

F5

*work like a farmer
party like a rock star*



>Bad office Santa

Whatever you think you know about Secret Santa can just be replaced with this advice. p.2

>Pour over and out

The hot new (old) trend in coffee making is all good until someone has to be somewhere. p.6

>Digital shenanigans

The Federal website for getting Obamacare seems bad — until you look at Oregon's. p.2

>Ophil and your head

Wichita's veteran ska band wants to give you the *Raiders of the Lost Ark* treatment. p.4

>Top 10 beer gift don'ts

In a world wide web full of listicals, the ones for buying for a beer snob are least helpful. p.6

F5

View: OTHER PERSPECTIVES

You've been doing Secret Santa wrong

by Don Winsor
dwinsor@f5paper.com



DON WINSOR

It's the giving season again, and it is in that festive spirit that I would like to share with you something which has brought me joy for many years. Nearly every office, workplace, social club, sleeper cell or militia group organizes a Secret Santa game every year. I am here to tell you that you have, probably, been doing Secret Santa wrong.

There are a few options when you're looking to eek a little more private joy out of your SS experience, and and my personal favorite is something I like to call "Secret Satan." It costs a little more than your normal game, but the end results can be so beautifully chaotic that it is completely worth the extra \$20 you might spend.

This game only works in the sort of Secret Santa which takes place over a period of days or weeks and involves multiple small trinkets, notes, or gifts. You begin the game as normal and take care of your own giftee in a method

which I'll describe later in the article. However, you're going to need some additional supplies. Go to the store. Buy some hemorrhoid cream, some odor-fighting insoles, cold-sore ointment and any number of other possibly embarrassing personal items.

You can be more or less evil with this; it's up to you. I try to avoid hitting too close to home as to avoid actual hurt feelings and try to keep things random and senseless. Do not, for example, print and frame Photoshopped images of their recently dead relatives. Trust me, that doesn't go down well.

Now you watch for patterns in the gifts others receive. Have they been getting notes? Has their Santa delivered things in a certain way? Once you've established how their Santa operates, you deliver their feminine deodorant spray in a similar way, so that one day instead of finding a chocolate reindeer on their desk they'll find this gift.

see "Santa" page 11

I was wrong about the Obamacare website

by Bill Jenkins
bjenkins@f5paper.com



BILL JENKINS

As much as I hate to admit it, I was wrong. Nobody likes to see the errors in his or her ways, but I seem to have a harder time than most. It's not like I never make mistakes. I got married. Once.

A long time ago. It was a mistake. But then, first marriages are kind of like the measles. The younger you are when it occurs, the easier it is to recover from and the less scarring that occurs.

Anyway, my regret this week is that I was perhaps too hard on the Obama administration in its rollout of the health care exchanges. Yes, they are taking longer than estimated (or promised) and there are still some bugs in the system but things are steadily getting better.

Most folks should be able to get enrolled and have an opportunity to shop for a privately run health plan by the end of the year. The error rate is down to 1% and the response time is under a second according to government sources.

In a previous column, after excoriating the administration for its ineptitude, I (reasonably enough) said that they should have picked one of the U.S. tech giants who have tremendous experience in projects of this scale. Makes sense, right? Amazon and Ebay among others have the expertise and the capability to get the exchange up and running at a level of handling millions of hits a day. What would have been simpler than to use the folks that they use, getting them before the big holiday rush season to set

see "Obamacare" page 11

F5

OFFICIAL POSITIONS

The opinions of the newspaper are not always the opinions of the individual contributors and vice versa. To avoid confusion, we will update you every week on the paper's official position on things going on in the world.



KSN anchor fired for dropping an on-air F-bomb: Fucking sucks for him. And it's not like that's the dumbest thing ever said on TV.



Intrust Bank Arena manager says more country, less pop: Hmm. Unpopular pop acts booked on weeknights don't do as well as well as popular country acts booked on weekends. It must certainly be the genre.



Christmas: I'm getting the kids a box of bubble wrap this year. Might just get myself one, too.



White Santa: All you have to do to settle this debate is capture him next time he comes down your chimney with gifts for the kids. Next, let's argue about if the Loch Ness Monster is Jewish.



Obama sends gay delegates to Sochi Winter Olympics: Best policy decision all year.

>GET HEARD

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BY MIKE PIVONKA

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THE PARRIOTT FAMILY



PHOTO BY RYAN HENDRIX

>HEAR IT

Who: Ophil with Soleb Theory

What: Ska

When: Saturday, Dec. 21, 9 p.m.

Where: Lucky's Everyday, 1217 E. Douglas

Price: \$5

Ophil promises to melt your face

by **Torin Andersen**
tandersen@f5paper.com

If you're living in Wichita and haven't heard Ophil yet, you've been residing under a presumably very comfortable rock that has sustained you for at least two decades. Well, here's your chance to come

out and catch Ophil up-close and personal Dec. 21 at Lucky's Everyday, 1217 E. Douglas.

Having played in Wichita and around the region extensively in the mid-'90s into the early '00s, even making their way to the west coast, Ophil has been dubbed a ska band.

However, the members pride themselves on trying out different styles that are in,

around and outside of ska to cultivate their own unique take on what they enjoy about music.

With three full-length studio albums and a live record (and many, many bootlegs) under its belt this band shows no signs of stopping

see "Ophil" page 5

Sir Baar releases *Yuurei/Yuuryo* cassette

by **Torin Andersen**
tandersen@f5paper.com

Recorded with either a litany of vintage synthesizers or just one, *Yuurei/Yuuryo* is a minimalist release by Sir Baar (Alec Jahn), which sets pace with a broad palette of ideas especially considering its brevity at just under 30 minutes.

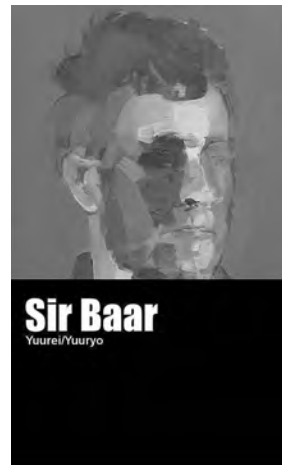
Opening with a warm, oscillating series of repeating chord structures, the song "T" plays like a red carpet waltz welcoming the

listener to a grand medieval hall with water cascading down stone walls festooned with sculptures of nude centaurs and mermaids. The water pooling in the next hall for the second piece, "D," sounds a bit like a game of "marco polo" played by one synth in a hall of mirrors that shouts in unison once the sole participant finds himself.

Minimalist art and song titles as well, side one includes songs "T," "D," "F" and "A (interlude)." Side two songs include "A," "E (Start)" and "E (End)."

Choosing to focus mainly on texture, tone and mood, the majority of this release can cause a bit of introspection upon the listener. Looking back at oneself while listening to music is somewhat atypical in a culture that utilizes music as a means of escape (singing along with your favorite Journey single) or heightening one's immediate experience (*Jock Jams Volume 1*). You'll find nothing like that contained in this magnetized piece of tape.

see "Sir Baar" page 5



"Honey, where is the walkman?"
Yet another cassette review.

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Music::

Paper Airplanes reissue is a narrative of divine justice

by **Torin Andersen**
tandersen@fpaper.com

Originally released as a tour only grab in 2009, *Scandal Scandal Scandal Down in the Wheat Field* has been reissued in an effort by Air House Records to showcase Wichita-area musicians.

The core songwriters, Marcus Stoesz, Anthony Piazza and Nathan Wilder prove their songwriting confidence since Paper Airplanes' freshman release, the highly acclaimed, *Boyhood*. Featuring not only the core three songwriting members, this recording boasts 13 other musicians contributing to the mix.

Recorded in a handful of different studios, garages and basements the overall sound is eclectic and at times mused as this band pushes the envelope squeezing all sorts of rhythmic, harmonic and melodic elements into tiny pop-rock jaunts.

As the lyrics from "Belovedaire" might suggest ("You're under pressure, you're

under pressure"), the now-defunct band at its height was producing music worthy of contending with the likes of the Decemberists, which rose to fame at the same time Paper Airplanes was touring its most.

With 12 songs and about 50 minutes in length, *Scandal*, with its minimal disc art and packaging, is a re-release for posterity of a band who were highly influential

not just in Wichita at the time of this recording.

Feeling not quite right for an autumn release, *Scandal* sheds morning light over fields of sunflowers and proves as infectious as hay fever in the spring. Cello, violin, trumpet, bassoon, french horn and flute are sprinkled like dew over the core bass, drums and

guitar/keyboard adding a depth most rock bands do not attempt on recordings for concern of live reproduction; a concern unneeded in this posthumous release.

For those of you lucky enough to have caught Paper Airplanes live, you'll immediately recognize the sound (and a lot of the songs) and appreciate its newfound availability for the masses.



"Ophil" from page 4

and still continues to write new music.

Soleb Theory, opening the night, is a younger band with much fewer years under their belt. A trio, this band will take up less than half the stage real-estate that Ophil will.

Playing an eclectic mixture of punk, funk, metal and ska, this band's rhythm section features a flare for Latin grooves played expertly by brothers Alejandro and Andres Alamos. Singer/guitarist, Drew Colcher, an intense performer who

"Sir Baar" from page 4

As for the production value, the idea of bending electricity through voltage controlled oscillators to achieve instrument timbre to be recorded to tape is great if you're not looking for a large audience. It's doubtful Sir Baar is intending on

reaching a large audience as evidenced by the limited 50 cassettes produced for release.

If you want to escape the escapism and take an experimental journey in tone and composition *Yuurei/Yuuryo* might be what you're looking for. Digital download can be found at sirbaar.bandcamp.com.

