We're a people-dominated business – 67 percent [of the academic core] goes

on salaries and benefit costs." That means that, when the budget gets tight, it's people who suffer. Hegarty's been responsible for delivering the bad news, and it's not just the headline numbers: Last month, he had to lay off 25 staff members at Information Technology Services, and he's far from the only manager charged with the task of cutting costs through cutting staff. Even the well-financed Red McCombs School of Business has had to lay off 16 staff members and leave unfilled another eight positions. Hegarty said, "I keep telling everyone, if this gets easy, it's time to go – because those are heartbeats behind those numbers."

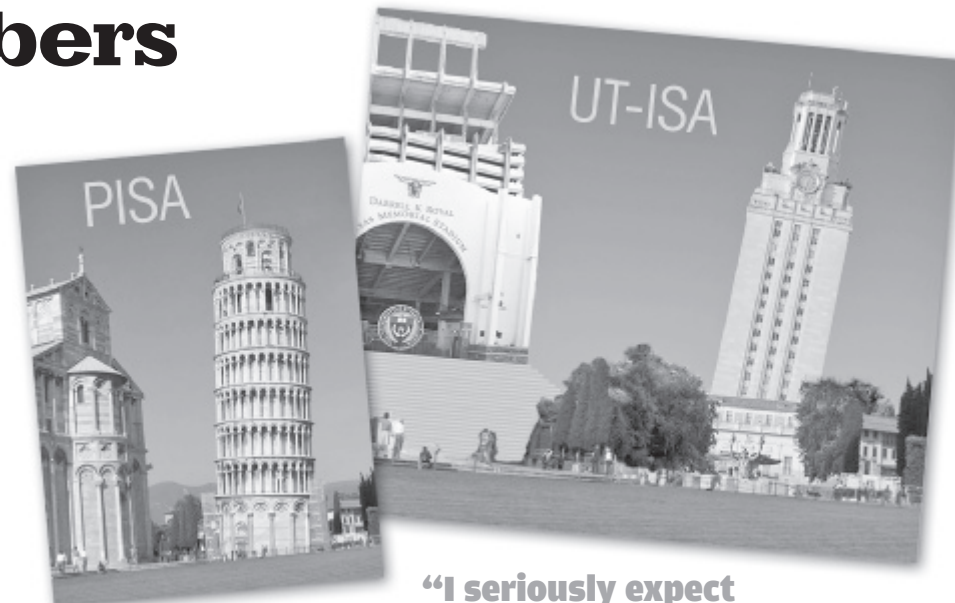
It's the academic core that's causing Hegarty and the wider university community the greatest concern. With endowments shrinking and state general revenue stalling, the prediction is for a near-static budget for the next five academic years. However, that doesn't mean costs won't rise, so on Dec. 1, the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee, a panel of staff and students, made the unpopular recommendation to UT Austin President Bill Powers of a 3.95% per year increase in tuition fees in the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years. Combined with a new \$65 per semester fee to pay for the new Student Activity Center, that would increase the cost per student per semester by roughly 10% by 2012, to an average of \$4,462 for grad students and \$4,895 for undergrads.

While parents and students are likely to shudder at a price hike for higher education while the



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**"I seriously expect to lose my job. I've been told I may have it, I may not."  
– Mark Garrison, lecturer in Italian**

wider economy is still in crisis, the proposed increase would only hold the budget steady. Without it, the university would have to cut \$31.1 million from current spending over the next two academic years. To fund the university's critical priorities, the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee estimated, would take a tuition hike of 18% a year for the next two years. With no other cash available, the next option is cutting costs. And since salaries and benefits account for two-thirds of the academic core budget, that will almost inevitably mean staff cuts.

Powers committed to hiring 10 new faculty members this year (down from his previous, prebudget crisis target of 30) and finding \$6 million for targeted salary raises. In their meeting, Strama said, "[Powers] said the research shows that a lot of those [schools] are shoring up their own finances for purposes of recruiting faculty."

Such commitments, Hegarty said, means finding salary savings elsewhere and "to do that, innately, it will impact people." The question now is, "Which people?" – and the tough

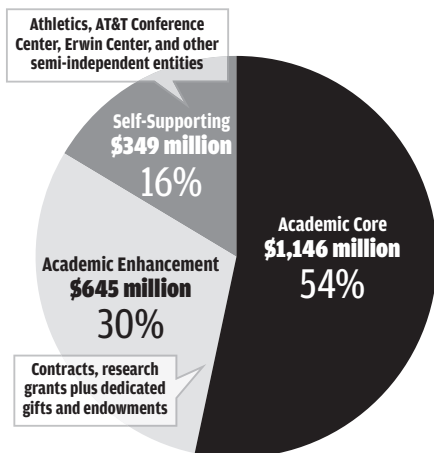
**"From the general faculty's point of view, [the current governance policy] is more aligned with how businesses operate than with the much older tradition of university faculties having major voices in curricular and academic directions." – Faculty Council Chair Janet Straiger**

## Hiring ... and Firing

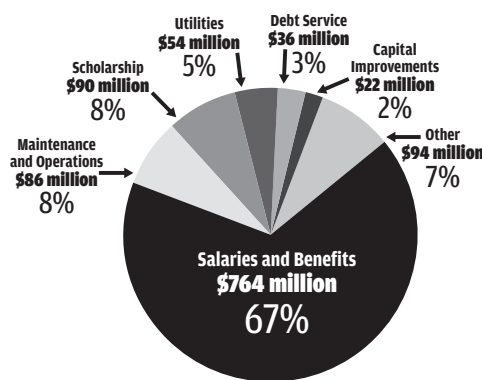
The threat of wider and deeper layoffs is serious enough that recently the Travis County delegation of the state House of Representatives met with Powers, to receive from him what Rep. Mark Strama, D-Austin, called "an understanding of what kind of cuts they were proposing, and for what purpose. In essence, what we got was that they were trying to shore up their finances in anticipation of pretty lean times ahead and in anticipation of an increasingly competitive environment to retain faculty." While many universities are in far worse financial shape than UT – the University of California system, under former UT System Chancellor Mark Yudof, has introduced furloughs and a hiring freeze to deal with an expected \$813 million budget shortfall – what may seem surprising is that in this financial context, Powers is looking to hire new staff. In his Sept. 16 State of the University Address,

choices are being left to the leadership of UT Austin's 18 schools and colleges. In governance terms, this is a continuation of an existing policy to give more authority and responsibility to what UT Faculty Council Executive Chair Janet Staiger called "middle-management: deans and department chairs." That was a key part of the recommendations made by the Commission of 125, the public body designed to set a strategic direction for UT Austin. In 2004, the commissioners recommended to then-President Larry Faulkner that he end the existing system of running strategic departmental decisions through the dean, the department chair, and a budget council of tenured staff. Instead, they suggested more authority and autonomy be given to the individual deans and departmental chairs, making them both capable of and responsible for improving their departments. To create that

CONTINUED ON P.30



**UT Austin Operating Budget  
FY 2009-10  
Total: \$2.14 billion**



**How the Academic Core  
Budget Is Spent  
FY 2009-10  
Total: \$1.14 billion**



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Dec 19, 7:30 pm  
Lee Leffingwell,  
Mayor of Austin



Dec 20, 2:00 pm  
Terri McCormick,  
Majic 95 DJ



Dec 21, 7:30 pm  
Sara Hickman,  
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new decision-making structure, they proposed that UT Austin hire “at least one world-class chair or center leader per year for the next two decades.” Staiger said, “Unfortunately, from the general faculty’s point of view, that position is more aligned with how businesses operate than with the much older tradition of university faculties having major voices in curricular and academic directions.”

With roughly 600 members on campus, the Texas State Employees Union has been watching the staff changes closely. Union organizing coordinator Mike Gross explained that since much of the budget is grants and endowments tied to individual projects, the schools are targeting instead the discretionary budget or “soft money” that pays for lecturers and adjuncts. He said, “They want to redirect money to bring in prestige faculty. One of the explanations bubbling around the campuses is that the University of California system is shedding faculty, and we’d like to pick up some high-profile names.” But the risk the university runs, he warned, is “reducing the capacity to do solid undergraduate teaching for Texans, in order to build the status as a prestige research university.”

It could also produce some deceptive numbers, such as staff-to-student ratios. In the closely watched *US News and World Report* university rankings, part-time staff count for one-third of a full-time employee. But there’s a qualitative difference between an adjunct lecturer who teaches one specialist class to 20 seniors and a researcher who leaves the contact hours and grading for a class of 100 to his harried graduate teaching assistants.

Only 49% of UT’s faculty members are tenured, and it’s the rest, including lecturers – hired on a year-to-year contractual basis – who are worried about not having their contracts renewed. Mark Garrison, a lecturer in Italian in the College of Liberal Arts, said: “I seriously expect to lose my job. I’ve been told I may have it, I may not. Other lecturers have been told, ‘You will lose your job in the fall,’ and others yet have been told, ‘You’ll have it in the fall, but don’t count on it in 2011.’”

## Bodies for Buildings

That’s quite a reversal, since only a year and a half ago, the College of Liberal Arts committed to a new hiring plan of 10 additional faculty members a year. The college launched an aggressive recruitment campaign and within a year had a net gain of 28 lecturers, but in June, Associate Dean Richard Flores said: “We were told we were facing a flat budget. ... That put us in deficit right away.” In total, the expectation is a \$10 million shortfall for the next five years. Now the College of Liberal Arts is in a hiring freeze and is reducing graduate enrollment, meaning fewer students but with better odds of receiving a research or teaching assistant post. Those cuts in hires meant raised eyebrows over the decision to carry on with the construction of a new \$100 million building on the East Mall, to

be funded in part from the soft-money budget. The logic for continuing, Flores said, “is that we have no space, and looking four or five years from now, we’ll have no place for new faculty.” The administration position is that deferring construction will only mean higher long-term costs and won’t solve the space crunch. Garrison remains unconvinced. He said, “The message being sent is that the new building is more important than people who have worked here for decades, or than that we keep a smaller class size.”

Another major staff concern is that cuts appear to be driving curriculum decisions, rather than considering course changes that could simultaneously reduce costs. That flies in the face of long university practice as well as another key recommendation from the Commission of 125, that “the creation of a core curriculum is the province of the faculty.” According to Garrison, the College of Liberal Arts “issued an edict that we’re going to cut the language requirement in half,” because there would be fewer lecturers due to staff layoffs. The word came down in midsummer, when most of the language staff was away from campus, and when they returned they sent Dean Randy Diehl a strong message of opposition. The French and Italian faculty finally approved a compromise, with the language requirement stuffed into three semesters instead of four, but Garrison said the decision “was foisted upon us” as a financial necessity. He called the new structure “a dumbing down, a degradation of language teaching,” while the threats of further cuts distract faculty from their core teaching responsibilities. He added, “We’re having discussions about stuff we shouldn’t be talking about, like the way the university channels money.”

The decisions and the universitywide budget will not be finalized until next spring or summer, and the discussions between deans and their staffs are far from concluded. There are also questions about whether the UT System administration, which oversees the system’s nine universities and six health institutions, is bearing its fair share of overall cuts. Those questions became sharp public criticism when the system’s board of regents held a two-day meeting Dec. 9-10 in Austin, including an overnight retreat at the Vintage Villas Hotel and Conference Center – although there were hotel rooms handily available at the recently

completed AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center on the UT campus. High on the regents’ agenda: approving an extra \$2 million a year for UT football coach Mack Brown, so that his annual salary now exceeds \$5 million a year, making him (for the moment) the highest-paid college football coach in the country.

As a “self-supporting” entity, the football program is responsible for funding its discrete budget. When questioned about budgetary priorities, UT officials have traditionally responded that football helps underwrite all nonrevenue sports and that, since it pulls in \$87.6 million a year, the Longhorns now outearn every other university program in the country by at least \$20 million. This week, the faculty council fired back that, whatever the supposed financial justification, “a permanent raise of \$2 million (a sum greater than the entire career earnings of a typical university employee) offered to any member of the university community is unseemly and inappropriate.”

CFO Hegarty suggested that while some efficiencies can still be found, such as recentralizing tasks like

accounting or getting lecturers to cancel courses that have only a handful of registrants, he’s worried about “the big myth” of university funding having previously been a bottomless treasure trove. If that were true, he says, then UT wouldn’t have pending several years’ worth of deferred maintenance. He said: “We’re not going to pay for education through savings. If we do, we will begin to hurt the very thing that we’re trying to fix.”

For the Texas State Employees Union’s Gross, the real question surrounds the ever-falling portion of university funds that are provided by the state. He said: “Within 15 years, it was of the order of 40 percent [of university income]. Now it’s under 20 percent. So to some extent, the state Legislature is telling the universities, ‘You’re on your own.’” That’s part of why colleges are being forced to balance staff retention against overdue construction, but Gross argues that they’re making the wrong trade-off. He said, “There are departments that could certainly use a new building – but is that not something you could put off for a couple of years, rather than cutting the basic capacity of the institution to provide education?” ■



**“If this gets easy, it’s time to go – because those are heartbeats behind those numbers.”**  
**– Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hegarty**



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# Conditions on the Ground

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

Afghanistan, eh? Afghanistan.

"These [30,000] additional American ... troops allow us to accelerate handing over responsibility to Afghan forces," said our president on Dec. 1, "and allow us to begin the transfer of our forces out of Afghanistan in July of 2011. ... [W]e will execute this transition responsibly, taking into account conditions on the ground."

The July 2011 "transfer" was then much discussed. Our secretary of state said: "I think there have been sort of misunderstandings about what that date meant. ... We will do it in a responsible way, based on conditions" (*The New York Times*, Dec. 4, p.19). Our secretary of defense stressed that July 2011 "will be the beginning of a process, an inflection point, if you will" (*The New York Times*, Dec. 4, p.18). What he meant, he added later, was that "some handful, or some small number, or whatever the conditions permit, will begin to withdraw at that time" (*The New York Times*, Dec. 7, p.1). The real exit date is "whatever conditions permit," which is no date at all and indicates no exit strategy.

One thing, at least, is clear: "America's military spending in Afghanistan alone next year will now exceed the entire official military budget of every other country in the world" (*The New York Times*, Dec. 3, p.43).

Our government's objective: "The United States should focus on diminishing the Taliban insurgency but not destroying it" (*The New York Times*, Dec. 6, p.1). What exactly

is the Taliban? According to the CIA ([www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)), the Taliban is "a hardline Pakistani-sponsored movement that emerged in 1994 to end [Afghanistan's] civil war and anarchy." Pakistan is our ally, but we're fighting a Pakistani-sponsored movement, which Pakistan itself fought a few months ago when the Taliban made a run at taking over that country. "For years ... Pakistani intelligence has played a double game with Islamist extremists, nurturing them as a force to use against Pakistan's archrival India in the disputed territory of Kashmir and helping create the Taliban as a buffer against Indian influence in Afghanistan" (*The New York Times*, Dec. 6, p.WK1). India is our ally. So is Pakistan. The Taliban is Pakistan's ally, except when it's not, and fights India in Kashmir, while in Afghanistan the Taliban fights the Afghan government and us. We intend to diminish but not destroy the Taliban, which can please neither India nor the Afghan government.

I am being as clear as the facts permit.

These facts describe a situation in which, on any given day, anybody may be any-

body's enemy – a situation that gets thornier when one remembers that al Qaeda was our stated reason for invading Afghanistan in 2001, but al Qaeda is now thought to be based in Pakistan. Al Qaeda is not the Taliban – a distinction our president did not emphasize. We are escalating our war in Afghanistan, though the White House "puts the number of Qaeda operatives [in Afghanistan] at roughly 100" (*The New York Times*, Dec. 6, p.WK10). That is not a typo. One hundred.

We seek to destroy al Qaeda, which is in Pakistan, not Afghanistan. The Taliban is not al Qaeda, but we war in Afghanistan against the Taliban, whom we want only to diminish, not destroy. Our president has stated that his goal is "to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda in Pakistan and Afghanistan," but we're fighting where al Qaeda isn't. Yet, according to our secretary of defense, "Rolling back the Taliban is now necessary, even if not sufficient, to the ultimate defeat of Al Qaeda" (*The New York Times*, Dec. 6, p.WK1). It's not sufficient, but it's what we're doing.

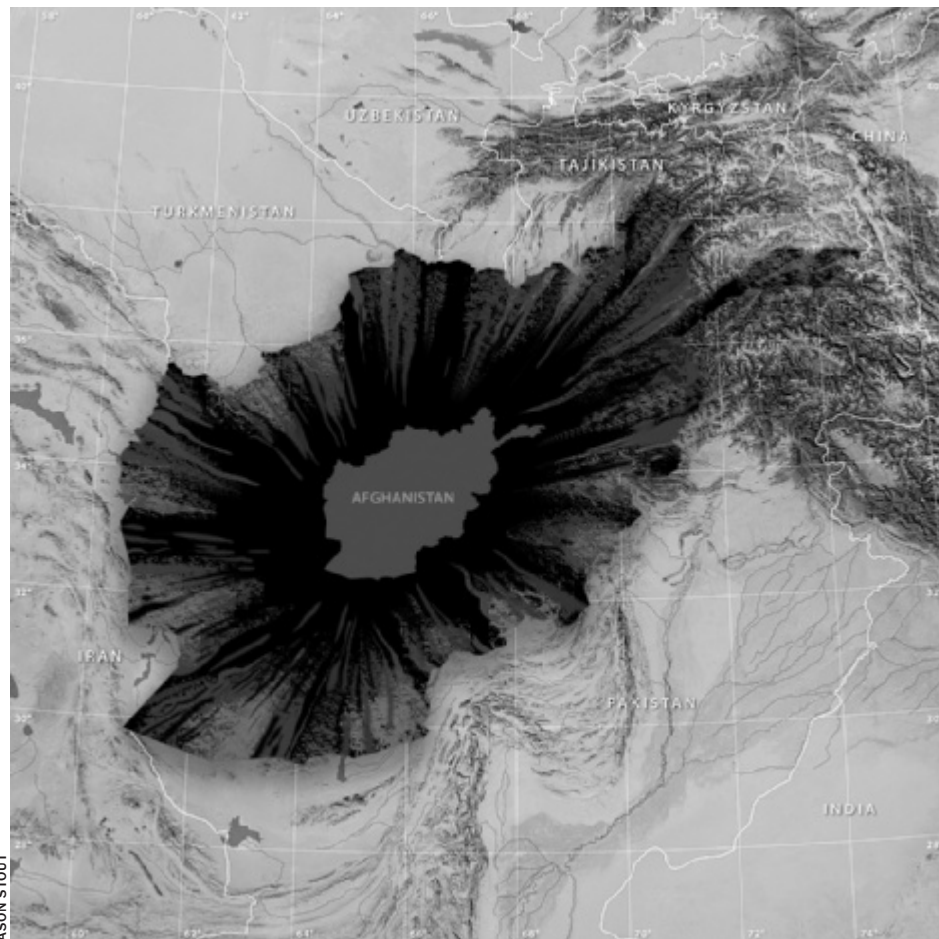
Pakistan was silent for days after the escalation speech until its president wrote a *New York Times* op-ed (Dec. 10, p.43) about "deep suspicion" between our ally Pakistan and, uh, us. Doesn't trust our motives. In elegant diplomatese, he set the price for full Pakistani cooperation: "[M]ediate the Kashmir dispute." (India will be very unhappy.)

"Afghanistan's President Says Army Will Need Allies' Help Until 2024 or Longer" (*The New York Times*, Dec. 9, p.16). Just 14 more years or so.

What, then, are conditions on the ground in Afghanistan?

"Most of the Taliban are Pashtuns" (*The Week*, March 29, p.19). "[T]he Pashtun tribes ... make up an estimated 42 percent of the population. ... Tajiks constitute only about 24 percent ... yet [Tajiks] largely control the armed forces and the intelligence and secret police agencies. ... 'They get the dollars, and we get the bullets,' is the common refrain among Pashtuns. ... [A] recent study by the RAND Corporation for the Pentagon ... warned of the 'challenge of achieving ethnic balance [in the Afghan army], given the difficulty of recruiting in the Pashtun area.' The main reasons ... are that '70 percent of the army's battalion commanders are Tajiks.' ... It doesn't help that many of the army units sent to the Pashtun areas consist primarily of Tajiks who do not speak Pashto" (*The New York Times*, Aug. 17, p.19).

The trouble with fighting Pashtuns is that "[i]n the dominant Pashtun tribe, revenge is



JASON STOUT

a duty" (*Newsweek*, Feb. 9, p.30). That report quotes a U.S. Special Forces colonel: "Kill one Pashtun tribesman ... and you make three more your sworn enemy." These are the people we're escalating against.

The (mostly Tajik) Afghan army that we hope will ultimately take over is something to behold. "After eight years and more than \$15 billion spent to train the Afghan National Army and police, neither is anywhere near ready. ... [There is] a lack of competent and professional leadership at all levels," and 90% of the troops are illiterate (*The New York Times*, Dec. 5, p.18).

That illiterate army works for a government in which corruption is epic. Even the Afghan president admits, "The banks of the world are full of the money of our statesmen" (*Newsweek*, Feb. 9, p.30). Those statesmen bank America's borrowed coin. According to our ambassador to Afghanistan, "only half the Afghan revenue collected by the authorities annually actually [makes] it into the country's Treasury" (Reuters online, Dec. 8). The recent Afghan election was "wildly rigged," ballot boxes stuffed "on an industrial scale" (*The Economist*, Oct. 17, p.15).

Half of Afghanistan literally cannot understand the other half. According to the CIA, 50% speak Afghan Persian, 35% Pashto, 11% Turkic languages, and 4% speak 30 (!) "minor languages." Forty-four percent of Afghans are age 14 or younger. (My dear God, we're making war in a land that's nearly half children.) Forty percent of adults

are unemployed. Of those employed, 80% are in agriculture.

And what agriculture! Afghanistan supplies "roughly 93 percent" of the world's heroin; between 2004 and 2009 "poppy cultivation has more than doubled" (*Newsweek*, Feb. 9, p.30). We don't defoliate those fields because we don't want to alienate those farmers. Heroin floods America and the world because we're making nice-nice to people we're also at war with.

The Pashtun Taliban fight the Tajik government. Our commanding general calls the situation "an 'argument' between the Taliban and the Afghan government, backed by the West" (*The Economist*, Oct. 17, p.31). Which means: We're taking sides in a civil war.

Our side is universally recognized as corrupt and incompetent. The other side is an alliance of drug-dealing, religiously fanatic warlords. We depend on an ally, Pakistan, in which "two-thirds of the country lives in conditions that approximate the 13th century" (*The New York Times*, May 3, p.WK1). Pakistan has nukes. India has nukes. They hate each other. They are somehow both our allies. The Taliban fights everybody. Nobody respects the people we support. These are the conditions on the ground.

The White House is correct to insist this war is not Vietnam or Iraq. It's not. It's tougher. And stupider.

This is no "war on terror." This war is the terror.

Merry fucking Christmas. We're at it again. ■



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# Homies for the Holidays

The art and science of Austintatious giftology

While we have some mild grammatical quibbles with the adverb-leery “Buy Local” slogan, our hearts are in the same place. Even if you don’t count the fairly astounding civic economic boost, there are any number of reasons to keep your hard-earned cheddar in the ATX. But here’s the main one: Austin is an energetic, wildly creative, sophisticated city, and its local retail offerings have grown to reflect that. We offer below just a few examples of this phenomenon – a starting point for your own exploration. Because with all the top-notch, one-of-a-kind, high-quality goods at your fingertips, there’s absolutely no reason not to buy local. –ly. Locally. – Cindy Widner

## STITCH LAB GRAND OPENING

Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 19-20,  
noon-8pm

The word is out about the newest addition to Austin’s hearty crafting scene – even before this weekend’s grand opening, many of the sewing classes offered at Stitch Lab are full through January. Since her earliest days in Austin theatre designing costumes, **Stitch Lab** owner

**Leslie Bonnell** has brought together artists with diverse interests, and this latest venture is just as vibrantly inclusive. The roster of instructors includes a former designer for BCBG and **Jennifer Perkins** of **Naughty Secretary Club**; **Tina Sparkles** even walks you through her pattern that placed second this year in Blackmail’s Little Black Dress contest. They teach everything from knitting and screenprinting basics to advanced millinery techniques and how to handle a serger.

Stitch Lab recently relocated to South First, and it will be celebrating with a full-on Soiree and Indie Craftivity Scene, featuring more than 20 Austin designers. In lieu of this year’s Bouldin Creek Studio Tour, many of its usual artists and vendors will be at the soiree as well, displaying wares ranging from **crafts** to **jewelry**, **fine art**, and **pie**. Highlights include **Shannon Lowry’s** plantable bird-themed letterpress greeting cards, **Rachel Lavin’s** delicate sterling silver jewelry line **Pio**, and **Kathie Sever’s** Ramonster line of custom **Western wear**, recently featured in the documentary *Handmade Nation*.

Stitch Lab instructors will be available to meet, greet, and answer questions, and we have our calendars marked and our wallets ready to take advantage of the grand-opening 20% discount on all fabrics. As a guilt-free bonus, 10% of the combined proceeds of Bonnell’s handmade items and the overall weekend Stitch Lab sales will go to **Grrl Action**, a writing- and performance-based arts program for teenage girls, founded by Rude Mechanicals. – Lei-Leen Choo

Stitch Lab, 1000 S. First, 440-0712, [www.glitzkrieg.biz/glee](http://www.glitzkrieg.biz/glee).

## FOR THE ARTFUL LODGER

**IF+D’s** whimsical, contemporary furniture, art, and accessories are nothing if not totemically reflective of our hometown’s love of the absurd and the beautiful; you could almost call owner Kristen Bolling’s offerings “curated.” Local artists’ work covers the walls – including pieces by elusive wheat-paster **Failure** (\$65) and renderings of such notables as **Tom DeLay**, **Charles Nelson Reilly**, and the **Runaway Bride** by **Mike Merritt** (\$250) – and Bolling often seeks out odd secondhand ephemera to fill out her collection of exquisite pieces. IF+D boasts boatloads of affordable eccentricity – a compelling **mod butter dish** (\$28), **avian-themed stationery** (“My Peeps” address book, \$18), **napkins** embroi-



Stitch Lab



IF+D

dered with **street-lamp designs** (\$7), **wood-covered desk necessities** (\$12-24), and a variety of nutty **toys** (\$5 and more) – but even its spendier items are carefully chosen and appallingly reasonable. What special someone wouldn’t love a colorful **Modernica shell chair** (\$375), anything by **Blu Dot**, Merritt’s **rubberized stoneware** (\$65-175), or a kick-ass handcrafted wooden **Magno radio** (\$200) that sounds great and has (shhh) a jack for your iPod?

The women behind **Spruce**, Lizzie Nguyen and Amanda Brown, bring high design and recycling culture together (at last!), working with beautiful, rare fabrics to recover and restore vintage furniture of all eras, right in their on-site upholstery workshop. Spruce offers gift certificates for **upholstery classes** or in-store purchases, as well as some amazing, exclusive **fabrics** by the yard, and its retail floor offers plenty for your holiday pleasure. Indie South

African fabricmaker Skinny LaMinx’s **“I Wish We Had IKEA” dish towel** (\$15) tops our list, but her other towels and **aprons** (\$15-25), as well as Spruce’s handmade **Christmas stockings** (\$65), **vintage lamps** and **bowls** (vintage prices), new and vintage **design books**, delicious **Voluspa candles** (\$9.75-25), polished-wood-encased **tape measures** (\$12), terrariums (\$40-125), and Elüm **bookmarks**, **note cards**, and **cloth-covered journals** (\$2-21) make that a tough call. Add to that some select redone furniture (particularly the **Tentacle Swirl patio set**, \$595) and local art by members of the **12x12 Project**, and you have a bounteous holiday selection.

We’d be remiss if we didn’t mention **Iron Thread Design’s** lovely, one-of-a-kind **multiuse ottomans** and **benches**. Fabric, batting, and buttons are Austinite Sheri Bingham’s muse, and her pieces are perfectly crafted and magically designed. Though priced in the “investment piece” category (\$600-1,200), they boast environmentally responsible (and beautiful) materials, local craftsmanship, and handmade upholstered buttons, making them a shoo-in for the “heirloom” category. In breaking news: Her new line boasts 30 new fabrics as well as **sofa** and **chair** options; all can be had at a number of local stores (listed on the website) or by e-mailing Bingham directly.

– C.W.

IF+D, 208 Colorado, 469-0870, [www.ifdaustin.com](http://www.ifdaustin.com).

Spruce, 6607 N. Lamar, 454-8181, [www.spruceaustin.com](http://www.spruceaustin.com).

Iron Thread Design, [sherii@ironthreaddesign.com](mailto:sherii@ironthreaddesign.com), [www.ironthreaddesign.com](http://www.ironthreaddesign.com).



AHRC  
“Guadalupe”  
tee

## ICONO-CLASSICS

**Atomic City** is the gift-bomb for any occasion and has been for more than 25 years. Godzilla rules here, so let collector/connoisseur Jim “Prince” Hughes show you his new selection of

**Toho-licensed Godzilla tees** (\$19-26). Don’t miss the rack of **Hawaiian-made shirts** from Reyn Spooner, Kalakaua, and Kamehameha (\$65-135) nor the Tiki Farm limited-edition **tiki mugs** (\$10-25). There are as many T-shirt designs represented here as in any shop on Sixth Street, especially **Eighties punk shirts** (\$19), Sanrio-like Tenshi Neko **rubberized canvas bags** (\$25), and a great collection of **books**, including ones on the art of tattoo that are not carried elsewhere.

Don’t let the bright circus of mechanical squawking and human squealing that greets you as you enter **Toy Joy** distract you. The secret of this spot is that there really is something here for everyone on your list, including your mother-in-law, who would love a matching planner and notebook from the handsome selection of **Moleskines** (\$12.95-20.95). You’ll also find a wall of games, including the **Rubik’s 5X5 cube** (\$29.95), **Rubik’s Star Trek cube** (\$18.95), and **Rubik’s new Revolution cube** (\$24.95). After selecting a good old-fashioned **jigsaw puzzle** to put under your tinsel tree (\$14.95-200), gawk at the strange tribe of **Uglydolls** on your way out, since Big Toe and Babo’s Bird (\$9.95 each) or Turny Burny (\$9.95) just might be someone’s wish this year.

If you still have an unresolved list, head across the street to **Oat Willie’s**, which isn’t just for stoners anymore. Another local twentysomething retail veteran, the shop has wisely diversified, making it a first-rate gift stop for any age group. Housewares include **wooden Acacia ware** serving pieces, such as sectioned platters (\$18), salad bowls (\$16), baguette trays (\$14), and olive trays (\$10). Find plenty of bedspread-sized dorm-style **wall tapestries** from India Arts (\$20-25) here, as well as a beautiful selection of silver and semiprecious **stone jewelry**, including locally crafted turquoise and amethyst pieces (\$25-75).

Did you know that Texas is the only state with no provision for legal needle exchange? Support harm reduction initiatives for safe injection supplies and look like a million bucks at the same time in a **gorgeous T-shirt** (\$20). Visit **Austin Harm Reduction Coalition’s** online store to buy a **“pink nurse”** or **“Guadalupe” tank**.

– Anne Harris

Atomic City, 1700 San Antonio, 477-0293.

Toy Joy, 2900 Guadalupe, 320-0090, [www.toyjoy.com](http://www.toyjoy.com).

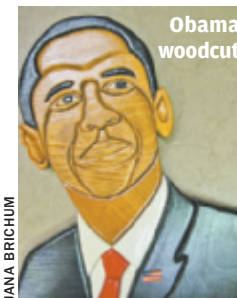
Oat Willie’s, 617 W. 29th, 482-0630, [www.oatwillies.com](http://www.oatwillies.com).

Austin Harm Reduction Coalition, [www.austinharmreduction.org](http://www.austinharmreduction.org).

## EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

**Nubian Queen Lola’s wall o’**

**gifts:** For a change this holiday season, why not pick up something totally unique, superfly, and hand-crafted with love – and do your community some good? And how better to back up our commander-in-chief right now than the **Obama Woodcut?!** Featuring a handsome likeness of our president worthy of your most mantely mantel, this regal portrait puts those TV collector plates from late ‘08 to shame. Impressed by a newspaper account of Lola’s extensive homeless outreach, some incarcerated gentlemen have decided to donate the products they make in the shop so she can put the proceeds into meals for the underserved. In addition to the sweet array of woodcuts, you’ll find lovely **paintings**, gorgeous **leather crafts** (stamped and tanned by Lola’s husband, Otis Bell), and more **wall hangings**, all \$2-130 (average \$20).



Obama  
woodcut

JANA BRICHUM

# GIVE, AND THE ARTS GIVE BACK

## New East Gallery needs a love infusion

BY ABE LOUISE YOUNG

Harold McMillan is an Austin powerhouse. For almost 20 years, he's worked to keep art alive east of I-35, promoting and preserving African-American arts and music. Yet now that the strengths of East Austin are being recognized by the wider city (and gentrification is in full swing), his New East Gallery is struggling to survive.

A mission-driven space that gives special attention to artists of color, New East Gallery opened in 2007 as a reincarnation of the DiverseArts Little Gallery. A small, bright storefront in the Saltillo Lofts, it also houses the administrative offices of DiverseArts and serves as a hub for a dizzying array of cultural productions.

Word/Jazz, the Blues Family Tree Project, *Austin Downtown Arts Magazine*, the jazz and blues venue Kenny Dorham's Backyard, the Austin Jazz and Arts Festival, and East End Fourth Fridays – all anchors of Austin African-American culture – are DiverseArts projects. Through this nonprofit, McMillan has long been providing the building blocks of cultural arts infrastructure along the newly designated African American Cultural Heritage District.

"There's not a lot of nonprofit arts programming for the African-American community," says McMillan, "and we've pretty much taken it on ourselves to provide that. We

work on music, visual arts and crafts, children's programs, and educational content. We've produced more programs for the East 11th Street corridor over the last eight years than any other organization. If we go away, the programming will be missed.

"Our expectation is not that we'll get rich selling art, but we do need to do some business," he continues. "Because of the economic climate, the organization and the gallery are on the rocks in a very serious way. At this point, it is difficult to know if New East Gallery will exist into the new year. That's not just end-of-the-year fundraising rhetoric; that's the reality that we're in right now."

It's a perfect time to visit the gallery, which is full of meaningful gifts and an eclectic mix of local photos, paintings, sculpture, prints, and jewelry. The prices range from \$20 (for earrings made of recycled computer parts) to \$5,000 (for large paintings and sculptures).

New East currently features North Texas' David Zvanut, whose radiant recycled sculptures use found materials to surprise and delight, evoking music notations and Texan



JANA BIRCHUM

Harold McMillan

themes. One piece stands out: a large acrylic painting of a stylized Texas flag – its star made of jalapeño peppers – that hangs behind a circlet of barbed wire. It's an elegant statement in support of unfenced borders and Mexican culture in Texas.

McMillan explains: "It's a multicultural art space. The ambience there is a rainbow family, a real diverse mix of people. Black folks and brown folks, moneyed art collectors, and a lot of artists of all kinds. People like coming to our gallery because it's not just the same old arts scene."

New East Gallery welcomes visitors Tuesday-Friday, noon-6pm. This Saturday, Dec. 19, from 6 to 8pm, the gallery is hosting a fundraiser, and from 8 to 10:30pm, a party open to the public.

New East Gallery, 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438; DiverseArts, [www.diversearts.org](http://www.diversearts.org).

## MORE FOR THE ARTS-LOVER ON YOUR LIST

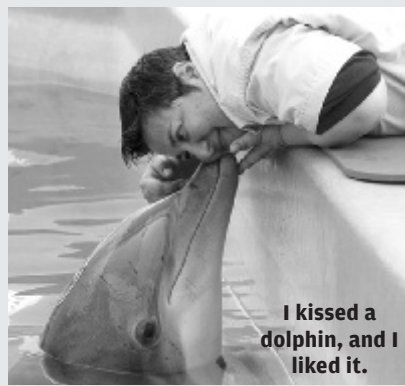
Those whose busy schedules never seem to allow time for, say, a night at the ballet, should give themselves or someone else a gift of the local arts scene this season. Boasting a fifth Grammy nomination this year, the 38-member **Conspirare** choir will perform *Concert Series 3: A New Year's Conspirare Classic* in January (\$38-42). The 2009-10 **Zach Theatre** schedule offers a wide range of entertainment – from Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* to Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses*, to name two – as well as a 30% ticket discount for subscribers. The gift of great filmmaking with a membership to the **Austin Film Society** will bring pleasure all year long. In addition to advance notice and presale opportunities for premieres and a smartly curated screening schedule, members enjoy discounts on regularly priced shows at various local movie houses. Do yourself a favor and head over to Texas' largest gallery for African and African-American art, **Mitchie's Gallery**. Its stock of originals, serigraphs, giclees, limited- and open-edition artworks, and African carvings will keep you busy, but don't overlook the wonderful array of books, cards, calendars, collectibles, and T-shirts, including work by Annie Lee, Church Pew and Sunday Morning figurines (\$8.99-14.99), and a variety of book/Bible bags (\$23.99) that will make someone's day.

– Anne Harris

*Conspirare*, 476-5775, [www.conspirare.org](http://www.conspirare.org).  
Zach Theatre, 476-0541 x1, [www.zachtheatre.org](http://www.zachtheatre.org).  
Austin Film Society, 322-0145, [afs@austinfilm.org](http://afs@austinfilm.org),  
[www.austinfilm.org](http://www.austinfilm.org).  
Mitchie's Gallery, 7801 N. Lamar Ste. B-148.  
323-6901, [www.mitchie.com](http://www.mitchie.com).

## WINTER \$EASON WONDERLAND

The most memorable gift is the gift of experience: How about making out with a dolphin? Enjoying a water park in the dead of winter? Or hanging out where FDR fished the deep blue (okay, kinda greenish-brown) sea? Added bonus: One of the most economical ways to experience all this and so much more is to **give a trip** during the winter season to the Texas Coast. And winter season pricing isn't limited to the coast. Check out our online Travels & Experiences blog posts to plan some absurdly affordable adventures: [austinchronicle.com/chronolog](http://austinchronicle.com/chronolog). – K.X.M.



I kissed a dolphin, and I liked it.

**New Brohemia:** Sure, you're already onto New Bohemia, the discerning South Congress vintage concern. But do you know about its Bro, ham? Its brotherly compadre offers one-stop shopping for the person in your life with a proclivity toward **natty menswear**, especially if your particular proclivity is of the budget-minded. The dead-stocked and gently vogueed bounty includes sweetly arrayed configurations of **pearl-snap shirts** in all colors, sizes, and eras; a rainbow of **guayaberas**; the curiously beloved **"leather sweater"** (about 20% leather in the form of patches and the rest knit); boyfriend (or girlfriend, if you are the proud owner of a big beefy dyke) **jewelry**; and if that's not enough to blow your mind, there is an adjacent discount/clearance area in the back. Shop on, bromeisterpants.

**TapeLenders/Skivvies:** Austin's queer video and gay pride nerve center features

more than just rainbow windsocks and Jeff Stryker show-and-tells; TapeLenders proves that somewhere over the rainbow, there does exist a smidge of taste. And of course, there's the video catalog a mere stumble down the staircase. The most thrilling division of TapeLenders, however, is **Skivvies**. Everyone knows where to get panties, but Skivvies has **manties** – men's underwear more stimulating than a gross of tighty-whities and less mortifying than the hysterical boxers at Wal-Mart. Metro-, pomo-, and pyro-sexuals alike may revel in the panoply of underpants that is Skivvies, the undergarment and accessories store-within-a-store at TapeLenders. It carries Andrew Christian, Diesel, 2(x)ist, Ginch Gonch, Timoteo, Justus Boyz, Unico, Private Structure, PPU, and Priape, among many others. The target is obviously the gay market, but really,

if you guys (straight, dyke, and lady guys) knew what type of man pants your lovers liked, you'd get a lot more action. Trust us.

### Monolithic Dome Institute goodies:

The Domes for the World nonprofit and Monolithic Dome Institute (or, as we like to call it, "Those Monolithic People") is selling all sorts of great holiday gifties to support its cause of "providing permanent, fireproof, disaster-resistant homes and community buildings," as its mission says, "that are shaped like pregnant mushrooms," as we say. For less than \$15, you can flavor your pal's favorite wall with **Monolithic's 2010 calendar**, and **hats, shirts, and mugs** featuring the swooshy domers logo can be had for \$6-20. For the strongly intended, there are **books, CDs, and DVDs** with titles like *Dome Living*, *How to Build an EcoShell*, and *Urethane Foam: Magic Material – and the Best Kept Insulation Secret Evarrrr* (okay, we added that last word). For the truly hardcore, there are **floor plans, CO<sub>2</sub> meters, and more**. You'll be able to boast the difference between shotcrete and Jell-O shots in no time.

For a guide to holiday gift bazaars, see *Community Listings*, p.62.

For more deets and gift ideas, check out our *Chronique* blog, [austinchronicle.com/chronique](http://austinchronicle.com/chronique).

– Kate X Messer

*Nubian Queen Lola's Cajun Soul Food Kitchen*, 1815 Rosewood, 474-5652, [www.nubianqueenlolas.com](http://www.nubianqueenlolas.com).  
*New Brohemia*, 2209 S. First, 804-0988, [www.newboAustin.com](http://www.newboAustin.com).  
*TapeLenders/Skivvies*, 1114 W. Fifth #201, 472-0844, [www.tapelenders.com](http://www.tapelenders.com).  
*Monolithic Dome Institute*, 117 Dome Park Place, Italy, TX 76651, 972/483-7423, [www.monolithic.com](http://www.monolithic.com).

## THREE FOR THE WIN

Eventually, almost vomit-sick of the holiday hub-bub, you'll want to do little more than put on a **T-shirt**, page through a fierce **coffeetable book**, and listen to some **music** that most of your friends haven't heard yet. Best place to get that T-shirt, we reckon, is the **Alamo Draffhouse's Mondo Tees**, where the images are ripped from Hollywood blockbusters and cult weirdnesses alike and often laced with bright, clever snark. The book you'll be enjoying probably comes from **Domy Books**, the local emporium of high-end graphic collections and arty micropublications that's like **Shepard Fairey, Camille Rose Garcia, and Philippe Starck** teamed up to build a section of heaven. And the music? From **End of an Ear**, of course, where you can discover an entire universe of sonic recordings – much of that vintage **vinyl stuff**, even – off the beaten groove. And, gifts bought from any of these places will surely get you thanked or laid or both by the recipients. Merry, indeed!



A Mondo Tee

– Wayne Alan Brenner

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# THE arts

## AUSTIN VISUAL ARTS AWARDS

### The first class of Fearings

For a time, the first Austin Visual Arts Awards looked like they would be more about who *wasn't* present than who was. Kelly Fearing, the 91-year-old pioneering Texas modernist who was due to receive a lifetime achievement award (and whose surname was being taken for the awards' nickname), sent his regrets for the Dec. 4 ceremony, blaming his absence on the day's icy weather. That, alas, also deterred Peggy Frary, who was to accept a posthumous lifetime achievement award on behalf of her late husband, Michael, the great painter of Lone Star landscapes and Fearing's colleague on the faculty of the University of Texas Department of Art & Art History. Another lifetime achievement award in memoriam was presented to another UT art instructor and artist, Robert Dale Anderson, who died suddenly in May of this year. Will Klemm, recipient of one of the first President's Awards of Excellence, as selected by Austin Visual Arts Association President Bill Keese, was missing, as were Michael Smith and Roberto Guerra, 2009 Artist of the Year winners in the categories of new media and photography, respectively. The 250 people packed into the Austin Museum of Art – Downtown conference room took all their absences in stride, however, preferring to focus on



Bob "Daddy-O" Wade

the fact that the city's visual-arts community was at long last gaining some recognition for its work. And as it turned out, there were plenty of honorees in the house, including Bob "Daddy-O" Wade, who accepted the Collectors Circle Award, joking that it was going to him because he was the oldest guy in the room. Keese, who had made it something of a personal mission to establish the awards, expressed pleasure with the large turnout – AVAA had expected about 100 attendees – and told the crowd to expect next year's event to be bigger and better. – Robert Faires



Heather Tolleson

### THE 2009 AUSTIN VISUAL ARTS AWARD WINNERS

Artist of the Year 2 Dimensional Art:

**Erin Curtis**

Artist of the Year 3 Dimensional Art:

**Beili Liu**

Artist of the Year Photography:

**Roberto "Bear" Guerra**

Artist of the Year New Media: **Michael Smith**

Artist of the Year Early Career:

**Heather Tolleson**

Collectors Circle Award:

**Bob "Daddy-O" Wade**

Service to the Arts: **Jana Swec,**

**Shea Little, Joseph Phillips for East Austin Studio Tour**

President's Award of Excellence:

**Will Klemm, Roi James**

Arts Patron of the Year: **Becky Beaver**

Lifetime Achievement: **Kelly Fearing**

Lifetime Achievement in Memoriam:

**Robert Dale Anderson**

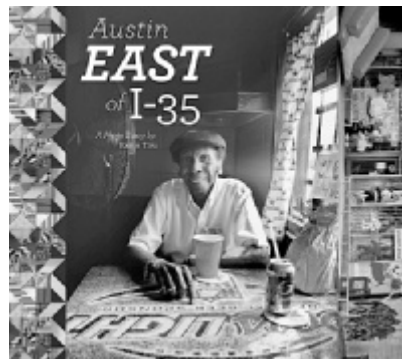
Lifetime Achievement in Memoriam:

**Michael Frary and Peggy Frary**

## 'AUSTIN: EAST OF I-35' Love notes to a community

"Labor of love" doesn't quite hit the mark in describing Rama Tiru's new book, *Austin: East of I-35*. Not that the project wasn't one – the photographer spent close to three years documenting Eastside residents, events, businesses, and organizations with her camera; interviewing individuals and recording their stories; writing the backgrounds and histories of her subjects; seeking out designers and a publisher to make it a book; and obtaining the funds to have it published – but what you don't see on the page is anything resembling "labor." This is the result of a "love affair," to borrow the term Tiru uses in her foreword, and as such, it radiates the pure pleasure of a romance. What comes through in every image and piece of text is the affection and admiration that Tiru has for the people and places and institutions that make up the Eastside. As one so often does with a lover, Tiru wants to know everything she can about the object of her affection and then wants to share everything she learns with everyone she meets. That's a lucky thing for East Austin, which has long been neglected by the city as a whole and is home to so many people and programs and stories that deserve the attention of every Austinite. Tiru chroni-

cles the political efforts of the Brown Berets of Austin and PODER (People in Defense of Earth and Her Resources), the social service activities of Breakthrough Austin and Meals on Wheels, and the cultural legacies of the Carver Museum & Cultural Center, Harold McMillan's DiverseArts, and the Victory Grill. She takes us inside home-grown community businesses, such as Green & White Grocery, Triple Crown Tattoo Parlour, Dan's Hair Styling, and the Golden Touch Enrichment Academy (a cosmetology school), and inside clubs such as Ms. Bea's and the Eldorado Club House that also serve as community gathering places. She takes us through the year, marking key dates on the Eastside calendar: Juneteenth, the East Austin Studio Tour, Día de los Muertos, South by Southwest. And she introduces us to the citizens of the community, both those whose names may be familiar – Carver curator Bernadette Phifer, *The Villager* Editor Tommy Wyatt, Juan in a Million owner Juan Meza, BYDEE artist Brian Joseph – and those whose names you may not know – Lola of the Nubian Queen restaurant, former boxer Richard "Rocky" Medrano, activist Sabino Renteria, Lee Gresham of the East Side Pedal Pushers bike shop, the



late Mrs. Chapa. Each photograph is dense with detail, as if Tiru is trying to jam as much information as possible into a single image. The result is that we see a community that's alive with activity, personality, history, and color. Especially color. The pictures are vibrant with it, in the foliage, on the buildings, in the clothing of the people, in the people themselves: candy-apple reds, canary yellows, turquoises, emeralds, pinks, magentas, mochas, sages, crimson, chocolates, maroons, tans, robin's-egg blues. They excite the eye as you're looking at the book, and when you've set it down leave an after-image of Austin east of I-35 that's full of vitality. For more information, visit [www.tirugallery.com](http://www.tirugallery.com). – R.F.

## culture flash!

- ▶ If you're picking this up the day it hits the streets, know that you can catch former Austin artist **Julie Speed** in one of her rare appearances in town tonight, Dec. 17. The award-winning painter, who now calls Marfa home, will take part in a conversation about her work with **Austin Museum of Art** Executive Director Dana Friis-Hansen at the museum's Downtown galleries, 823 Congress. A wine reception starts at 6:30pm, with the conversation at 7pm, to be followed by a book signing of the new University of Texas Press release, *Speed Art 2003-2009*. For more information, visit [www.amoa.org](http://www.amoa.org).
- ▶ The **Austin Symphony Orchestra** has a new permanent executive director, and it's the same person as the interim executive director: **Anthony Corroa**. The veteran arts administrator and musician, who has served as ASO's operations manager for nine years, stepped into the executive director breach after the curiously abrupt departure of Galen Wixson in late August. Wixson had been hired following a national search and brought into ASO with much fanfare just six months earlier, but then with no notice from the organization, his name was removed from ASO's website, and it was two weeks before a release announcing his resignation due to "creative differences" was forthcoming. No elaboration has ever been made.
- ▶ **Ballet East Dance Company** will hold its annual **toy drive** this Saturday, Dec. 19. The company collects and distributes toys for kids under 12 who live on the Eastside. Bring your gift or a financial donation to 3111 Garwood from 2 to 5pm and enjoy a Mexican *merienda*, a traditional gathering with hot chocolate, pastries, conversation, and good cheer. Note: If your gift is wrapped, attach a note indicating what it is and whether it's for a boy or girl (or either). For more information, call Ballet East Artistic Director Rodolfo Mendez at 385-2838 or e-mail [mendestein@hotmail.com](mailto:mendestein@hotmail.com).

– R.F.

**INVISIBLE**

by Paul Auster  
Henry Holt and Co., 320 pp., \$25

It should come as no surprise that the author of labyrinthine novels such as *City of Glass* and *Moon Palace* would center his latest work around a character who bears a striking resemblance to Paul Auster himself.

Both Auster and his lead, Adam Walker, attended Columbia University in the late Sixties before moving to Paris. Thus starts the meta-shenanigans that are kept largely at bay for the first section of the novel, which tells the engrossing story of a college sophomore whose sin of vanity in trying to impress Rudolf Born, an older man of unquestionable intelligence but questionable character, begins a ripple effect that forms increasingly larger circles through the rest of the novel. Even as Auster switches from first-person to third-person narration, he thankfully doesn't let the plot turn into a parlor trick or afterthought. Parts of the story are even told in the rarely used second person, making it read like a degenerate's self-help book. "Degenerate" is not to say the prose is lackluster (the majority of it shines), but "you" are implicated in the most uncomfortable and taboo passages of the book – an effect that is both intriguing and unnerving.



After retiring to the more comfortable third person, the action moves to France, where Walker falls in with the same crowd that caused him all the trouble in New York, only now he has vengeance on the brain. From there the perspective swings back to first person but with a new narrator. After that, keeping track of whose per-

spective on the action we're reading gets obscured by a postmodern fog. Luckily, Auster has bided his time well and sucked the reader into the story before playing his many untrustworthy-narrator cards.

Auster is at his best when he finds a balance between suspenseful plot elements and jarring antics with the written word. That fine line is handled expertly through much of the novel, stumbling a few times in the third person as the language will suddenly turn flowery to no end other than to stick out like a sore thumb – a mistake that is easy to make when you're juggling the dense themes and ideas that Auster otherwise handles like the seasoned pro that he is.

– James Renovitch

new in print

**LIVING ROOM: A NOVEL**

by Rachel Sherman  
Open City Books, 288 pp., \$14.95

First-time novelist Rachel Sherman opens *Living Room* with an awkward teenage scene between the stereotypical pretty girl and the homely one, skillfully setting a mood of discomfort and self-doubt that is present throughout the work. She puts three generations of a Long Island family under a microscope, and the magnification reveals an unfortunate reality for the suburban female in America.

With narratives interwoven, we see a female member of each generation as she is at present, with only her memories of herself as backstory. Having given up on attaining her mother's approval, 15-year-old Abby struggles to feel socially accepted, at times unsure whether she is having fun, compromising herself, or both. Abby maneuvers through typical and predictable teenage behavior, but Sherman's lack of dramatization lends a sense of authenticity to the character that many authors miss when attempting to capture the experience of adolescence.

Abby's paternal grandmother, Headie, is given similar treatment by Sherman. We learn without sentimentality that Headie has spent

her life simply surviving and that she is now alone in her descent into senility, left to watch people dance in her peripheral vision as a nod to Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper," mentally trapped by men who are no longer alive. Headie's story is particularly distressing because she is a strong and opinionated woman who nevertheless yokes herself

to men who don't fully love or appreciate her, and we find her forgiving her daughter-in-law Livia's weakness because a "man's job is to be strong; a woman's is to keep his secrets."

The only secrets Livia seems to be keeping, however, are her own. Although Abby's mother is a woman-child with little self-awareness outside her extreme dissatisfaction, her experience is not unusual. Livia reveals feeling that she'd be a better person if people saw her as a better person, because she lives as others see her. Which, perhaps, is Sherman's point. If anything, Sherman can be faulted for presenting stereotypical characters mired in middle-class ennui, but the stereotypes are honest, and the point may be that we, especially women, might not be so miserable if we were more self-aware and did not make life choices based on others' expectations. Whether that is an issue to be dealt with by the individual or the culture is another question entirely.

– Sarah Jean Billeiter



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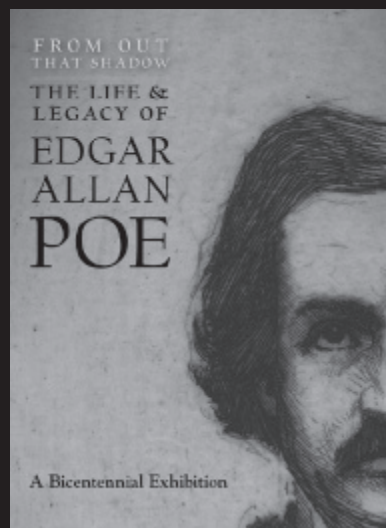
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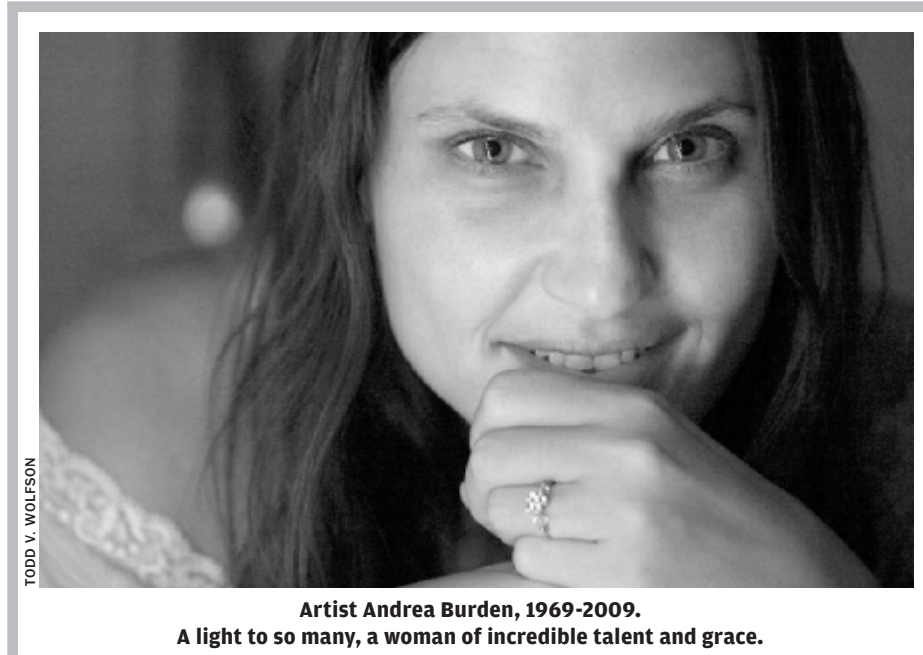
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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

## after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

**THE TRIAL ... OF PARTIES** I felt like I was living in a **Lana Turner** movie for the last couple of weeks. Doctors, attorneys, trials, parties .... But, ah, it all slows down a little bit this week. With a remaining handful of parties to attend (and more than a few outfits to be assembled) the rest of the holidays should be a snap. Or maybe I'll snap first. Last week was truly the **Grand Central** of partying. First off, we had to say goodbye to **Robert Brown** and **Dennis Karbach**, who are effectively leaving Austin, but we know they'll be back to see us. The party was thrown by **Richard Hartgrove** and **Gary Cooper** – and of course, it was wonderful. Then there was what I'll call **Private Party No. 1**, which was deliciously intimate for being so crowded – but the host begged me not to mention his name. Perhaps he didn't want people to know that I'd been there? C'est la vie, it was a divine party anyway, and I even visited with some Republicans. My dear friend **Mark Sullivan** appeared out of the blue from Houston, so, along with **Stephen Rice** and **Mark Erwin**, we entertained ourselves quite well, thank you. Dinner at **Manuel's Downtown** was fabulous. There's something new about this old standby that shook up everything I thought about Manuel's and reminded me what a great place it is: It has recently started an **All New/All Natural** campaign without raising prices, which is quite amazing. So we tried it, and

bay-bee, it was heavenly. The Downtown location is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, so **happy 25th, Manuel's!** Keep on blazing the trail. We followed Manuel's with a trip to the **Dell Jewish Community Campus** for the **Holiday Swing** party benefiting **Project Transitions**. Elegant and staid, the party was a dressy, dancey affair, but I was itching to go Downtown. Mark and I took off and went to **Rain**. Packed to the gills, natch, it was very festive, but not enough to hold our attention for more than a couple of hours. We trekked back to Stephen and Mark's house and buffalooed them into having an extra festive after-party. The highlight, though, was Sunday night when I was escorted to **Dancing With the Stars Austin**. What a wild event this has turned into in a very short time, and what a heavy-hitting event it's become. Our **Police Chief Art Acevedo** was in fine form, wearing a Lycra **Elvis** suit. Who needs patrolmen when we have *him*? **Dave Steakley** took the crown as best dancer that night, and rightfully so – he was electric. **Michelle Valles** danced a wicked tango, and so many of Austin's bold-faced names sparkled. This is an event to look forward to every year. I took my brother **Scott Moser** with me to **Marvin** and **Eva Womack's** oh-so-gracious party. Silly me, I thought that party was at 8, and of course I insisted upon arriving late. What I didn't realize was that the party started at 5pm and was



TODD V. WOLFSON

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almost over when we got there. That didn't mean we missed visiting with good friends though: **Andy Mozisek** took very good care of me, and we were having so much fun on the deck that everyone came out to see what could be so amusing. I was just holding court as usual when the tinkling strains of the Womacks' piano came drifting from inside. We went in to find pianist **Anton Nel** on the ivories

playing **Chopin**, which was perfectly lovely for the season. But there's still **Jody Scheske's** party, **Robert Nash's**, **Carla MacDonald's**, **Nak Armstrong's** .... Then I think I'll sleep through the winter.

Write to our Style Avatar with your related events, news, and hautey bits: [style@austinchronicle.com](mailto:style@austinchronicle.com) or PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765 or 458-6910 (fax).

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## Casa Brasil Coffee

In the fall of 2008, **Joel Shuler**, owner of Casa Brasil, received the Specialty Coffee Association of America's title of Certified Cupping Judge after completing a rigorous five-day series of exams covering all aspects of coffee. He had spent most of the year traveling back to his native country searching for coffees for his new project, Casa Brasil's **farmer-direct series**. The goal was to create outstanding blends from vacuum-packed, farm-fresh beans from some of Brazil's finest growers, imported directly by Casa Brasil and roasted fresh in Austin. By cutting out the middle man, Shuler guarantees the foremost quality at the best prices while establishing social progress initiatives that can bring positive change and prosperity to the people of Brazil. Among these are educational and training programs and scholarships, including one in conjunction with Whole Foods Market. Shuler says: "Our mission at Casa Brasil is to reward farmers dedicated to excellence by providing them a direct line to your cup." Casa Brasil is also involved with local initiatives such as the AIDS Walk with AIDS Services of Austin.

The coffees are some of the best I've ever had, and they come in cute, reusable tin cans (think stocking stuffer) with the motto *Sabor e Progresso* ("Flavor and Progress"), Shuler's playful homage to the official motto of Brazil, *Ordem e Progresso*. The medium roast is lively and bright, perfect for a cup or two at breakfast. The dark roast is robust and flavorful, great for those who like a strong cup. Shuler is currently working with the University of Lavras in Minas Gerais to map out the geographical boundaries of Brazil's coffee regions through distinct flavor profiling. And since there are only a few hundred Certified Cupping Judges worldwide (despite the fact that coffee is second only to oil as the most traded commodity in the world), Austin can claim to have coffee royalty amongst its residents.

Casa Brasil coffee is currently at Whole Foods and Wheatsville Co-op, or contact Joel Shuler at 407-9887 or [info@casabrasilcoffees.com](mailto:info@casabrasilcoffees.com).

— Claudia Alarcón



JOHN ANDERSON

Joel Shuler of Casa Brasil

## FRESH & NEW, TRIED & TRUE: 25 SIMPLE NEW RECIPES AND 28 CLASSIC AND FAVORITE RECIPES FROM THE EASTSIDE CAFE

by Ruth Carter, Dorsey Barger, and Elaine Martin  
33 pp., \$14.95

In this year of the locavore, perhaps one of the most thoughtful gifts for the foodie on your list would be a cookbook with a definite sense of place. What could be more Austin-tatious than the newest cookbook from Austin's much-loved **Eastside Cafe**? It's been a few years since the talented ladies at the Eastside have added to their self-published cookbook collection, and this new volume is packed with seasonal recipes that reflect some of the most popular flavors of Austin. The book opens with 25 new soup recipes developed by soup maven **Ruth Carter** that are simple, accessible, and delicious — vegetarian chipotle chili, cold tomatillo and avocado soup, or

poblano chile stew, anyone? The new recipes are followed by a selection of soups from the Eastside kitchen's list of greatest hits, such as pollo tortilla soup, potato leek soup, and gazpacho. The book wraps up with a short chapter revealing the secrets to some of Eastside Cafe's most reliable dressings and sauces, plus an excellent buttermilk pie. This slim volume will make the perfect stocking stuffer for soup lovers, gardeners, and farmers' market shoppers as well as longtime fans of the restaurant. Shop for the book on the Web at [www.eastsidecafeAustin.com](http://www.eastsidecafeAustin.com), or in the restaurant's gift shop, Pitchforks & Tablespoons (2113 Manor Rd., 494-1464). — V.B.W.



## Event Menu Dec. 17-30

► **The Hub** (3815 Dry Creek, 432-5390, [www.thehubaustin.com](http://www.thehubaustin.com)) hosts a **Bubbles & Burgers** benefit for the Austin Children's Shelter with music by Larissa Ness and a live auction by former NFL quarterback Jeff Blake. Call Michele Utt at 619-9160 for tickets: \$20 advance and \$25 at the door. Thursday, Dec. 17, 5:30-9pm.

► Enjoy a special holiday brunch in the bistro room at **Flat Creek Estate** (24912 Singleton Bend Rd. E., Marble Falls, 512/267-6310, [www.flatcreekestate.com](http://www.flatcreekestate.com)). Shop for holiday wine gifts, and enter a raffle to benefit A World for Children ([www.awfc.org](http://www.awfc.org)). Friday-Sunday, Dec. 18-20, 11am-5pm.

► Award-winning cookbook author **Rebecca Rather** will sign copies of her newest, *Pastry Queen Parties: Entertaining Friends and Family, Texas-Style* (Ten Speed Press), at **Marfa's** Blue Javelina restaurant and collaborate with chef Kevin Stewart on a four-course prix fixe dinner based on recipes from the book. Custom cocktails from the book will be prepared by **Tipsy Texan** mixologists David Alan and Joe Eifler. Dinner is \$69, and books will be for sale at the restaurant. Get more info and make necessary reservations by calling 432/729-1919 or visiting [www.bluejavelina.com](http://www.bluejavelina.com). Friday-Saturday, Dec. 18-19, 5pm.

► Enjoy a heaping helping of horrific holiday entertainment, gourmet food, and wine at the **'Twas the Night Before Murder** mystery dinner at **Messina Hof Winery & Resort** ([www.messinahof.com](http://www.messinahof.com)) near Bryan. \$69.95 per person; call 800/736-9463 x234 for necessary reservations. Friday, Dec. 18, 6:30pm.

► **Ronda's Garden** (4300 Mt. Vernon, 707-8635, [www.rondasgarden.net](http://www.rondasgarden.net)) offers two sessions of **Holiday Herb Camp** for kids ages 3-9. \$90 per session; enrollment is limited. Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 21-23 & 28-30, 8am-5pm.

— V.B.W.

