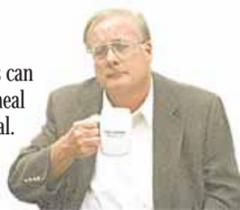


## Steak out

Even regular Joes can afford St. Elmo meal during winter deal.

See Page C6



# Go!

Your guide to music, movies, festivals, the arts and anything else that's cool

SECTION C

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## Singer's CD honors youngster's memory

Center Grove grad records album for Alexa Shank's family

By ANNETTE JONES  
DAILY JOURNAL FEATURES EDITOR  
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A Center Grove High School graduate's CD honoring hometown sweetheart Alexa Shank will be released this month.

Luke Austin Daugherty's *Lexi Danced* is a three-song album that includes a title track about Shank, a 10-year-old Franklin girl who died of leukemia Sept. 27.

Shank's four-year struggle with the disease was known by people in the Johnson County community and across the country through her travels as an ambassador for the Children's Miracle Network.

Daugherty recorded *Lexi Danced* after performing at a "prom" event staged for the girl in Franklin.

When Daugherty sang "I'll Tell You What You'll See," a jazzy blues number, Shank got up and danced on stage, said her parents, Chris and Dana Shank.

The Shanks asked Daugherty to record the song that inspired Alexa in her honor.

"I didn't want him to just put it on a shelf and forget it," Dana Shank said.

Daugherty later wrote the CD's title song, "Lexi Danced."

"I started the idea (for the song) after the benefit," he said. "After she passed away, they asked me to play at her memorial service."

"It was more a song I meant to give to the family. It wasn't a song I meant to record."

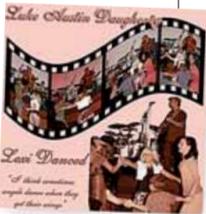
In addition to "Lexi Danced" and "I'll Tell You What You'll See," the album also includes "The Poet."

The CD will be released Feb. 11 at the Shanks' church, Tabernacle Christian, at Water and King streets in Franklin. Daugherty will sing beginning at 10 a.m. before the 10:30 a.m. service. About 100 CDs will be available.

The public release of the CD will take place at the Artcraft Theatre in Franklin during a Daugherty concert from 7 to 9 p.m. March 17.

Admission to the show is \$5 for adults and free for students and children. The album is \$10.

Fans of Daugherty can go to [www.indieheaven.com/artists/luke](http://www.indieheaven.com/artists/luke) before April 7 to vote for the "Lexi Danced" song in a national song competition.



### IF YOU GO

#### Luke Austen Daugherty performances

Feb. 11: 10 to 10:30 a.m., Tabernacle Christian Church, Water and King streets, Franklin  
Admission: Free

March 17: 7 to 9 p.m., Artcraft Theatre, 57 N. Main St., Franklin  
Admission: \$5

for adults and free for students and children



## McPhee fever

"American Idol" runner-up Katherine McPhee says her self-titled debut album allows her to indulge her girly side. It includes mostly pop numbers and features a made-over McPhee in more sexy clothing than what "Idol" fans saw.

### 'Idol' runner-up reveals pop side

By SANDY COHEN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### LOS ANGELES

You might not recognize Katharine McPhee, "American Idol" runner-up, as Katharine

McPhee, the recording star. The "Idol" sweetheart has undergone a complete makeover, from the way she sings to the way she looks.

Instead of syrupy ballads, you're more likely to hear McPhee singing pop-flavored dance tunes.

The prom-worthy gowns she wore on the show have been replaced with a playful, sexy new look.

On the cover of her self-titled debut CD, in stores now, a curly haired McPhee wears a slinky minidress with thigh-high boots.

It's been a whirlwind year for the 22-year-old Los Angeles native, who spent the summer on tour and fall in the studio,

where she learned the art of recording during a two-month crash course.

The experience taught her new ways to use her voice, she said, and expanded her repertoire beyond traditional ballads.

Between bites of a grilled-cheese sandwich at Mel's Diner in Los Angeles — and a pause for an autograph-seeking fan — McPhee talked about her new album, newfound fame and why she's enjoying indulging her girly side.

**AP: Your single just came out, your record is next. How do you feel?**

**McPhee:** I am so excited. I just look back to a year ago, at this time I was getting ready, preparing for "Idol" and I wasn't able to tell anybody I was going to be on "Idol." It's a pretty miraculous thing that I'm now promoting my first single, "Over It," which I'm just loving.

It's just a fun pop, uptempo record. It gives you a little bit more of an insight to who I am, a different side of me. I

dance in my car to it and have a great time. It's kind of a celebration of young girls coming together and a lot of those kinds of tunes.

**AP: How has your sound changed since you left "Idol"?**

**McPhee:** I always wanted to just sing the kind of things that were a little bit more challenging, rhythmically challenging, like different syncopated kind of beats and stuff like that I didn't get a chance to do on "Idol."

**AP: What should fans expect from this record?**

**McPhee:** It's not a record that I'm just trying to be like, "Oh, I want to be like everybody else." It's something I really relate to, and it's something that is a part of me.