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Get over the pour over

Fancy-smancy coffee making is all fine and good if you have the time, but it's also mostly just theater.

by Don Winsor
dwinsor@f5paper.com

I have for some time grudgingly agreed that the burgeoning trend of pour over coffees does, in fact, produce significantly better coffee and is worth the time if you have it.

However, I believe there is a time and a place for everything and I believe we have reached a pour over threshold and some coffee shop patrons need to be taught a lesson. In truth, pour overs often only produce a slightly better taste than coffee brewed using other methods, in fact inferior to some. The attraction here is the theater of the preparation, more than anything.

First off, expect that if you order a pour over you will be waiting for at least five minutes. You might get crazy lucky, but the process of a pour over will not change if you are in a hurry. If you're in a rush, order brewed coffee. Order an Americano if you have slightly more time. Do not rush your barista when they are trying to do their job correctly.

Also keep in mind that if the coffee shop is slammed with people and the staff is limited, ordering a pour over is not an act that shows a great degree of empathy or compassion. A skilled barista can juggle many orders at a time, working the espresso machine like a pro,



DON WINSOR



THANKS FOR BEING SLOW: Pour overs are better most of the time, but very few people can tell the difference and even then, we have lives to lead, people.

but a pour over requires focus and attention to just your coffee for an inordinate period of time. Order what you like, but please for the love of Krampus tip accordingly.

I conducted an experiment recently. I will confess that I did this at Starbucks, so quality is going to vary wildly anyway, but I gave people cups of coffee made from the same beans via pour over and regular brew, and no one could tell the difference. When I told them the regu-

lar brew was pour over, they acknowledged "Oh yeah, this tastes much better. Fresher."

The power of suggestion and the anticipation created by watching a barista weigh the grinds, heat the water and slowly pour the correctly heated liquid over the freshly ground beans will make you think "this is so much better," but most people cannot tell the dif-

see "Coffee" page 16

Top 10 gifts for a craft beer nut

by Will Darrah
wdarrah@f5paper.com

10. Something off a numerical list

As inspiration for this list I analyzed every other crack-pot list that has turned up on some form of feed, be it Facebook, Twitter or other. The majority of these listacles — more simple lists than actual articles — are drafted by people who have little to no knowledge of the subject on which they write. What they do know is that you love a good list, and you will click that link without hesitation. Lists are safe.

They don't require much thought. They are easily digested. And as the reader is obviously there because they have not picked a gift for the craft beer lover in their life, they

can't claim to know any better than the author, who seems to be a good list maker.

9. A Christmas-themed beer

Let me take a moment and go on record: Get your allspice out of my beer. I love me some Gluehwein, I hate the same in beer. I tolerate pumpkin ales, barely, but find all of this whacky spicing totally and utterly kaput. There are many great ways to enjoy the

intense spices of the seasons. In a beer is not one of them.

8. A beer you have never heard of

To help add credibility to his list-making skills the author of the list will have been sure to add in a beer that you have never heard of. Well, the odds are that there is a reason you have never heard of it, and even if you have heard of it when you go ask your local liquor store clerk, they won't have it. But, oh, the list maker, I am sure he keeps four of them in his beer fridge at all times.

7. A beer they have never heard of

Perhaps instead of blindly purchasing a beer that you have never heard of because the internet told you to, you'll find it

less offensive to try to buy a beer that you are sure they have never tried. Don't get me wrong, I love trying new beers and look forward to every new adventure I choose to take. That said, I have pretty much tried every beer available in the store that I have an urge to. There are probably a few in there that I would like, but spare me the dusty bottle that is aging on the shelf with cause. Worse yet, jump back to number nine and grab me a Belgian triple bottle conditioned with nutmeg, clove and cinnamon; only available for this holiday season, thank goodness, but sadly they will have dreamed up a whole new train wreck by this time next year.

see "Beer" page 7

Or, really, 10 ways not to get them gifts.



WILL DARRAH

"Beer" from page 6**6. A beer that you had and thought was good**

Not to dog on your taste in beer, but if you have no idea what to get that craft beer person in your life it is probably because you prefer wine. And as a wine drinker you likely have very discerning taste in grapes. And thus when someone handed you a Blue Moon you correctly identified it as a better beer than the swill that you recall all beer being. The problem with this strategy is that while it is a better beer it has yet to reach the point of good beer. As previously addressed in this column, Blue Moons and the many others like it, are gateway beers. A step away from the standard pilsner and so they are good as new discoveries but beer lovers tend to grow past them. So odds are that your beer nut has grown past them and would prefer a mesh hat that says "Beer Nut" with a clever picture of a peanut man drinking a beer.

5. A beer that is unattainable

Always a show stopper is the stupidly overpriced gold standard of beer. Be it limited edition this or decades old that. These beers can be good, but they are rarely worth the price. I have heard rumors of how much six packs of St. Sixtus Abbey's beer are trading for this holiday season after their limited U.S. release this year, and you could be money-ahead by just buying your beer lover a plane ticket and sending them to the source where they could get some straight from the teat. While we are on that subject — no, traveling, not the other — if the craft beer lover in your life is a very special someone, a beer trip might make an excellent gift. Tickets to next year's Great American Beer Fest, the Hops Fest in Portland or Bavaria. Let us not direct this list into the realm of useful information, however.

4. Beer marketing items

Don't get me wrong, I loved my BUD-WISE-ER frog T-shirt when I was in middle school. I thought I was pretty cool. I mean it was marketing for beer, and I would bravely wear it around! How cool was that. Alas, I no longer want to be the poster boy for other companies' brands. Wearing a PBR shirt or any craft brewers shirt is no cooler than my old Bud shirt unless you are truly passionate about the brand. While vintage might be slightly cool, don't be a billboard for a product unless you really want to be.

3. A coffee table book about beer

As a beer buff, I have a lot of books about beer. They mostly concern how to brew. A text book on microbiology and fermenting. A book about different recipes for brewing. A few about the histories of different styles. Mostly reference

material. I also have a few coffee table books full of wonderfully colorful pictures. They were gifts. I happily perused them once, and then they resigned to the fate of all coffee table books: sitting under a pile of useful things. Books are useful, but unless you know the specific need for a book don't bother.

2. Don't forget to interject something whimsical

Here is where "A designated driver" is inserted. Slightly off topic, but a sign of the seriousness of beer drinking. You should always offer a friend in need a ride without the idea that it is a gift. Mostly for selfish reasons I add this. Keep your drunk friends off the road so that I might be able to safely enjoy my beer. As alcohol impairs judgment, please make a good choice before getting to the end of the night and don't make it only a special occasion that you might help a friend in need of some help with judgment.

1. A beer

Well if they really like beer, get them a beer. Don't try and one-up them on beer unless you are working from a position of authority. I, as beer columnist, know a lot about beer. So much so, that I went zero for three in a blind tasting in matching the pilsner with the brand last week. I did however successfully make the meta-point that Heineken is better than PBR. Regardless, odds are that you cannot pick someone else's taste, so get them something you know they like. Say their favorite beer. If they like it, they like it. And they will be happy to have six more of them on the bench.

Beer can be great, but it is not always good. Let the craft beer drinker give the gift of beer — they have the knowledge base from which to pick a beer that might be for you. Don't try to lead from the ranks. If wine is more your thing, get the craft beer lover in your life a bottle of wine, and you can share some of what you know with them. And in the meantime your friendly local beer hack will be accepting gift certificates to local liquor stores and brewers. Cash is also welcome: I promise to spend on beer. Please send all gift to the address inside the front cover, care of Will Darrah. And as a friendly reminder to the editor, tampering with the mail is a federal offense. Have wonderful holidays this year and good luck with the gift search. Prost!



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Evil Ernie reboot is slightly less evil

by Chris Andersen
candersen@f5paper.com

After comics' mid-1980s successes giving existing characters a dark twist, in the 1990s people decided just to come up with new, darker characters. The most successful of these was Todd MacFarlane's *Spawn* but the darkest was *Evil Ernie*. *Evil Ernie* was a serial killer brought back from the dead by an evil smiley face button; he fell in love with an avatar of death and consequently went on a quest to murder everyone on Earth. Needless to say, Ernie was a little bit of an anti-hero. When I saw that Dynamite Comics had picked up the title from now-defunct Chaos Comics, I was curious to see what kind of changes would be made two decades later, for a post-Columbine era when entertainment modeled towards teens could no longer glamorize mass murder.

I'm happy to report that they didn't decide to tone it down too much. Our boy does still murder a bunch of people. He says that now he's only interested in killing those that deserve it, but that's kind of a tough sell when he starts his career by poisoning a water supply — kind of an indiscriminate modus operandi. Still, he succeeds in killing 665, leaving him one final kill for his 666th (so

metal, right?) to complete his demonic pact. Ernie attempts to kill his imprisoned foster father to meet his murder quota, but fails. He's sentenced to death for the other hundreds of murders he's committed (he's about 13 at this point in the story), then rots on death row for a few years until he's electrocuted, then reanimated by his sentient smiley face button to settle the score with his foster father. There are a lot of bad dudes between Ernie and his old man though, and these dudes are definitely getting murdered.

While this new incarnation definitely doesn't tone down the murder aspect of *Evil Ernie* (as evinced by the number of times I've used the word murder in this review), it does tone down the look of *Evil Ernie*. Chaos Comics was known for making some of the ugliest comics of the '90s, a decade known for its ugly comics. Gone are the insane layouts dominated by oranges, reds and purples, in favor of a more traditional, slicker, higher-end look. Ernie himself has undergone a design update. No longer does he look like a demonic Ronnie James Dio, but more of a radioactive zombie Andrew W.K.