## food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

**Eat Local Week 2009** culminated Saturday morning with the **Media Celebrity Local Food Cook-Off** at the **Austin Farmers' Market Downtown** (Fourth & Guadalupe). A small but enthusiastic crowd of locavores braved the cold, drizzly weather to observe KGSR deejay **Bryan Beck** and KXAN reporter **Kate Weidaw** transform local ingredients purchased at the market into fresh, delicious, seasonal meals in one hour. Beck won the day with a skirt steak roulade of Fredericksburg Grassfed Beef stuffed with spinach and goat cheese paired with caramelized carrots and a perfectly balanced Texas citrus salad with cilantro, jalapeños, Texas olive oil, and pecans. Weidaw's yummy Peach Creek Farm pork chops with sautéed carrots and spinach ran a close second. The allure of the week-long slate of appetizing local food and drink events vanquished the miserable weather and made Eat Local Week a rousing success again this year. *Edible Austin* publisher and Eat Local Week organizer **Marla Camp** reports, "When all the accounting is done, it looks like we'll raise about \$35,000 for **Urban Roots**, and that's \$10,000 more than last year." Good job!... If you're in the market for a little edible holiday hostess gift, consider cake balls. **Austin Cake Ball** (7950 Anderson Square #104, 826-4824, [www.austincakeball.com](http://www.austincakeball.com)) has small boxes of exquisitely decorated tiny treats (candy snowflakes, ornaments, Santas, reindeer) in festive holiday flavors such as red velvet, peppermint, chocolate mint, and gingerbread. **Holy Cacao** (1311 S. First, 851-2253, [www.theholycacao.com](http://www.theholycacao.com)) offers 12 holiday flavors of chocolate cake balls on sticks, such as egg nog, peppermint, and gingerbread to mix and match in signature gift boxes... We're told the food at **Max's Wine Dive** (207 San Jacinto, 904-0111, [www.maxswinedive.com](http://www.maxswinedive.com)) has really kicked up a notch since the arrival of new Executive Chef **Jean Pierre LaCoste**. The Louisiana native is putting his personal stamp on the menu with delicious daily specials that fly right out of the kitchen... The newest addition to Austin's trailer cuisine scene is **Trailer Perk** (1602 E. Sixth), where Monica and Kasey Magee are serving sandwiches, pastries, and coffee Monday-Saturday, 7am-2pm, and Thursday-Saturday, 10:30pm-2:30am... Facebook fans of **Lux Bakery & Cafe** (3601 W. William Cannon #175, 891-9850, [www.luxbakeryandcafe.com](http://www.luxbakeryandcafe.com)) have the opportunity to win their choice of the cafe's popular bubble tea drinks for an entire year in the **Bubble Tea Bailout** contest. Check out details online... The local restaurant community mourns the untimely death of **parkside** (301 E. Sixth, 474-9898, [www.parkside-austin.com](http://www.parkside-austin.com)) general manager **Eddie Del Valle**, who had a heart attack Dec. 5. Del Valle, 36, grew up around his family's restaurant in Puerto Rico and had been at parkside about a year and a half. "He was instrumental in making the restaurant successful this year, and he was very excited about some future projects," said chef/owner Shawn Cirkiel. Del Valle is survived by his wife, Zaira Rivera; two sons, ages 7 and 6; and a daughter, age 4. Parkside is accepting donations for the young family, and a benefit is being planned for sometime after the first of the year. We offer our sincere condolences.

# The New Traditional

The Mandolas update an old family business

BY RACHEL FEIT



COURTESY OF DAMIAN MANDOLA



JOHN ANDERSON

Damian Mandola at Mandola's Italian Market

**Mandola's Grocery, 1936, Houston:** Damian's grandfather Vincenzo "Vincent" Mandola is at right. Check out the meat case. This is very typical for Italian groceries of that time. It's clear from dozens of pictures of Houston groceries from this same time period that it's the meat case that sets the Italian grocers apart.

If it is possible for a profession to be in the blood, then this certainly is the case with Damian Mandola. The third-generation Texan of Sicilian ancestry has been in the restaurant business since he was a senior at Sam Houston State University. In 1975, uncertain of what to do with his life after college, Damian and a friend borrowed \$2,000 each from relatives to open a pizzeria in Huntsville, Texas. The restaurant was called Damian's Fine Italian Food, and it was so successful that after a couple of years, Damian and his partner, Nash D'Amico, decided to try their luck in their home city, Houston. They opened D'Amico's Ristorante Italiano in 1977. Damian eventually sold that in 1984 and with his cousin Frankie B. Mandola opened Damian's Cucina Italiana, a casual fine-dining restaurant specializing in Italian cuisine. "During those early years in Houston," Damian explains, "we didn't know much about the restaurant business, or even Italian food, other than what our mothers cooked. Everything was in tomato sauce."

But one day, Tony Vallone, the Houston restaurateur best known for the A-list establishment Tony's who also happened to be a friend of the family, gave Damian a cookbook by Giuliano Bugialli. "It opened my eyes to a world of Italian cuisine I never knew existed," he says. Since then, Damian has traveled extensively, not just around Italy but to Little Italys throughout the United States, exploring the tastes of his heritage. Those culinary adventures became the inspiration for his cur-

rent restaurant endeavors in Austin, Mandola's Italian Market and Trattoria Lisina, which he shares with his grown sons, Damian Jr. and Dominic, and his wife, Trina.

I'm sitting in the new Mandola's Italian Market at the Hill Country Galleria in Bee Cave discussing those early years in Houston with Damian. His roots are deep, and his social and familial connections to the food business are no less than Byzantine. What strikes me most is that Damian knows just about everyone who is anyone in the restaurant business in Houston. His family members alone occupy conspicuous territory on the Houston scene. There's his older brother Vincent, who owns Nino's Restaurant, Vincent's, and Pronto Cucinino; then there's his cousin Frank A. Mandola, who owns Mandola's Deli on Leeland Street, which has been in operation for more than 30 years. When Damian sold his share in Damian's Cucina Italiana, it was to Frankie B. Mandola and Bubba Butera. Damian's cousin Ciro owns Ciro's Italian Grill, and another cousin, Josephine, owns Josephine's Italian Ristorante, both in Houston. Tony Mandola, his next oldest brother, is the force behind Tony Mandola's Gulf Coast Kitchen and Blue Oyster Cafe. His

wife's mother is Ninfa Laurenzo, the late dowager of the Ninfa's restaurant chain. And let us not forget Damian's nephew Johnny Carrabba, with whom Damian partnered to start Carrabba's Italian Grill in 1986. Johnny cut his teeth managing the Blue Oyster Cafe for Tony. Together Damian and Johnny took Carrabba's national, spawning a restaurant empire that's still going strong, though Damian has since sold his active interest in it.

This only scratches the surface. The fact is, Damian Mandola and his family are so entwined in the food business that to really untangle their story, we have to look back more than 100 years.

## From the Old Country

The story begins in Sicily. Damian's ancestors were from Bisacquino, an agricultural town in the province of Palermo. The name Mandola, according to Damian, comes from the phrase *manda là*, meaning "take it there," which effectively sums up the social status of his ancestors. Like so many of the Italians who immigrated to the United States at the turn of the last century, they were

**MANDOLA'S ITALIAN MARKETS**  
4700 W. Guadalupe #12 (Triangle), 419-9700  
12815 Shops Parkway #400 (Hill Country Galleria), Bee Cave, 512/600-8500  
[www.mandolasmarket.com](http://www.mandolasmarket.com)

**TRATTORIA LISINA**  
13308 FM 150 W., Driftwood, 512/894-3111  
[www.trattorialisina.com](http://www.trattorialisina.com)

Damian's grandfather, Vincent, and his great uncles, Frank and Giuseppe, were among those who opened such stores. Vincent's was located in Houston's near east side and stocked canned goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, and household supplies. But, as was common for many Italian grocery store owners, Vincent also sold Italian cheeses and deli meats, such as prosciutto, salami, and pancetta.

For the Italian immigrants who came to America in the early 1900s, food and cooking were (and remain for their descendants) essential components of social life. The immigrants who came to Houston maintained their culinary traditions,

just as they did in such places as New York or Boston. However, the effect Italian immigrants had on Houston's culinary landscape was more diffuse than in northeastern cities. Houston has never had a Little Italy, but scattered in neighborhoods throughout the city, Houston's Italian groceries fostered the growth of small food empires. Damian recalls one man who parlayed his corner grocery into a pasta factory; another went door-to-door selling olive oil and cheeses. His own father started a meat-packing business, which ultimately failed after an untimely accident.

"There was always a stove in

the back of all the stores where the women would cook," muses Frankie B., who recalls making Italian sausage in the back of his parents' store. "Our grandmothers would cook these huge Sunday meals for 50 or 60 people; our friends couldn't believe it." It was only natural for some of the sons and daughters of grocery store owners to start serving the recipes of their parents in a cafe setting. This was the case for Damian's cousin Frank, who in the 1970s turned his father's corner grocery in Houston (pictured above) into Mandola's Deli, a cafeteria-style eatery serving the dishes of his childhood. That's about when Damian's Fine Italian Food was opening in Huntsville, and other family members followed suit as well, despite their parents' efforts to send them to college and into new professions.

**Damian Mandola and his family are so entwined in the food business that to really untangle their story, we have to look back more than 100 years.**



(L-r) Vincent with his brothers Frank and Giuseppe

## To the Hill Country

It was only appropriate that after selling his interest in the Carrabba's chain, Damian looked to his roots for his next endeavor. He had always wanted to open a traditional Italian market selling baked goods, deli meats, and cheeses. But if Damian Mandola understands anything, it is the food business, and his instincts told him that a traditional Italian market could never succeed on its own in Texas. So he paired the market concept with a restaurant serving casual Italian fare, heavy on Sicilian-style pastas, salads, and pizzas. Presto! Mandola's Italian Market. He chose

Austin as the place to try it out in part so that he could fulfill his other lifelong dream of opening a winery with his wife, Trina. That venture spawned another restaurant, Trattoria Lisina, modeled on the casual fine-dining restaurants he operated in Houston.

Damian admits that his market concept is unlike the grocery stores his grandparents, aunts, and uncles used to run. Both the Triangle and the Hill Country Galleria stores have a corporate polish his grandparents' store never had, but they also have an undeniable authenticity – an amalgam of the restaurants, bakeries, groceries, and delis Damian has encountered throughout his travels. At Mandola's Market, the bakery case alone offers doz-

ens of different cakes, tarts, and cookies, all of which are made daily in the kitchen at the Triangle. You'll find treats there – such as pine nut cookies and luscious, three-layered amaretto cookies – that you'd be hard-pressed to find anywhere outside the northeast. There's a case selling homemade gelato, as well as a refrigerator case selling Italian cheeses, anchovies packed in salt, and other delicacies. Not to mention the restaurant, which puts out some of the best family fare in town.

The concept is clearly one that resonates with Austin consumers. The Triangle location is generally packed at meal times. So far business at the new Galleria location is just as promising, and a third location is scheduled to open next year near on South MoPac. Certainly, Damian has come a long way from his grandparents' store in Houston. But his heart is indisputably Italian-American. ■

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# christmas day feasts around town

Whether you observe the holiday or not, Austin offers plenty of variety for going out on Christmas Day

## HOTELS

**DRISKILL HOTEL** offers its notorious mezzanine brunch, with seatings every half hour from 11am to 3pm. Downstairs, the 1886 Cafe will be open all day, serving brunch until 2:30pm. Mezzanine brunch: \$49 per person. 604 Brazos, 391-7121 for reservations. [www.driskillgrill.com](http://www.driskillgrill.com).

**TRIO AT THE FOUR SEASONS** offers a special holiday buffet from 11am to 8pm, mimosas included. Ballroom: \$68 per person; Trio: \$75 per person, \$20 for children ages 6-11, free for children under 5. 98 San Jacinto, 685-8300. [www.fourseasons.com/austin/dining](http://www.fourseasons.com/austin/dining).

**INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN** Enjoy a special holiday brunch in the Cafe Julienne for one of three seatings at 11am, noon, and 1pm. \$39.95 for adults. 701 Congress, 721-2008 for reservations. [www.austin.intercontinental.com](http://www.austin.intercontinental.com).

**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Banderas - A Texas Bistro will offer the usual menu, starting with breakfast at 6:30am. 9721 Arboretum Blvd., 343-2626 for reservations.

**HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN** You'll find a Christmas buffet in the Southwest Bistro, where you can count on flowing champagne from 11:30am to 4pm. \$52 for adults, \$27 for children ages 5-12, free for children under 5. 208 Barton Springs Rd., 480-2035 for reservations. [www.austin.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels](http://www.austin.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels).

## ASIAN

**KOBE JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE** See your holiday repast prepared tableside here, with a full dinner menu available all day. 11am-9pm. 13492 Research #380, 288-7333. [www.kobeaustin.com](http://www.kobeaustin.com).

**CHINATOWN** Catch the dim sum cart as it glides by like Santa's sleigh full of surprises, 11am-2:30pm. 3407 Greystone, 343-9307. [www.chinatown-mopac.com](http://www.chinatown-mopac.com).

**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. [www.dinhochinesebbq.com](http://www.dinhochinesebbq.com).

**DRAGON GATE BY PHOENIX** This meticulous sushi spot will be open 5-10pm. 3801 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 732-7278.

**SHANGHAI RESTAURANT** will be pushing the dim sum cart your way, 11am-2pm. 6718 Middle Fiskville, 458-8088.

**FIRST CHINESE BBQ** always serves up its generous Cantonese-style specialties on holidays. 11am-9:30pm. 10901 N. Lamar #401, 835-8889. [www.firstchinesebbq.com](http://www.firstchinesebbq.com).

**HUNAN LION** Put some spice in your holiday with the Firecracker Prawns. Noon-9:30pm. 4006 S. Lamar #1000, 447-3388.

**PEONY ASIAN CUISINE** Regulars and newcomers alike can enjoy rich miso soup on a cold holiday. 11am-9:30pm. 5308 Balcones, 459-3341.

**TC NOODLE HOUSE** has you covered for lunch with its regular menu, 10:30am-3pm. 10901 N. Lamar, 873-8235. [www.tcnhouse.com](http://www.tcnhouse.com).

**T&S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT** invites you to celebrate with dim sum service, 11am-2:30pm. 10014 N. Lamar, 339-8434.

## OTHER RESTAURANTS

**GREEN PASTURES** Reservations are required for this annual Christmas Day brunch. 11am-2pm. \$60 for adults, \$30 for children. 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747. [www.greenpasturesrestaurant.com](http://www.greenpasturesrestaurant.com).

**THREADGILL'S** It's first-come, first-served for a limited menu at both locations, from 10:30am to 10pm. 6416 N. Lamar, 451-5440; 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304. [www.threadgills.com](http://www.threadgills.com).

**KATZ'S DELI & BAR** You know that Katz's never closes, so hit them up on Christmas for roast turkey breast, giblet gravy, and all the trimmings. \$15.95 per person. 618 W. Sixth, 472-2037. [www.katznevercloses.com](http://www.katznevercloses.com).

**KERBEY LANE CAFE** The northwest location will be open on Christmas Day, serving all of your favorites. 13435 Hwy. 183 N. #415, 258-7757. [www.kerbeylanecafe.com](http://www.kerbeylanecafe.com).

**MANNY HATTAN'S NEW YORK DELICATESSEN** Serving the entire menu for breakfast, lunch, or dinner on Christmas Day for the eighth consecutive year. 8am-10pm. 9503 Research #650, 794-0088. [www.mannyhattans.com](http://www.mannyhattans.com).

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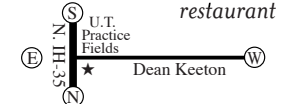
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- 2 Qts. Candied Yams
- 2 Qts. Green Bean Casserole
- 1 Qt. Turkey Gravy
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[PACKAGED COLD/ READY TO RE-HEAT]

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# screens

## AFCA ANNOUNCES 2009 AWARDS

### 'The Hurt Locker' takes top prize

The Austin Film Critics Association announced its 2009 award winners on Wednesday, Dec. 16, with critical favorite *The Hurt Locker* taking first place. The AFCA also honored Kathryn Bigelow and cinematographer Barry Ackroyd for their work on the Iraq war action film, which premiered regionally at the 2009 South by Southwest Film Festival. Other films receiving multiple nods include *Inglourious Basterds* (from Austin spiritual son Quentin Tarantino), *Me and Orson Welles* (from actual Austin son Richard Linklater), and *Up in the Air* (no relation).



– Kimberley Jones

**Best Film:** *The Hurt Locker*

**Best Director:** Kathryn Bigelow, *The Hurt Locker*

**Best Actor:** Colin Firth, *A Single Man*

**Best Actress:** Mélanie Laurent, *Inglourious Basterds*

**Best Supporting Actor:** Christoph Waltz, *Inglourious Basterds*

**Best Supporting Actress:** Anna Kendrick, *Up in the Air*

**Best Original Screenplay:** Quentin Tarantino, *Inglourious Basterds*

**Best Adapted Screenplay:** Jason Reitman and Sheldon Turner, *Up in the Air*

**Best Cinematography:** Barry Ackroyd, *The Hurt Locker*

**Best Original Score:** Michael Giacchino, *Up*

**Best Foreign Language Film:** *Sin Nombre*

**Best Documentary:** *Anvil! The Story of Anvil*

**Best Animated Feature:** *Up*

**Best First Film:** Neill Blomkamp, *District 9*

**Breakthrough Artist Award:** Christian McKay, *Me and Orson Welles*

**Austin Film Award:** *Me and Orson Welles*

#### Top 10 Films:

- 1) *The Hurt Locker*
- 2) *Star Trek*
- 3) *Up*
- 4) *A Serious Man*
- 5) *Up in the Air*
- 6) *Avatar*
- 7) *Inglourious Basterds*
- 8) *District 9*
- 9) *Where the Wild Things Are*
- 10) (Tie) *Moon*, *The Messenger*

#### Top 10 Films of the Decade:

- 1) *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*
- 2) *There Will Be Blood*
- 3) *The Lord of the Rings*
- 4) *The Dark Knight*
- 5) *Requiem for a Dream*
- 6) *Kill Bill*
- 7) *No Country for Old Men*
- 8) *The Incredibles*
- 9) *Children of Men*
- 10) (Tie) *Memento*, *The Departed*

The membership of the Austin Film Critics Association includes Cole Abaius (*Film School Rejects*), Marjorie Baumgarten (*The Austin Chronicle*), C. Robert Cargill (*Film.com*), Laurie Coker (*Hill Country News*), Korey Coleman (*Spill*), Chris Cox (*Spill*), Cole Dabney (*Cole and Bobby ... at the Movies!!* and *INSite* magazine), Victor Diaz (*News 8 Austin*), Charles Ealy (*Austin American-Statesman*), Chris Garcia (*Austin American-Statesman*), Kimberley Jones (*The Austin Chronicle*), Jette Kernion (*Cinematical*), Harry Knowles (*Ain't It Cool News*), Bobby McCurdy (*Cole and Bobby ... at the Movies!!* and *INSite* magazine), Neil Miller (*Film School Rejects*), Marc Savlov (*The Austin Chronicle*), Martin Thomas (*Spill*), and Eric Vespe (*Ain't It Cool News*). For more info, visit [www.austinfilmcritics.org](http://www.austinfilmcritics.org).

### A CHRISTMAS TALE

Criterion, \$39.95

Don't call it a downer: This acid wash of cancer, estrangement, and secreted longing was the surprise feel-good film of last year's winter crop. In Arnaud Desplechin's radiant dysfunctional-family film, we witness holidays on black ice, where drama, trauma, and fisticuffs lurk in unlikely places. But then, so, too, can fiercely funny and heartfelt stuff be found ferreted away in the film's nooks and crannies: "In Arnaud's film, usually when people say that they hate each other, it's a love scene," explains star Mathieu Amalric in "Arnaud's Tale," a new, 35-minute, English-language documentary packaged on Criterion's two-disc set. (Also included is



*L'aimée*, Desplechin's moving 2007 documentary about the sale of his family home in Roubaix, the provincial northern town in which *A Christmas Tale* is set.) In "Arnaud's Tale," Desplechin explains the fascinating layering of inspirations that galvanized the film, starting with the American model of Thanksgiving movies. (He never specifies which ones, but we get a special kick out of imagining that supercool, chain-smoking Gaul curling up to the cuddlebomb of *The Family Stone*; the two films share a similar mom-with-cancer/kids-returning-to-the-roost plot.) Desplechin also cites Emerson's memoirs, which provide the striking quotation of the film's graveside opening, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which closes the film with Puck's "If we shadows have offended ..." and is

alluded to throughout via Mendelssohn's opera, Max Reinhardt's 1935 film, and mirroring plot points.

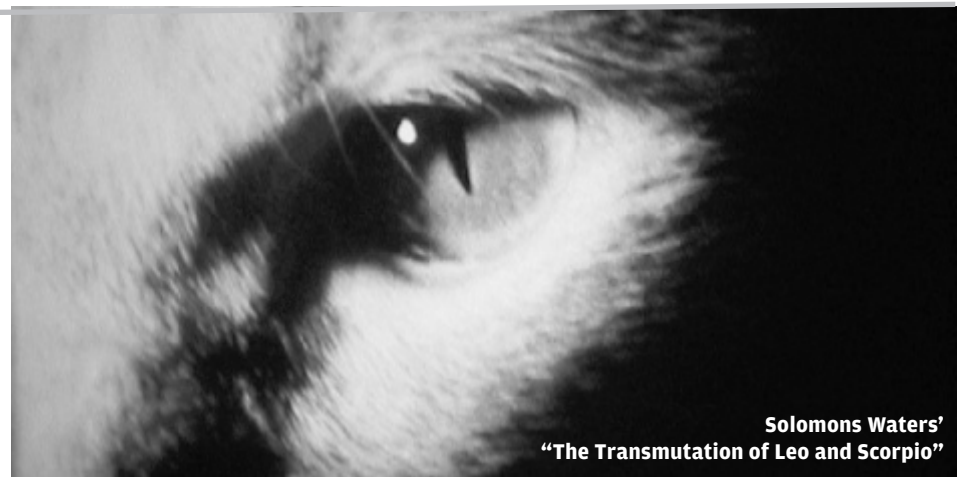
"Puckish" may very well be the word for *A Christmas Tale*; certainly its impish sense of play spins the film's melodramatic trapping on its head. Catherine Deneuve is the cancer-stricken family matriarch, Junon Vuillard (as in the mighty Juno, one of many mix-and-match allusions). Junon is built like some gorgeous bulwark, resisting too much overt affection from or toward her three grown children. A fourth child – technically, the first – died at the age of six from the same disease that's afflicting Junon. Curiously, that's the same number of years surviving son Henri (Amalric) has been in exile, banished from the family for an undisclosed reason; his donor-compatibility

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is the only reason he's allowed back in the door for a fractious family Christmas.

If exile sounds like something out of a storybook, then, you're on the right track. Desplechin and co-writer Emmanuel Bourdieu steep the film in fairy-tale iconography, including voice-over narration, chapter heads, puppetry, peephole lensing, even a mythic beast in the basement. These flourishes deepen rather than diminish *A Christmas Tale*'s emotional impact, maybe because the destabilizing effect of so many ideas and aesthetics tumbled together has rendered us more vulnerable, more tender to the touch. (Or maybe simply because the thing is majestically shot and performed, top to bottom?) Wintry title aside, this is a solar flare of a film – a dazzling, animate, inexplicable wonder.

– K.J.



## FEED AN ARTIST, NOURISH THE WORLD

### Austin School of Film spotlights underground and avant-garde shorts

"A writer or painter cannot change the world, but they can keep an essential margin of nonconformity alive." – Luis Buñuel

True, the man behind the eye-opening avant-garde masterpieces *Un chien andalou* and *L'age d'or* failed to mention his own preferred surrealist medium – film – but we can forgive this sin of omission by dint of the director's prodigious influence on the cinema of the obscure, the bizarre, the disconcerting. After all, minus the profoundly porous template established by the dreamy and transgressive nocturnal transmissions of Buñuel (alongside former friend and co-conspirator Salvador Dalí) and his cinematic progeny, among them Guy Debord, Stan Brakhage, and Chris Marker, it's unlikely we'd have contemporary maestros of the experimental and absurd such as David Lynch, Guy Maddin, and Craig Baldwin.

The underground, like the subconscious, is where the *real* work of cinema goes on. It is where the ideas and paradigms that will one day – sadly but accurately – be absorbed and repurposed by the corporate and conformist mainstream first flicker their way into being. It is, in short, the art of filmmaking in its purest and most virginal form, a

clawing, gnawing squawk and squall of utter originality born in light but only truly alive in the dark. It is a necessity, an inspiration, and it must be seen to be appreciated.

To that end, the Austin School of Film will be presenting a new installment of its ongoing artist salon and screening series, Friendly but Starving II: An Evening of Avant-Garde & Experimental Filmmaking, this Saturday, Dec. 19, 7:30pm. Recent works by nine Austin filmmakers – Noah Bissett, Danielle Goldfarb, Samantha Gore, Rusty Kelley, Faiza Kracheni, Nicole Licea, Sam Phillips, Bryan Taylor, and Solomons Waters – will be screened with a Q&A following. And this being a 24-frames-per-second, notes-from-the-underground-type evening, free wine, beer, vegetarian food, and DJ Drug Money will be on hand, as well.

Support your local cinematic freak show before Nike/Coke/Levi's snatches it away from you and uses it to prompt pseudo-ironic consumer culture and plump up its bottom line. It's what your Dada would want you to do.

– Marc Savlov

Friendly but Starving II: An Evening of Avant-Garde & Experimental Filmmaking takes places Dec. 19 at 7:30pm at the Austin School of Film (906 E. Fifth #106). For more info, visit [www.austinfilm.org/classes/friendlystarving2.html](http://www.austinfilm.org/classes/friendlystarving2.html).





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# Three Guys, a Girl, and a Dog Named Friday

Austin film collective Jollyville Pictures on its ingredients for success

BY MARC SAVLOV

If you haven't heard of Jollyville Pictures, well, that's probably going to change pretty soon. Right now though, chances are you've at least seen something that involved a member of the loosely knit, four-person film and animation collective in one way or another.

Chances are good that what you saw made you laugh out loud or, possibly, run on over to Hyde Park Baptist Church to find out what's taking the rapture so long to get here.

Chances are even better that in either case the cause of your explosive hilarity and/or spiritual distress – and we'll give you good odds on this because, you know, it's pretty much a gimme – was the music video for Hayes Carll's wickedly funny, heathen honky-tonker "She Left Me for Jesus," which the iTunes Store is calling a "whisky-addled sing-along for the final moments before last call."

(And, what the hell, on the off chance that you haven't awakened to the sinner's paradise that is this particular music video, go turn on ME Television. We'll give you even money that it's on right now.)

Although it was directed by Jollyville member Dano Johnson, "She Left Me for Jesus" is not a Jollyville Pictures production and instead flies under the banner of Collection

Agency Films LLC, which Johnson formed with Austin musician cum jack-of-all-trades Troy Campbell back in 2004. Collection Agency Films functions as Johnson's day job – one that he loves, to be sure – and like the bill-paying gigs that his fellow Jollyville members also have taken on, at times it seems it might subsume their freewheeling, not-really-for-profit Jollyville collective.

But thanks to a girl, a dog, and one of the most exquisite short films to come out of Austin in ages, all that's changing. Before too long, chances are you'll be thinking of Jollyville as a lot more than a roadway over yonder in the key of West Austin. But, hang on, we're getting ahead of ourselves ...

□

It's a relatively gorgeous weekday afternoon, and I'm sitting in Spider House Patio Bar & Cafe with Dano Johnson and Don Swaynos; along with director Tate English and actor T. Lynn Mikeska, they make up the whole of the Jollyville Pictures collective. Johnson, whose day gig tends to revolve around animation (check out his promo spot for the Secular Student Alliance here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xixCt8-qYgo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xixCt8-qYgo)), has one of the more interesting fan bases I've ever heard

(L-r) Dano Johnson, Tate English, T. Lynn Mikeska, Friday the Puppet Dog, and Don Swaynos

of, thanks to his 2007 animated adaptation of Edwin A. Abbott's cult novel *Flatland*, which, while it features the voices of Hollywood heavyweight Martin Sheen and former *Logan's Runner* Michael York, is more beloved by high school math teachers than either *Apocalypse Now* or anything the once-upon-a-D'Artagnan has done of late. Co-directed with buddy Jeffrey Travis, Johnson's smart and funny adaptation turned out to be perfect for teaching bored students the basics of geometry and spatial relationships and has gone on to a rich afterlife in junior high and high schools across the country. Like the video for Hayes Carll, though, *Flatland* isn't a Jollyville Pictures release, either, although it does feature voice work from Mikeska.

Swaynos recently directed the video for Captain Clegg (aka Jesse Dayton) & the Night Creatures' track "Zombie a Go-Go," which arrived courtesy of Dayton's friendship with Rob Zombie and his work on Zombie's *Halloween II* soundtrack. Again, not specifically a Jollyville-branded project, but you can see what I mean when I say the Jollyville crew seems to have something going on *everywhere*. (And hang on, wasn't that Mikeska pulling stand-in duty for Hollywood hottie Heather Graham on the locally shot John Inwood film *ExTerminators?* Oh, yeah.)

So what's the deal? One of Austin's last few remaining DIY film collectives – and one of the 512's longest running, since 2001 or thereabouts – is too busy working on other people's projects to crank out some of its own? Not quite, but, as Johnson and

Swaynos are quick to admit, the lousy Texas film economy – and the economy in general – hasn't helped things. Half a dozen Austin-based film collectives – that is, smallish coteries of filmmakers, editors, actors, and animators working together to create a single vision through various media – have come and gone in the past couple of years alone, most of them popping up for single projects and either seeing them through and then dissolving or sticking it out until interest wanes or cash-strapped members seek more lucrative artistic outlets elsewhere.

Sure, the larger, more storied pseudo-collectives like Reel Women and Motion Media Arts Center (now completely transformed into the Austin School of Film) are still around, but – for the purposes of this article, at least – they're not really existing along the classic, guerrilla lines of old-school collectives, i.e., a camera, a girl, and a gun. As Austin Underground Film Festival Director Andy Gately says, "Most of them are defunct, and the rest tend to drop like flies after a year or so."

The exception to the trend would be Jollyville Pictures, which is coming up on a full decade together. Every good band of superfriends deserves its own origin story. Here's theirs.

"Don and I met at [the University of Texas'] KVR-TV back around 2001," says Johnson. "I was interested in doing children's television and ended up doing an internship up at Sesame Workshop in New York, which was basically getting coffee at the greatest company in the world. Eventually I just started teaching myself Adobe After Effects and animation and everything else. We knew Tate English from UT, and one day he called me with an idea about doing a puppet show for KVR-TV, since, obviously, I'd been interested in that sort of thing."

That phone call resulted in a successful five-episode puppet show – the unironically titled *Puppet Show* – aimed at college students. It also brought together for the first time the three members of what would become Jollyville and defined their mutual appreciation of smart, often political, always cutting-edge humor. Swaynos recalls, "It was along the lines of 'the word of the day is dystopia,' that sort of thing."

After graduating from UT in 2002, Swaynos moved on to a series of freelance production jobs that would eventually come to include the immensely powerful documentary *Year at Danger*, co-directed and featuring UT film

**"My dream has always been to be financially stable enough to just sit around and make art with people I love."  
– Jollyville Pictures collective member  
T. Lynn Mikeska**

professor and Texas Army National Guard Major Steve Metze. Produced under Metze's Scum Crew Pictures banner, *Year at Danger* ended up winning the Grand Jury Award at the deadCenter Film Festival and was named 2008's Best Documentary by *Houston Press*.

In the interim between

UT puppetry and real-world danger, though, the Jollyville crew finally coalesced around a trio of short films that, in the best sense of filmic collectivism, utilized every aspect of the group's far-ranging skill sets, from acting to editing to directing and beyond.

Their pitch-black, surrealist comedy "Emily," shot in 2004 and picked up by Lloyd Kaufman's Troma Entertainment for that company's traveling package of outrageous indie obscurities TromaDance, was first up, quickly (or slowly, depending on which Jollyville member you're speaking to) followed by a pair of snarky shorts, "Theory, Fact, or Fiction?" and "In Defense of Definitions ...."

"A lot of what we'd done up to that point had been comedy, really," Swaynos says. "For instance, our short 'Theory, Fact, or Fiction?' is a parody of intelligent design, and it's almost, beat by beat, a parody of the [1982 Christian-oriented] movie *Rock: It's Your Decision*, but instead of questioning rock & roll, we're questioning gravity. We were pretty sure we could sell that, too, on the basis that it's edgy, microcinema humor. We were thinking that it would be great for *The Daily Show*, but that didn't happen."

CONTINUED ON P.52

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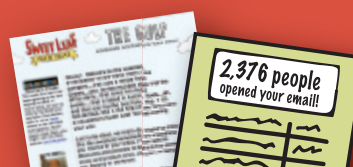


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What *did* happen was the entrance of actress T. Lynn Mikeska into the Jollyville ranks, rounding out Swaynos, Johnson, and English's microcollective with a much-needed shot of femininity, sass, and flat-out top-drawer acting. (In addition to her work with Jollyville, Mikeska has her own "feminist collective" theatre company, Shrewd Productions.)

Mikeska: "It's been really neat in that Don, Dano, Tate, and I have our own artistic paths but then we keep coming back together as Jollyville. We first met when I auditioned for 'Theory, Fact, or Fiction?,' which was a commentary on the Kansas school board decision to teach intelligent design. And I've gone on to do three other films with them.

"The thing about Jollyville," she adds, "is that first and foremost, as an artist, I think that we all really strive to have connections. I'm not just an actor; I'm a musician as well – I was recently nominated for a B. Iden Payne Award for musical composition – and what artists want is connections with other people. Normally we're kind of a little socially awkward, so our art is born from a desire to connect and to leave a piece of yourself behind and to fight death.

"My dream has always been to be financially stable enough to just sit around and make art with people I love. I mean, it's great to be on a big set and be around celebrities, but ultimately it's your best friends – like the way I am with Jollyville – that you admire, because you do have a lot of the same viewpoints and you do think a lot of the same things. Being as tight as I am with Jollyville, it makes my art stronger. It makes *all* our art stronger. And, of course, because artists of all kinds have loads of insecurities and tend to denigrate themselves, it helps to have your friends close at hand and working alongside you. That played a big part in 'The Ballad of Friday and June.'"

Well, that and a talking dog puppet.

□

Yeah, you heard that right: After the better part of a decade together, "The Ballad of Friday and June," Jollyville's most recent – and finest – exploration of the artistic soul, has them back to square one, with puppets, albeit in a far more emotionally serious vein than anything the Jollyville team has created before.

It's safe to say that you've never seen anything quite like "The Ballad of Friday and June," which, in addition to playing a brace of film festivals (including the Austin Film Festival), snagged the Best Short Film at the Indie Memphis Film Festival earlier this year and seems headed for a permanent spot on Jollyville's "Best of ..." highlight reel (not that they actually have one of those yet).

Friday is a dog – well, a hand-puppet dog, manipulated and voiced by Johnson – while Mikeska (in a tour de force performance) is the struggling ukulele singer-songwriter June. At a tight nine minutes, "Friday and June" eloquently articulates, with equal parts humor and heartache, an unnameable *cri de coeur* that nevertheless should be instantly recognizable to anyone who's ever chased an artistic dream, stumbled, got back up, and grabbed hold even harder than before. It's that good.

Plus, the Friday puppet – huge soulful eyes atop a furry brown body – comes with one helluva backstory:

Director Tate English: "The girl who made the puppets for our [Texas Student Television] show had moved away, and so I wasn't sure who was going to make the Friday puppet. As it turned out, during preproduction I went to a family gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina, and came across a photograph, one of my mom playing with a puppet.

"I hadn't seen it before, so I asked her about it, and she told me she'd made the puppet herself. Apparently, when she was in high school in the 1970s, she won an arts competition and got to go to a symposium on how to build puppets taught by *Jim Henson*. My jaw kind of dropped, and I asked her why she never told me that she'd learned how to build puppets from, you know, *Jim Henson*, even though she knew I'd worked on a puppet show of my own, and she just said she didn't think it was important. At that point she was trying to figure out if it was, actually, the same *Jim Henson* I'm thinking of – tall guy, beard, very hippy, kind of sounds like Kermit the Frog – and, yeah, it was *that* Jim Henson. And so that's how my mom ended up making the Friday puppet for 'The Ballad of Friday and June.' It's the first puppet she's made in 30 years. Amazing."

Not quite as amazing, however, as the final cut, which, as English notes, "took two days to shoot and a year to edit," thanks to everyone's complicated day jobs. The end result, however, is nothing short of, well, short-film glory, the jewel on the collective crown of Jollyville Pictures' résumé and, as it turns out, also a major turning point in the evolution of not only Jollyville Pictures but the crowded artistic headspace of its creators.

"In a way, 'Friday and June' really saved Jollyville Pictures," admits English. "After we had completed the previous short film 'Theory, Fact, or Fiction?' in 2006, we had really gotten into this slump where we just weren't producing anything. The Collection Agency was doing stuff, Don was editing movies for other

"But going into it, I really had the idea that it might be Jollyville's last movie. I was really burned out. Although 'Emily' had been picked up by Troma, it had become increasingly difficult to get money together to make the movies we wanted to make, and while I had these great, creative friends, the workaday pressures to pay the bills we all have to pay were just bearing down on me to the point that I began thinking that I was never going to be able to get it together enough to keep Jollyville functioning as a continued creative collective. But I just had this insane push to make one last movie – 'The Ballad of Friday and June' – and now because it's done so well and I've got that block out of the way, I really feel like we're back on track."

Not only has the success of "Friday and June" reinvigorated Jollyville's collective artistic consciousness, it's also led to a renewed burst of get-it-on-the-page creative output, with English working on expanding the characters into their own feature-length script and Swaynos wrapping up his own feature-length script – based, says English, on an old idea from Jollyville's past – for possible production by the Jollyville crew.

If nothing else, the long-running saga of Jollyville Pictures is a lesson in artistic perseverance and the importance of working together as a team no matter how crazy-busy

the day jobs or overwhelming the artistic insecurities become.

"Doing 'The Ballad of Friday and June' and living through that character," says Mikeska, "really allowed me to believe in myself. It gave me permission to understand that what I'm doing as an artist is not about having my name in big letters or lights. It's about doing good work, affecting those that love you, and connecting with other people. Like I said before, most artists are socially awkward. But that's why we make art: to connect with the people around us and to have some sort of effect on the world, even though we may feel in our civilian lives that we're not so good at that. But, you know, sometimes we are." ■

For more info about Jollyville Pictures, visit [www.myspace.com/jollyvillepictures](http://www.myspace.com/jollyvillepictures).

"The Ballad of Friday and June"



people, but the core Jollyville group – Don and Dano, Lynn and I – just hadn't really done anything *together* and labeled it as such.

"One of the main reasons I wrote 'Friday and June' was because I was really feeling really creatively inadequate and depressed, and that ended up becoming a big part of the story. The act of making 'The Ballad of Friday and June' was, in all honesty, one of those [instances of] 'Fuck it, we're going to make one more thing, and it's going to be the movie that we want to make.' So we made it, and here it is, and all of the sudden it's turned out to really resonate with people. We won Best Short Film at the Indie Memphis Film Festival, it played the Austin Film Festival, and we're getting invitations to other festivals, and, you know, it really jump-started Jollyville in a major way.

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Italian-American advocacy groups are up in arms over MTV's new reality series *Jersey Shore*.



# God Mex Us, Every One!

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

A friend of mine called me last week, mildly distraught. She wasn't sure she should admit this, but she knew she could tell me: She had just watched *Jersey Shore*, the new MTV reality show that has Italian-American advocacy groups such as **Unico National** up in arms. They complain the series is "discriminatory, insulting, and Italian-bashing." So now, the nation's largest Italian-American service organization (according to Unico's official press release) is hard at work urging all corporate sponsors to drop the series.

My friend wondered: Would she be offended if the young people in *Jersey Shore* were Latinos instead of Italians, calling themselves "cholos" and "cholas" (or Chicanos and Chicanas) instead of "Guidos" or "Guidettes" as they do on the reality series? What did I think?

In spite of the fact that I avoid most petri dish shows like *Jersey Shore*, I watched one episode and came away with this quick analysis: The cast is not offensive because they're Italian. They're offensive because they're stupid. I don't assume all Italians are stupid. However, if the cast were self-proclaimed cholas/os or Chicanos/as, I might be offended only because there are so few representations of Latinos in popular culture as it is. When the ones you see are weak, one-dimensional, and, well, trashy and stupid, it sets off the alarms.

That reality series starring dim bulbs who happen to be Italian is getting more than its fair share of press, thanks to the stink Unico is raising. (Why can't people learn the best way to build an audience for a show is to express outrage over it?) What I'd rather do is point out a lost opportunity. Or rather, celebrate my favorite Mexican family on TV you didn't know was Mexican: the one on *Brothers & Sisters* (ABC). Yes, that domestic drama starring **Sally Field** as Nora, the

family matriarch of the Walker family who hovers over her large brood, to me, is undeniably Mexican-American.

Consider the evidence. Everyone is involved in the family business in some way (Mexican), and those who aren't had better be in school (the youngest, studying to be a doctor, fingers crossed). When the series began, the patriarch of the family keeled over after a big family gathering (*qué* Mexican – the big family gathering, that is), after which it was discovered he had another family, another life. There's the extended family, including the uncle and lifelong "bachelor." Because this is TV, we quickly figure out that Uncle Saul (**Ron Rifkin**) is gay. In real life, it might be that thing that no one talks about directly. On the contrary, everybody in the Walker family knows everybody's business (Mexican). The best way to assure this is the line: "Don't tell anyone, but ...." And then the drama begins.

The Walkers as a Mexican family, you ask? They're in California, for God's sake! Don't tell me they're not Mexican!

In the corner of my brain that harbors conspiracy theories, I posit that the original premise for *Brothers & Sisters* had the Walkers as a large Mexican family set in California, running their family business as they had for generations. Why the Walkers instead of the Garcías? Lack of imagination, fear, shortsightedness, pick your poison. What I do know is that instead of supporting campaigns to kill shows for their ill-conceived or offensive

representations of my people (or others, for that matter), I'd really rather ignore them until they fade into oblivion. I'd rather be part of a campaign that asks, why couldn't *Brothers & Sisters* (or any other series of your choice) be based around a Latino family, Mexican or otherwise? Aside from the fact that it's a vehicle for **Julia Louis-Dreyfus**, what if it were *The New Adventures of Old Cristina*? I love me some **Kiefer Sutherland** as Jack Bauer in 24, but I would so be down with Tony Almeida (**Carlos Bernard**) playing the alpha male. And wouldn't *Grey's Anatomy* be that much more tolerable with **Sara Ramirez** or **Sandra Oh** or, well, anybody else as the centerpiece of that show?

Imagining it is the first step to making it a reality. Any takers?

Follow TV Eye on Twitter: @ChronicleTVEye.

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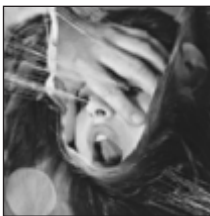
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Kim and Alex in the Morning

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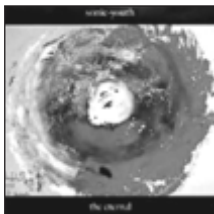
**FLAMING LIPS**  
**Embryonic (Warner Bros.)**  
 The Lips nod to Neil Young, Pink Floyd, and Walt Disney as always, but also to Joy Division, Santana, and Gary Numan. Defying its own title, Embryonic presents a band discovering that the far edge of an idea is often more compelling than its core. - Onion AV Club

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**The Eternal (Matador)**

After years on Geffen Records, Sonic Youth return to an indie label with their sixteenth studio album. *The Eternal* is a super-charged rocker, recalling aspects of the Evol-Sister-Daydream Nation holy trinity, but with cleaner, louder production and more straightforward momentum. With Pavement's Mark Ibold joining on bass, and producer John Agnello back at the controls, "The Eternal" takes the melodic songwriting of 2006's *Rather Ripped* and slams down the accelerator pedal.

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**RUFUS WAINWRIGHT**  
**Milwaukee at Last!!! (Decca)**

*Milwaukee at Last!!!* is the seventh album by the Canadian-American singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright. The album consists of live recordings from his August 27, 2007 performance at Pabst Theater in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in support of his previous studio album, *Release the Stars*. Documentary film director Albert Maysles recorded a film of the same name for DVD release

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**KING KHAN & BBQ SHOW**  
**Invisible Girl (In The Red)**

Invisible Girl will not disappoint the band's admirers or their devoted cult following. The album marks a return to the trademark Doo-Wop-laced, anthemic Garage Rock that earned the band their fame and their infamy. The record exhibits their effortless fluency in Rock 'n' Roll's tenets and traditions, but as Mark Sultan (otherwise known as BBQ) notes, it also includes a song so vile that it cannot even be mentioned.

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**CHRISTMAS ISLAND**  
**Blackout Summer (In The Red)**

Hailing from sunny San Diego, California, Christmas Island plays music that on the surface is happy and poppy. There is a dark undercurrent to their brand of lo-fi Pop/Punk--it is joyous and almost twee while secretly depressed and deeply disturbed. Citing Tronics, Urinals, Television Personalities, The Clean, Versatile Newts, and The Fall as influences, Christmas Island is Beach Boys-style, sunny Southern Californian pop by way of the late-70s/early-80s UK DIY scene.

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**JASON MRAZ**  
**Jason Mraz's Beautiful Mess - Live On Earth (Atlantic)**  
 Jason Mraz follows up his platinum selling 2008 release *We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things.* with a brand new release, *Jason Mraz's Beautiful Mess - Live On Earth.* This Live CD/DVD was filmed at Jason's Gratitude Cafe Tour date at the Charter One Pavilion - Chicago, August 13, 2009. *Jason Mraz's Beautiful Mess - Live On Earth* features all of the old favorites as well as the hits *Lucky* (with a special guest appearance from Colbie Caillat), and *I'm Yours* from *We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things.* The DVD, directed by Darren Doane, features the full length concert, never-before-seen bonus footage, and a special mockumentary.

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**THE XX**  
**xx (XL)**  
 The xx's unique make-up is a second nature marriage of urban/guitar tribes, fluttering new wave indebted reverberation, plumes of post-dubstep sub-bass and their defining core of rich R&B vocal textures. The enveloping vocal partnership of Romy and Oliver is jawdropping and set amidst a shivering soundscape of beats and plucks. Their bedroom-reared concrete-soul is being justly heralded as the UK's next big thing.

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**YO LA TENGO**  
**Popular Songs (Matador)**

This sprawling, ambitious album is Yo La Tengo's 16th, and marks their 25th anniversary. It is also a new culmination for a career that has been swinging upwards again since 2006's *I Am Not Afraid Of You...* A new generation of fans is discovering one of the most influential and intriguing bands in late-20th and early 21st-century rock'n'roll. This is the definitive Yo La Tengo album.

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**THE BIG PINK**  
**Brief History of Love (4AD)**

It's as though they've compressed everything that's great about post-war music into their sound. They're as accessible as a pop group, with almost folksy warm melodies, the spiritual quality of soul and gospel, the rhythmic propulsion of rave, the white noise of punk, the glitchy textures of electronica, and the heavy drones of your favourite New York rock bands past and present.

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**CAMERA OSCURA**  
**My Maudlin Career (4AD)**

Their new album shares with the listener an affectionate wit and a melancholy tendency towards life's daily routines and relationships. Yet it also boasts and expands on the affected pop elements explored on their breakout album, *Let's Get Out Of This Country.* It's no wonder Camera Obscura are often mentioned in the same sentences as fellow Scots Belle & Sebastian, indie rock faves The Lucksmiths, and music legends The Smiths.

LP Available \$10.99 CD



**THE FRESH & ONLYS**  
**Grey-Eyed Girls (Woodstix)**

The Fresh & Onlys, a five piece from San Francisco, are the latest in a line of lo-fi, primal rock 'n' roll bands on Woodstix Records. This time the band's sound is a mix of garage-rock and psych-pop from an outfit that has worked with Skygreen Leopards and Papercuts among others. You can group them with peers like Wavves and Crystal Stilts as easily as with The Wipers and Richard Hell.

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**CHUCK PROPHET**  
**iLet Freedom Ring! (Yep Roc)**

*iLet Freedom Ring!* billows with primal color and sound, evidenced by Prophet's return to the direct "two guitars, bass and drums" rock music of his past. On one hand a song cycle about breaking up but keeping it together, and on the other a political mission statement of hope, *iLet Freedom Ring!* doesn't incorporate the music of Mexico but instead imbibes its spirit and swims in its soul. Purposeful and rippling with rock sinew, this is Chuck Prophet 3.0.

LP Available \$13.99 CD



**MOUNTAIN GOATS**  
**Life of the World to Come (4AD)**  
 What makes *The Life of the World to Come* one of 2009's best albums, and the Mountain Goats' studio albums maybe the single greatest second act in modern American rock/indie/whatever music, is that John Darnielle never assumes those groups are, at the heart of it all, different from each other or less deserving of our attention and compassion.

\$10.99 CD LP Available

**KURT VILE**  
**Childish Prodigy (Matador)**

Philadelphia's Kurt Vile makes his Matador debut with *Childish Prodigy*. His second album is a rich tapestry of rock and folk sounds, occasionally lo-fi, occasionally lustrous, hitting touchstones from Tom Petty to Street Legal-era Dylan to Spacemen 3 to Skip Spence. This is an absorbing and addictive record with layers and layers of discovery.

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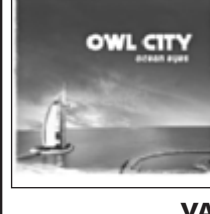
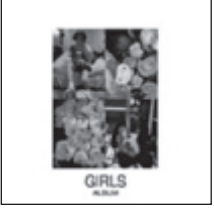
**BRETT DENNEN**  
**Hope for the Hopeless (Dualtone)**  
 The follow-up to his Dualtone debut *Hope for the Hopeless* positions Brett Dennen for stardom. Non-stop touring over the past three years with John Mayer, Colbie Caillat, Rodrigo y Gabriella, Sheryl Crow, and Ziggy Marley has led to nationwide talk about Dennen's unique sound and inspiring message.

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**GIRLS**  
**Album (True Panther Records)**

Built on the powerful songwriting of Christopher Owens and the ethereal production of Chet "JR" White, Girls recorded *Album* in a variety of bedrooms and rehearsal studios in their adopted hometown, San Francisco. The resulting 12 tracks are the perfect San Fran summer record, evoking a narcotic, sunny afternoon in Dolores Park, yet promising the eventual hangover of summer's departure.

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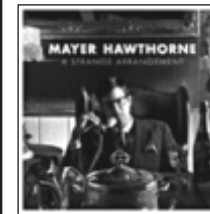
**OWL CITY**  
**Ocean Eyes (Republic)**  
 Loaded with amazing loops, catchy pickups, and lyrics that soothe the mind and touch the heart, Adam Young has once again created a lush listening experience. With glorious vocal harmonies and touching odes to love lost, Adam has dug more deeply on *Ocean Eyes*, lyrically and musically, than ever.

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**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
**New Moon Soundtrack (Atlantic)**

Original soundtrack to the 2009 motion picture, the sequel to the enormously successful romantic teen vampire epic *Twilight*. Features tracks from Death Cab For Cutie, Thom Yorke, Anya Marina, The Killers, Muse, Bon Iver & St. Vincent, Sea Wolf, Editors and many others.

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**MAYER HAWTHORNE**  
**A Strange Arrangement (Stones Throw)**  
 2009 debut album from the Michigan-bred Pop/Soul singer/songwriter. *A Strange Arrangement* draws from the inspiration of Leroy Hutson, Smokey Robinson and the legendary songwriting and production trio of Holland, Dozier, Holland. At the same time, it revels in raw the sounds of the independent (and often unappreciated) musicians who aspired to achieve a level of success akin to their famous peers.

\$13.99 CD LP Available

**KEITH JARRETT**  
**Paris/London Live (ECM)**

This is a specially-packaged, specially-priced three CD set. Impromptu, solo music from the great American pianist, recorded at two concerts that took place at the end of last year. In his liner notes, Keith gives a highly personal account of the music's inspirational genesis, which is outstanding, even by his own high standards, with powerful emotions never far from the music's surface. These are recordings to put alongside the very finest in Jarrett's solo idiom. The open format, embracing much music in shorter episodes, follows a pattern similar to that found on *Radiance*, but there are also flashes of the existential poetic flair which made, for instance, the *Sun Bear* Concerts such a special musical experience.

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# music

## OFF THE RECORD

MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell



Kris Kristofferson?  
Jeff Bridges as Bad  
Blake in *Crazy Heart*.

### Circle of Demons

The two sides to local metalcore outfit **At All Cost** are more evident in retrospect. Vocalist/key-boardist **Andrew Collins** now leads the electro-pop troupe **L.A.X.**, while guitarist **Trey Ramirez** shovels fire and brimstone with breakthrough metal act **Pack of Wolves**. The dichotomy between the two made At All Cost a rarity not just on the local scene but to the national metal community at large. "Even on our first EP [2003's *Shattered Dreams and Bourgeois Schemes*], Andrew was using a vocoder and some other things that we had never really heard in metal," relates Ramirez, whose wolf pack is recording a new album in February. "Some peo-

ple thought it was new and exciting, and others just flat out rejected it. We really took people out of their comfort zones." Formed in 2001

with a goal of playing **Emo's** outside stage, the band notched two videos on **MTV's** *Headbangers Ball* and tours with **Hatebreed** and **Darkest Hour**, with whom original guitarist **Mike Theobald** now resides. After a brief hiatus following the Century Media-backed release of the quintet's second LP, 2007's *Circle of Demons*, At All Cost reconvenes one last time at **Red 7** on Saturday, Dec. 19, to officially bury the hatchet with Houston's the **Jonbenét** and locals **Radioland Murders**, both of whom are also throwing in the towel.

### Random Play

● A get-well-soon note is long overdue for **Bad Livers** extraordinaire **Mark Rubin**, who's recovering from shoulder surgery after severing a tendon in his rotator cuff while lifting his stand-up bass over a subway turnstile in New York City. Not even that could slow him down, since he was trailed recently by a German documentary crew as part of his expansive **Other Europeans** project ([www.other-europeans-band.eu](http://www.other-europeans-band.eu)), which has alternatively influenced his local work with **Silas Lowe** as **Fat Man & Little Boy**. The band's grassroots debut, *The Atomic Duo*, knocks the dust off a few ragtime traditionals. "I became more focused about what it is about American music that makes it important, that core repertoire of sound that existed particularly in the South," relates Rubin.

● Whereas 2008's *Speeding Motorcycle* chronicled **Daniel Johnston's** iconic love in vain, Catastrophic Theatre Artistic Director **Jason Nodler's** latest adaptation, *Life Is Happy and Sad*, tackles the comic genius' formative years in Austin, re-creating some of the dialogue and scenes captured on his early tapes. "It's a lot more intimate and realistic," reports **Bill Anderson**, who played himself in a scene last weekend that depicted the writing of "Etiquette" from 1985's *Continued Story*. "The surreal, space-time ramifications of doing it was pretty weird, but I didn't have time to think about it." No word yet on a local engagement, but the near two-hour play runs through Dec. 19 at Houston's **DiverseWorks ArtSpace**.

● Let the countdown begin. **Willie Nelson** announced at the **Austin Music Hall** on Tuesday that his next Fourth of July Picnic will take place at **Direct Events'** new **Backyard**.

● The reunited **Joe Ely Band** has signed on for the 23rd annual **Old Settler's Music Festival** at the **Salt Lick Pavilion**, April 15-18, 2010. Discounted early bird tickets are on sale now: [www.oldsettlersmusicfest.org](http://www.oldsettlersmusicfest.org).

● Having already exhausted every trick in *The Rockford Files*, OTR needs some help tracking down the following people regarding *The Austin Chronicle Music Anthology*: **G.R. Farrell, Rob Klein, Eric Lord, Claude Mathews, Lee Moore, and Greg Stephens**. If you have any leads, please drop a line to [offtherecord@austinchronicle.com](mailto:offtherecord@austinchronicle.com).



Collins and Ramirez

JOHN ANDERSON

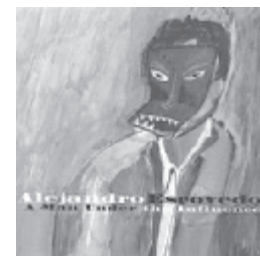
### The Weary Kind

In *Crazy Heart*, **Jeff Bridges** delivers a sobering portrait of "Wrangler of Love" **Bad Blake**, an outlaw composite equal parts **Kris Kristofferson** and **Waylon Jennings**, whose battle with the bottle rings truer than any music biopic in recent memory. The most chilling moment actually comes at the very end of the credits as the a cappella version by **Robert Duvall** of **Billy Joe Shaver's** "Live Forever" from the film accompanies a freeze frame: "Dedicated to the memory of **Stephen Bruton**." The late South Austin staple who succumbed to cancer in May co-produced the soundtrack with **T Bone Burnett** (see "Off the Record," Sept. 19, 2008) and shares writing credits for new country standards "Hold On You" and "Fallin' & Flyin'," which are brought to life with onscreen help from **Ryan Bingham & the Dead Horses** (see "The Cowboy Song," June 5) and local accordion maestro **Joel Guzman**. *Crazy Heart* doesn't open locally until Jan. 8, 2010, with the New West soundtrack following shortly after, but has already picked up best music honors from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association and the Boston Society of Film Critics, while Bingham's "The Weary Kind" earned a Golden Globe nomination this week. Aligning perfectly, **Malford Milligan** leads **Brannen Temple, Yoggie Musgrove**, and more in a special presentation of Bruton's music on Sunday at the **Armadillo Christmas Bazaar**, 8-11pm, an encore of sorts to a similar tribute staged a few months back at the **Saxon Pub** and recorded for a live album due out next year.

### Sleigh Bells

Attention local labels and holiday shoppers: OTR has collected a few Santa sacks worth of used mailing envelopes, all of which are now available for free at the *Chronicle's* front office. Please take as needed. Here are some ideas for a few last-minute stocking stuffers:

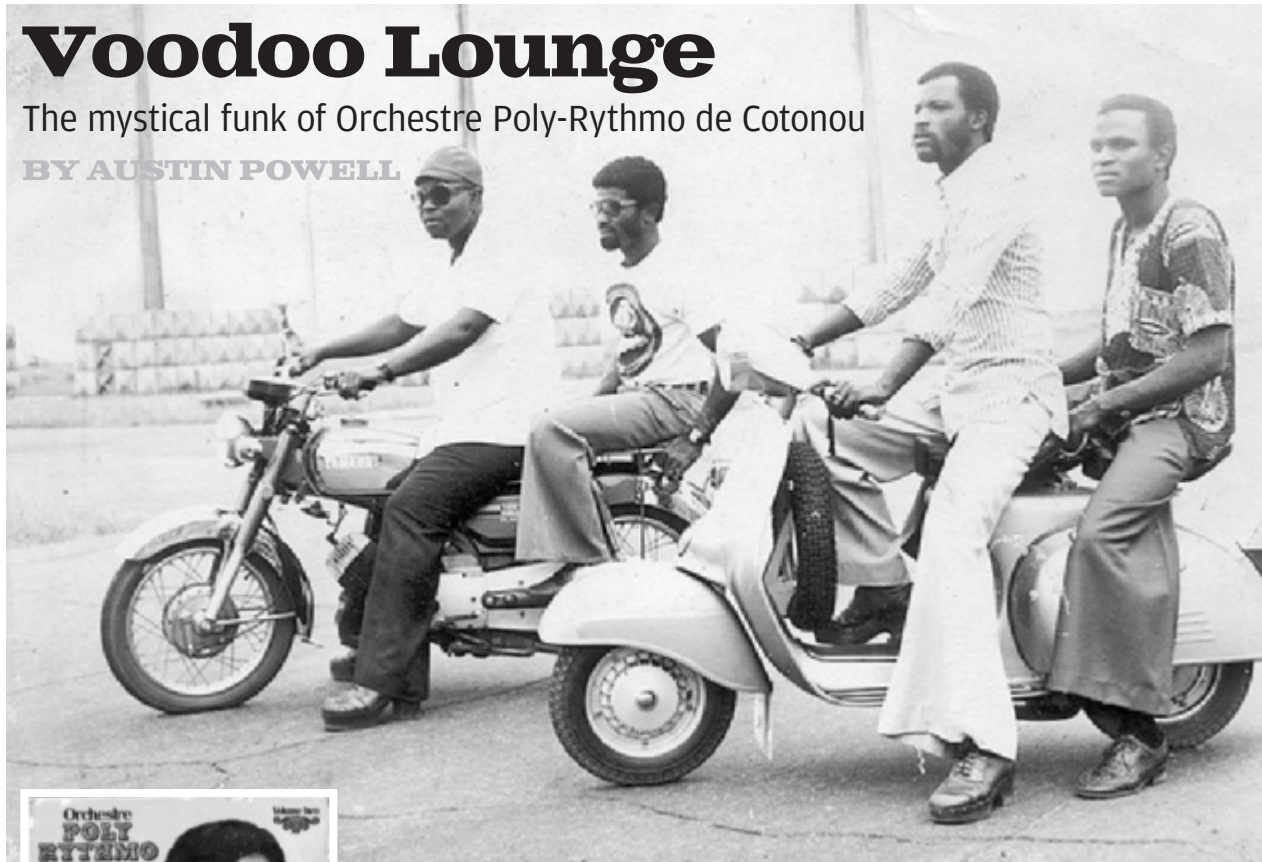
- ▶ The new 12-inch EP from local grindcore combo **Mammoth Grinder**, *Extinction of Humanity*, has been picked up by renowned metal label **Relapse Records**.
- ▶ As part of **Bloodshot Records'** 15-year anniversary campaign, **Alejandro Escovedo's** introspective opus, *A Man Under the Influence*, is getting deluxe reissue treatment as a limited-edition, double-vinyl LP that includes bonus tracks and his *Bourbonitis Blues* EP.
- ▶ **Credence Clearwater Revisited**, starring Austin bassist **Stu Cook**, digs its heels into "Run Rudolph Run" for the charity compilation *Hope for the Holidays: Rockin' Christmas for a Cure* benefiting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.
- ▶ Local vinyl and tape specialists **Natrix Natrix** pressed both black and white vinyl for its new 7-inch split from **Deer Tick** and the **Shivers**.
- ▶ *Bloodstains Across Texas*, the 1992 regional punk compilation featuring the **Skunks, Huns, and Offenders**, among others, has finally been repressed.
- ▶ **Ocote Soul Sounds & Adrian Quesada's** latest Latin transfusion, *Coconut Rock*, has been upgraded, featuring five new remixes, including Quesada's sedated take on "Vendendo Saude e Fe."
- ▶ Boutique experimental imprint **Quiet Design Records** curates *Spectra: Guitar in the 21st Century*, a new compilation of minimalist tonal architecture featuring **Jandek** and **Tetuzi Akiyama**. "We look at the label as an art gallery in a very literal sense where people show their work," explains co-founder **Cory Allen**, who's featured on the mix and also released a new solo album, *Hearing Is Forgetting the Name of the Thing One Hears*.
- ▶ If that's not enough to get you into the holiday spirit, **Bob Schneider's** *Christmastime* probably won't help. The collection tackles the more melancholic aspects of the winter season, complete with a cover of the **Pogues'** "Fairytale of New York." Visit [www.bobschneider.com/store](http://www.bobschneider.com/store) to order.



# Voodoo Lounge

The mystical funk of Orchestre Poly-Rythmo de Cotonou

BY AUSTIN POWELL



Séance of the ancient and urban, conjured by a spidery, hypnotic rhythm derived from spirit possession ceremonies, the Orchestre Poly-Rythmo de Cotonou owes its black

magic to the Vodoun Effect. That *boom bo-bo-bo boom* doesn't so much move you as carry you.

Originating from Benin, Africa, the birthplace of Vodoun – a polytheistic religion of some 250 divinities – this big band ensemble modernized the percussive mysticism of traditional voodoo rituals in the early 1970s with fluttering guitars and organ grooves. As Japanese visionaries like Flower Travellin' Band mirrored the West's amplified awakening during the first psychedelic era, the Orchestre's bitches brew melded James Brown's star time soul, the dark ecstasy of the Doors, and Funkadelic's *Maggot Brain* alongside Nigerian highlife, Afro-Cuban jazz, and indigenous folk idioms.

While the shadow of Afrobeat trailblazer Fela Anikulapo Kuti (see "Chief Priest of the Shrine," July 14, 2000) certainly looms large over the Orchestre, what separates the Black President from the Kings of Benin, as the two camps were known respectively, is the latter's alchemic eclecticism. Austin's Grupo Fantasma waxes some of Poly-Rythmo's turbulent funk.

"I'm fascinated by this idea of the music of Africa inspiring what we know as Latin and funk music, and then coming full circle with African bands incorporating those sounds back into their music," offers Grupo architect Adrian Quesada. "One other thing that stood out to me was the production on the records – raw, heavy grooves that still feel like the lightest touch, tasteful yet complex."

"They have a lot of depth and breadth in their rhythms and arrangements," furthers Quesada's Ocote Soul Sounds partner Martin Perna, founder of Antibalas, whose African R&B mines Orchestre territory. "They are dense, original. The music is both very spiritual and street at the same time. You can hear the music and tell that they are standing on a firm foundation."

Orchestre Poly-Rythmo was often identified with the prefix T.P., short for Tout Puissant, which translates roughly to "All Powerful" or "All Mighty." Formed as a trio in 1964 before aligning with the Sunny Blacks Band and coming into its own in the coastal town of Cotonou four years later, the prolific Orchestre put out more than 50 LPs and twice as many singles before disbanding in 1982.

A household name in its native land, the ensemble also backed marquee touring acts Manu Dibango and Bella Bellow, plus local composers, most notably Honoré Avolonto and Antoine Dougbé. Poly-Rythmo was even anointed the national orchestra in the mid-1970s. And yet, the T.P. still doesn't even have a MySpace page to show for it.

Geographical limitations can't be overstated in this case. The Republic of Benin is dwarfed on the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa in size and stature by Nigeria and Ghana, making it difficult for records, most of which were pressed in limited quantities, to extend beyond Benin's borders. Factor in political unrest – five military coups and nine total regime changes from 1963 to 1972 alone – strict curfews, and ripple effects from the Biafran War, and the existence of any recordings at all seems miraculous.

Three decades after the fact, the band's material is finally surfacing stateside thanks to a wave of recent compilations, sparked by Popular African Music's rare 2003 collection, *Reminiscent in Tempo*, which alternately spotlights the Orchestre's Congolese and Cuban influences. Two new anthologies from Germany's Analog Africa further illuminate Poly-Rythmo's breadth and communal exaltation.

First and foremost, the Orchestre Poly-Rythmo was a quintessential house band, maintaining a residency at its Cotonou club, the Zenith, and adapting styles to suit its patrons. For

**While the shadow of Afrobeat trailblazer Fela Kuti certainly looms large over the Orchestre, what separates the Black President from the Kings of Benin, as the two camps were known respectively, is the latter's alchemic eclecticism.**

such purposes, the ensemble utilized four distinct singers – soul shouter Vincent Ahehehinou, founder and saxophonist Melome Clement, drummer Amenoudji Joseph "Vicky" for traditional songs in Mina (a language native to the border of Togo), and Lohento Eskill, who specialized in French and Fon material – all of whom had a hand in the compositional process.

Culled from 200 home recordings, last year's *Volume One: The Vodoun Effect, Funk & Sato From Benin's Obscure Labels 1972-1975* displays the Orchestre at its most raw and unhinged. Simmering Afro-Cuban psychedelia ("Assibavi"), frenetic hard funk ("Se Tche We Djo Mon"), and ceremonial incantations ("Mawa Mon Nou Mio"), it blurs distinctions between such genres in a delirious organ haze. The entrancing Sakpata rhythms of "Mi Ni Non Kpo," derived from Vodoun ceremonies to prevent smallpox, gather strength in elliptical syncopation – Benthó Gustave's thick bass, the washboard guitar of Papillon, and Amenoudji Joseph's percussion – a trinity of sound that defines the band's most bewitching material.

