



What's News



The Austin Aztex, a United Soccer Leagues First Division team, started its inaugural season in March at Nelson Field and will play games through September. | 5

Local legislators have filed major bills and are seeing them through the legislative process. | 12

Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo speaks out on the budget and the use of new police technology. | 17

Appraised home values will be delivered to homeowners in early April. Protests should be filed with the Appraisal Review Board by the end of May. | 16



Hill-Bert's Burgers, the iconic Austin eatery, opened a third location in March on Burnet Lane. | 4

What's Online www.impactnews.com



Austin Baby Store moved into a new home on South Lamar Boulevard. Run by moms, the store provides a community forum for ecologically responsible, sustainable parenting. more.impactnews.com/3927

Accelerate Austin, an initiative aimed at speeding up the timeline of necessary road projects, was announced by City Manager Marc Ott. more.impactnews.com/3645

CommUnityCare

CommUnityCare, formerly Community Health Centers, is now...

Austin's landscape changing to accommodate clean tech

Transition to 'clean tech' industry will continue to fuel local economy

By Patrick Brendel

Austin's next big economic engine could run on solar power and batteries.

Researchers have invested decades of research into "clean technologies" like advanced batteries and renewable energy, and now, billions of federal dollars are up for grabs to make clean tech a reality. Competing with cities across the country, Austin has a narrow window of opportunity to capitalize on a rapidly maturing "green" industry that has the potential to be as important to the region as software and semiconductors, proponents say.

"I think it's going to surprise people how quickly it gets off the ground and starts having a significant impact," said Jose Beceiro, director of Clean Energy Initiatives for the Greater Austin



Valence Technology Chief Financial Officer Ross Goolsby with a next-generation lithium battery

Chamber of Commerce. Position to succeed

"Geographically, the winners and losers are going to be sorted out in the next 24 months," said state Rep. Mark Strama, D-Austin, who chairs a House committee responsible for creating tech jobs.

Austin's geography is one of several attractions for clean-tech companies, Beceiro said, citing the city's location on the IH 35

corridor, midway between the Port of Houston and west Texas wind farms. The prevalence of Texas sun is another plus, as is the presence of University of Texas researchers — some of whom invented the very same technologies now being commercialized.

The area's high-tech culture also is a welcome sign to clean-

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Planned Seaholm Development puts retired power plant to different use

Story Highlights

- Power plant undergoes transformation to retail, office space and event center
- Hotel and retail buildings will be linked to power plant by 1-acre plaza

By Mark Collins

For nearly 40 years the Seaholm Power Plant on Cesar Chavez provided energy for residents. Now on the verge of a major transformation, the power plant will serve Austin in a completely different capacity.

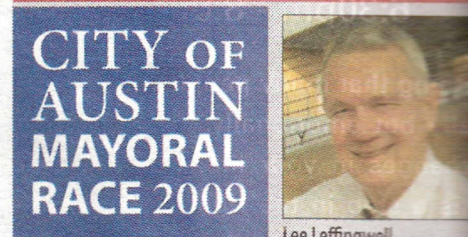
"It is a magnificent building,

it is an iconic symbol and it is one of the most interesting spaces I've ever been in," said local architect Sinclair Black, who founded the group Friends of Seaholm to ensure the plant would be protected.

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CITY OF AUSTIN MAYORAL RACE 2009