The net effect of this reboot can be positive or negative, depending on what you're looking for in an *Evil Ernie* comic.

It certainly looks and reads way better than it ever did, but it's lost something. It's lost the danger. You would no longer be ashamed to be caught reading it. Increasingly, comics long to shed their old childish image and be "not just for kids anymore," and a lot of people are mourning the accompanying loss of innocent fun. Will anyone shed a tear for the loss of comics for sociopathic teens? Will anyone shed a tear for the old *Evil Ernie*?



>READ IT

Title: *Evil Ernie: The Origin Of Evil*
Author: Jesse Snider
Illustrator: Jason Craig
Publisher: Dynamite Comics (Dec. 18)
ISBN: 1606904140
Price: \$14.99

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Forum brings back Christmas Carol

The musical adaptation for stage continues through Dec. 22

by Anne Welsbacher
awelsbacher@f5paper.com

Paul Jackson, the director of this year's musical production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* at the Forum Theatre (through Dec. 22), has morphed over the past three years from composer to actor to director of the popular show, but each year he's been a crucial component. With Conrad Jestmore, who wrote the book, and Kathryn Page Hauptman, Forum producing artistic director, he created this musical version of the well-trod (some might say well-worn) story of redemption and rebirth told through the vessel of its bitter protagonist, Ebenezer Scrooge. Its script dips lavishly back into Dickens' rich text, restoring language, enlarging characters (particularly Marley, Scrooge's

former money-worshipping business partner, who in many adaptations is reduced to little more than a footnote), and trusting the story itself to entertain and delight.

When Jackson and friends created the show in 2011, they hoped to enlist local actor Shaun Michael Morse to play Scrooge, but Morse was unavailable, so Jackson took on the role himself, joining a top-drawer cast in the young theater's grand experiment — which paid off, drawing enough acclaim and ticket sales to be looked to as an annual source of funds. He returned in 2012 — adding a song for Marley — in a production that repeat director Page Hauptman tweaked to go darker than her debut production.

In 2013, Morse at last stepped in as Scrooge, and Jackson took over the role of director. He fiddled further with the staging, particularly with prominent placement of a four-poster bed that allows Scrooge to play out a range of emotions and even sing a droll musical ode to the bedpost itself. The beggars

see "Theater" page 11



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CRITICIZE MY MOVIE AND FEEL THE STING OF MY BLADE: Martin Freeman stars again as Bilbo Baggins in the second — and entertaining — installment of *The Hobbit* trilogy.



>SEE IT

Title: *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*

Rating: F4

Short review:

The film keeps the franchise on a sure footing, though some of the filmmakers' additions may be unwelcome for some.

2nd *Hobbit* entry far from desolate

by Jeremy Webster
jwebster@f5paper.com

The *Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* continues director/co-screenwriter Peter Jackson's trilogy of films based on J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* with a sure footing, though some of the filmmakers' additions may be unwelcome for some.

Of course, much of the debate over these films has been over the choice to create a trilogy when, for those who've read the book, one film — or two at the very most — would seem more than sufficient. Tolkien was an ace world builder, though, as anyone who's at least made the attempt to read the appendices of *The Lord of the Rings* (let alone the staggering *The Silmarillion*) would attest to, and, by delving into the "what else was going on in Middle-Earth" pool, the film is allowed the girth to not only provide the running length necessary for yet another large scale fantasy epic but also do a far clearer job tying in events between *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* in terms of developments over the entirety of



FEEL THE GRANDEUR: *The Hobbit*, as a book, was a lighter fantasy tale than the later *The Lord of the Rings* books. This movie trilogy sets a tone that is much more like *The Lord of the Rings* movies.

Middle-Earth.

Like *The Two Towers* before it, *The Desolation of Smaug* eventually splits into two parallel plotlines, with one focused on hobbit Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) and the crew of questing Dwarves as they close in on The Lonely Mountain, and the other following Gandalf (Ian McKellan) as he investigates the sinister nature of a necromancer who's taken up home in a large, abandoned ruin.

Those who've read the two literary works Jackson's Tolkien career were based on know that, while the books are connected, they're

extremely different beasts to read. *The Hobbit* is a far lighter fantasy tale than *The Lord of the Rings*. Essentially, *The Hobbit* is basically a series of episodic adventures for the most part, with the massive latter work being far more self-intertwined and involved.

The filmmakers try very hard to find a balance between the feel of the two source materials, and they actually do quite a good job pulling it off. Action sequences in both *Hobbit* films are more ride-like, more grounded in happy coincidences and visual absurdities, which feels truer to the book,

while the sequences with Gandalf have the heavier, more ominous tone of the previous Tolkien adaptation.

But it's not an exact science, and it doesn't always work. Most of the dwarves in the company feel close to Tolkien's book in their more whimsical physical appearances and general personalities, but the two that are supposed to be the *really serious* characters — Richard Armitage's Thorin Oakenshield and Aidan Turner's Kili — haven't the slightest bit of physical eccentricity resembling their kin, save for their short height. This seems absurd to say the least.

Like the book before it, this entry in *The Hobbit Trilogy* is, for the dwarf party, one misadventure after another, and the result is a lot of really fantastic ride-like sequences through combat and visually interesting environments. 3D is utilized excellently, though it didn't take long to tire of all the insects consistently flying out of the screen at the audience.

Martin Freeman continues

see "*The Hobbit*" page 11

"The Hobbit" from page 10

to give an excellent performance as younger Bilbo Baggins, and Benedict Cumberbatch is well-used as the voice of the dragon Smaug. Smaug himself is an awesome onscreen monstrosity, and a real highlight of how effective and breath-taking CGI work can be if done right.

Tolkien purists will, of course, always find elements of the Jackson adaptations they'll debate, but I can't imagine any are going to come under much heavier scrutiny than a love triangle which began in this entry in the series, particularly since one of the characters is a complete

"Santa" from page 2

Do this sporadically enough to cause minor chaos without arousing suspicion.

At the final party when gifts are exchanged and Santas are unmasked, depending on how well you've done there will be beautiful awkward looks, exchanges about gifts no one knew they'd given and a general confusion. You can layer this with what you do for/with/to your actual giftee.

When it comes to the person whose name you actually select as your holiday beneficiary, you should treat them well. There is no excuse for being a one-and-done, boring, lazy Secret Santa. Just don't play if that's you.

The best part is, you can be a good Santa while enhancing their season and your own all while making them dance like an organ grinder's monkey. Treat each gift you give as the pellet the rat receives at the end of a maze.

"Obamacare" from page 2

up the exchange? Expensive maybe, but what could go wrong?

And then I heard about Oregon. Oregon is one of the most liberal states in the union and is frequently out ahead of most of the states in providing services to its citizens. Oregon decided to set up its own exchange. Fourteen states actually set up their own. Kansas would have too if our Insurance Commissioner had not been called off by Governor Brownshirt. But Oregon stepped up. Oregon was thinking the same way that I was. Hire a titan of the technology industry to set up its exchange. Blend in the expanded Medicaid coverage while they're at it. Make it a super doorway to health care. Get it done.

Oregon went to one of the best. Silicon Valley titan Oracle contracted with the state to do the job and have the marketplace up and running by Oct. 1 for about \$40 million. Easy peasy.

Sometime during the summer, Oracle stopped answering the phone. When it became obvious that the October deadline was going to be missed, they said Oct. 15. Then Nov. 1. Then the 15th. No information, no excuses, no marketplace. Last I heard, they were shooting for Dec. 16.

Oregon had set a deadline of Dec. 15

invention of Jackson and crew rather than Tolkien.

The film may also be beginning to show signs of the need of Lucas-like revisionism in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy in ways. In the books, the wizard Radagast doesn't appear in *The Hobbit* but *does* appear — in a small but pivotal role — in *The Lord of the Rings*. Jackson's films have this reversed — he's playing an important part in *The Hobbit Trilogy* while being totally absent from the other. How does one explain why this powerful wizard who's encountered the forces of the necromancer and is so involved in investigating its nature early on was nowhere to be

The gifts you give have to be at least occasionally entertaining enough to make this seem worthwhile, and you really want to take care of them at game's end (this does not mean assassinate them), but if you handle it right you can get them to do pretty much whatever you want.

You've got to use other people you can trust as your "elves" when delivering gifts, and you must provide strict instructions that the gifts are not to be delivered until the recipient (for example) recites in public, from memory, Pee Wee Herman's entire basement speech from *Pee Wee's Big Adventure*. I've used that one. Other things I've required people to do include:

- Creating hand-drawn approximations of famous movie posters from memory.
- Changing their status on Facebook to a quote from *Mein Kampf*.
- Pretending to cry for five full minutes.

to get enrolled in order to have insurance in place by the first of the year.

Trying to cover all the bases, Oregon cobbled together an alternative system based on paper applications. They are actually signing people up that way. One estimate said that they had over 100,000 signed up that way. Last I saw, Oracle had managed to get 44 signed up by the end of November. That's not 44,000. That's just 44. Still not much information out of Oracle.

So I screwed up. I must be too much of an old fashioned capitalist. I put my faith in competitive bidding and the know-how of corporate America. And it let me down along with the people of the state of Oregon.

Some states have their systems up and running. Kentucky, a state as conservative as Kansas and one not known for its tech savvy, is booming along. The new marketplace is apparently user friendly and seems to be popular. No reason why Sandy Praeger couldn't have done that in Kansas as well. She really wanted to try.

Next week I'm doing a Santa gig (yes, Virginia, I am a Santa Claus) at Hunter Health Clinic and I look forward to talking with the folks there about Obamacare. I believe that they have a navigator or two and I know that they treat lots of people without medical insurance. I am anxious to talk to the people there where the rubber meets the road about the whole

seen during *The Lord of the Rings*? Playing with the source material may be creating inconsistencies in the whole.