These mid-fi selections are a bit rough around the edges, an unavoidable byproduct of the recording conditions: live to a reel-to-reel recorder, with the singer squarely in front of a lone microphone and the remaining band members forming a half-circle around him. That grit also gives *The Vodoun Effect* its warmth and charm. In fact, the entire procession makes contemporaries – on the Analog Africa label's previous compilation, *African Scream Contest*, and the gold rush of Nigerian nuggets excavated in recent years (see "Gritty, Groovy, & Gettin' It," Dec. 14, 2007) – sound tame by comparison.

By contrast, Orchestre's recent *Volume Two: Echos Hypnotiques 1969-1979* was recorded at the EMI studio in nearby Lagos, the same facility used by Fela Kuti, and originally released on Albarika Store. Crisp and professional, this hour-plus collection represents the Orchestre's manifesto, topping even the essential 2004 compilation, *The Kings of Benin: Urban Groove 1972-80* on Soundway.

The spacious, unfurling Afrobeat of "Mede Ma Gnin Messe" could be sequenced onto Fela's career-spanning *The Best of the Black President*, much like

the Sato-jazz of "Agnon Dekpe" to Miles Davis' *Dark Magus*, while "Malin Kpon O" emulates the smoothness of Motown soul. The music sounds both foreign and familiar – haunted yet festive – and perhaps most impressively, always bears the distinct stamp of the Orchestre Poly-Rythmo de Cotonou, gradually pulling the listener under its exotic spell like quicksand. Chalk it up to the Vodoun Effect.

"Vodoun rhythms were strongly present in our day-to-day lives, especially on the outskirts of the main cities, and in villages, where you can hear those rhythms everywhere," recounts bandleader Melome Clement in the extensive liner notes to *Volume Two*. "They were performed for all kinds of occasions: weddings, burial ceremonies, circumcisions, you name it.

"So it's in our blood." ■

## The African Gold Rush of 2009

**Fela Kuti, *The Best of the Black President***

[Deluxe Edition] (Kalakuta Sunrise/Knitting Factory)

**Ghana Special: *Modern Highlife, Afro-Sounds,***

**& Ghanaian Blues 1968-81** (Soundway)

**Legends of Benin** (Analog Africa)

**Nigeria 70: *The Definitive Story of 1970's Funky Lagos*** (Strut)

**Africa Boogaloo: *The Latinization Of West Africa*** (Honest Jon's)



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FROM THE UNFORGETTABLE FIVE DELUXE BOX



## U2 *The Unforgettable Fire* (Universal-Island)

Careful reupholstering of U2's catalog has supplemented discs onto *Boy*, *October, War*, and *Under a Blood Red Sky*, but until now, only *The Joshua Tree* has been stuffed and crowned with the deluxe box treatment. *The Unforgettable Fire*, its predecessor, now comes sized as a 2-CD/1-DVD prayer book as well. The Dublin quartet's first

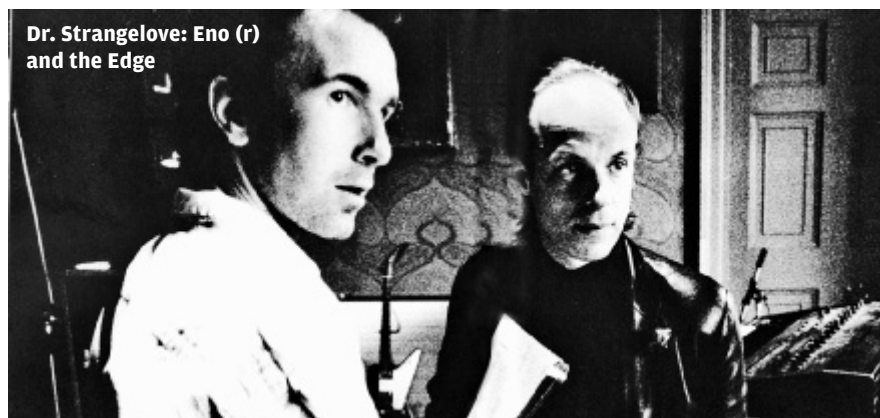


into the luminous title track and its junk trunk beat thrusts ecstatic against Bono's equally pleading lyric, strings welling with blood as synthesized exclamations burst the aneurysm. All this time, your stereo gets louder and louder. "Promenade" pops a hatch to Eno's Ambient Airlines on "4th of July," which returns as closing a cappella Bono benediction "MLK." Between them, "Bad" takes Marvin Gaye

recreation began by forgoing rock guru Steve Lillywhite for *Apollo* veteran Brian Eno, who, in the first of a series of essays from key *Fire* starters in a hardbound minibook, writes that he and co-producer "Danny" Lanois had: "These ideas, which had to do with extending the sonic palette and creating a more scenographic form of music." Echoes of *War*'s battle march open "A Sort of Homecoming," but the song's syncopated hymnal, Bono's "O come away, o come away, o come away, say I," rings transformative. ("Larry Mullen had developed an amazing powerhouse hi-hat technique," writes Lanois. "We saw this as a window of rhythmic opportunity.") That's when "Pride (In the Name of Love)" makes civil rights a secular rite of passage. Before catching a breath, the Euro funk of razor "Wire" finds Bono's satin desperation opening a holy host of veins on Edge's stigmata six-string. Mullen's tick

indie rock, Edge performs more Benihana on "Indian Summer Sky," and "Elvis Presley and America" dons Jim Morrison's shaman fringe. For an encore, a nearly 70-minute CD of B-sides and outtakes joins its reissue mates, particularly *The Joshua Tree* bonus disc, as more or less essential, from newly completed opener "Disappearing Act" and out-of-print *Wide Awake in America* EP to demo "Yoshino Blossom," employing "New Year's Day" electric piano and the EBow from "Disappearing Act," plus banger "Boomerang II" and two "Wire" remixes. An exclusive DVD converts the original VHS of MTV videos and album documentary, now pushing past the hour mark with Bono mullet messiah-era concert footage from Live Aid etc. *Achtung Baby*.

★★★★★ — Raoul Hernandez



Dr. Strangelove: Eno (r) and the Edge

gift  
guide  
2009



## THE RELATIVES

### *Don't Let Me Fall* (Heavy Light)

A glorious hour of witness on the Continental Club stage in October and it's easy to see how Dallas' Relatives might have been overlooked. They're born of the church, but the Rev. Gean West's holler and the group's amalgam of soul, funk, and R&B point higher. Back in the early 1970s, West and his (actual) Relatives had a minor hit with "Don't Let Me Fall," a sweet sip of redemptive, almost psychedelic soul. Cue local archivists Heavy Light Records, who have unearthed 10 more songs — four

previously unreleased — pressed them to vinyl and CD, and given them light. The recordings are rough in spots, but the material is illuminating and diverse, whether proto rap ("Rap On"), good-foot funk ("This World Is Moving Too Fast"), and velvet harmonizing ("Speak to Me"), never mind the relentless bassline of "Walking On." Liner notes come courtesy of *Chronicle* scribe Thomas Fawcett, who got to hang with the reverend and hear the story of how Houston label owner Don Robey, impressed with West's voice, tried to get him to go R&B. "That's before James Brown got famous. That's the God's heaven truth."

★★★★ — Audra Schroeder

## BETTY DAVIS

### *Nasty Gal* (Light in the Attic)

### *Is It Love or Desire* (Light in the Attic)

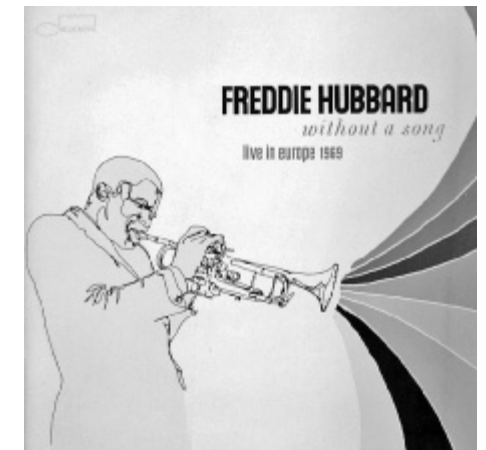
Following the 2007 reissue of her 1973 debut and 1974 follow-up, Seattle archivists Light in the Attic continue unearthing the catalog of freaky funk goddess Betty Davis. Backed by the stone grooves of Funk House, Davis proves herself a *Nasty Gal* on the



title track of her 1975 LP, while teasing cowboys to ride her saddle on "The Lone Ranger" and calling out media prudes on "Dedicated to the Press." She trades her signature deep-throat growl for a sensual whisper on "You and I," co-written by her husband of one year, Miles Davis. Betty turned Miles on to Jimi and Sly (both get a shout-out on the blistering "F.U.N.K.") and was the muse for his most experimental work. Recorded in 1976, *Is It Love or Desire* was slated for release as *Crashin' for Passion* before a label dispute led to its shelving. The dirty blues of "Let's Get Personal" finds Betty smoking hash and freaking on the couch while she spreads her, ahem, wings on the devilishly titled "Whorey Angel" and derides pop and disco on "Bottom of the Barrel." The gravelly proto-rap of "Stars Starve, You Know" sums up the visionary's career: "They said if I wanted to make some money I'd have to clean up my act. ... They won't take what I'm giving, so it's hard for me and the band to make a living."

(*Nasty Gal*) ★★★★★

(*Is It Love or Desire*) ★★★★★ — Thomas Fawcett



## FREDDIE HUBBARD

### *Without a Song: Live in Europe 1969* (Blue Note)

As Louis Armstrong was to the 1920s, Roy Eldridge to the 1930s, Dizzy Gillespie to the 1940s, and Miles Davis and Clifford Brown to the 1950s, so Freddie Hubbard was the thrilling young trumpet star of the 1960s. He's captured here in peak form from three different European dates with an all-star quartet, including the hugely underrated pianist Roland Hanna, former Miles bassist Ron Carter, and superlative drummer Louis Hayes (seen recently in Austin with Javon Jackson). With his rich, fat tone and blazing technique, Hubbard smokes through previously unreleased performances of Dizzy's bebop cooker "A Night in Tunisia"; the lovely, evergreen ballad "Body and Soul"; and Dallasite Red Garland's obscure "Blues by Five." "Space Track," with its nod to the avant-garde, recalls Hubbard's work on Ornette Coleman's *Free Jazz* and John Coltrane's *Ascension*, two landmark "free" sessions from earlier in the decade. *Without a Song* is 40 years in coming, but well worth the wait.

★★★★

— Jay Trachtenberg

**JACKIE DESHANNON****(Collector's Choice Music)****JACKIE DESHANNON****Me About You/To Be Free****(Collector's Choice Music)****JACKIE DESHANNON****New Arrangement (Collector's Choice Music)**

Jackie DeShannon never achieved the recognition of singer-songwriter peers such as Carole King, but her estimable career arcs from the late 1950s to the present with composition credits that include "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" and "Bette Davis Eyes." Four recent reissues chart her lesser known work from 1963's eponymous debut to 1975's *New Arrangement* with mixed results but charm nonetheless.

The self-titled debut in 1963 packaged her in the Carolyn Hester style, an attractive young folkie warbling songs of conscience ("If I Had a Hammer," "Jailer Bring Me Water") and the American songbook ("Betsy From Pike," "Oh Sweet Chariot"), plus three Dylan tunes including "Walkin' Down the Line." Five years later, DeShannon's in flower child mode with 1968's *Me About You* and 1970's *To Be Free*, packaged here on one disc. It's lightweight fare, introspective love songs about rainbows and getting it together ("Child of the Street") amid more contemporary hits ("Reason to Believe," bonus track "Bird on the Wire"). *New Arrangement* (1975) includes an almost unrecognizable swing arrangement of "Bette Davis Eyes" and five bonus tracks, all sounding earnest but dated ("Over My Head Again," "I Wanted It All"). Not her best showing, yet the surprise here is that DeShannon's voice is as lovely as it is substantial. With a dusty lilt that suited the soulful edge of her pop sound, she put out less than stellar music yet remains an A-lister whose work resonates today.

*(Jackie DeShannon) ★★★**(Me About You/To Be Free; New Arrangement) ★★*

– Margaret Moser

**PETE SEEGER****Live in '65****(Appleseed****Recordings)**

As folk forefather Pete Seeger sails into his ninth decade, the retrieval of previously unreleased recordings like this show at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Hall on Feb. 20, 1965, will become more and more. While the 31 songs spread across this 2-CD set capture Seeger at the peak of influence



and vitality, a reverential crowd rapt by the solo performance, its value lies between the lines, in Seeger's banter and his opening stories to the songs that represent the archetypal folk experience. The troubadour plays prototypical folklorist throughout; from the first banjo licks of "Oh Susanna" to his own encore-closing tale of "Aviyoyo," Seeger serves as multicultural preserver ("Oleanna," "Los Cuatro Generales," "Guantanamo") and new folk disseminator (Dylan's "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall"). With only six of his own songs folded into the set, including "Turn! Turn! Turn!," "If I Had a Hammer," and "The Bells of Rhymney," Seeger clearly offers himself as part of a longer, more encompassing anonymous tradition. Three months later, Dylan famously went electric at Newport, much to Seeger's ire, and changed folk music's trajectory, giving this recording a hindsight significance of folk at its 1960s high point.

★★★

– Doug Freeman

**THE JAYHAWKS****Music From the North Country:****The Jayhawks Anthology (American)****DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS****The Fine Print (A Collection of Oddities****and Rarities): 2003-2008 (New West)****DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS****Live From Austin TX (New West)**

The alt.country craze is just a dim memory to most folks, but *Music From the North Country* offers more than just a little nostalgia from the Jayhawks, one of that scene's leaders. Offered as either a single disc career overview or as a deluxe package that contains an additional CD of rarities as well as a DVD of videos and electronic press kits, it's a superb survey of the Minneapolis-based band's brand of harmony-laden roots, pop, and rock. Leaders Gary Louris' and Mark Olson's voices still soar on "Waiting for the Sun" and "Blue," while poppier tunes from the band's post-Olson days like "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me" and "Save It for a Rainy Day" remain should-have-been hits. The Drive-By Truckers close the book on the Jason Isbell era with *The Fine Print*, meanwhile. Almost as strong as recent efforts and positively more country-influenced, it's highlighted by covers from Tom Petty (a ripping "Rebels"), Tom T. Hall, Warren Zevon, and Bob Dylan (a potent take of "Like a Rolling Stone"). Isbell's "When the Well Runs Dry" demonstrates his capacity for hooky melody and discerning lyricism. DBT mainstays Patterson Hood and Mike Cooley offer appealing stories like "The Great Car Dealer War" and "Little Pony and the Great Big Horse." *Live From Austin TX* was recorded for *Austin City Limits* in 2008, a double-disc CD/DVD offering heavy on songs

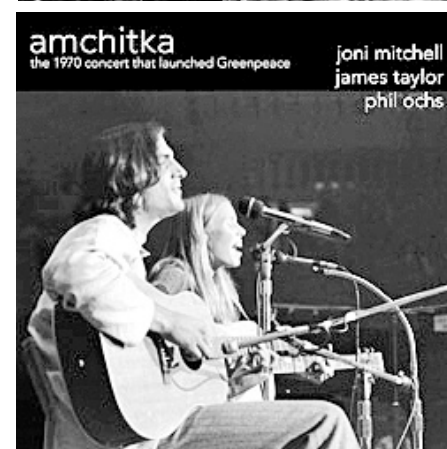
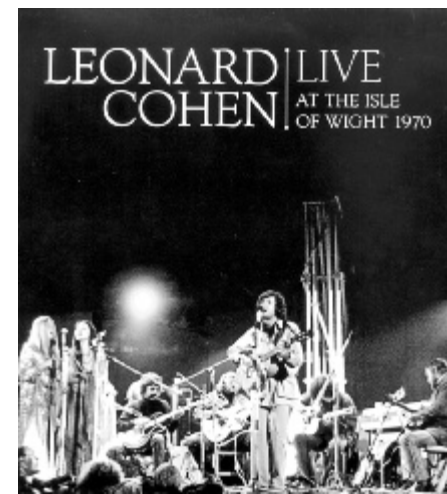
**LEONARD COHEN****Live at the Isle of Wight 1970****(Columbia/Legacy)****AMCHITKA****(Greenpeace)**

Leonard Cohen's *Live at the Isle of Wight 1970* should rightly be put in a bottle. That's just prior to *Songs of Love and Hate*, so the set list is golden, and this historic concert on an island in the English Channel shows off the Canadian poet/prophet at the height of his powers. Cohen's story of his father taking him to the circus before "Bird on the Wire" feeds into the concert itself taking on a Felliniesque pacing. Recordings on the DVD and accompanying CD are almost perfect, the packaging and liner notes stylish and crisp, and interviews with players from the night illuminate the importance and special weight of it all. Faces of rapt audience members, many women shrouded like Virgin Marys, ride tandem with Cohen's religious air, his face serene as he calms a restless festival crowd. "They've surrounded the island," he intones midconcert, as festivalgoers try to break down a fence keeping them from the show. He then slides right into "Hey, That's No Way to Say Goodbye," and there's reverent silence. Dylan never got to that dimension. Another Canadian comes via Greenpeace, who remastered a 1970 concert in Vancouver protesting nuclear testing off the coast of another island, Amchitka, Alaska. The 2-CD set features a folk trinity: Phil Ochs, James Taylor, and Joni Mitchell.

Given the political heaviness of the night, the performances don't carry that weight. Ochs seems reinvigorated, and Taylor's set is short but sweet. Mitchell, however, is in full flame, whether segueing from "Big Yellow Taxi" to "Boney Maroney," previewing songs from *Blue*, or dueting with Taylor on "Mr. Tambourine Man." As we prepare for a new decade in the wake of a pretty bleak one, these concerts show how innocent it all still was.

*(Isle of Wight) ★★★★★**(Amchitka) ★★★*

– Audra Schroeder



from last year's *Brighter Than Creation's Dark*, and finds them at their walloping best.

*(Music From the North Country; Live From Austin TX) ★★★★★**(The Fine Print) ★★★★★*

– Jim Caligiuri

**ROD STEWART****Atlantic Crossing (Warner Bros.)****ROD STEWART****A Night on the Town (Warner Bros.)****ROD STEWART****Unplugged ... and Seated****(Warner Bros.)**

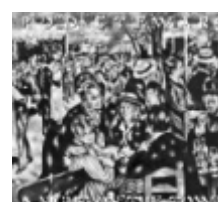
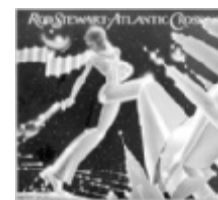
Rod Stewart was over the top, literally, when 1975's *Atlantic Crossing* and 1976's *A Night on the Town* were released. The Faces' pub rock had been dispatched in favor of stateside musicians and a new label, giving Stewart the strength of the Muscle Shoals rhythm section on *Crossing*. It also delivered blistering rockers ("All in the Name of Rock 'n' Roll"), tender ballads ("I Don't Want to Talk About It"), and beloved covers ("This Old Heart of Mine," "Drift Away"). By the time he recorded *A Night on the Town*, Stewart was a U.S. citizen and acting like it,

with a coterie of L.A. musicians in tow. Two hits from it further defined his career, "Tonight's the Night (Gonna Be Alright)," with girlfriend-actress Britt Ekland on "multilingual vocal appliances," and "The First Cut Is the Deepest," a holdover

from *Crossing*, yet the surprise is the depth of his self-penned pro-gay anthem "The Killing of Georgie (Part I and II)." What makes these two reissues notable isn't just bonus tracks but the additional disc that mirrors the original tracks with alternate takes, an improvement over the outtakes box set just issued. By reuniting with Ronnie Wood and recording *Unplugged ... and Seated* on MTV in 1993, Stewart recouped dignity he lost during the spandex 1980s. Stripped-down, roots-driven hits plus Faces faves such as "Handbags and Gladrags," "Maggie May," and a smokin' "Cut Across Shorty," plus a DVD of the show, makes it the best of the three. Lather, rinse, repeat.

*(Atlantic Crossing;**A Night on the Town) ★★★**(Unplugged) ★★★★★*

– Margaret Moser



CONTINUED ON P.60

**THE ROLLING STONES**

**Get Yer Ya-Ya's Out! (ABKCO)**

With every inch of their catalog and wrinkles staked out and ear-tagged, it's not as if the Rolling Stones haven't been documented into infinity, so seriously, what's left? *Get Yer Ya-Ya's Out!*, apparently, recorded at Madison Square Garden, released in 1970, and still one of the all-time finest live recordings, with nuance and style to burn. From the relentless lash of "Midnight Rambler" to the sex-ooze of "Stray Cat Blues" ("I see that you're just 13 years old"), the Stones had reached the mountaintop, looking around at a breathless view. Five additional songs on their own disc gild the lily of this 3-CD/1-DVD boxed set, including a pre-*Sticky Fingers* "You Gotta Move," *Beggars Banquet*'s "Prodigal Son," "Under My Thumb," "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," and unexpected B-side "I'm Free." The DVD material is marginal, live versions of the bonus tracks plus offstage footage left out of the Maysles brothers' infamous documentary *Gimme Shelter*. Better is a B.B. King and Ike & Tina Turner audio disc, because the Stones were still in awe of their idols and every tour opened with blues legends you weren't otherwise likely to see. Ike & Tina are the stars riding atop the explosive "Proud Mary," but it's King who's fascinating to hear, before his signature "The Thrill Is Gone" and sounding unimaginably young. Don't forget, this is 1969, civil rights and the smoke of Watts still in the air, with soul music having its second coming to predominantly white rock audiences. Ike's vision fused rock with funk, rendering "Come Together" as sensual and Tina's delivery of "I've Been Loving You Too Long." King delivers his set with old-school revue style and grace, gentlemanly introductions and mannered thank-you's to the Stones for having him because "had it not been for them, you would not have heard B.B. King." Or is this just an excuse to hear Jagger coyly tease one more time, "You don't want my trousers to fall down now do ya?" It's just an excuse!

★★★

— Margaret Moser

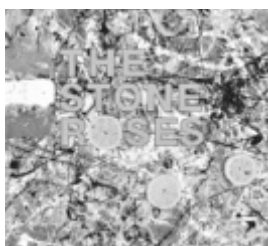


ETHAN A. RUSSELL

**THE STONE ROSES**

**(Silvertone/Legacy)**

Considered the crowning achievement of Manchester's ecstasy era, the Stone Roses' lone masterpiece successfully fused spacious psychedelia with danceable, acid house euphoria. Sequenced with clairvoyant fluidity, most apparent in the head rush of "Waterfall" and its backward tide "Don't Stop," the quartet's 1989 debut soundtracked a soma holiday of melodic pop, ripe with 1960s innocence and disaffected modernism. Twenty years later, the album burns even brighter, thanks to a stunning remastering by original producer John



Leckie and nonchalant singer Ian Brown that magnifies the low-end heartbeat of bassist Gary Mounfield in the opening wanderlust of "I Wanna Be Adored" and the shimmering ambient accents that carry the album. Recorded one month after its release at the Blackpool Empress Ballroom, the accompanying live DVD captures the baggy fashion of the time, with Alan Wren's propulsive percussion driving standout "She Bangs the Drums." Almost more of a rave than a performance, it comes complete with designated dancer and closer "I Am the Resurrection" taking on near Krautrock proportions behind John Squire's guitar auroras as Brown bobs in slow circles

in self-contained exultation. *The Lost Demos*, which comprise the entirety of the second CD, further glorifies the sonic triumph of the original LP in a manner not unlike the bonus tracks found on expanded reissues of the Cure. The six previously unreleased songs, most notably the wah-wah echo-trance of "Elephant Stone" and the pastoral psych-folk of "Where Angels Play," are bittersweet, proving convincingly that there was more in the tank than what ultimately amounted to the Roses' stoned swan song, 1994's *Second Coming*.

★★★★

— Austin Powell

**WHITESNAKE**

**Slide It In 25th Anniversary Deluxe Edition: 1984-2009 (Geffen)**

**WHITESNAKE**

**Slip of the Tongue 20th Anniversary Edition: 1989-2009 (Geffen)**

Third-string Deep Purple vocal overlord beginning in 1974, David Coverdale started shedding Whitesnake LPs and band members four years later. More hard roots Free booters than Foghat bazooka crew, and despite deep catalog production by metal guru and fellow countryman Martin "Iron Maiden" Birch, Whitesnake managed mostly sodden platters until its 1984 platinum U.S. breakthrough, *Slide It In*. Recorded by a UK quintet that included Deep Purple organ baron Jon Lord, the platter was remixed and partly re-recorded by fledgling label stylists Geffen in L.A. Out were aging blokes with bad teeth and in was ex-Thin Lizzy/Tygers of Pan Tang flame-throwing blond John Sykes, who re-recorded



guitar parts for the U.S. mix, which has been resequenced here. Sleazy pub-humpers "Slow & Easy" and the title track lubbed radio roundhouse "Love Ain't No Stranger," and album cuts such as bar-basher "All or Nothing" chose their minor chords and melodies carefully, as did closing sprint "Guilty of Love," wherein big stick drummer Cozy Powell (Rainbow, Black Sabbath) comes in loud and cocksure. Two trans-Atlantic mixes contrast a stateside album as thin and bright as aluminum foil and a Brit effort troubled by dead zones. Self-titled follow-up *Whitesnake* three years later cracked a different strata,

selling 6 million on the strength of video/radio smashes "Still of the Night" and "Here I Go Again," the latter re-recorded off *Slide It In* predecessor *Saints & Sinners*. For Whitesnake follow-up *Slip of the Tongue* (1989), Coverdale went back to 1980's *Ready an' Willing* for first single "Fool for Your Loving." *Tongue* fields completely different beefcake than *Whitesnake*, starring guitarists Steve Vai and Adrian Vandenberg, and the inside portrait of the band — perfectly coiffed and made-up — is as clear as prison rape what era birthed Kurt Cobain. Other than Led Zeppelin carcass "Judgement Day," Mr. Mister's Richard Page

sweetens up synth "Now You're Gone," while "Kitten's Got Claws" reeks of cat piss and "Cheap & Nasty" is *National Geographic* porn. Accompanying videos on the albums' bonus DVD make *Road House* look like *The Hours*.

(*Slide It In*) ★★★

(*Slip of the Tongue*) ★

— Raoul Hernandez

**NIRVANA**

**Bleach (Deluxe Edition) (Sub Pop)**

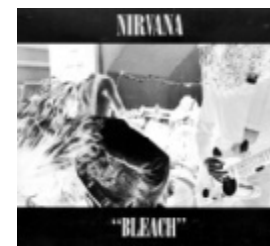
**NIRVANA**

**Live at Reading (Geffen/UMe)**

"*Bleach* recorded in Seattle at Reciprocal Recordings by Jack Endino for \$600." Twenty years later, that liner note expanded into a mini picture book, Nirvana's first album now sounds like the United States Mint. Toasty as vinyl, comparable to Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab's CDs of *Nevermind* (1991) and *In Utero* (1993), firstborn *Bleach* reiterates its place not at the front of the line but in between its two older brawlers. Kurt Cobain, Chris Novoselic, and drummer Chad Channing, as the Aberdeen, Wash., act was originally listed on its debut and remains on this economical deluxe reissue, had both songs (*Nevermind*) and pure punk brawn (*In Utero*). Cobain's first side of songs on *Bleach* put in the knife ("Paper Cuts"), and the flip side of riff and bash ("Mr. Moustache") wields a meat cleaver. George Marino, master master and remasterer, does the rest with all the clarity of the Beatles reissues. Cobain's echoed guitar god solo on "Blew," Novoselic's bass burble in "About a Girl," and earthen backhoe "Negative Creep" all rumble and tumble, while a raw live set from the following year includes un-*Bleach*-ed goodies like first Nirvana "Spank Thru," Vaselines cover "Molly's Lips," and "Sappy," which later appeared as an untitled track on AIDS benefit *No Alternative*. New DVD/CD combo *Live at Reading* rides the wave of mutilation that was *Nevermind*, but its best moments dump *Bleach*, the busy shoot pausing to catch Cobain picking out debut detention "School." The two-minute thrash of "Tourette's" sandwiched by a bare-bottomed "About a Girl" and stripped "Polly" contrast the blunt force trauma of "Negative Creep." Dedicating a verge-of-collapse "All Apologies" to his wife and 12-day-old daughter before having the crowd say "We love you, Courtney" pays off in the frontman's shy smile afterward. Only a guitar-abused "Love Buzz" doesn't make it onto the accompanying CD. We love you Kurt Cobain.

(Both) ★★★★

— Raoul Hernandez



## LEAD STORY

Commercial test-preparation courses are already popular for applicants to top colleges and graduate schools, and recently they also became common for admission to prestigious private high schools and grade schools. Now, according to a November *New York Times* report, such courses and private coaching are increasingly important for admission to New York City's high-achiever public kindergartens, even though the applicants are just 3 and 4 years old. Basic coaching, which may cost more than \$1,000, includes training a child to listen to an adult's questions and to sit still for testing. Minimum qualification for top-shelf kindergartens are scores at the 90th percentile on the OLSAT reasoning test and the Bracken School Readiness knowledge test.

## POLICE REPORT

In the past three years, at least 39 drivers in Dallas have been ticketed by police officers for the "offense" of being "a non-English speaking driver," according to a *Dallas Morning News* investigation in October. The software for officers' in-car computers features a check-off box with the phrase, perhaps leading officers (and their sergeants) to believe it constituted a separate traffic offense rather than merely an indication that the motorist might not have understood an officer's instructions. The police chief expressed shock at the report and promised to end the practice.

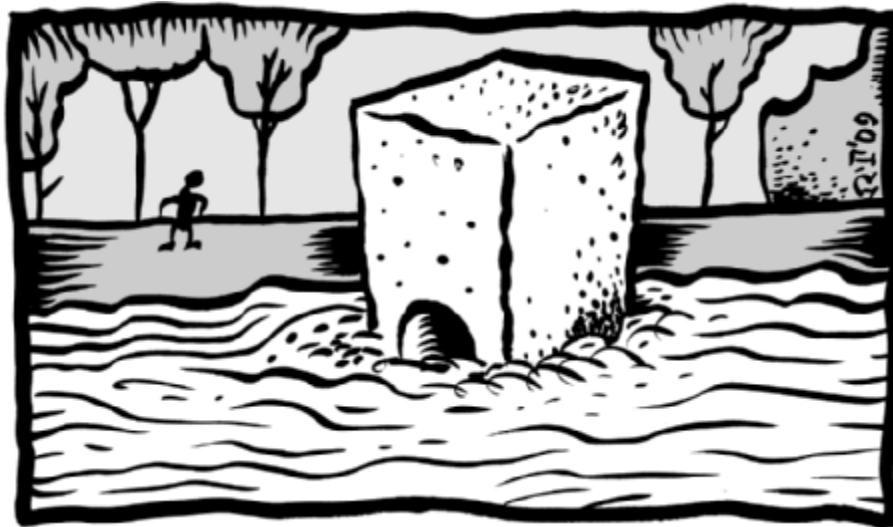
The Public Record: 1) From the Findlay, Ohio, police: "A woman called the police early Saturday morning [Oct. 31] during an argument with her husband after he claimed that the woman's daughter performed oral sex on him, and the daughter was better at it." 2) From the *Steamboat Pilot* (Steamboat Springs, Colo.), Nov. 4: "Police were called to a report of a suspicious incident in the 2900 block of West Acres Drive, where a woman reported that she found feces in her toilet that she did not think she put there."

Justifiable Felonies? 1) Five people were arrested in Los Angeles in October and charged with kidnapping and torturing two "loan modification" agents who had taken fees while promising to save their home from foreclosure but had allegedly failed to help. 2) Daniel Adler, 61, was arrested in October in Stony Point, N.Y., and charged with assault. Police said Adler had been solicited by a Sears Home Improvement telemarketer and had agreed to an appointment but that when the employee arrived, Adler allegedly punched him in the face. Adler said he had scheduled the appointment only to "advise" Sears, in person, to stop calling him.

• Oops! In an October incident, an off-duty Jacksonville, Fla., sheriff's deputy forgot to leave her service weapon outside when accompanying her mother to Shands Jacksonville hospital for an MRI. The powerful magnet sucked her Glock away in a flash, trapping the deputy's hand between the machine and the gun. Repairs, plus the lengthy powering-down and repowering of the machine, was said to have cost the hospital \$150,000.

# NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Engineering student Ken Kitamura, 19, drowned in the Yodogawa River in Osaka, Japan, in August. He and several colleagues had constructed a prototype canoe made of concrete, and Kitamura was the first to try it out.

## GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

Google 1, FBI 0: In September, Nebraska prison guard Michal Preclik, 32 (who had been on the job for a year and had just been promoted), was discovered to be on the lam from Interpol for drug and fraud crimes in the Czech Republic. The corrections department's background check, on the FBI's National Criminal Information Center database, had turned up nothing, but when officials subsequently Googled Preclik, the Interpol wanted poster was one of the top results.

Promoting the General Welfare in Malaysia: 1) The government of the state of Terengganu initiated a campaign in November to halt the growing divorce rate by offering premarital classes in sensuality. Also, because newlyweds have identified spousal body odor and ugly pajamas as turn-offs, the government invited cosmetics firms and lingerie sellers to improve their offerings. 2) The chairwoman of the family and health committee of Malaysia's Kelantan state suggested in October that male legislators should take, as additional wives (permitted under Islam), some of the 16,000 unmarried mothers now dependent on state support.

U.S. Homeland Security officials confirmed in October that an estimated 200,000 temporarily admitted foreign visitors to the U.S. since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks are still in the country illegally, with overstayed visas, and that there is still no system in place to catch them. The problem had surfaced in September when a 19-year-old Jordanian man (legally admitted on a since-expired tourist visa) was arrested and accused of plotting to blow up a Dallas skyscraper. He had been

arrested two weeks before that on a traffic violation, and even though he was on a FBI watch list because of visits to a jihad website, he had no immigration "record" and thus was released after paying the traffic fine.

## DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

When the Democratic Party of the Revolution candidate for president of Mexico City's most populous borough lost in the primary this year, party officials hatched a plot to elevate a street peddler, "Juanito" Angeles, to run in the general election, with the understanding that he would step aside if victorious, in favor of the original candidate, Clara Brugada. Helped by his "everyman" image (according to a *New York Times* dispatch), Angeles won the election. However, his sudden power and celebrity apparently went to his head, and he refused to relinquish the presidency. (He finally agreed, in September, but only after receiving concessions from the party.)

Florida Democracy in Action: 1) When a Broward County Republican club held its scheduled meeting in October at a local gun range (according to a *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* report), among the shooters was the congressional candidate trying to unseat the Democratic incumbent, and on his target as he fired away, someone had written the Democrat's initials. 2) Also in Broward County in October, the father (a Democrat) of County Commissioner Stacy Ritter was arrested and charged with threatening his daughter at gunpoint. The father was running for mayor of Tamarac and was upset that his daughter had endorsed his opponent.

## UNDIGNIFIED DEATHS

William Evans, 57, on trial in St. Augustine, Fla., in August for a sex crime that occurred nearly 30 years ago (but not erased by the statute of limitations), committed suicide while away from the courthouse, awaiting the jury's decision. Without knowing that, the jury came back and declared him not guilty.

## A 'NEWS OF THE WEIRD' CLASSIC (APRIL 1999)

"News of the Weird" reported in October 1998 the on-the-job death by snake bite of serpent-handling preacher John W. (Punkin) Brown Jr. (In a landmark book on Southern snake-handling preachers, *Salvation on Sand Mountain*, Brown was called the "mad monk," the one most "mired" in the "blood lust of the patriarchs.") Because Brown's wife had died three years earlier (of a snake bite during services in Kentucky), the Browns' three orphans were objects of a custody fight between the two sets of grandparents. In February 1999, the wife's parents won primary custody, in a Newport, Tenn., hearing, largely because Mr. Brown's parents were not able to refrain (despite a judge's orders) from taking the grandkids to snake-handling services.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at  
[www.newsoftheweird.blogspot.com](http://www.newsoftheweird.blogspot.com)  
(or [www.newsoftheweird.com](http://www.newsoftheweird.com)).

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or [weirdnewstips@yahoo.com](mailto:weirdnewstips@yahoo.com).  
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**STROKE SUPPORT GROUP** RSVP for an open discussion with other stroke survivors and their friends and families. 4:30pm. St. David's Rehabilitation Hospital, first floor, day-program area, 1005 E. 32nd, 544-8677. Free.

**BUBBLES & BURGERS FUNDRAISER** Food, drinks, live music, and silent-auction items from local celebrities raise money for the Austin Children's Shelter. Singer/songwriter Larissa Ness and NFL quarterback Jeff Blake assist in the bidding and entertainment department. 5:30pm. The Hub, 3815 Dry Creek Dr., 432-5390. \$25 (\$20, advance).

**EAT AND SHOP FOR WRIGHT HOUSE** How easy is that? Do two things that come oh so naturally, and money goes to Wright House! County Line and Cannoli Joe's provide the free yums. 6-8pm. Saks Fifth Avenue, 9722 Great Hills Trail, 231-3700. [www.thewrighthouse.org](http://www.thewrighthouse.org).

**BICYCLE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING** This monthly public meeting gathers to set priorities and advise city staff on bicycling issues. 6:30pm. One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., 203-7626. [www.austineconetwork.com](http://www.austineconetwork.com).

**DRISKILL'S BIGGEST LITTLE HOLIDAY PARTY** If your small office wants to be a part of a big party, then sign up for this gourmet buffet and reception featuring fortune tellers, the Matt Wilson Band, and two complimentary drink tickets. 6:30-11:30pm. The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 391-7143. \$45. [www.driskillhotel.com](http://www.driskillhotel.com).

**LABYRINTH CELEBRATION** The children of the Austin Discovery School lead this daylong event culminating with candlelit song surrounded by the school's mazelike garden. 6:30pm. Austin Discovery School, 8509 FM 969 #200, 674-0700. [www.austindiscoveryschool.org](http://www.austindiscoveryschool.org).

**NORTHEAST METRO PARK PUBLIC MEETING** Learn what this Pflugerville park has in store for your outdoor enjoyment. Rumor has it that a skate park is a large component. 6:30pm. Travis County Commissioners Courtroom, 314 W. 11th. Free.

**ENDING MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL IN APPALACHIA** Scott Parkin of the Rainforest Action Network discusses the actions being taken to end this form of strip mining that literally blows the tops off mountains. 7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free. [www.monkeywrenchbooks.org](http://www.monkeywrenchbooks.org).

**VODKA LAUNCH PARTY** The Beauty Bar now has its own brand of vodka, and while we haven't tried it, we're sure you can choke it down knowing that a portion of the money goes to breast cancer awareness and education. A DJ set by Brian Tweedy and raffles keep the spirit of giving alive all night. 7-10pm. Beauty Bar, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943. Free. [www.beautybar.com](http://www.beautybar.com).

**BIG QUEER BINGO** Drag queers! Disco balls! Cash prizes! Pull-tab bingo! Glitz! Glam! Sparklies! And pride! Pride, people! Raffle tickets for \$1. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for Rusty's toy drive and get extra raffle tickets. 8pm. Rusty Spurs, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002. Free. [www.goodwheelchairs.org](http://www.goodwheelchairs.org).

**JINGLE BELL JUBILEE** Got your bells on? Yeah, we know where, too. Come fundraise and fun-raise with Capital City Men's Chorus, River City Pops, United Court featuring the darlings Simone Riviera and Dee Dee Davis, Holy Cross Liturgical Dancers, Brett Bachus, Rob Faubion's Cabaret, and more. 8pm. ACC East-view, Bldg. 8000, 3401 Webberville Rd., 236-8901. Free/\$10 suggested donation. [www.thewrighthouse.org](http://www.thewrighthouse.org).

**LA PASTORELA** The Austin Latino Theater Alliance presents this bilingual musical comedy about a group of shepherds trying to reach Bethlehem while savvy devils attempt to thwart their progress. Through

THURSDAY, DEC. 17 TO THURSDAY, DEC. 24

# calendar

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/COMMUNITY

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

Dec. 19, Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 241-9799. \$12; \$8, students & seniors; Thursdays by donation. [www.lapastorela.org](http://www.lapastorela.org).

**ART FROM THE STREETS GIFT DRIVE** Bring art supplies and get half off the night's cover. Venessa Lively and Will Evans Project headline the evening. 8:30pm. Momo's, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848. \$8. [www.artfromthestreets.org](http://www.artfromthestreets.org).

**LIPSTICK PAGES HAPPY KISSMAS** It's that time of year to give thanks for the contributions of women to the arts. Live music, comedy, and more make giving to your local lit-lady webzine easy. 9pm. Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043. \$5 suggested donation. [www.thelipstickpages.net](http://www.thelipstickpages.net).

**LISA MARSHALL ROCKS** Haven't seen her perform yet, but her voice could coax blood from a stone, butter from a duck, and something darned tasty from a turnip. We hear tell this is a regular residency. 10pm. T.C.'s Lounge, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200. [www.lisamarshallmusic.com](http://www.lisamarshallmusic.com).

**THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM** If you can dream it, you can do it. And if you can dream Rebecca Havemeyer and Stanley Roy, you can probably do them, too. Thu.-Fri., Dec. 17-18, 10pm. Lamberts, 401 W. Second, 494-1500. \$10.

**THAT TIME OF THE YEAR** Saffire T. Stone's other incarnation, Olin, performs in this holiday hoop-de-doo. Thu.-Sat., Dec. 17-19. Sam Bass Community Theatre, 600 N. Lee St., Round Rock, 512/244-0440. [www.sambasstheatre.org](http://www.sambasstheatre.org).

**ZILKER TREE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL** No Trail of Lights this year, but the tree is still available for spinning under. There is nightly entertainment, concerts, and a lighted pedestrian footpath display to help you from going into twinkly-light withdrawal. Through Dec. 21, 6-10pm. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700. Free. [www.cityofaustin.org/tol](http://www.cityofaustin.org/tol).

**ART OPENINGS** (See Visual Arts.)  
**D Berman Gallery**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)  
**A Christmas Story** @ Paramount, 7pm  
**Miracle on 34th Street** @ Paramount, 9pm  
**RiffTrax Live: Christmas Shorts-Stravaganza**  
@ Hill Country Galleria, CM Cedar Park, Metropolitan, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, 7pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)  
**Athens v. Sparta** Hyde Park Theatre  
**The Gary, the Great Nostalgic, ST 37** Stubb's  
**Rosie Flores Christmas Show** Continental Club

## FRIDAY 18

**URBAN FOREST STEWARDS CLASS** Sign up online for the four-part class or just stop in for this one session and learn what you can do to protect Austin's urban forests. 1pm. Terrazas Library, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez, 472-7312. [www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org).

**ROSE'S BUFFET & FIND FRED** Fit for a queen — who may no longer be “fit” after this indulgence. Then stay for Find Fred. Kind of like *Where's Waldo?* but with color-coded name tags. Red = “Run in opposite direction”; yellow = “Proceed with caution, I have issues”; and green = “Zoom, zoom! and I hope you're paying.” Fridays, 5:30pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

**POLAR EXPRESS PARTY** Bring your pillow and pajamas for crafts, songs, hot chocolate, and a bedtime story: *The Polar Express*. 6pm. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. [www.wblibrary.org](http://www.wblibrary.org).

**NORTH AMERICAN ART DISCUSSION** Lipan Apache artist Julia Nava discusses the traditional art commonly known as God's Eyes and how they link to indigenous Mexican culture. 7pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885. Free. [www.resistenciabooks.com](http://www.resistenciabooks.com).

**THANK GOODNESS I'M BI** It's the ambisexualerous happy hour! Look for room directly across from the dartboards. First and third Fridays of every month, 7pm. Opal Divine's Freehouse, 700 W. Sixth, 370-9573. [www.main.org/binetaustin](http://www.main.org/binetaustin).

**CHRIST FORETOLD CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION** Music, live animals (and actors), and a multimedia display help give you a little religious background on this thing called Christmas. It wasn't named after the baby Jesus for nothing. Bring a wrapped toy for the Pleasant Hills Children's Home. 8pm. Pursuit Church/Club Realm, 12636 Research Ste. A-102, 459-9101. \$5. [www.thechristforetold.com](http://www.thechristforetold.com).

RECOMMENDED  
YOUNG ONES  
GAY PLACES

BY KATE X MESSER

## gayplace

**UNDER THE GAY PLACE TREE/BUSH** Making lists. Checking them twice. Some Gay Placers are naughty. Some Gay Placers are nice. Which category do you fall in? And what would you like under your tree from us? Is it tacky to ask? Personally, we'd like the obligatory world peace with a side of gay marriage thrown in for good measure. Other than that, we hope all of our L, G, B, T, Q, etc. friends find peace (or a piece, if that is the wish) this holiday season. It's tough on lots of us. Loneliness, family disownment, family dysfunction, financial woes .... Sure, those crises know no orientation barrier, but they sure don't feel any prettier with a rainbow glow. And despite being a population that is often characterized as having the “plus” of members being “able” to choose their own families (hey, even MREs are tasty when you're hungry), I don't know a queer who is totally

oblivious to birth-family issues during these sentimental holidays. No wonder we focus on prezzies. So here's my list. For now, I wish Gay Place blogger **Andy Campbell** a VIP package trip to P2 in New Orleans next year. For recently departed (across the state, not the other kind) blogger **Ash**: a fully stocked dressing room with a big star on the door and contract riders that fulfill her every dream. For new blogger **Frank Rivera**: a chance to meet all the nice boys with nice toys he desires. And for all of them, and to the new blog kids we are revealing over the next few weeks, the energy to post and post often. For me? Santa knows what I want. I'm pretty open to dimensions, big guy. Just have her under the tree in time for New Year's. You know exactly where to stick that big red bow. Happiest of holidays, loves; your pals at the Gay Place wish you Festivus cheer and a faboo new year.

Send gay bits to  
gayplace@  
austinchronicle.com.  
Visit  
austinchronicle.com/  
gayplaceblog.



L - R: HOLIDAY SING-ALONG (SEE MONDAY) | TEXAS STARS (SPORTS, P.67) | DIONYSUS IN 69 (ARTS, P.66) | AVATAR (FILM, P.72) | SISTER CAROL (MUSIC, P.81)

**PUERTO RICAN CHRISTMAS PARTY** The Capital Chapter of the Borinqueneers Motorcycle Club hosts this celebration featuring the music of Orquesta Trabuko and DJ Figgs. There will also be some Puerto Rican food to keep your energy up on the dance floor. E-mail to RSVP 9pm-2am. *Copa Bar & Grill, 217 Congress, 479-5002. \$10. ccborinqueneersmc@hotmail.com.*

**PARADISE TITTY** Yes, it's all Axl, all women. And we can't resist but say it again: If it were "Paradise Kitty," it would be all cats. 10pm. *Club de Ville, 900 Red River, 457-0900.*

**VENUS VELVET VARIETY HOUR** Finally, a combination of holiday flair and bodily flare. Just the sort of libido-spiking spectacle you'd expect from members of the Jigglewatts, Carousel Cabaret, and Kitty Kitty Bang Bang. 10:30pm. *Momo's, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848. \$10. www.myspace.com/venusvelvetkbb.*

**CAZWELL LUVS CUSTOMERS** Get there early for the buffet and Babbist Women, and stay late as Mr. "All Over Your Face" blows his proverbial ... you know. 6pm, buffet; 7:30pm, Babbist Women; 11pm & 1am, Cazwell. *Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823. www.oilcanharrys.com.*

**CELTIC CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL** Local and international artists come together to do the holidays right. Everything from choral arrangements to traditional music should be expected, because no one does Christmas quite like Irish Catholics. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 18-19, 8pm. St. Mary's Cathedral, 203 E. 10th, 431-6290. \$25. www.celticcenter.org.*

**CHILDREN'S NUTCRACKER** The Austin City Ballet presents this ninth annual *Nutcracker* for the kids. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 18-20. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 496-5937. \$22 (\$17, children). www.austin-conservatory-arts.com.*

**JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN** is a live, interactive nativity trail with costumed actors portraying the moments following the birth of Christ. *Fri., 7-9pm; Sat.-Sun., 6-9pm. Wizard Academy, 16221 Crystal Hills Dr., 394-0226. Free. www.wizardacademy.org.*

**POINT FOUNDATION LGBT SCHOLARSHIPS** Hey students! Apply to the nation's largest scholarship-granting org for LGBT students of merit. *Applications available now. Deadline Fri., Feb. 12, 2010. shannon@pointfoundation.org, www.pointfoundation.org.*

**LA PASTORELA** (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM** (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**ZILKER TREE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL** (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)

*A Christmas Story* @ Paramount, 9pm  
*Miracle on 34th Street* @ Paramount, 7pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**Sagittarius Ball** Beauty Bar  
**Paradise Titty** Club de Ville  
**Layne Garrett, Goldman's Sac** Austin Moose

Lodge No. 1735

**At All Cost** Red 7

**Winter Solstice Disco** The Scoot Inn

**Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Butch Hancock** Saxon Pub

## SATURDAY 19

**AUSTIN PRIDE BUILD** Join Habitat for Humanity to beef up some humanity (not to mention your muscles) and make some new pals as you build a house for a friend. *Saturdays, 8am. RSVP for location, 472-8788. Free. www.austinhabitat.org/programs/current/pride.php.*

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Scottish Rite offers this interactive take on the holiday classic with original songs for young audiences. Scrooge learns about kindness and sharing and so can your kids. Call or go online for tickets; only a limited number of tickets will be available at the door. *Sat., Dec. 19, 10am; Sun., Dec. 20, 11am. Austin Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. \$15 (\$12, kids; \$5, infants). www.srct.org.*

**RAISING ORGANIC EGGS** Are the kids asking for a puppy this holiday? This instructional class will sway the kids toward a more productive pet: a chicken. The little ones will learn the benefits of and how to care for laying hens. 10am. *PermaCulture Center, 12 Lone Oak Trail, 423-1050. \$15 suggested donation. www.docjody.com.*

**SPACESHIP SATURDAYS** Get the morning started with the sounds of Laura Freeman & the Hey Lollies singing songs about planets, monsters, and dancing snowflakes. 10-11am. *Flipnotics Coffeespace, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646. Free. www.flipnotics.com.*

**TEXAS BAMBOO SOCIETY** Get to know the different types of bamboo that thrive in Austin, and groom some bamboo yourself in the Taniguchi Japanese Garden. Hand clippers, loppers, a saw, and gloves are recommended. 10am. *Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 929-9565. Free. www.bamboocentral.net.*

**EXPERIENCE MUSIC TOGETHER** Children younger than 5 years of age and their parents are invited to sample classes by Heartsong Music. Start nurturing your kid's inner musician early. 10:15 & 11:15am. *Heartsong Music, 2700 W. Anderson #320, 371-9506. Free. www.heartsongmusictogether.com.*

**HOLIDAY HEROES** This fun-for-the-whole-family show, created by Shaun Wainwright-Branigan, explores different holiday traditions like Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and more. 11am & 1pm. *Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$9.*

**TINPLATE TRACKERS TRAIN CLUB** This open house will have a Lionel model train setup with all the fixin's. Come watch the choo-choos and inspire the next generation to keep this historic hobby alive and well. They might even let you sit behind the controls if you're kind enough to the the tip jar. Held over until Jan. 16 by popular demand. *Saturdays through Jan. 16, 11am-5pm. 117 Lavaca (next to Ill Forks). Donations appreciated. www.trainweb.org/ttat.*



## NEW Year's GUIDE

If your resolution is to plan ahead more for 2010, you might want to start by checking our constantly growing New Year's listings online at [AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/NEWYEARS](http://AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/NEWYEARS).

Or you can wait to see them in print, procrastinator.

# HISTORY. PERFORMED NIGHTLY.

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BY GERALD E. MCLEOD **daytrips**

**Katherine Anne Porter** had mixed emotions about her Texas roots. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author often embellished on her early life in poverty and even claimed to have been born in New Orleans or Chicago.

Porter was born as Callie Russell Porter in 1890 near the community of Indian Creek in southern Brown County. When her mother died, 2-year-old Callie went with three other siblings to live with her paternal grandmother in Kyle, south of Austin.

For the next 10 years, Catherine Anne Porter cared for her grandchildren until she passed away in 1901. Callie Porter took her grandmother's name, changing the "C" to a "K," as a pen name. Her grandmother appears in many of Porter's short stories, as do many of the characters that she met in Central Texas.

Porter's book *The Collected Stories* won her the most critical praise, including the National Book Award, but it was her only full-length novel, *Ship of Fools*, which brought her financial security. After a writing career that stretched from the Roaring Twenties to the turbulent Sixties, she came back to Texas as her final resting place.

After her grandmother's death, the family sold the house for \$10 to settle debts. The original house consisted of three rooms and a sleeping porch. Over the years, a series of owners doubled the size of the house. In 1995, it opened as the short-lived Katherine Anne Porter Museum. It is now the home for writers-in-residence sponsored by the Texas State University creative writing program, says Connie Todd, curator at the Alkek Library's Wittliff Collections.

In a current exhibit at the library, "The Lightning Field: Mapping the Creative Process," one of Porter's manuscripts shows the writing process from editing to finished product. Porter's personal papers went to the University of Maryland's Katherine Anne Porter Library.

"We do have a wonderful archive on Ms. Porter," Todd says. The collection is based on the author's last visit to Texas. Roger Brooks, president of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, invited the celebrated writer back to Texas two years before her death in 1980. In preparation, he had asked writers from around the world to write a note on what Porter had contributed to the art of writing.

In addition to a permanent exhibit on the making of *Lonesome Dove*, the collection's holdings include documents from Cormac McCarthy, Molly Ivins, Jim Hightower, and Sam Shepard. "Call ahead, and we'll be glad to have the materials ready for you," Todd says.

The Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center (her childhood home) is at 508 W. Center St. in Kyle and is no longer open to the public. The Wittliff Collections are on the seventh floor of the Alkek Library on the Texas State University campus in San Marcos. For information, call 512/245-2313 or go to [www.library.txstate.edu](http://www.library.txstate.edu).

963rd in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

**outoftown**

**WINGS & WHEELS** is the monthly open house of the art deco terminal at Hobby Airport and includes lunch, static aircraft tours, special programs in the Starliner Theater, tours, and admission to the museum. *Sat., Dec. 19, 10am-5pm. 1940 Air Terminal Museum, Houston, 713/454-1940. \$10. www.1940airterminal.org.*

**HILL COUNTRY CHRISTMAS** brings a winter wonderland to the waterpark with millions of lights, ice skating, bobsledding, luge sledding, food, and shopping. *Weekends, Dec. 18-Jan. 3, 5pm. Schlitterbahn, New Braunfels, 830/625-2351. \$18/\$16. www.schlitterbahn.com.*

**COUNTRY CHRISTMAS** offers a tour of a 21st century farm and displays of what Christmas was like for German settlers, plus music, dancing, storytelling, and agricultural-related educational tours. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 19-20, 11am-7pm. Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center, off TX 123 north of Seguin. Free admission; food available for purchase. www.texagedu.org.*

**COWBOY CHRISTMAS** celebrates the holidays in the Old West at this working ranch and movie set

with cowboy skits, magicians, food, exotic animals, and games. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 19-20, 10am-5pm. Enchanted Springs Ranch, Boerne, 830/249-8222. \$12/\$6. www.enchantedspringsranch.com.*

**WINE APPRECIATION CLASS** provides a new topic every month, and the classes are taught so that everyone from the beginner to the connoisseur can follow along. Classes last an hour and a half and include light cheeses. Reservations required. *Sun., Dec. 20, 3pm. Messina Hof Winery, Bryan, 800/736-9463 x244. \$20. www.messinahof.com.*

**ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING** is a special tradition started 40 years ago by President and Mrs. Johnson with carolers, a live nativity, Santa Claus, refreshments, and the spectacular tree lighting. Then, step back in time to the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm for cookies amid glowing lanterns and a traditional candlelit German Christmas tree. To wrap up the evening, take a drive through the ranch to view Christmas displays and decorations. *Sun., Dec. 20. Lyndon B. Johnson State Park, Stonewall. Donations accepted. www.tpwd.state.tx.us.*

**LUCKY LIZARD CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION** Bring the kids to the Museum of the Weird for a not-so-weird afternoon of holiday events including refreshments, crafts, a historical re-enactor reading from *A Christmas Carol*, and Santa himself taking gift requests and posing for pictures. *2-6pm. Lucky Lizard Curio & Gifts, 412 E. Sixth, 476-5493. Free. www.museumoftheweird.com.*

**HILL COUNTRY BRASS QUINTET** This quintet will play holiday tunes to get you in a shopping mood. *2:30pm. Recycled Reads, 5335 Burnet Rd., 323-5123. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

**HOLIDAY ART VIP RECEPTION** Help support DiverseArts with this social gathering of art lovers who put their wallets where their mouths are. Live music, gourmet appetizers, and drinks keep the conversation flowing. Call to RSVP *6pm. New East Arts Gallery, 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. \$25 (\$45, couple). www.diversearts.org.*

**SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET** *Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones Rd., 280-1976. Free. www.sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org.*

**WALK TO THE MANGER** Take a trip back to the original Christmas with this interactive adventure for the whole family. Participants receive messages to deliver as they travel through nine scenes on their way to Bethlehem. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 19-20, 7-9pm. St. Philip's United Methodist Church, 16321 Great Oaks Dr., Round Rock, 512/244-2175. Donations accepted. www.stphilipsumc.org.*

**LA PASTORELA** (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**CELTIC CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL** (See Friday.)

**CHILDREN'S NUTCRACKER** (See Friday.)

**JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN** (See Friday.)

**ZILKER TREE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL** (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)

**"Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas"** @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 11am  
**Friendly but Starving II: An Evening of Avant-Garde & Experimental Films** @ Austin School of Film, 7:30pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**Windsor for the Derby** United States Art Authority  
**Take 6** One World Theatre  
**Supersuckers** The Scoot Inn  
**Christmas Cacophony** Mohawk  
**Sister Carol** Flamingo Cantina  
**Paul Ray & the Cobras** Continental Club

**SUNDAY 20**

**MEDITATION CLASSES** *Sundays, 9:30-11am. Chittamani Buddhist Center, 1918 Bissel, 916-4444. \$10. www.meditationinaustin.org.*

**ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN** This week is the annual winter festival with a candle-lighting ceremony, songs, performances, refreshments, and readings. *10am. 5555 N. Lamar Ste. L-137, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org.*

**THE AFTER OURS HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS BLOWOUT** A blowout? Featuring Rebecca Havemeyer? We're picturing something donut-shaped that must be sat upon. Stanley Roy, Silky Shoemaker, Mitzzy Meyers, and Russell Reed round out the support. *9pm. Rusty Spurs, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002. www.therustyspurs.com.*

**GIVE & RECEIVE FOR STEPWISE** All that holiday shopping got you stressed out? Take a break with brunch, appetizers, drinks, Sabia's spa services, and silent auctions, with the money going to Stepwise, a nonprofit working with orphans in East Africa. *1-4pm. Sabia, 1100 S. First, 469-0447. \$45. www.hosteriaverde.com.*

**FLYING THEATER MACHINE** Parents and their 4- to 10-year-olds work together to see where this winter adventure will lead. Don't forget to bring your suggestions to keep the improv coming. *Sundays, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$5. www.flyingtheatermachine.com.*

**EDGAR'S MIMOSA HAPPY HOUR** Give Edgar a dolla. He'll make ya holla (at how cheap his mimosas are). *Sundays, 4-9pm. Sister's Edge II, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010.*



HOLIDAY HERB CAMP (SEE MONDAY)

**WASSAIL 2009** This fundraiser for Kids for Kids, a charity helping children in Darfur, mixes a little paganism in with the Christmas festivities. Carols, mummies, morris dancers, magicians, poets, minstrels, and stories all mingle for a good cause. *5:30pm. Sri Atmananda, 4100 Red River, 451-7044. \$10 (children, free). www.mundiworld.com.*

**PRISM: UT LGBT CATHOLICS** Explore what it means to be Catholic and gay, or even gay-friendly. Nonjudgmental, safe, and accepting: 100% openhearted fellowship. *6pm. University Catholic Center, 2010 University Ave., 476-7351. prism@longhorncatholic.org. www.utcatholic.org.*

**CAFE CON LETRAS** The Latin American Cultural Alliance presents an evening of Spanish-language poetry, short film, music, art, and more. Contact LACA if you would like to be a guest artist. *7pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 458-9949. \$5 (free, 18 & under). www.alianzacultural.net.*

**MAD MADAMEZ POTLUCK** Bring a dish to share with this all-female (and female identifying) group, and see what fun you can get into. *7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free. www.monkeywrenchbooks.org.*

**KARAOKE COMBAT** Throw it down, crooner. \$150 in prizes. *Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150.*

**REI BIKE DRIVE** All day, REI will be accepting bike parts and donations for the Yellow Bike Project. *REI, 601 N. Lamar, 482-3357. www.austinyellowbike.org.*

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL** (See Saturday.)

**CHILDREN'S NUTCRACKER** (See Friday.)

**JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN** (See Friday.)

**WALK TO THE MANGER** (See Saturday.)

**ZILKER TREE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL** (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)

**A Christmas Story** @ Paramount, 2:30pm  
**Lord of the Rings Trilogy Hobbit Feast** @ Alamo Ritz, 10:30am  
**Miracle on 34th Street** @ Paramount, 4:30pm  
**Santa vs. Satan** @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7, 10pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**Bill Callahan** St. David's Episcopal Church

**MONDAY 21**

**SANTA'S TOY DRIVE** Bring the kids for a photo op with Santa, and don't forget a new toy for Operation Blue Santa. *2pm. Monte Siesta Nursing & Rehabilitation, 4501 Dudmar, 892-1131. Free. www.daybreakventure.com.*

**LONE STAR LAMBDA** GLBT square dancing in Austin? Heck yeah and yeeeee-haw! Nothing square about this group. Every week. Get in on the ground floor, do-si-do. *7pm. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 W. Anderson, 418-1629. info@lonestarlambdas.org. www.lonestarlambdas.org.*



**HOLIDAY SING-ALONG** Asleep at the Wheel and several special guests help you remember all the words to your favorite holiday tunes. I'm told they do a mean "Dreidel Song." Rosie Flores opens at 7pm. 8:30pm. Zilker Park Hillside Theater, 2206 William Barton Dr., 974-6700. Free. [www.cityofaustin.org/tol](http://www.cityofaustin.org/tol).

**AUSTIN TRAVEL CIRCLE MEETING** First and third Mondays, 7pm. *Hostelling International* - Austin, 2200 S. Lakeshore, 444-2294. Free. [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austintravelcircle](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austintravelcircle).

**HOLIDAY HERB CAMP** These three-day camps teach your 3- to 9-year-old about medicinal, poisonous, and tasty plants and herbs. Holiday crafts ensure that the kids stay in the spirit of the season. Mon.-Wed., Dec. 21-23 & 28-30. Ronda's Montessori Garden, 4300 Mount Vernon, 707-8635. \$90. [www.rondasgarden.net](http://www.rondasgarden.net).

**ZILKER TREE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL** (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)

**Metal: A Headbanger's Journey** @ Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm  
**Shock Corridor** @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

## TUESDAY 22

**KOOP = QUEER** Tweak your knobs (or Heath and Stephen's): 91.7FM. It's *OutCast*, for and about the Central Texas LGBT population. You might even hear a Gay Placer on the air now and again ... or every week. Tuesdays, 6-7pm. KOOP, 91.7FM. [www.koop.org](http://www.koop.org), [www.outcastaustin.com](http://www.outcastaustin.com).

**HEY HOMO! FEMALE TROUBLE** It may not boast poodle poo eating, but it does feature cha-cha heels, trashing a Christmas tree, and the best line in American cinema, "The world of the heterosexual is a sick and boring life!" 7pm. *Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz*, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. [www.originalalamo.com](http://www.originalalamo.com).

**KARAOKE WITH MARGARET** North Austin's favorite neighborhood gay bar may not offer cash to winners, but someone might offer you \$\$ to stop singing. Tuesdays, 9pm. 'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. [www.bouttimeaustin.com](http://www.bouttimeaustin.com).

**HOLIDAY HERB CAMP** (See Monday.)

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)

**Female Trouble** @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**Gustavo Rodriguez Momo's The Cassingles Beerland Attractive and Popular Mohawk**

## WEDNESDAY 23

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR WOMEN**

Join Friendship International and women from all over the world for education in the ways of vocabulary, conjugation, and so on. 9:45am. *First Life Center of First Baptist Church*, 306 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, 512/246-1958. Free (child care available for a small fee). [auldofus@austin.rr.com](mailto:auldofus@austin.rr.com), [www.fbccr.org](http://www.fbccr.org).

**BLOGGITY BLOG BLOG BLOG** Why wait 'til Thursday? Come visit K8, Frank, Andy, and peep the new grill Lola Houston at the Gay Place Blog: Say hello, perhaps win a prize, and luv a unicorn. 454-5766. [gayplace@austinchronicle.com](http://gayplace@austinchronicle.com), [austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog](http://austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog).

**CREATIVE SPIRIT UCC SPIRIT TALK** This progressive community of faith meets as the spirit moves, now midweek. Wednesdays, 5:45pm. *Romeo's, 1500 Barton Springs Rd.*, 527-4455. [cheatham@austin.rr.com](mailto:cheatham@austin.rr.com), [www.creativespiritucc.info](http://www.creativespiritucc.info), [creativespiritucc.wordpress.com](http://creativespiritucc.wordpress.com).

**CHRISTMAS GLASS NIGHT** Pay a bit extra for a brew and get a commemorative glass to remember your holiday inebriation. 7pm. *Flying Saucer, The Triangle*, 454-8200. [www.beerknurd.com/stores/austin](http://www.beerknurd.com/stores/austin).

**BROWN BAG PARTY** A toy party with games and prizes. You know, "toys," as in the kind you might like to carry out in a brown bag. Wednesdays, 8pm. *Sister's Edge II*, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010.

**HOLIDAY HERB CAMP** (See Monday.)

**BLOGGITY BLOG BLOG BLOG** (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)

**Christmas Horror Remix: You Better Watch Out!** @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm  
**Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon** @ Alamo Ritz, 9:25pm  
**The Holy Mountain** @ Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**Alone Together Beerland**

## now ...

**2010 FAERIES DATE CALENDAR** Hey you alternative/progressive gay men who understand the goodness of all things fae, check out the new *Radical Spaces* calendar for sale. [www.osoconscious.com](http://www.osoconscious.com), [tribes.tribe.net/texasfaeries](http://tribes.tribe.net/texasfaeries).

