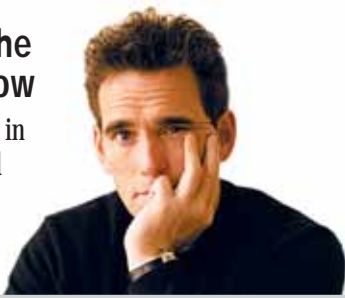


Crashing the awards show

Matt Dillon stars in a film nominated for best picture.

See Page C6



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SECTION **C**

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YOU GOTTA EAT



Customers eat peanuts, talk and watch television as they wait for a table at Texas Roadhouse off State Road 135 on the southside. The average wait time at the restaurant on a recent weekend was 45 to 50 minutes on Friday and 50 to 55 minutes on Saturday.

Waiting a regular appetizer at many sit-down eateries

It's 6 p.m. on a Friday, and you're going out to eat.

Don't expect to walk into a southside restaurant and get a table right away.

Waits of a half-hour or more are common, but there are things diners can do to avoid the delay.

To beat weekend crowds, avoid peak times between 6 and 7 p.m., take advantage of call-ahead seating or visit the same restaurant in a smaller community.

When Amy Dalton of Greenwood is hungry, she doesn't mess with the State Road 135 crowd in Greenwood. Instead she takes an extra 10 minutes and drives to Franklin, where she finds lines are shorter and service quicker.

"Going to Franklin is closer than going up to Indy," she said. "A lot of the Greenwood restaurants are always busy."

But this strategy doesn't always work. At 6 p.m. on a recent Saturday, a party of four would have had to wait 40 minutes at the Franklin Applebee's. But the same diners could have walked right into the Applebee's on State Road 135 in Greenwood without a wait.

Waiting time can be highly variable. On a recent Saturday evening, there was no wait at the Grindstone Charley's on U.S. 31 on

(SEE WAITING, PAGE C5)

STORIES BY CHELSEA SCHNEIDER



Texas Roadhouse hostesses Jessie Hawks, left, and Lindsay Hughes take names of patrons, who must wait for a table at the Center Grove-area restaurant on a recent Friday evening.

TIME TO DINE

Average wait times at 6 p.m. for a party of four on a recent weekend.	Bonfish Grill 1001 N. State Road 135, Greenwood Friday: 35 to 40 minutes Saturday: 70 minutes
Applebee's • 700 N. Morton St., Franklin Friday: 30 minutes Saturday: 40 minutes	Buca di Beppo 659 U.S. 31 North, Greenwood Friday: No wait Saturday: 45 minutes
• Greenwood Park Mall Friday: 10 minutes Saturday: 45 minutes	Johnny Carino's 920 U.S. 31 North, Greenwood Friday: 35 to 40 minutes Saturday: 60 minutes
• 874 S. State Road 135, Greenwood Friday: 5 minutes Saturday: no wait	

Southside can't attract pricier restaurants

Sorry, Greenwood and Center Grove. You're still too blue-collar for Mongolian Barbeque's taste.

The upscale chain has a restaurant in Carmel but not Greenwood. The answer, according to Mongolian Barbeque's Web site, is fairly clear: Money. Or more correctly, a lack of it.

Deciding to build a Cheesecake Factory, BD's Mongolian Barbeque or PF Chang's on the far southside will take more than residents simply wanting the convenience of upscale restaurants close to home.

Carmel and Greenwood aren't far apart in population. The Census Bureau estimates Carmel's population at 43,000, with Greenwood at 39,545.

But Carmel's median household income is \$81,583, compared with Greenwood's at \$46,176.

About \$6,000 short of Mongolian's standards.

At one time, Johnson County on Indianapolis' southside was the second-fastest growing in

(SEE SOUTHSIDE, PAGE C5)

INSIDE THE OSCARS

Love back in fashion at Oscars

'Brokeback' returns romance to center stage

By DAVID GERMAIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

It's been seven years since a love story won the top Academy Award. Back then, it was a romance between a woman pretending to be a man and William Shakespeare.

This time, it's two men in cowboy hats.

Ang Lee's "Brokeback Mountain" is positioned to become the first movie with explicit gay overtones to win best picture, though the film faces tough competition.

Also nominated are Bennett Miller's "Capote," the story of author Truman

Capote's years of anguish, and Paul Haggis' "Crash," a drama about discordant characters intersecting and colliding over a chaotic 36-hour period.

Rounding out the category is George Clooney's "Good Night, and Good Luck," the saga of newsman Edward R. Murrow's stand against communist baiting, and Steven Spielberg's "Munich," a thriller about in the massacre of Israelis at the 1972 Olympics.

In a year of daring drama, though, "Brokeback Mountain" has resonated most widely, the top-grossing film among the best-picture lineup and a pop-culture sensation that has prompted endless gay-cowboy jokes.

"Brokeback Mountain" stars Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal as western men swept up in a torrid fling while tending sheep together in 1963 Wyoming.

Declaring they are not "queer," the two part ways, marry and have children, then are drawn back into an affair they conceal from their families.