Quibbles aside, though, Jackson's still delivering outstanding — if lengthy — cinematic spectacles, and the film's theme of the evils of greed line up perfectly with Tolkien's work. It's also good to see Thorin Oakenshield's ever more tragic leanings evolve along the way with good foreshadowing.

The Desolation of Smaug is a grand fantasy for the big screen and, with any luck, Jackson and crew will have a third act that can live up to the expectations we have after this entry.

• MANY various movie speeches in addition to the above.

• Puppet shows!

And, before receiving the FINAL gift:

• Writing and performing a song about what a great Secret Santa you are, including specific references to each gift.

Use your imagination. It's fun for everyone, really.

Now, the TRUE evil comes in when you combine this with Secret Satan and make other people's giftees perform tricks for horrible or unreasonably minor gifts. Use this power sparingly.

Merry Christmas, and I hope this information doesn't come to you too late to use and enjoy.

And now I've a question for you, friends. You've got to ruin someone's day. How would you do it? Put on your thinking caps, peanut gallery. Write your answers to me at dwinsor@f5paper.com and I'll include the best in an instructional column in weeks to come.

medical care business.

On another and totally unrelated note, I got a call from an old friend. His granddaughter goes to Arapaho High School in Centennial, Colo. She was not hurt in the shootings there, but justifiably shaken. I had hoped that legalizing marijuana would have mellowed folks in the Denver area, but it seems that the shooters in the three major instances of gun violence there are too young to be able to buy pot. What's the age on gun purchases or gifts?

"Theater" from page 9

are more visible and the show's tone has lightened up again.

"Last year, I pushed it to be edgier, darker," said Page Hauptman. "Paul brought it back to a simple telling of the story. Audiences have been mesmerized. It's clear that the writing and music of this show are strong enough to allow direction that can push it or pull it back in."

The success of this third production has "reinforced our intuition that this was the right direction to go, and that it's a good piece," Page Hauptman said. "I love the way it flows. It's so simple in its storytelling. You really get the sense of the story better than any other version I've seen of it."

Joining Morse are, among many others, Karla Burns, Cary Hesse, Dan E. Campbell, Elizabeth Leigh Dary, Jeff Dary, Meg Parsley, Lilly Willis, and a live, five-piece orchestra. A preshow buffet dinner catered by Jodee B's is available. The show runs through Dec. 22; visit forumwichita.com or call (316) 618-0444.

ALSO PLAYING:

DEC. 19 TO DEC. 26

- *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, Wichita Community Theatre, Wednesday-Sunday, continues through Dec. 22; visit wichtact.org or call (316) 303-1282.
- *A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol*, Prairie Pines dinner theater, Thursday-Sunday, continues through Dec. 22; call 303-2037.
- *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*, Forum Theatre, Thursday-Sunday, continues through Dec. 22; visit forumwichita.com or call (316) 618-0444.
- *Naughty or Nice: A Rock-a-licious Revue*, Cabaret Oldtown Theatre, Wednesday-Sunday, continues through Dec. 22; visit cabaretoldtown.com or call (316) 265-4400.
- *White Christmas*, Crown Uptown, Thursday-Sunday, continues through Dec. 22; visit crownuptown.com or call (316) 612-7696.
- *Derbysville: The Town of Misfit Toys*, Mosley Street Melodrama, continues through Dec. 30; visit mosleystreet.com or call (316) 263-0222.

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NowPlaying::

Showtimes are from Friday, Dec. 20 to Thursday, Dec. 26

All theaters will close at 5 p.m. on Tues, Dec. 24

F5

MOVIE RATINGS GUIDE

- F5 • Awe-Inspiring
- F4 • Batten Down the Trailer!
- F3 • Blew Off A Few Shingles
- F2 • Slightly Sucks
- F1 • Just Blows

>NEW THIS WEEK

- *American Hustle*
- *Nebraska*
- *Saving Mr. Banks*

• *Walking with Dinosaurs 3D*

>OPENS WED

- *Grudge Match*
- *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*

New This Week

American Hustle (R)
Starring Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper. Directed by David O. Russell.
Plot: A con man and his seductive British partner are forced to work for a wild FBI agent who pushes them into a world of Jersey powerbrokers and mafia.
Genre: Crime, Drama
13th Ave Warren: 11:45 a.m., 2, 3:15, 5:30, 6:40, 9, 10; **21st St Warren:** 12:10, 12:45, 3:25, 4:15, 6:50, 7:45, 10:05; **Warren Oldtown:** 11:45 a.m., 3:15, 6:30, 9:45 daily

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13)

Starring Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate, Paul Rudd. Directed by Adam McKay.
Plot: With the 70s behind him, San Diego's top rated newsmen, Ron Burgundy, returns to take New York's first 24-hour news channel by storm.
Genre: Comedy
13th Ave Warren: 12:15, 1, 3:20, 4:10, 6:30, 7:15, 9:30, 10:15; **21st St Warren:** 12:20, 1, 3:20, 4, 6:20, 7, 9:20, 10; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:15, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50; **Movie Machine:** 1:15, 4:15, 7:10 with 9:45 Fri-Sat; **Warren Oldtown:** 11:30 a.m., noon (no Sun, Tue), 12:30, 3:45, 4:15, 7, 7:30, 10:10, 10:20 (No Fri), 10:30 daily

Bad Grandpa (R)

Starring Johnny Knoxville, Jackson Nicoll, Spike Jonze. Directed by Jeff Tremaine.
Plot: 86-year-old Irving Zisman is on a journey across America with the most unlikely companion: his 8-year-old grandson, Billy.
Genre: Comedy
Rating: F3
Short review: Full of crude humor, pranks and stunts, audiences should find laughs in a man and boy's unusual cross-country journey.
Palace West: 1:25, 4:20, 7:10, 9:35 with 11:50 p.m. Fri-Sat

The Book Thief (PG-13)

Starring Sophie Nélisse, Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson. Directed by Brian Percival.
Plot: While subjected to the horrors of World War II Germany, young Liesel finds solace by stealing books and sharing them with others. Under the stairs in her home, a Jewish refugee is being sheltered by her adoptive parents.
Genre: Drama, War
Rating: F5
Short review: The film adaptation of the acclaimed book handles the subject matter of the Holocaust with a unique perspective and narrative to drive it.
13th Ave Warren: 11:40 a.m., 6:15; **21st St Warren:** 12:05, 3:20, 6:40, 9:50

Retro

Christmas Vacation (PG-13)

Starring Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Juliette Lewis. Directed by Jeremiah S. Chechik.
Plot: The Griswold family's plans for a big family Christmas predictably turn into a big disaster.
Genre: Comedy
Palace West: 9:30, 11:55 p.m. Fri-Sat

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 (PG)

Starring Bill Hader, Anna Faris, Will Forte. Directed by Cody Cameron, Kris Pearn.
Plot: Flint Lockwood now works at The Live Corp Company for his idol Chester V. But he's forced to leave his post when he learns that his most infamous machine is still operational and is churning out menacing food-animal hybrids.
Genre: Animation, Comedy, Family, Sci-Fi
Rating: F4
Short review: The story may be nothing too notable, but the gleefully absurd world and characters onscreen go a long way toward making up for it.
Palace West: 1:30, 4, 6:30, 8:50 with 11 p.m. Fri-Sat

Dallas Buyers Club (R)

Starring Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner, Jared Leto. Directed by Jean-Marc Vallée.
Plot: The story of Texas electrician Ron Woodroof and his battle with the medical establishment and pharmaceutical companies after being diagnosed as HIV-positive in 1986, and his search for alternative treatments that helped establish a way in which fellow HIV-positive people could join for access to his supplies.
Genre: Biography, Drama, History
13th Ave Warren: 3, 9:20

Delivery Man (PG-13)

Starring Vince Vaughn, Chris Pratt, Cobie Smulders. Directed by Ken Scott.
Plot: An affable underachiever finds out he's fathered 533 children through anonymous donations to a fertility clinic 20 years ago. Now he must decide whether or not to come forward when 142 of them file a lawsuit to reveal his identity.
Genre: Comedy
Rating: F2
Short review: This mix of the usual Vince-Vaughn-dumb-guy-comedy formula with heavy doses of emotional drama results in an uncomfortable, schizoid mess.
21st St Warren: 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 10

Despicable Me 2 (PG)

Starring Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Miranda Cosgrove. Directed by Chris Renaud, Pierre Coffin.
Plot: Gru is recruited by the Anti-Villain League to help deal with a powerful new super criminal.
Genre: Animation, Comedy, Crime, Family
Rating: F2
Short review: Felonious Gru and the gang return for a cash-in sequel that's only entertaining for the kids in the audience.
Palace West: 2, 4:25, 6:50, 9:05 (No Fri) with 11:25 p.m. Sat

Escape Plan (R)

Starring Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, 50 Cent. Directed by Mikael Häfström.
Plot: When a structural-security authority finds himself set up and incarcerated in the world's most secret and secure prison, he has to use his skills to escape with help from the inside.
Genre: Action, Mystery, Thriller
Rating: F3
Short review: Despite backlash for the long awaited Stallone and Schwarzenegger film, the action duo make it still worthy of its genre.
Palace West: 1:20, 3:55, 6:40, 9:15 with 11:35 p.m. Fri-Sat

Frozen (PG)