**ASSIFIEDS** New radical queer classifieds paper. Like Craigslist, but slower! And probably less creepy. Ads accepted via snail mail. E-mail for details. Free. [campcampqueers@gmail.com](mailto:campcampqueers@gmail.com).

**BROWN SANTA** needs volunteers to help receive, prepare, and deliver toys and food to Travis County families this holiday season. If you'd like to participate, call 24-SANTA. They're also accepting donations of nonperishable 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](http://www.brownsanta.org).) *Brown Santa Warehouse*, 15400 Long Vista #101.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY** The city of Austin wants to know what you love and hate about our fair town. Don't hold anything back; that would be counterproductive. It's not just a complaining contest though; offer suggestions for the future. Go to [www.imagineaustin.net/survey.htm](http://www.imagineaustin.net/survey.htm) to participate.

**CROWSFEET CLUB** A social group for lesbians ages 35 to 78.4, or older, which meets monthly for

fun, frivolity, and frolic. *The third weekend of every month.* Free. [crowsfeetclub@gmail.com](mailto:crowsfeetclub@gmail.com).

**FAMILYLAB** provides a hands-on, experimental art experience for kids and parents. You can play and make your own take-home art projects. During regular museum hours. AMOA, 823 Congress, 495-9224. \$5 (free, children under 12). [www.amoa.org](http://www.amoa.org).

**FIRST NIGHT VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED** The New Year's large-scale art spectacle that is First Night doesn't just happen. There is a cavalcade of volunteers that keeps things looking effortless and beautiful. Volunteer shifts are three hours long, which leaves you time to enjoy a large chunk of the festivities. Go to [www.firstnightaustin.org/volunteer](http://www.firstnightaustin.org/volunteer) for more info and an online volunteer sign-up form. If your time is too precious, then consider donating \$5 to the First Night, which has had a tumultuous year and could use all the help it can get to make the fifth year bigger and better. [volunteer@firstnightaustin.org](mailto:volunteer@firstnightaustin.org).

**GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOPS** Kids and parents are invited to create their own sugary abodes made from locally baked gingerbread. Go online for a schedule of times. *Through Dec. 20. Austin Children's Museum*, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$30-35 per house. [www.austinkids.org](http://www.austinkids.org).

**INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL** is calling for submissions for its youth poetry anthology from kids in grades K-12. Deadline: Feb. 1. [alpfa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alpfa@sbcglobal.net).

**MCCOY ANIMATED CHRISTMAS DISPLAY** has 40,000 lights synchronized to 10 holiday classics that you can listen to on your radio while you watch the lights fantastic. Donations go to the Make-a-Wish Foundation. *Through Dec. 31, 5:30-10:30pm. 8304 Roan.* Donations appreciated. [www.mccoyleft.com](http://www.mccoyleft.com).

**PREORDER AMMONITE** Support local poetry and order Abe Louise Young's upcoming chapbook now. E-mail for ordering info. Release: Fri., Jan. 15. \$14 for one, \$25 for two, \$33 for three, etc. [abelouiseyoung@gmail.com](mailto:abelouiseyoung@gmail.com), [www.abelouiseyoung.com](http://www.abelouiseyoung.com).

**SANTA'S RANCH** Santa's tired of waiting for global warming to catch up to the North Pole. He's spending most of his time among the 1.5 million lights of Santa's Ranch. Get in the car, and join in the festivities. *Through Jan. 2, 6-10pm. 9561 N. I-35, New Braunfels (two miles south of Tanger Outlet Mall)*, 830/743-1293. \$20/car. [www.santasranch.net](http://www.santasranch.net).

**SPONSOR A FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS** 'Tis the season for charity. Register online and find a family or individual suitable to your penchant for giving. Give early and give often; the last day to help folks for Christmas is Dec. 23. *The Christmas Bureau of Austin & Travis County*, 7301 Burnet Rd. #108, 453-3950. [www.cbofaustin.org](http://www.cbofaustin.org).

## 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. 1 issue is Monday, Dec. 21.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:

**UPCOMING FOODIES** Foodies: la lez e-mail-based social network shall, for the holidays, present a New Year's Eve (with no Adam!). Wanna know more? E-mail Kitty to get on the list. [beatsago@aol.com](mailto:beatsago@aol.com), [www.foodiesaustin.com](http://www.foodiesaustin.com).

**WASTEWATER AVERAGING** The Austin Water Utility has begun its annual wastewater averaging cycle, which means your billing rates will depend on your usage over the next few months. If you weren't conserving already, now's the time to do it and save money for all of next year. Go to [www.cityofaustin.org/water](http://www.cityofaustin.org/water) to find out more or learn the specific dates for your averaging.

**WIMBERLEY TRAIL OF LIGHTS** has seven acres of lights designed by more than 100 local businesses. Roast a weenie or a marshmallow before jumping on the Jingle Express with the kids. Live entertainment and special events occur throughout the holiday season. *Open daily (weather permitting), 6-9pm. The EmilyAnn Theatre*, 1101 FM 2325, Wimberley, 512/847-6969. Free (donations appreciated). [www.emilyann.org](http://www.emilyann.org).

## & later

**CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY** Learn about the many functions and operating procedures of the Austin Police Department. The next session starts March 2. For more information or an application, visit the APD website. [www.cityofaustin.org/police](http://www.cityofaustin.org/police). 974-5941. [dennis.farris@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:dennis.farris@ci.austin.tx.us).

**DISCO XMAS!** Santa's got a brand new bag. We mean, European shoulder murse. Come witness where Christmas balls, disco balls, and lots of balls meet. Fri., Dec. 25. *Oilcan Harry's*, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

**FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER AT CHARLIE'S** Home alone on the holiday? So what if you're no Macaulay Culkin. Get the hell out of the house, and go get dinner. For free. For realz. With your big, gay family. The food is yum (not to mention free!), and the company is as warm and friendly as it has always been, year after year for decades. Fri., Dec. 25, 1pm. *Charlie's Austin*, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. Free. [www.charliesaustin.com](http://www.charliesaustin.com).

**NEW YEAR'S GUIDE** New Year's is not the time to procrastinate. Make your party plans now using our handy guide at [austinchronicle.com/newyears](http://austinchronicle.com/newyears). If you have someone to kiss at midnight, they'll thank you for your forethought.

Kate X Messer (Gay Place): [gayplace@austinchronicle.com](mailto:gayplace@austinchronicle.com).

Mark Fagan (Sports): [gameplans@austinchronicle.com](mailto:gameplans@austinchronicle.com).

James Renovitch (everything else): [calendar@austinchronicle.com](mailto:calendar@austinchronicle.com).

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, 454-5766 or [brenner@austinchronicle.com](mailto:brenner@austinchronicle.com).

For FAQs and an online submission form, go to [austinchronicle.com/commform](http://austinchronicle.com/commform).

NEED A LAST-MINUTE GIFT THAT DOESN'T REEK OF BIG-BOX DESPERATION? TRY SOME OF THESE UNIQUE AND LARGELY LOCAL BAZAARS.

**ARABIC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** Arabic music, belly dancing and belly-dance classes (free with purchase of dance card), complimentary Arabic sweets, candy, and coffee – all of these accompany a bazaar full of goodies from Syria, Egypt, and Morocco for your exotic holiday gift. Sun., Dec. 20, 11am-6pm. *Arabic Bazaar*, 5013 Duval St., 533-9227. [www.wmdproductions.com](http://www.wmdproductions.com).

**CHRISTMAS TIENDITA** Find a unique gift (jewelry, posters, books, art, etc.) at your local community bookstore. Noon-6pm. *Resistencia Bookstore*, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885. [www.resistenciabooks.com](http://www.resistenciabooks.com).

**SOUTH AUSTIN ARTIST CO-OP HOLIDAY BAZAAR** Photography, digital art, woodworking, jewelry, and more help you get that special something for the artistic soul in the family. Fri.-Sun., Dec. 18-20, 10am-8pm. *MarketPlace Austin Westgate*, 6800 West Gate Blvd., 433-9997. Free. [www.southaustinartistcoop.com](http://www.southaustinartistcoop.com).

**78704 ARTISAN MARKET** has arts and gifts handcrafted by local artisans. Saturdays & Sundays, 11am-6pm. *Corner of South Congress & Gibson*, 914-3403. [www.weare78704.com](http://www.weare78704.com).

**KEEP AUSTIN BIZARRE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** More than 60 local artists and small businesses will be displaying their wares for your shopping enjoyment. Live music, dance performances, circus acts, and more will keep you entertained. Fri.-Mon. Dec. 18-21, 11am-10pm. *Fiesta Gardens*, 2101 Bergman, 524-1720. Free. [www.KeepAustinBizarre.com](http://www.KeepAustinBizarre.com).

**STITCH LAB GRAND OPENING** The new home for textile, arts, sewing, and crafts classes through open the doors wide with more than 20 local designers, baked goods, and door prizes. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 19-20, noon-8pm. *Stitch Lab*, 1000 S. First, 440-0712. [www.glitzkrieg.biz/glee](http://www.glitzkrieg.biz/glee).

**ACCESS GALLERY HOLIDAY SHOW** More than 20 artists show off their sculptures, paintings, magnets, ornaments, and all sorts of what-have-you. The artists receive 80% of the sales. *Through Jan. 9. Access Gallery*, 3701 Guadalupe #103, 323-6626. Free. [www.vsatx.org](http://www.vsatx.org).

**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. *Through Dec. 24, 11am-11pm. Austin Convention Center*, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 447-1605. \$3, weekdays till 7pm; \$6, evenings and weekends. [www.armadillobazaar.com](http://www.armadillobazaar.com).

For more local gift ideas, see "Homies for the Holidays," p.34.

# arts listings

## Dionysus in 69

The Off Center, through Dec. 20  
Running time: 1 hr, 30 min

The mountain outside the city is where it all went down. The dancing. The drinking. The caressing of the flesh. And, later, the tearing of the flesh as well. The women of Thebes went there to join in the rites

of the new god in town, Dionysus, and the city's ruler, Pentheus, tempted by the rumors of their ecstasy, ventured after them to see the spectacle. But Dionysus, stung by the king's disdain, tricked the Theban women into ripping the man to pieces.

The mountain is where it always goes down – that place beyond the city walls and the constraints of society's laws and codes, where figures of drama and literature have traditionally found liberation, freedom, and new knowledge of themselves, for good or ill. It's the wood to which the young lovers flee in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the river where Huck Finn is at home. In *The Bacchae*, that Greek tragedy from which *Dionysus in 69* was drawn, it is the chaos to Thebes' order, the ecstatic release to society's restraint.

In producing *Dionysus in 69* as it was originally staged more than 40 years ago, the Rude Mechanicals take us to the mountain in more ways than one. They create not only that space of ecstatic ritual described by Euripides but also, in a rough room next to the Rudes' home stage, the Dionysian space that the Performance Group made in 1968: a space beyond the walls of conventional theatre, one in a Greenwich Village garage, where the barriers between playgoers and players were smashed, the lines between player and character blurred. This "environmental theatre" fashioned by the group and director Richard Schechner proved influential to generations of experimental theatre troupes, the Rudes not least among them.

But in their diligent efforts to reconstruct this revolutionary production as faithfully as they can, the Rudes have uncharacteristically confined themselves within the choices and movements of other actors. Thomas Graves is not just playing Dionysus but playing the original production's William Finley playing Dionysus; we get Josh Meyer



as William Shepherd as Pentheus. It puts this Dionysian gang in the paradoxical position of submitting to order as it re-creates chaos – the Rudes recast as Pentheus to get to the mountain they desire. This mad challenge is one they meet in typical Rudes style, by committing to it fully. It's evident in the physical – the way the actors all shed their clothes, say, and move freely in the nude – but even more in the spiritual, in the abandon with which they dance and the tenderness with which they caress compliant audience members, in the urgency with which Meyer races around the space trying to silence those mocking him, in the roguish command of Graves. In their playing is a sense of surrender that echoes the bacchantes' yielding of themselves to their god.

You can't watch the Rudes' re-creation without being conscious of the gap in time between *Dionysus'* creation and today. It's too broad to miss, and it's all some playgoers will see; to them, the show will appear to be just an intriguing intellectual exercise in historical reconstruction or else hopelessly dated hippie-theatre shit. But if you can cast one eye beyond that to the source – that is, Euripides' drama – this production has the power to take you to another place: the seat of tragedy. For all its latter-day busting of theatrical convention, *Dionysus in 69* always returns to good old-fashioned narrative, to that ancient story of order pitted against chaos, mind against body, man against god. The Rudes play to that, and their commitment also allows us to feel their characters' pride and yearning and horror. Ultimately, their re-creation invites us to experience this story in a rare and personal way, stepping outside ourselves and into the skins of the bacchantes. "Come to the mountain," the actors say as the show opens. "Let the dance begin."  
– Robert Faures

## theatre

### OPENING

**TRAPPED IN THE CLOSET: LIVE!** Former "Best of Austin" comic Brently Heilbron returns with his word-for-word rendition of R. Kelly's cult epic, backed by an eclectic cast of lip-synching actors. *Bwah!* Thu.-Fri., Dec. 17-18, 10pm. *Salvage Vanguard Theater*, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10 (\$5, students). [www.salvagevanguard.org](http://www.salvagevanguard.org).

**THE REBECCA HAVEMEYER & STANLEY ROY CHRISTMAS SHOW** Austin's most *fabulous* pair of performers present a holiday celebration that features "spectacular chaos, mystical ritualisms, and a no-holds-barred attempt to return the Infant of Prague back to the Bacon Mantle where he belongs." Also, **Little Stolen Moments, Silky Shoemaker, Bruce Kirkland**, and New York's own **Mitzzy Meyers**. Jesus wept; Santa blushed; you will likely enjoy this gay old time. Thu.-Fri., Dec. 17-18, 10pm. *Lamberts*, 401 W. Second, 494-1500. \$10. [www.lambertsaustrin.com](http://www.lambertsaustrin.com).

**THE LONELY HIGHWAY** Sloppy Sean returns! As channeled by Hans Frank, Austin's favorite string-plucking freak-show-on-legs brings his music-spiced tales (of zombie girlfriends, the equalizing qualities of tire tools, and the headlights of cars passing in the long dark night) back to the HPT stage, abetted by live band **Glambilly** and an unerring sense of white-trash mysticism. Experiencing this show is akin to eating a Frito pie while on nitrous oxide and attempting autoerotic asphyxiation with a banjo string – and highly recommended. Fri.-Sat., Dec. 18-19, 8pm. *Hyde Park Theatre*, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$15. [www.hydeparktheatre.com](http://www.hydeparktheatre.com).

**VENUS VELVET VARIETY HOUR** "Your favorite Christmas songs performed by sirens singing, dancing, and engaging you with a sultry strip tease." Oh, my goodness. Just the sort of libido-spiking spectacle you'd expect from members of the **Jigglewatts, Carousel Cabaret**, and **Kitty Kitty Bang Bang**. Fri., Dec. 18, 10:30pm-12mid. *Momo's*, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848. \$10. [www.momosclub.com](http://www.momosclub.com).

**BAH, HUMBURG** The talented Damien Gillen's been touring this one-man version of the Scrooge tale all over the Lone Star State but now brings it (and the myriad characters he portrays, the quick-change costumery, and a sense of libido-spiking wonder) home for one night only. Mon., Dec. 21, 7pm. *Dougherty Arts Center*, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 800/838-3006. [www.thecompanytheatre.org](http://www.thecompanytheatre.org).

### CLOSING

**LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR** This seldom-seen Neil Simon comedy is a behind-the-scenes look at the making of a 1950s television variety show. Directed by Andy Berkovsky. Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5:30pm. *City Theatre*, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. \$15-25 (pay what you can, Thursdays). [www.citytheatreaustrin.org](http://www.citytheatreaustrin.org).

**THAT TIME OF THE YEAR** Here's a musical revue of original Christmas songs, Chanukah songs, New Year songs, and more from the noteworthy pens of Laurence Holzman and Felicia Needleman, as directed by David Dunlap and performed by the stalwarts of Sam Bass Community Theatre. Through Dec. 19. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. 600 N. Lee St., *Round Rock*, 512/244-0440. \$10-15. [www.sambasstheatre.org](http://www.sambasstheatre.org).

**THE EIGHT: REINDEER MONOLOGUES** What's it really like, pulling a flying sleigh all over the world for that fat slob with the ho-ho-ho and the blatant elfsploitation? The reindeer themselves will tell you the cold hard truth in this Jeff Goode holiday fantasy from Onyx Company. Through Dec. 19. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. *Studio on West*, 3408 West Ave., 294-9393. \$10.

**IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: THE RADIO PLAY** Joe Landry's adapted the classic Capra film into an old-time radio presentation, performed live onstage in the historic opera house out Bastrop way. Through Dec. 19. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. *Bastrop Opera House*, 711 Spring St., *Bastrop*, 512/321-6283. \$10 (\$8, seniors; \$7, students, veterans, military; \$5, children). [www.bastropoperahouse.com](http://www.bastropoperahouse.com).

**PETRA'S PECADO** Teatro Vivo presents the return of this heartwarming bilingual holiday comedy, written and directed by Rupert Reyes, about tortilla-maven Petra being chosen to direct her church's annual play about the Virgen de Guadalupe. Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. *Salvage Vanguard Theater*, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-6379. \$16-21 (\$13, students, seniors; pay what you wish, Thursdays). [www.salvagevanguard.org](http://www.salvagevanguard.org).

**SISTER'S CHRISTMAS CATECHISM** Return, if you will, to your parochial-school days and giggle like a heresiarch as Sister presents the story of the Nativity as if it were a crime investigation: *What happened to the Magi's gold?* [Your editor's theory: That wasn't actually Melchior; it was Danny Ocean with a long beard.] Cute Catholic comedy, on tour and in your Long Center for the holidays. Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 3pm. *Long Center for the Performing Arts*, 701 W. Riverside, 457-5100. \$27-72. [www.thelongcenter.org](http://www.thelongcenter.org).

**THE TRIAL OF EBENEZER SCROOGE** Out in Lockhart, behold this Mark Brown continuation of Dickens, in which the notorious E. Scrooge backslides from his Christmastime epiphany and sues Marley and the other cautionary ghosts for breaking and entering, emotional distress, and attempted murder. Ha! Directed by Stephen Reynolds. Through Dec. 19. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Extra show: Sat., Dec. 19, 2pm. *Gaslight-Baker Theatre*, 216 S. Main. [www.gaslightbakertheatre.org](http://www.gaslightbakertheatre.org).

**THE MOUSETRAP** Someone has committed murder at a snowbound country inn; whoever could it be, d'you suppose? Austin Playhouse presents this classic Agatha Christie mystery, directed by Don Toner. Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. *Austin Playhouse*, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$26-28 (half price, students). [www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.com).

**DIONYSUS IN 69** Because those Rude Mechanicals don't already have enough on their plates of brilliance, or so it would seem, they've decided to re-create, every now and again, pivotal events of theatre and its ilk from years past. In this first instance, it's a revitalization of what NYC director Richard Schechner's Performance Group made of Euripides' *Bacchae* back in '69. It'll be interesting to see how this wild, nudity-enhanced spectacle plays out in today's more mediated environment. Because the Rudes pull no punches, because the stage is their mutable bedlam, it'll be (at least) interesting to experience the impact regardless of meta-theatrical context. n.b. No one younger than 18 admitted without a parent or guardian. Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. *The Off Center*, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$12-25. [www.rudemechs.com](http://www.rudemechs.com).

**ALICE!** Watch as the Vortex and the Chaotic Theatre Company go all freaky on the Rev. C.L. Dodgson's *Wonderland* classic before Tim Burton's garish rendition has a chance to inundate cinemaville next year. Justin LaVergne directs this live phantasmagoria scripted by James Jackson Leach. Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 8 & 11pm; Sun., 8pm. *The Vortex*, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30. [www.vortexrep.org](http://www.vortexrep.org).

**I'LL BE SEEING YOU** Here's a reprise of the 1940s-style musical revue conjured for a big enthusiastic cast by TexArts' Todd Dellinger. It's digitally enhanced with slides and videos, yes, but it's also a live and "sparkling and warm family show" to drive any chill from your heart's deepest cockles. Through Dec. 20. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. *TexArt's Morris Theater*, 2300 Lohman's Spur. 474-8497. [www.tex-arts.org](http://www.tex-arts.org).

**THE RATGIRLS GO TO HELL** ... and you'll want to go with them, we reckon, as Austin's favorite clog-dancing, trash-talking, culture-skewering pair of feminized rodentia returns to share a journey through the Nine Circles of the Trail of Lights, pausing only to meet the likes of Stephen Colbert, the elusive Higgs Boson, and Nancy Grace along the way. Oh, the adorable dancings! You might think that a holiday extravaganza featuring **Ratgirl Rattus** and **Jobber Ratgirl** is perfect for your little kiddies – but, if you did, you'd be out of your fucking mind. Instead, bring all your favorite adult friends to see this show: They won't soon forget it. Through Dec. 19. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. *Salvage Vanguard Theater*, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. [www.gnaptheatre.org](http://www.gnaptheatre.org).

### 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. 1 issue is Monday, Dec. 21.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail:

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# sports

BY MARK FAGAN

## listings

Got a sporting event you'd like to see listed in *The Austin Chronicle*? Submit your sporty happening online at [austinchronicle.com/commform](http://austinchronicle.com/commform).

## BY NICK BARBARO **Soccer watch**

History in the making? **Barcelona** will be going after an unprecedented sixth major trophy of the year Saturday, when they take on Argentina's **Estudiantes** in the **Club World Cup** final. Barca has already won the 2009 Spanish League, Champions League, Copa del Rey, and Spanish and European super-cups. *Saturday, Dec. 19, 10am, on Fox Sports en Español.*

The **Europa League** group stage finishes up this Thursday, and the European **Champions League** round of 16 draw is Friday.

**Virginia** won the NCAA Division I men's championship Sunday, ending **Akron's** perfect season in a penalty shoot-out after a lively, but scoreless, regulation and overtime. It was the Cavaliers' sixth men's soccer title; the Zips have never won an NCAA championship in any team sport.

**St. Edward's** senior **Kim Abbott** is a first team All-American in the NCAA Division II. She led the Hilltoppers in shots and points despite splitting time between defender and forward. In Division 1, not a single Big 12 player made the three-deep All-America team, but one Austinite did: **Kaley Fountain**, a senior at Wake Forest out of Westwood High.

The **Austin Aztex** will hold their second annual **open try-outs** in Austin Feb. 13-14. This is the only open tryout for the Aztex 2010 USL-1 season; see [www.austinztex.com](http://www.austinztex.com) for more info. The Aztex are also offering a **holiday gift package**: four tickets to any 2010 game, plus a scarf or backpack, for \$49. Order by Dec. 18, and they'll deliver to your door by Christmas.

Speaking of the **USL-1** and 2010, no news is ... well, no news, as everyone waits for the **U.S. Soccer Federation** to decree, perhaps as soon as this week, what's going to happen with the currently fractured league(s?). I remain optimistic: Whatever the USSF decides, it's only going to sanction one second-division league, and in the end every team on both sides of the current schism is going to join it, and those are some pretty good teams. And as long as the Aztex stay friendly with all parties, they're in great shape to be a force in that league.



Westlake in action

COURTESY OF NATHAN KALLISON AND WESTLAKE

**TEXAS STATE Women's Basketball** Vs. Our Lady of the Lake: *Sun., Dec. 20, 1pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. [www.txstatebobcats.com](http://www.txstatebobcats.com).*

### RECREATION & FITNESS

**TRY STAND-UP PADDLING FOR FREE** The new sport of stand-up paddling has arrived in Austin, and you are welcome to come out and learn how to do it for free. All ages and athletic abilities welcome. *Saturdays, 10am-noon. North side of Lady Bird Lake under the MoPac bridge. Free. [www.supatx.com](http://www.supatx.com).*

**A SPLASH OF ROWING** Every third Saturday of the month, the folks at the rowing dock offer a free introductory lesson. Sign up by e-mailing [jen1@rowingdock.com](mailto:jen1@rowingdock.com). *Sat., Dec. 19, noon-1pm and 1-2pm. Rowing Dock, 2418 Stratford Dr., 459-0999. Free. [www.rowingdock.com](http://www.rowingdock.com).*

**TEEN GAMING TOURNEY GRANDE FINALE** Got the Mario Kart: Double Dash!! skills? Come out and prove it. This is an open-bracketed tourney for kids ages 12-18, and there will also be open play with *Dance Dance Revolution* and assorted Wii games. *Sat., Dec. 19, 1-3:30pm (noon registration). Round Rock Public Library, 216 E. Main St., Round Rock, 512/218-7000. [www.roundroctexas.gov/library](http://www.roundroctexas.gov/library).*

**TEXAS OUTDOORS WOMAN NETWORK** is open to ladies of any age who are interested in outdoor fun. *Tue., Dec. 22, 6:30pm. Austin Public Library - Terrazas Branch, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez. [www.townaustin.org](http://www.townaustin.org).*

### RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

**HIKES YOU'LL LIKE: SOUTHEAST METRO PARK** Bring your dog and a sack lunch to enjoy after this five-mile hike. Meet at the trailhead at the parking lot. Go to the website to RSVP. *Sun., Dec. 20, 10:15am. Southeast Metro Park, 383-1191. Free. [www.hillcountryoutdoors.com](http://www.hillcountryoutdoors.com).*

**VERN'S NO FRILLS 5K - RACE NO. 9** No frills and no cost for students. A timed certified course with water provided during and after the race, on the third Saturday of each month, with the proceeds going to Williamson County Parks & Recreation. *Sat., Dec. 19, 8am. Berry Springs Park & Preserve, Georgetown, 1801 C.R. 152, 512/724-3774. Free (students K-12), \$1 (adults).*

**AUSTIN DUATHLETES RED DRESS RUN** Yes, they really want you to wear a red dress (dudes too) as you participate in this run/bike/drive pub run. If driving, make sure to designate a sober driver. Awards go to the best-dressed man and woman. *Fri., Dec. 18, 6:30pm. Jack & Adam's Bicycles, 1210 Barton Springs Rd., 472-5646. Free. [www.austinduathletes.com](http://www.austinduathletes.com).*

### HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a drizzly afternoon last Saturday, Westlake defeated Katy Cinco Ranch, 42-27, to earn a spot in the Class 5A Division I championship game. The **Chaparrals** (13-2) will face **Eules Trinity** (also 13-2) *Sat., Dec. 19, 2pm, at the Alamodome (100 Montana St., San Antonio), for the right to be called state champions for the rest of their lives.* If you have ever seen *Friday Night Lights*, you know it's a big deal. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster outlets and are \$18 for the reserved club level seats and \$15 general admission. The 5A Division II championship game follows at the Alamodome at 7pm featuring **Abilene vs. Katy**.

Lake Travis is looking for the threeppeat as they've reached the Class 4A Division I state title game for the third straight year! If anything deserves an exclamation point, that does. LT routed Pearland Dawson 57-12 at Kyle Field in College Station last weekend. **Lake Travis** will face **Longview** (who is in their second straight title game) *Sat., Dec. 19, 6pm, at Floyd Casey Stadium (3088 Burnett Ave., Waco).* Austin hosts the Class 4A Division II championship game featuring **Aledo vs. Brenham** *Sat., Dec. 19, 1pm, Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (405 E. 23rd). [www.uil.utexas.edu/athletics/football/football\\_finals.html](http://www.uil.utexas.edu/athletics/football/football_finals.html).*

### THE MAIN EVENT

★ **ANARCHY CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING** has found a good fit at the Mohawk and returns with some cold-weather action, featuring Robert Evans and ACW Joshi Champion Portia Perez vs. Rachel Summerlyn and Darin Childs, "The Centerfold" Matthew Palmer vs. "The Infamous" Shawn Vexx, and much more. *Sun., Dec. 20, 5:15-9pm. Mohawk, 912 Red River, 825-9616. \$12 front row, \$8 general admission. [www.anarchychampionshipwrestling.com](http://www.anarchychampionshipwrestling.com).*

### THE HOME TEAMS

★ **TEXAS STARS** welcome the Grand Rapid Griffins to town with the first 3,000 fans receiving a free Texas Stars Christmas ornament. The team is also offering a family pack: four tickets, four hot dogs, and four soft drinks for \$44. Vs. Grand Rapids: *Sat., Dec. 19, 7pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/GO-STARS. \$9-50. [www.texasstarshockey.com](http://www.texasstarshockey.com).*

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Basketball** Vs. Texas Southern: *Sun., Dec. 20, 2pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$8-16. Men's Basketball* Vs. Michigan State: *Tue., Dec. 22, 6pm. Erwin Center. \$7-45. [www.texassports.com](http://www.texassports.com).*

**HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball** Vs. LSU-Shreveport: *Fri., Dec. 18, 7:30pm.*

**SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball** Vs. Concordia: *Sat., Dec. 19, 4pm. Vs. Schreiner: Sun., Dec. 20, 4pm. Corbin J. Roberston Center, Georgetown. [www.southwesternpirates.com](http://www.southwesternpirates.com).*

### UPCOMING

**RESOLUTION RUN** is a certified chip-timed 5K race through the Brushy Creek neighborhood. Runners will enjoy doughnuts, coffee, and hot chocolate before the race and black-eyed peas, bananas, oranges, water, coffee, and hot chocolate afterward. Proceeds benefit Meals on Wheels, Round Rock Serving Center, Feed the Children, and Feeding America. *Fri., Jan. 1, 11am-1pm. St. Philip's United Methodist Church, 16321 Great Oaks Dr., Round Rock, 512/694-1446. \$20. [www.resolutionrun2010.org](http://www.resolutionrun2010.org).*

**3M HALF MARATHON & RELAY** Runners will enjoy this fast downhill race, the city's third-longest distance run. Run as an individual or two-person relay team. Proceeds will benefit Any Baby Can of Austin. *Sun., Jan. 24, 2010, 6:45am. Starting line is near the 9500 block of Stonelake Boulevard, close to Baby Acapulco's, 984-7223. \$60 for individuals, \$100 for teams, prices increase after Dec. 31. [www.3mhalfmarathon.com](http://www.3mhalfmarathon.com).*

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# A Christmas Carol

Larry L. King Theatre at  
the Austin Playhouse,  
through Dec. 20  
Running time: 1 hr

You've probably seen more permutations of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* than you realize. There are definitely more variations than you'd think. Bill Murray in 1980s sleaze.

The Muppets. Matthew McConaughey and his ex-girlfriends. One in burlesque, musical versions, modern takes, an episode of *Sanford and Son*, Mr. Magoo, and countless other animated adaptations (I can't hear "Scrooge" without thinking of *DuckTales* myself). The list goes on and on. *A Christmas Carol* was the first play I and every single student in my school district saw, all of us taken to downtown Houston every year to see a classic rendition.

The story of *A Christmas Carol* is ingrained in our society. It's a simple story in a lot of ways — about redemption and the possibility that people can change and be happy — and though it's one that we're well-versed in now, more and more films, plays, musicals, etc., continue to get schlocked on top of this totemic tale.

So, aside from it being near Christmas, why should you see Austin Playhouse's latest addition to the *Christmas Carol* totem? Bernadette Nason's one-woman telling of the tale doesn't feel like a version of *Carol* at all. It feels pure and from the heart, closer to Dickens' novel itself.

The stage is simple, stately, a small staircase with two platforms. Nason walks in; removes her top hat, scarf, and coat; hangs them on the wall; and launches into *Carol*. Now, this is a one-woman show. And Nason does portray all the characters. But stating these separate facts doesn't fully connect to the statement that Nason is *A Christmas Carol*. Narrator, characters, beginning, middle, drama, humor, end, and all.

All of *Carol* being in one woman asks a lot from the storyteller, but Nason delivers. There's never any confusion as to which person she's portraying at any given moment: Each new character is given a flourish, a face, a voice, a mannerism that makes him or her crystal clear. And while storytelling does lend itself to exaggeration, it does so in a way that isn't inherently theatrical. While characters need to be distinct, I was impressed time and again by the economical nature of Nason's storytelling. Every action was deliberate and finished clearly before the next was initiated.

What I found most endearing about this *Carol* was how earnest Nason's performance was. At one point, she dances with her imaginary Cratchit spouse around a stool without so much as a hint of irony. It never feels like Nason is pandering to the crowd or going the easy route for laughs. She comes off as terminally likable, which is paramount for playing a character or 30.

There are a lot of holiday stories out there intended to warm your heart this time of year. Certainly there is a wide selection of *Christmas Carols* alone. Austin Playhouse gives one to you simply and precisely, which, during a season that can get very maudlin, is quite refreshing. Toward the end of *Carol*, the narration states of Scrooge that "his own heart laughed" with joy. That certainly seemed true of Nason in that moment, and of all the audience as well. — Avimaan Syam

## BERNADETTE NASON: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Austin Playhouse presents the acclaimed actress and storyteller in a rousing, one-woman rendition of Dickens' classic. More than 30 characters are perfectly embodied by Nason as she brings the popular Christmastime morality tale to life. See review, left. *Through Dec. 20. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$20 (\$10, students). www.austinplayhouse.com.*

**BOHEMIAN COWBOY** Raymond King Shurtz is directed by Kurt Brungardt in this son's re-creation of his honky-tonkin' father's weird-ass legacy: live music, mystery, and habitual disappearing acts. Like, gonesville, man. *Through Dec. 20. Tue.-Wed. & Sun., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$18 (\$16, seniors, students). www.hydeparktheatre.com.*

## ONGOING

**HAMLET** The Austin Drama Club presents its version of the Shakespearean chestnut, directed by the indefatigable Japhy Fernandes. E-mail for location information. *Through Jan. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Donations accepted. japhyfernandes@live.com.*

**ANNIE** Harold Gray's once-popular comic strip (about the adventures of a Depression-era orphan who, with help from her dog Sandy and a cast of wild characters, gets by on her gumption and pluck) is the origin of this still-popular musical, here staged by an exuberant cast up in Georgetown. *Through Dec. 30. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theater, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$22 (\$20, seniors; \$12, students, military; \$8, ages 15 and younger). www.georgetownpalace.com.*

**ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY** Zach's 16th annual Motown-flavored revue of holiday tunes and jingle-bell terpsichore features the usual hot lineup of golden-throated divas strutting their yuletide stuff amid a brand-new set design. Directed by Dave Steakley; recommended to toss a little tinsel onto your soul's barest tree. *Through Dec. 27. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$20-45. www.zachscott.com.*

**THE SANTALAND DIARIES** This music-spiced staging of David Sedaris' popular tale of a reluctant Macy's Christmas Elf is directed by Dave Steakley and features an effervescent **Espie Randolph** as the child-besieged Crumpet. Here's a thoroughly enjoyable performance that goes beyond its source material and will make you believe in the joy of holiday cynicism all over again. *Through Jan. 10. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$20-45. www.zachscott.com.*

## DINNER THEATRE

**A CHRISTMAS CRUISE SHIP CRIME** Gary Payne's lively Capital City Mystery Players stage their interactive comedy/mystery shenanigans aboard the cruise ship *Titanium* in this holiday show. Can you figure out whodunit while dining on plates of pasta and pesto, *paisan*? *Through Dec. 19. Fri.-Sat., 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$33.50. www.meatballs.com.*

## AUDITIONS

**INTRIGUING OPPORTUNITY IS INTRIGUING** San Saba Performance Art Projects, led by theatrical installation artist Arthur Adair, is accepting applications for upcoming auditions. Seeking serious, multi-disciplinary ensemble performers (sound, movement, story) for interdisciplinary metaphysical agitprop theatre project. Requires a commitment of 1½ years(!), for performances in Austin and New York City. They're promising "experience, not pay." E-mail for details. [adanceforthedying@live.com](mailto:adanceforthedying@live.com).

**HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES** City Theatre is seeking actors for its March-April production of this Alan Ayckbourn comedy about three married couples trying to hide their adulterous love affairs. Needed: men and women, ages 25-45. Call for appointment. *Sat., Jan. 2, 10am-noon. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. www.citytheatreAustin.org.*

## comedy

### IN THE CLUBS

**CAP CITY COMEDY** 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. Daily, 7pm-1am. [www.capcitycomedy.com](http://www.capcitycomedy.com).

**Cap City Open Mic** Hey, it could be you up there slaying your friends and neighbors as they've slain you. *Sundays, 8pm. Free with college ID.*

**Matt Sadler** This is unusual: I saw this guy perform before he did anything but open mics. Sadler was the friend of a friend, and we watched as he bravely tried the three-minute stage at the Velveta Room. "Bravely," yeah, because his material, his delivery ... eh, it needed work. It needed a *fuck-ton* of work. Then I lost track of the man, didn't see him at all for a long time. Finally caught his act in some variety show in a Starbucks five years later, and, whoa: He totally slayed the crowd. Sadler's *good* — he's sharp and polished and *damned* funny. Now, of course, y'all know this better than I do — as evidenced by his ongoing gig at KLBX 93.7FM. Or, if you don't know it, accept this recommendation: *This clever sumbitch will probably make you laugh 'til it hurts.* And Cap City's got **Trey Glayon** opening, too, which means it's a no-lose night of comedy. *Dec. 17-19. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

**Andy Ritchie** Treat yourself to an evening of laughs as this acclaimed comedian (a Montreal Comedy Festival veteran, no less) takes the Cap City stage in the nights surrounding the country's annual holiday gift-o-gasm. *Tue.-Wed. & Sun., Dec. 22-23 & 26, 8pm.*

**COLDTOWNE THEATRE** 4803-B Airport, 524-2807. [www.coldtownetheater.com](http://www.coldtownetheater.com).

**This week:** The fierce improv artists of **Parallelogramphonograph** bring their inspired antics to the local stage, abetted by their **Level 6 Grad Class**. *Thu., 8pm. American History Xmas Sketch troupe Midnight Society skewers the holidays and everything about them in this popular show. *Thu., 10pm. Eye for an iPhone* is a Second City-style sketch show led by the talented and happily hirsute **Dave Buckman**. *Fri., 8pm. Punchline Stand-up comedy, ColdTowne style:* some of Austin's best. *Fri., 10pm. Boy Toy* presents a free show, featuring the rom-com musical antics of **Le Sexy**. *Sat., 7pm. Stool Pigeon* features a local celeb of sorts jump-starting the night with a thrice-told tale. *Sat., 8pm. Cage Match* Two improv teams go all *lucha libre* on each other for your grins and giggles. *Sat., 9pm. Stone Cold Improv* features the **Frank Mills** and **Look Cookie**. *Sat., 10pm. The Late Night Show* sizzles with **Midnight Society** and **Northshore Local**. *Sat., 11pm. ColdTowne All-Stars* is a free show with the, ah, all-stars of ColdTowne. *Sun., 7pm. Oh, Science* is another free show; this one features **Escape Hatch** and **Murphy**. *Sun., 8:30pm.**

**ESTHER'S POOL** 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. [www.estersfollies.com](http://www.estersfollies.com).

**Esther's Follies: Folly Jolly Christmas** The most popular troupe in town brings you the magic of **Ray Anderson**, **Sarah Palin's Family Christmas Special**, and **Michelle Obama Sings the First Lady Blues**. George Bush is visited by the ghosts of presidents past, present, and future in *A Christmas Carol in Crawford*, and there's *The Year in Review: Swine Flu, Tea Parties, Barack's Peace Prize, and White House Beer Summits*. **Sand Scheff** opens the show with his musical comedy and cowboy croonin'. *Reservations highly recommended. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm.* No shows: *Dec. 24 & 25. Extra show: Sun., Dec. 27, 8pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.*

**THE HIDEOUT THEATRE** 617 Congress, 443-3688. [www.hideouttheatre.com](http://www.hideouttheatre.com).

**Thursday:** This latest run of **Threefer Madness** brings you a trio of improv troupes sure to titillate your sense of the extemporaneous. *8pm. \$3.*

**Friday: This Week Tonight** brings you fast and furious improv based on current headlines, slicing and dicing the latest scandals and more. *8pm. \$10. OMG, it's the Third Annual Office Party Show, starring Improv for Evil, Parallelogramphonograph, Ann Wilson, and Dav Wallace. Recommended! 10pm. \$10.*

**Saturday:** The Dickens, you say? Indeed, here's **Charles Dickens Unleashed!** It's "Improvised Tales of Bleak Victorian England," from the wild talents of Parallelogramophonograph and their friends. What a smashing idea, old bean! Family-friendly show you can bring the kiddos to: 6pm. Regular adult show resplendent with Pickwickian debauchery: 8pm. \$10. **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. Highly recommended, because it brings out the wackiest. 10pm. \$10.

**VELVEETA ROOM** 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. [www.thevelveetaroom.com](http://www.thevelveetaroom.com).

**Open Mic Night** They're coming out of the alcohol-sodden woodwork to try and make you laugh, with your host **Benjamin Johnson**. *Thursdays, 10pm.*

**Nancy Reed** Sweet and raunchy? Kind of like sugar-spiked wasabi dripping from a porn star's left flank? We won't guess, but we know this winner of the Funniest Person in Austin contest back in '94 has honed her new material to a scimitarlike sharpness. **Maggie Maye** and **Benjamin Johnson** open. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 18-19, 9:30 & 11:30pm.*

## BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

**THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK** Stand-up comedy – right there in the Hole, on the Drag, in the heart of collegiate Texas. *Tuesdays, 10pm.* *Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe. \$5.* [www.myspace.com/austincomedytrainwreck](http://www.myspace.com/austincomedytrainwreck).

**KICK BUTT COMEDY Open Mic Comedy** Bring it or have it brought to you, clever citizen. *Wednesdays, 8pm.* *Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.*

**COMEDYSPORTZ** Competitive improv? Yes, and maestro **Les McGehee** and his talented friends bring it in full force each weekend to one of the sweetest little coffeehouses in the 78704. Also, variety shows! Live music! So much goodness in this venue, in fact, that we'll be expanding this listing for the new year. *Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30pm.* *Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary. www.comedy7.com.*

**THE RATGIRLS GO TO HELL** Check out these large, female, humanoid rodents and their clever danings and comedy sketches. Note: Not for children. *Through Dec. 19.* *Fri.-Sat., 8pm.* *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10.* [wordpress.gnaptheater.org](http://wordpress.gnaptheater.org).

**SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL** Two Gnap!tastic improv troupes, one after the other, for maximum compare-and-contrast opportunities of comedy stylings and schools of prov-fu. This week: **Hugaday** and the **Knuckleball Now**. *Sat., Dec. 19, 10pm.* *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10.* [www.salvagevanguard.org](http://www.salvagevanguard.org).

## dance

**BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER** Choreographed by Stephen Mills to the timeless music of Tchaikovsky, performed by the Austin Symphony Orchestra, this *Nutcracker* is the longest-running – leaping? – in Texas. Look: It's the 47th production! But what you *really* want to know is the list of Mother Gingers, right? Here are just a few: **Art Acevedo**, chief of police; **Marc Ott**, Austin city manager; **Gail Goestenkers**, UT women's basketball head coach; **Lee Leffingwell**, mayor; **Sara Hickman**, musician; and News 8 meteorologist **Rich "Spare Us the Bad News" Segal**. Throw in an army of young dancers and professionals having a ball, and you have a holiday favorite, homegrown and ready to inspire. *Through Dec. 23. Times vary; see website for details.* *Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-2163. \$15-71.* [www.balletaustin.org](http://www.balletaustin.org).

## 1,001 NIGHTS

**ARABIC CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** It's the 10th annual Arabic souq (market) with live music, complimentary sweets and coffee, henna tattoos, belly-dance classes, and performances by members of the Bint El Balad Ensemble. *Sun., Dec. 20. The Arabic Bazaar, 5013 Duval St., 533-9227.*

**MELISSA AMIRA'S CAROUSEL CARAVAN** Jeanette hosts this monthly shimmy, featuring a host of hot belly dancers in one of Austin's coolest bars. CDs, DVDs, and costumes for sale. *Every third Saturday, 8pm.* *Carousel Lounge, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790.* *Free.* [www.carouselounge.net](http://www.carouselounge.net).

# SO! MANY! DANCE! CLASSES!

So many, in fact, that we can't print them every week. But look for them here the third week of each month – and *always* online at [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com).

**ADVANCED BALLET FOR AGES 13 AND OLDER** Ten-year Tapestry resident Stacie Stalmach brings more than 15 years of teaching and performance experience to the class. *Mondays, 6-7:30pm.* *Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails, 474-9864. \$16 walk-in fee; discounts available for students, professionals.* [www.tapestry.org](http://www.tapestry.org).

**ARGENTINE TANGO CLASSES** Laura Pellegrino offers ongoing classes for beginners, experts, and you in-betweeners in her country's sexy dance of record. *Khabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh. Full-time university students receive 50% discount.* [www.tangointexas.com](http://www.tangointexas.com).

**AUSTIN UPTOWN DANCE: COUNTRY WESTERN & SWING DANCE PARTY** This smoke-free dance party gets you kickin' up your heels (or sliding them across the bamboo dance floor) as Kristy spins C&W faves. Come early for the lesson! *Sundays, 6-9pm (walk-in two-step classes, 5-6pm).* *Austin Uptown Dance, 8868 Research #706. \$5 (\$15, walk-in special with classes).* [www.austinuptowndance.com](http://www.austinuptowndance.com).

**BALLET AFRIQUE DANCE CLASSES** Ballet Afrique's dance studio is now open and offering a wide variety of classes. See website for details. *3111 Manor Rd., 228-7060.* [www.balleteAfrique.org](http://www.balleteAfrique.org).

**BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH TWYLA GRACE** Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble teaches ongoing classes in belly dance. Call or write for details. *Mon. & Wed., 8:30-9:30pm, 12687 Research at Oak Knoll, 971-0188.* [www.twylabellydance.com](http://www.twylabellydance.com).

**BLUE LAPIS LIGHT: AERIAL DANCE WORKSHOP** Members of the high-flying group take you through the creative process, exploring movement in the air and collaborating with inspiration. All skill levels are invited to learn on a variety of apparatuses: silks, harnesses, and more. *Sun., Dec. 20, noon-3pm.* *Blue Lapis Studio, 6701 Thomas Springs Ste. A. 288-1929. \$45, cash or check only.* [www.bluelapislight.org](http://www.bluelapislight.org).

**BOLLYWOOD DANCE CLASSES** Learn Indian dance styles. Bhangra, classical, and more. Details at [www.bollywoodshake.com](http://www.bollywoodshake.com). 432-5716. Prices vary.

**BRASS OVARIES POLE DANCING** Ongoing classes for aerial hoop and static/spinning pole dance. Beginners and expert dancers are invited to learn from world-famous instructors. For more information, groove over to the website. 477-POLE. [www.brassovariespoledancing.com](http://www.brassovariespoledancing.com).

**DANCE ASSOCIATES AND AUSTIN PARD: DANCE CLASSES** Kids (ages 2 and older) can participate in dance, gymnastics, and movement classes all over town. Details at [www.danceassociatesaustin.com](http://www.danceassociatesaustin.com).

**DANCE CLASSES FOR BIGGER BODIES** A plus-sized professional dancer leads classes based on having fun moving your body and exploring jazz, ballet, ballroom, hip-hop, and other types of dancing. Open to anyone who is size-positive regardless of size! *Saturdays. Beginners, 2pm; intermediate, 3pm; performance team, 4:30-6:30pm. E-mail for location.* [www.danceswithfat.org](http://www.danceswithfat.org).

**DANCE DANCE PARTY PARTY** is an all-women, free-form dance session that happens all over the world. Someone makes a playlist, and women get to bust some sweet moves, sweat their asses off for an hour and a half, and leave feeling amazing. *Sun., Dec. 20, 7pm.* *NiaSpace, 3212 S. Congress. \$5.* [ddppaustintx.wordpress.com](http://ddppaustintx.wordpress.com).

**DANCE INTERNATIONAL** Each night features a variety of ballroom and Latin dances; each month sees the start of a new course. No partner necessary. *Sundays, 6-8pm.* *Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary.* *Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd., 32-DANCE. Fees vary.* [www.dancein.org](http://www.dancein.org).

**THE DANCE ZONE: ADULT DANCE & FITNESS CLASSES** *The Dance Zone, 2323 San Antonio. 236-9328.* [www.inthedancezone.com](http://www.inthedancezone.com).

**EGYPTIAN BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH DRAKON** Beginners to advanced dancers are invited to learn from one of Austin's favorite belly dancers. *Various locations, 295-2036, 750-7037. \$15 per class or six for \$75.* [www.desertpassion.com](http://www.desertpassion.com).

**ESQUINATANGO** Ongoing classes in Argentine tango, salsa, Brazilian samba, salsa aerobics, and more. This week: **O Positivo: Noche de Salsa** Salsa standards with classic son, mambo, and modern Cuban timba. Free mini lesson starts the evening. *Sat., Dec. 19, 9pm-1am. \$10.* *EsquinaTango, 209 Pedernales, 524-2772.* [www.esquinatangoaustin.com](http://www.esquinatangoaustin.com).

**FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES** Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tuesdays, 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance).* *Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary.* [www.fourontheefloor.com](http://www.fourontheefloor.com).

**FREE SALSA LESSONS AT APL** Various branches of the Austin Public Library host weekly salsa lessons. Raul Ramirez teaches the steps and spends a little time filling you in on the history and background of the music and dance. Lessons take place throughout the week at the Carver, Cepeda, Pleasant Hill, and University Hills branches. See the website for times. 974-7400. Free. [www.cityofaustin.org/library](http://www.cityofaustin.org/library).

**GALAXY DANCE STUDIOS: CLASSES** From cardio dance mix to sexy salsa to creative movement for kids, there's something for everyone, young and old, all week long. All classes are adult drop-in classes, unless otherwise noted as a kids' class. See website for details. *Galaxy Dance Studios, 1700 S. Lamar #338.* [www.galaxydancestudios.org](http://www.galaxydancestudios.org).

**HAWAIIAN DANCE CLASSES** The Hula Hulau Kaepa Polynesian Dance Academy is now enrolling students for beginning hula and Tahitian dance classes. Call for details. *Hawaiian Tiki Imports, 3500 S. Congress. 440-7171.* [www.tropicalevents.com](http://www.tropicalevents.com).

**ISADORA DUNCAN DANCE CAMP** Original classwork and repertory including the Tanagra figures, Bach gavottes, and Schubert waltzes as passed down through generations of Isadora Duncan dancers. *Sundara Yoga Therapy, 12636 Research Ste. C-206, 249-9201. \$175 a week.* [www.sundarayogatherapy.com](http://www.sundarayogatherapy.com).

**KICK BUTT BLUES DANCE** Ass-kickin' blues for you to shake your booty to! Food and beverages available. *Fridays (except third Friday each month), 9pm-1am.* *Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 736-2662. \$5.* [www.kickbuttcffee.com](http://www.kickbuttcffee.com).

**LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING** Belly dancing (all levels), flamenco, salsa/merengue, and more. *Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar #338, 416-8800.* [www.luciladance.com](http://www.luciladance.com).

**SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING** Lively jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys. No partner needed, but couples welcome. *Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm.* *Quicksilver Dance Center, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100, 327-2869.* *First class free.*

**SOLID CHROME DANCERS** Learn the Texas two-step and Western swing in a real honky-tonk. Singles and couples welcome. *Thursdays, 8pm.* *Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 417-7383. \$8.* [www.myspace.com/solidchromedancers](http://www.myspace.com/solidchromedancers).

**SPEAKEASY: SALSA LESSONS** Combining the classic sultry moves and one of Austin's fave hangouts with live Latin music. *Wednesdays, 9pm.* *Speakeasy, 412 Congress, 476-8017. Free.* [www.speakeasyaustin.com](http://www.speakeasyaustin.com).

**WEST AFRICAN DANCE CLASSES** Learn traditional West African dance with Jean-Claude Lessou, master dancer and choreographer from Abidjan, Ivory Coast. See website for times and locations. 507-0263. \$15. [www.africandanceaustin.com](http://www.africandanceaustin.com).

**YOGINI GODDESS MOVEMENT THERAPY** Nine goddesses offer inspiration. Women only. *Wednesdays, 7:30-9pm.* *Premiere Lady Fitness South, Westgate & William Cannon. 707-7700.* \$15 per class. [www.yoginigoddess.com](http://www.yoginigoddess.com).

**ZUMBA DANCE** Latin-inspired international music and dance steps. E-mail for details. *Tuesdays, 5:45pm; Thursdays, 7pm.* *Brushy Creek Community Center.* [zumbaustin@yahoo.com](mailto:zumbaustin@yahoo.com).

## classical music

### OPENING

**CAROLING AT NOON CONCERT SERIES** Virtuoso performances, caroling, fine cuisine (and free parking Downtown!). This week: **Music for Harp and Organ** Louisa Ellis Woodson, harp, and Austin Haller, organ. *Thu., Dec. 17, 12:05pm (lunch, 12:30pm).* *St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 610-3500. Free (\$8, with lunch).* [www.stdave.org](http://www.stdave.org).

**ADVENT NOON CONCERT SERIES** This week: **Full Circle** The women's a cappella quartet performs its uplifting message of love, joy, and power to the world through music. *Thu., Dec. 17, 12:05-12:45pm.* *St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, 345-8314. Free.* [www.stmattsAustin.org](http://www.stmattsAustin.org).

**WILL TAYLOR AND STRINGS ATTACHED: ELIZA GILKYSON** Yes! Also, Karen Mal, Steve Zirkel, Shawn Sanders, and a special surprise guest. *Sat., Dec. 19, 8pm.* *St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-2445.* [www.stringsattached.org](http://www.stringsattached.org).

**ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: SING-ALONG MESSIAH** David Stevens returns to conduct this Austin tradition. The audience sing-along includes the Orchestra of St. Matthew's and featured vocal soloists: soprano Meredith Ruduski, alto Cindy Sadler, tenor Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, and baritone David Small. Bring your own score or rent one; then find your voice section and get singing! All sorts of Christmas edibles at intermission. *Sun., Dec. 20, 4pm.* *St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, 345-8314. \$15.* [www.stmattsAustin.org](http://www.stmattsAustin.org).

**AUSTIN GIRLS' CHOIR** This Christmas concert features candlelight processions, Victorian costumes, and beloved carols in four-part harmony. *Sun., Dec. 20, 4pm.* *Tarrytown United Methodist Church, 2601 Exposition. 453-0884. \$10.*

**AUSTIN CITY BRASS ENSEMBLE** Maestro Stefan Sanders leads some of Texas' finest brass musicians in this spectacular winter concert. *Mon., Dec. 21, 7:30pm.* *St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th. 589-8495. \$15 (\$10, students, seniors).* [www.austincitybrass.com/ensemble](http://www.austincitybrass.com/ensemble).



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# 'Holiday Group Show'

Davis Gallery, 837 W. 12th, through Jan. 9  
477-4929, [www.davisgalleryaustin.com](http://www.davisgalleryaustin.com)



TIMES SQUARE BY DAVID LEONARD

It's that time of year again, art lover: when the galleries offer exhibitions featuring the artists whose works they've shown in the past 12 months or so. Such is the case at Davis Gallery,

and it's a good chance to get an overview of what the venue has to offer. It's also, particularly, a chance to see some fine art rendered in several different media.

Among the gorgeous paintings and photography that you might have glimpsed in earlier shows are new works by Susu Meyer and Caprice Pierucci. Meyer's oil-on-canvas forest scene, the first work to be seen upon entering the gallery at the corner of 12th and Shoal Creek, fairly trumpets the freshness with its subject and title: *New Growth*. This is one of several careful evocations of landscape by this oil painter.

Turn the corner into the gallery's main room and there's a sculpture by Pierucci, *Small Birch Cascade*, fashioned from the artist's typical materials of shaped and stained wood. (To say "the artist's typical materials," though, provides a tone of dullness; one may as well use that dismissive-sounding phrase to describe the materials composing a latticework made of starlight and the heart of an ancient forest god.) That birch cascade is small, though, only in comparison to the nearby Pierucci sculpture called *Vertical Birch*, which stretches to a good 6 feet of wondrous wooden height.

Due to the solid history of artists and shows associated with Davis Gallery, these

newer creations don't overshadow the other pieces displayed perfectly in the venue's intimate spaces. Sandra Langston's almost miniature "Little Bridges" and "Italian Views" series in pastel border an array of her paintings in oil, the stunning *Old Olive* foremost among the latter. Dianne Grammer also brings pastels to bear among the landscapes of this rough-hewn world.

David Leonard's vibrant oils of cityscapes offer visual counterpoint to these views of the natural realm, his *Times Square* nailing the urban tableau to a particular time (with its video billboards of Broadway shows and the distinct clothing of citizens) as well as a particular place. And, as wild animals can seem out of place in such a concrete jungle, so are David Everett's hand-carved and fully painted renditions of woodland and prairie creatures (a squirrel, an owl, an eagle, a buffalo) separated, even more than Pierucci's sculptures, into the third dimension beyond exquisitely framed flatnesses.

There's more to this show, yes — Christopher St. Leger, Julie Speed, Stella Alesi, Laurel Daniel, and still others — but we reckon we've already provided sufficient evidence that this "Holiday Group Show" is worthy of your closer attention, regardless of which holiday you might be celebrating. — Wayne Alan Brenner

## visual arts

### EVENTS

**STENSURD STUDIO OPEN HOUSE**  
Fri.-Sun., Dec. 18-20, 2-5pm. 1601 Eva.  
[www.stensrudstudio.com](http://www.stensrudstudio.com).

**FLAMING-O STUDIO ART SALE & PARTY** The South side ceramic studio of Stefanie Distefano holds a cookie-studded, cider-spiced afternoon open house with much new art. Sat., Dec. 19, 1-6pm. 402 El Paso.  
[www.flamingoranch.com](http://www.flamingoranch.com).

**BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR** One of our favorite things about this holiday season, the BGAB features more than 100 artists and crafters providing all manner of giftable original creations, from the whimsical to the breathtaking and all shades between. Through Dec. 24, 10am-10pm. 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 371-1711.  
[www.bluegenieart.com](http://www.bluegenieart.com).

### OPENING

**BROCCA GALLERY** New paintings and sculptures by local and international artists Kathleen Wilson, Gary Yarrington, Mary Morse, Tom Bishop, Bob Coffee, Augusto Brocca, and Carlos Estevez. Reception: Sat., Dec. 19, 3-6pm. Exhibition: Through Dec. 31. 1103 E. Sixth, 971-3643. [www.broccagallery.com](http://www.broccagallery.com).

**D BERMAN GALLERY: CHILL** Cold, shmold: This exhibition features work by a gathering of artists who know how to warm up a venue with intricate visual beauty: Cynthia Camlin, Sara Frantz, Jennifer Maestre, Leslie Mutchler, Raychael Stine, Steve Wiman, and Sydney Yeager. Reception: Thu., Dec. 17, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 6. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. [www.dbermangallery.com](http://www.dbermangallery.com).

### CLOSING

**WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: FEAST** Here's a celebration of all things culinary, by some of the gallery's most excellent practitioners of shape and line, color and balance, ink and oil and watercolor, and more. Works by Helmut Barnett, Carol Dawson, Angela Fife, Amy Guidry, Gordon Fowler, and others. Through Dec. 24. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. [www.wallyworkmangallery.com](http://www.wallyworkmangallery.com).

**AUSTIN ART SPACE: 12BUY12** features 89 works by 46 artists, all in the 12-inch-by-12-inch format. Through Dec. 21. 7739 Northcross, 771-2868.  
[www.austinartspace.com](http://www.austinartspace.com).

**CO-LAB: ARTIFICIAL SCARCITY** Sean Ripple initiates a process to create a ripple in the space-time continuum of contemporary art collecting as he downloads, prints, deletes, distributes, scatters, and attempts to reclaim photos from the digital realm into meatspace parameters. Closing reception: Sat., Dec. 19, 7-10pm. 613 Allen, 300-8217. [www.colabspace.org](http://www.colabspace.org).

**CREATIVE RESEARCH LABORATORY: NO LONE ZONE** This performance exhibition features past and present students from UT's Department of Art & Art History. Through Dec. 19. 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328.  
[www.flatbedpress.com](http://www.flatbedpress.com).

**ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL: AMY RINGHOLZ AND LINDA ST. CLAIR** Through Dec. 23. Austin Galleries, 1219 W. Sixth. 495-9363.  
[www.austingalleries.com](http://www.austingalleries.com).

### ONGOING

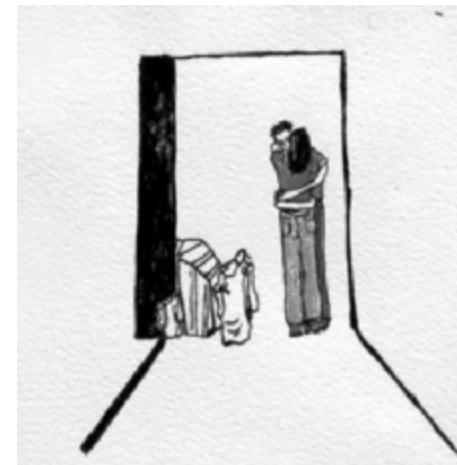
**DIBONA STUDIO** Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646.  
[www.joycedibona.com](http://www.joycedibona.com).

**EYE CONTACT ART** showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577.  
[www.eyeccontactart.com](http://www.eyeccontactart.com).

**ART IN A NUTSHELL** This is the gallery of Ismael Cavazos, a Local Colorful Character and the creator of "The Old Man in the Peanut," featuring his creations involving scribbles, drip paintings, rocks, inkblots, and clouds. And work by other artists, too. 2209 S. First, 436-6551. [www.ismaelcavazos.com](http://www.ismaelcavazos.com).

**NEW EAST ARTS GALLERY: DAVID ZVANUT** The artist's vivid creations — in two dimensions and three, in glass and metal, on canvas and board — are featured among the array of diverse works in this fine venue. 1601 E. Fifth #106.

**AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS** Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. 1219 W. Sixth.



LLEGADAS (ARRIVALS) BY GABRIELA RODRIGUEZ IS PART OF THE "MY WICKED TWISTED SENSE OF LOVE" SHOW, NOW AT WOMEN & THEIR WORK.

**360 GALLERY: DAVID STEIN** Through Dec. 30. 6720 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 346-6789.  
[www.360galleryofaustin.org](http://www.360galleryofaustin.org).

**CORONADO STUDIOS** The Serie Project, a nonprofit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. 6601 Felix, 385-3591.  
[www.serieproject.org](http://www.serieproject.org).

**GAY FAY KELLY: TEENY TINY ART** Works by Jerry De Frese, Satch Grimley, Daphne Holland, Carrie Kenny, Tim Kerr, Ashe Laughlin, Brian Johnson, Dick Lavine, Michael Long, Scott Rolfe, Mo Scollan. Call for appointment, Mon.-Fri. 478-7676.  
[www.gayfaykellyart.com](http://www.gayfaykellyart.com).

**LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: NORIKO AMBE** The New York-based artist wields surgical skill to transform already beautiful books into objects of even greater and surreal beauty. Curated by Glenn Fuhrman and highly recommended. Through Dec. 31. 360 Nueces #50, 215-4965. [www.lorareynolds.com](http://www.lorareynolds.com).

**CHAN CHAN: PHOTOS AND PAINTINGS OF CUBA** The photography of Piercarlo Abate and the paintings of Luis Abreu show a side of Cuba that's seldom seen. 81 San Marcos St. [www.piercarloabate.com](http://www.piercarloabate.com).

**STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS** New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti. 2309 Thornton.

**STUDIO2GALLERY: TRANSLATIONS: NAVIGATING CULTURE THROUGH PAPER** Juror and featured artist Benne Rockett presents new works from a group of artists from across the country who have explored the possibilities of expression via paper — as sculptural material or ground for color or, well, so many evocative forms in this excellent show. Through Jan. 8. 1700 S. Lamar #318, 326-9102. [www.studio2gallery.com](http://www.studio2gallery.com).

**VSA ARTS OF TEXAS: HOLIDAY SALE** More than 20 artists represented with ornaments, collages, paintings, drawings, sculptures, poetry, music, cards, magnets, prints, mobiles, jewelry, and more. Through Jan. 9. 3710 Cedar #7, 454-9912. [www.vsatx.org](http://www.vsatx.org).

**ART ON 5TH: SMALL WORKS** The gallery's contingent of local artists, Texas artists, and national artists have painted a special group of smaller works for this show. Through Jan. 2. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. [www.arton5th.com](http://www.arton5th.com).

**ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY** Artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. 78 San Marcos, 457-0171. [www.pablataboadastudio.com](http://www.pablataboadastudio.com).

**AUSTIN ART GLASS** This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, classes, and more. 1608 S. Congress, 916-4527.  
[www.austinartglass.com](http://www.austinartglass.com).

**AMOA: DAVID BATES AND JADE WALKER** The large and expressive oil paintings of David Bates — vivid scenes of nature, near-documentary images (based on broadcast video) of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina — are paired with new sculptures and installations by Austin's own Jade Walker, she of UT's Creative Research Laboratory. Through Jan. 31. 823 Congress, 495-9224. [www.amoa.org](http://www.amoa.org).

**AMOA LAGUNA GLORIA: CASSANDRA JAMES**  
“Earth, Fire, Wind, and Water” is an intimate exhibition of sketchbooks and paintings. *Through Jan. 10.* 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. [www.amoa.org](http://www.amoa.org).

**BLANTON MUSEUM: THE PETROBELLI ALTARPIECE** This work by Venetian master Paolo Veronese (1528-1588) was recently identified as a fragment of the head of Saint Michael, the central figure in the so-called Petrobelli altarpiece from 1565. *Through Feb. 7.* MLK & Congress, 471-7324. [www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org).

**BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS** Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. [www.austinbluemoon.com](http://www.austinbluemoon.com).

**A LEGACY OF QUILTS: THE JOYCE GROSS COLLECTION** This exhibit, on loan from UT's Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, spans more than 100 years of the enduring American art form and features 29 quilts made approximately between 1844 and 1950. *Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. 1800 Congress, 936-4639. \$4-7.* [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com).

**THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK** is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a South Austin home. Hours: *Saturdays and Sundays, noon-9pm, or by appointment.* 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. [www.keepaustinweird.com](http://www.keepaustinweird.com).

**DAVIS GALLERY: HOLIDAY GROUP SHOW** This array of the gallery's stellar regulars – David Leonard, Julie Speed, Dianne Grammer, and Stella Alesi among them – also features new work by Susu Meyer and Caprice Pierucci. See review, p.70. *Through Jan. 9.* 837 W. 12th, 477-4929. [www.davisgalleryaustin.com](http://www.davisgalleryaustin.com).

**MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART** presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. 7801 N. Lamar Ste. B-148, 323-6901. [www.mitchie.com](http://www.mitchie.com).