Lee Leffingwell



David A. Buttross

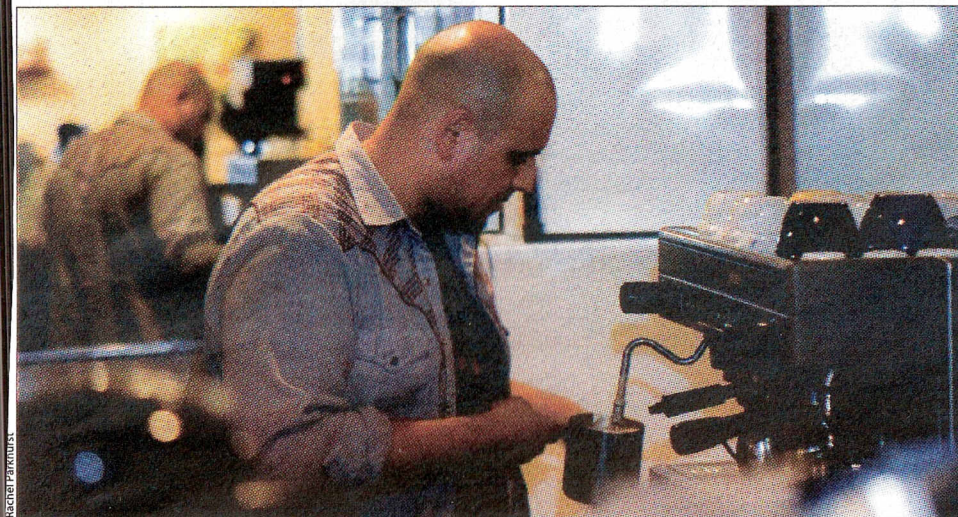


Josiah Ingalls

For the first time in six years, Mayor Will Wicks will step down. Among the potential mayoral candidates are two current city council members and two newcomers. From this group will come Austin's next mayor. City Council members are also looking to for guidance as the city faces a tight budget. Four spots on the city council are also up for grabs.

For candidate bios and information, visit www.austintexas.gov/2009mayor

Business Profile | Summermoon Coffee Bar



A barista hard at work on the coffee bar's famous drink, the Summermoon Latte

By Mark Collins

It is a statement as bold as coffee served black, but when Summermoon Coffee Bar's roasters say they roast the best coffee, they are not kidding around.

"We expect this to be some of the best coffee in the world," coffee roaster Justin Terry said. "Fifty percent of coffee's flavor comes from the roasting method, and the other 50 percent comes from where you get the beans. We get the best beans and have the best roasting method, so it just adds up."

Summermoon can be confident about its coffee beans because it knows the

source. The owners have partnered with a local pastor in Peru to ensure the roasters get the freshest coffee beans from the ripe cherries of the coffee plants in Peru.

"They really respect the pastor down there, so when he tells them to pick only the ripe cherries they actually do it," Terry said. "Usually the locals pick whatever they want, but we only get the beans from the ripe cherries and that makes a big difference."

The partnership began in 2006 when Peruvian Pastor Jose Arimborgo met with head Summermoon roaster Bruce Karnes in search of a way to raise money for the

local church. Karnes recommended building a wood-fired roaster that required no electricity — ideal for the Peruvian jungle.

Karnes traveled to Peru in 2007 and helped construct the roaster, jump starting the Peruvian coffee industry and providing jobs for locals and enough money to build schools, orphanages and churches, he said.

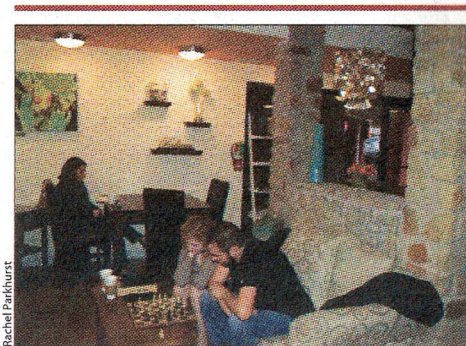
The venture was so successful that Summermoon founded FIRE, Federation of International Roasters for Empowerment, an organization aimed at funding and launching viable, self-supporting and independently owned coffee businesses throughout the world.

"There are 66 countries in the world that grow coffee, and we want to put a roaster in every one," Terry said.

Summermoon's coffee roasts the Peruvian beans right here in Texas, just outside Dripping Springs using a hand-built roaster designed by Karnes himself.

"Wood firing provides a more humid heat, which results in a smoother, more natural process than other roasters," Terry said. "You can taste the difference. It doesn't induce bitterness, and you get a little woody, smoky flavor. You really get to taste the coffee bean."

The coffee is available at Summermoon Coffee Bar on South First Street and can be purchased at specialty stores throughout Austin.

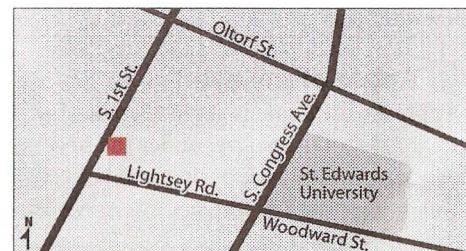


Customers relax at Summermoon Coffee Bar.

Summermoon Coffee Bar is a swanky hangout with comfortable seating and an outdoor patio ideal for reading a newspaper or meeting friends.

The coffee shop serves bagels, breakfast tacos, empanadas and more.

The most popular drink is the smooth and creamy Summermoon Latte: espresso and moon milk, a combination of seven top-secret ingredients.



Summermoon Coffee Bar
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