

POSTAL PATRON

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# Hill Country SU

MAY 2009

## A BREATH OF LIFE BENEFIT

Make a difference for Amberlyn

Oldest in Texas

NAEGELIN'S BAKERY  
in New Braunfels

## HILL COUNTRY WILDLIFE

Austin's

SUMMERMOON COFFEE

Woodworking artist

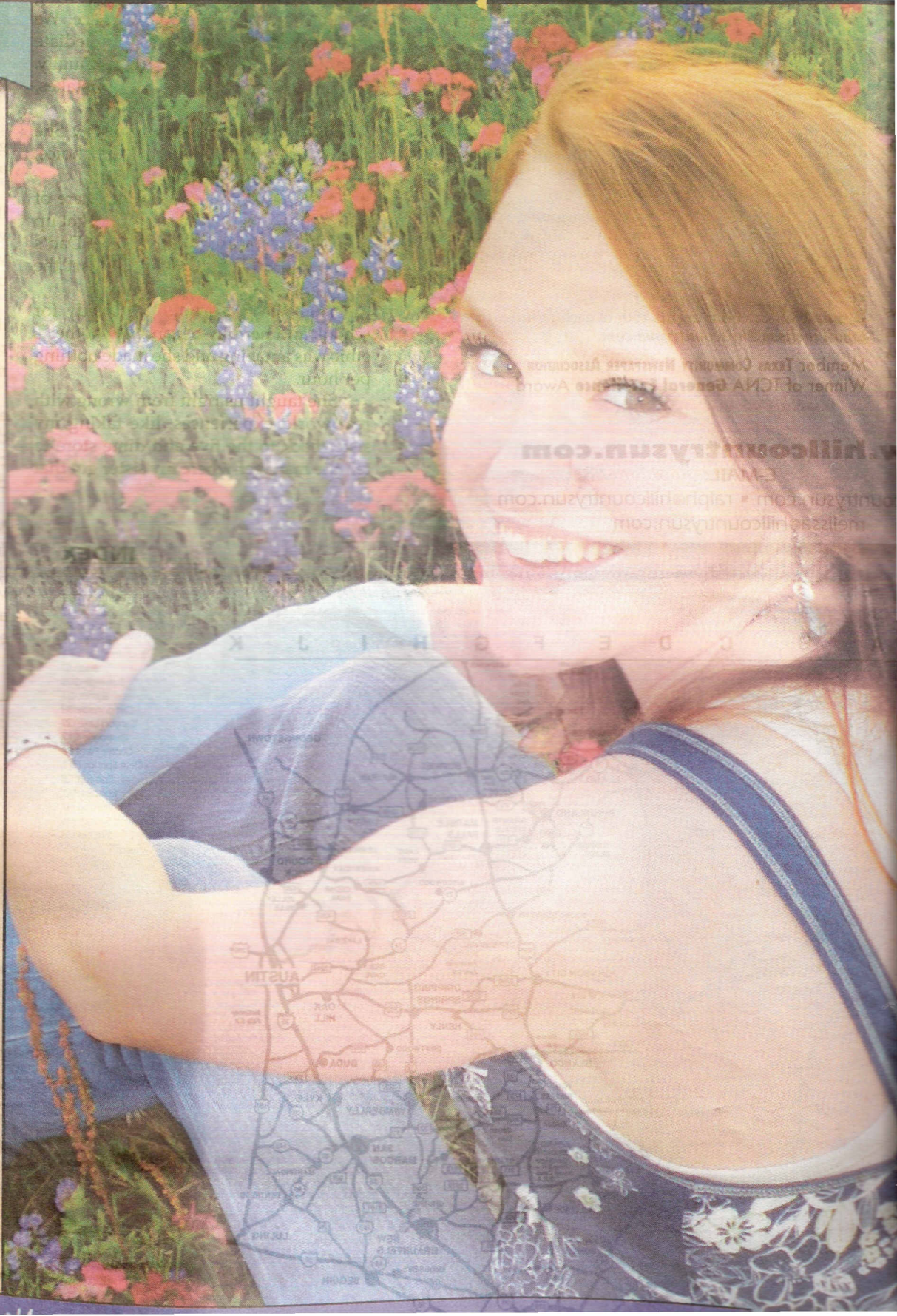
MICHAEL WILSON

LOST CREEK VINEYARD

Perserverance pays off

RED HORSE RANCH

Making miracles



Unique family business creates  
wood fired, hand roasted coffee

**N**owadays, most coffee beans are roasted in big, metal machines, a method light years away from the hand-roasted, wide-fired coffee of the past.