**MUSEUM OF NATURAL & ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA** A curator-led tour of this museum's quirky and delightful “Impermanent Collection” is one of the hidden wonders of Austin. Tours: *Saturdays, 1-4pm.* 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. [www.mnae.org](http://www.mnae.org).

**UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN: DAMIAN PRIOUR'S WATER SPARKS** Priour is best known for his elegant sculptures using fossilized limestone, glass, and rusted metal – the beach treasures he grew up with on the Texas Gulf Coast. His work is on fine display in this third in the Umlauf's series of annual exhibits of work by contemporary sculptors who studied at the University of Texas. *Through Jan. 3.* 605 Robert E. Lee Rd., 445-5582. [www.umlaufsculpture.org](http://www.umlaufsculpture.org).

**WOMEN & THEIR WORK: MY WICKED TWISTED SENSE OF LOVE** A globally diverse group of artists presents works on paper, videos, sounds, and mixed-media installations exploring the nuances of personal relationships, the fear of dying alone, and emotional indifference. *Through Jan. 7.* 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. [www.womenandtheirwork.org](http://www.womenandtheirwork.org).

## SPACES

**DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY** Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. [www.decola-eusebi.com](http://www.decola-eusebi.com).

**CHINATOWN** New works by Matt Bowman, Zita Raymond, Phillip Wade, and Allison Young. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 15.* 107 W. Fifth, 637-8888.

**EASTSIDE BOOKS** Currently showing works by Patrick King, Ramon Lozano, and John Metcalf. 2415 E. Fifth. 472-2665. [www.eastsidebooksaustin.com](http://www.eastsidebooksaustin.com).

**PICTURING AMERICA FROM EAST TO WEST** Photographs of America and its art, in a periodically changing display. *Through May.* Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. [www.wblibrary.org](http://www.wblibrary.org).

**CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFELD** New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. [www.rosenfeldphotography.com](http://www.rosenfeldphotography.com).

**LITTLE CITY: BARRY GEORGE** Metal sculptural works by this multitalented local make for a more interesting cafe. *Through Dec. 31.* 916 Congress, 476-CITY. [www.littlecity.com](http://www.littlecity.com).

**WESTS** Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. 408 Josephine.

**WET: JESMINDA COLE** Paintings, bones, plaster, and lead. Oh, oh my. 1109 S. Congress, 444-7375.

## litera

### READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

**WASSAIL** Pagans meet Christians with poetry, music, and magic. As a benefit for the children of Darfur, it's always recommended. *Sun., Dec. 20, 5:30pm.* Sri Atmananda, 4100 Red River, 451-7044.

**MAKE IT WET SPITFEST** This quarterly event – featuring performances of everything from hip-hop to tap dance and more before the stage is opened to head-to-head poetry-slam bouts – is hosted by the talented Zell Miller II and features “the best 13-year-old DJ in the nation.” *Sat., Dec. 19, 8pm.* *The Independent* at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 903-8027. \$12. [www.spitfest.com](http://www.spitfest.com).

**THEY SPEAK YOUTH POETRY SLAM** The eighth season gets kicking with a big shiny box of lyrics and imagery and substance. Poets between the ages of 13 and 19 will be eligible to compete for a spot on the team going to Brave New Voices 2010 in Los Angeles. Highly recommended. *Sat., Dec. 19, 4pm.* *The Independent* at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. \$5. [www.tbywc.org](http://www.tbywc.org).

**THE FIGHTING BROTHERS MCCARTHY FAMILY HOLIDAY THROWDOWN** with musical performances by the Fighting Brothers McCarthy, a sneak preview of the Austin-based Web series *Cell* by Mark Gardner, a screening of the pilot *Dark Matters* by local filmmaker Danny Cameron, spoken-word performances by local poets, and caroling by Austin's Gay Sports Casters. *Fri., Dec. 18, 9pm.* *The Independent* at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. [www.501studios.com](http://www.501studios.com).

**TEXAS NAFAS** presents *Lucille Clifton on Poetry*, taped at the Dodge Poetry Festival in 2008. This program airs every week in December on Channel 10 and 16. See [www.channelaustin.org](http://www.channelaustin.org) for exact air time.

**HARRY RANSOM CENTER: FROM OUT THAT SHADOW** The HRC has teamed up with the University of Virginia to present this *Edgar Allan Poe* show – an expansive and remarkable collection of manuscripts, letters, first editions, illustrations, and other storied ephemera concerning one of the country's most famous writers. *Through Jan. 3.* *Harry Ransom Center*, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. [www.hrc.utexas.edu](http://www.hrc.utexas.edu).

### WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

**NORTH AUSTIN KNITTERS** meet weekly to knit and discuss great books. *Barnes & Noble Arboretum*, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

**THIS BOOK CLUB COULD BE YOUR LIFE** ties it up with *Bound for Glory* by Woody Guthrie. *Sun., Dec. 20, 5pm.* *BookPeople*, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. [www.bookpeople.com](http://www.bookpeople.com).

**LUDICROUS SPEED CLUB** lays a *Foundation* by Isaac Asimov, led by Joel and Tommy. *Mon., Dec. 21, 7pm.* *BookPeople*, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

**A WORLD LIT: THE FLAME OF LITERATURE** *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. *Mon., Dec. 21, 7pm.* *Hampton Library*, 5125 Convict Hill Rd., 892-6680.

**AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY** features 2005 Texas Poet Laureate Alan Birkelbach reading and acting as emcee for the annual open mic for APS members. All are welcome. Recommended. *Sat., Dec. 19, 1:30-3:30pm.* *North Village Library*, 2505 Steck, 974-9960.

### SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

**ADVANCED WRITING WORKSHOP: POETRY** Emphasis on developing a manuscript/chapbook, placing poems for publication, reading great contemporary poetry, and workshoping. Workshop led by the talented W. Joe Hoppe. *Classes begin Jan. 19.* *Wednesdays, 7:05-9:45pm.* *Austin Community College*, 1212 Rio Grande. [www.austincc.edu](http://www.austincc.edu).

**POETRY WORKSHOP** Join poets Barbara Youngblood Carr and Herman Nelson for the monthly Poetry Workshop. Bring 10 copies of an original poem for friendly critiquing. *Thu., Dec. 17, 7:30pm.* *Barnes & Noble Arboretum*, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. [store-locator.barnesandnoble.com](http://store-locator.barnesandnoble.com).

### OPEN MICS

**FRIDAY NIGHT MIC** for poetry, music, drama, and stories. Hosted by Bear Man Poet. *Fridays, 8-10pm.* *JP's Java*, 2803 San Jacinto.

**GENUINE JOE** *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm.* *Genuine Joe Coffeehouse*, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. [www.genuinejoe.com](http://www.genuinejoe.com).

**THE HIDEOUT** is hosted by Thom Moon 10 and features Dipika Mukherjee. Excellent choice. *Mondays, 7-10pm.* *The Hideout Theatre*, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). [www.hideouttheatre.com](http://www.hideouttheatre.com).

**HOT MAMA'S OPEN MIC** *Tuesdays, 7:30-9pm.* *Hot Mama's Espresso Bar*, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-MAMA. [www.myspace.com/hotmamasespresso](http://www.myspace.com/hotmamasespresso).

**THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM** Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pomo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast. You thought it rocked before, check out its new *all-ages* power in the Independent. *Wednesdays, 8pm.* *The Independent* at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001. \$5 (21 and older). [www.austinslam.com](http://www.austinslam.com).

**SPOKEN & HEARD** is an open-minded open-mic experience. Poetry, music, singing, whatever. Bring words, make noise, bring yourself, make friends. American Sign Language interpreter available. Hosted by The Crew. *Every Sunday, 7-10pm.* *Kick Butt Coffee*, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. [www.kickbuttcoffee.com](http://www.kickbuttcoffee.com).

**MUSIC CAFE** offers an outlet for local poetry, spoken word, and music artists. Hosted by Lee Lincecum. *Thursdays, 8pm.* *Music Cafe*, 2050 S. Lamar, 326-8742. [www.austinmusiccafe.com](http://www.austinmusiccafe.com).

**RUTA MAYA POETRY** is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. Hosted by David Bates. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm.* *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. [www.rmpoetryaustin.com](http://www.rmpoetryaustin.com).

### CALL FOR ENTRIES

**FIVE THINGS WRITING CONTEST** Five Things is hosting its first-ever writing contest, with the theme A New Year. Restrictions: 1,250 words, one submission per person, Austin residents only. Send the story as the text of an e-mail; no attachments. Public reading: *Jan. 29.* Submission deadline: *Jan. 1.* [www.fivethingsaustin.com](http://www.fivethingsaustin.com).

## MISCELLANEOUS

**MORE POETRY!** *what you cannot deliver you carry for ages: a cherry branch or a shame of stones, each a fire or if a bird fed on blue clouds falling mountains a clutch of smooth oranges hidden in wet leaves & she turns away. there are distractions enough: the history of bacteria a red stain on a shirt the boy with a clubfoot or an island. put cherries in the child's hand; the stones in your mouth & chew them, the bitter pits of songs for a dreadful thing carving: what you must reclaim from god. Namaste. Vaya con dios.*

**BARNES & NOBLE HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE** Give the gift of reading to children in need by donating books through locally designated nonprofit organizations. Recipients throughout the country include schools, libraries, literacy organizations, family social service agencies, and homeless centers. This year, the Barnes & Noble Arboretum location is collecting books for Women's Storybook Project. *Through Jan. 1.* *Barnes & Noble Arboretum*, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985. [store-locator.barnesandnoble.com](http://store-locator.barnesandnoble.com).

### POEM OF THE ISSUE

the revolution will not be televised  
i will celebrate it on my couch  
smoking a joint and reading a book  
and calling michelle obama to tell her  
how fine she looks  
to all you illuminati, boule, and freemasons  
there are so many people that love being controlled  
why don't you just control those people  
and leave everybody else alone  
– Michael D. Knight, “Lounge Against the Machine”

**WHAT AUSTIN BANDS REALLY ROCK?**  
Wake up with LIVE music  
**Good Day Austin**  
7-9am  
& list your faves  
**myfavesaustin.com**  
*Show me yours, I'll show you mine*

The Chronicle's Raoul Hernandez joins Joe and Katherine every Monday on Good Day Austin.

# film listings



## Avatar

D: James Cameron; with Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Michelle Rodriguez, Giovanni Ribisi, Joel David Moore, CCH Pounder, Wes Studi, Laz Alonso. (PG-13, 162 min.)

At 162 minutes and a cost of somewhere between \$250 million and \$300 million dollars, Cameron's ne plus ultra of futuristic mechanized mayhem and seamless CGI trickery is both a cinematically spectacular slab of virtually nonstop action and an unmistakable

diatribe against corporatized American imperialism. There are the usual muscled-up boys (and equally powerful girls) with big-bang toys, crying havoc and letting slip the dogs of war, to be sure, but at its heart this mammoth film is ... a chick flick, with all the dramatic keynotes that the phrase implies. Forbidden, interspecies love? Reverence for a planetary feminist godhead? Clandestine dalliances far from the madding crowd? *Avatar* has all of those romantic tropes and more, and, despite a script that at times leaves its most interesting characters delivering some of the most banal lines in a Cameron film thus far, somehow it all holds together. *Avatar* is unmistakably the work of a director who passionately believes that untrammelled, Western-style imperialism and its attendant reliance on the rape and looting of foreign cultures and their natural resources is a pivotal societal sin. That said, there's enough white-hot testosterone and Amazonian estrogen to satisfy Cameron's sci-fi fanboy base and then some. Occurring in the year 2154 after the total depletion of all of the Earth's natural resources, *Avatar* is set on the planet Pandora, where mining operations have run up against the planet's indigenous people, the Na'Vi. Eleven feet tall, blue-skinned, vaguely feline bipeds who recall both real-world Australian aborigines and American Indians in their spiritual reverence of nature, the Na'Vi are infiltrated by Jake Sully (Worthington), a former Marine grunt who has suffered an unspecified



spinal injury. Sully is tasked by the bellicose Col. Miles Quaritch (Lang) with finding a way to remove the Na'Vi, whose social system is complex and matriarchal, from their homeland. This is done by placing Sully's consciousness within a bio-engineered Na'Vi body – an "avatar" – under the guidance of sympathetic ethnobiologist Dr. Grace Augustine (Weaver), who is kept in the dark about Sully's covert mission, the better to lure the Na'Vi to their presumptive doom. But Sully, who regains the use of his paralyzed legs whenever he inhabits his Na'Vi self, slowly comes to appreciate the indigenous world even as he begins to be repulsed by the callow, predatory nature of his true species. *Avatar* is not without its faults – the dialogue is somewhat less than crackling – but as a purely visual experience, it's like nothing you've ever seen before: a lush, sexy, primal world created entirely by Cameron's legions of CGI masters. For a film with such a lengthy running time, *Avatar* moves like a rocket (or one of the Na'Vi's wickedly barbed arrows). It's thrilling and lovely and sad and explosive in all the right ways, and it needs to be seen – on the big screen, in 3-D – to be believed.

– Marc Savlov  
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, IMAX Theatre, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

## new reviews

### ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKQUEL

D: Betty Thomas; with the voices of Jason Lee, Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney, Anna Faris, Christina Applegate, Amy Poehler. (PG, 88 min.)

*Not reviewed at press time.* This time the 'munks have good reason to squeak: The addition of girls, the Chipettes, rocks their world. (Opens Wednesday.) – Marjorie Baumgarten  
Hill Country Galleria, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Westgate

### DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?

D: Marc Lawrence; with Hugh Grant, Sarah Jessica Parker, Sam Elliott, Mary Steenburgen, Michael Kelly, Elisabeth Moss, Jesse Liebman, Wilford Brimley. (PG-13, 103 min.)

From its difficult-to-remember title on down, *Did You Hear About the Morgans?* is a forgettable and lackluster fish-out-of-water rom-com. The film exploits tired stereotypes about city and country folks while being propped up by the kind of irrational narrative logic that can only exist in the movies. Paul and Meryl Morgan (Grant and Parker) are a high-profile New York City couple who have separated due to Paul's marital infidelity. (No details are divulged, but you sort of get the feeling that Divine Brown might be lurking somewhere offscreen.) Paul desperately wants to reconcile and arranges a dinner date for the two, whereupon the couple witnesses a homicide during a postprandial walk. Having seen the killer's face, the authorities decide it's best, following an attempt on Meryl's life, to place the Morgans in the Witness Protection Program and ship them to Wyoming. In the non-rom-com world, most cops might have them pore over fat books of mug shots, but then again, most other killers would hide out or skip town instead of racing all around risking exposure by bumping off the inadvertent witnesses. Of course, a week cooped up together out West reminds the couple of how much they still love each other, and as was declared in that great Western romance from a few years ago, "I just can't quit you." The movie's wan script by writer-director Lawrence (*Two Weeks Notice, Music and Lyrics*) almost makes the viewer wish that actors Grant and Parker, who each here underplay their signature stammering and bubblyness, were allowed free reign to infuse their characters with greater liveliness. Used with even less regard for character definition are the supporting actors, especially Moss (so compelling on TV's *Mad Men*) and Liebman as the Morgans' personal assistants. Elliott does his usual laconic and iconic thing as the Wyoming marshal who puts the Morgans up in his home for the week. Only Steenburgen as the marshal's gun-toting wife and partner in arrests comes out of this movie looking good. In her Western gear and with a no-nonsense attitude, Steenburgen adds a striking presence to the film. There are bears and horses and a rodeo to keep the story moving along – even a small, unnecessary role for Brimley as a quintessential

Westerner. None of it feels integral to the story, and it concludes as unrealistically as it began. So now you can say, indeed, you have heard about the Morgans, smile politely, and move on to the next movie playing at the multiplex.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

### THE END OF POVERTY?

D: Philippe Diaz; narrated by Martin Sheen. (NR, 104 min.)

A didactic documentary that covers ground already trampled to death by countless other films, books, magazine articles, and grad-student theses, *The End of Poverty?* is, in essence, a sort of Capitalism, Colonialism, and Cronyism 101. It hits all the right notes (well, most of them) in the argument against globalization and rampant U.S.-led corporate imperialism, but it rarely supersedes or improves on its pedantic predecessors. This isn't to say that *The End of Poverty?* is a bad film, per se, but only that it's unlikely to change anyone's mind, be they Rush Limbaugh or Ralph Nader. The film preaches to the proverbial choir most of the time, and when it offers something new – for instance, the idea that all poverty woes can be traced back to 1492 and the discovery and conquering of the Americas by Spain – it slips into theorizing and potentially fuzzy historical and empirical evidence. Diaz loves both his facts and the talking-head interviewees who lend support to them (among the many scientists and global economy wonks on hand are political scientist Susan George, Eric Toussaint of the Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt, and New York University professor of economics William Easterly). While the speakers' many, many arguments against Western colonialism are sound, few offer much along the lines of encouragement, which leaves Diaz to focus on rehashing the already well-documented crimes against humanity committed by everyone from the big pharmaceutical conglomerates to the looters of crude oil, African minerals, and the sort of globalization-sanctioned policies that eviscerate the Third World while fattening the first. Yes, it's enlightening, but this is hardly revelatory news. As narrated by a dour Sheen, Diaz's documentary is more dispiriting than anything, although at times it raises the moral hackles and puts you in exactly the right frame of mind (frustrated, enraged) to ponder the efficacy of tossing a Molotov cocktail through the window of your local Bank of America or McDonald's. – Marc Savlov  
★★ Arbor

### THE NEW DAUGHTER

D: Luiso Berdejo; with Kevin Costner, Ivana Baquero, Gattlin Griffith, Samantha Mathis, Noah Taylor, Erik Palladino. (PG-13, 123 min.)

*Not reviewed at press time.* No advance screenings were held for this supernatural thriller in which Costner plays a single dad who moves into a country house with his two daughters. Soon one of them (Baquero, who was so good as the young lead in *Pan's Labyrinth*) begins acting strangely, and Dad suspects it may have something to do with the mysterious mound at the edge of the forest. – Marjorie Baumgarten  
Dobie



**3 IDIOTS** D: Rajkumar Hirani; with Aamir Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Madhavan, Boman Irani, Sharman Joshi. (NR, 172 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. Two friends embark on a quest for their lost buddy in this new Bollywood comedy. (Opens Wednesday.) — Marjorie Baumgarten  
Tinseltown South

★ **UP IN THE AIR** D: Jason Reitman; with George Clooney, Vera Farmiga, Anna Kendrick, Jason Bateman, Amy Morton, Melanie Lynskey, J.K. Simmons, Sam Elliott, Danny McBride. (R, 109 min.)

Either by design or default, Reitman has customized a film perfectly in tune to these economically distressed, tetchy times, which may explain the near-universal hosannas *Up in the Air* has been met with. (Frank Rich likened it to *The Grapes of Wrath*, another depression-era product, in a column in last Sunday's *New York Times*.) I won't argue that Reitman hasn't made a good movie — it's his third, in fact, after *Thank You for Smoking* and *Juno* — but he hasn't made a truly great movie, not yet. Loosely adapting (with co-writer Sheldon Turner) Walter Kirn's 2001 novel of the same name, Reitman sets the film in motion with a jazzy, split-frame, opening-credit sequence that highlights how America's vistas look from up above — apropos, considering that's where "career transition counselor" Ryan Bingham (Clooney) spends most of his time. Bingham spends three-quarters of the year en route, touching down just long enough — in Milwaukee, Detroit, Wichita, take your pick — to do the bidding of companies so accustomed to outsourcing they can't even fire their own employees. But professional hatchet man is just Bingham's day job: He also has a sideline gig as a motivational speaker preaching a philosophy of detachment, both physical and emotional, and a secret dream to amass 10 million frequent flyer miles. Bingham, by choice, is a man without country or close ties, but very quickly two women arrive in his life to shake up the status quo. One is a sharp Chicago-based exec named Alex (Farmiga), who describes herself as Bingham's mirror, only with lady parts, and the other is Natalie (Kendrick), an eager-beaver new addition to Bingham's firm who has been tasked with trailing him all over the country to learn the trade. Reitman, a second-generation filmmaker (papa Ivan, director of *Ghostbusters* and *Stripes*, produces here), rather cannily elected to have the majority of the people fired by Bingham throughout the film be played by nonactors who have been laid off in the recent depression: They bring a ragged verisimilitude to the film. Yet, on the

heels of an opening montage of these layoffs, Reitman inserts comic actor Zach Galifianakis as another of the newly unemployed; the previous mood, so moving, pops like a balloon. Reitman's instincts, of both timing and tone, can feel just a hair off in the film's imperfect first and third acts. (Clooney, all bobble-head charmer to begin with, also takes some time to gain traction, and Reitman indulges him with too many mugging reaction shots throughout.) But the middle is terrific, especially in a lengthy, unassuming scene in which the three leads sit, sip drinks, and have a good chat: It marks one of the great celluloid pleasures of the year, so virtuosically written, performed, and filmed is it. "Pleasure" would be the word for it: *Up in the Air* isn't a challenging picture, certainly not a transportive one, but it is a well-crafted entertainment made for and about adults. Sometimes, well, that's good enough. — Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Arbor

## first runs

\*Full-length reviews available online at [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com). Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

★ **ANTICHRIST** D: Lars von Trier; with Willem Dafoe, Charlotte Gainsbourg. (NR, 104 min.)

Possibly the best argument against couples therapy ever, *Antichrist* is a tour-de-force trip inside the mind of a dangerously depressed man. That man is von Trier, and his film speaks the language of madness with astonishing fluency. Dreamlike and possessed of a terrible, doom-laden beauty, *Antichrist* is a flawed masterpiece and an example of highly personal auteurism that will either make you mad or drive you mad; either way, you're complicit in von Trier's vigorously compelling nightmare of love, death, and despair. Dafoe and Gainsbourg are fearless in their absolute commitment to their respective roles as He and She, a couple in the throes of immense, obliterating grief. They seek therapeutic escape at their cabin in the woods. He is a therapist and arrogantly assumes he can assuage She's pain in this act of withdrawal. But She is beyond such psychological salves, and, as von Trier steers his couple into the dark forest primeval, *Antichrist* becomes a genuine horror movie. (11/20/2009) — Marc Savlov

★★★★ Dobie

**ARMORED** D: Nimród Antal; with Matt Dillon, Jean Reno, Laurence Fishburne, Amaury Nolasco, Fred Ward, Columbus Short, Skeet Ulrich, Andre Kinney, Milo Ventimiglia. (PG-13, 88 min.)

Neither the best heist movie of the new millennium (that would be *The Bank Job*) nor the worst (Tony Scott's snoozy remake of *The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3* gets that honor), *Armored* is a serviceable and solid slab of testosterone, gunfire, and seriously impregnable trucks that aims low and scores higher than you'd think. It's like the Schlitzy of caper movies — it goes down easily, buzzes around your brainpan for a couple of hours, and then vanishes from your memory within 24. *Armored* continues Antal's pen-

chant for generic, single-word film titles, but it's such a streamlined suspenser that you can forgive the dopey bits and go with the good-men-gone-bad flow of the film. Dillon plays an armored-car guard who, together with a crew of five others (among them Fishburne, who appears to be having a ball, and *The Professional's* Reno), plans an inside job worth a cool \$42 million. (12/11/2009) — Marc Savlov

★★★ Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

★ **BAD LIEUTENANT: PORT OF CALL NEW ORLEANS**

D: Werner Herzog; with Nicolas Cage, Eva Mendes, Val Kilmer, Fairuz Balk, Jennifer Coolidge, Vondie Curtis-Hall, Xzibit, Shawn Hatosy, Denzel Whitaker, Tom Bower. (R, 121 min.)

The singular talents of director Herzog and star Cage coalesce here into something mercurial, creating a movie that is mutable, unpredictable, and, above all, original. *Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans*, is not a sequel, prequel, remake, or follow-up to Abel Ferrara's 1992 film. This new "bad lieutenant" is bad in many of the same ways as Ferrara's (rampant cocaine and narcotics use, gambling addiction, and flagrant abuse of the badge), but gone are the Catholic guilt, the New York City streets, and the naked, howling Harvey Keitel. The new film is set in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. It seems to be on the constant verge of going off the

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## openings & ratings

*Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel* (PG)

*Avatar* (PG-13)

*Did You Hear About the Morgans?* (PG-13)

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

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

*The End of Poverty?* (NR)

*The New Daughter* (PG-13)

*3 Idiots* (NR)

*Up in the Air* (R)

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two

bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

☹ La bomba

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— Andrew Schenker, *The Village Voice*

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— Charles Masters, *The Hollywood Reporter*

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— Eric Monder, *Film Journal International*

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— Kam Williams, *NewsBlaze.com*

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— Andrew O'Hehir, *Salon.com*



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John Perkins  
Amariya Sen  
Joseph Stiglitz  
Eric Toussaint  
and many more

a film by Philippe Diaz  
narrated by Martin Sheen

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# showtimes

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

### ALAMO DRAFHOUSE AT THE RITZ

320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.  
**Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans:** Fri, 3:20, 4:20, 7:25, 10:30; Sat, 11:00, 1:00, 7:25, 10:30; Sun, 1:15, 4:20, 7:25; Mon-Tue, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20; Wed, 4:20, 7:20; Thu (12/24), 5:50, 8:55  
**High for the Holidays: Beefsteak With Beerylimps:** Thu (12/24), 10:00pm  
**Terror Tuesday: Christmas Evil:** Tue, 10:00pm  
**Master Pancake: Christmas Show:** Fri-Sat, 7:00, 10:00  
**Action Pack: Elf Quote-Along:** Wed, 7:00pm  
**Hey Homot: Female Trouble:** Tue, 7:00pm  
**Action Pack: Grandma's Boy Quote-Along:** Thu (12/24), 7:00pm  
**Lord of the Rings Trilogy: Hobbit Feast:** 10:30am  
**Weird Wednesday: The Magic Christmas Tree:** Wed, 12mid  
**Music Monday: Metal: A Headbanger's Journey:** Mon, 9:45pm  
**Big Screen Classics: Shock Corridor:** Mon, 7:00pm  
**High for the Holidays: The Holy Mountain:** Wed, 10:30pm  
**High for the Holidays: Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon:** Wed, 9:25pm

### ALAMO DRAFHOUSE LAKE CREEK

13729 Research, 219-5408.  
**\*Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 12:00, 3:00, 4:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:45, 11:45pm; Sun-Wed, 11:00am, 11:30, 3:00, 3:30, 7:00, 7:30, 10:45, 11:15pm; Thu (12/24), 11:00am, 11:30, 3:00, 3:30, 7:00, 7:30pm  
**The Blind Side:** Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45pm; Thu (12/24), 11:45am, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45pm  
**Brothers:** Fri-Tue, 1:30, 4:40, 10:00; Wed, 1:30, 4:40, 7:10; Thu (12/24), 1:30, 4:15, 7:10  
**Christmas Horror Remix: You Better Watch Out!:** Wed, 10:00pm  
**\*Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** Fri-Wed, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 10:15pm; Thu (12/24), 11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15pm  
**Spike & Mike's New Generation Animation:** Fri-Tue, 7:30pm  
**The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Fri, 4:20, 7:45, 11:00; Sat-Wed, 12:45, 4:20, 7:45, 11:00; Thu (12/24), 12:45, 4:20, 7:45

### ALAMO DRAFHOUSE SOUTH

1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.  
**\*Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Wed, 11:00am, 11:40, 2:50, 3:30, 7:00, 7:30, 10:30, 11:00pm; Thu (12/24), 11:00am, 11:40, 2:50, 3:30, 7:00, 7:30pm  
**The Blind Side:** Fri-Sat, 12:35, 3:50, 7:05, 10:05; Sun, 12:35, 3:50, 7:15, 10:20; Mon-Wed, 12:35, 3:50, 7:05, 10:05; Thu (12/24), 12:35, 3:50, 7:05  
**Kids Club: "Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas":** Sat, 11:45am  
**Fantastic Mr. Fox:** Fri, 11:45am, 1:55, 4:55, 7:35, 10:00pm; Fri, 11:30am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:00pm; Sun, 11:45am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:00, 10:00pm; Mon-Wed, 11:45am, 2:25, 4:55, 7:35, 10:00pm; Thu (12/24), 11:45am, 2:25, 4:55, 7:35pm  
**Me and Orson Welles:** Fri-Sat, 11:05am, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50pm; Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:25, 7:35pm; Mon-Wed, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50pm; Thu (12/24), 11:05am, 1:45, 4:25, 7:10pm  
**The Road:** Fri, 11:10am, 2:00, 7:40, 10:25pm; Sat, 1:55, 7:40, 10:25; Sun, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:45pm; Mon-Wed, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:25pm; Thu (12/24), 11:10am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40pm  
**Foleyvision: Santa vs. Satan:** Sun, 7:05, 9:45

### ALAMO DRAFHOUSE VILLAGE

2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee Baby Day shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.  
**\*Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Wed, 11:00am, 3:00, 7:00, 10:45pm; Thu (12/24), 11:00am, 3:00, 7:00pm  
**\*Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** Fri-Wed, 12:35, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45; Thu (12/24), 12:35, 4:15, 7:05  
**Kung Fu Theatre: Infra-Man:** Fri, 12mid  
**Invictus:** Fri-Wed, 12:50, 3:35, 7:20, 10:30; Thu (12/24), 12:50, 3:35, 7:20  
**Parents Afternoon Out:** Sat, 2:30pm  
**The Rocky Horror Picture Show:** Sat, 12mid  
**The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Fri, 6:45, 10:00; Sat-Wed, 12:00, 3:25, 6:45, 10:00; Thu (12/24), 12:00, 3:25, 6:45

### ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS

9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm and all day Wednesdays.  
**Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans:** Fri-Wed, 12:10, 3:00, 6:45, 9:40; Thu (12/24), 12:10, 3:00, 6:45  
**An Education:** 3:10, 7:35  
**The End of Poverty:** Fri-Wed, 12:20, 2:50, 7:15, 9:45; Thu (12/24), 12:20, 2:50, 7:15  
**The Hurt Locker:** Fri-Wed, 12:00, 10:00; Thu (12/24), 12:00pm  
**Me and Orson Welles:** Fri-Wed, 12:40, 3:45, 7:30, 10:15; Thu (12/24), 12:40, 3:45, 7:30  
**Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire:** Fri-Wed, 12:30, 4:10, 7:05, 9:55; Thu (12/24), 12:30, 4:10, 7:05  
**The Road:** Fri-Wed, 1:00, 4:20, 7:25, 10:05; Thu (12/24), 1:00, 4:20, 7:25  
**Up in the Air:** Fri-Wed, 11:45am, 12:50, 2:25, 4:00, 5:05, 6:55, 7:45, 9:50, 10:25pm; Thu (12/24), 11:45am, 12:50, 2:25, 4:00, 5:05, 6:55, 7:45pm

### 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 for showtimes Dec. 23-24.  
**Avatar:** Fri, 9:35am, 11:05, 1:10, 2:40, 4:45, 6:15, 8:20, 9:50, 11:55pm; Sat, 9:35am, 1:10, 2:40, 4:45, 6:15, 8:20, 9:50, 11:55pm; Sun-Tue, 9:35am, 11:05, 1:10, 2:40, 4:45, 6:15, 8:20, 9:50pm  
**\*Avatar (3-D):** 12:15, 3:50, 7:25, 10:55  
**The Blind Side:** Fri-Sat, 9:45am, 10:45, 12:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:00, 6:40, 8:00, 9:40, 11:05pm; Sun, 9:45am, 10:45, 12:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:00, 6:40, 8:00, 9:40, 11:00pm; Mon-Tue, 9:45am, 10:45, 12:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:00, 6:40, 8:00, 9:40, 11:05pm  
**Brothers:** Fri-Tue, 11:25am, 2:15, 4:55, 7:45, 10:30pm  
**Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** Fri-Sat, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:10, 9:35, 12mid; Sun-Tue, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:10, 9:35pm  
**\*Disney's A Christmas Carol:** Fri-Tue, 9:40am, 12:05, 2:35, 5:10, 7:35, 10:05pm  
**Fantastic Mr. Fox:** Fri, 10:20am, 3:10, 7:50pm; Sat, 3:10, 7:50; Sun-Tue, 10:20am, 3:10, 7:50pm  
**Invictus:** Fri-Sat, 10:55am, 1:55, 5:05, 8:10, 11:15pm; Sun-Tue, 10:55am, 1:55, 5:05, 8:10pm  
**Old Dogs:** Fri-Tue, 12:50, 5:30, 10:10  
**The Princess and the Frog:** Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 9:30, 11:50pm; Sun-Tue, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 9:30pm  
**The Princess and the Frog (closed captioned and descriptive video):** Fri-Tue, 10:30am, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:50pm  
**The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Fri-Tue, 10:00am, 1:05, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20pm  
**2012:** Fri-Tue, 11:45am, 3:20, 6:50, 10:15pm

### CINEMARK CEDAR PARK

1335 E. Whiteshore, 800/FANDANGO. Call for showtimes Dec. 23-24.  
**\*Avatar:** Fri, 12:40, 2:00, 4:20, 5:40, 8:10, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 12:40, 2:00, 4:20, 5:40, 8:10, 9:20pm; Mon-Tue, 12:40, 2:00, 4:20, 5:40, 8:10, 9:20  
**\*Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Tue, 11:30am, 3:10, 7:00, 10:40pm  
**The Blind Side:** Fri-Tue, 11:20am, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:15, 8:30, 10:10pm  
**Brothers:** Fri-Tue, 7:50, 10:25  
**\*Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** Fri, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Tue, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40pm  
**\*Disney's A Christmas Carol:** Fri, 1:20, 3:40, 6:20, 8:50; Sat-Tue, 11:00am, 1:20, 3:40, 6:20, 8:50pm  
**Fantastic Mr. Fox:** Fri, 12:50, 3:00, 5:20; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 12:50, 3:00, 5:20pm; Mon-Tue, 12:50, 3:00, 5:20  
**\*Invictus:** Fri-Tue, 1:10, 4:10, 7:30, 10:30  
**Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann:** Sat, 12:00pm  
**Old Dogs:** Fri, 12:00, 2:20, 5:00; Sat, 5:00pm; Sun-Tue, 12:00, 2:20, 5:00  
**\*The Princess and the Frog:** Fri, 12:10, 1:30, 2:50, 3:50, 5:10, 6:30, 7:40, 9:00, 10:00; Sat-Tue, 10:50am, 12:10, 1:30, 2:50, 3:50, 5:10, 6:30, 7:40, 9:00, 10:00pm  
**The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Fri-Tue, 7:20, 10:20

### CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14

12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO. Call for showtimes Dec. 23-24.  
**\*Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:** Fri, 11:55am, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15pm  
**\*Avatar:** Fri-Tue, 12:15, 1:30, 4:05, 5:20, 7:45, 9:00  
**\*Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Tue, 11:00am, 2:50, 6:30, 10:10pm  
**The Blind Side:** Fri, 11:40am, 1:15, 2:45, 4:20, 5:50, 7:25, 8:55, 10:30pm; Sat, 11:40am, 2:45, 5:50, 7:25, 8:55, 10:30pm; Sun-Tue, 11:40am, 1:15, 2:45, 4:20, 5:50, 7:25, 8:55, 10:30pm  
**Brothers:** Fri-Tue, 7:30, 10:25  
**\*Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** Fri-Tue, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55pm  
**\*Disney's A Christmas Carol:** Fri-Tue, 11:55am, 2:30, 5:15, 7:55, 10:20pm  
**Everybody's Fine:** Fri-Tue, 7:35, 10:05  
**Fantastic Mr. Fox:** Fri-Tue, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:35pm  
**\*Invictus:** Fri-Tue, 11:45am, 3:10, 6:25, 9:40pm  
**Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann:** Sat, 12:00pm  
**Old Dogs:** Fri-Tue, 12:05, 2:25, 4:45  
**Planet 51:** Fri-Tue, 11:50am, 2:20, 4:50pm  
**\*The Princess and the Frog:** Fri-Tue, 12:00, 1:10, 2:35, 3:55, 5:10, 6:35, 7:50, 9:15, 10:15  
**The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Fri-Tue, 11:35am, 2:55, 6:10, 9:20pm

### CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK

2120 N. Mays, Round Rock, 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.  
**Astro Boy:** 11:10am, 1:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30pm  
**Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs:** 11:45am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 9:45pm  
**Couples Retreat:** 11:05am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50pm  
**G-Force:** 11:00am, 1:15, 3:45, 6:45, 9:15pm  
**Paranormal Activity:** 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:50, 10:00  
**Saw VI:** 11:20am, 1:50, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40pm  
**Shorts:** 12:15pm  
**The Stepfather:** 11:30am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:40, 10:05pm  
**Zombieland:** 2:45, 5:15, 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. Call for showtimes Dec. 23-24.  
**\*Avatar:** Fri-Tue, 9:45am, 12:15, 1:30, 4:00, 5:15, 8:10, 9:20pm  
**\*Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Tue, 11:00am, 2:45, 7:00, 10:30pm  
**The Blind Side:** Fri-Tue, 10:30am, 12:00, 1:50, 3:30, 4:50, 6:30, 7:50, 9:40pm  
**Brothers:** Fri-Tue, 11:30am, 2:20, 5:05, 8:00, 10:40pm  
**\*Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** Fri-Tue, 10:50am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:40, 10:10pm  
**\*Disney's A Christmas Carol:** Fri-Tue, 10:20am, 12:50, 3:40, 6:20, 9:10pm  
**\*Invictus:** Fri-Tue, 9:50am, 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:20pm  
**Old Dogs:** Fri-Tue, 10:40am, 3:50, 9:30pm  
**Planet 51:** Fri-Tue, 1:10, 6:50  
**\*The Princess and the Frog:** Fri-Tue, 10:00am, 11:20, 12:40, 2:10, 3:20, 4:40, 6:00, 7:10, 8:30, 9:50pm  
**The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Fri-Tue, 10:10am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:35pm  
**2012:** Fri-Tue, 11:10am, 3:00, 6:40, 10:05pm

### CINEMARK SOUTHPARK CREST 3-D

9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium. Call for showtimes Dec. 23-24.  
**Armored:** Fri-Tue, 7:40, 10:10  
**\*Avatar:** Fri-Tue, 10:10am, 12:25, 1:40, 3:55, 5:10, 7:25, 8:40pm  
**\*Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Tue, 11:30am, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00pm  
**The Blind Side:** Fri-Tue, 10:15am, 11:45, 1:20, 2:50, 4:30, 6:20, 7:30, 9:25, 10:30pm  
**Brothers:** Fri-Tue, 10:25am, 4:00, 9:55pm  
**\*Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** Fri-Tue, 10:30am, 1:10, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30pm  
**\*Disney's A Christmas Carol:** Fri-Tue, 10:05am, 12:30, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15pm  
**\*Invictus:** Fri-Tue, 10:45am, 1:50, 4:55, 8:05pm  
**Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann:** Sat, 12:00pm  
**Old Dogs:** Fri-Tue, 10:20am, 12:40, 3:05, 5:15pm  
**\*The Princess and the Frog:** Fri, 10:35am, 11:35, 12:35, 1:35, 2:35, 3:35, 4:35, 5:35, 6:35, 7:35, 8:35, 9:35, 10:25pm; Sun-Tue, 10:35am, 11:35, 12:35, 1:35, 2:35, 3:35, 4:35, 5:35, 6:35, 7:35, 8:35, 9:35, 10:25pm  
**The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Fri-Tue, 1:00, 7:00  
**2012:** Fri-Tue, 12:10, 3:45, 7:20



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### DOBIE THEATRE

2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.  
**Antichrist:** Fri, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Mon-Wed, 7:00, 9:30; Thu (12/24), 7:00pm  
**An Education:** Fri, 5:15, 7:45, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:00; Mon-Wed, 7:45, 10:00; Thu (12/24), 7:45pm  
**The New Neighbor:** Fri, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50; Mon-Wed, 7:30, 9:50; Thu (12/24), 7:30pm  
**Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire:** Fri, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40; Mon-Wed, 7:15, 9:40; Thu (12/24), 7:15pm

### GALAXY HIGHLAND 10

North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm with out an adult.  
**\*Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Sat, 9:30am, 9:45, 10:00, 12:30, 12:45, 1:00, 1:15, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 10:15, 10:30, 11:00, 11:15pm; Sun-Thu (12/24), 9:30am, 9:45, 10:00, 12:30, 12:45, 1:00, 1:15, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 10:15, 10:30pm  
**The Blind Side:** Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35, 11:55pm; Sun-Thu (12/24), 11:00am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35pm  
**Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** Fri-Sat, 10:10am, 12:25, 4:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45pm; Sun-Thu (12/24), 10:10am, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25pm  
**Invictus:** Fri-Sat, 10:05am, 1:25, 4:15, 7:05, 10:00, 11:35pm; Sun-Thu (12/24), 10:05am, 1:25, 4:15, 7:05, 10:00pm  
**Ninja Assassin:** Fri-Sat, 10:25am, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40, 11:45pm; Sun-Thu (12/24), 10:25am, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40pm  
**Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire:** Fri-Sat, 11:25am, 1:55, 4:20, 7:00, 9:25, 11:40pm; Sun-Thu (12/24), 11:25am, 1:55, 4:20, 7:00, 9:25pm  
**The Princess and the Frog:** Fri-Sat, 9:50am, 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 11:45pm; Sun-Thu (12/24), 9:50am, 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

### GATEWAY THEATRE

9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.  
**\*Avatar:** Fri-Tue, 1:05, 4:25, 7:45  
**\*Avatar (3-D):** Fri-Tue, 12:20, 12:40, 3:40, 4:00, 7:00, 7:20, 10:20, 10:40  
**The Blind Side:** Fri-Tue, 12:30, 1:15, 3:30, 4:10, 7:10, 7:40, 10:10, 10:30  
**Brothers:** Fri-Tue, 11:55am, 2:35, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35pm  
**Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** Fri-Tue, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00  
**Disney's A Christmas Carol:** Fri-Tue, 12:35, 2:55, 5:20, 7:55, 10:15  
**Everybody's Fine:** Fri-Tue, 12:10, 7:05  
**Fantastic Mr. Fox:** Fri-Tue, 12:15, 2:25, 5:10, 7:35, 9:45  
**Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs:** 11:45am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:30, 9:45pm  
**\*Invictus:** Fri-Mon, 12:05, 12:50, 3:50, 4:50, 7:15, 7:50, 10:05, 10:45; Tue, 12:05, 12:50, 4:50, 7:15, 7:50, 10:45  
**Invictus (open captioned):** Tue, 3:50, 10:05  
**\*The Princess and the Frog:** Fri, 11:50am, 2:10, 2:40, 4:30, 5:05, 6:50, 9:10, 9:50pm; Sat, 11:50am, 12:25, 2:10, 4:30, 5:05, 6:50, 7:25, 9:10pm; Sun, 11:50am, 2:10, 2:40, 4:30, 5:05, 6:50, 9:10, 9:50pm; Thu, 11:50am, 12:25, 2:10, 2:40, 4:30, 5:05, 6:50, 7:25, 9:10, 9:50pm  
**\*The Princess and the Frog (open captioned and descriptive audio):** Fri, 12:25, 2:25, Sat, 2:40, 9:50; Sun, 12:25, 9:50; Mon, 12:25, 7:25  
**\*The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Fri-Tue, 1:00, 3:55, 6:55, 9:55  
**2012:** Fri-Tue, 3:35, 10:25

### IMAX THEATRE

Texas State History Museum, 1800 N. Congress, 936-IMAX.  
**The Alps:** Fri-Sat, 11:00am; Mon-Wed, 11:00am  
**Avatar:** 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15  
**Texas: The Big Picture:** Fri-Sat, 10:00am; Mon-Wed, 10:00am

### LAKELINE STARPORT

Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm and all day Wednesday. Call for showtimes Dec. 23-24.  
**\*Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:** Wed-Thu (12/24), 11:50am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:25, 9:45pm  
**\*Avatar:** Fri-Tue, 11:50am, 3:25, 7:00, 10:35pm  
**The Blind Side:** Fri-Tue, 12:20, 3:20, 7:05, 10:25  
**Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** Fri-Tue, 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 10:30  
**\*Invictus:** Fri-Tue, 12:35, 3:45, 7:25, 10:15  
**\*Old Dogs:** Fri-Tue, 12:10, 2:20, 4:40, 7:45, 9:55  
**Planet 51:** Fri-Tue, 11:40am, 2:15, 4:35, 7:15, 9:40pm  
**\*The Princess and the Frog:** Fri-Tue, 11:55am, 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50pm  
**\*The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** Fri-Tue, 12:30, 3:40, 7:20, 10:05  
**\*2012:** Fri-Tue, 12:05, 3:35, 6:50, 10:10

### METROPOLITAN

South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium. Call for showtimes Dec. 23-24.  
**The Blind Side:** Fri-Tue, 12:00, 1:00, 3:10, 4:20, 6:45, 7:30, 9:45, 10:30  
**Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** Fri-Tue, 11:45am, 12:15, 2:15, 2:45, 4:45, 5:20, 7:20, 8:10, 9:55, 10:45pm  
**\*Disney's A Christmas Carol (3-D):** Fri-Tue, 12:05, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 10:05  
**Fantastic Mr. Fox:** Fri, 12:40, 3:00, 5:25, 7:45, 10:10  
**\*Invictus:** Fri-Tue, 12:50, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20  
**Law Abiding Citizen:** Fri-Tue, 7:55, 10:35  
**Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann:** Sat,

DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL

D: Robert Zemeckis; with Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Cary Elwes, Robin Wright Penn, Bob Hoskins, Daryl Sabara. (PG, 96 min.)

The initial "gee, whillikers" reaction to Zemeckis' motion-capture rendition of the Dickens classic eventually turns to "bah, humbug" as the film's technological novelty gives way to narrative mundanity. So absent is any emotional content that it's as though Dickens' ultimate cautionary tale is a mere afterthought onto which Zemeckis can drape his live-action/computer-animated visual hybrid that he has now used on his third sequential movie (following *Beowulf* and *The Polar Express*). Scrooge (Carrey) is still the same miserly old coot we know him to be, but instead of the transformative effect of Scrooge's glimpses into his past, present, and future, this film emphasizes the phantasmic elements of the ghosts and the pliable mechanics they use to show Scrooge such privileged viewpoints of his life. Carrey, never a slouch when it comes to his output, plays all three ghosts in addition to Scrooge. The actor sheds his usual silliness and adopts more of the tone and breeding of a British thespian. (11/06/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

AN EDUCATION D: Lone Scherfig;

with Carey Mulligan, Peter Sarsgaard, Alfred Molina, Cara Seymour, Dominic Cooper, Rosamund Pike, Olivia Williams, Emma Thompson. (PG-13, 95 min.)

Everything about Scherfig's coming-of-age story about a girl in the London suburb of Twickenham in 1961 is spot-on. The film tells a wonderfully nuanced story about a teenager's longing to break free of her provincial surroundings and enter the world at large. It's a story about her education in the university of life, an impartial proving ground that seduces many into its fold but whose revolving door is just as likely to hit you on the ass on the way out. Scherfig directs the drama, which is based on a memoir by Lynn Barber and adapted for the screen by Nick Hornby, with a steady but subtle hand. Crowning *An Education* is the central performance of Mulligan as 16-year-old Jenny: In this breakthrough role, the actress stuns us with a range that goes from dimpled schoolgirl to oh-so-sophisticated teen to Audrey Hepburn look-alike to disillusioned-but-wiser adult. (11/13/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Arbor, Dobie

EVERYBODY'S FINE D: Kirk Jones; with

Robert De Niro, Drew Barrymore, Kate Beckinsale, Sam Rockwell, Melissa Leo, Lucian Maisel, James Frain, Katherine Moennig. (PG-13, 95 min.)

*Everybody's Fine* - a movie about the lies grown children tell their parents - is, ironically, one of the most disingenuous movies to come out of Hollywood in a while. The film is an American remake of Giuseppe Tornatore's Italian original, but the problems in tone that often beset American remakes of foreign films are merely the beginning of this movie's faux pas. The characters, whose behaviors are the result of emotionally complex situations, are two-dimensional creations with little backstory and zero depth. The story recounts episode after episode of one man's disconnect with his grown children, and then wraps it up with a sentimental, patently false, feel-good, holiday ending. De Niro plays the family patriarch Frank Goode, and one of the few things to be thankful for in this movie is that De Niro abandons the comic mugging that has characterized his last decade of work and actually acts - or, at least, doesn't overact. (12/04/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Hill Country Galleria, Gateway, Tinseltown South

FANTASTIC MR. FOX D: Wes

Anderson; with the voices of George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, Wallace Wolodarsky, Eric Chase Anderson, Michael Gambon, Willem Dafoe. (PG, 87 min.)

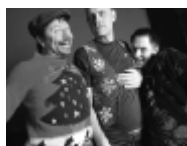
Certainly the source material appears, at first glance, far afield of Anderson's usual lens-finder. But instead of bending to the will of the source, Roald Dahl's 1970 children's book about a turf war between farmers and foxes, Anderson has instead made it conform rather giddily to his own sensibilities. This is an animated film that happily has room for both an existentialist dread of death and a grinning joie de vivre. Clooney voices the titular Mr. Fox, a former thief made to go straight by his wife (Streep) when they give birth to a son, Ash (Schwartzman). But Mr. Fox is too visionary and, well, prankish to stay settled down, so he masterminds one last caper. *Fantastic Mr. Fox* is rendered in traditional stop-motion animation - a style nearly bygone in these digital days - and both the antiquity and the laboriousness of that process are perfectly suited to Anderson. There's a terrific amount of talent corralled here. (11/27/2009) - Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, Gateway, Metropolitan, Westgate

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SAT, DEC 19	BAD LIEUTENANT 115 320 420 725 1030 MASTER PANCAKE CHRISTMAS SHOW! 700 1000
SUN, DEC 20	LORD OF THE RINGS HOBBIT FEAST 1030 BAD LIEUTENANT 115 420 725
MON, DEC 21	BAD LIEUTENANT 420 720 1020 SAM FULLER'S SHOCK CORRIDOR 700 MUSIC MONDAY: METAL: HEADBANGER'S JOURNEY 945
TUE, DEC 22	BAD LIEUTENANT 420 720 1020 HEY HOMO! FEMALE TROUBLE 700 TERROR TUES: CHRISTMAS EVIL w/ DIRECTOR 1000
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THU, DEC 24	BAD LIEUTENANT 550 855 GRANDMA'S BOY QUOTE-ALONG 700 HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS BEERFEST & BEERLYMPICS 1000

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AVATAR in 3D	1100	250	700	1030	
AVATAR in 3D	1140	330	730	1100	
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FOLEYVISION: SANTA vs. SATAN	705	945		Sun	

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AVATAR\* DOLBY 3D

(11:00 12:00 3:00 4:00)  
7:00 8:00 10:45 11:45

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE \* (11:10 1:50 4:50)  
MORGANS? 7:15 10:15

BROTHERS (1:30 4:40) 10:00

new moon (12:45 4:20) 7:45 11:00

THE BLIND SIDE (11:45 3:15) 6:30 9:45

A CHRISTMAS CAROL (11:20 1:40 4:10) 6:45

NINJA ASSASSIN 9:30

Opening Wednesday, December 23rd

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AVATAR 3D (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 9:30 9:45 10:00 12:30 12:45 1:00 1:15 3:45 4:00 4:15 4:30 7:00 7:15 7:30 7:45 10:15 10:30 11:00 11:15 Sun. - Thu. 9:30 9:45 10:00 12:30 12:45 1:00 1:15 3:45 4:00 4:15 4:30 7:00 7:15 7:30 7:45 10:15 10:30

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS? (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:10 12:25 2:40 4:55 7:10 9:25 11:45 Sun. - Thu. 10:10 12:25 2:40 4:55 7:10 9:25

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (G) Fri. & Sat. 9:50 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:00 9:30 11:45 Sun. - Thu. 9:50 12:00 2:15 4:30 7:00 9:30

INVICTUS (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 10:05 1:25 4:15 7:05 10:00 11:35 Sun. - Thu. 10:05 1:25 4:15 7:05 10:00

NINJA ASSASSIN (R) Fri. & Sat. 10:25 12:40 2:55 5:10 7:25 9:40 11:45 Sun. - Thu. 10:25 12:40 2:55 5:10 7:25 9:40

PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL "PUSH" BY SAPPHIRE (R) Fri. & Sat. 11:25 1:55 4:20 7:00 9:25 11:40 Sun. - Thu. 11:25 1:55 4:20 7:00 9:25

THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:00 1:50 4:25 7:05 9:35 11:55 Sun. - Thu. 11:00 1:50 4:25 7:05 9:35

\* Special Engagement: No Passes/Coupons Tickets available online at GALAXYTHEATRES.com

Shock Corridor

Shock Corridor (1963) D: Samuel Fuller; with Peter Breck, Constance Towers, Gene Evans. (NR, 101 min.) Big Screen Classics. Despite the resistance of his stripper girlfriend, a journalist goes undercover to solve a murder and has himself committed to a mental institution. What he discovers, however, is that the mind is a very fragile thing, and that the horrors of the mentally unbalanced can be florid reflections of society's contradictions. This is one of Fuller's very best films. @Alamo Ritz, Monday, 7pm.



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## A Christmas Story

**A Christmas Story (1983)** D: Bob Clark; with Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, Melinda Dillon, Ian Petrella, Scott Schwartz, Tedde Moore. (PG, 98 min.) **Holiday Film Series.** In this beloved holiday film, young Ralphie wants nothing more for Christmas than a Red Ryder, 200-shot, range-model air rifle, but he must convince Mom and Dad that, if lucky enough to receive this "Holy Grail of Christmas presents," he won't shoot his eye out. (\*) @Paramount, Thursday (12/17), 7pm; Friday, 9pm; Sunday, 2:30pm.



## THE HURT LOCKER

D: Kathryn Bigelow; with Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie, Brian Geraghty, Guy Pearce, Ralph Fiennes, David Morse, Evangeline Lilly, Christopher Sayegh. (R, 131 min.)

The hybridization of arthouse and action doesn't happen all that often, but it should, if mashing the two genres makes for film as riveting and rattling as *The Hurt Locker*. Bigelow's film tells the story of an elite bomb-dismantling squad winding down a tour of duty in Iraq. "Story" is perhaps misleading, as *The Hurt Locker*, very little interested in character backstory or conventional plot, charts a series of missions, some more successful than others, with only the occasional interlude of drunken roughhousing. There's no moralizing here, no monologuing about why we fight: *The Hurt Locker* mostly restricts its focus to dramatizing the dirty work of bomb-dismantling in a war zone, and that it does brilliantly. The tension is enough to make you slightly sick, and the overall mood of the thing is deeply dispiriting, but then, nobody ever said that war isn't hell. (07/10/2009) — Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Arbor

**INVICTUS** D: Clint Eastwood; with Morgan Freeman, Matt Damon, Tony Kgoroge, Julian Lewis Jones, Adjoa Andoh. (PG, 134 min.)

Freeman teams up once again with director Eastwood to play South African president and international hero Nelson Mandela. The story is based on John Carlin's book *Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation*. The game in question is rugby and the events surround Mandela's enthusiastic support of the South African team's attempt to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup. Although a fan of the sport, Mandela's actions were born of an ulterior motive: that of building a post-apartheid nation. With racial tensions high after his release from prison and ascension to the presidency, Mandela saw a means of bridging the fears between his newly powerful black constituency and the fearful, white old guard. Eastwood's direction, though typically assured and understated, is nevertheless flabby at times. Yet *Invictus* remains inspiring and educational, especially during this present time in America in which we are supposedly muddling our way into a post-racial society. (12/11/2009) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

## ME AND ORSON WELLES

D: Richard Linklater; with Zac Efron, Claire Danes, Christian McKay, Ben Chaplin, Zoe Kazan, Eddie Marsan, Kelly Reilly, James Tupper, Leo Bill. (PG-13, 113 min.)

The "me" in this boy-meets-boy period comedy is Richard Samuels (Efron), a dreamy-eyed high schooler who quite literally stumbles into the part of his life, as a walk-on in the New York theatrical production of *Julius Caesar*, Orson Welles' barn-burning 1937 debut production for his Mercury Theatre troupe. Richard, light on his feet, talks his way into Welles' production; Welles (McKay), only 22 and admiring of anyone with pluck (so long as said pluck doesn't steal from his own spotlight), takes a liking to the kid. McKay's performance seems effortless, so commanding is it, careening from cocksure boy genius to bellowing, beleaguered director to ice-in-his-veins slayer of baby dragons such as disposable actors and mewling rival suitors. Efron brings a lively physicality to the film but his acting, nevertheless, lacks a certain sophistication. Linklater has crafted an always genial and at times even joyful period charmer about that moment on the cusp: before a boy becomes a man and another man becomes a mythological figure. (12/11/2009) — Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

## THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS

D: Grant Heslov; with George Clooney, Ewan McGregor, Jeff Bridges, Kevin Spacey, Stephen Lang, Robert Patrick, Waleed Zuaiter, Stephen Root. (R, 93 min.)

All goats aside, this is one odd duck. A title card reads, "More of this is true than you would believe," but it's impossible to tell what's factual in this fictionalized take on Jon Ronson's book about Army experiments in the paranormal because it all sounds so deeply ludicrous. It's never uninteresting — but never entirely successful, either. Reeling from his wife's infidelity, journalist Bob Wilton (McGregor) leaves his podunk paper in Ann Arbor, Mich., for Iraq, and bumps into the story of a lifetime, packaged neatly in the mustachioed frame of Clooney's Lyn Cassady, psychic spy. This is Heslov's first time directing, after co-writing and producing with Clooney *Good Night, and Good Luck*, and there are too many tiny blunders to call his debut a triumph. Still, there is Clooney's deceptively layered performance, some startling bits of laugh-out-loud absurdity, and the not-at-all-negligible pleasure to be had in a cockeyed point of view. (11/06/2009) — Kimberley Jones

★★★ Tinseltown South

**NINJA ASSASSIN** D: James McTeigue; with Rain, Naomi Harris, Ben Miles, Rick Yune. (R, 99 min.)

Pitched somewhere between a pre-adolescent boy's fantasy world of nunchaku and shuriken (or fighting sticks and throwing stars) and a wildly off-kilter exercise in homoerotic beefcakery, this astonishingly crappy slo-mo gorefest proves once and for all that McTeigue wasn't the man responsible for the excellent *V for Vendetta* and that the writer/producer Wachowski brothers were. I'm not sure there's anybody at the helm of *Ninja Assassin*, which just flat-out sucks rice dumplings, beginning with its generic title on down to its preposterously dumb view of the ups and downs and, you know, bullet-avoidance techniques of your average contemporary ninja. That would be ginchy Korean pop-lite star Rain who plays Raizo, abducted as a child by the not even vaguely mysterious Ozuno Clan, and thereafter raised to be, like, totally unkillable and way superbuff. The convoluted and really, really lousy storyline has sexy Interpol agent Mika Coretti (Harris) digging up connections between international assassinations and the Ozunus. (11/27/2009) — Marc Savlov

● Highland, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South



## Female Trouble

**Female Trouble (1975)** D: John Waters; with Divine, Edith Massey, David Lochary, Cookie Mueller, Mary Vivian Pearce, Mink Stole. (NC-17, 98 min.) **Hey Homo! Presents.** Waters' follow-up to his groundbreaking commercial success with *Pink Flamingo* was this over-the-top melodrama starring Divine in a tour-de-force performance as Dawn Davenport, a girl who leaves home when she doesn't get the cha-cha heels she wanted for Christmas. (\*) @Alamo Ritz, Tuesday, 7pm.

**OLD DOGS** D: Walt Becker; with Robin Williams, John Travolta, Kelly Preston, Seth Green, Ella Bleu Travolta, Conner Rayburn, Lori Loughlin, Matt Dillon, Rita Wilson, Dax Shepard, Bernie Mac, Luis Guzmán, Ann-Margret, Amy Sedaris, Justin Long. (PG, 88 min.)

*Old Dogs* amounts to little more than an opportunity for Williams and the Travolta family (parents Travolta and Preston co-star alongside daughter Ella Bleu Travolta) to cash nice paychecks. *Old Dogs* is not so much bad as it is witless and predictable. No one's heart seems to be in the affair, and the paint-by-numbers comedy just doesn't sell itself. Travolta and Williams play Charlie and Dan, phenomenally successful sports marketers who are on the verge of the biggest deal of their careers when Dan is informed that he is the parent of twin 7-year-olds. Trivia connoisseurs should note that this film was Bernie Mac's last; *Old Dogs'* release was delayed eight months out of respect for the dead. Numerous other top-flight performers (among them Dillon, Ann-Margret, Wilson, an unbilled Long) make what amount to little more than cameo appearances. (11/27/2009) — Marjorie Baumgarten

✦ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

**PLANET 51** D: Jorge Blanco; with the voices of Dwayne Johnson, Jessica Biel, Justin Long, Gary Oldman, Seann William Scott, John Cleese. (PG, 91 min.)

*Planet 51* is innocuous to the point of distraction. While the CG animation is colorful and vibrant, the story is little more than a compilation of science-fiction clichés. *Planet 51's* main gag is the reversal of the ancient (by Hollywood standards, anyway) genre convention of society's fear of alien invasion. Here, it's the green-skinned, droopily antennae *aliens* who are terrified of a lone human spaceman (Johnson), who crash-lands into their world. In a sop to Hollywood's golden age of science-fiction filmmaking, the whole planet closely parallels Fifties Americana, right down to the *Happy Days* slang and the monster-movie matinees playing at the local movie theatre. I could go on and on about *Planet 51's* multitude of direct references to its sci-fi antecedents, but the bottom line is that *Planet 51*, while expertly executed animationwise and passably entertaining for very young kids (less so for their parents), is still as dull as the hull on *Rocketship X-M*. (11/20/2009) — Marc Savlov

★ Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

## PRECIOUS: BASED ON THE NOVEL 'PUSH' BY

**SAPPHIRE** D: Lee Daniels; with Gabourey Sidibe, Mo'Nique, Paula Patton, Mariah Carey, Sherri Shepherd, Lenny Kravitz. (R, 109 min.)

Much like its title protagonist, Precious — a sexually, emotionally, and physically abused 16-year-old African-American girl who is functionally illiterate, morbidly obese, and pregnant with her second child fathered by her own father — this film is a rough-hewn entity with unlikely odds for success. Yet both the character and the movie overcome their handicaps to become the kind of success stories that the American mythmaking machinery loves to love. Claireece Precious Jones (Sidibe) and her mother, Mary (Mo'Nique), are women we rarely notice. But instead of looking the other way, this movie and the popular book on which it is based place them front and center. Newcomer Sidibe is a real find and not just a looming presence and narrative device. Daniels has also done a marvelous job of casting famous friends of his and getting heart-stirring, stripped-down performances from them all. Despite achieving such a remarkably raw and naturalistic tone, Daniels ups the ante with extreme melodramatic touches. (11/20/2009) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Arbor, Dobie, Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

**THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG** D: Ron Clements, John Musker; with the voices of Anika Noni Rose, Bruno Campos, Keith David, Michael-Leon Wooley, Jennifer Cody, Jim Cummings, Peter Bartlett, John Goodman, Jenifer Lewis, Terrence Howard, Oprah Winfrey. (G, 97 min.)

The Disney 2-D animators, who have been losing face, of late, to their CG and 3-D brethren, here stage a bold, vibrant, and altogether bloodless coup on all things Pixar, and whaddya know? They win. (For now, anyway.) Set in Twenties-era New Orleans, this umpteenth version of what was originally a Brothers Grimm fairy tale makes the Crescent City a major character in and of itself while dusting off the old story of girl-meets-frog and tricking it up with all manner of raucous, jazzy hoodoo, voodoo, and bayou panache. Directors Clements and Musker are the guys behind *Aladdin* and *The Little Mermaid*, and they employ their keen senses of story, pacing, and killer comic rhythm to support a new twist (several, actually) on an old amphibian. Also, the film features a nearly all African-American cast. It's Disney's best traditionally animated outing in ages. (12/11/2009) — Marc Savlov

★★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

**THE ROAD** D: John Hillcoat; with Viggo Mortensen, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Charlize Theron, Robert Duvall, Guy Pearce, Molly Parker. (R, 119 min.)

Cormac McCarthy's novel, by any standard, is no one's idea of a giddy, fun, summer beach read. It's the story of a father and son (credited as "Man" and "Boy") wandering through a blighted American wasteland beset by some (unnamed) catastrophe. Cannibalism, rape, and worse are the order of the day, but McCarthy's unswerving humanity sees the novel through to a conclusion that is no less wrenching for the rusty sliver of hope it offers. Director Hillcoat proves an inspired choice to helm this film adaptation, and his rendering of McCarthy's words can't be faulted for its visual replication of the author's grim picture of mankind's final days. Mortensen, viewed either as a patriarchal Christ figure or simply as a devoted father, works minor miracles in what is essentially a one-note role. Who knew there were so many facial expressions approximating unrelenting despair? (11/27/2009) — Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Tinseltown South

**ROCKET SINGH: SALESMAN OF THE YEAR** D: Shimit Amin; with Ranbir Kapoor, Gauhar Khan. (NR, 150 min., subtitled)

*Not reviewed at press time.* In this Bollywood comedy, a young graduate tries to find the middle ground between professional life and following his heart. (12/11/2009) — Marjorie Baumgarten



## Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas

**"Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas" (1977)** D: Jim Henson; with the voices of Jim Henson, Jerry Nelson, Frank Oz, Marilyn Sokol, Dave Goelz, Richard Hunt, Eren Ozker, Gretchen Fox. (NR, 48 min.) **Kids Club.** Kermit the Frog hosts this classic Muppet musical Christmas tale, with original songs from master tunesmith Paul Williams. Live jug combo the Rogue River String Band plays before the film. (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, Saturday, 11:45am; free.

**★ SPIKE & MIKE'S NEW GENERATION ANIMATION**

D: Various. (NR, 90 min.)

For a change, Spike & Mike decided to shift their focus from gross-out titillation and instead gather simply the best and funniest animated shorts they could find. The collection includes award-winning animated shorts from around the globe. See "Head of the Class," Dec. 4, for more about the compilation. *Ends Tuesday, (12/11/2009)* - Marc Savlov  
**★★★★** Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek

**THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW**

**MOON** D: Chris Weitz; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Ashley Greene, Michael Sheen, Peter Facinelli, Billy Burke. (PG-13, 130 min.)

