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EX FILES

New website compiles post-breakup text messages ■ F4

IN TRAVEL

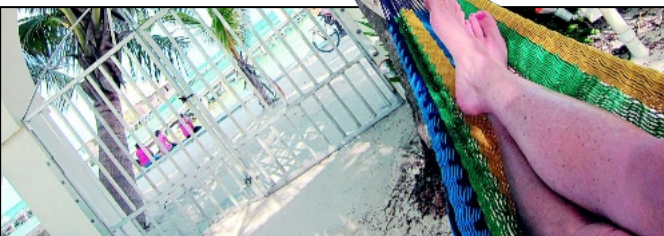
AH, BELIZE

Put your feet up and take it easy in this laid-back paradise ■ F10

INSIDE

RADIO

Website based in trailer boosts bands ■ F5



DALE ROE
ON TV

‘Dancing’ has been stepping on ‘Idol’s’ toes

The current season of Fox’s “American Idol” is drawing to a close. On Wednesday, viewers will choose between Lauren Alaina and Scotty McCreery, crowning one of them the Season 10 champion.

Is it heresy to wonder how many more “Idols” there will be? A decade is a long time in TV years, and even the most fervent fan would reluctantly admit that the show has moved solidly from unpredictable excitement to routine convention.

The show is still a ratings powerhouse. It’s the No. 1 entertainment show among adults 18-49, and this year marked the eighth straight season it’s been both the No. 1 program in total viewers and has locked up the No. 1 and 2 spots in adults 18-49. Fox claims that’s the longest run since the measurement was first taken more than 20 years ago.

The show’s ratings are up over the previous season’s for the first time since 2007, but only slightly and probably not as much as the network had hoped for in light of the wholesale changes “Idol” made this season.

Love-to-hate-him judge Simon Cowell quit the show (more about that in a moment); then Ellen DeGeneres followed suit. Kara DioGuardi was the last to go before pop music icons Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler joined holdover Randy Jackson on the judging panel.

See ROE, F6



Michael Becker FOX

Lauren Alaina, above, will face off against Scotty McCreery to determine the winner of Season 10 of ‘American Idol’ on Fox.

360

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ANNIVERSARY ■ LBJ LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

MAN OF THE TIMES



Ralph Barrera 2007 AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Forty years have passed since the LBJ Library and Museum was dedicated. An open house will celebrate the anniversary today.



Frank Wolfe 1971 LBJ LIBRARY

Walter Cronkite interviewed former President Lyndon Baines Johnson in December 1971. The public still strongly associated Johnson with the Vietnam War the year his presidential library opened.



Frank Wolfe 1992 LBJ LIBRARY

Currently on exhibit near the LBJ Auditorium are photographs from the library’s history, including this one of Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton and Lady Bird Johnson the year Clinton was elected president.

By Michael Barnes

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Since May 22, 1971, more than 14 million guests have crossed the stark, white plaza on the University of Texas campus and entered the monumental LBJ Library and Museum.

They have filed past a replica of the Oval Office, reproduced from Lyndon Baines Johnson’s presidency (1963-1969). They have entered the hushed Great Hall, where the records of his administration rise tall above the room’s marble base like stacks of scarlet holy books bathed in copper light. And they have descended the grand, modernist staircase into the dark recesses of the core exhibition, which records in minute detail the life and times of Johnson and his family.

Forty years after it was dedicated with all due pomp and circumstance — including a visit from then-President Richard Nixon — the institution will celebrate its history with an open house today that includes refreshments and live entertainment.

Meanwhile, the center’s leaders are looking into the future, planning a complete overhaul of the exhibition spaces. They hope those renovations, designed by Gallagher and Associates of Silver Spring, Md., will be completed in time for the Lady Bird Johnson Centennial in December 2012.

“This is a national treasure that happens to be in Austin,” says energetic Mark Updegrave, only the fourth director of the LBJ Foundation, after Chester Newland, Harry Middleton and Betty Sue Flowers. “We should refresh exhibits anyway every 10 years. Younger folks also demand more interactivity. And we need

As LBJ’s legacy evolves, so will library bearing his name

See LIBRARY, F3

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL ■ PALME D’OR

Austinite’s film gains critical support for the top award today

By Charles Ealy

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

CANNES, France — History could be made today, when the Cannes film festival jury hands out the Palme d’Or. Austinite Terrence Malick could become the first Texas director to take home the festival’s top prize.

Despite a mixed reaction at the first press screening here on Monday, critical support has been growing for Malick’s “The Tree of Life.” The annual critics poll conducted by British magazine Screen International has it among the top four movies of the 20 in competition. The others are “The Artist,” “La Havre” and “The Kid With a Bike.”

Many critics viewed Pedro Almodóvar’s “The Skin I Live In,” which premiered Thursday, as

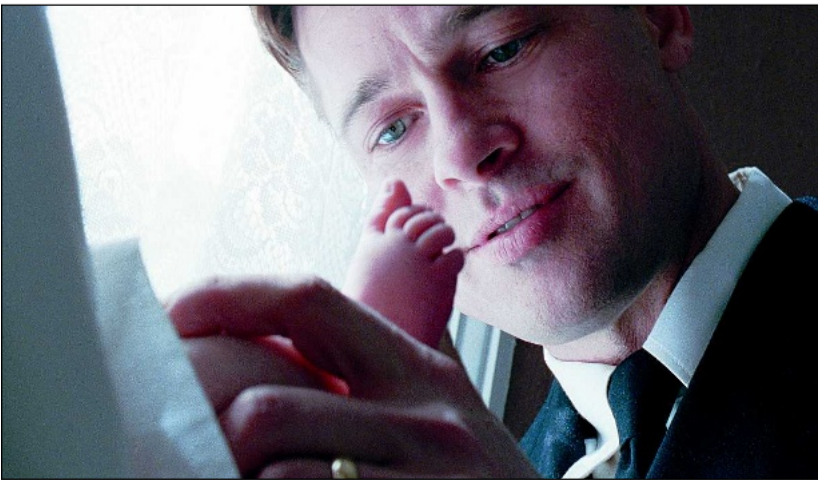
360

Statesman movies editor Charles Ealy is at the Cannes film festival. Look for his reports on [Austin360.com/movieblog](#) and in Life throughout the fest.

a disappointment. And only four more contenders were scheduled to screen by late Saturday: “Drive,” starring Ryan Gosling; “This Must Be the Place,” starring Sean Penn; French director Radu Mihaileanu’s “The Source”; and the latest from Turkish director Nuri Bilge Ceylan, “Once Upon a Time in Anatolia.”

The Palme d’Or is the most prestigious festival award in the world. And a victory for “The Tree

See AWARD, F8



Brad Pitt plays a father who expresses his disappointment with his life by bullying his family in Terrence Malick’s ‘The Tree of Life.’

Merie Wallace
FOX SEARCHLIGHT
PICTURES