Starring Kristen Bell, Josh Gad, Idina Menzel. Directed by Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee.
Plot: Fearless optimist Anna teams up with Kristoff in an epic journey, encountering Everest-like conditions and a hilarious snowman named Olaf, in a race to find Anna's sister Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped the kingdom in eternal winter.
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy, Family, Fantasy
Rating: F4
Short review: A successful continuation of Disney's longstanding tradition with children's fantasy, with really very little to trip it up.
13th Ave Warren: 11:30 a.m., 12:50, 2:30, 3:50, 5:30, 6:40, 8:30, 9:30; **21st St Warren:** 12:30, 1:10, 3:25, 4:10, 6:20, 7:10, 9:15, 10:10; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:20, 3:50, 7:05, 9:35; **Movie Machine:** 1, 4, 7:05 with 9:30 Fri-Sat

Opens Wed

Grudge Match (PG-13)

Starring Robert De Niro, Sylvester Stallone, Kim Basinger. Directed by Peter Segal.
Plot: A pair of aging boxing rivals are coaxed out of retirement to fight one final bout — 30 years after their last match.
Genre: Comedy, Sport
Derby Plaza Theatres: (Starts Wed) 1:40, 4:15, 7:10, 9:45

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13)

Starring Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage. Directed by Peter Jackson.
Plot: The dwarves, along with Bilbo Baggins and Gandalf the Grey, continue their quest to reclaim Erebor, their homeland, from Smaug. Bilbo Baggins is in possession of a mysterious and magical ring.
Genre: Adventure, Drama, Fantasy
Rating: F4
Short review: The film keeps the franchise on a sure footing, though some of the filmmakers' additions may be unwelcome for some.
13th Ave Warren: 11:30 a.m., 12:30 [3D], 1:15, 2:15, 3:15 (No Sun), 4:15 [3D], 5, 6, 7, 8 [3D], 9, 9:45; **21st St Warren:** 11:30 a.m. [IMAX, 3D] (Fri-Sat only), Noon [IMAX, 3D] (Sun-Tue only), 12:45, 1:30, 2:45 [3D], 3 [IMAX, 3D] (Fri-Sat only), 3:40 [IMAX, 3D] (Sun-Tue only), 4:30, 5:15, 6:15, 6:45 [IMAX, 3D] (Fri-Sat only), 7:20 [IMAX, 3D] (Sun-Mon only), 8:15, 9, 9:55, 10:15 [3D] (Fri-Sat only); **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1, 4:15, 7:30 daily with 1:30 [3D], 7 [3D] Fri-Tue only; **Movie Machine:** 12:45, 4:10, 7:30; **Warren Oldtown:** Noon [3D], 2:45, 3 (No Sat), 6:30, 6:45, 9:50 with 11:45 a.m. Tues

Homefront (R)

Starring Jason Statham, James Franco, Winona Ryder. Directed by Gary Fleder.
Plot: A former DEA agent moves his family to a quiet town, where he soon tangles with a local meth druglord.
Genre: Action, Crime, Thriller
Rating: F2
Short review: A capable, likable cast and good action setpieces can't make up for its own moral naivety toward its characters' brutal game of oneupmanship.
Palace West: 1:50, 4:30, 7, 9:20 with 11:45 p.m. Fri-Sat

The Hunger Games:

Catching Fire (PG-13)
Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth. Directed by Francis Lawrence.
Plot: Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark become targets of the Capitol after their victory in the 74th Hunger Games sparks a rebellion in the Districts of Panem.
Genre: Action, Adventure, Sci-Fi, Thriller
Rating: F5
Short review: The second installment of *The Hunger Games* series lives up to the hype with a stellar cast and steadier camera.
13th Ave Warren: 12:15, 12:50, 4:30, 6:30, 8; **21st St Warren:** 12:10, 3:30, 6:50, 10:10; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** (Ends Tue) 1, 4, 7, 10; **Movie Machine:** 12:30, 3:35, 6:45 with 9:50 Fri-Sat; **Warren Oldtown:** 11:45 a.m., 3:30, 7, 10:20 daily

Insidious: Chapter 2 (PG-13)

Starring Patrick Wilson, Rose Byrne, Barbara Hershey. Directed by James Wan.
Plot: The haunted Lambert family seeks to uncover the mysterious childhood secret that has left them dangerously connected to the spirit world.
Genre: Horror, Thriller
Rating: F4
Short review: A worthy follow up to Wan and Whannell's 2010 original slightly weighed down by a bit of revision of the original's twist ending.
Palace West: 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:25 with 11:40 p.m. Fri-Sat

Last Vegas (PG-13)

Starring Robert De Niro, Michael Douglas, Morgan Freeman, Kevin Kline. Directed by Jon Turteltaub.
Plot: Three 60-something friends take a break from their day-to-day lives to throw a bachelor party in Las Vegas for their last remaining single pal.
Genre: Comedy
Rating: F3
Short review: Essentially *The Hangover* for the post-50 crowd, its cast keeps it afloat despite meandering pacing and an overall too-familiar feel.
13th Ave Warren: 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:10

New This Week

Nebraska (R)

Starring Bruce Dern, Will Forte, June Squibb. Directed by Alexander Payne.
Plot: An aging, booze-addled father makes the trip from Montana to Nebraska with his estranged son in order to claim a million-dollar Mega Sweepstakes Marketing prize.
Genre: Adventure, Drama
13th Ave Warren: 1, 4, 7:10, 10:10

Philomena (PG-13)

Starring Judi Dench, Steve Coogan, Sophie Kennedy Clark. Directed by Stephen Frears.
Plot: A world-weary political journalist picks up the story of a woman's search for her son, who was taken away from her decades ago after she became pregnant and was forced to live in a convent.
Genre: Drama
13th Ave Warren: 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:45

Planes (PG)

Starring Dane Cook, Stacy Keach, Brad Garrett. Directed by Klay Hall.

see "Movies" page 13

Events::

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ARTS

Ongoing

Icons of the Midcentury Southwest: Photographer Laura Gilpin and Potter Maria Martinez

Sat., Aug. 17 to Sun., Jan. 5, 2014
@Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W. Museum Blvd.

Exhibition: "Vital Signs: New Media Art from the San Jose Museum of Art"

Sat., Sept. 14 to Sun., Jan. 19, 2014
@Wichita Art Museum, 1400 W. Museum Blvd.

Exhibition: Cary Conover, "Contrasts"

Fri., Nov. 1 to Sat., Jan. 18, 2014
@Derby Public Library, 1600 E. Walnut Grove, Derby.

Exhibition: Jan Seawell-Ruckers

Mon., Nov. 11 to Sat., Dec. 21
@Friends University Riney Fine Arts Gallery, 2100 W. University.

Exhibition: The Gage Brewer Guitar – "the first electric guitar"

Thu., Nov. 21 to Tue., Dec. 31
@Wichita - Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 204 S. Main.

Exhibition: Kansas Watercolor Society National Exhibition

Fri., Nov. 22 to Sun., Jan. 5, 2014
@The Wichita Center for the Arts, 9112 E. Central.

Exhibition: Faith Stepp, "Metamorphosis: Transformation to Art"

Wed., Nov. 27 to Sat., Dec. 21
@CityArts, 334 N. Mead.

Exhibition: "Joe's Swan Song"

Wed., Nov. 27 to Sat., Dec. 21
Curator Joe Goodwin presents works of art by Curt Clonts, John and Connie Ernatt, Wade Hampton, Rebecca Hoyer, Ted Krone, Gary Lincoln, Steve Miner, Kevin Mullins and Bruce Van Osdel. @CityArts, 334 N. Mead.

Exhibition: Ray Trotter

Wed., Nov. 27 to Sat., Dec. 21
@CityArts, 334 N. Mead.

Exhibition: Kent Williams

Fri., Nov. 29 to Fri., Dec. 27
@Fisch Haus Studios, 524 S. Commerce.

Exhibition: Hugh Greer and Danny Polk

Fri., Nov. 29 to Tue., Jan. 28, 2014

@Gallery XII, 412 E. Douglas.

Exhibition: Annual Small Works Show

Fri., Nov. 29 to Tue., Dec. 31
@Mead Street Gallery and Gifts, 121 N. Mead, Ste. 107.

Exhibition: Brian Johnson and Craig Daniels

Fri., Nov. 29 to Fri., Dec. 27
@R Coffeehouse, 1144 N. Bitting.

Exhibition: Jeff Pulaski, "Lock Up"

Fri., Nov. 29 to Fri., Dec. 20
@Steckline Gallery, Newman University, DeMattias Hall, 3100 McCormick.

Exhibition: Dustin Parker, "The Mask Becomes the Face"

Fri., Nov. 29 to Fri., Dec. 27
@Watermark Books & Cafe, 4701 E. Douglas.

Exhibition: Robert J. Schmidt, "Wurlitzer Works"

Thu., Dec. 5 to Fri., Jan. 31, 2014
@The Fiber Studio, 418 S. Commerce.

Exhibition: Paul Bowen

Sat., Dec. 7 to Fri., Jan. 31, 2014
@The Gallery at Larksfield Place, 7373 E. 29th St. N.

Friday, December 27

Exhibition: Bill Goffrier, "Oil and Water"

Fri., Dec. 27 to Fri., Jan. 31, 2014
@Watermark Books & Cafe, 4701 E. Douglas.

Reception: Bill Goffrier, "Oil and Water"

6 p.m. @Watermark Books & Cafe, 4701 E. Douglas.

ARTS: CALL FOR ENTRIES

Ongoing

Pastel National 2014

Thu., Nov. 7 to Fri., Dec. 27
Prospectus available at www.wcfta.com, by calling 634-2787 or by e-mail at areep@wcfta.com. \$30 for three entries. @The Wichita Center for the Arts, 9112 E. Central.