I think when you walk away from this record you're going to feel like you know a part of me better: the girl who was in college or the girl who was in high school versus the girl who was on "Idol."

**AP: What was the songwriting process like?**

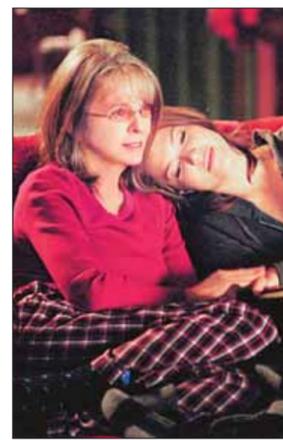
**McPhee:** My process was that even if I wasn't writing on one of the songs, I was still really involved. ... But my specific writing was really fun for me. We came up with a song called "Not Ur Girl," which is one of my favorites. It's kind of a girls' anthem. I think we built a really fun pop song for girls, and it kind of has some old-school feel.

"Neglected" I wrote on as well, which I think is one of my favorite songs on the record. Every time I listen to it it gives me these goose bumps. If you can make yourself get goose bumps with something you've done, that's a pretty good sign.

(SEE MCPHEE, PAGE C10)



Singer Katharine McPhee waits between takes during the filming of the music video for her recently released single, "Over It," in Los Angeles. Her self-titled album was released Tuesday.



Daphne (Diane Keaton), left, and her daughter, Milly (Mandy Moore), cuddle up for an old movie in a comedy about cutting the apron strings, "Because I Said So."

## Avoid this film. Why? 'Because I said so'

Chick flick takes genre to generic extremes

By CHRISTY LEMIRE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Everything about "Because I Said So" screams out generic chick flick — and we do mean scream, literally — from the forgettable title to the excruciatingly corny ending.

In between, director Michael Lehmann runs through a veritable checklist of cliches. (Is it possible this is the same man who made the deliciously vicious "Heathers" nearly 20 years ago?)

There are the unbelievable characters who say and do contrived, sitcommy things. The montages of shopping and furniture rearranging. The caffeinated score to punctuate all those wacky moments (Diane Keaton discovering online porn). The gaggle of women discussing their sexual hijinks with "Sex and the City"-style bluntness. And of course, the repeated cutaways to a cute dog reacting to all this shrill nonsense.

If there's a cake — and there are several, with Keaton and co-star Mandy Moore both playing caterers — you know it won't be long before someone's face gets smushed into it. The gag isn't all that funny the first time. That's the kind of movie this is.

Keaton stars as Daphne Wilder. (An homage to Billy? Let's hope not.) She's an overly meddling, highly emotional mother of three grown daughters who worries that her youngest, Milly, will stay single the rest of her life. Which is silly, because she looks and sounds just like Mandy Moore. But such is the premise in the script from Karen Leigh Hopkins and Jessie Nelson

(SEE BECAUSE, PAGE C6)

## Pseudo-reality show mixes out-of-this-world cakes with humor

Want dessert to look like a carriage or a castle? Done, on new Food Network show

By BEN NUCKOLS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### BALTIMORE

Spend a few hours at Duff Goldman's bakery and it becomes clear the omnipresent Food Network camera crews don't have to manufacture dramatic tension that fans of his show, "Ace of Cakes," have come to expect.

Like Goldman himself, Charm City Cakes, where the ace and his staff produce their fanciful, edible creations, has a relaxed, welcoming vibe. But then crisis intrudes as a \$1,600 cake that once looked like a Scottish castle becomes, well, a pile of crumbling green icing.

It's around noon, and the party the cake was made for starts at 6 p.m., so the Charm City crew has about five hours to remake it from scratch.



Charm City Cakes owner Duff Goldman uses power tools to make unique, detailed desserts.

Plus, the customer wasn't thrilled with the cake before it collapsed, so she's asked for changes.

"This will be a good episode," said

Willie Goldman, a co-executive producer of the show and Duff's older brother.

Duff Goldman knows that, sometimes, cakes fall apart. He can handle that. But

he's taken aback that a customer isn't happy with a cake that was designed precisely according to a detailed contract.

The bakery moves into triage mode, with employees pulled from other projects to help rebuild the castle. As the anxiety subsides, they return to cracking off-color jokes, confident they'll persevere to create an exquisitely detailed cake.

With a devilish grin on his face, Goldman tells Richard Karoll, the employee who delivered the first cake and witnessed its demise, that he's now in the Charm City Cakes records for worst foul-up ever. "You couldn't have planned this to make it more awful," Goldman said.

The second season of "Ace of Cakes" debuted Jan. 18 and will run for 13 weeks, airing at 10:30 p.m. Thursdays.

It's an unusual series for Food Network, because Goldman doesn't teach viewers how to bake cakes.

Instead, the show chronicles what Goldman calls "the insanity that ensues" every time he tries to put together a cake that looks like, say, a working soda fountain.

(SEE CAKES, PAGE C10)



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Luke Austin Daugherty recorded *Lexi Danced*, a three-track album, in honor of Alexa Shank, a Franklin girl who died of leukemia. The CD costs \$10.