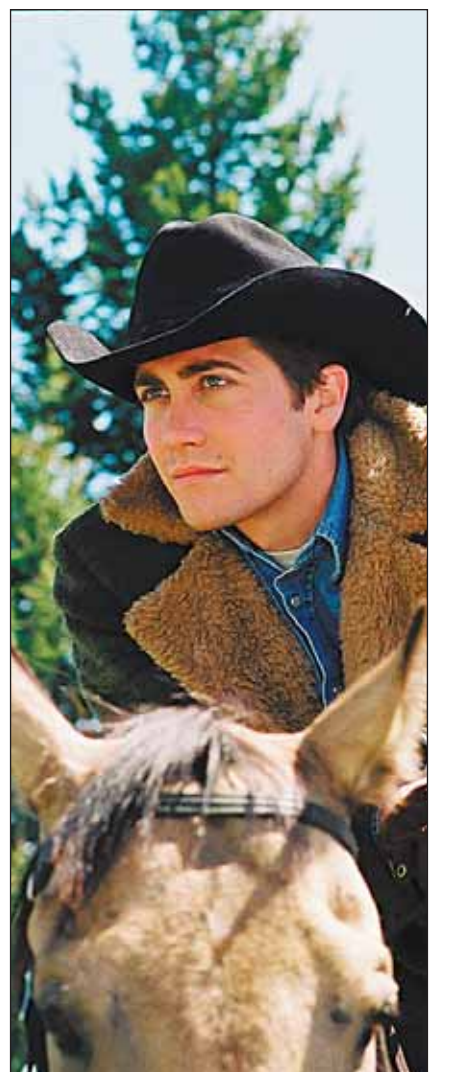
"It was an opportunity to tell a story that hadn't been put on the screen," said Ledger, a best-actor nominee for his role as the rugged Ennis, who's helpless to explain or deny his feelings for Gyllenhaal's Jack.

"Brokeback Mountain" leads the Oscar field with eight nominations, including best director for Lee, supporting actor for Gyllenhaal and supporting actress for Michelle Williams as Ledger's despairing wife.

The film earned honors from key critics groups, won the Golden Globe for best drama and received top prizes from Hollywood guilds representing directors, writers and producers.

Even Haggis, a best-director and screenplay nominee for "Crash," has said he expects "Brokeback Mountain" to triumph at the Oscars.

"I think it really is the year of 'Brokeback Mountain,' and that's a good thing," Haggis said.



Jake Gyllenhaal stars in "Brokeback Mountain." The movie about a love affair between cowboys was nominated for a best-picture Oscar.

Singer Martina McBride takes country classics on tour

Performer has a knack for family-career juggling act

By JOHN HAYES
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

The two kids home from school with sore throats are fighting. The 8-month-old is crying. The phone is ringing.

"Hello," answers Martina McBride. OK, so the McBride home outside of Nashville isn't quite right out of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous."

But with a long string of hits and the perfect country soprano, the woman cradling a crying baby in one hand and the phone in the other certainly qualifies as both.

It's a balancing act that McBride has learned to master, despite the pressures of maintaining her professional status and maintaining a family.

"I don't know if it's just kind of going with the flow, but you make it all ... Excuse me," she says, distracted.

"Will you two be quiet!" she shouts, covering the phone. "No. No. Just tell her to leave you alone."

"Sorry about that," she says. "Like



SCRIPPS HOWARD PHOTO

millions of other women out there who work full time, it's just having to make it all work. ... It's a full-time job, but I wouldn't trade it for anything."

McBride and her husband, John McBride, are partners in their family and her successful career. A former

Garth Brooks crew member, he runs a sound company and the mixing board whenever she's on tour.

The McBride girls — Delaney Katharine, 11, Emma Justine, 7, and newcomer Ava Rose Kathleen, born June 20 — often join them on the road.

Martina McBride and her husband, John, have three daughters ages 8 months to 11 years. The family often leaves their home outside of Nashville to go on the road together when McBride is performing on tour. Her latest tour features classic country music.

"They like it," she says.

No word on whether the kids will be squabbling on the road with a tour that showcases some of the classic country songs that McBride grew up singing.

Martina Mariea Schiff was born on July 29, 1966, the third of four children, to Daryl and Jean Schiff, proprietors of a Kansas dairy farm. Young Martina was admittedly nerdy as a child, wore big glasses and loved to read.

But even more, she loved to sing and play keyboard with her family's country band, The Schiffers. At roadhouses and festivals, they played classic country hits. After high school, she gigged around Kansas with several local bands.

In 1988, she married sound engineer McBride, and two years later they moved to Nashville. He worked for artists including Charlie Daniels and Ricky Van Shelton; she sang on other artists' demo tapes.

John produced Martina's demo, labeling the unsolicited packages "requested materials" so they'd be opened. By 1991, light-speed by Nashville standards, the petite singer with the big voice was signed to a

(SEE MCBRIDE, PAGE C6)