Riverfest Poster Contest

Thu., Nov. 7 to Fri., Dec. 27
Contest rules and entry form are available at WichitaRiverfest.com. All entries may be hand delivered or shipped to Wichita Festivals, Inc. 18 and older. @Wichita Festivals, Inc., 1820 E. Douglas.

6th Annual Sculpture WalkAbout

Thu., Dec. 12 to Sat., Feb. 22, 2014
Visit WichitaArts.com for entry procedure and criteria. @CityArts, 334 N. Mead.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Sunday, December 22

Seth Girton
11 a.m. @R Coffeehouse, 1144 N. Bitting.

13th Ave Warren: 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15; **21st St Warren:** 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:15, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50

Opens Wed

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG)

Starring Ben Stiller, Kristen Wiig, Adam Scott. Directed by Ben Stiller.

Plot: A day-dreamer escapes his anonymous life by disappearing into a world of fantasies filled with heroism, romance and action. When his job along with that of his co-worker are threatened, he takes action in the real world embarking on a global journey that turns into an adventure more extraordinary than anything he could have ever imagined.

Genre: Adventure, Comedy, Drama, Fantasy
Derby Plaza Theatres: (Starts Wed) 1:30, 4:05, 7, 9:35; **Movie Machine:** (Starts Wed) 1:40, 4:25, 7:15 with 9:50 Fri-Sat

FILM

Thursday, December 19

"It's a Wonderful Life"

7 p.m. Screening of the 1947 film. \$4-\$5. @Orpheum Theatre, 200 N. Broadway.

"The Inner Tour"

7 p.m. In 2000, Israeli director Ra'anana Alexandrowicz (with his Israeli and Palestinian co-producers) filmed a group of West Bank Palestinians on a three-day bus tour to Israel, where many of the passengers once lived. Their weekend trip becomes an extremely charged journey of deep emotional distances and contradicting realities as the travelers interact with ordinary Israelis and visit places that they feel simultaneously rooted to and alienated from. Free. @Peace and Social Justice Center, 1407 N. Topeka.

Ongoing

Rock the Dome: Pink Floyd

Fri., Nov. 29 to Sat., Dec. 28
Three Pink Floyd cosmic light shows, *The Wall*, *Dark Side of the Moon* and *Wish You Were Here*. See exploration.org for dates, showtimes and tickets. All three films for \$12. @Exploration Place, 300 N. McLean Blvd.

LITERARY

Monday, December 23

R Coffeehouse Poetry Slam

7 p.m. @R Coffeehouse, 1144 N. Bitting.

SPECIAL

Saturday, December 21

"How Come Christmas"

7 p.m. Stories, carols and live music. @First Unitarian Universalist Church, 7202 East 21st North.

Ongoing

Mindbender Mansion

Thu., Nov. 7 to Sun., Jan. 5, 2014
Enter this wonderfully perplexing world full of puzzles, brainteasers and hands-on challenges guaranteed to test the brain power and problem solving skills of even the most experienced puzzlers. Included in regular museum admission. @Exploration Place, 300 N. McLean Blvd.

The Arc's Lights on St. Paul

Thu., Nov. 28 to Sun., Dec. 29
This light show is over one million holiday lights in hundreds of displays and is a benefit for The Arc of Sedgwick County. Visit arc-sedgwickcounty.org for

Thor: The Dark World (PG-13)

Starring Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman, Tom Hiddleston. Directed by Alan Taylor.

Plot: Faced with an enemy that even Odin and Asgard cannot withstand, Thor must embark on his most perilous and personal journey yet, one that will reunite him with Jane Foster and force him to sacrifice everything to save us all.

Genre: Action, Adventure, Fantasy

Rating: F3

Short review: Marvel Studio's latest outing with The Mighty Thor drags at an excruciating pace while featuring a mostly unenthused cast.

13th Ave Warren: 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:40; **21st St Warren:** 1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05 (No Fri)

Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13)

Starring Tyler Perry, Chad Michael Murray, Tika Sumpter. Directed by Tyler Perry.

Plot: Madea dispenses her unique form of holiday spirit on a rural town when she's coaxed into helping a friend pay her daughter a surprise visit in the country for Christmas.

Genre: Comedy, Drama

13th Ave Warren: 12:20, 3:30 (No Sun), 4, 6:20, 9:15, 9:50; **21st St Warren:** 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; **Warren Oldtown:** 12:45, 4, 7:30, 10:30 daily

more information and hours. \$5 suggested donation. @Douglas and St. Paul.

Illuminations

Fri., Nov. 29 to Tue., Dec. 31

Visit Botanica during "Illuminations" and experience a winter wonderland in lights. There will be expanded light shows, and more than 200 trees and structures will be illuminated. Tickets are \$12, \$10 adult member and \$7, \$5 youth member. @Botanica, 701 Amidon.

THEATER & DANCE

Ongoing

"White Christmas"

Thu., Nov. 7 to Sun., Dec. 22
Contact the Crown Uptown at 612-7696 for ticket prices and showtimes. @Crown Uptown Professional Dinner Theatre, 3207 E. Douglas.

"Derbysville: The Town of Misfit Toys"

Thu., Nov. 14 to Mon., Dec. 30
Main feature will be followed by "A Very Mosley Christmas" Musical Comedy Revue. For reservations and showtimes visit MosleyStreet.com or call 263-0222. \$17-\$27. @Mosley Street Melodrama, 234 N. Mosley.

"Naughty or Nice: A Rock-a-licious Review"

Fri., Nov. 15 to Sun., Dec. 22
For showtimes and ticket info visit CabaretOldtown.com or call 265-4400. @Cabaret Old Town, 412 1/2 E. Douglas.

"It's a Wonderful Life"

Fri., Nov. 29 to Sun., Dec. 22
For showtimes and ticketing information contact Wichita Community Theatre. @Wichita Community Theatre, 258 N. Fountain.

"A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol"

Thu., Dec. 5 to Sun., Dec. 22
Call 303-2037 for show times and ticket information. @Prairie Pines, 4055 N. Tyler.

"Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol"

Thu., Dec. 5 to Sun., Dec. 22
Visit forumwichita.com or call 618-0444 for show times and ticket information. @The Forum Theatre, 147 S. Hillside.

"The Nutcracker"

Fri., Dec. 13 to Sat., Dec. 21
Four guest artists from the New York City Ballet will perform with the Friends dancers for this ballet favorite. The first weekend will feature returning principal dancer Abi Stafford and new partner Jared Angle. Principal dancers Maria Kowroski and Tyler Angle will perform the second weekend. For tickets and showtimes visit friends.edu/finarts, or call the Fine Arts Box Office at 295-5677. All ages. \$15-\$20. @Friends University Riney Fine Arts Gallery, 2100 W. University.

"Movies" from page 12

Plot: Dusty is a cropdusting plane who dreams of competing in a famous aerial race. The problem? He is hopelessly afraid of heights. With the support of his mentor Skipper and a host of new friends, Dusty sets off to make his dreams come true.

Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy, Family
Rating: F3

Short review: This Disney-made *Cars* spinoff hits just enough cylinders to please its target audience while not putting any real effort into rising above the base requirements.

Palace West: 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 8:45 (No Fri-Sat)

New This Week

Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13)

Starring Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks, Annie Rose Buckley. Directed by John Lee Hancock.
Plot: Author P. L. Travers reflects on her difficult childhood while meeting with filmmaker Walt Disney during production for the adaptation of her novel, *Mary Poppins*.

Genre: Biography, Comedy, Drama, Family, History

New This Week

Walking with Dinosaurs 3D (PG)

Starring Charlie Rowe, Karl Urban, Angourie Rice. Directed by Barry Cook, Neil Nightingale.

Plot: See and feel what it was like when dinosaurs ruled the Earth, in a story where an underdog dino triumphs to become a hero for the ages.

Genre: Animation, Action, Family

13th Ave Warren: 12:20 [3D], 3:30, 6:45, 9:40; **21st St Warren:** 12:05 [3D], 12:40, 2:15, 3:45, 5:15, 6:40, 8:15, 9:45; **Derby Plaza Theatres:** 1:40, 7:20, 4 [3D], 9:30 [3D]; **Movie Machine:** 1:30, 4:20, 6:50 with 9:25 Fri-Sat

We're the Millers (R)

Starring Jennifer Aniston, Emma Roberts, Jason Sudeikis. Directed by Rawson Marshall Thurber.

Plot: A veteran pot dealer creates a fake family as part of his plan to move a huge shipment of weed into the U.S. from Mexico.

Genre: Comedy

Palace West: 1:35 (No Sun), 4:15 (No Sun), 6:55, 9:30 with 11:45 p.m. Fri-Sat

LiveMusic::

>GET LISTED

To get on this page, submit your info to events@f5paper.com.

Thursday, December 19

EDITOR'S PICK

The Beach Boys
7 p.m. \$49.50-\$89.50. @Hartman Arena, 8151 N Hartman Arena Dr, Park City.

Paul Shoemaker
8 p.m. All ages. No cover. @R Coffeehouse, 1144 N. Bitting.

Stevie Warren
8 p.m. All ages. No cover. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

Tony Ngo with Adam Case, Rudy Love Jr. and Scott Fowler
9 p.m. Album release party for Tony Ngo's first album, "L.GNO." \$10. @Abode Venue, 1330 E. Douglas.

Sunshine the Bunny
9 p.m. @Mort's Cigar Bar, 923 E. First.

DJs Lesley and Rhea
10 p.m. Must be 21. No cover. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

Friday, December 20

Those Party Bros
4 p.m. @Mort's Cigar Bar, 923 E. First.

The Crowsons
6 p.m. @Watermark Books & Cafe, 4701 E. Douglas.

