

GO CLASSIC Hem Jeans adds vintage selections to its lineup ■ **Style Matters, D3** | 'MOUNTAIN' CLIMBERS Austin band basks in glow of advance praise for new release ■ **Today in XL**

GO INSIDE ■ WINE BAR



Tammy Perez FOR AMERICAN-STATESMAN
Musician Andrew Hardin, Kelley Mickwee and Cory Brennan take in music and vino at House Wine.

House of wine and art



A selection of truffles can be enjoyed with a glass of wine. For something more savory, order a cheese tray or smoked almonds.

@statesman.com
See more photos of House Wine with this story online.

Design surprises flow throughout South Lamar bungalow turned sipping spot

By **Melanie Spencer**
AMERICAN STATESMAN STAFF

Motoring up or down South Lamar Boulevard, it's easy to miss the unassuming 1940s bungalow tucked behind P. Terry's Burger Stand. In recent years, the house has been a natural hair salon and a therapeutic massage business. In September, it was converted into a cozy, casual wine bar by Austinite Kerry White. Fittingly, White dubbed her new business House Wine. '(I) wanted a place for the arts, for the community,' White says. The designer-turned-wine purveyor is perched on one of the two deep love seats in the front room and is clad in a gray, belted sweater dress, textured gray tights and a pair of saucy camel-brown suede boots. 'An environment to feel comfortable, to express yourself.'

The walls of the front room are bathed in milk chocolate paint and covered in artwork from local artists, which White plans to periodically switch out. The space is furnished with contemporary pieces, including compact, cream micro-suede-covered barrel chairs, low-slung patterned arm chairs, the two love seats, plus a few modern, white side tables. The design surprise is the robin's egg-blue ceiling, a color brought in from the front porch. "That's a color they use on the porches in the Florida Keys (to) keep the evil spirits away," White says. "It opens it up, and there

is something pleasing about it." Though the overall design scheme is contemporary, almost familiar, with a sprinkle of modern here and there, White also has incorporated the sense of whimsy, found in the blue ceiling, throughout the space. "I wanted the place to have a feeling of permanence," White says. "But, we didn't want to do too much to it, like pristine floors and everything really sleek. I wanted it to have style but a little bit of surprise." For example, a pop of green on the wall

See **INSIDE, D3**



House Wine
408 Josephine St.; 322-5210
www.myspace.com/housewineaustin.
Open 3 p.m. to midnight daily.

A COFFEE WITH ... **THOMAS N. TABBACK**

Austin author knows Joe (the Plumber)

By **Jeff Salamon**
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Everything about Samuel J. Wurzelbacher seems to have happened in fast forward. In the space of three days last October, the man known to the world as Joe the Plumber went from being an anonymous Ohioan to a national figure — one part working-class hero, one part late-night punch line — whose name was cited 26 times by John McCain and Barack Obama in the final presidential debate. So when it came time to sign the inevitable "What I Believe" book deal, Wurzelbacher stayed true to his double-time pace: Four days after the debate, he committed himself to a publisher who was determined to get a manuscript done in a month's time. And rather than sign up with a major house



Thomas N. Tabbach
Austin writer, publisher.

See **COFFEE, D6**



MARQUES G. HARPER
STYLE & SUBSTANCE

Recession confession: Thrift store shoppers do more with less

Earlier this decade, I was in fashionista heaven when I dated a manager of a Salvation Army store in Pennsylvania. A lifetime of love wasn't in the cards, but I did score big on piles of new and gently used items. The list of fashionable goodies included a wool Oscar de la Renta sweater, Hugo Boss black boots, DKNY and Kenneth Cole shirts, leather coats, several sports jackets and cotton Polo Ralph Lauren dress shirts of all kinds and colors. I had walked away from thrift store shopping with the end of that relationship several years ago, but our shaky economy has pulled me back in. Shopping second-hand might make some people cringe, but I came to appreciate it just as much as I love shopping those department store racks that are marked down 60 percent. The high for me comes from the thrill of the hunt. It's about finding a treasure buried in your size in a rack of other people's junk. It's about realizing we live in a country of excess, and that can be good for some of us. Thankfully, Austin is dotted with dozens of thrift, consignment, resale, vintage and secondhand stores, many of them in clusters on the same road or tucked away in shopping centers.

See **HARPER, D6**



Marques G. Harper AMERICAN-STATESMAN
Jacket by Michael Kors, \$35 at Assistance League of Austin

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