Catherine Hardwicke started the saga with last year's *Twilight*, a deliciously trashy mash of pulp and pop art that managed to take seriously its central lovers - doomy vampire Edward (Pattinson) and his teenage human paramour, Bella (Stewart) - while maintaining a sense of humor about itself. But Summit Entertainment chucked Hardwicke for the second installment, and her successor, Weitz, brings zero sense of play or sexual energy to the piece. It's as if everything's been buffed to achieve maximum banality. At the film's beginning, Edward dumps Bella - like, *the day after her birthday, OMG* - and is mostly absent in *New Moon*, which turns out to be a boon. Bella, incapacitated with grief, turns to her old pal Jacob (Lautner), but then Jacob starts morphing into a werewolf. The digital effects here are top-notch (as were the ones Weitz supervised in his last film, *The Golden Compass*), and *New Moon* excels in two centerpiece action sequences. *(11/27/2009)* - Kimberley Jones

**★** Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

**2012** D: Roland Emmerich; with John Cusack, Amanda Peet, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Thandie Newton, Danny Glover, Woody Harrelson, Oliver Platt, Zlatko Buric, Beatrice Rosen, Liam James, Morgan Lily. (PG-13, 158 min.)

Life is simple in Emmerich's films. Confronted with unprecedented perils, the characters in his disaster epics manage to reaffirm their broken loves, make amends for slipshod parenting, and, most impressively, outrun fireballs and certain death with their hides and wits intact. Emmerich takes the disaster-movie genre to its logical conclusion in *2012*, obliterating or reconfiguring vast swaths of the planet's surface (solar storms boil the Earth's core; tectonic havoc ensues) and providing a 158-minute thrill ride that zips by like the real thing. Over the duration, there are homages (or lifts) to apocalyptic exercises of decades past (particularly *When Worlds Collide*) and plenty of cheeky references to Emmerich's own résumé. *2012* is PTSD - Popcorn Thrills and Sappy meloDrama - supersized to counter current real-world terrors, and it is, by turns, thrilling, ridiculous (the script, by Emmerich and longtime co-writer Harald Kloser, is riddled with howlingly goofy lines and seriously improbable deus-ex-machina moments), and just plain big, dumb fun. *(11/13/2009)* - Marc Savlov

**★★** Barton Creek Square, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

**★ WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE**

D: Spike Jonze; with Max Records, Catherine Keener, Mark Ruffalo, Pepita Emmerichs, Steve Mouzakis; with the voices of James Gandolfini, Lauren Ambrose, Paul Dano, Catherine O'Hara, Chris Cooper, Forest Whitaker. (PG, 94 min.)

This is a freewheeling but tonally and aesthetically true adaptation of Maurice Sendak's 1963 children's book. Jonze, in collaboration with co-screenwriter Dave Eggers, seems to have tapped every primal feeling along the spectrum - joy, grief, rage, a relish for mayhem - and put it onscreen for



**Friendly but Starving II: An Evening of Avant-Garde & Experimental Filmmaking**

**Friendly but Starving II: An Evening of Avant-Garde & Experimental Filmmaking**  
 D: Various. **Austin School of Film: Artist Salon & Screening Series.** The program includes works by Noah Bissett, Danielle Goldfarb, Samantha Gore, Rusty Kelley, Faiza Kracheni, Nicole Licea, Sam Phillips, Bryan Taylor, and Solomons Waters. The filmmakers will be in attendance for Q&As. See "Feed an Artist, Nourish the World," p.48, for more details. @Austin School of Film, Saturday, 7:30pm.

our viewing pleasure. And a pleasure it is - the rare children's film that isn't coded for adults or made corny and flip for kids. Working with Jim Henson's Creature Shop and adapting quite literally Sendak's original etchings, Jonze has put to film what generations of children have only dreamed about: the nearness and dearness of Sendak's woolly beasts. One of the many delights of the film is in how *physical* it is (somebody is always pummeling somebody else and then following the beating with a bruising bear hug). There are minor grievances with the film, all technical, but they frankly feel inconsequential when put next to the film's overall effect. *(10/16/2009)* - Kimberley Jones  
**★★★★** Metropolitan

**★ ZOMBIELAND** D: Ruben Fleischer; with Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone, Abigail Breslin, Amber Heard. (R, 87 min.)

No spoilers here, but first things first: *Zombieland* has the single most outrageously entertaining and unexpected celebrity cameo of any film - genre or otherwise - this filmgoer has seen in a long, long time. It's not a sequence that makes or breaks the film, but it *does* tip *Zombieland* over the edge of zom-com ordinariness into something considerably weirder and therefore more fun. Debuting director Fleischer's action-and-innards-drenched film dials it all up to 11 from the opening credits sequence - which uses pop-music-backed mayhem to smart expository and staggeringly kickass effect - and only slows down for a breather for the length of the aforementioned cameo. Storywise, there's precious little going on here that we haven't seen before, but Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick's archly hip and often downright hilarious script, combined with a quartet of seamless performances and enough cranial destruction to sate even the most diehard *Fangoria* reader, makes for one hell of a wild ride. *(10/02/2009)* - Marc Savlov  
**★★★★** Movies 8

Check Film Listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

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**also playing**

\*Full-length reviews available online at [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com).

ASTRO BOY ★★★ Movies 8

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS ★★★★ Movies 8

COUPLES RETREAT ● Movies 8

THE FOURTH KIND ★★ Tinseltown South

G-FORCE † Movies 8

LAW ABIDING CITIZEN ★ Metropolitan

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY ● Movies 8

SAW VI ★★ Movies 8

SHORTS ★★★ Movies 8

THE STEPFATHER ★ Movies 8

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 A CHRISTMAS STORY — 9 PM

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# special screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (\*) indicates full-length reviews available online: [austinchronicle.com/film](http://austinchronicle.com/film).

## THURSDAY 17

**Christmas Pops! Sing-Along** Sing along with all your favorite pop and video stars' Christmas carols. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

**A Christmas Story (1983)** See p.76.

**Eiff Quote-Along** D: Jon Favreau; with Will Ferrell. **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

**Miracle on 34th Street (1947)** D: George Seaton; with Maureen O'Hara, John Payne, Edmund Gwenn, Gene Lockhart, Natalie Wood, Thelma Ritter, Porter Hall. (NR, 96 min.) **Holiday Film Series.** A real holiday classic, this one's bound to make a Christmas booster out of the most hardened cynic. Little Natalie Wood plays a girl who challenges the reality of Kriss Kringle. Lots of wonderful character performances dot the picture. (\*) @Paramount, 9pm.

**RiffTrax Live: Christmas Shorts-Stravaganza (2009) NCM Fathom.** Michael J. Nelson, Kevin Murphy, and Bill Corbett will provide wisecracking commentary with special guest "Weird Al" Yankovic as they take on the bizarre animated "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and other classic holiday shorts and commercials. Wednesday's performance is live, and Thursday's is a prerecorded encore. @Southpark Meadows, Metropolitan, Hill Country Galleria, CM Cedar Park, Tinseltown North, 7pm.

**Twisted Justice (1990)** D: David Heavener; with Heavener, Erik Estrada, Shannon Tweed, David Campbell, Jim Brown, James Van Patten, Don Stroud, Karen Black. (R, 90 min.) **Cult Thursday.** Police in the year 2020 are not allowed to use guns, but a detective flouts the law to find a murderer. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

## SPACES

**"A Hero's Welcome" (2009)** D: Javier Sanchez. (NR, 47 min.) This documentary about Gainesville, Texas, the only Medal of Honor host city currently in the U.S., focuses on centenarian Lt. John Finn, the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient, and interviews other medal recipients and townsfolk. @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm.

**"Wild Texas Weather" (2009)** D: John Lewis and Patrick Fries; narrated by Ray Wylie Hubbard. (NR, 22 min.) See Texans struggle with nature – on the big screen and with immersive sound. The film features a score by David Hamburger and performances by Omar Kent Dykes, Toni Price, and Carolyn Wonderland. @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm.

## FRIDAY 18

**Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater.** The seasonal show features the Master Pancake regulars and clips from favorite holiday TV specials and other weird holiday programs. Owen Egerton and regulars John Erlar and Joe Parsons orchestrate the fun. @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10pm.

**A Christmas Story (1983)** See p.76.

**Infra-Man (1975)** D: Hua-Shan; with Li Hsiu-Hsien, Wang Hsieh, Yuan Man-Tzu, Terry Li. (PG, 88 min.) **Kung Fu Theatre.** This Japanese monster movie is an outrageously cheesy classic. A superhero cyborg does battle with some monster meannies who are led by the evil Princess Dragon Mom. An array of silly creatures battle practically nonstop for control of the Earth, while exclaiming ludicrous lines of dubbed dialogue. "It's infra-tastic!" (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid; free.

**Miracle on 34th Street (1947)** @Paramount, 7pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

## SPACES

**"A Hero's Welcome" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**"Wild Texas Weather" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 1:30, 2:30, 2:30, 3:30, 3:30, 4:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

## SATURDAY 19

**Christmas Show** @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10pm. (See Friday.)

**"Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas" (1977)** See p.76.

**Les Contes d'Hoffmann (2009)** D: Bartlett Sher. (NR, 250 min.) **Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD.** Offenbach's fictionalized take on the life and loves of the German Romantic writer E.T.A. Hoffmann is a fascinating psychological journey. Met Music Director James Levine conducts Joseph Calleja in the title role. The cast also includes Anna Netrebko as the tragic Antonia, Elina Garanca as the ambiguous Nicklausse, and Alan Held as the demonic four villains. Tony Award winner Bartlett Sher directs this new production. @Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, CM Cedar Park, Metropolitan, Hill Country Galleria, noon.

**Parents Afternoon Out** The Village Alamo Drafthouse teams up with its shopping-center neighbor Body Business every third Saturday of the month to provide child care for kids under the age of 7 while parents catch lunch and a movie at the theatre. Advance tickets required. See [www.originalalamo.com](http://www.originalalamo.com) to purchase. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 2:30pm.

**The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)** D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for more than 30 years straight. For more info, see [www.austinrocky.org](http://www.austinrocky.org). @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

## SPACES

**Friendly but Starving II: An Evening of Avant-Garde & Experimental Film Making** See p.77.

**"A Hero's Welcome" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**"Wild Texas Weather" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

## SUNDAY 20

**A Christmas Story (1983)** See p.76.

**Lord of the Rings Trilogy Hobbit Feast** D: Peter Jackson; with Elijah Wood. Twelve hours, three movies, seven meals. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30am.

**Miracle on 34th Street (1947)** @Paramount, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**Santa vs. Satan (1959)** D: René Cardona and K. Gordon Murray; with José Elías Moreno, Cesáreo Quezadas, José Luis Aguirre. (NR, 95 min.) **Foleyvision.** In Foleyvision, new sound effects, music, and dialogue are dubbed in over the original film – and performed live. The title of this live-action oddity pretty much says it all. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7:05, 9:45pm.

## 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. 1 issue is Monday, Dec. 21.** 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 e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): [specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com](mailto:specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com); Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): [calendar@austinchronicle.com](mailto:calendar@austinchronicle.com).

## SPACES

**"A Hero's Welcome" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 5pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**"Wild Texas Weather" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

## MONDAY 21

**Metal: A Headbanger's Journey (2005)** D: Sam Dunn, Scot McFayden and Jessica Joy Wise. (R, 96 min.) **Music Monday.** Lots of information and finely honed arguments characterize this vicariously thrilling and joyous documentary that explores heavy metal's many permutations and sheer endurance over the past 30-odd years. (\*) @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

**Shock Corridor (1963)** See p.75.

## SPACES

**"A Hero's Welcome" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**"Wild Texas Weather" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

## TUESDAY 22

**Christmas Evil (1980)** D: Lewis Jackson; with Brandon Maggart, Jeffrey DeMunn. (R, 100 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** There's a psycho loose in a Santa suit deciding who receives the gift of life. The filmmaker will be in attendance. @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

**Female Trouble (1975)** See p.76.

## SPACES

**"A Hero's Welcome" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**"Wild Texas Weather" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

## WEDNESDAY 23

**Christmas Horror Remix: You Better Watch Out!** The remix features three lousy holiday slashers in two hours by slicing out the boring stuff and keeping the basic plot, gore, and cheese. This remix dices *Iced* (1988), *Christmas Evil* (1980), and *Silent Night Deadly Night: Part 2* (1987). @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm.

**Eiff Quote-Along** @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**The Magic Christmas Tree (1965)** D: Richard C. Parish; with Chris Kroesen, Valerie Hobbs, Robert "Big Buck" Maffei, Darlene Lohnes. (NR, 60 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** A magic tree grants a boy three wishes, so he abducts Santa Claus and all his toys. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

**The Holy Mountain (1973)** D: Alejandro Jodorowsky; with Jodorowsky, Horácio Salinas, Zamira Saunders. (R, 114 min.) **High for the Holidays.** Trippy imagery, religious overtones, and hallucinatory symbolism are the hallmarks of in this epic film from cult visionary Jodorowsky. A Best Drug Story contest – with prizes – will be held before the film. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm.

**Dark Side of the Rainbow: The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon** D: Victor Fleming; with Judy Garland, Margaret Hamilton. (G, 101 min.) **High for the Holidays.** Test those rumors you've heard about the synchronicity between Hollywood's beloved *The Wizard of Oz* and Pink Floyd's 1973 musical opus, *Dark Side of the Moon*. Supposedly, if you crank up the album with the third roar of the MGM lion, you'll enter an upside-down world of hidden meanings and trippy rabbit holes. (\*) @Alamo Ritz, 9:25pm.

## SPACES

**"A Hero's Welcome" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**"Wild Texas Weather" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

## THURSDAY 24

**Beerfest With Beerlympics (2006)** D: Jay Chandrasekhar; with Chandrasekhar, Will Forte, Kevin Heffernan, Cloris Leachman, Steve Lemme, Mo'Nique, Eric Christian Olsen, Paul Soter,

## offscreen

**501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre** 501 Studios' soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – 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. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen. 485-3000. [www.501studios.com](http://www.501studios.com).

**Austin FilmWorks: Feature Lab** is now accepting registrations for its new class sequence, in which filmmaker Steve Mims requires students to produce two short films and play a key role in a class-produced feature-length film. See website for details. [www.austinfilmworks.com](http://www.austinfilmworks.com).

**Austin School of Film Classes** An excellent slate of classes is available for your cinematic advancement at the Austin School of Film, with professional instruction in Final Cut Pro, DV and HD cameras, animation and lighting techniques, and more. See website for details. [www.austinfilmsschool.org/classes](http://www.austinfilmsschool.org/classes).

**ChannelAustin Classes** Austin's digital media center offers filmmakers professional, hands-on instruction in HD field equipment and studio production, plus affordable access to the latest high-end gear and software by Sony and Apple. Learn more on Mondays from 6 to 7pm. See website for details. 1143 Northwestern. [www.channelaustin.org](http://www.channelaustin.org).

**Cine las Americas 13: Call for Entries** Cine las Americas invites filmmakers, producers, and distributors to participate in the showcase of contemporary films from North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean; and the Iberian Peninsula, as well as works made by or about Latinos and/or indigenous groups of the Americas. See website for details. Deadline: Jan. 15, 2010. [www.cinelasamericas.org](http://www.cinelasamericas.org).

**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. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. [www.austinstudios.org](http://www.austinstudios.org).

**The Screenplay Workshop: Winter Classes Fundamentals** Tuesdays, Jan. 19-Feb. 16, 7-9:30pm, or Saturdays, Jan. 23-Feb. 20, 1:30-4pm. \$225 (\$210 through Dec. 30). **Master Class** Tuesdays, Jan. 19-March 23, 7-9:30pm, or Saturdays, Jan. 23-March 27, 1:30-4pm. \$395 (\$370 through Dec. 30). **Introductory Script Consultation** A 1½-hour private consultation on your screenplay or screenplay ideas. \$70. **Private Instruction and Story Consultation** Five sessions, 90 minutes per session. \$370. All classes taught by professional screenwriters. See website for details. [www.thescreenplayworkshop.org](http://www.thescreenplayworkshop.org).

Erik Stolhanske. (R, 110 min.) **High for the Holidays.** Before Broken Lizard's comedy film about the underground world of competitive beer drinking, there will be live Beerlympics games to get your juices flowing. @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

**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**

**"A Hero's Welcome" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, noon, 5pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**"Wild Texas Weather" (2009)** @Texas Spirit Theater at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 10:30am, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30pm. (See Thursday, 12/17.)

**imax**

**Avatar (2009)** D: James Cameron; with Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Michelle Rodriguez, Giovanni Ribisi, Joel David Moore, CCH Pounder, Wes Studi, Laz Alonso. (PG-13, 162 min.) See full review on p.72. (\*) Fri.-Thu. (12/24), 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15pm.

**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 growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (12/17), 10am, 1pm; Fri.-Sat., 10am; Mon.-Wed., 10am.

**The Alps (2007)** D: Stephen Judson; narrated by Michael Gambon. (NR, 45 min.) John Harlin III attempts to climb the North Face of the Eiger, the site of his father's death 40 years earlier. The music is by rock band Queen. Thu. (12/17), 11am, 2pm; Fri.-Sat., 11am; Mon.-Wed., 11am.

**Hugh GRANT** **Sarah Jessica PARKER**

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COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA A CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT/BANTER FILMS PRODUCTION  
"DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?" SAM ELLIOTT MARY STEENBURGEN ELISABETH MOSS MICHAEL KELLY WILFORD BRIMLEY  
MUSIC BY THEODORE SHAPIRO PRODUCED BY MELISSA WELLS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANTHONY KATAGAS RYAN KAVANAUGH PRODUCED BY MARTIN SHAFER LIZ GLOTZER  
CASTLE ROCK PICTURES  
PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED  
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MARC LAWRENCE  
DidYouHearAboutTheMorgans.com  
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From the Director of "Juno"

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SUPERVISORS RANDALL POSTER RICK CLARK EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TOM POLLOCK JOE MEDJUCK TED GRIFFIN MICHAEL BEUGG  
PRODUCED BY IVAN REITMAN JASON REITMAN DANIEL DUBIECKI JEFFREY CLIFFORD BASED UPON THE NOVEL BY WALTER KIRN  
SCREENPLAY BY JASON REITMAN AND SHELDON TURNER DIRECTED BY JASON REITMAN

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LANGUAGE AND SOME SEXUAL CONTENT  
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- 4) NORAH JONES  
The Fall
- 5) ROBERT EARL KEEN  
Rose Hotel
- 6) BOB SCHNEIDER  
Live at the Paramount
- 7) MATT THE ELECTRICIAN  
Animal Boy
- 8) SARAH JAROSZ  
Song Up in Her Head
- 9) KAT EDMONSON  
Take to the Sky
- 10) GUY CLARK  
Somedays the Song Writes You

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UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY

GLITTER ART BY **SUE ZOLA**

• THURSDAY & SATURDAY // 10PM  
**CONTINENTAL GRAFFITI**

• FRIDAY 10PM  
**MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO**  
AND **DENNY FREEMAN**

• SUNDAY 8:30PM  
**JON DEE GRAHAM**  
WITH **LEE BARBER**

10:30PM **MIKE FLANIGIN** w/ **DAVE BILLER**

• MONDAY // 10PM  
**CRYBEAR**

• TUESDAY // 10PM  
**EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE**

• WEDNESDAY 10PM: **TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ**

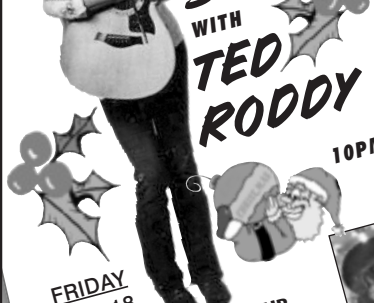
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THUR  
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HAPPY HOUR

**PLANET CASPER**  
**Rosie Flores**  
Christmas Show  
WITH **TED RODDY**



FRIDAY  
DEC 18

HAPPY HOUR  
THE LEGENDARY  
BLUES  
SPECIALISTS



12AM  
**T-BIRD & THE BREAKS**



10PM  
**THE GREYHOUNDS**  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 19

MATINEE 3-7PM  
**REDD VOLKAERT**  
**BARFIELD**  
THE TYRANT OF TX FUNK



10PM  
**PAUL RAY**  
AND THE COBRAS  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 20

10PM  
**HEYBALE**  
WITH **REDD VOLKAERT**  
AND **EARL POOLE BALL**

COMING SOON

**JIMMIE VAUGHAN**  
12/31 NYE IN THE GALLERY

**T-BIRD AND THE BREAKS**  
12/31

**CHUCK PROPHET**  
1/1 & 2

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H. H. Olivier Giraud's Continental Graffiti  
**DALE WATSON**  
AND HIS LONESTARS 10PM

TUESDAY DECEMBER 22  
H. H. 6:30  
**TONI PRICE**

12AM **THE SATURDAY NIGHTS** FEATURING **ALEX RUIZ OF DEL CASTILLO**

10PM SESSIONS ON S. CONGRESS  
**ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO**  
WED DECEMBER 23

H. H. **LISA MARSHALL**  
**JAMES McMURTRY**

10PM  
**JON DEE GRAHAM**  
THURSDAY DECEMBER 24

CLOSED TONIGHT... We Wish You A Joyous Christmas and Happy Holidays!  
SEE YOU TOMORROW AT 10PM FOR DALE WATSON'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW & DANCE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 25  
**DALE WATSON & HIS LONE STARS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW & DANCE**  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 26

MATINEE 3-7PM  
**REDD VOLKAERT**  
**BOOZE WEASELS**  
12AM

10PM  
**TWO HOOTS AND A HOLLER**

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FRI. DECEMBER 18 \*SKA/AFROBEAT\* DOORS 9:00

**BIG D & THE KIDS TABLE**  
HARDPROOF AFROBEAT  
PROPER VILLAIN SOUNDSYSTEM  
SAT. DECEMBER 19 \*REGGAE\* DOORS 9:00

**SISTER CAROL'S**  
KWANZAA CELEBRATION WITH DON CHANI  
WINSTON'S CARIBBEAN KITCHEN WILL BE OPEN!  
SAT. DECEMBER 26 \*HIP HOP\* DOORS 9:00

**PLANET ASIA**  
DJ NOTION, THE G.U.U.D., THE PHARMASIS  
UPCOMING SHOWS

12:30: THE BOB FLOYD BAND, ACHACHAY  
12:31: THE THIRD ANNUAL NYE REGGAE BASH WITH:  
★ GRIMY STYLES ★  
MAU MAU CHAPLAINS  
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RECOMMENDED EVENTS FOR DEC. 18 TO DEC. 23

# music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

## listings



## Sister Carol

Flamingo Cantina, Saturday 19

Bridging the gap between Jamaica and Brooklyn, Kingston-born, NYC-bred Sister Carol stirred up reggae and dancehall her own special way.

1984's mold-breaking *Black Cinderella* spoke to the importance of women in the genre and made her a favorite of Jonathan Demme (she's appeared in *Something Wild*, *Married to the Mob*, and last year's *Rachel Getting Married*). To boot, her dizzying spittin' style put her on a tier above most men, songs like "Dread Natty Congo" combining Rastafari beliefs with a potent, soulful dub foundation. In

essence, she's been able to rise above the sexualization of women in dancehall, and it's testament to her legacy that her message is still relevant today.

Mother Culture descends on the Flamingo Cantina for a Kwanzaa celebration, embodying the holiday's principles of purpose and creativity, among others, with style and grace. Don Chani opens. — Audra Schroeder

## JIMMIE DALE GILMORE, BUTCH HANCOCK

Saxon Pub, Friday 18

*Two Roads: Live in Australia*, Jimmie Dale and Butch's team-up from 20 years ago, still defines local storytelling, and the two Flatlanders playing back-to-back sets opening for the former's son, Colin Gilmore, is sure to include plenty of bleed-over. Plus, with these two, there's certain to be other Lubbock riders in the house. KGSR's *Lone Star State of Mind* hosts, 9pm. — Raoul Hernandez

## WINTER SOLSTICE DISCO/SAGITTARIUS BALL

Scout Inn/Beauty Bar, Friday 18

One night, two balls. East of I-35, the Winter Solstice Disco celebrates the days getting shorter and shorter and invokes disco fever via the ecstatic sounds of locals Many Birthdays, No Mas Bodas, and Clouds Are Ghosts. "What's your sign?" is the pickup line of the night over at Beauty Bar, soundtracked by Buttercup, Ideal Soul Mart, the Ripe, and more. — Audra Schroeder

## CHRISTMAS CACOPHONY

Mohawk, Saturday 19

The Black Angels' Austin Psych Fest 2 in March provided a time capsule of the local psychedelic resurgence, which opens early here with a premiere screening of the fest's accompanying documentary at 8pm. Then get high with the Angels' experimental drone side project, Viet Minh; the retro threads of the Ghost Songs; a very rare performance from No Wave trio Horse + Donkey; and the 1960s pop jangle of headliners Shapes Have Fangs. — Austin Powell

## WINDSOR FOR THE DERBY, ... TRAIL OF DEAD

United States Art Authority, Saturday 19

Two stalwarts of the Trance Syndicate era rendezvous in a surprisingly intimate venue: Austin-bred ambient outfit Windsor for the Derby finally returns for its first local performance since releasing last year's *How We Lost*, a delicate balance of pop and noise, while ... Trail of Dead caps *The Century of Self*. Voxtrout offshoots International Waters and JC & Co. hop onboard, along with the Folsom Prison blues of the Black and lo-fi duo Kingdom of Suicide Lovers. — Austin Powell

## BILL CALLAHAN

St. David's Episcopal Church, Sunday 20

Seeing Bill Callahan, in a church, on the Lord's day: It may seem like a contradiction in terms given that the local bard has spent the better part of his two-decade career questioning faith, among other things. However, his latest Drag City dish, *Sometimes I Wish We Were an Eagle*, takes a naturalistic turn, mellow gold melodies seeping into his pastel scenery, which will no doubt sound reverent. Accept him into your heart. 5pm. — Audra Schroeder

## GUSTAVO RODRIGUEZ BAND

Momo's, Tuesday 22

The acts are local, but the sounds come from around the globe, as befits this Tuesday night KUT-sponsored world music series. The Reyna brothers' Este Vato fuses reggae and rock with Latino rhythms, ex-Brave Combo man Bubba Hernandez rightfully calls himself a "super vato, cumbia rocker, and polka freakist," and the Gustavo Rodriguez Band imbues its Pan-Latino sound with social conscience. *Arriba!* — Margaret Moser

## ALONE TOGETHER

Beerland, Wednesday 23

This is your chance to see three local guitarists from rowdy-ass bands take it down a notch. The Crack Pipes' Billy Steve Korpi, Fleshlights' Max V, and Ape-Shits' Dean Beadles go solo, possibly with their own material, but here's hoping there are a few inspired holiday covers. "Last Christmas" by Wham!, anyone? — Audra Schroeder

EARACHE!

Huey Lewis

cover bands and more at [austinchronicle.com/earache](http://austinchronicle.com/earache)

## soundcheck

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

### PARADISE TITTY

*Club de Ville, Friday 18*  
Austin's all-girl Guns n' Roses cover band brings you to your sha-na-na-na-na knees.

### LAYNE GARRETT, GOLDMAN'S SAC, TED SERIOS, TIMEJACKER

*Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735, Friday 18*

D.C.'s Garrett improvises with found sounds, supported by a Texas noise cabal.

### AT ALL COST

*Red 7, Friday 18*

See "Off the Record," p.55.

### SUPERSUCKERS

*Scout Inn, Saturday 19*  
Adopted Texans rev the engine again.

### PAUL RAY & THE COBRAS

*Continental Club, Saturday 19*

It's a very South Congress Christmas.

### TAKE 6

*One World Theatre, Saturday 19*  
'Bama's a cappella voice of the Spirit for the holidays. 7 & 9:30pm

### AUSTINSURREAL FAMILY PARTY

*Mohawk, Sunday 20*

High spirits, no haters.

### THE CASSINGLES

*Beerland, Tuesday 22*

Punk rock straight to tape.

### ATTRACTIVE AND POPULAR, HOT WHITE

*Mohawk, Tuesday 22*  
Arkansas synth-punk, Colorado thrash, and Austin weird courtesy of Pataphysics and Mutating Meltdown.

live music venues p.82

roadshows + club listings p.84

## in-stores

Saturday: **Book of Shadows, Low Red Center, X = X,** Trailer Space, 7pm



| L - R: MANY BIRTHDAYS (FRI., 12/18) | WINDSOR FOR THE DERBY (SAT., 12/19) | BILL CALLAHAN (SUN., 12/20) | ATTRACTIVE AND POPULAR (TUE., 12/22)

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 FRI, DEC 18, 7PM: RIP LORICK  
 SAT, DEC 19, 7PM: FAT MAN & LITTLE BOY  
 SUN, DEC 20, 7PM: JIMIS COUNTRY JAM  
 BOBBY KENNEDY  
 DECEMBER 17TH  
 TUES, DEC 22, 7PM: WILL DUNLAP  
 WED, DEC 23, 7PM: PTARMIGAN

## NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

FRI, DEC 31 9PM: SOUTHPARK MEADOWS  
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 FRI, DEC 18, 10PM: WYNN TAYLOR  
 FREE TEXAS HOLD EM 9PM & 11:30PM  
 SAT, DEC 19, 10PM: JEFF WOOD  
 WYNN TAYLOR  
 DECEMBER 18TH  
 SUN, DEC 20, 10PM: OPEN MIC NIGHT

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**SAT 12/19 DEL CASTILLO**  
 w/ CADAQUES 8PM, \$15 COVER  
**TUE 12/22 COBALT** 8PM  
**WED 12/23 SHUFFLE UP & DEAL** 8PM  
**FRI 12/25 KEVIN HAVRON** 9PM  
**SAT 12/26 JOHNNY HOOTROCK**  
 & BURLESQUE DANCERS 9:30PM  
**TUE 12/29 THE BOOMSWAGGLERS** 8PM  
**WED 12/30 JOE B.** 8PM  
**THU 12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE w/**  
**STONE RAVERS**  
 9PM, \$5 COVER  
**FRI 01/01 THE WEATHERMEN** 9PM

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 11am Gospel Brunch no cover  
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# North

**SUN. 12/20 Piney Grove Ramblers**  
 11am Bluegrass Brunch no cover  
**WED. 12/23 Earl Poole Ball**  
 7pm Sittin', Singin' & Supper no cover  
**THUR. 12/31 Jimmy LaFave**  
 check website for details! New Years Eve Dinner! \$50  
 6416 N. LAMAR BLVD. (512)451.5440

# live music venues

**311 CLUB**, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630  
**THE ALLIGATOR GRILL**, 3003 S. Lamar, 444-6117  
**THE AMSTERDAM**, 121 W. Eighth, 236-1606  
**ANDERSON MILL TAVERN**, 10401 Anderson Mill,  
 293-5563  
**ANTONE'S**, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE**, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283  
**AUSTIN CITY HALL PLAZA**, Cesar Chavez between  
 Guadalupe and Lavaca, 974-2000  
**AUSTIN CITY HALL**, 301 W. Second, 974-2220  
**AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER**, 500 E. Cesar Chavez,  
 404-4000  
**AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN**,  
 Fourth & Guadalupe, 236-0074  
**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735**,  
 2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043  
**BAR 141**, 141 E. Hopkins St., San Marcos,  
 512/558-7399  
**BASTROP SENIOR CENTER**, 1008 Water St., Bastrop,  
 512/321-7907  
**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB**, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335  
**BEAUTY BAR**, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943  
**BEERLAND**, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK  
**BLU**, 360 Nueces, 431-4888  
**BOOMERZ**, 6148 Hwy. 290 W., 892-3373  
**BOTTICELLI'S**, 1321 S. Congress, 916-1315  
**'BOUT TIME**, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339  
**BROKEN SPOKE**, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189  
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**CAROUSEL LOUNGE**, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790  
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 538-1991  
**CHEZ ZEE**, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666  
**CHUGGIN' MONKEY**, 219 E. Sixth, 476-5015  
**CLUB DE VILLE**, 900 Red River, 457-0900  
**THE COCKPIT**, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB**, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444  
**COPA BAR & GRILL**, 217 Congress, 479-5002  
**COTTON CLUB**, 212 E. Davilla St., Granger,  
 512/859-0700  
**DONN'S DEPOT**, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336  
**THE DRISKILL HOTEL**, 604 Brazos, 474-5911  
**EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD**, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860  
**ELPHANT ROOM**, 315 Congress, 473-2279  
**ELYSIUM**, 705 Red River, 478-2979  
**EMO'S**, 603 Red River, 505-8541  
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**GÜERO'S TACO BAR**, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688  
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 512/670-9617  
**HEADHUNTERS**, 720 Red River, 236-0188  
**HILL'S CAFE**, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300  
**HOLE IN THE WALL**, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747  
**HOUSE WINE**, 408 Josephine, 322-5210  
**THE HUB**, 3815 Dry Creek Dr., 432-5390  
**HYDE PARK THEATRE**, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY  
**IGUANA GRILL**, 2900 RR 620 N., 266-8439  
**IT'S A GRIND**, 700 E. Whitestone, 259-2220  
**JOVITA'S**, 1619 S. First, 447-7825  
**KEY BAR**, 617 W. Sixth, 236-9389  
**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  
**LUCKY LOUNGE**, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700  
**MAGGIE MAE'S**, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541  
**MANUEL'S**, 310 Congress, 472-7555  
**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS**, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261  
**MEAN-EYED CAT**, 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326  
**MOHAWK**, 912 Red River, 482-8404  
**MOMO'S**, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848  
**MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB**, 715 W. Sixth,  
 478-7747  
**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN**, 4215 Duval St.,  
 451-3994  
**MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS**, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd.,  
 477-2900  
**NUEVO LEÓN**, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097  
**NUNO'S ON SIXTH**, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE**, 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648  
**OILCAN HARRY'S**, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823  
**THE OLD COUPLAND INN & DANCEHALL**,  
 101-103 Hoxie, Coupland, 512/856-2226  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR**, 121 E. Fifth, 473-0121  
**ONE WORLD THEATRE**, 7701 Bee Caves Rd.,  
 330-9500  
**THE PARISH**, 214 E. Sixth, 473-8381  
**THE PARLOR**, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965  
**PARMER LANE TAVERN**, 2121 Parmer #1, 339-0663  
**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE**, 5001 E. Ben White,  
 444-2020  
**PLUSH**, 617 Red River, 478-0099  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL**, 22308 Hwy. 71 W.,  
 Spicewood, 512/264-0318  
**POODLE DOG LOUNGE**, 6507 Burnet Rd., 465-9468  
**RABBIT'S LOUNGE**, 1816 E. Sixth, 473-3771  
**REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE**, 13450 Hwy. 183 N.,  
 335-5115  
**RED 7**, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100  
**RED EYED FLY**, 715 Red River, 474-1084  
**RED FEZ**, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120  
**RED SHED TAVERN**, 8504 S. Congress, 280-4899  
**RENAISSANCE HOTEL**, 9721 Arboretum Blvd.,  
 343-2626  
**RILEY'S TAVERN**, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter,  
 512/392-3132  
**ROADHOUSE**, 1103 Wonder St., Round Rock,  
 512/218-0813  
**RUTA MAYA**, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637  
**SAM'S TOWN POINT**, 2115 Allred, 282-0083  
**SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR**, 5900 Slaughter, 288-9994  
**SAXON PUB**, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552  
**THE SCOOT INN**, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200  
**SHENANIGANS**, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717  
**SHINER'S SALOON**, 422 Congress Ste. D, 448-4600  
**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS**, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060  
**SPEAKEASY**, 412 Congress, 476-8017  
**ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, 304 E. Seventh,  
 472-1196  
**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, 2128 Barton Hills Dr.,  
 444-1449  
**STARDUST CLUB**, 11940 Manchaca Rd., 280-8590  
**STUBB'S**, 801 Red River, 480-8341  
**T.C.'S LOUNGE**, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200  
**TEXAS BAR & GRILL**, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300  
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 472-9304  
**TOM'S TABOOLEY**, 2928 Guadalupe #102, 479-7337  
**TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER**,  
 1401-A Rosewood, 524-1445  
**TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL**, 2201 College Ave.,  
 443-4200  
**TRIPLE CROWN**, 206 N. Edward Gary St., San  
 Marcos, 512/396-2236  
**TRIUMPH CAFE**, 3808 Spicewood Springs Rd.,  
 343-1875  
**TROPHY'S**, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969  
**UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY**, 2906 Fruth,  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE**, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE**, 9600 S. I-35 Ste. D-100  
 (Southpark Meadows), 292-7900  
**WHIP IN**, 1950 S. I-35, 442-5337  
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## HEADLINERS THIS WEEK

Shows start at 9 pm. Cover charge at the door for all headliner shows.

THU 12/17	<b>Skyrocket!</b>
FRI 12/18	<b>Radio Star</b>
SAT 12/19	<b>LC Rocks</b>
SUN 12/20	<b>Little Red Corvette</b>
MON 12/21	<b>Soulution</b>
TUE 12/22	<b>Ritmo 3</b>
WED 12/23	<b>The SPAZMATICs</b>

## HAPPY HOUR M-F 6-8PM

THU 12/17	Karen and Kaki
FRI 12/18	Exit Wonderland
MON 12/21	Jordan Tanner
TUE 12/22	Tavana
WED 12/23	Josh and Jason

## PRIVATE EVENTS

Book a party at our veranda deck or plan a happy hour or private event in any of our rooms. Contact Amy Dial at amy@208events.com.

[cedarstreetaustin.com](http://cedarstreetaustin.com)

# club listings

★ RECOMMENDED R ROADSHOW 🎵 HEAR MUSIC ONLINE AT [austinchronicle.com/clubl listings](http://austinchronicle.com/clubl listings)

## THU 17

**311 CLUB** Joe Valentine (8:30)

**THE AMSTERDAM** Axis Unity 🎵, Meagan Tubb (9:00)

**ANTONE'S** The Effects, Dertybird 🎵, Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights (9:00) R

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Frank Meyer (7:30)

**AUSTIN CITY HALL** Vanessa Lively 🎵 Day (5:30)

**AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER** Armadillo Bazaar w/ Suzanna Choffel 🎵 (noon), Marcia Ball & Pianorama (8:00)

**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** Christmoose Party, Lipstick Pages Fundraiser w/ Jacob Goldberg, Attic Ted, DD Dagger 🎵, Miss Moonlight (5:00)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Jimi Lee (8:00)

**BEERLAND** Wine & Revolution, Leopold & His Fiction, International Waters R

**BOTTICELLI'S** Shawn Nelson (7:30)

**BROKEN SPOKE** Jesse Dayton 🎵 (9:00)

**BUENOS AIRES CAFE** Una Noche Portería Tango w/ Daniel Montserrat

**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Laserzz, lok, Bloody Knives (9:00)

**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Earl Poole Ball & the Cosmic Americans (6:30)

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Aaron Einhouse (9:30)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Continental Graffiti (10:00); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30); Rosie Flores Christmas Show w/ Ted Roddy (10:00) 🎵

**COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

**DONN'S DEPOT** Murphy's Inlaws  
**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Anthony Farrell (6:00)

**EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD** Laura Scarborough

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Silvie Rider, Aaron Allen

**ELYSIUM** Souxsie Sioux Tribute w/ DJ None

**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Necessity, Tombstone, Gabriel & the Beautiful Mind (9:00)

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, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, [clubs@austinchronicle.com](mailto: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](http://austinchronicle.com/register). Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Troy Campbell, Scrappy Jud Newcomb (7:00)

**FRIENDS** Soulution 🎵, Eric Tessmer

**THE GHOST ROOM** Redd Volkaert (8:30)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Vince Moreno & the Frayed Knots (9:00)

## roadshows

## december

### THU 17

**Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights**, Antone's  
**Leopold & His Fiction**, Beerland

**Crystal Antlers**, Audacity, Mohawk

**Meggan Carney**, Momo's  
**The Gunnhilda**, Parasitic Reign, Red Eyed Fly  
**Ben Lerman**, Ruta Maya  
**Lisa Marshall**, T.C.'s Lounge

### FRI 18

**Layne Garrett**, Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735

**Buttercup**, Beauty Bar  
**Big D & the Kid's Table**, Flamingo Cantina

**Physics of Meaning**, Spain  
**Colored Orange**, Hole in the Wall

**ShAnnie**, House Wine

**Brave Combo**, Jovita's  
**Givers**, the Parish  
**For Hours & Ours**, the Parlor  
**The Jonbenét**, Red 7  
**7 Day Trip**, G Dub Funk, the Stoics, Red Eyed Fly  
**Dimitri's Ascent**, Ruta Maya  
**Butch Hancock**, Saxon Pub

### SAT 19

**Rooney**, Tally Hall, Crash Kings, Emo's

**Sister Carol**, Flamingo Cantina

**Hit & Run**, the Butts, Headhunters

**Bob Cheevers**, Iguana Grill  
**Take 6**, One World Theatre  
**Head Crusher**, Red 7  
**Supersuckers**, Charlie & the Valentine Killers, Bob Wayne & the Outlaw Carnies, the Scoot Inn  
**The Devil Rides**, When Friends Become Strangers, Trophy's

### SUN 20

**Jeremy Williams**, Beauty Bar  
**Amanda Shires**, Rod Picott, Gruene Hall

**Robert Allen Caldwell**, Headhunters

**Tavana**, Speakeasy  
**Lights**, St. David's Episcopal Church

**Blue Blood**, T.C.'s Lounge

### MON 21

**Radio Valley**, Red Eyed Fly  
**Rat Traps**, Trophy's

### TUE 22

**Horse the Band**, Emo's  
**Attractive & Popular**, Hot White, Mohawk

**Waylon Payne**, Saxon Pub

### WED 23

**Lisa Marshall**, Continental Club

**Ouachita**, Saxon Pub

### THU 24

**Lisa Marshall**, T.C.'s Lounge

## for your benefit

### THU 17

**Christmoose Party**, Lipstick Pages Fundraiser w/ Jacob Goldberg, Attic Ted, DD Dagger, Miss Moonlight, **Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735**

**Austin Children's Shelter Benefit** w/ Larissa Ness, the Hub

**Vanessa Lively Day**, Art From the Streets Gift Drive w/ Stephanie Briggs, Vanessa Lively, Will Evans Project, Derrick Davis, Meggan Carney, Momo's

### FRI 18

**Mental Health America Benefit** w/ the Belleville Outfit, the Soldier Thread, Jeff Plankenhorn, Suzanna Choffel, My Education, Alpha Rev, **Antone's**

### SAT 19

**Gailon Holley Benefit** w/ Chris Beirne & the Lost & Found, **Garden District Coffee House**

**Metal for Meals**, **Capital Areas Food Bank Benefit** w/ 1836, Head Crusher, American Lab Rat, Course of Ruin, Brotherhood, Carbide, Killing in Apathy CD Release, **Red 7**

### MON 21

**Toys for Tots Toy Drive** w/ Papernail, Jabberwalkie, **Antone's**

See [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com) for complete listings.

**MONDAY DECEMBER 21ST 9PM**  
**BIRTHDAY BASH**  
 FOR NATALEA HAYES  
**GREG WILLIAMS • CHRIS TRAFTON**  
 WITH JABBERWALKIE, PAPERNAIL &  
 GREG AND CHRIS' FUNKY JAM SESSION  
 FEATURING BRUCE JAMES!  
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**JONATHAN TYLER AND NORTHERN LIGHTS**  
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**FRIDAY DECEMBER 18TH**  
**ALPHA REV**  
 BENEFITING MHA  
 FEATURING **THE TOSCA STRINGS**  
**THE BOXING LESSON**  
 MY EDUCATION OPEN  
 SUZANNA CHOFFEL, JEFF PLANKENHORN, MEMBERS OF SOUNDS UNDER RADIO, THE SOLDIER THREAD, THE BELLVILLE OUTFIT AND MORE!  
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**SATURDAY JANUARY 9TH**  
**SOUL HAT**  
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**FRIDAY JANUARY 15TH**  
**RAY WYLIE HUBBARD MICKY AND THE MOTORCARS**  
 CD RELEASE  
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**THURSDAY DECEMBER 22ND**  
 8PM  
**WC CLARK**  
 CHRIS LAYTON  
 RILEY OSBOURN  
 SCOTT NELSON & MORE

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 19TH**  
**GARY CLARK JR**  
**MERCY BABY REVUE**  
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**WEDNESDAY DEC 23**  
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**FRIDAY DECEMBER 25TH MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
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**HAYES CARLL**  
 BRUCE ROBISON : THE SIDESHOW TRAMPS  
 JOHN EVANS : THE HAPPENIN'S  
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**DECEMBER 29TH**  
**BILL CARTER & THE BLAME**  
**SEXTON • FREEMAN**  
**CARTER • SALMON**  
**LAYTON**  
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**WED DECEMBER 30TH**  
**THE SCABS**  
 PRE-NEW YEARS EVE BASH!  
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**FRIDAY JANUARY 1ST**  
 SPECIAL NEW YEARS SHOW!  
**PINETOP PERKINS & LOU ANN BARTON**  
 DOORS 7 SHOW 8  
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**THURSDAY DECEMBER 31ST**  
**NEW YEARS EVE PARTY!**  
**JOE REUNION**  
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**SAT JANUARY 2ND**  
 SPECIAL EARLY SHOW WITH  
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**SAT JANUARY 2ND**  
 10PM  
 HAPPY NEW YEARS!!!  
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**WED JANUARY 27TH**  
**JAY FARRAR OF SON VOLT & BENJAMIN GIBBARD OF DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE**  
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**FRIDAY FEB 12TH**  
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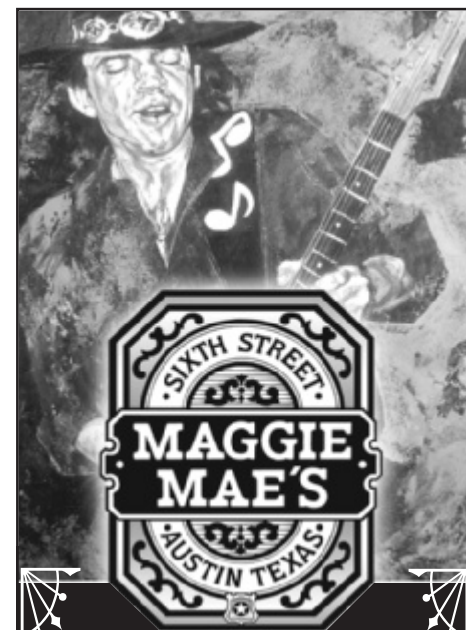
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**FRI FEB 5TH**  
**JONATHAN COULTON**  
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**SATURDAY FEB 6TH**  
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**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11TH**  
**HOWIE DAY**  
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**CURTIS GRIMES**  
 HAPPY HOUR 6-9PM

**FRIDAY 12/18**

HAPPY HOUR 5:30PM-9PM

**SUNGLASSES AND MUSHROOMS**  
**DJ FUNDAMENTAL**

**SATURDAY 12/19**

HAPPY HOUR 6-8PM

**ELEVEN FINGERED CHARLIE**  
**DJ DOC**

**SUNDAY 12/20**

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**ALAN HAYNES**

**MONDAY 12/21**

**MIKE MILLIGAN & THE ALTAR BOYZ**  
 8PM-MID

**TUESDAY 12/22**

**LIVE BAND KARAOKE**

**WEDNESDAY 12/23**

**ALAN DANIELS**  
**ERIC TESSMER**

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fr 18 Comanche Abortion, Contact High Fives plus Jared Cannon Roast

sa 19 The Chumps, Dave Bone & the Troublemakers, Extravaganza

su 20 Gerard's Birthday- Golden Boys, Fleshlights, Dated, DJ Alan B.

mo 21 ROCK & ROLL KARAOKE @ 9PM  
tu 22 The Stuffies, The Cassingles, Come and Take It

we 23 Alone Together-BillySteve Korpi, Max V, Dean Beadles, David Williams, more

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## CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

### FRI 18

**GRUENE HALL** Mark Jungers Mule Tide Christmas (7:00)

**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Johnny Gimble (6:00)

**HEADHUNTERS** Funeral for Fame, Steg Flex, Betaplayer (10:00)

**HOLE IN THE WALL** J. Wesley Haynes Trio, Nic Walker, Electric Mountain Rotten Apple Gang, the F-Holes (10:00)

**HOUSE WINE** Brett Randell (8:00)

**THE HUB** Austin Children's Shelter Benefit w/ Larissa Ness (5:30)

**HYDE PARK THEATRE** Athens v. Sparta (8:00)

**IGUANA GRILL** Grace Pettis (6:00)

**JOVITA'S** The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

**LA PALAPA** Triple Shot (7:00)

**LAMBERTS** Rebecca Havemeyer, Stanley Roy

**LUCKY LOUNGE** Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), Austin Knights Brass Band (10:00)

**MEAN-EYED CAT** Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends (8:00)

**MOHAWK** Audacity, Harlem, Crystal Antlers (8:00)

**MOMO'S** Vanessa Lively Day, Art From the Streets Gift Drive w/ Stephanie Briggs, Vanessa Lively (11:00), Will Evans Project, Derrick Davis, Meggan Carney (8:30)

**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

**MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** Buzz Guerra (7:30)

**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Spit & Tears (9:00), the Dank Trio (11:00)

**THE PARISH** Smoke & Feathers, the Strange Attractors, Amplified Heat (10:00)

**THE PARLOR** Wino Vino (9:00)

**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Voyces (7:30)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Customer Appreciation Party w/ Brooks Alan Brannon

**RABBIT'S LOUNGE** Southeast Players (10:00)

**RED EYED FLY** Courage of a Pawn, Hope for Aviana, Parastic Reign, Baphemetic, the Gunnhilda (8:00)

**RED FEZ** DJ Cashless (10:00)

**RUTA MAYA** Mistress Stephanie & Her Melodic Cat, Ben Lerman CD Release (9:00)

**SAXON PUB** Micky & the Motorcars, George Devore (10:00)

**THE SCOOT INN** Dave Insley's Careless Smokers (9:00)

**SHINER'S SALOON** Jeff Gallagher (10:00)

**SPEAKEASY** The Space Rockers (9:30)

**STUBB'S ST 37**, the Great Nostalgic (10:00)

**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Lisa Marshall (10:00)

**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Acoustic Open Mic

**TOM'S TABOOLEY** Fractals (8:00)

**TRIPLE CROWN** Joel Hofmann Band, the Standouts (10:00), Robbie & the Robots (6:00)

**TROPHY'S** Two Hoots & a Holler

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Bobby Kennedy (7:00)

**Z'TEJAS** Lucky Strikes

**THE AMSTERDAM** Brandon Steadman, Ryan Harkrider (9:30)

**ANTONE'S** Mental Health America Benefit w/ the Belleville Outfit, the Soldier Thread, Jeff Plankenhorn, Suzanna Choffel (9:00), My Education (9:00), Alpha Rev (9:00)

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Grazmatics (7:30)

**AUSTIN CITY HALL PLAZA** Capital City Men's Chorus (noon)

**AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER** Armadillo Bazaar w/ Sahara Smith (noon); Shaidri & Hank Alrich w/ Doug Harman, Jimmy LaFave (3:30)

**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** Timejacker, Ted Serios, Goldman's Sac, Layne Garrett (8:00)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Michael Holt (10:30)

**BEAUTY BAR** The Ripe, Ideal Soul Mart, Buttercup (8:00)

**BEERLAND** Contact High Fives, Comanche Abortion

**BLU** Christian Barbutto (7:00)

**BOOMERZ** Roy Heinrich & the Pickups (9:30)

**BOTTICELLI'S** Douglas Jay Boyd, Margot Valiante (5:30)

**'BOUT TIME** DJ Element

**BROKEN SPOKE** Dance Lessons, Asleep at the Wheel (8:00)

**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Bee vs. Moth (8:00)

**CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY** Celtic Storm Christmas Show (8:00)

**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Seu Jacinto (6:30)

**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Bruce James Soultet (6:30)

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Texas Renegade (9:30)

**CHUGGIN' MONKEY** Lixbox (8:30)

**CLUB DE VILLE** Paradise Titty (8:00)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Mike Flanigin (10:00); In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30); Greyhounds, T Bird & the Breaks (10:00)

**COTTON CLUB** Dave Jorgenson (8:30)

**DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters

**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Tameca Jones, Shotgun Party (6:00)

**EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD** Lucky Strikes (8:00)

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Sarah Temple, Beto y los Fairlanes (6:00)

**EMO'S** Curse the Heavens, Kegcharge, Rat King, the Roller (8:00)

**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Proper Villain Soundsystem, Hard Proof Afrobeat (10:00), Big D & the Kid's Table (9:00)

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** David Nathan, Ben Mallot, Noelle Hampton (6:00)

**FRIENDS** Eric Zapata, J.T. Coldfire, DJ Tetsuo

**THE GHOST ROOM** Legs Against Arms (10:00), Tiny Tin Hearts (10:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Amber Digby & Midnight Flyer (9:00)

**GRUENE HALL** Bill Rice, Cory Morrow (8:00)

**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Los Flames (6:00)

**HANOVER'S** Mysterious Ways (9:00)

**HEADHUNTERS** The Guud Holiday Help Show

**HILL'S CAFE** Opie Hendrix

**HOLE IN THE WALL** the Mole People, the Sour Notes (10:00), Spain Colored Orange, Physics of Meaning (9:00)

**HOUSE WINE** ShAnnie (8:00)

**IGUANA GRILL** Tim Henderson (6:00)

**IT'S A GRIND** Karen Chisholm (8:30)

**JOVITA'S** Nick Hirsch, Brave Combo (6:00)

**LAMBERTS** Rebecca Havemeyer, Stanley Roy

**LUCKY LOUNGE** Fatty Monk, More Cowbell (9:00)

**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (7:00)

**MEAN-EYED CAT** Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)

**MOHAWK** Sad Accordions, Cartright, Clay Nightingale, Frank Smith (10:00)

**MOMO'S** Nano Whitman, Josh Grider, Shawn Pander, Johnny Hootrock, Josh Grider (10:30)

**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

**MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** Judith Miller Band (8:30)

**ILCAN HARRY'S** Customer Appreciation Party w/ Austin Babbit Women (6:00)

**THE OLD COUPLAND INN & DANCEHALL** Kevin Fowler

**ONE 2 ONE BAR** David Ducharme-Jones (10:00), Mike Milligan & the Altar Boyz (8:00)

**THE PARISH** The Laughing, the Lemurs, Givers (9:00)

**THE PARLOR** For Hours & Ours, Major Major Major (9:00)

**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Jim Halfpenny (7:30)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Beautiful Mistakes, Roadhouse Rockers

**RABBIT'S LOUNGE** DJ Chorizo Funk, Maneja Beto

**RED 7** At All Cost, the Jonbenét (8:00)

**RED EYED FLY** The Stoics, G Dub Funk, 7 Day Trip, Stegosaurus Lips, Vegas Bomb (8:00)

**RED FEZ** DJ Jayson Lee (10:00)

**RUTA MAYA** Dimitri's Ascent, Spank, From Out of the Woods (9:00)

**SAXON PUB** Earl Poole Ball & the Cosmic Americans (6:00); Butch Hancock, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Colin Gilmore (9:00)

**THE SCOOT INN** Winter Solstice Disco w/ the Clouds Are Ghosts, No Mas Bodas, Many Birthdays (9:00)

**SHENANIGANS** Mary's Distraction (9:30)

**SHINER'S SALOON** Grady Skelton (10:30)

**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Blue Finger Disco (9:00)

**SPEAKEASY** Club in Austin (9:30)

**STARBUCKS** Weldon Henson

**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Franklin's Blues

**TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL** Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)

  
**RED EYED FLY**  
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<b>THURSDAY-DECEMBER 17</b> THE GUNNHILDA BAPHOMETTS PARASITIC REIGN HOPE FOR AVIANA COURAGE OF A PAWN	<b>FRIDAY-DECEMBER 18</b> VEGAS BOMB STEGOSAURUS LIPS 7 DAY TRIP G DUB FUNK THE STOICS
<b>SATURDAY-DECEMBER 19</b> NEW DISASTER WHITE RHINO AMERICAN HEIST OMERTA	<b>SUNDAY-DECEMBER 20</b> SUGAR QUEENS GOODNIGHT ETHER SMILING KNIGHTS THE CARRINGTON SLAYER
<b>MONDAY-DECEMBER 21</b> CLOSED FOR EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS PARTY	<b>TUESDAY-DECEMBER 22</b> RADIO VALLEY IN THE LOUNGE @ 9PM
<b>WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 23</b> THE HIGHWAY ORCHIDS IN JANUARY MATTHEW'S IPOD NIGHT	<b>THURSDAY-DECEMBER 24</b> CHRISTMAS EVE LOUNGE OPENS @ 8PM
<b>FRIDAY-DECEMBER 25</b> CHRISTMAS DAY LOUNGE OPENS AT 8PM	<b>SATURDAY-DECEMBER 26</b> DIRTY DEUCE FROM BYRNE + 1 JIMMYEARD MARY! REIDE HALE (SATELLITE SOLDIERS) IN THE LOUNGE @ 8PM

**UPCOMING SHOWS**  
 12/31 - TENTH ANNUAL NEW YEARS EVE w/ THE STUMMIES, BORN TO LOSE, NAKED EMPIRE, CANDIDATE, A.M. MELTDOWN  
 01/01 - FOR THE MOST PART, UNDER THE GUN, POSEY CHAPEL, BLOODY STILETTO, MOLOCK  
 01/02 - HERE'S TO NOTHING REUNION SHOW w/ THE GRAPES, TRIVERSE, BROKEN STATE THE JALOPENO HEADS  
 01/09 - BUTCHERWHITE, KOVEN THE LEVIATHAN & MORE  
 01/16 - BRINK OF DISASTER, SCRAPS OF LIFE, LUG  
 01/22 - HAMMER, SNAKESKIN PRISON  
 for private parties and info call: 512-474-1084

  
**ELYSIUM**  
 705 RED RIVER ST.  
 Thursday • Dec 17 **SPECIAL EVENT!**  
 a tribute to  
**Siouxsie Sioux**  
 Songs from Siouxsie & the Banshees,  
 The Creatures, Sex Pistols, and more  
 WITH DJ NONE  
 Friday • Dec 18 **LIVE MUSIC!**  
 Death Is Not a Joyride 12 AM  
 www.myspace.com/deathisnotajoyride  
 Hipnautica 11 PM  
 www.myspace.com/hipnauticamusical  
 Gobi 10 PM  
 www.myspace.com/gobi

**Saturday • Dec 19 **SPECIAL EVENT!****  
 A SPECIAL HAVEN PRESENTATION  
**NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS**  
 No cover in Nightmare or Christmas garb  
 or with an unwrapped toy donation  
 WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

**Sunday • Dec 20 **REGRESSION****  
 RETRO 80'S  
 WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & BOBA FETT

**Tuesday • Dec 22 **ROCK BAND****  
**The ROCK BAND Experience**  
 our stage, our lights, our console, your ROCK BAND  
 WITH DJ MINIMUS

**Wednesday • Dec 23 **MID-WAVE****  
 UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth  
 WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
 Thu. Dec 24 • CLOSED - Merry Christmas everyone!  
 Fri. Dec 25 • RETURN TO PLANET 9 Holiday Special - w/ DJ Roger Wilson  
 Thu. Dec 31 • NEW YEAR'S EVE - Elysium's Annual New Year's Party  
 21+ only • doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified  
 www.elysiumonline.net • (512) 474-2285  
 www.myspace.com/elysiumaustin

# ORIGIN ALE



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## DISCOVER BUDWEISER AMERICAN ALE.

Dry-hopped with Cascade hops from the Pacific Northwest for a full-bodied taste and bright finish. It's not just a new beer. It's a new kind of ale.

**SIP. SAVOR. REPEAT.**

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# Emo's

alternative lounge 505-8541  
603 RED RIVER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

INSIDE: **THE ROLLER • RAT KING  
KEGCHARGE • CURSE THE HEAVENS**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

OUTSIDE: **ROONEY  
TALLY HALL • CRASH KINGS**  
INSIDE: **SNAFU KITTIES  
ZORCH • PAPER SHAPES • WE AIM TO TRY**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

INSIDE: **PATAPHYSICS • LITERATURE  
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL  
(JASON OF VOXTROT)  
WAY NO WAY**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

INSIDE, DOORS AT 8PM:  
**HORSE THE BAND • ZLAM DUNK  
CRASH GALLERY • VERSUS  
LEVIATHAN**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

INSIDE: **THE RED JUMPSUIT  
APPARATUS**  
**FIT FOR RIVALS • GO ACTION TEAM**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

INSIDE: **NEW YEAR'S EVE AT EMO'S  
SCOTT H. BIRAM  
THE BEAUMONTS**  
**DARREN HOFF & THE HARD TIMES**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

INSIDE, EARLY SHOW, DOORS @5PM:

**CANDIDATE**  
**LA DISPUTE (MI) (NO SLEEP RECORDS)**  
**NATIVE (IN) (SARGENT HOUSE RECORDS)**  
**BROTHER/GHOST**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

OUTSIDE: NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENTS  
**BEHEMOTH  
SHINING • SEPTICFLESH  
PACK OF WOLVES**  
INSIDE: **ADAM FRANKLIN  
& BOLTS OF MELODY  
RINGO DEATHSTARR  
MY EDUCATION**

\*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT  
[emosoastin.com](http://emosoastin.com), [Waterloo Records](http://WaterlooRecords.com),  
[End of an Ear Records](http://EndofanEarRecords.com), [Trailer Space](http://TrailerSpace.com)

B.D. Riley's  
IRISH PUB  
6TH STREET FOR GROWN UPS

## RESOLVE. TO HAVE FUN!

OPEN 365 DAYS  
OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS/NEW YEARS

**PARTY ON NEW YEARS EVE**  
NO COVER. NO RESERVATIONS. GREAT BLUES.  
WITH THE **PREACHER KEEN BAND**

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SERVING UP FOOD & FUN SINCE 2000

HOLE IN THE WALL  
AUSTIN TEXAS  
EST. 1974

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 \* 10 PM \*  
**THE F-HOLES**  
ELECTRIC MOUNTAIN ROTTEN APPLE GANG  
NIC WALKER  
HAPPY HOUR: J WESLEY HAYNES TRIO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 \* 9 PM \* \$3  
**THE PHYSICS OF MEANING**  
SPAIN COLORED ORANGE  
THE SOUR NOTES  
MOLE PEOPLE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 \* 9:30 PM \* \$3  
**ENGLISH TEETH**  
MIR LEWIS AND THE FUNERAL FIVE  
CHRIS GATES IN GATESVILLE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 \* 9 PM \*  
**BB MERCY**  
THE FIREBALL SHOW  
JOHNNY FLASH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21 \* 9 PM \*  
NOEL MCKAY AND FRIENDS  
THE PRESERVATION (MARIO MATTEOLI)  
MIKE NICOLAI

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22 \* 10 PM \*  
**CLYDE AND CLEM AND FRIENDS**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 \* 9 PM \*  
**THE BLUE CHEESE X-MAS**  
HOSTED BY KULLEN FUCHS AND THE SADDLES  
SPECIAL GUESTS PERFORM THEIR FAVORITE  
CHEESY X-MAS CLASSICS!!!

\* KITCHEN AT 11AM \*  
[www.myspace.com/holeinthewallaustin](http://www.myspace.com/holeinthewallaustin)

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

**TRIPLE CROWN** Bill Jerram, Lo'tek, Buzz & Bangs, Wise Reading, Wargasm (6:00)  
**TRIUMPH CAFE** The Stonecastle Family Band (7:00)  
**TROPHY'S** Bar Brawl III, Blue Flames, Oil Pan Sluts, Hotrod Hillbillies

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Rip Lorick (7:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Wynn Taylor (10:00)

**ZILKER PARK HILLSIDE THEATER** A Very Glam Christmas w/ Thee Gaye Sportscasters (9:00)

**ANDERSON MILL TAVERN** Bitta Blue (10:00)

**ANTONE'S** Jason Moeller, Johnny Moeller, Mercy Baby Revue, Gary Clark Jr. (9:00)

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** The Studebakers (7:30)

**AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER DOWNTOWN** The Seekers, Havilah Tower (10:00am)

**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** Follow That Bird! (8:00)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Alan Haynes (10:30)

**BEERLAND** The Extravaganza, Dave Bone & the Troublemakers, the Chumps (9:00)

**BOTTICELLI'S** Jacob Jaeger, Copper Pots (5:30)

**'BOUT TIME** DJ Element (9:00)

**BROKEN SPOKE** Dance Lessons, the Derailers (8:00)

**CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY** Celtic Storm Christmas Show (8:00)

**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Suzanna Choffel (6:30)

**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** Will Taylor & Strings Attached w/ Eliza Gilkyson (8:00)

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Javi Garcia & the Cold Cold Ground, Zach Walther & the Cronkites (9:30)

**CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE** VC Childkraft, Owlbeemoth (8:00)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Continental Graffiti (10:00); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00); Paul Ray & the Cobras, Barfield (10:00)

**COTTON CLUB** People's Choice (9:00)

SAT 19

**THE AMSTERDAM** Amery, Loric (11:00)

THE SCOOT INN

11 LOCAL DRAFTS \* 2 FULL BARS \* 2 STAGES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 9PM  
**SCOOTENANNY W/  
CHARLIE TERRELL & THE  
MURDERED JOHNS**  
**DAVE INSLEY & THE CARELESS  
SMOKERS**  
**JOHNNY DILKS  
SHAND WALTON**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 9PM  
**WINTER SOLSTICE DISCO W/  
MANY BIRTHDAYS**  
**NO MAS BODAS**  
**CLOUDS ARE GHOSTS**  
**DJ MICHAEL ZAWODNIAK**  
**DJ SEE N' SAY**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 8PM  
**SUPERSUCKERS**  
**BOB WAYNE & THE OUTLAW  
CARNIES (SEATTLE, WA.)**  
**AFTER PARTY INSIDE W/  
CHARLIE & THE VALENTINE  
KILLERS (L.A., CA.)**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 5PM  
& TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22 6PM  
**BREWSKEEBALL LEAGUE PLAY**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 9PM  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
w/ **THE HICKOIDS**  
**CHRIS GATES &  
GATESVILLE**  
(BIG BOYS, POISON 13)  
AFTER PARTY SHOW INSIDE W/  
SPECIAL GUESTS

COMING IN JANUARY  
**GOLDEN CITIES, MY EMPTY  
PHANTOM, CROOKS, WOXY  
VAMPIRE WEEKEND**  
**LISTENING PARTY, THE STORY  
DEPARTMENT, WINOVINO,  
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**Lucky lounge**

NO COVER • FREE SHOWS

THU 12/17 6PM  
THE RETURN OF HAPPY HOUR  
FEATURING THE LEGENDARY  
**IAN MCLAGAN &  
THE BUMP BAND**  
LATER: **AUSTIN KNIGHTS  
@ 10PM: BRASS BAND**

FRI 12/18 9PM  
**FATTY MONK**  
LATER: **MORE  
COWBELL**

SAT 12/19 9PM  
**TWILIGHT BROADCAST**  
LATER: **DJ PROTEGE SPINS TIL 2AM**

SUN 12/20 10PM  
**'NAUGHTY OR NICE'  
XMAS PARTY**

MON 12/21 10PM  
**YOUR LUCKY DAY DRINK  
SPECIALS ALL NIGHT!!!!**

TUE 12/22 10PM  
**DJ RICH**  
OPENS FOR THE INCOMPARABLE  
**BOOMBOX ATX**

WED 12/23 10PM  
**1-NITE STAND  
WEDNESDAYS**  
HOSTED BY **LANCE KOTARA  
ADAM McINNIS  
& STEPHANIE DAULONG**

THU 12/24 9PM  
**9TH ANNUAL  
MAZEL BALL**  
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# THE OLD COUPLAND INN & DANCEHALL

Friday, December 18th  
**KEVIN FOWLER**  
 ZACH WALTHER opening

Saturday, December 19th  
**COUPLAND CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
 with members of the  
**ACE IN THE HOLE BAND**

Saturday, December 26th  
**CORY MORROW**  
 CURTIS GRIMES opening

Thursday, December 31st  
**NEW YEARS EVE**  
**KYLE PARK**

Saturday, January 2nd  
**GRANGER SMITH**

Friday, January 29th  
**THE GOURDS**



Happy Holidays from  
 Coupland Inn and Dancehall

Pre Sale Wrist-Bands  
 are available at  
 Allen's Boots-Round Rock  
 Cavender's Boot City-  
 North and South Locations

Reserved seating in Dancehall  
 for Inn package guests

Dancehall Open Thur-Sun  
 Restaurant Open Thur-Sat  
 The Inn is Open Fri-Sat  
[www.couplanddancehall.com](http://www.couplanddancehall.com)  
 512-856-2226

## LIVE MUSIC @ Central Market

FRIDAY &  
 SATURDAY  
 6:30 - 9 PM  
 SUNDAY  
 12:30 - 3 PM

@ CENTRAL PARK  
 40th and North Lamar  
 call 512.206.1000 for details

@ WESTGATE  
 4477 South Lamar  
 call 512.899.4300 for details

WEDNESDAY-  
 SATURDAY  
 6:30 - 9 PM  
 SUNDAY  
 12:30 - 3 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18  
**SAN JACINTO**  
 brazilian

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19  
**SUZANNA CHOFFEL**  
 soul pop grooves

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20  
**KRIS KIMURA QUARTET**  
 jazz

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20  
**HILL COUNTRY WINDS**  
 4-6 pm, classical music wind ensemble

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26  
**MANTECA BEAT**  
 jazz, blues, latin

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17  
**EARL POOLE BALL &  
 THE COSMIC AMERICANS**  
 honky tonk shuffle swamp blues

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18  
**THE LOST PINES**  
 bluegrass, americana

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19  
**BRUCE JAMES SOULTET**  
 straight up soul

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20  
**FLYING BALALAIKA BROTHERS**  
 from russia with love

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23  
**BOCK, BBQ & THE BLUES**  
**MIKE MILLIGAN & THE ALTAR BOYZ**  
 every Wednesday \$2 Shiners,  
 BBQ specials, and legendary blues!