Brandon Michael Ellis
8 p.m. @Mead's Corner, 430 E Douglas.

T.H.
8 p.m. All ages. No cover. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

Across the Pond
9 p.m. @Heroes Sports Bar, 117 N. Mosley.

Get Bad
9 p.m. Must be 21. @Jerry's Bar & Grill, 630 N. Robin.

The Joy Coughs, High Five For Fisting and DubK
9 p.m. Must be 21. \$5. @Lizard Lounge, 300 S. Greenwich.

Lucky People
9 p.m. @Loft 150, 150 1/2 N. Mosley.

Erin and Alan
9 p.m. @Mort's Cigar Bar, 923 E. First.

EDITOR'S PICK

Haymakers
9 p.m. @Shamrock Lounge, 1724 W. Douglas.

Ophil and Soleb Theory
10 p.m. Must be 21. No cover. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

Saturday, December 21

Live Jazz
10 a.m. @R Coffeehouse, 1144 N. Bitting.

Jeremiah Johnson
4 p.m. @Mort's Cigar Bar, 923 E. First.

Luke Wade and No Civilians
6 p.m. No cover. @Rock Island Live, 101 N. Rock Island.

Nathan Hittle and Seth Carrithers
7:30 p.m. @Larkspur Bistro, 904 E. Douglas.

Scott Allan Knost
8 p.m. All ages. No cover. @R Coffeehouse, 1144 N. Bitting.

Jonathan Fleig
8 p.m. All ages. No cover. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

Get Bad
9 p.m. Must be 21. @Jerry's Bar & Grill, 630 N. Robin.

Tom Page Trio
9 p.m. @Jon's Ale House, 917 E. Douglas.

Continent of Ash, Cucui, Kingshifter and Summer of Solace
9 p.m. Must be 21. \$10. @Lizard Lounge, 300 S. Greenwich.

Lucky People
9 p.m. @Loft 150, 150 1/2 N. Mosley.

EDITOR'S PICK

Ophil
9 p.m. Must be 21. \$5. @Lucky's Everyday, 1217 E. Douglas.

Tony Ngo
9 p.m. @Mort's Cigar Bar, 923 E. First.

Paper Bird and Aaron Lee Martin
10 p.m. @John Barleycorn's, 608 E. Douglas.

Attic Ted and DJ Ghoulds
10 p.m. Must be 21. No cover. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

Sunday, December 22

Down with Dignity Jazz Combo
7 p.m. Must be 21. No cover. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

Monday, December 23

Christmas Eve Eve at Public
7:30 p.m. Live music by Jenny Wood, Aaron Lee Martin, Elliot Road, Jeremy Spring, Arleigh Aldrich and Jack Korbel. Must be 21. \$5. @Public at Brickyard, 129 N. Rock Island.

WCMS Jazz Series
8 p.m. All ages. No cover. @The Donut Whole, 1720 E. Douglas.

Wednesday, December 25

Haymakers
9 p.m. Must be 21. No cover. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

Thursday, December 26

EDITOR'S PICK

Jason and the Punknecks
10 p.m. @John Barleycorn's, 608 E. Douglas.

Friday, December 27

The DeVails
7 p.m. @Anna Murdoc's Cafe, 209 E. William, Ste. 101.

Commonfolk and Greg Walker
7 p.m. All ages. @R Coffeehouse, 1144 N. Bitting.

Bill and Karlee Goffrier
7 p.m. @Watermark Books & Cafe, 4701 E. Douglas.

Josh Davis and Jon Consiglio
7:30 p.m. @Larkspur Bistro, 904 E. Douglas.

Kelly Werts
8 p.m. \$5. @Artichoke Sandwich Bar, 811 N. Broadway.

Snowed In
8 p.m. Featured DJs are G-Note, MIP, Mr. H., Karetaker, Cyntensity, Bizzy and Shrapnel. 18 and older. \$3-\$5. @Fat Tony's Bar and Grill, 417 E. Douglas.

Annie Up
9 p.m. Must be 21. @Jerry's Bar & Grill, 630 N. Robin.

Deathblack Flowers, Living Ghost and Hosmer
9 p.m. Must be 21. No cover. @Kirby's Beer Store, 3227 E. 17th.

Saturday, December 28

Samantha Fish with Kentucky Gentlemen
7 p.m. All ages. \$12.50-\$15. @The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg.

Beau Jarvis and Dan Racer
7:30 p.m. @Larkspur Bistro, 904 E. Douglas.

The DeVails
8 p.m. @Artichoke Sandwich Bar, 811 N. Broadway.

Annie Up
9 p.m. Must be 21. @Jerry's Bar & Grill, 630 N. Robin.

Tornado Rose
9 p.m. @John Barleycorn's, 608 E. Douglas.



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Samantha Fish
with special guests
Kentucky Gentleman
Saturday, Dec 28

Logan Mize
with special guests
Jill Martin, Randy Montana, Turnback Creek
Tuesday, Dec 31

MORE UPCOMING SHOWS -

THE LACS • SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
CASEY DONAHEW • FRIDAY, JANUARY 17
2014 BLUES BALL • SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

PHIL VASSAR • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6
80'S ROCK NIGHT • SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
JJ GREY & MOFRO • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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Amuse:: LAUGH, JACKASS

ASTROPOOP!

THE SKINNY ON YOUR WEEK

by Diviner Mme Zanzibird

Aries: (March 21 — April 19)

Week rating: F3
Weasel out of Christmas obligations by telling everyone you've become a Pastafarian. This week: Bring a baguette, brie, and red wine to work for lunch each day.

Taurus: (April 20 — May 20)

Week rating: F4
It's time to add more adventure to your life. This week: Visit the Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum in Chanut.

Gemini: (May 21 — June 21)

Week rating: F2
There are only a few more days in which it will be appropriate to wear a holiday sweater. Make the most of them. This week: Ask an Aries out to lunch.

Cancer: (June 22 — July 22)

Week rating: F4
2014 is the ideal year for you to start a stamp collecting hobby. This week: Set a coffee date with a mysterious figure from your past.

Leo: (July 23 — Aug. 22)

Week rating: F2
Your nightmares about the All-Powerful Bike Lobby will soon subside. This week: Sing "It's Only a Paper Moon" very loudly, in public.

Virgo: (Aug. 23 — Sept. 22)

Week rating: F1
Panic attacks are the new black. This week: Write a Christmas list for Santa, but send it to Megyn Kelly.

Libra: (Sept. 23 — Oct. 23)

Week rating: F2
No matter how many times Rusty Eck Ford asks you, you can't "get excited." This week: Get into a candy cane fight with a friend.

Scorpio: (Oct. 24 — Nov. 21)

Week rating: F4
You will forge a meaningful, life-long bond with the drive-thru clerk at the Spangles near your house. This week: Enjoy a wild cherry mudslide.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 — Dec. 21)

Week rating: F3
You'll connect with a Cancer over stamp collecting. This week: Listen to some old Fun.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22 — Jan. 19)

Week rating: F5
A Pisces will surprise you with a Tardis-shaped birthday cake. This week: Write Lady Gaga a fan letter.

Aquarius: (Jan. 20 — Feb. 18)

Week rating: F4
If you pretend Christmas isn't near, you won't have to buy presents for everyone. This week: Rawk a new pixie cut.

Pisces: (Feb. 19 — March 20)

Week rating: F2
Little does your Capricorn friend know that their Tardis birthday cake is actually a functional Tardis. This week: Leave a copy of your manifesto at the Monarch.

¡Ask a Mexican!

by Gustavo Arellano
themexican@f5paper.com

Dear Readers: Behold your favorite Mexican's annual Christmas gift guide, where I give shout-outs to some of my favorite books that deserve your money this holiday season! And for once, I won't recommend my books — ¡Ask a Mexican!

Orange County: A Personal History, and *Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America* — as gifts ... oh wait, I just did! In all honesty, while I always appreciate *ustedes* buying my *libros* and handing them out as *regalos*, the following items are just as *chingones*, if not more so.

The Perennials: I've plugged the following books in the past, and I'll never stop plugging

Special Navidad Gift Guide Edition

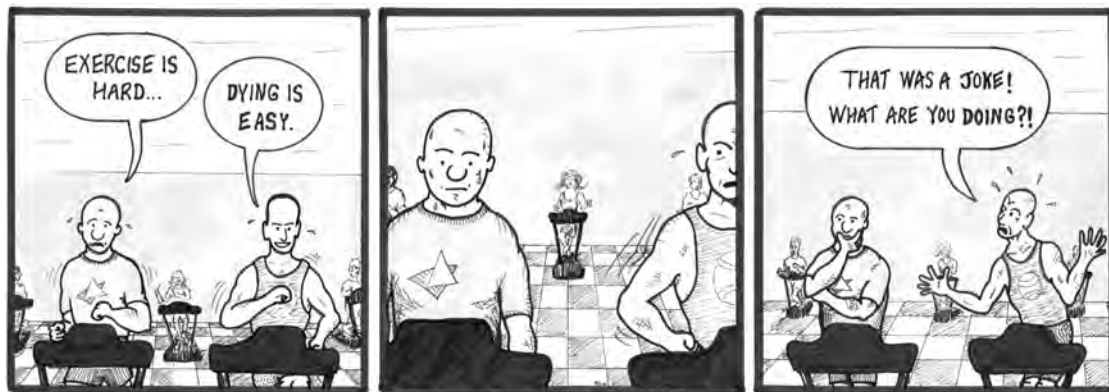
them because they're magnificent: *North from Mexico* by Cary McWilliams (the first serious history on Mexicans in the United States, by the legendary progressive journalist), *Tex(t)-Mex: Seductive Hallucinations of the Mexican in America* by William Nericcio (to quote myself last

see "Mexican" page 16



¡Ask A MEXICAN!

