

# The Hunger to rock Antone's old-school style

By Chad Cooper  
Staff Writer

Music fans all over the state of Texas know their story like it's their own. No, it's not seven strangers picked to live in a house. But rock lovers will agree the members of the band are like their brothers.

Houston's own The Hunger returns to Beaumont on July 8 to tear the doors off Antone's on Crockett Street with local bands Demagogue and Stalemind as special guests.

Thomas Wilson, one of the two original members still with the band, says that Southeast Texas is in for a special treat. Not that their high energy show will be any less than spectacular, but they are reverting back to some of their old ways.

"We are going to play a lot of songs from our first three albums," said Wilson, who sings and plays the keyboard. "Beaumont was responsible for a lot of our success during the early '90s so we are going to play a set from our earlier music to show our appreciation to our fans that have been so loyal in the Golden Triangle for so long."

Wilson shares the microphone with younger brother Jeff, who helped form the group in 1989. After club hits "Shock," "Shoot to Kill," and "Never Again" received massive air play on Houston radio, Power Hits K106, now Big Dog 106, jumped on the bandwagon and introduced the band to Southeast Texas.

"It was a no brainer," said former K106 program direc-



The Hunger

Courtesy photos

tor Mark Landis. "Their music caught on like a wild fire and I really thought they had the potential to become the next big thing." Landis worked in radio in Houston when The Hunger hit the scene. He then moved to Beaumont before leaving for RCA records. Landis returned to his radio roots and is now the program director of a rock station in San Antonio.

After the success of their first album, the band released "Grip" on their own record label, Gut Records. "Grip" features the hits "Shotgun Squad," "Communication Breakdown," and a remake of "Feel Like Making Love."

The Hunger then released its third album, "Devil Thumbs a Ride," once again on Gut Records. "Vanishing Cream" was the first single off the record and received tons of airplay in Texas. The single

caught the ear of Universal Records, who signed the band to a two-album contract.

"Vanishing Cream" rocketed to the top of the rock charts among rock radio stations throughout the country in 1996, giving the band their first taste of national success. The group shot a video for the single and toured with such bands Creed, Foo Fighters, Deftones and enjoyed a two-week stint on the Kiss reunion tour.

Three albums later, the band continues to produce records despite having several members come and go along the way.

"Personnel changes halts any type of momentum or continuity so it has limited us somewhat," said Wilson. "We didn't shop 'Finding Who We Are,'" said Wilson regarding their latest album. "It got some limited airplay so we



Demagogue

feel like there's some unfinished business."

Wilson said the band will take some time off shortly to focus on another album. "The whole group is going to try to reinvent itself but we are like the Olympic torch; the flame never seems to go out."

Wilson's spare time is spent giving 100 percent to his successful entertainment venue in Clear Lake, Scout Bar.

The multiroom nightclub/live rock venue hosts local and national bands and has been so successful that Wilson is constantly renovating. "I never knew it was going to be like this," said Wilson. "If I did, I would have built the room a little different." Wilson added that he's looking to expand to San Antonio in the near future.

Supporting the group for the rock show at Antone's on July 8 will be Demagogue and Stalemind.

With a little Seether mixed

with a pinch of Audioslave, Demagogue was born in 2005 as guitar player Matt Sebastian of Fannett met drummer Grady Saxman of Anahuac and the two got together for several jam sessions. The two decided it was time to form a rock band and searched the area and found guitarist Billy Wills of Nederland and singer/songwriter Paul Noyola of Jasper. Sebastian then took the role of bass player and Demagogue was born.

And what does Demagogue mean? Webster defines it as a leader who obtains power by means of impassioned appeals to the emotions and prejudices of the populace and/or a leader of the common people in ancient times.

The band has struck a chord with the local rock fans of Southeast Texas as Demagogue set an attendance record for a local group at Antone's on June 17 with 430 fans attending the show.

"We love playing live shows," said Sebastian. "We pride ourselves (on) the live show."

The group released an EP, "Passage To Repute," and plan to return to the studio this fall to record their first full-length album. "Once we start working on the album, we'll start searching for some management and try to hit the road outside of Beaumont."

For more information, visit [www.thehungeronline.com](http://www.thehungeronline.com) and [www.demagoguerock.com](http://www.demagoguerock.com).

Doors open at 8 p.m. for the 18-and-up show. Tickets are \$10.

# Snow CEO chosese Best Bartender in Beaumont

By Melissa Tilley  
Staff Writer

It could have been Christmas in June with all the Snow flying around as 10 area bartenders mixed up some rousing rounds of concoctions featuring Snow sparkling mint beverage for three judges at the MCM Elegante on June 29. Mike Blueitt, a bartender at Madison's, was chosen as the Best Bartender in Beaumont for his "Fire and Ice"

cocktail and received a \$500 prize.

April Hancock of Buffalo Wild Wings and Grant Simon of Bennigan's were runners up and received \$200 each. Other competing bartenders were Clair Connally of The West, Alaina Marley of Handlebar South, Adam Fontenot of Black Cat, Justin Hoover of Bobbie McGee's, Ryan Hanson of Antone's, Barron Nimitz of Texas Star Bar and Matt Green of Dixie Dance Hall.

The event was part of a promotion to help introduce a new drink to the Southeast Texas market. Snow is a "unique, subtle, refreshing, natural" soft drink created by Stu Strumwasser, president and CEO of Snow Beverages.

"Snow is truly a one of a kind drink," said Strumwasser. "It is minty and refreshing and all natural. It is an everyday soft drink, is a great mixer with your favorite liquor; it is just

really versatile."

It was very important to Strumwasser, a vegetarian, for Snow to be made with all-natural ingredients. Snow is made with natural cane sugar and has fewer calories than most soda or juice. It is lightly carbonated and contains peppermint for the main flavoring with a pinch of spearmint, according to Strumwasser, and a very

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