### at north lamar:

- DEC 27 - Tameca Jones
- JAN 2 - Dan Dyer
- JAN 3 - Michael Goss
- JAN 8 - Marshall Ford Swing Band
- JAN 9 - Tiny Tin Hearts
- JAN 10 - Courtney Sanchez
- JAN 15 - Beckham Brothers

### at westgate:

- DEC 26 - Belltower
- JAN 2 - Phil Brown
- JAN 3 - Kris Kumura Quartet
- JAN 6 - The Little Elmore Reed Blues Band
- JAN 7 - Margo Valionte
- JAN 8 - Iron City Soul Shakers
- JAN 9 - Graham Wilkinson

café open 7am-9pm sunday-thursday; 7am-10pm friday & saturday at both locations.  
 FREE MUSIC, GREAT FOOD, COVERED PATIO & KIDS PLAYScape

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★ BAR-B-Q COLD BEER LIVE MUSIC ★  
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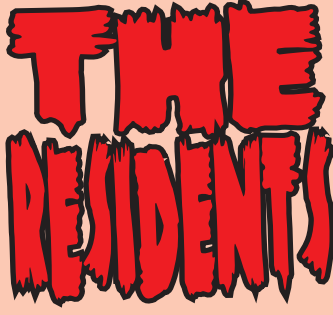
FRI JAN 15



BENEFIT FOR THE  
 SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU [STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM](http://STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM)

TUE FEB 2



FIRST TOUR IN 20 YEARS!

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU [STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM](http://STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM)

WED FEB 24



TIX ON SALE FRI 12/18 @ 10AM  
 THRU [STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM](http://STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM)

FRI FEB 26



TIX ON SALE NOW THRU [STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM](http://STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM)

## IN THE CLUB

THU DEC 17 — DOORS 9PM  
 AUSTIN 360 CONCERT SERIES

**THE GARY**  
 WITH GREAT NOSTALGIC AND ST-37

SAT DEC 19 — DOORS 9PM  
**WHITMAN**  
 WITH THE WHITE WHITE LIGHTS,  
 COLOUR WHEEL

SUN DEC 20

GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH  
**THE GOSPEL SILVERTONES**

SUN DEC 20 — DOORS 8PM

**JOE PURDY**  
 WITH ERIN IVEY

WED DEC 23 — DOORS 9PM

**NEW ROMAN TIMES**  
 WITH DISTANCE RUNNER

SAT DEC 26 — DOORS 9PM

**SURLY JOE**  
 {OV THA GIRLIE SHOW}  
 BURLESQUE & C.  
 HOLIDAYS GONE WILD!

THU DEC 31 — DOORS 9PM  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**



WITH **BLACK JOE LEWIS**  
 AND **THE HONEYBEARS**  
 AND **HARD PROOF AFROBEAT**  
 TIX INCLUDE BBQ BUFFET & CHAMPAGNE TOAST

### FREE WEEK

SAT JAN 2 — DOORS 9PM  
**FREE SHOW**  
**BLACK BONE CHILD**

WITH **WHITE RHINO**  
 & **THE SLIDESHOW TRAGEDY**  
 THU JAN 7 — DOORS 9PM  
**FREE SHOW**

**THE WHITE HOTEL**  
 WITH **WHITE DRESS**  
 AND **JESSIE TORRISI**

FRI JAN 8 — DOORS 9PM  
**FREE SHOW**  
**JESSE WOODS**

WITH **THE MERCERS**  
 SAT JAN 9 — DOORS 9PM  
**FREE SHOW**

**LEATHERBAG**  
 WITH **THE PONS**  
 & **DANNY MALONE**

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# The Backyard

at Bee Cave is Back  
and Better than ever...  
Opening Spring 2010



THE BACKYARD  
at Bee Cave

www.thebackyard.net

## CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

### CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

**DONN'S DEPOT** Nash Hernandez Orchestra

**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Patricia G. (7:00)

**EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD** Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Ephraim Owens Quintet (9:30)

**EMO'S** Outside: Crash Kings, Tally Hall, Rooney; Inside: We Aim to Try, Paper Shapes, Zorch, Snafu Kitties

**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Sister Carol's Kwanzaa Celebration w/ Don Chani (9:00)

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Laura Freeman & the Hey Lollies (10:00am); Sean Maloney, Matthew Payne, Michael Young, Ukemi, Margo Valiante (6:30)

**FRIENDS** Ugly Elephant, Swamp Sauce

**GARDEN DISTRICT COFFEE HOUSE** Gailon Holley Benefit w/ Chris Beirne & the Lost & Found (8:00)

**THE GHOST ROOM** Obsolete Machines, String (10:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Teddy & the Talltops (9:00)

**GRUENE HALL** Curtis Grimes (1:00); Cory Morrow, Shawn Pittman (9:00)

**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Hosea Hargrove (6:00)

**HANOVER'S** Cadaques, Del Castillo (8:00)

**HEADHUNTERS** Eddie Spaghetti, the Butts, Hit & Run, Oklahomas, Super Heavy Goat Ass

**HILL'S CAFE** Ronnie Caywood

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Big Chris Gates & Gatesville, Mr. Lewis & the Funeral 5, English Teeth (10:00)

**HOUSE WINE** Holiday Party w/ Anna Hilburn & Troy Cardona (8:00)

**IGUANA GRILL** Bob Cheevers (6:00)

**IT'S A GRIND** Chris Smith (8:30)

**JOVITA'S** Ouch!, the Eggmen (6:00)

**LUCKY LOUNGE** Live Oak Decline, DJ Protege (9:00)

**MAGGIE MAE'S** Rick Harvey & the Texcellorators (6:00)

**MOHAWK** Austin Psych Fest, the Tunnels, Horse + Donkey, the Viet Minh, Shapes Have Fangs (8:00)

**MOMO'S** Waylon Speed, Sweetmeat, Drew Smith, Suzanna Choffel

**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (11:30am)

**MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** Paula Held (8:30)

**NUNO'S ON SIXTH** Easy Pickens, Rusty Trapps & the Evil Man Babies (8:00)

**THE OLD COUPLAND INN & DANCEHALL** Christmas Party w/ Ace in the Hole

**ONE WORLD THEATRE** Take 6 (7:00, 9:30)

**THE PARISH** DJ Hobo D, Manolo Black, DJ Orion, Peligrosa (10:00)

**THE PARLOR** Dated, Flesh Lights, Serious Tracers (9:00)

**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Ranch Road 12 (7:30)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Wynn Taylor, Two Tons of Steel

**POODLE DOG LOUNGE** Fat Dog (9:30)

**RED 7** Metal for Meals, Capital Areas Food Bank Benefit w/ 1836, Head Crusher, American Lab Rat, Course of Ruin, Brotherhood, Carbide, Killing in Apathy CD Release

**RED EYED FLY** Omerta, American Heist, White Rhino, New Disaster

**RED FEZ** DJ Kurv (10:00)

**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

**RUTA MAYA** DJ Gonzalo, Street Salsa (8:00)

**SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR** Casa del Swanka (7:00)

**SAXON PUB** Fever Tree Rising, Micky & the Motorcars, Black Bone Child (8:00)

**THE SCOOT INN** Outside: Bob Wayne & the Outlaw Carnies, Supersuckers; Inside Later: Charlie & the Valentine Killers (8:00)

**SHINER'S SALOON** Aces Over Eights (10:30)

**SPEAKEASY** Radiostar (9:30)

**STARDUST CLUB** Unnamed Band

**STUBB'S** Colour Wheel, White White Lights, Whitman CD Release

**TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER** X = X, Low Red Center, Book of Shadows (7:00)

**TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL** Silver Creek (7:30)

**TRIPLE CROWN** Pure Ecstasy, Frank Smith, Clay Nightingale (10:00)

**TROPHY'S** When Friends Become Strangers, the Blind Pets, the Devil Rides

**UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY** Kingdom of Suicide Lovers, the Black, International Waters, Voxrot, ... And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead, Windsor for the Derby

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Fat Man & Little Boy (7:00)

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Jeff Wood (10:00)

**WHIP IN** Lee Barber & Scrappy Jud Newcomb (7:00)

## SUN 20

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Bert Rivera (6:30)

**AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER** Armadillo Bazaar w/ Rick Trevino (noon); Asleep at the Wheel, the Music of Stephen Bruton (3:30)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Irish Tunes Session (9:00)

**BEAUTY BAR** My Stereo Sunshine, Jeremy Williams, the Anti-Scene, S.S. Dreamboat, Sonic Yon, Tavaris "Tazz" Kelly

**BEERLAND** Dated, Flesh Lights, the Golden Boys

**BOTTICELLI'S** Biscuit Rollers, Nick Ginbey, Twilight Hotel (6:00)

**'BOUT TIME** A.J. Kline (8:00)

**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Kris Kimura Quartet (12:30)

**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Flying Balalaika Brothers (12:30)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Jon Dee Graham, Lee Barber (10:00); In the Club: Heybale! (10:00)

**COTTON CLUB** Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)

**EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD** Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Mitch Watkins Trio (9:30)

**ELYSIUM** Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

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FR DEC 18	HH 6P David Nathan (S) 8P Ben Mallott 10P NOELLE HAMPTON	WE DEC 23	6P George Carver 8P MATT THE ELECTRICIAN 1030P STARS REGARDLESS
SA DEC 19	10A KIDS SHOW Laura Freeman and The Hey Lollies HH 6P Sean Maloney (S) 9P Matthew Payne 930P Michael Young 10P UKEMI 1115P Margo Valiante	 <b>COFFEESPACE CAFE</b> 1601 BARTON SPRINGS RD 512.480.8646	
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MO DEC 21	8P Law Offices of McMurty & Hanes		

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Dec. 17



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Dec. 19

## Peligrosa

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Jan. 23

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DERRICK DAVIS 11:30  
VANESSA LIVELY 8:30  
STEPHANIE BRIGGS 7  
NO COVER HAPPY HR DO'S AND DON'TS 5:15

FRIDAY DECEMBER 18 / \$10

## VENUS VELVET BURLESQUE SHOW

JOHNNY HOOTROCK 12:15  
SHAWN PANDER 9:15  
JOSH GRIDER TRIO 8  
NANO WHITMAN 7  
NO COVER HAPPY HR THE ELIJAH ZANE EXPERIENCE 5:15

SATURDAY DECEMBER 19 / \$10

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LA TAMPIQUENA 9  
BRETT RANDELL 6:30

MONDAY DECEMBER 21 / \$5

THE BECKHAM BROTHERS 8  
DUSTIN WELCH 9:15  
BRANDON JENKINS 10:30  
BRANDON BENTLI 7  
THE CHRIS MORRIS BAND 12  
NO COVER HAPPY HR LOVELY HOUSES 5:15

TUESDAY DECEMBER 22 / \$7

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BUBBA HERNANDEZ (OF BRAVE COMBO) 10  
GUSTAVO RODRIGUEZ BAND 12  
SOPHIA ECHEGARAY 7  
NO COVER HAPPY HR MIKE GEER 5:15

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23 / \$10

## ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS

DAVID JIMENEZ TRIO 11:15  
NO COVER HAPPY HR FREE MICAH 5:15

UPCOMING SHOWS

JOSEPH KING, MATT NOVESKEY (OF BLUE OCTOBER), RYAN HOLLEY & MORE DEC 26

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## CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

### CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

**EMO'S** Way No Way, Christmas Special, Literature, Pataphysics

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Dickie Lee Irwin, Electric Mountain Rotten Apple Gang, the Inheritance (6:00)

**FRIENDS** Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Dale Watson (4:00)

**GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT** Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

**GRUENE HALL** Rod Picott & Amanda Shires (12:30), Midnight River Choir (4:00) Ⓡ

**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Tiburon (3:00)

**HEADHUNTERS** Christmas Dinner w/ James Ryder, Dave Clucas & the Horsepainters, Wynn Taylor, Robert Allen Caldwell, Dirty Charlie, Dave Insley's Careless Smokers, Waylon Speed Ⓡ

**HILL'S CAFE** Gospel Brunch w/ Jon Emery

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Johnny Flash, the Fireball Show, B.B. Mercy

**HOUSE WINE** Doug Anthony (8:00)

**JOVITA'S** Jerry Sires (6:00)

**LAMBERTS** Black, Red & Black (7:00)

**MANUEL'S** Rich Harney, Alex Coke (11:30am)

**MOHAWK** Friends Not Family Christmas w/ DJ Matt Sonzala, Richard Henry (10:00)

**MOMO'S** La Tampiqueña, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Ricky Stein

**MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** Paul Eddy (7:30)

**NUEVO LEÓN** Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

**NUNO'S ON SIXTH** Rusty Trapps & the Evil Man Babies (8:00)

**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Java Jazz (11:00am)

**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Lynda Millard & Ben Kimberlin (7:30); Diamonds & Rust, Dana Davis, Nathan Singleton (8:30)

**THE PARLOR** Mad Vega (9:00)

**RED FEZ** DJ Kurupt, DJ Cauze-One (10:00)

**RILEY'S TAVERN** Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

**RUTA MAYA** Penelope Foolish (10:30am); Cafe con Letres (7:00)

**SAXON PUB** John Jordan Holiday Show (3:00); Jonny Burke, the Resentments, Suzanne Sherwin (6:00); Monte Montgomery, Carolyn Wonderland (8:00)

**SPEAKEASY** Tavana (9:30) Ⓡ

**ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** Lights, Bill Callahan (5:00) Ⓡ Ⓢ

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** Austin Children's Choir Holiday Show (3:00, 5:00, 7:00)

**STUBB'S** Gospel Silvertones (noon); Erin Ivey, Joe Purdy (8:00)

**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Blue Blood Ⓡ

**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** The Durdens (11:00am)

**TRIPLE CROWN** Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Open Mic (10:00)

**WHIP IN** Kevin Witt, Alex Coke, Bruce Saunders (7:00)

**Z'TEJAS** Trés (6:00)

**ZILKER PARK** Asleep at the Wheel (8:30)

# MON 21

**ANTONE'S** Toys for Tots Toy Drive w/ Papernail, Jabberwalkie (9:00), JJ Usher, Soul Track Mind (9:00)

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

**AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER** Armadillo Bazaar w/ Biscuit Brothers, Blazing Bows, Joe McDermott (noon); the Eggmen (8:00)

**BAR 141** Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Eric Heard Showcase

**'BOUT TIME** A.J. Kline (9:00)

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Cheatham Street All-Stars

**CHEZ ZEE** Rich Demarco (6:30)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Crybear (10:00); In the Club: Continental Graffiti (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)

**DONN'S DEPOT** Chris Gage

**EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD** Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Marshall Ford Swing Band, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)

**EVANGELINE CAFE** Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30)

**FRIENDS** Travis Green, J.T. Coldfire

**THE GHOST ROOM** Erin Ivey, the Finest Kind (6:30)

**GRUENE HALL** Bret Graham (7:00)

**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Trio Indiano (6:30)

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Mike Nicolai, the Preservation, Noel McKay, Missy Beth, Brennen Leigh (9:00)

**HOUSE WINE** Song Swap/Open Mic (7:00)

**LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas

**LATITUDE 30** Chris Tondre (9:00)

**LUCKY LOUNGE** The Makalani Movement (10:00)

**MOMO'S** Rich O'Toole, Beckham Bros., Dustin Welch, Brandon Jenkins, Chris Morris

**MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** John Wilson (8:00)

**NUNO'S ON SIXTH** Jo Hell & the Red Roosters

**THE PARISH** Monday Night Alright w/ Navdo

**THE PARLOR** Abigail und Hansel (9:00)

**RED EYED FLY** Radio Valley Ⓡ

**RED FEZ** DJ Cause-One & DJ Taco (10:00)

**RUTA MAYA** Dance Lessons, the Jitterbug Vipers (8:00)

**SAM'S TOWN POINT** Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (8:35)

**SAXON PUB** Matt the Electrician, Bob Schneider, Jeff Plankenhorn (7:00)

**SHINER'S SALOON** Dallas Seely (10:00)

**SPEAKEASY** Jonathan Terrell (9:30)

**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Little Elmore Reed

**TRIPLE CROWN** Ike Eichenberg, Triple Tronica (6:00)

**TROPHY'S** Christmas Party w/ the Rat Traps Ⓡ

**ZILKER PARK** Asleep at the Wheel (8:30)

# TUE 22

**THE ALLIGATOR GRILL** Gator Child (8:30)

**ANTONE'S** Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan (9:00)

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

**AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER** Armadillo Bazaar w/ Dustin Welch (noon); Warren Hood, Albert & Gage (3:30)

**BASTROP SENIOR CENTER** The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Suzanne Smith

**BEERLAND** The Cassingles Ⓡ

**BLU** Joey Colarusso Trio (7:00)

**BOTTICELLI'S** Kaki Mendoza, Aly Tadros (9:30)

**'BOUT TIME** A.J. Kline (9:00)

**BROKEN SPOKE** Billy Garza

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Midnight River Choir (9:00)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30); Alejandro Escovedo, the Saturday Nights (10:00)

**DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters

**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Will Sexton (6:00)

**EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD** Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00); Tameca Jones (9:30)

**ELYSIUM** Nineties Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

**EMO'S** Versus Leviathon, Crash Gallery, Zlam Dunk, Horse the Band Ⓡ

**EVANGELINE CAFE** Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher (8:00)

**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Sweet Bunch of Daisies (7:00), Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Jim Stringer (9:00)

**GRUENE HALL** Adam Carroll's Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Michael O'Connor (7:00)

**GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Trio Indiano (6:30)

**HANOVER'S** Cobalt (8:00)

**HILL'S CAFE** Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Jon Burklund

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Clyde & Clem's Whiskey Business

**JOVITA'S** Cari Hutson (8:00)

**LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas

**LUCKY LOUNGE** DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

**MEAN-EYED CAT** Austin Rhythm Section (8:00)

**MOHAWK** Mutating Meltdown, Pataphysics, Hot White, Attractive & Popular (10:00) Ⓡ Ⓢ

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**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 • \$10 COVER**

**NICK HIRSCH 6-7PM**  
**BRAVE 9-11PM**  
**COMBO**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 • \$8 COVER**

**OUCH! 6-7PM**  
**THE  
EGGMEN**



7-10PM

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 • NO COVER**

**JERRY SIRES BAND 6-8PM**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22 • NO COVER**

**CARI HUTSON 8-10PM**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 • NO COVER**

**GEEKS WHO DRINK 8-10PM**

**CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS**

**CLUB LISTINGS FROM TUESDAY**

**MOMO'S** Sophia Eschrey, Este Vato, Bubba Hernandez, Gustavo Rodriguez ☺

**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Karl Morgan (11:00)

**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Sand Sheff (7:30)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Troubadillos

**RED EYED FLY** Orchids In January, the Highway

**RED FEZ** Benmused Showcase, Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (9:00)

**RUTA MAYA** Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)

**SAM'S TOWN POINT** Open Mic w/ Erin & Michael (9:00)

**SAXON PUB** Waylon Payne (5:00) ☺; Bruce Hughes & the All-Nude Army, Uncle Lucius, Deadman (8:00)

**SHINER'S SALOON** Eric Buerkle (10:00)

**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Ember (9:00)

**SPEAKEASY** O Positivo (9:30)

**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Austin Heat

**TRIPLE CROWN** Ron Brietzke

**TROPHY'S** Armadillo Road, Singer-Songwriter Night

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Will Dunlap ♪ (7:00)

**WED 23**

**ANTONE'S** Del Castillo Holiday Show w/ Acoustic Jungle ♪ (8:00)

**AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER** Armadillo Bazaar w/ Shelley King (noon); Guy Forsyth, Carolyn Wonderland (3:30)

**BAR 141** Electric Mayhem (9:00)

**BEERLAND** Dean Beadles, Max V, Billy Steve Korpi ☺

**BOTTICELLI'S** Jamie Thomas, P.J. Herrington (5:30)

**BROKEN SPOKE** Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Dale Watson (6:00)

**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** George Macias (7:00)

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

**CHEZ ZEE** Jacinta (7:00)

**THE COCKPIT** Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Jon Blondell, Trube, Farrell & Sniz (8:00); In the Club: Lisa Marshall (6:30) ☺; Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (10:00)

**DONN'S DEPOT** Frank & the Station Masters

**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Bruce Smith (6:00)

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<p><b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH</b></p> <p><b>George Devore</b> 10pm \$5</p> <p><b>SHELLEY KING</b> 8pm \$10</p> <p><b>Jarrold Dickenson</b> 12am \$5</p> <p>David Holt, Tommy Shannon-Frosty, Gabe <b>6pm Happy Hour</b></p>	<p><b>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18TH</b></p> <p>93.3 KGSR Lonestar State of Mind</p> <p><b>Jimmie Dale Gilmore</b></p> <p><b>Butch Hancock</b></p> <p><b>Colin Gilmore</b> &amp; Guest</p> <p>Doors Open at 8pm Show starts at 9pm \$20</p> <p>6pm No Cover Happy Hour with Earl Poole Ball &amp; The Cosmic Americans</p>	
<p><b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH</b></p> <p><b>Micky &amp; the Motorcars</b> 10pm \$10</p> <p><b>FEVER TREE RISING</b> 8PM \$10</p> <p><b>Black bone Child</b> 12am \$5</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH</b></p> <p><b>THE RESENTMENTS</b></p> <p>With Bruce and Scrappy 7:30pm \$10</p> <p><b>Jonny Burke</b> 6pm \$5</p> <p><b>JJ's Rent Party</b> BIG SHOW 3pm \$10</p> <p><b>MILKDRIVE</b> 6pm \$5</p> <p>Jack Higginbotham 12AM \$5</p>	
<p><b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 21ST</b></p> <p><b>BOB SCHNEIDER'S LONELYLAND</b> 8:30 \$10</p> <p><b>Matt the Electrician</b> 7:00pm \$10</p> <p><b>Jeff Plankenhorn</b> 11pm \$5</p> <p><b>The Walls</b> 12:30pm \$5</p>	<p><b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND</b></p> <p><b>Uncle Lucius</b> 10pm \$5</p> <p><b>BRUCE HUGHES &amp; THE ALL NUDE ARMY</b> 10pm \$5</p> <p><b>Deadman</b> 12am \$5</p> <p>No Cover Happy Hour <b>Waylon Payne</b></p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23RD</b></p> <p><b>Monte Montgomery</b> 8pm \$10</p> <p><b>Walt Wilkins &amp; the Mystiqueros</b> 10pm \$10</p> <p><b>Steven Will</b> 12am \$5</p> <p>NO COVER Happy Hour <b>The Nortons</b></p>
<p><b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH</b></p> <p>93.3 KGSR PRESENTS <b>Labelle White's</b> 80th Christmas</p> <p>WITH <b>WC Clark</b> <b>Tommy Shannon</b> <b>Malford Milligan</b> &amp; special guests</p> <p><b>\$15 adv / \$15 door</b></p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26TH</b></p> <p><b>TWO NIGHTS</b></p> <p><b>Joe Ely</b> with TEYE</p> <p>doors open at 7pm / show starts at 8pm \$20 adv / \$25 at the door</p> <p><b>Warren Hood</b> 11:30pm \$10</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH</b></p> <p><b>Joe Ely</b> w/ DAVID GRISSOM</p> <p>separate show w/ <b>THE RESENTMENTS</b></p> <p>doors open at 7pm / show starts at 8pm \$15 adv / \$20 door</p>
<p><b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 28TH</b></p> <p><b>LONELYLAND KARAOKE</b> w/ THE MUSIC OF BOB SCHNEIDER</p> <p>\$10 come sing with the band and special guest singers</p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30TH</b></p> <p><b>CAROLYN WONDERLAND</b> show at 11pm \$12 advance / \$15 door</p> <p>Tickets on sale at frontgate www.frontgatetickets.com for all upcoming shows!</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31ST</b></p> <p><b>NEW YEARS EVE</b> <b>GUY FORSYTH</b></p> <p>\$20 adv / \$25 door doors 8 show 9</p>



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**EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD** Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), James Polk Sextet (9:30)  
**ELYSIUM** Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** George Carver (6:00); Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones, Stars Regardless (8:30)  
**FRIENDS** J.T. Coldfire, Swamp Sauce (8:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Roger Wallace (9:00)  
**HANOVER'S** Shuffle Up & Deal (9:00)  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** A Blue Cheese Christmas w/ Kullen Fuchs & the Saddles  
**KEY BAR** Jukebox Heroes (8:00)  
**LA PALAPA** Acoustic w/ James  
**LAS PALOMAS** Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)  
**LATITUDE 30** Clay Jeffrey (9:00)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Lance Kotara, Adam McInnis, Stephanie Daulong (10:00)  
**MOMO'S** Asylum Street Spankers, David Jimenez (8:00)  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Bruce Newman's Nutty Idol  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Big Circle, TX; the Twalls (8:00)  
**PARMER LANE TAVERN** Pete Benz (9:00)  
**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Songwriter Night (7:30)

**PLUSH** Weight w/ the Herd  
**REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE** "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)  
**RED FEZ** Get Right Kids (10:00)  
**RED SHED TAVERN** Dr. Dubbist (8:00)  
**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)  
**RUTA MAYA** Dance Lessons, La Mona Loca (7:30)  
**SAXON PUB** The Nortons (6:00); Monte Montgomery, Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros, Ouachita (8:00) Ⓜ  
**SHINER'S SALOON** Jeremy Steding (10:00)  
**SPEAKEASY** Soulution (9:30)  
**STUBB'S** Distance Runner, the Always Already, New Roman Times (9:00)  
**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Mudbone Hustler (9:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** R.C. Banks, White Lamborghini, Hopper, No Mas Bodas, Attic Ted (6:00)  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Ptarmigan (7:00)  
**Z'TEJAS** Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

**BUENOS AIRES CAFE** Una Noche Portería Tango w/ Daniel Montserrat  
**COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)  
**THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Lobby Bar: Stephen Doster & Bill Carter (6:00)  
**EDDIE V'S PRIME SEAFOOD** Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Jon Blondell (9:30)  
**FRIENDS** J.T. Coldfire, Casey Epps  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Mike Dubose (9:00)  
**JOVITA'S** The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)  
**LA PALAPA** Triple Shot (7:00)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Mazel Ball w/ DJ Ryry (9:00)  
**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Spit & Tears (9:00)  
**RED FEZ** DJ Cashless (10:00)  
**SAXON PUB** Special Miss Lavelle White Christmas  
**SPEAKEASY** The Space Rockers (9:30)  
**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Lisa Marshall (10:00) Ⓜ  
**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Acoustic Open Mic  
**TOM'S TABOOLEY** Fractals (8:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Robbie Doyen (6:00)  
**TROPHY'S** Two Hoots & a Holler

**THU 24**

**311 CLUB** Joe Valentine (8:30)  
**AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER** Armadillo Bazaar w/ Slim Richey (noon); Greezy Wheels, Texana Dames (3:30)  
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Mysterious H, Omega Def 10pm  
Sa 19 Clay Nightingale, Frank Smith, Pure Ecstasy 10pm  
Su 20 Open Mic w/ Grant, Holly & Nate 8pm  
Mo 21 Wasted Youth 6pm Triple Tronica 9pm  
Tu 22 Ron Brietzke 6pm  
In & Outlaws, Crystal Creek Boys 10pm  
We 23 RC Banks 6pm  
Attic Ted, No Mas Bodas, Hopper,  
White Lamborghini 9pm

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9PM **JESSE DAYTON**

FRI, DEC 18 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**  
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SAT, DEC 19 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**  
9:30PM **THE DERAILERS**

TUE, DEC 22 **BILLY GARZA** NO COVER

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OH, AND CHRISTOPHER—SO SMART. HE TAUGHT ME SO MUCH...AND BRAD THE BRILLIANT COOK... AND PHILIP WHO KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT MOVIES... DAN, A MUSICAL GENIUS. I'VE BEEN SO LUCKY.

AND THE SEX WITH STEVE WAS CRAZY-INTENSE. WE COULDN'T KEEP OUR HANDS OFF OF EACH OTHER. WE DID EVERYTHING. WE MADE OUT FOR HOURS. WE DID IT EVERYWHERE: CARS, PARKS, BATHROOMS... EVERY CHANCE WE HAD. AMAZING!

WHY... WHY ARE YOU WITH ME? WHY AREN'T YOU WITH THEM?

YOU'RE REALLY NICE AND THEY COULDN'T DEAL ABOUT HOW I'D TALK ABOUT MY EX-BOYFRIENDS.

I THINK I LIKE YOUR FRIEND JASON. I WANT TO HAVE SEX WITH HIM.

©2009 SHANNON WHEELER. Any similarity to the living or dead is purely coincidental and if you don't want cartoons about you then don't date a cartoonist. WWW.TMCM.COM

I FEEL NAKED WITHOUT MY CHAINSAW.

MVELLER

TROUBLETOWN

BY LLOYD DANGLE

GENERALS, LET'S GOIN HERE AND SMOKE CIGARS AND DISCUSS INCURSIONS, DEPLOYMENTS, AND OTHER WAR THINGS!

GRREAT!

THE OVAL OFFICE

HUH?! WALL STREET GUYS? SORRY GENTLEMEN, YOU'LL HAVE TO CLEAR OUT. THE GENERALS ARE HERE.

WHAT?

I BEG YOUR PARDON. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT WALL STREET CONTROLS THIS ADMINISTRATION.

GOLDMAN ALUMS.

YOU LEAVE!

BUT YOUR IRRESPONSIBLE PRACTICES MADE THE PRESIDENT YEAH. HEH! HEH! CALL FOR MAJOR REGULATIONS & REFORMS!

BUT WHEN HE SAYS REFORM THEM HE REALLY MEANS RESUME THEM!

HA! HEH! HEH!

BUT YOU'VE GOT A DEADLINE TO GET OUT OF AFGHAN-HA! WE THINK OF IT AS MORE OF A SUGGESTION.

HEH! HEH! HAW! HAW!

EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN, BUT BUT WHEN I SAID YOU COULD HANG OUT HERE, I MEANT EXCEPT WHEN BIG PHARMA IS HAVING ITS HEALTH CARE REFORM PARTY.

WWW.TROUBLETOWN.COM ©2009



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



In 1962, the U.S. conducted a staggering 105 nuclear tests, collectively titled Operation Dominic.

Almost 110,000 people have joined a Facebook group called "Jag är rädd för tjejen i Apolivareklamen" ("I am scared of the girl in the Apoliva commercial").

In Madagascar, half an hour is called "the time of a rice-cooking."

In his famous 1492 voyage, Columbus rationed pickles to his sailors to keep them from getting scurvy. He even grew cucumbers during a pit stop in Haiti to restock for the rest of the voyage.

The military adopted dog tags after Pearl Harbor.

The above 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 e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

# jobs

## beauty/ salon/spa

**HAIRSTYLISTS / NAIL TECHS** Lease \$130/wk. Downtown location. Lots of walk-ins. 320-5907.

## education/ schools/training

**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA** Fast, Affordable & Accredited FREE Brochure. Call NOW! 1-800-532-6546 Ext. 97 <http://www.continentalacademy.com> (AAN CAN)

### PART TIME



Children are our future.

Be a positive role model working with elementary age kids in the afternoons. Work hours 2:15-5:45 p.m. M-F. Starting pay \$9.00-\$9.60/hr. EOE. Sites at over 70 elementary schools. Spanish speakers needed. Apply at Extend-A-Care for Kids, 55 North IH 35, [www.eackids.org](http://www.eackids.org), or call 472-9929 x408.

## entertainment/ casting

**MODELS** \$300-\$500, Glamour figure models needed 18-50. Call (512) 257-0484.

## general

**ASSEMBLY \$\$\$HELP WANTED\$\$\$** Earn Extra income assembling CD cases from Home. CALL OUR LIVE OPERATORS NOW! 1-800-405-7619 ext. 2450 <http://www.easyswork-greatpay.com> (AAN CAN)

**BODYGUARDS WANTED** FREE Training & Job Placement Assistance for members. No Experience OK. Excellent potential \$\$\$ Full & Part Time. Traveling expenses paid. 1-615-228-1701. [www.psubodyguards.com](http://www.psubodyguards.com) (AAN CAN)

## healthcare

**HEALTHCARE VARIOUS** CommUnityCare is hiring for: Billing and Coding Chart Auditor, Licensed Vocational Nurse, Medical Assistant, Medical Social Worker, Nurse Manager, Pharmacy Assistant I, Pharmacy Assistant II, Regional Practice Administrator, Registered Charge Nurse, Registered Nurse. Please check the display ad for specifics/locations regarding each position. We are always seeking Registered Nurses and Medical Assistants who are looking for PRN positions! Visit [www.communitycaretx.org](http://www.communitycaretx.org) to apply and for more information, or call 512-978-9000

### COOK

#### Dirty Martin's Hamburgers

Is now hiring an experienced Line Cook.

Excellent references required.

**Apply in person:**  
Mon-Fri, 3-5PM  
2808 Guadalupe

### MYSTERY SHOPPERS

Earn up to \$100 per day. Undercover shoppers needed to judge retail and dining establishments. No Exp req. Call 1-800-721-8435

### ONLINE GUIDES

\*\*\*\*\*

**Are you open minded, coachable and looking for a business from home online?**

[www.PlaceOfFreedom.com](http://www.PlaceOfFreedom.com)

**PIERCERS** Body Piercer wanted full time. \$500-700 per week. Must have portfolio. Call Keith 699-4307 afternoons.

## hospitality

**BARTENDER** |BARTEND| Up to \$300 a day. No experience necessary. Training Available. 1-800-965-6520 x207.

### RESTAURANT STAFF

Interviewing staff for new Argentinean restaurant located in Central Austin near Seton. South American experience a plus but not necessary. Grill & Saute cooks- Wood fired grill experience is desirable. Pantry & Prep Cooks. Professional servers, hosts, bartenders, and bussers. Dinner and weekend brunch shifts. Will be scheduling interviews the weeks of December 21st & 28th. Please submit position desired and resume to: [samantha@elarborestaurant.com](mailto:samantha@elarborestaurant.com)

## non-profit

### ACTIVISM

Help Obama Make A Difference!

Help the Dems, ACLU & IRC Up to \$16/hr FT&PT 916-4001 [www.telefund.com](http://www.telefund.com)

### ACTIVISM

512.326.5655

#### Human Need Over Corporate Greed!

- Mon-Fri, 2-10 PM
- Part Time Available
- \$375/wk + Bonuses
- Benefits/Pd. Training
- Leadership Development
- Travel Opps.

Call today or apply online!  
[www.texasenvironment.org](http://www.texasenvironment.org)



### Children are our Future.

Be a positive role model working with elementary age kids in the afternoons.



Work hours: 2:15-5:45pm, M-F  
Starting pay: \$9.00-\$9.80/hr, EOE  
Sites at over 70 elementary schools.

Apply at:  
**Extend-A-Care for Kids**  
[www.eackids.org](http://www.eackids.org) 55 North IH-35

## research study

### DEPRESSION

#### DOES MAJOR DEPRESSION

**CHANGE YOUR OUTLOOK?** A clinical research study-STEP-D (Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy Program)-is now under way to explore an investigational medication for major depressive disorder (MDD) to see if it may work when taken with an approved antidepressant.

You or someone you know may be eligible to participate in the STEP-D study if you:

- Are 18 to 65 years of age.
- Have been told by your doctor that you have MDD.
- Are experiencing depression lasting at least 8 weeks.
- Have tried at least one antidepressant without success.

In addition to receiving study-related physical exams and laboratory services at no charge, participants may receive the investigational medication and will be monitored by a medical team, including a study doctor. After the STEP-D study ends, some participants may be eligible to take the investigational medication as part of another clinical research study.

Visit [STEPmdd.com](http://STEPmdd.com), or call Community Clinical Research, Inc. for more information toll free  
**1-866-540-7474**



### DONOR PROGRAM

#### SEMEN DONORS NEEDED

Fairfax Cryobank seeks college educated men 18-39 to participate in 6 month donor program. Avg. \$150 per specimen. Call today for free application or apply online at <http://www.123donate.com>.

### SMOKING

#### Want to QUIT SMOKING?

Turn your New Year's resolutions into reality!

\* Get FREE \*

\* Nicotine Patches \*

\* And... \$50 \*

UT -12 wk clinical research study.

You are eligible if:

- You are ready to quit
  - Smoke 5+ cigs a day
  - Are 18-65, M or F
  - Do not regularly exercise
  - Are generally healthy
- strenghttoquit.org**  
**CALL Joe: 512-775-8115**

**FREE ADS** Looking to hire a bartender? Have an apartment you need to rent? Want to advertise your handyman skills? All you need to do is go online to [www.austinchronicle.com/classifieds](http://www.austinchronicle.com/classifieds) and post your ad for FREE. Make it stand out with pictures! Highlight it by making it a featured ad! You can even run it in print! Ads run online for 30 days, and are posted immediately. After all, immediate gratification takes too long!

Help raise \$\$ for progressive groups and causes.

**SUPPORT YOUR PRESIDENT**

**telefund**  
Avg. pay \$11.00/hr., top \$16  
Downtown Austin  
Call now: 512-916-4001  
[WWW.TELEFUND.COM](http://WWW.TELEFUND.COM)

# Holiday Hiatus

The Austin Chronicle offices will be closed Dec. 24-25 for the holidays.

**EARLY DEADLINE** for ad placement is **MONDAY, DEC. 21, 5PM** for next week's publication.

## CommUnityCare... your professional home for the holidays and all year long

Are you looking for a meaningful employment opportunity? Do you want to make a difference each and every day? CommUnityCare is a federally qualified health system providing primary care, dental care and behavioral health services to the medically underserved in Travis County at 17 office locations.

Enjoy a new career and earn a competitive salary, receive generous benefits and paid time-off. Visit our web site at [www.communitycaretx.org](http://www.communitycaretx.org) to see our current openings & learn more about CommUnityCare. EOE



Clinical Pharmacist (East Austin)	Medical Social Worker (David Powell Health Center)
Dental Assistant (RBJ Building, .5 FTE position)	Nurse Manager (Northeast Austin, Rosewood)
Licensed Vocational Nurse (Oak Hill, Rosewood)	Regional Practice Administrator (North)
Medical Assistant (AK Black, Oak Hill, Rosewood, South Austin, William Cannon)	Registered Charge Nurse (Del Valle, East Austin, Rosewood)
Medical Assistant (PRN Pool w/o benefits)	Registered Nurse, Triage (East Austin)
Physician - Family Practice (Oak Hill)	Registered Nurse, Staff (PRN Pool w/o benefits)

101 JOBS

102 HOUSING

106 BUY/SELL/TRADE

106 SERVICES

108 NEIGHBORHOOD

112 MOTOR

112 MUSIC

classifieds  
austinchronicle.com/classifieds  
454-5766 more than a list

**sales/market-  
ing/advertising**

**ADVERTISING SALESMAN**  
Outside Sales Representative needed for a Direct Mail Company Job is to sell Direct Mail, including mailing list, also we are one of the few companies that offer VARIABLE MAP DATA for direct mail piece. Job is High commission and 40% of the sale. Have experience in Direct Mail is a PLUS Work from your home. For info or want to apply: Email your resume, contact name and a number to: amanda@listbrokers.com 210-340-4845 or 800-259-5542

**TELEMARKETERS** Quick hire immediate openings! Evenings and Weekends. Guaranteed hourly + bonuses! Can earn up to \$12-\$15 per hour plus! No cold calling. Call 512-452-7400.

**tech/web**

**ORACLE APPLICATIONS**  
Technical Team Leads in Austin, TX area. Lead teams of Oracle E-business apps developers; develop specs & code, test, implement, & prototype Oracle ERP apps. Work w/ BPEL, PL/SQL, & Oracle Financials. Travel/reloc. as req. Send res. to: SmartDog Services, LLC, 7004 Bee Cave Road #3, Ste. 100, Austin, TX 78746.

**EMPLOYMENT** Looking for a new job? Have to hire a new employee? Check out the great job opportunities in this week's *Austin Chronicle*. If you would like information on how to place an ad, call 454-5765.

**housing**

**apt/condo/  
townhome**

**CEDAR PARK**  
AustinCool.com  
"YOUR SOURCE FOR COOL & UNIQUE AUSTIN RENTALS"  
(512) 693-7231  
AUSTINCOOL.COM

**CENTRAL** AustinCool.com  
693-7231 Town Lake 2/2 open design, equal bedrooms, walk downtown \$723.

**CENTRAL** AustinCool.com  
693-7231 Wooded Travis Heights, minutes to downtown, cable paid 2BDR \$715

**CENTRAL** AustinCool.com  
693-7231 Town Lake Studio, boatdock for canoes/kayaks, walk downtown, on trail \$625.

**CENTRAL**  
**RIVERSIDE ONE EXIT TO DOWNTOWN!**

**STUDIO...** \$445  
1/1... \$480  
2BDRM... \$595  
Ceramic tile, updated appliances.  
Call Team Real Estate for show!

**(512)416-8333**  
austindowntownliving.com



**CENTRAL** AustinCool.com  
693-7231 Clarksville/West Lynn, small property, walkable neighborhood. Cafes/shops, wood floors 2/1 \$1000

**CENTRAL** \$700 180 seconds from Downtown entertainment district! \$299 total move-in. Free Cable. 512-231-9888. www.apartmentlocating.com

**CENTRAL**  
**GABLES PARK PLAZA**  
A new way to enjoy park living and adjacent Lady Bird Lake while living in the middle of it all. Park Plaza offers striking interiors, all-inclusive privileges, exceptional shopping, terrace dining, a rooftop star lounge & pool. You deserve this!  
115 Sandra Muraida Way, Austin. 512-477-PARK (7275)

**CENTRAL** Unique Brentwood area, 1/1 in quiet apartment community. Sparkling pool tucked in a surrounding courtyard. \$600 rent/\$300 deposit. Immediate availability. Beck and Company RES, Inc. Call Peggy at (512) 296-0076.

**CENTRAL** www.apartments-austin-tx.com 693-7290 Loft, walk downtown, rooftop terrace, concrete floors \$1,000!

**CENTRAL** Shadow of Engineering & Law School. Efficiency \$550 w/ Free Month Holiday School Special. Quiet complex, laundry on-site. Reserved parking. Gas & water paid. CATS ONLY! 500 Elmwood (@Duvall). Matthews Properties, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

**CENTRAL** Live on Lady Bird Lake! Be right in the middle of it all. Hike and bike trail at your back door! This is a downtown gem. \$779 512-692-4525 AALocating.

**CENTRAL** 70's Retro Artsy total renovation. Wood & Tile Floors. Cvrdr Pking. Netopool. 231-9888 AALocating

**CENTRAL**  
**For Rent & Sale! Houses Duplexes Apartments Lofts & Condos Blue Water Realty (512) 496-3725**

**CENTRAL**  
**TARRYTOWN**-Spacious 1/1 available now. Paid cable, ceramic tile bath, lots of cabinet & closet space. \$775 On-site laundry & pool. 451-0414

**CENTRAL**  
**b15th and Rio Grande: \$550 Studio apartment. Small complex. Walk to ACC Campus on Rio Grande. Water paid. 6 month leases available. Apologizes to all dog owners, cats only at this property. Gated community! Contact Phillip, 512.619.0657 or email phillip@greenlightlocating.com**



**CENTRAL**  
**LIVE IT UP DOWNTOWN!**  
1616 W 6TH STREET  
1/1s... \$750  
2/1s... \$995  
• Pool • Gas/Cable Paid  
• Parkviews/Trails  
• Onsite Laundry  
Pictures and Floorplans at wsgaustin.com  
**(512)499-8013**

**CENTRAL**  
**ZILKER PARK**  
1 BDRM... \$700  
2BDRM... \$750  
**\$300 OFF 1ST MONTH!**  
50 ft. to hike and bike trail entrance. New remodel. Gas cooking. Modern lighting. wood floor accents.  
Greenbelt access.  
1 exit to downtown! (pet & bicycle friendly)  
Call Team Real Estate for show!  
**(512)416-8333**  
austindowntownliving.com



**CENTRAL** Is this like...your apartment...man? Near Alamo Draft House, The Chinese Medicine School, & many other local restaurants and cafes. Free Cable. 2-1.5 \$749, 1-1 \$550. 231-9888 agent

**CENTRAL** Hyde Park. Last Minute Student Housing Still Coming on Market. Really nice big units. Laundry facilities. Walk or bike to campus. 1-1 \$599 2 Bed \$899. 231-9888 AALocating.

**CENTRAL** Live on 6th St for \$775!! Free parking, Cable, Gas, Trash. All units remodeled. 1-1 den \$850. www.apartmentlocating.com 692-4525.

**CENTRAL**  
**78704 SOUTH CENTRAL NEAR STACY PARK**  
1BDRM... \$495  
2 BDRM... \$725 (Huge Private Deck!)  
3BDRM DUPLEX \$1295 (Small Yard!)  
Travis Heights near Stacy Park! South/central neighborhood. Hidden community Creekside. Free cable. pet and bicycle friendly.  
Call Team Real Estate for show!  
**(512)416-8333**  
austindowntownliving.com



**CENTRAL** Townhollow  
Apartments is now offering \$200 off first month rent and come take advantage of our FREE application fee! We have efficiencies starting at \$759 ready for immediate move in! One bedrooms starting as low as \$849 and two bedrooms starting at \$1099. It's all about location and you will be seconds away from Downtown, Barton Springs, and Zilker Park! Call or stop by our office today! 1200 Treadwell Austin, TX 78704. For more information please call Lauren at 512-448-0070 or 512-323-9006. For thousands of Austin area listings, please visit www.AustinCityLiving.com

**CENTRAL** 693-7231 AustinCool.com Downtown elegance, city-views, hardwoods. Rooftop deck, W/D.

**CENTRAL** AustinCool.com  
693-7231 West 6th St 1BDRM, wood floors, gas/cable paid, busline \$750

**CENTRAL**  
**HARDWOOD FLOORS NEAR CENTRAL MARKET**  
Complete Remodel. Wood Floors & Ceramic Tile Throughout. Updated Appliances with Gas Cooking. Large Windows Facing Courtyard. Bicycle & Pet-Friendly Neighborhood.

**1/1... \$595**  
**2/2... \$750**  
(Hardwoods throughout!)  
Call Team Real Estate for show!  
**(512)416-8333**  
austindowntownliving.com



**CENTRAL** Small Clarksville community. Hardwood floors. All new appliances, designer paint and ceiling fans. Gas, Trash, and Cable paid. 1-1 \$775, 2bed \$1050. Call Now. 231-9888 agent.  
www.apartmentlocating.com

**CENTRAL**  
**WAREHOUSE STYLE APARTMENT CONCRETE FLOORS**  
2/2 \$699  
3/2 \$899  
5/2 \$1299

Concrete floors, 17ft. vaulted ceiling, exposed metal, track lights, gas cooking, private jacuzzi jet tub in unit. Custom paint your space! Musician/artists friendly. 5 minutes to downtown.

Call Team Real Estate for show!  
**(512)416-8333**  
austindowntownliving.com



**CENTRAL**  
1/1, \$784, near Zilker, BC Mall, concrete floors, steel appliances. Many classic upgrades. Apt Experts 416-8100

**CENTRAL**  
Looking for that Austin Charm? Cozy 1/1 in the heart of Hyde Park. CACH, Balcony, ceiling fans & dishwasher. \$650 on UT bus route. 451-0414

**CENTRAL**  
**GREAT CENTRAL LOCATION!**  
302 W 38TH ST  
1/1s... \$695  
• Gas/Cable Paid  
• Water/Trash Paid  
• Onsite Laundry  
Pictures and Floorplans at wsgaustin.com  
**(512)499-8013**

**CENTRAL** List of all downtown rentals! Availability, pricing & specials. Call Rick with Properties Plus www.prop-plus.com 447-7368.

**CENTRAL**  
\$525-\$600  
78704 and Hyde Park ALL DAY LONG CALL ME...  
**Ron Jon Apt Mon**  
512-293-7443  
aptmon@hotmail.com  
ronjontheapartmentmon.com

**CENTRAL**  
**HARDWOOD FLOORS DOWNTOWN/CONGRESS RESTAURANT SHOPPING DISTRICT**  
Open Layout with island-style Kitchen, 2BDRM/2FULL BATH \$795  
Ready for Move-In! Bicycle/Pet-friendly  
Call Team Real Estate for show!  
**(512)416-8333**  
austindowntownliving.com



**CENTRAL**  
1/1 for \$775 in DOWNTOWN!!! All wood floors!!! Vacant and ready to go NOW!!! Walk to many downtown attractions including one of downtown's best sports bars!! These units go fast so grab one while you still can!! Call Jason @ 512-695-3424



**CENTRAL**  
AustinCool.com  
**COOL CENTRAL APARTMENTS, LOFTS & CONDOS FOR RENT & SALE! (512) 693-7231 AUSTINCOOL.COM**

**CENTRAL**  
Studio, \$550, some wood floors, city views, #3 bus to Barton Springs, Zilker. Apt Experts 416-8100

**CENTRAL** 1 block to Engineering and UT Law School w/ Free Month Holiday Special! Spacious efficiencies, CA/CH, 1 reserved parking space, outside storage, laundry on-site, very quiet neighbors! Cats welcome - NO DOGS! One parking space. No indoor smoking. Gas, water, garbage paid! \$525. 502 Elmwood. Matthews Properties, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

**CENTRAL**  
AustinCool.com  
**(512)693-7231 360 LOFT**  
West Downtown Luxury! Concierge, rooftop pool  
Nightlife at your Doorstep!  
**AUSTINCOOL.COM**

**Pay your Rent: work FOR the Earth!**



**ORGANIZE TO PUT HUMAN NEED OVER CORPORATE GREED to greed. TEXAS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**  
512-326-5655 www.texasenvironment.org

**WANT TO QUIT SMOKING IN 2010?**  
Get FREE nicotine patches and \$50. UT Clinical Research Study: 2 sessions/week for 12 weeks  
You must be ready to quit, smoke 5+ cigarettes a day, 18-65 years old, do not exercise regularly, and be generally healthy.  
Call Joe: 512-775-8115 strengthtoquit.org

**Does major depression change your outlook?**

A clinical research study—STEP-D (Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy Program)—is now under way to explore an investigational medication for major depressive disorder (MDD) to see if it may work when taken with an approved antidepressant.

Ask your doctor if the STEP-D study is right for you.



You or someone you know may be eligible to participate in the STEP-D study if you:

- Are 18 to 65 years of age.
- Have been told by your doctor that you have MDD.
- Are experiencing depression lasting at least 8 weeks.
- Have tried at least one antidepressant without success.

In addition to receiving study-related physical exams and laboratory services at no charge, participants may receive the investigational medication and will be monitored by a medical team, including a study doctor. After the STEP-D study ends, some participants may be eligible to take the investigational medication as part of another clinical research study.

**1-866-540-7474** Visit [www.STEPmdd.com](http://www.STEPmdd.com), or call Community Clinical Research, Inc. for more information toll free.



**EAST**  
**For Rent & Sale!**  
**Houses**  
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**Blue Water Realty**  
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- Swisher: 1/1 remodeled unit, walk to UT \$695.00
- 1620 Waterston: 1/1 in small Clarksville complex, walk to shopping \$725.00
- 710 W 34th St: spacious 1/1 wood effect flooring, \$695.00
- 2602 Penny Lane: large 1/1 near shopping & transportation, \$595.00
- 1307 Norwalk: large remodeled 2/2 in Tarrytown, \$1195.00

**EQ Real Estate:**  
 3110 Red River,  
 Ofc #207, 78705  
 (512) 472-9100 Office

**METRO**  
**VALUE PLACE EXTENDED**  
**STAY HOTEL AUSTIN**

**\*\$199/Week\***

- Bring ad & receive
- \$20 off your reservation!
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- Monthly Rates Available.

**LOCATIONS:**

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**Hymeadow**  
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 4 bedrooms  
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**NORTH**  
**WALK TO ACC NORTH-**  
**RIDGE CAMPUS FROM**  
**HOME!** 1/1's from \$499-535..  
 2/2's from \$650-725...**YOU**  
**CAN'T GO WRONG HERE!!!**  
 ...Easy access to 35/Mopac tons of shopping and restaurants just seconds away, there's even a great karaoke bar right around the corner...  
**CALL JENNIFER**  
 512.659.5366



**NORTH CENTRAL** Hardwood floors \$505!!! Great downtown access. Best kept secret in Austin. This will be a short termed special on a great apartment so call soon! 1-1 \$505, 2-2 \$714. 231-9888.  
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**NORTH CENTRAL** Crestview Station 1-1s from \$550; 2-1s from \$650. Located near future commuter rail station and multiple bus routes.  
 brian@cbmanagement.com.  
 658-9493.

**NORTH CENTRAL**  
**FREE RENT UNTIL**  
**FEBRUARY 1ST ON**  
**ALL**  
**AVAILABILITY!!!!**

676 Sq ft 1x1 w/washer & dryer conn  
 @ \$425 - Reduced!!!!

728 Sq ft 1x1 w/washer & dryer conn  
 @ \$450 - Reduced!!!!

1036 Sq ft 2x2 w/washer & dryer conn  
 @ \$650

1024 Sq ft Townhome 2x2.5 w/washer & dryer conn @ \$675.

Admin Fee Waived.  
**CALL TODAY, LOOK TODAY, LEASE TODAY!**  
**SAME DAY RAY 496-3725**

**NORTH CENTRAL**

**WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!**..7025f1/1 for \$650 944 sf 2/2 for \$800 1343sf 3/2 for \$999...there's something for everyone...easy access to Mopac/183/360...**IT'S ALL AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!** ..if you can lease it we can find it: Houses, Duplexes, Townhomes & Condo's! Call Jennifer or Kelly if you want more bang for your buck 512-356-9046

www.cheapaustinapartments.com



**NORTH CENTRAL**

Burnet and Anderson Ln. Two Bedroom/ One Bath Townhome \$750. \$35 app, \$350 Deposit. Tiny community! Wood floors on bottom floor. Close to restaurants, movie theaters (Alamo Draft House) and shopping centers Contact Phillip, 512.619.0657 or email Phillip@greenlightlocating.com



**NORTH CENTRAL**

**\$699/ 2br - North Central**  
 \$99 Move In, Wireless, Concrete or Wood Floors! These low prices won't last! Walk to cool coffee shops, restaurants! Dog friendly! Wireless internet provided to the whole community and gas cooking! One bedroom only \$599!! Call Donna at 512-970-5554 or donna@greenlightlocating.com2



**NORTH/CENTRAL**

1br apt. \$135 total move in. 1 month free rent. W/D conns, screened in patio, 676 sq. ft. Bathroom outside bedroom. \$450-\$495

**Ron Jon Apt Mon**  
 512-293-7443  
 aptmon@hotmail.com  
 ronjontheapartmentmon.com

**NORTH/CENTRAL**

2 bedrooms  
 \$650 2/2 1000 plus sqft. W/D conns  
 \$695 2/2 1000 plus sqft. W/D conns  
**ONE MONTH FREE!!**

**Ron Jon Apt Mon**  
 512-293-7443  
 aptmon@hotmail.com  
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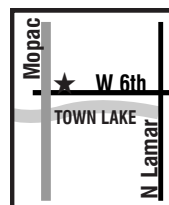
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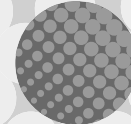
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**CENTRAL** 78704 \$1075 2/1 Duplex Newly Remodeled (3110-A Glen Ora) Near S. Lamar off Manchana. 1100 sq.ft. Large L/R end of cul-de-sac. Call 707-8216 Small pets/fenced yd. Avail Dec.26

**CENTRAL** Spacious 1/1 w/ HW floors, lot's of large windows and one covered parking in rear. Window unit a/c's, cats & TINY dogs welcome, no W/D conn. & no laundry on property, \$800. 1209 West 22nd "A. Matthews Properties, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

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# buy/sell/trade

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## clothing

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**SOFA LOVE SEAT** 1. Sofa and loveseat with slipcovers & 7 decorative pillows \$875 2. Wave coffee table \$ 100 3. 2'-24" swivel counter stools \$40 (For both) 4. 7- piece modular storage shelves \$35 5. Chest of drawers \$30 6. Wooden side table \$ 20 & MANY more household items Prices are as mentioned above or OBO Contact no. 309-807-0014

## garage/estate sales

**LEFTOVERS WANTED** We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to housing men and women on parole and probation with substance abuse issues who have been through a treatment program. We are called THE WINNERS HOUSE and have 4 houses for men and women. We are going to open a brand new sober house for women very soon and are in need of a 25" or larger TV for the common room, and several small TV's for the bedrooms. If you are upgrading for Christmas and would like to donate your old one to us, we will provide you with a tax receipt. e-mail me with a return phone number or call 512-524-8502 and ask for Otto Wiley. Thank you all so very much, and have a very HAPPY HOLIDAY!!

**YARD SALE** Multi Family Used and Original New Clothing Sale (Behind End of An Ear Records on South First) Friday 3pm-9pm; Saturday & Sunday 9am-5pm Boutique/Gift Quality Original Clothing as well as Used Men, Women & Children's Clothing and Baby Items. Free Coffee, Snacks and Good Times 2209 South 1st, Austin, TX 78704

## general

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**VINYL WINDOWS** I've got 3 sets of MI/BetterBilt double hung 2-lite vinyl windows. This is the upper and lower windows ONLY, no sill or frame. Brand new still in the packaging! The color is almond. Energy Star qualified. LoE glass! The lower window is 32" w x 35 1/8" h Upper window is 31.5" w x 34.5" h \$50ea set! These are for pickup only please! mission\_motivation@yahoo.com or leave message for Victor at 673-3919.

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## legal

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421514  
**CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE**  
**REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES**  
BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 331ST District Court of Travis County, on the 13th day of November, 2009 in a certain cause numbered 421514, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Leroy J. Foster, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns & successors of the Estate of Leroy J. Foster, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns & successors of the Estate of Martha Ann Foster

are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$4,757.21 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 331ST District Court of Travis County, Texas, on May 29, 2001.

I, on the 30th day of November, 2009, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of January, 2010 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 21190, Highland Lake Estates, Section 21, Plat No. 55/59 as described in Volume 6928, Page 1169 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.**

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$4,757.21 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2009.

BRUCE ELFANT,  
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TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY  
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BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 299th District Court of Travis County, on the 16th day of November, 2009 in a certain cause numbered 460242, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and William J. Hefferman, Marilyn M. Hefferman, Lautborn Homes, Inc. (In Rem Only), F.D.I.C. in its corporate capacity as Receiver for Bank of the Hills (In Rem Only), City of Lago Vista (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 304899 = \$3,295.43 and Tract Two: Billing Number 304898 = \$2,014.71** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 299th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 6, 1998.

I, on the 30th day of November, 2009, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of January, 2010 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 1: Billing No 304899 Unit 7-A, Building A, Lago Vista Lodges Condominiums, Condo. Records 8/542 as desc. in Vol. 7455, Page 562 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas**

**TRACT 2: Billing No 304898 Unit 6-A, Building A, Lago Vista Lodges Condominiums, Condo. Records 8/542 as desc. in Vol. 7455, Page 564 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 304899 = \$3,295.43 and Tract Two: Billing Number 304898 = \$2,014.71** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2009.  
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.

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

##### THE STATE OF TEXAS

**CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-09-002560** To: BALDOMERO GUTIERREZ 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 COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 126TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse 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 IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP TRAVIS COUNTY, STANDING ORDER filed in said court on AUGUST 11, 2009, and said suit being number D-1-FM-09-002560 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF STEPHANIE GUTIERREZ PEREZ A CHILD and IN THE INTEREST OF Child:

NAME: STEPHANIE GUTIERREZ PEREZ  
DATE OF BIRTH: MARCH 06, 2009

COUNTY OF BIRTH: TRAVIS COUNTY

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 04, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-

MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk  
Travis County Courthouse  
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ SHEILA COLLINS, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

NANCY L PEREZ FARIAS  
5800 TECHNI CENTER DR #537

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78721

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

##### THE STATE OF TEXAS

**CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-09-003964**

To: PAULA ZAMARRIPA RANGEL AND ALL HEIRS OF PAULINE ZAMARRIPA MATA, HEIRS OF SABASTIAN ZAMARRIPA, HEIRS OF MANUAL ZAMARRIPA, HEIRS OF BALENTIN ZAMARRIPA AND ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY TO-WRIT: Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: D-1-GN-09-003964 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 the Monday the JANUARY 9, 2010, and answer the FIRST AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 200TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 24, 2009, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-09-003964, in which LEON FELIPE RODRIGUEZ Plaintiff(s), and PAULA ZAMARRIPA RANGEL, ET AL Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows: BEING A SUIT TO REMOVE CLOUD ON TITLE TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY TO-WRIT: S 86.43FT OF LOT 10 BLK 17 OLT 8 & 82 DIV B GRANDVIEW PLACE, ALSO KNOWN AS: 2102 E. 9TH STREET, AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION 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, Texas, November 25, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

Travis County Courthouse  
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ IRIS LARYEA, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

DON E. WALDEN

7200 N MO PAC EXPY #300

AUSTIN, TX 78731-2563

BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 349-9595

FAX: (512) 795-8079

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

##### THE STATE OF TEXAS

**CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-09-000613** To: HECTOR RODRIGUEZ 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 COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 261ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse 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 filed in said court on JUNE 23, 2009, and said suit being number D-1-FM-09-000613 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF TERESITA VELA and HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, ET AL, and In the Interest of The Child:

NAME: HECTOR EZIEL RODRIGUEZ VELA

DATE OF BIRTH: JULY 08, 2008

COUNTY OF BIRTH: TRAVIS COUNTY

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 04, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-

MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk  
Travis County Courthouse  
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ SHEILA COLLINS, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

TERESITA VELA

307 E CROSLIN APT 113

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

##### THE STATE OF TEXAS

**CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-09-000299** To: UNKNOWN

HEIRS AT LAW OF GREGORY L. SMITH 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 the Monday the DECEMBER 28, 2009, and answer the PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the

200TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on JANUARY 29, 2009, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-09-000299, in which WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff(s), and GRACIE SMITH, VELARIE CASTILLO, PAULA ANN CASTILLO AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF GREGORY SMITH IN RE: 1301 LARELLEAF DRIVE, PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS 78660 Defendant(s)

and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

PLAINTIFF WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., ITS SUCCESSORS AND SIGNS BY AND THROUGH ITS ATTORNEY OF RECORD, MARK G. TORABI OF BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER TURNER & ENGEL, LLP, 15000 SURVEYOR BLVD., ADDISON, TEXAS 75001, 972-386-5040, BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST DEFENDANTS GRACIE SMITH, VELARIE CASTILLO, PAULA ANN CASTILLO, AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF GREGORY L. SMITH, TO ENFORCE THE VENDOR'S LIEN ON AND ASSERT SUPERIOR TITLE TO THE PROPERTY LOCATED 1301 LAUREL-LEAF DRIVE, PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS 78660 AND LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS: LOT 1, BLOCK L, OF HEATHERWILDE SECTION FOUR, PHASE FOUR, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN DOCUMENT NUMBER 200100208 OF THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION 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, Texas, November 13, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-

MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk  
Travis County Courthouse  
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ ALEJANDRA MEDRANO-CHAPA, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

MARK GREGORY TORABI

BARRETT DAFFIN FRAPPIER

TURNER & ENGEL, LLP

15000 SURVEYOR BOULEVARD, SUITE 100, DEPARTMENT 4000

ADDISON, TX 75001

BUSINESS PHONE: (972)386-5040

FAX: (972)341-0734

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

##### THE STATE OF TEXAS

**CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-09-003558** To: RUBY ANN RO-

JAS 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 COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 98TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse 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 IN SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATION TRAVIS COUNTY, STANDING ORDER filed in said court on JULY 06, 2009, and said suit being number D-1-FM-09-003558 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE INTEREST OF MY ANJEL JJ SANCHEZ and In the Interest of Child:

NAME: MY ANGEL JJ SANCHEZ

CHEZ

DATE OF BIRTH: APRIL 28, 2006

COUNTY OF BIRTH: TRAVIS COUNTY

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 04, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-

MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk  
Travis County Courthouse  
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ SHEILA COLLINS, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

ERNESTINA HERNANDEZ

5215 HALMARK DR

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78723

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

##### THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JOHN C WILLIAMSON, JR, Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-001578 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

JOHN C WILLIAMSON, SR and all the alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on November 23, 2009, a Combined Application for Independent Administration and to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said JOHN C WILLIAMSON, JR, 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 23, 2009.