Bohunk & Kern
By Mike Hill



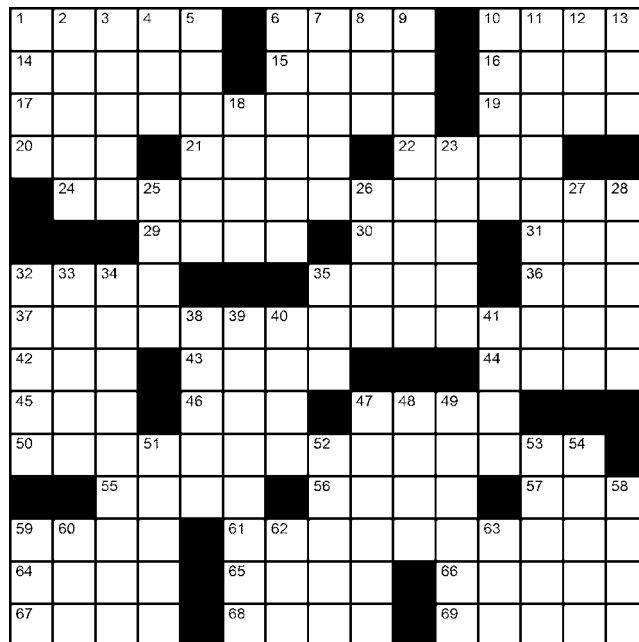
More at Facebook.com/BohunkAndKern

Jonesin' Crosswords "Round Here" — a token of my gratitude.

by Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1 Martial artist in *Lethal Weapon 4*
- 6 River that empties into the Caspian
- 10 Take quickly
- 14 Sweeping
- 15 Heat up in a hurry
- 16 Prefix that means "transcending"
- 17 Do a radio remembrance of a late Pantera founder?
- 19 Critters that may be "live"
- 20 Alternatives to Cokes
- 21 Portrayer of Ricky on "I Love Lucy"
- 22 "___ Lang Syne"
- 24 Metal coating that's all the rage?
- 29 Another, in Argentina
- 30 Open a barrel
- 31 Electric fan setting
- 32 Altar area
- 35 Nicolas whom "Dog the Bounty Hunter" once posted bail for
- 36 Bilbao bear
- 37 Cater a party for Drew Brees?
- 42 Overly permissive
- 43 The Runnin' Rebels of the NCAA
- 44 Some, in Seville
- 45 Lob's trajectory
- 46 "___ recall..."
- 47 Right in the atlas
- 50 Punch out the clown from "It"?
- 55 A restaurant may hold it for you
- 56 Inkling
- 57 "Do Ya" rock group
- 59 "Burlesque" actress
- 61 Ubiquitous arcade game message, or a hint to this puzzle's theme



- 64 Means
- 65 Drama king?
- 66 Water park slide
- 67 Some stocking stuffers
- 68 ___ of thousands
- 69 Logical flaws

DOWN

- 1 Hook-shaped ski lift
- 2 "Love Story" novelist Segal
- 3 Trunk
- 4 Youngster

- 5 Statement of denial
- 6 World Heritage Site org.
- 7 His fame involved a lot of twists
- 8 Wanted poster letters
- 9 21, often
- 10 "New car" or "burning tire"
- 11 TV ad come-on
- 12 The Falcons, on scoreboards
- 13 Pump contents
- 18 Former Israeli PM Golda
- 23 Word with crust or hand
- 25 Open-___ shoes

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

U	C	S	D	S	C	O	T	A	B	L	E	R			
N	O	T	E	I	O	W	A	S	L	I	C	E			
I	C	A	N	G	R	I	P	N	A	N	C	Y			
F	O	R	T	U	N	E	S	S	E	N	C	E			
Y	A	Z	N	S	A	A	R	K							
L	S	U	L	O	G	E	L	F							
V	O	G	U	E	P	R	E	V	E	N	T	I	O	N	
I	L	I	K	E	E	V	E	O	H	M	A	N			
S	E	V	E	N	T	E	E	N	P	E	O	P	L	E	
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I	R	E	O	Y	L	S	A	L							
A	L	L	U	R	E	U	S	W	E	E	K	L	Y		
S	E	I	S	M	A	L	K	A	N	A	T	O			
M	R	M	O	M	R	E	A	L	I	T	O	N			
L	O	N	Y	P	E	R	L	D	E	N	S				

- 26 Coup d'___
- 27 1900 Puccini premiere
- 28 Furry movie creatures
- 32 Insurance co. with a "spokes-duck"
- 33 Oyster's offering
- 34 "American Pie," e.g.
- 35 Honda SUV
- 38 Visibly nervous
- 39 Pristine, to Brits
- 40 "That's ___!"
- 41 "___ digress..."
- 47 "___ Game" (2013 film)
- 48 Yesterday, in Cuba
- 49 1980s timepiece
- 51 "Who ___?"
- 52 Jewish month that sounds like a car
- 53 Asian economic hub
- 54 Best of the best
- 58 Binary digits
- 59 Where Alabama may be viewed, for short
- 60 Follower of boo, yoo or woo
- 62 Wedding column word
- 63 Stand-up comic Margaret

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Pirtle's sketchbook



"Coffee" from page 6

ference between coffee brewed to the standard of the house versus the same venue's pour over. I'm sorry, it's true.

Today I watched an angry mother of three demand that her grande Pike Place roast be made as a pour over when not two minutes before they'd made a fresh pot of the stuff. The line was eight people long and the shop was full. Two people were staffing the kiosk.

"I want mine fresh," she demanded. "I don't want something that's been sitting around."

The baristas were polite and offered that the pot was fresh and her cup would in fact be the first poured from it, but did as she asked. This added significant time to the wait of everyone behind her, but she got what she wanted and is probably right now telling her housekeeper that her Christmas bonus will take the form of only having to work a half day on Dec. 25. She can't be expected to cook that turkey by herself, mind you. She's just had a holiday manicure.

I say all this for the benefit of barista

friends who find themselves inundated enough by pumpkin spice lattes and eggnog ravioli macchiatos this time of year. The pour over fad has caused, in some shops, a drastic increase in the average wait during rush periods. Customers at NYC's Blue Bottle, normally expecting a wait of around two to five minutes at rush, have experienced waits more in the range of eight to twenty minutes. Of course, everyone waiting for coffee is always polite, patient, and understanding, so there's never any issue with this whatsoever.

So while the pour over is an excellent way to brew coffee, friends, it's not so very much better that it invalidates all other concerns. If the shop is any good, their brewed coffee will be of an almost equal standard. If you've a leisurely commute and the shop isn't bursting with holiday gingerbread latte swilling soccer moms, order a lovely pour over and have a chat with the barista about the Zapruder film. If you are in any way in a hurry or the shop is operating at near capacity, you have options: order something else or be prepared to be very patient. In either case, tip well. 🐦

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"Mexican" from page 15

year, a "scabrous take on Mexicans in the American imagination"), *Barrios to Burbs: The Making of the Mexican-American Middle Class* by USC professor Jody Agius Vallejo (a beautifully written analysis of how Mexis move up in societal circles, with an intro by your favorite Mexican), and anything by Lalo Alcaraz (legendary cartoonista whose *Latino USA* — written alongside famous profe Ilan Stavans — is getting republished next year with even more history) and Sam Quinones (who's currently working on a book about America's drug epidemic).

The Oldies-but-Goodies: The Mexican never stops reading, so here are some classics worth revisiting, all great starting points for those of *ustedes* who want to know your Chicano history: *The Decline of the Californios: A Social History of the Spanish-speaking Californians, 1846-1890* by Leonard Pitts (a late-1960s tome that explains in depressing detail how California's Mexican-hating roots began), *"With His Pistol in His Hand": A Border Ballad and its Hero* by Américo Paredes (a pioneering folklore study on the corridos surrounding Tejano hero Gregorio Cortez, written by one of the godfathers of Chicano Studies), and *Occupied America*, the ultimate textbook on Chicano Studies — namely, because it's the only one worth plugging.

The Newbies: *Standing on Common Ground: The Making of a Sunbelt Borderland* by Northwestern professor Geraldo L. Cadava is a much-needed, wonderfully researched, well-written overview of an often-forgotten part of Aztlán: Arizona. (I mean, Arizona is always part of the conversation due to Arpayaso and all of its Know-Nothing politicians, but we rarely talk about the good of the state other than Linda Ronstadt and bacon-wrapped hot dogs). *Hotel Mariachi: Urban Space and Cultural Heritage in Los Angeles* by Catherine L. Kurland is an awesome ethnography of the mariachis of Boyle Heights, with stunning photos giving readers a sense of place; it's published by the always impressive University of New Mexico Press. Finally, but definitely not least, a massive shout-out to *Everything Begins and Ends at the Kentucky Club*, a collection of short stories by El Paso writer Benjamin Alire Sáenz that won this year's prestigious PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction — a huge victory not just for Chicano literature but also small presses, as the *cabrones* who published it were my pals at Cinco Puntos Press.

The Pomade? So it's not a book, but I also urge *ustedes* to buy the man in your family Orange County's own Suavecito Pomade, which has an iron grip and floodlight shine that nevertheless washes out easily. It's the only product this Mexican allows on his pompadour, and so should you! Get it, hombre, at suavecitopomade.com, or tell your barber to stock some.

And remember folks: when you wrap up these books, make sure to stuff them in Xbox 360 boxes to trick the recipient — it's the Mexican way! 🐦



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