But since November 2005, South Austin has been home to Summermoon Wood Fired Coffee, an inimitable family business boasting some of the only hand roasted and wood fired coffee in the world.

"Our family loves great coffee and a good fire. So we built a bridge between the two by developing a distinct talent for extraordinary coffee roasting," Amanda Terry explains.

Summermoon Coffee was the brainchild of Amanda's father, Bruce Karnes.

Bruce is an ardent coffee drinker who had tried many different coffee beans. He finally asked himself, "Why don't I just roast my own?"

Before long, Bruce had done exactly that. His first results were the product of a fire pit he built in his backyard.

He took fresh, green coffee beans, and, by suspending them in a wooden strainer over a mesquite wood fire, ventured into the world of hand-roasted beans.

Bruce decided his initial method needed improvement. He and his son, Dustin, designed and built a more elaborate brick roaster.

The new roaster proved to be a perfect design and resembles an oversized fireplace, complete with a towering chimney. It sits on the family's land south of Austin, between Dripping Springs and Oak Hill.

Soon after the roaster was completed, the family realized their coffee was good enough to sell.

Justin Terry, Amanda's husband, says this coffee is so good, you don't need to add sugar or cream. "It's great just the way it is," he smiles.

The family developed a process to achieve the same result on a commercial scale, and their business began.

Summermoon became a success. The family opened a coffee shop on South First Street in Austin—Summermoon Coffee Bar—and their coffee is available through the web site and at select retail stores across Texas.

Summermoon coffee has even made it all the way to Lubbock, Justin's hometown, where it is served at a popular coffee shop called Sugar Brown's.

Summermoon Coffee Bar is cozy yet modern. Unlike many mass-produced coffee shops, the aura is inviting, the chairs comfortable and the tables large.

Justin and Amanda run the coffee shop, and together with their baristas, they seem to know most of their patrons. Many regulars come into Summermoon for a daily cup of joe.

But the family is not focused solely on their coffee business.

In 2008, they began a non-profit orga-



**Roasting artisan coffees by hand.**

Photo courtesy Summermoon Coffee.



**Amanda, Justin and Everest Terry.**

Photo by Kathleen Nacozy.

Roasters for Evangelism (FIRE), to fund and launch viable, self-supporting and independently-owned mission coffee businesses throughout the world.

FIRE was born from the idea that the family's power-free design could help the world's low-tech coffee growing regions and the evangelical missions serving these areas. "FIRE is starting wonderfully in Peru," Amanda says, "and will soon spread to other worthy missions."

Bruce built a brick roaster for a ministry in Iquitos, Peru, and the mission there has started its own coffee business.

Through their business and charitable works, the Karnes family has created something to sustain their

lives, as well as their livelihood.

"We drew upon our collective talents to develop a roaster true to our heritage, a coffee worthy of our efforts and a business that will keep us together for years to come," Amanda says.

Every Wednesday, members of the Karnes family gathers at the roaster for "roasting day."

While preparing beans for the week's sales, they drink coffee, laugh and tell stories.

Family members wear traditional artisan attire, specially designed for this custom they clearly cherish.

Around the mesquite fire, they carry on the traditions of family and wood-fired coffee.

**FYI** • Summermoon Coffee Bar is located at 3115 South First Street, Suite 1B, in Austin. Hours are Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 8 PM, Saturday from 8 AM to 6 PM, and Sunday from 9 AM to 4 PM.

For more information, call 512-804-1665 or visit the web site at [www.woodfiredcoffee.com](http://www.woodfiredcoffee.com). For more information about the Federation of International Roasters for Evangelism (FIRE), visit [www.firecoffee.org](http://www.firecoffee.org).



Photo courtesy Summermoon Coffee.