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 PAULINE ELIZABETH MATHEWS, Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-001656 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

JACK WILLIAM MATHEWS The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on December 07, 2009, an Application for Determination of Heirship and Letters of Independent Administration with Codicil Annexed in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said PAULINE ELIZABETH MATHEWS, 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 08, 2009.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. BOX 149325

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy:/s/MONICA LIMON

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

**THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF LOUIS RIVERA** Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-001684 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

LUCILLE R. LOPEZ The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on December 11, 2009, an Application to Determine Heirship & for Issuance of 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 LOUIS RIVERA, 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 11, 2009.

Dana DeBeauvoir

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. BOX 149325

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy: /s/ MONICA LIMON

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

**THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF CECIL MOORE,** Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-001685 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

FAMILY ELDERCARE, INC and all The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on December 11, 2009, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said CECIL MOORE, 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.

ing such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after days 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 11, 2009.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325,

Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

#### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

**THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JOE GUADALUPE DIAZ JR AKA JOE DIAZ** Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-001559 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

ADELITA DIAZ alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on November 17, 2009, 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 JOE GUADALUPE DIAZ JR AKA JOE DIAZ, 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 18, 2009.

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 TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF PAUL EDWARD GARTLAND** Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-001662 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

THOMAS J. GARTLAND, JR. The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on DECEMBER 7, 2009, an Application to Determine Heirship and for 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 PAUL EDWARD GARTLAND, 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 10, 2009.

Dana DeBeauvoir

County Clerk, Travis County,

Texas

P.O. BOX 149325

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy: /s/ ROXANNE TORREZ

#### D-1-GV-08-001407

##### CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

##### REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

# car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

## IS TIP PROPER WHEN MECHANIC GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND?

Dear Tom and Ray:

So, should you tip your mechanic? Would it be insulting? Would it be appreciated? How do you know how much you should tip, if, indeed, you should tip at all? I ask because recently I went to a mechanic I found in the Mechanics Files on your website ([www.cartalk.com/mechanics](http://www.cartalk.com/mechanics)). I had two problems. 1) I had a nail in my tire (turns out it had not created a leak, but they spent some time searching to be sure). 2) My engine was dying at awkward times, and they discovered that a little hose that connects the vacuum sensor had a tear, and replaced it. They didn't charge me a penny! When he told me this over the phone, I was astonished. They get paid a lot for their time, and they could have spent that time earning money by fixing someone else's car. I decided to insist they take some money. But when I got there, it occurred to me that it might seem ungrateful of me, or insulting, so I chickened out and thanked them too many times and left. The next day I brought them a homemade chocolate cake, and thanked them again. But I wonder if I'm ignorant of some code or courtesy that would make a tip appropriate. Please advise!

— Kyleleen

**TOM:** What you did was perfect, Kyleleen. A mechanic might be uncomfortable accepting a cash gratuity, but no one will ever turn down chocolate cake!

**RAY:** Wait, Kyleleen. How do you know these guys aren't just lulling you into a false sense of security? And setting you up for a \$4,000 transmission rebuild next month? That's what I would do!

**TOM:** That's why no one brings you cake, you knucklehead. Mechanics and tradespeople usually are not tipped, like waiters or taxi drivers are. This is especially true in smaller, independent shops, where the mechanic may also be the owner.

**RAY:** But that doesn't mean you can't express your gratitude. The best ways to do that are by 1) giving a sincere compliment, 2) becoming a regular customer, and 3) recommending him to your friends.

**TOM:** An honest "thank you" and an expression of appreciation means a lot to a mechanic. Think about all the complaints we get, most of the time. We encounter a lot of suspicion and wariness from our customers — and rightfully so! But when we do a good job, it's awfully nice to have someone smile and tell us how much they appreciate it.

**RAY:** Especially when it's sincere. And remember, nothing says sincerity like baked goods!

\* \* \*

Tom and Ray share secrets on how you can save tens of thousands of dollars on your cars over the next 20 years in their pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

\* \* \*

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on

**kut 90.5**  
AUSTIN TEXAS

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## continued legal notices

I, on the 30th day of November, 2009, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of January, 2010 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:

**South 85.5' of Lot 9, Block I, Driving Park Addition (Oit. 60, Div. O), Plat No. 2/206 as described in Volume 13126, Page 569 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.**

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$11,495.69 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2009.  
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.

**GV-501777**

**CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE**

**REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES**

BY VIRTUE OF a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 98TH District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of November, 2009 in a certain cause numbered GV-501777, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and STEVEN DEPAZ, United State of America (In Rem Only), American Hermetics, Inc. of Austin (In Rem Only), Betty Vallner (In Rem Only), Sharon Stedman (In Rem Only), and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for BNC Mortgage, Inc. (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract One: Billing Number 74195 = \$10,192.68; Tract Two: Billing Number: 75379 = \$1,492.72; Tract Three: Billing Number: 75431 = \$20,544.49 and Tract Four: Billing Number 76937 = \$12,165.08** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 98TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 3, 2009.

I, on the 30th day of November, 2009, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of January, 2010 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 NO.: 074195**

**A tract out of the J. C. Tannehill, ABS 22, Survey 29, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 10936, Page 977, and Volume 13292, Page 237 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas**

**TRACT TWO: BILLING NO.: 075379**

**Lot 1, Block 9, Green Valley No. 2, Plat No. 5/15, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 10774, Page 567 and Volume 13292, Page 237 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas**

**TRACT THREE: BILLING NO.: 075431**

**Lot 34, Brookwood, Plat No. 58/57, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 10774, Page 567 and Volume 13292, Page 237 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas**

**TRACT FOUR: BILLING NO.: 076937**

**Lot 11, Block 2, Clara Pickle Subdivision (Oit. 48 & 49, Div. A), Plat No. 4/168, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 10909, Page 2704 and Volume 13292, Page 237 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 74195 = \$10,192.68; Tract Two: Billing Number: 75379 = \$1,492.72; Tract Three: Billing Number: 75431 = \$20,544.49 and Tract Four: Billing Number 76937 = \$12,165.08** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2009.  
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.

**GV-504176**

**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 16th day of November, 2009 in a certain cause numbered GV-504176, wherein Austin Community College, Manor Independent School District, Travis County, Texas Community Emergency Services District No. 4 and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Nicanora B. Rodriguez, Leandro Rodriguez, Sr., Cecilio Rodriguez, Jr., Joe Rodriguez, Henry Rodriguez, Martha Rodriguez aka Martha Stockton, Manuel Rodriguez, Ronaldo Rodriguez, Virginia R. Gonzales, Josie R. Ochoa, Johnny Bueño Rodriguez, a/k/a John Rodriguez, Lisa Rodriguez, Rudy Rodriguez, Rosemary Rodriguez, Alex Rodriguez, Jr., Cynthia Rodriguez, Albert Rodriguez, and Michael Anthony Rodriguez are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$24,872.08** 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 September 3, 2009.

I, on the 30th day of November, 2009, at 2:00 o'clock

P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of January, 2010 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 291, Block P Imperial Valley, Section 2, Plat No. 50/62, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 12167, Page 396 and Volume 12204, Page 1887 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.**

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **\$24,872.08** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 30th day of November, 2009.

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.

**NO. C-1-PB-09-001244 IN THE ESTATE OF MILLIE M. MATTHEWS, DECEASED IN THE PROBATE COURT NO. ONE**

**TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that original Testaments for the Estate of MILLIE M. MATTHEWS, a/k/a Milla Mae Gill Matthews, Deceased, were issued on November 24, 2009 in Docket No. C-1-PB-09-001244, pending in the Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to

RONALD DOUGLAS MATTHEWS, Independent Executor.

The residence for the Independent Executor is in Travis County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o A. Lynn Tiemann  
Thompson & Tiemann LLP  
Attorney at Law  
5203 Pony Chase  
Austin, Texas 78727

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 4th day of December, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,  
THOMPSON & TIEMANN LLP  
P.O. Box 201988  
Austin, Texas 78720-1988  
(512) 335-6800 Telephone  
(512) 335-2088 Facsimile  
/s/ A. Lynn Tiemann  
Attorney and Counselor  
State Bar No. 20021500  
Attorney for the Estate

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF 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.**

1995 MAZDA  
JK1TA2217S1102002

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES K & S TOWING- 2002 TOYOTA CAMRY 4DR SILVER RI LP # 834390 VIN # 4T1BE32K12U612029 AUTHORIZED BY TRAVIS CO. SHERIFFS OFFICE DATE: 12/04/09 UNIT LOCATED: 1740-B MANCHACA RD AUSTIN TX 78748 VSF# 0628258 CHARGES \$ 385.15 AS OF 12/10/09 STORAGE \$20.00 PER DAY + TAX**

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES** Pursuant of the TX Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by Public Auction unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

1985 CHEVY CAPRICE  
VIN: 2G1AN69HT9147603  
1993 TOY. COROLLA  
VIN: 2T1AE09E6PC026672  
INTERSTATE CHAPARRAL TOWING INC.

1604 Howard Lane Austin, TX 78728 (512) 835-6580

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE** Pinkies American Towing Inc; TDLR VSF #0574407 located at 8917 Circle Dr in Austin TX, 512-233-4869 has in its custody a Honda Motorcycle; VIN# N/A; LP# N/A; impounded 10/01/09 by authority of Austin Police. The charge as of 12/10/09 is \$1758.80; daily storage rate is \$20/day + tax.

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES** Pursuant of Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicles will be auctioned unless charges are satisfied within 30 days.

1978 GMC  
TCL48S507546  
TX 87YLS9  
1999 Mercedes  
4JGAB72E1XA094549  
TX BC6F586  
2000 Chevy  
1G1ND52J2Y6157544  
TX NYC918

1994 Toyota  
4T1SK12E3RU405305  
TX 232MLY  
2002 Mazda  
JM1BJ225420604454  
TX S46HVX  
Customz Wrecker Services  
16400 Terrace Drive  
Austin, TX 78728  
(512) 433-0212

**NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE** Pinkies American Towing Inc; TDLR VSF #0574407 located at 8917 Circle Dr in Austin TX, 512-233-4869 has in its custody a 1998 Ford Escort; VIN

3FAKP1135WR181226; LP# B07574 (INDIANA); impounded 09/23/09 by authority of Austin Police. The charge as of 12/10/09 is \$1932.00; daily storage rate is \$20/day + tax.

**NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATIONS**

Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulations in Precinct One:

**ONE-WAY EASTBOUND ON SPRINKLE ROAD FROM CAMERON RD TO SPRINGDALE ROAD; REMOVE YIELD SIGN ON SPRINKLE ROAD AT CAMERON RD; STOP SIGN ON SPRINGDALE ROAD AT CAMERON ROAD; REMOVE STOP SIGN ON CAMERON ROAD AT SPRINGDALE ROAD; STOP SIGNS ON FERGUSON ROAD AT SPRINKLE ROAD, REMOVE STOP SIGN ON SPRINKLE ROAD AT FERGUSON ROAD; SET MAXIMUM PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMIT ON SO-JOURNER STREET.**

Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposed action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing. Such request must be addressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Travis County, P.O. Box 1767, Austin, Texas

78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

U-STORE-IT hereby gives notice of Public Sale under the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code. This sale will be held on

**January 6, 2010** beginning at 10:30 A.M. at the U-STORE-IT located at 610 E. Stansney Lane Austin, Texas. This sale is being held to satisfy a Landlord's Lien. Everything sold is purchased "as is" where is" for cash. U-STORE-IT 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.

**U-Store-It #751**

**610 E. Stansney Lane Austin, TX 78745**

**512-441-8300**

Mo (Tina) Chapman - unit 2050 - Bags, Bed frame and mattress, Chairs, Fan, Trash cans, Toys, Wheel Barrow  
Amanda Zapata - unit 2128 - Bags, Boxes, Fan, Ironing Board, Microwave Oven, Shelf, Sofa, Speakers, Stool, Table, TV, Vacuum Cleaner, Chairs, Totes, Stereo, Blender.

Tony Wolford - unit 2218 - Bags, Boxes, Chairs, Dresser, Ice Chest, Speakers, Stereo, Tables, Tool Box, Vacuum Cleaner, Heater, Wine Rack, Totes, Dolly, Trunk, Bar Stools, Pet Carrier, Camp Grill, Extension cords, Tools, Baskets.

Sergio Guerrero - unit 3005 - Books, Chairs, Desk, Dryer, Pictures, Speakers, Table, Gun Rack, Totes, Cabinet.

Sharon Respass - unit 3048 - Books, TV, Tote.

**AUCTIONEER: KENNETH HIERHOLZER 6568**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE ACCESS SELF STORAGE**

located at 4341 and 4243 South Congress Avenue, Austin, Travis County, Texas wishing to avail themselves of the provisions of and pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, will hold a public auction of the property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 5th, 2010, at 4341 and 4243 South Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78745. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash.

Clean up and removal deposit may be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes complete contents in spaces of the following tenants: Penelope Britton, Omero Facundo, Shawn Gaytan, John D. Martin (Unit 124), PC Guru, Celia M. Perez, Jeff S. Pounds, and Richard Walters. Items to be sold include: Furniture, toys, couch, tools, computers, computer equipment, desk, electronic equipment, clothes, small kitchen appliances, and assorted household goods.

**NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY**

**STATE OF TEXAS**

**COUNTY OF TRAVIS**

**CAUSE: D1GN09001937** by virtue of an Order of Sale issued by the clerk of the District Court 53 Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, October 19, 2009, in cause numbered D1GN09001937, styled GH CONTRACTING INC versus SILVER B & LAVIOLETTE LLC AND WAYNE LAVIOLETTE on a judgment rendered against SILVER B & LAVIOLETTE, I did on October 20, 2009, at 11:00 a.m., levy upon as the property of SILVER B & LAVIOLETTE LLC AND WAYNE LAVIOLETTE the following described real property:

**Lot 18, Block E, Mountain Creek IV, a subdivision in Travis County, Texas as stated in the Order of Sale of the map or plat records of Travis County, Texas.**

On January 05, 2010, 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 SILVER B & LAVIOLETTE LLC AND WAYNE LAVIOLETTE in and to the real property described above.

Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, December 7, 2009.

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 the Travis County Assessor-Collector has determined 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: C1CV03077137** by virtue of an Writ of Execution issued by the clerk of the County Court 6 Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, November 02, 2009, in cause numbered C1CV03077137, styled THE STATE OF TEXAS versus THERESA RODRIGUEZ AND DAVID CHAMBERS on a judgment rendered against THERESA RODRIGUEZ AND DAVID CHAMBERS; I did on December 01, 2009, at 4:00 p.m., levy upon as the property of DAVID CHAMBER the following described real property:

**Unit 6 Villas at Commanders Point Condominiums Sec 1 Amended plus 1.3157% interest in the common area of the map or plat records of Travis County, Texas.**

On January 05, 2010, 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 THERESA RODRIGUEZ AND DAVID CHAMBERS in and to the real property described above.

Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, December 08, 2009.

Bruce Elfant,  
Constable Precinct 5

Travis County, Texas

/s/ Alan Redd

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 the Travis County Assessor-Collector has determined 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 TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BOBBIE JACK LEMMOND, DECEASED** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary in the Estate of Bobbie Jack Lemmond, Deceased, were issued on December 15, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001639 pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to Karen R. Paris, Independent Executor.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Karen R. Paris Independent Executor, Estate of Bobbie Jack Lemmond, Deceased

c/o Don Walden 7200 North Mopac, Suite 300 Austin, Texas 78731

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 15th day of December, 2009.

/s/ Don E. Walden  
State Bar No. 20672800  
7200 N. MoPac, Suite 300  
Austin, Texas 78731  
(512) 349-9595  
(512) 795-8079 Fax  
Attorney for Executor

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BENJAMIN FRUCHTER** Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001486, styled Estate

of Benjamin Fruchter, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original Letters Testamentary were issued on the 10th day of December, 2009, to DOROTHY ANNE FRUCHTER, JONATHAN SEWELL FRUCHTER, JUDITH ELLEN FRUCHTER and DAVID EDWARD FRUCHTER (the "personal representative"). All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present same within the time prescribed by law, and before such estate is closed. The personal representative directs that claims be presented to said personal representative at the address shown below in care of the attorney for said representative.

DOROTHY ANNE FRUCHTER, JONATHAN SEWELL FRUCHTER, JUDITH ELLEN FRUCHTER and DAVID EDWARD FRUCHTER

c/o John Calhoun Miller  
Attorney at Law  
1509 Old West 38th Street #3  
Austin, Texas 78731

**NOTICE TO All Persons Having Claims Against the Estate of Bernard Leonard Adamchick, Sr., Deceased**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Bernard Leonard Adamchick, Sr., Deceased, were issued on December 8, 2009, in Cause Number C-1-PB-09-000741 in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Neill Garner.

The post office address for mailing of claims is:

Neill Garner, Administrator  
c/o Rash, Chapman, Schreiber & Porter, L.L.P.  
2112 Rio Grande  
Austin, Texas 78705  
512/477-7543 (PHONE)  
512/474-0954 (FAX)  
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 December 8, 2009.

By: Mark B. Schreiber  
Attorney for the Estate

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary of the Estate of Freddie (Fred) Ray Wiley, a/k/a Freddie Ray Wiley, Deceased, were issued on December 1, 2009 in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001545, pending in Travis County Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to Laura Wiley, a/k/a Laura Backus, Independent Executor. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them to Richard Thormann, Attorney at Law, 805 West 10th Street, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78701 within the time prescribed by law.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Robert A. Cuellar, Deceased, were issued on December 8, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-01550, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, TRAVIS County, Texas, to: Mark Andrew Cuellar.

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.

Jeffrey J. Barnett  
c/o: Barnett & Associates, PC.

13740 Research Boulevard,  
Suite N5

Austin, Texas 78750  
DATED December 11, 2009.

/s/ Jeffrey J. Barnett (SBN: 00792346)

13740 Research Boulevard,  
Suite N5

Austin, Texas 78750  
Telephone: (512) 336-1529

Facsimile: (512) 336-1550  
Attorney for the Estate

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Kenneth Wayne Miller, Deceased, were issued on December 15, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001620, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Christine Marie Miller.

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 Mitchell & Colmenero, LLP

700 Lavaca, Suite 607  
Austin, Texas 78701

DATED the 15th day of December, 2009.

MITCHELL & COLMENERO  
700 Lavaca Street, Suite 607  
Austin, Texas 78701

Telephone: (512) 322-0500

Facsimile: (512) 322-0900

By: /s/ Rudy R. Colmenero  
State Bar No.: 00789231

Jedd L. Segrist  
State Bar No. 24041893

Attorneys for Christine M. Miller

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Forrest S. Thompson, Deceased, were issued on December 8, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001587, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas.

Claims may be addressed in care of the representative's attorney, as follows:

Anne Marie Thompson  
c/o Edsam M. Ingram

1601 Rio Grande, Suite 520  
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 8th day of December, 2009.

/s/ Edsam M. Ingram  
ATTORNEY FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that the original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Delores Thomas a/k/a Delois Thomas, Deceased, were issued on November 10, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001427, pending in Travis County Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas to John D. Collins, Jr. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present the claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law addressed to the representative at 7505 Glenhill Road, Austin, Texas 78752.

Dated: December 14, 2009

/s/ Vivian E. Ross-Bennett  
Attorney for Independent Executor

State Bar No. 24049665

Telephone: (512) 330-4099

Facsimile: (512) 331-0872

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Kathryn Rose Miller, Deceased, were issued on December 3, 2009, under Cause No. C-1-PB-09-001510.

Claims against this Estate may be presented to Independent Executor, James William Miller, 2004 Griswold Lane, Austin, TX 78703 within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Charlene Roberts, Deceased, were issued on December 8, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000987, pending in the

Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Daria Manning.

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: Linda Haston Frazer  
Attorney at Law

4408 Spicewood Springs Rd.

Austin, Texas 78759

DATED the 10th day of December.

/s/ Linda Haston Frazer  
Attorney for Daria Manning

State Bar No.: 24026050

4408 Spicewood Springs Rd.

Austin, Texas 78759

Telephone: (512) 342-8843

Facsimile: (512) 343-9194

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Stephen Plasky, Deceased, were issued on August 11, 2009 in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000945, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas to Joe Ben Clark, as Independent Executor.

The address of the Independent Executor is in Austin, Travis County, Texas. The mailing address is Estate of John Stephen Plasky, c/o Kent M. Leediker, 1104 Nueces, Suite 201, Austin, TX 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 to the Estate of John Stephen Plasky, c/o Kent M. Leediker, 1104 Nueces, Suite 201, Austin, TX 78701.

Dated the 14th day of December, 2009

Kent M. Leediker, 1104 Nueces, Suite 201, Austin, TX 78701, Attorney for the Estate.

#### OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS

##### TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. Air Filter Replacement Services, B100054-DR

Opens: December 28, 2009 @ 10:00 a.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: [www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp). Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF WENDY MARGARET TARPLEY** as Independent Executor of the Estate of Wendell Austin Tarpley, Deceased.

Pending in Travis County Court in Matters of Probate No. C-1-PB-09-001480.

TO ALL PERSON INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE ESTATE:

WHEREAS, on the 1st day of December, 2009, the undersigned duly qualified as the Independent Executor of the Estate of Wendell Austin Tarpley.

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary on this estate were granted and this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the undersigned within the time prescribed by law. Any person indebted to said estate is hereby notified

to pay same to the undersigned, WENDY MARGARET TARPLEY, Independent Executor of the Estate of Wendell Austin Tarpley.

Address: c/o Hank L. Dieter, Attorney, 1939 N.E. Loop 410, Ste. 330, San Antonio, Texas 78217.

#### PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of SIDNEY BERRY HART were issued on December 15, 2009 in Docket Number C-1-PB-09-001473, pending in the Probate Number One, Travis County, Texas to DIANE RAE HART LOWRANCE, Independent Executor. The address of record for DIANE RAE HART LOWRANCE is 15423 Quinley Drive, Austin, Texas 78728. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims to the foregoing address within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

#### STOR SELF STORAGE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods herein-after described and stored at Stor Self Storage locations listed below; And due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having elapsed. No one under 16 allowed. Cash only!

Stor Self Storage 2508 W. Pecan St, Pflugerville TX 78660 512-990-1000

January 6th, 12:30 pm

Robert McLaurin III - Mattress, end table, bed frame, chair, Ryan Walquist - Padded chair, computer, floor sweeper, tv, desk, table saw, household items. Tendra Feast - Toys, coffee table, end table.

# THE AUTO DEPOT

**CV AXLES • CLUTCHES • A/C • BRAKES AND EVERYTHING ELSE**

**DURING DECEMBER WE'LL BEAT ANY OTHER SHOP'S PRICE BY 10%**

ON THE SAME REPAIR [100 ON ANY CAR PURCHASE], AND GIVE IT TO A CHARITY OF YOUR CHOICE!. MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS.

**MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL 10% OFF ANY MECHANICAL REPAIR!**

**MOST CARS/TRUCKS QUALIFY FOR OPTIONAL 4 YEAR/UNLIMITED MILEAGE WARRANTY GOOD ANYWHERE IN THE U.S. OR CANADA!**

# 836-9767

**909 PRAIRIE TRAIL**  
ONE STREET SOUTH OF KRAMER, WEST OF NORTH LAMAR. LOOK FOR THE BIG RED AUTO BARN.

**MON- FRI 8AM-6PM**  
**SAT 10-5PM OR BY APPT.**

PHONE JIM AT **294-2885** UNTIL 9PM  
OR 7 DAYS/WEEK FOR ANY OF THESE CARS OR FOR REPAIRS. WE CAN PROBABLY FIND WHAT YOU WANT.

[autodepotaustin.com](http://autodepotaustin.com)

**DON'T FORGET - WE BUY CARS (RUNNING OR NOT) (ACCIDENTS OKAY)**

## NEW VEHICLES FOR SALE THIS WEEK:

**ALL WITH OUR FAMOUS WARRANTY**

**1937 [yes, 1937] Ford rumble seat convertible.** Needs total restoration [we can do it for you!], but very, very rare. Being brought back to life. \$14,750.

**1996 Mercedes E320 - 70k,** clean as a pin. Gold, parchment leather, can trade, warranty, \$6,950.

**1997 Olds Aurora -** this luxury car is a one owner, loaded with leather, and only 119k. Has some hail dents, but drives perfectly, and just went through our rigorous check. \$2,650 with a full warranty.

**1998 Firebird,** extremely clean in and out. Recent major service. Drives super. T-tops; snappy red. \$3,250. 1998 Saturn. 5 sp. Warranty. \$1,950.

**1999 Toyota Solara** coupe, gorgeous red, leather, sun roof, \$4,950, warranty.

**1998 Lexus SC300** coupe. Wow, what a car. Just a gorgeous classic. \$6,950. **1998 Camry, 4dr., LE,** brand new engine rebuild, with new timing belt, oil pump, all bearings, seals, rings etc etc. Clean, 130k mileage car, with one year warranty. \$4,450.

**2001 Toyota Tundra,** auto, x-cab. 64,000 miles. Had cosmetic damage to front, in process of readying, just a beautiful truck. Can trade, warranty, \$7,500.

**2002 Solara** convertible, has minor hail dents, but clean, drives super, warranty. \$3,550. Needs new rear window - blow-out price! Can trade. Warranty? What do you think!

**2002 Nissan Xterra,** loaded with leather, really clean with ONLY 20,000 miles! Can trade...Warranty? Of course. \$9,950.

**2007 Subaru Forrester,** auto, 53,000 miles. This car took a really light hit to the rear and we are in the process of repairing it. Clean as a pin. Brand new tires. Can trade, \$8,950.

**2004 XA Matrix,** 4 door, 70K miles. Can trade. Warranty. Auto AT, \$6950

# motor

## cars

**1995 MERCEDES SL-320**  
Two seater roadster, in process of complete, professional paint job. This car will be a '10' and we can take your car in a trade. \$10,950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. [www.autodepotatx.com](http://www.autodepotatx.com)

**2000 COROLLA** 4dr, only 77k. Minor hail dents. New motor. Warranty. \$4500. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. [www.autodepotatx.com](http://www.autodepotatx.com)

**2000 LEXUS RX-300**, had a minor ding at right rear quarter. Ready now. Stunning with 103k miles. Can trade and warranty. \$8500. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. [www.autodepotatx.com](http://www.autodepotatx.com)

**2001 MERCEDES SLK-230**, red, nice, can trade, warranty. \$7950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. [www.autodepotatx.com](http://www.autodepotatx.com)

**2002 CIVIC** four-door, auto 92k, one year warranty. Clean, nice. \$6550. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. [www.autodepotatx.com](http://www.autodepotatx.com)

**2003 TACOMA** 4dr, Crew cab, auto, 82,000 miles, light hail. Clean, warranty, \$10,550. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. [www.autodepotatx.com](http://www.autodepotatx.com)

**2005 NISSAN "Nismo" 4WD**  
Xtra cab pickup. 53k miles. Can trade, nice. \$13,950. Full warranty. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. [www.autodepotatx.com](http://www.autodepotatx.com)

**2008 HONDA FIT** 2800 miles (Yes, 2800 miles!) Auto, full factory warranty. Can trade. \$14,950. Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail 836-9767. [www.autodepotatx.com](http://www.autodepotatx.com)

## trucks

**2005 RAV-4** 55k miles, nice, full warranty, can trade. \$12,950.

Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail. 836-9767. [www.autodepotatx.com](http://www.autodepotatx.com)

**GMC SIERRA 1986** For Sale: Red 1986 GMC Sierra 1500 Ac/H and CD Player. 1,300.00 If interested call: 512-589-0436

## repairs

### AUTO

**E.O.R.**  
**\*More MPG**  
**\*Clean**  
**Emmissions\***  
**Call Ken**  
**512-736-2370**

**AUTO REPAIR** Need honest, affordable auto repair work done on a vehicle? Call **JESSE'S AUTO REPAIR SHOP** Located at: 5119 E 7th St Approximately 7 miles east of the I-35/7th St. intersection. 386-9135 Major Credit Cards Accepted Hablamos español!

**AUTO REPAIR** On-Site Auto Repair and Mobile Mechanic Services through Austin Auto Medic. We come to you to fix your car and it is guaranteed cheaper than a shop! Call 512-501-2895 or visit us online at [www.austinautomedic.com](http://www.austinautomedic.com)

### INSPECTIONS

**State Inspector of Austin LLC - Vehicle Safety & Emissions Testing**

9433 Parkfield Dr, 78758

**Se Habla Espanol**  
**836-7661**

# music

## equipment for sale

**ACOUSTIC GUITARS** Used acoustics from Gibson, Martin, Collings, Santa Cruz, Goodall and more starting at \$999. Over 25 in stock. Guitar Resurrection 813 Morrow St. 478-0095 [www.guitarrez.com](http://www.guitarrez.com)

**AMP SALE** Closeout pricing on new tube amps from Epi- phone, Bogner Alchemist, EVH, and more. Prices start at \$349. Guitar Resurrection 813 Morrow St. 478-0095

**SIXTEENCNL MIXER** 16 Channel TOA Stereo mixer. Mic sensitivity, 4 tone controls per channel, built-in 2 channel, EQ and Delay effects, CD input. Bought it new in 87. Good unit. Call 743-4374.

## music instruction

**ACCELERATED MUSIC LESSONS** AlanRoy.com. Guitar, bass, voice, mandolin, music theory; by ear or notes. 512-797-1906.

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### ALL

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**KEYBOARD** Pianist looking for a gig. Solo work preferred, but have worked with drums and bass. I play acoustic piano; don't have a portable keyboard. Looking for a couple nights a week, or fill in on someone's night off. I play light jazz standards, 30's & 40's tunes mostly. 35 yrs experience. Call 512-448-1992 after 5pm.

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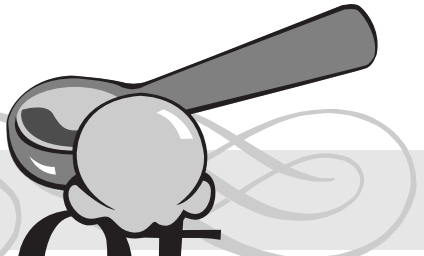
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# easy street



## TASTES LIKE CANDY

Still haven't found what I am looking for. [tasteslikecandy](#), 46,  #132022


## WET AND HORNY

looking for dominate much much older male 50 plus for discreet en counters. Loved to be spanked and teased. [hotneasy](#), 24, #131716

## LONELY NURSE

i am new to the area and will only be here till the first of the year. just looking for some discreet fun to kill the time. [babybluess26](#), 39, #131689


## SENSUAL KISSER LOVER

I am a 37 year old woman who wants nothing more than to spend time with someone that I can call on when I want it! I am pretty simple... [boytoywanter](#), 37,  #131255


## ORGASM?

I have many fantasies. I want you to teach me and tell me how. 23 years old, 5'4", 110 lbs, very cute and willing. [LittleLady](#), 23, #131233


## SUBMISSIVE SEEKS MASTER

I'm 26 years old and love being a submissive to a knowledgeable Dominant male. I am untrained but have enough brains to know how to respect my Dom/Master. [kinkykendra69](#), 26,  #131116


## ELMO LOVER

I'm a girl who just wants a lot of fun and wild things into my life. [lova-bieleibra12](#), 20,  #130651

## SENSUAL IRISH EYES

I am a very sensual, uninhibited, hedonistic woman!! love sex. I love men, singly and plurally. I write erotica, and I'm damn good at it! Meeting people and learning new things; I'm an adventurous free spirit. [irisheyes417](#), 52,  #130532


## SUB, SHY, SWEET.

I'm witty, charming, and shy, and Gemini. I love learning and having fun. I am looking for a dominant, clever, and affectionate man to befriend and maybe more. [Willow1113](#), 18,  #129849

## SASSY NEEDING DOMINATION

Very busy and lacking release outside of daily life. Looking for someone not afraid to dominate and open to public role playing. I have a spanking fetish that needs satisfying. [burlyqgirl](#), 25, #128939

## MAYBE SOMETHING MORE

I am not a thin, perfect Barbie type. I'm looking for an attractive M 25-36 who can keep up. [littred](#), 31,  #128782

## FUN LOVING


looking to have a good time...FUN!! [jccc](#), 34, #127045

## WILDERNESSGIRL SEEKS


### TRANS/CROSS

Big Titty, blue eyes, pretty nice looks. Wilderness girl is back in town seeking fun with cross dresser, transsexual, and into role playing. An accent is a plus and turnon. [pleime](#), 43, #122521


### IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS

I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. [austinpar-tygurl1985](#), 24,  #119045


### LETS ENJOY PARADISE

The only part incomplete is you. (a loving and committed bisexual woman) My love has been longing for that special woman to join us in our piece of Texas paradise. [paradisefound](#), 37,  #132031


### COUPLESEEKTHREESOME

Open minded couple seeking a female for threesome. First time tried anything like this but open to new experiences. No strings attached, discrete one time thing. [3sCompany](#), 22,  #132020


### CUTIE = 3

We are looking for a cutie to come play for some laughs and naughtiness. we are attractive, very easy going and really know how to have a good time! [MrDestructo\\_and\\_CatastropheGirl](#), 29,  #132001


### NO CLOTHES NECESSARY

It's not that hard. We'll either want to have sex with you or not. Turning down someone and being turned down by someone is not that big of deal. [Velo\\_sexy](#), 30,  #131915


### WELCOME TO PARADISE

Your happiness lives in the country and we're looking for a single bisexual woman that would like to join us in Paradise. Your dreams for joy are patiently here waiting. [cplnparadise](#), 37,  #131827


### COUPLE SEEKING PLAYMATE

Secure couple seeking a fun, sexy friend. She is bi, he's straight. [funlovincouple](#), 35,  #131822


### STRIP POKER!

We are looking for a fun women to hang out with and see what fun we can get into. We want to start slow and break the ice. first time. [mtaustin30](#), 29,  #131684


### LITTLEPEOPLEBIGBANG

We are a "short persons" couple looking to get involved in some of Austin's most erotic group action it has. We put the "geeeerrrr" in swinger. [SugarNSpice](#), 39,  #131459


## SEXY BLACK COUPLE

Sexy black couple looking for a woman to please us both. Almost anything goes. Just want to have a whole lots of fun!!!!!! [wnepps](#), 24,  #131382


## YOU MAKES THREE

Couple seeking another female for some discreet fun. We're open minded but looking for the right person. Him - 31, fit, dom, and her - 39, average/curvy, sub/vers. [hisnhers](#), 33,  #131257


## OPEN-MINDED, SEXY COUPLE

We are a happily married couple that loves to meet new people and make friends! We always play together and never force chemistry. Feel free to ask any questions. [curiousbikers](#), 27,  #131117


## ADVENTURE SEEKERS

We're an attractive, committed couple interested in meeting similar couples or select singles. We're safe, sane, fun, and drama-free. If you're both bi (or at least curious) that's a plus. [PairofAces](#), 29,  #131110


## AHHHITSYOURFACE!

First off we have been together for 7 years now. So we are very comfortable with what we are trying to do here. [LvLup](#), 24,  #130887


## SEKKITTEN & ROCKGOD

Sexy, young couple seeking first 3way. Me: tall, blonde, slender, great in bed. Him: equally hot/long hair and tats. [CattieBrie27](#), 27,  #130620


## FEMALE FOR ME

Married Hispanic BiFemale, 34 looking for BiFemale for fun encounters. Let's get together for drinks and see what happens? [femaleforme](#), 34,  #131835


## A WET TREAT

I am 28, sexy and looking for someone who knows how to use their hands and mouth well. Let's see how juicy I can get!!! [austinkristal](#), 28,  #131178


## HOTTIE SEEKING NAUGHTY

Happy in relationship with boyfriend, just curious for some girl on girl fun.. Have only been with one girl- often daydream about it. [temptress](#), 26,  #131370


## TRA-LA-LA

I'm looking to do some experimenting with a cute and fun chick. [xxxheart](#), 23,  #131103


## LUSCIOUSLY WET BI

Married Bi looking 4 other married bi-ladies (35-45) 4 daytime fun (occasional evenings) NSA/FWB situation. Would love 2 find a friend 2 hang out w/ & occasionally exchange some "benefits". [Luscious\\_n\\_wet](#), 39,  #131050


## PLAYMATE(S) FOR ASIAN-BEAUTY

AsianBeauty seeks Erotic Play with Woman or Man; couples considered. I'm very open-minded, feel free to suggest your sexual fantasies. Only Inquire if you're STE-Free. [Asian-Orchid](#), 24,  #131487


## SEXY COLLEGE GRAD

Lonely sexpot seeks hot couple to bring fantasy to reality. Want a non-jealous couple to let me enjoy both at the same time. [youngnsexy](#), 24,  #131182


## SHY REDHEAD

chills at home. looking forspice. not very experienced, am willing to be shown the ropes. notinto pain, but very imaginative. notsurewhat i'm looking for, openfor suggestions. slightly goth butnot ina grossway. [mutemuse](#), 20,  #130686


## YOUNGNTIGHT

looking for a couple to have some fun with...im young sexy and up for just about anything so if u think u can handle me then let me know....ava 18. [bossgur145](#), 19,  #129789

## RAINMAKING TRUTHSEEKER

I am an attractive nineteen-year-old bisexual female. I consider creativity, health, and honesty to be the most relevant traits in a person. I'm looking to be friends first. Be real. [sweeteighteen](#), 20,  #128243


## MANPLEASURER

Love men of all types...just want to do whatever makes you moan with joy...! [OverEasy](#), 29,  #131200


## HOTGUY LOOKING FOR

Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discreet encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discreet Open to new things with guys around my age or younger. 46yrs. [antonio\\_3638](#), 45,  #118402


## LOOKING FOR FUN

Looking for no strings fun and wanting to explore. Am a little bi-curious. [Tgun](#), 38,  #131470


## READY TO PLAY

I ready to do some exploration but not alone. Who wants to play? [Stiff\\_Breez](#), 37,  #131318


## BOTTOMSUP

No STD's, Bi-Shaved male/Cross-dresser/Bottom, I am fun and love to be with others that will not judge me for what I like. I am willing to try anything once. [BottomsUp](#), 29,  #131298


## VERY OPEN MINDED

Hello ppl, I'm a nudist and a very open mind guy, who is looking for friends to hang out with and have fun with but also looking for the one. [nwaustxguy69](#), 28,  #131186

## BLONDE T-GIRL TOP

Hot Blonde T-girl likes to "Dance and Prance". Seeking Hot "Athletic Model" type boys to work the Floor with. I like Muscles or lean. You will like All of me. [BlondeHottie](#), 35,  #101055

## FIT, FUN, FANTASTIC

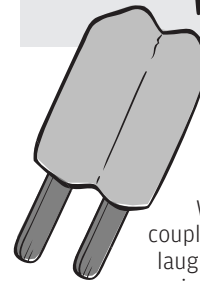
Just got into town, looking for a/ some female/s to have fun with. Lets meet up, see if there's a spark. I'm 5'9", 160 lbs, muscular, great stomach, amazing stamina. [lets\\_have\\_fun](#), 21,  #132071

# free!

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## Flavor of the Week



## MrDestructo\_and\_CatastropheGirl

Age: 29  
fun couple seeks cute girl

We are a loving, stable no games/no drama couple looking for a cutie to come play for some laughs and naughtiness. We are attractive, very easy going and really know how to have a good time!

read the rest of [MRDESTRUCTO\\_AND\\_CATASTROPHEGIRL's](#) profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at [austinchronicle.com/easystreet](http://austinchronicle.com/easystreet)



GET ON THE LIST & GET THE LUV DOC ALL UP IN YOUR INBOX EVERY WEEK

[austinchronicle.com/luvdoclist](http://austinchronicle.com/luvdoclist)

At some point this weekend you are going to be stuck on the highway behind some hayseed from that region of Egypt that doesn't even appear on the map. He will be driving 20 miles per hour below the speed limit and hitting his brakes at random intervals trying to decide if he missed the exit for Sheplers. At this point, your misanthropy might crush your red giant heart into a tiny white dwarf, perhaps even a black hole. You might begin pounding on your horn and screaming expletives with such force and conviction that the inside of your windshield is covered with droplets of spittle. All of this will happen while "Tis the season to be jolly" chirps out of your radio. The only thing keeping you from going completely postal is that he doesn't have a bumper sticker that says: "What's the hurry? You're already in Austin." Here's a little mantra to get you through the Jesus season: Zen. Yes, you do live in a city full of infuriating retards, but you're one of them too. You've been the one blocking traffic at a green light because you're sexting your boyfriend, futzing with the radio, or trying to retrieve the french fry that fell under your seat. You're the oblivious son of a bitch who leaves your grocery cart at a 45-degree angle in the aisle at H-E-B while you painstakingly compare the fiber content of Cap'n Crunch vs. Golden Grahams. You also take 37 items to the 20-item express checkout and then ask the clerk to fetch you a case of Newport 100's and a lighter from the locked display case across the store. Just remember that shit when you're screaming, "Die! Die! Die!" at the line of preschoolers clutching one another's shirts as they slowly shuffle through the crosswalk in front of you. That may be the Easter spirit, but it's definitely not the Christmas spirit. Those little numskulls are just trying to get through their days same as you, only with a few more wet Pull-Ups and a few less temper tantrums. They aren't personally trying to fuck over your mad dash to Starbucks. Remember: It's the season of giving. Instead of giving yourself an aneurysm, give yourself the gift of inner peace. Unstress. Let it slide. The holidays are always fraught with unrealistic expectations: Your daughter wants a *Twilight* Bella Swan Barbie. Mom wants everyone to go to midnight mass. Dad wants to cut down the Christmas tree himself with a chain saw. It's been the same for centuries. Mary expected little baby Josh to be the messiah. No pressure there. Somehow, without the benefit of medicinal marijuana, Josh managed to find inner peace (well, except for that one time with the moneychangers). His secret? Forgiveness. So, if you want to really get in the spirit of giving for the holidays, start by giving people the benefit of the doubt - even the assholes. Sometimes what seems to be most evil is really just comical ... sort of like Rob Zombie ... and laughter is pretty good stress relief. If you want to uncork this holiday season, you couldn't ask for a better way to do it than Master Pancake's Christmas Show, a Christmas-clip extravaganza featuring commentary and improv caroling by Pancake regulars John Erler and Joe Parsons, with Santa-holic Owen Egerton joining the cast for this special holiday show. You might want to wear some Huggies. This show is so funny you might actually crap throw. How Zen is that?

## The Luv Doc

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Friday & Saturday,  
Dec. 18-19 • 7 & 10pm  
Alamo Draffhouse • 320 E. Sixth  
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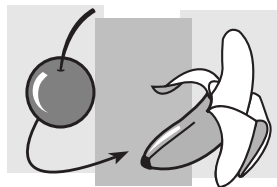
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**OPTIMISTIC AND ATYPICAL**  
I'm a single mom with a full time job that I love. My favorite things are music and movies (hard rock and just about any good film). **TXgirl2282**, 27, #132062

**KIND ARTIST GIRL**  
Kindhearted artist type seeks a person to share life with. I try not to take life too seriously. I have a big heart and want to share it. **Brighteyes**, 25, #132055

**SOUTH AUSTIN GIRL**  
Lets go to a show, or a movie, or a bar for GOOD beer! Or go out to eat something yummy and vegetarian! Looking for love and laughter. **Jane-SaysAndSoDol**, 32, #132038

**OUTGOING, RANDOM, FUN**  
I really enjoy meeting new people and where they come from. I love the outdoors, good food, and random adventures! **wmartinez**, 25, #132009

**ETERNAL STUDENT**  
I'm a laid back gal who loves to learn about the world whether it be through reading, interacting with others, or traveling. **German\_Longhorn**, 21, #131999

**ADVENTUROUS LOVEABLE CUTIE**  
I love spending all my time outside, photography, music, good movies, art, discovering new places and new people. looking for a guy who's adventurous, spontaneous, and genuine. **em194**, 20, #131959

**TAKE A WALK**  
I am honest and real, wittily self-effacing and interested in getting outside of my happy little world to explore laughter, wonder and good times with someone on their own path. **truthorconsequences**, 46, #131946

**LOVE TO LAUGH!**  
Hi, I live east of Austin & am looking for cool people to hang out with! Thanks 4 checking me out & email me if you like what u see! **Spicy2nite**, 31, #131830

**SILLY, FLIRTY, LOVEABLE**  
Silly woman that loves to spend time hanging out with the people that matters most. Very energetic but can be shy at first. Knows how to have a good time. **flirtylady04**, 20, #131820

**EXTREMELY CLASSY BROAD**  
Probably not the watermark for maturity, but I just am looking for someone to make me laugh. **pomeller**, 23, #131818



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**CHRISTIAN WOMEN**  
I am loving, romantic, friendly, caring, understanding, respectful and Christian women. I'm described as a person that is outgoing with a wonderful personality and I'm always full of life... **txrescuelady**, 35, #131935

**HELLO FOR STARTERS**  
Truth: 100 percent of us are not Neat, intelligent, funny... Most of us are Sloppy, insecure, narcissistic. Open up and show all of the characters that are distinctively you. **Dextria**, 24, #131895

**PEACE LOVING CUTIE**  
I like artistry and ingenuity, daytrips, extended trips, cooking, eating, prefer to be outside not in. Looking for someone healthy, kind and genuine who enjoys life, and simple pleasures shared. **marisol**, 50, #131892

**SWEETGIRL**  
I enjoy theatre (live and indie), hiking, and picnics. I just love life and having fun, I am very independent, but I would like to spend time with someone special. **justme62**, 47, #131846

**CHILL, HONEST, FUNNY**  
I'm extremely laid back. I'm brutally honest. I smoke a lot. I act a lot older than I really am. And I don't put up with any bullshit. **startuhriot**, 18, #131727

**JUST SMILE**  
This is the hard part...I'll keep it short and sweet, like me. I love music, reading, walking, spending time with my son, and meeting new people. **PhotographHER84**, 25, #131707

**THIS IS FUN**  
I've got a head on my shoulders and I can use it surprisingly well for my age. I love to laugh and I do it often. Life's a game. **itsruby**, 19, #131662

**LATINLOVER**  
Latin lady looking for something real & genuine. someone who can stimulate & intrigue me. Seeking a gentleman with a big heart who knows how to treat a lady. **SexiMexi**, 32, #131544

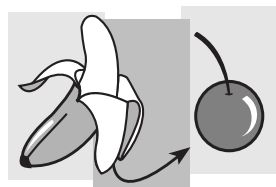
**FRIENDS ARE FAMILY**  
I meet nice folks all the time, hang out, listen to music and laugh. There's no desperation here. It's just that I want something deeper and more meaningful. **WalkinAustin**, 52, #123606

**ADVENTEROUS CHALLENGE.**  
Music. Movies. Escape routes. Zeigenbock. Merlot. Mary. Poetry. Running for hours. Wading through the past and determining not to have regrets this...is me. **pretty\_much\_awesome**, 21, #131495

**KIND, HONEST, DORKY**  
just a pretty awesome lady who needs a good man with a backbone...who happens to be hilarious and handsome. **darkcloud**, 34, #131484

**SMART & KIND**  
Being a good friend is the most important thing there is. Kindness lasts forever, Love the New Yorker. Love art shows, music shows, and to sit and talk outside. **drfrank**, 51, #131455

**JOYFUL, CAREFREE**  
Okay, I'm gonna be real with you I'm just a girl that want's 2 meet a guy, that can treat me like a lady! U will Be a KING ! **joiluv**, 29, #131425



**WHAT I NEEEEED**  
I - am without a sense of shame - have a deep need to go against the grain, whichever way it runs. **space\_heater**, 30, #132080

**AUTHENTIC SENSUALIST**  
I'm basic, kind, down to earth kind of guy. A writer, recently completed a novel, an able cook, well read, decent conversationalist and an even better listener... **100secretssenses**, 41, #132078

**PATIENT, LAID BACK**  
I like to offshore fish and deer hunt. My son is the most important thing in my life. I own my own buisness Marine Const, and teach welding part time. **rgilde**, 35, #132067

**DREAM WISH LAUGH**  
Austin born dig music, Working out, and going out! Looking for fun loving sexy know how to make a man feel. I honest layed back open minded and strong. **Jade**, 32, #132063

**EASY NATURED GUY**  
Fun-loving, professional ecologist with three college degrees. Commutes by bicycle to work. Seeks woman as friend or lover: fun, sincere, and creative. Let's talk every day, simply sharing life. **tom3\_wi**, 56, #132054

**FUNKY MUSIC JUNKIE**  
I am not to be taken too seriously. I'm an outgoing spontaneous person that collects vinyl, goes to shows, and laughs as much as possible. I am an open book... **rambleon**, 23, #132048

**CROCK POT MAGICIAN**  
38, divorced 2 years removed, date rarely, ready to pick up the pace a little. Like to see live music around town - Saxon, Cont. Club, Antonex, the usual places. **Job\_check**, 38, #132040

**ANIMATED AND ECLECTIC**  
been here since may and need to get out and do austin stuff. love being outdoors but can stay in and hang as well. make it happen. **snarf\_snarf**, 23, #132035

**LOOK AT ME**  
Love long walks in the park, listening to anything by air supply, sleeping on rainy days, and eating small cats... looking for a partner in crime, is it you? **blowpopchoir**, 42, #132034

**MY CHRONICLE AD**  
My life consists of great sarcasm, dry humor and almost never being serious. I love a good conversation accompanied with a great beer. **jakubceefin**, 25, #132021

**FULL TIME STUDENT**  
I'm a student currently in Austin. I'm extremely easy going and often quiet, but I'll talk when I have something worth saying. I enjoy being outside running or biking. **bothebeagle**, 20, #132015

**SUPER DUPER DESPERATE**  
Can you imagine if that was really someone's headline for their personal ad? Anyway, if you never seriously read this section then get in touch. **nowhere**, 25, #131996

**SHOOT SOME POOL**  
Looking for someone to practice shooting pool with, or maybe to go throw some frisbees with at the park/ and or have drinks with. **milmascara-syelsanto**, 25, #126379

**NEW AND IMPROVED!!**  
Looking for a fun, intelligent, drama-free partner to see all the cool stuff that goes on in Austin. I'm a fun loving, active, professional looking for the same. **heresme**, 45, #131997

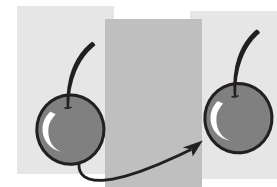
**MONKEYSTHROWPOO**  
I am not a sexist despite the fido, Jenny Adams comment. Should I write this in third person or first person? Its all in the details. **thecookiemonster**, 24, #131984

**ILIKE SMART HOTTIES**  
She says, she's too hot and too smart, so guys are afraid of her! I say, WHAT. Tell me WHERE this girl is, and I want to meet her a.s.a.p. **ILikeSmartHotties**, 34, #131939

**FO SHEEZIES!**  
I work, walk my dog, ride my motorcycle, go to church at home watching a german movie while drinking a miller light. Lets hang out :). **iLove-SportBikes**, 25, #131930

**NAME IS THOMAS**  
aw girl i'm 19l, young fit brown hair boy/moderate. average.no nonsense with me.I am true, honest, and real.I am relaxed, accepting,and have the time to spend on someone right now! **TDubz32**, 19, #131922

**OPEN TO UNIVERSE**  
I roll with the flow. I give more than I take. I'm looking for one quality woman to chill with. my heart is open to whatever the universe brings. **surferman2010**, 34, #131917



**SCIENCE/MUSIC NERD**  
I just moved here and I'm many hours away from everyone I know and love. I love learning, reading, science, playing music, making jewelry, nature, my frogs,cooking, and unplanned adventures. **velvet-goldmine**, 23, #131887

**LOOK BETTER ON**  
im Ace. moved to austin 2 weeks ago. love to laugh. very single. college student. love coffee. im very blunt, not rude. love mexican food. looove walks. really laid back. **AceOf-Spades**, 19, #131753

**ADVENTURE BECKONS**  
fun, genuinely funny, three-year texan seeks someone to enjoy life with. spiritual is a plus. **pleasantly-human**, 29, #131741

**NEW TO TOWN**  
Just moved to Austin from Florida. I also just graduated nursing school. For fun I like working out when I can, watching or playing sports, movies, chilling, food, downtown. **Swoosh12101**, 23, #131567

**QUEEN SEEKS COURT**  
Let's go skinny dipping at night under the stars and drink wine by the pale of the moon. Make me laugh, make me happy - I'll reciprocate! **brownsugarjones**, 44, #120282

**NEW TO AUSTIN**  
Generally a really positive person, I live life to the fullest and without regrets because my mistakes have proven to be my best teachers. **juicebysarah**, 23, #131478

**DINO-S-RAWR**  
This lovely lady is into designer jeans and thrift store T-shirts. Pizza and beer, lots of yoga and a passion for green living. Ridiculously grown-up, but total Peter Pan syndrome. **Pedal-estrian**, 25, #131366

**TEXAS ADVENTURE SEEKER**  
I am upbeat, fun, cute, and adventurous. im looking for a woman who is successful and loves to travel. We both enjoy the finer things in life, particularly fine dining. **chulaleo**, 39, #131345

**I LIKE QUESO**  
i don't really know what i am looking for, but i'm sure i will when i find it. **allietea**, 23, #131071



Flavor of the Week

**TXgirl2282** Age: 27

Optimistic and a bit atypical I'm a single mom with a full time job (that I love) and I just haven't had much time to get out and meet people. I do LOVE to go out though. My favorite things are music and movies. I like to think that I have a very eclectic taste in both. Although my favorites are hard rock and horror movies :-

read the rest of **TXGIRL2282's** profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at [austinchronicle.com/loverslane](http://austinchronicle.com/loverslane)

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## FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky for Dec. 18-25

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** I hope you will get more sleep in 2010. And eat better food, too. And embark on some regimen like meditation that will reduce your stress levels. In general, Sagittarius, I hope you will learn a lot more about what makes your body function at optimum levels, and I hope you will diligently apply what you learn. That doesn't mean I think you should be an obsequiously well-behaved pillar of the community. On the contrary, what I'm envisioning is that by taking better care of yourself, you will make yourself strong enough to run wilder and freer.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Even if you don't plan to go to school in 2010, I suggest you make plans to further your education. Your current levels of knowledge and skill may be quite impressive, but they simply won't be enough to keep you growing and adapting forever. Eventually, you're going to need to learn more. And the coming months will be a perfect time, from an astrological perspective, to get that process under way. Here are a few questions to jump-start your meditations: What ignorance do you find yourself having to increasingly hide? What subjects captivate your imagination and tantalize your future self? What skills and know-how do your competitors have that you don't?

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Imagine that money is not just the literal cash and checks you give and receive, but that it is also an invisible force of nature like gravity or electromagnetism. Then imagine that it's possible for this primal energy to be favorably disposed toward you - that on some occasions its rhythms may be more closely aligned with your personal needs. Can you picture that, Aquarius? I hope so, because there is a sense in which this seeming fantasy will be an actuality for you during much of 2010. How well you're able to capitalize will depend in part on how high you keep your integrity levels. Are you prepared to be more impeccably ethical, fair, and honest than you've ever been?

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Have you been toiling away earnestly at the exhausting homework that life has dumped on you this past year? Have you kept the faith even when you've been fooled and confused? Have you applied yourself with a pure heart to the maddening details and puzzling riddles you've been asked to master? If you've been less than conscientious at doing these tasks, the next two months will bring you a series of tricky final exams. But if you have been doing your due diligence, then you're on the brink of graduating from boring old problems that you have been studying and studying and studying for a long time. Do we dare hope that you will soon be free of a history that has repeated itself ad nauseam? Yes, I think we do dare.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** I don't understand why the astronomers responsible for naming newfound objects are so devoid of flair. Here's a prime example: They found a blazar, or blazing quasi-stellar object, in a faraway galaxy. It's powered by a supermassive black hole that's 10 billion times larger than our sun. Why did they give this fantastic oddity the crushingly boring name "Q0906 + 6930"? Couldn't they have called it something like "Queen Anastasia" or "Blessed Quasimodo" or "Gastromopolopolis"? I trust you won't be as lazy in your approach to all the exotic discoveries you're going to be making in 2010, Aries. Start getting your imagination in top shape. Make sure it's primed and ready for your upcoming walkabout to the far reaches of reality.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Scientists say that pretty much everywhere you go on this planet, you are always within three feet of a spider. That will be an especially useful and colorful truth for you to keep in mind during 2010. Hopefully it'll inspire you to take maximum advantage of your own spiderlike potentials. It's going to be web-spinning time, Taurus, an excellent phase in your long-term life cycle to weave an extended network - with you at the hub - that will help you catch an abundance of the resources you need.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** I don't normally recommend that you worry too much about what others think of you. In 2010, however, you could benefit from thinking about that subject more than usual. Judging from the astrological omens, I suspect that you'll be able to correct misunderstandings that have negatively affected your reputation. You might even have the power to shift people's images of you so that they're in relatively close alignment with the truth about who you actually are. Here's the best news: You may be more popular than you've ever been.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** I'm hoping that you will get out more in 2010. And I mean way out. Far out. Not just out to the unexplored hotspots on the other side of town (although that would be good) but also out to marvelous sanctuaries on the other side of paradise. Not just out to the parts of the human zoo where you feel right at home but also out to places in the urban wilderness where you'll encounter human types previously unknown to you. In conclusion, traveler, let me ask you this: What was the most kaleidoscopic trip you've ever taken? Consider the possibility of surpassing it in the next 12 months.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** One of the 20th century's greatest scientific minds was Nobel Prize-winning physicist Max Planck. He knew that in his field, like most others, ingenious innovation doesn't automatically rise to the top. The advancement of good new ideas is hampered by the conservatism and careerism of scientists. "A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light," he wrote, "but rather because its opponents eventually die, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it." In 2010, Leo, there'll be a similar principle at work in your sphere. Influences that have been impeding the emergence of excellence will burn out, dissipate, or lose their mojo. As a result, you'll be able to express and take advantage of innovations that have previously been quashed.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Twenty-two percent of American right-wing fundamentalists believe that Barack Obama is the Antichrist. On the other hand, 73% of the people who read my horoscopes think that if there were such a thing as an Antichrist, he would be an American right-wing fundamentalist. But I'd like to discourage speculations like that among the Virgo tribe in 2010. According to my reading of the omens, you should take at least a year off from getting worked up about your version of the devil. Whoever you demonize, just let them alone for a while. Whatever you tend to fault as the cause of the world's problems, give your blame mechanism a rest. As much as possible, create for yourself an enemy-free zone.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** I'm hoping that 2010 will be the year you do whatever it takes to fall more deeply in love with the work you do. I'd like to see you reshape the job you have so that it better suits your soul's imperatives. If that's not possible, consider looking for or even creating a new job. The cosmos will be conspiring to help you accomplish this. Both hidden and not-so-hidden helpers will be nudging you to earn your livelihood in ways that serve your highest ideals and make you feel at peace with your destiny.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" is a jazz tune composed in 1931 by Duke Ellington and Irving Mills. In accordance with your long-term astrological omens, I propose that we make that song title your motto in 2010 - the standard you'll keep referring to as you evaluate which experiences you want to pursue and which you don't. Please proceed on the assumption that you should share your life energy primarily with people and situations that make you soul singing and tingle and swing.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://RealAstrology.com) to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

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### SMART, LOVING, LOYAL.

I am honest and very blunt. Love cuddling. Love being outdoors. Love animals and nature. If you want to know something about me ask it. **Gabe7373**, 21, #131975

### NICE AND SIMPLE

Laid back guy seeks low drama situation with another guy. Enjoy hanging out with friends, margaritas, red wine, dining out. Road bike riding, 24Hour Fitness. Dog lover. Disease/smoke free here. **jodetx**, 50, #131890

### OPERA OR PUNK

Wait a minute... He likes Opera and punk? He likes Grindhouse and Love, Actually? He likes Chez Nous and The Salt Lick? Is fun and capable of making a commitment? **pparker**, 53, #131728

### LOOKING FOR LOVE

Originally from Boston. I enjoy going back east to visit family. I'm looking for someone with the same interests, cooking, taking walks, talking about the important things in life. **It-TakesTwo**, 47, #131616

### HIPSTER GAYSIAN WANTED

Are you: awesome? asian? hipster? hilarious? social and homebody? 21-30ish Do you: like electro and indie? dance? drive? want to find love? I'm: skinny, white, 6'01", dark hair musician, hairdresser. **artist4asian**, 22, #131400

### ROMANCE 2 WILD

I love a man that thinks about me first thing in the am and the last thing at nite. hand holding and cuddling is a must, as is kissing. **man2man**, 52, #131299

### NEW TO AUSTIN

Very blessed, spiritually-changed. 51 GPM ISO honest, outgoing, totally real, self-confident and self-loving gay man who wants to work hard on a friendship and relationship together. **newtoaustinguy**, 51, #131167

### HUGS & KISSES

Austin man desires friend & lover. 45/ GWM/6'2"/200. Love to laugh, share and explore. You be smart, healthy and open to possibilities. **bluehead-lights**, 45, #131094

### LAID BACK GUY

Been single too long. Laid back guy here who loves meeting new people. Looking for that one special person to hang out with, get to know, and see what happens. **AustinRomance**, 32, #128768



### WHY I OUGHTTA...

just moved back to austin. it's a crazy world out there. i like making people laff. hard. come have a drink and laff with me. **eweezie**, 30, #132049

### LAUREN WEDDING DANCER

Connection. Eye contact. Smiles throughout the evening. Then we danced. I would have said something but I knew you were taken. Maybe we could try being friends? **When: Sunday, December 6. Where: Driftwood. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904529**

### EYES AT HOUSE-O'-SPIDERS

I was stuck on a slow date...you were sitting in the booth behind me with your laptop. I've got blond hair and wore a green jacket. Spiderhouse for coffee soon? **When: Sunday, December 6. Where: Spiderhouse. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904528**

### STARBUCKS PARKINGSPACE STEALER

Thought you took my parking space-we joked about the "Blizzard of 2009" & my "snow shoes"-we exchanged names but not numbers-maybe we'll meet again-hope you were thinking the same thing **When: Friday, December 4. Where: Starbucks at Arboretum. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904530**

### TWIN LIQUOR PROMOTER

We talked motorcycles and my recently finished journey. You like whiskey; never had JD Green Label. It's great; let's have some - after I take you out on the Harley. **When: Friday, December 4. Where: Twin Liquor Promoter. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904527**

### 12/3 TROPHY'S-"ANGEL"

We talked about things we're practicing: perseverance/risk/cycling/rock climbing/letting go of perfection. Dancing with you was fantastic, then you abruptly left. Wishing you had taken greater risk then. How about now? **When: Thursday, December 3. Where: Trophy's Bar South Congress. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904523**

### IRON CACTUS GENT

Me: red coat, blond hair You: dark coat and hair, brown shoes, held the door for me. Wanted to talk, but your date showed up. You have a great smile. **When: Sunday, December 6. Where: Iron Cactus North. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904536**

### BJ'S BREWHOUSE BRODIE

You wearing white hat and grey pants. Me blonde in maroon shirt sitting in booth. We met eyes. I'll be there again 12/14 for Monday Night Football. Drinks? **When: Monday, December 7. Where: BJ's Brewhouse on Brodie. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904535**



### MOLTOV'S LAST FRIDAY!

Dec. 4th. You just moved here. You have a "misfit" tattoo on your finger. Your friend ran me off!! I showed you my tattoo on my ankle. **When: Friday, December 4. Where: Moltov. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904534**

### BRUNETTE KERBEY WAITRESS

Long hair, dark shirt, Campus Kerbey late Saturday. Busy @ bar while I picked up takeout. Didn't see me, but you might be the most beautiful girl I've ever seen! **When: Saturday, December 5. Where: Kerbey Lane. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904533**

### MOONSHINE FRIDAY LUNCH

I waited on you at Moonshine last friday lunch. thought you were beautiful - couldn't stop staring! If you are interested, I would love to get together sometime! **When: Friday, December 4. Where: Moonshine. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904532**

### YOU LOVE COLONIZATION

Slackers Concert - YOU! Wearing blue knit cap. ME: The guy that said I was going to post a shot in the dark for you. **When: Friday, December 4. Where: Flamingo Cantina. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904531**

### FLGRLSUZY

Bonjour! You canceled before I got to meet you. Maybe you scan these - didn't know where else to try. **When: Saturday, November 28. Where: Online. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904543**

### LET'S DANCE

You: One of the three cute girls dancing to the right of the DJ. Me: Black jacket, black striped shirt, dancing next to you Plush Sat nite? **When: Saturday, December 12. Where: Music Gym after hours. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904542**

### DEAR BOY

I told you I was as cynical as daria. you told me to stay that way. we could sit at opposite ends of the couch, our feet in the middle. **When: Sunday, December 13. Where: shangri-la. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904541**

### SATURDAY SANTA-FEST

I was wearing a black suit and Santa hat, participating in the pub-crawl. You were dressed as Santa. Meet me at Dirty Dog next Friday. Wear your hat! **When: Sunday, December 13. Where: Rain. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904540**

### SUBMERGED IN SPEED

Where'd you go Alissa? Met in eight minutes. Haven't stopped thinking about you. You're gorgeous, hes an idiot for not fighting for you. I bought boxing gloves, hit me up! **When: Tuesday, December 8. Where: Submerged. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904539**

### PARKING LOT FROlicking

Made out from bar to car, did donuts in the street. You tried to follow me home but got lost. I hope you didn't die ... or worse :! **When: Friday, December 11. Where: Downtown. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904538**

### WHOLE FOODS CHEMISTRY

You,blonde woman on laptop on table by registers. Me, brunette wearing hotpink beanie. Your penetrating stare followed me to escalators. I rode escalators twice to look at your blissful face. **When: Tuesday, December 8. Where: whole foods. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #904537**

a shot in the dark

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