

CELESTIAL SO NOW WHAT?

PREDICTIONS FOR 2017 (SOME OF THEM EVEN SERIOUS) IN POLITICS, MUSIC, BOOKS AND FOOD.

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inside



JULIO RAMOS

“The classic Italian pasta sauce will now be known as Putin-esca.”

Jon Palmer Claridge on food in '17, P. 17.

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“You have to laugh.”

The Capitol Steps' Elaina Newport on the appeal of political parody, P. 10.

ON THE COVER: Design by Julio Ramos.

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/arts Nude yoga? Nude yoga

/food-drink Artisanal edibles and fine quaffage

/music More local players run down their 2017

/news Kate Bradshaw, Sh*t Happened

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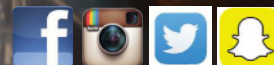


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do this

THUR JANUARY 05-WED JANUARY 11



theater Smells like comedy

THURSDAY: Did you love the movies *You've Got Mail*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *The Shop Around the Corner*, or the musical *She Loves Me*? **Parfumerie** is the play that inspired them all. It tells the tangled tale of Parfumerie employee George Horvath and his secret love interest, because of course there's a secret love interest — you inferred the part about it being a rom-com, right? No, it's not set in a bookstore (name gave it away, didn't it?) or Manhattan (it's set in 1930s Budapest). Nevertheless, Nora Ephron thought it worth adapting for the silver screen, so we'd say it's a play you want to see. Bonus: CL Editor-in-Chief David Warner steps onstage as Mr. Hammerschmidt, the owner of the Parfumerie. *Gulfport Community Players at Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 Beach Blvd. S., Gulfport. Jan. 12, 8 p.m. \$18-\$20. local.cltampa.com. —Cathy Salustri*

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words Tell me a story

WEDNESDAY: Every month **True Stories** holds a slightly drinky, themed storytelling night in DTSP. January has a musical theme and the featured storyteller, local writer and all-around fun guy Cole Bellamy, will speak. How is a writer musical? Nope, he doesn't write songs (that we know of) but he is directly related to the Bellamy Brothers (think "Let Your Love Flow" and my favorite, "Redneck Girl"). So this mild-mannered college professor with sexy nerd glasses, a penchant for cardigans and lots of literary thoughts will tell us wonderful music stories. If he inspires you, you can get onstage and tell your story. You don't need to be related to Miranda Lambert or anything; simply put your name in the story bucket (they call it the fuckit bucket), and if you're called you get five minutes to tell your real-life story. No props. No notes. At the end, you (and everyone else in the crowd) picks the best story. *Iberian Rooster, 475 Central Ave., St. Pete. Jan. 11, 9 p.m. Event page on Facebook or local.cltampa.com. —CS*

community No fear

SATURDAY: Strong boys make strong men. In collaboration with HCC's MLK Day of Service Project, Voice the Movement, Inc. hosts a day of empowerment, education and entertainment, geared toward teenage boys (13-18). Now, odds are you're not a teenage boy, but you probably know one. **FEARLESS** (Fearlessly Expressive, Actively Responsive, Leading Examples, Serving Society), a workshop designed to help young men become fearless, strong men, features NFL athletes, community leaders and celebrity guests: Orlando Davis, Clifton Smith, R. Anthony and other fearless men will speak, and the day also includes breakfast, lunch, giveaways, prizes, sports, entertainment and a passel of other goodies. Tell any teenage boy you know to check it out — transportation may be available; learn more. Presentable attire required, as is registration. *SpringHill Park Community Center, 1000 E. Eskimo Ave., Tampa. Jan. 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. local.cltampa.com. —CS*

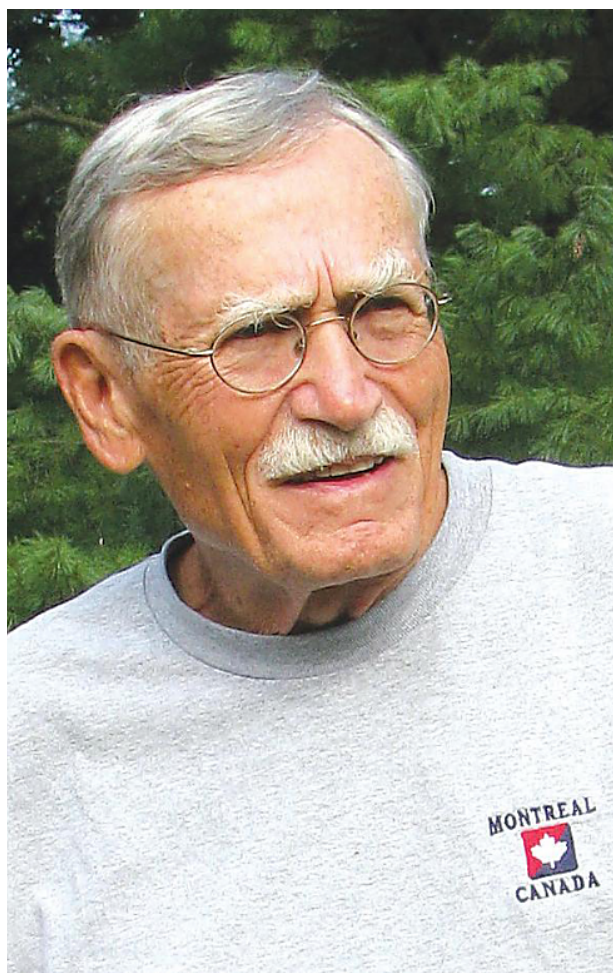


theater **Knocked up and Grounded**

NEXT THURSDAY: You thought getting pregnant in high school was tough? In **Grounded**, a one-woman show, Emilia Sargent plays an Air Force fighter pilot whose pregnancy kills her career flying F-16s. Instead, she uses drones to chase down suspected terrorists — and kill them. She battles the emotions that come with any pregnancy alongside moral issues that come with her new job description and her own feelings about being grounded. Tampa Rep stages this timely drama by George Brant. *USF Theater Center 120, 3837 USF Holly Dr., TAR 120., Tampa. Opening postponed until Thurs., Jan. 12. Through Jan. 22: Wed.-Sun., 8 p.m. \$20-\$25. tamparep.org/grounded. —CS*



MEGAN LAMASNEY



words **The Peter principle**

MONDAY: If you've never heard Florida's Poet Laureate (and *CL Tampa* contributor) **Peter Meinke** read his work, you're missing out bigly. He also crafts short stories that stay with you long after you finish reading them. I'm in the middle of his newest book, *The Expert Witness*, and so far I think everyone should buy a copy. I heard him read the last story at Inkwood Books in November, and I don't expect my opinion to change as I finish this book. Don't believe me? Come hear him read at Lectores, presented by the University of Tampa's Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing. He'll even sign your book after the reading. *Falk Theatre, 428 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. local.cltampa.com. —CS*

daybyday

FRI 06

Red Door No. 5 presents **Unfurled**, an exhibition of abstract paintings and mixed media by local artists Stephanie Ong and Laura Kmetz. When you're done, hit the rest of First Friday Art. 7-10 p.m., 1910 N. Florida Ave., Tampa. local.cltampa.com.

SAT 07

Visit the **Market at Grand Central** for locally made goodies and goods. Since it's held at Punky's, you have one-stop shopping plus free parking. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 3063 Central Ave., St. Pete. 727-201-4712.

SUN 08

How do you live with less? Head to Patchworks at Nature's Food Patch for a free screening of **Minimalism**, which explores the lives of people doing more with less. 4 p.m., 1225 Cleveland St., Clearwater. local.cltampa.com.

WED 11

It's not "du Soleil" but that can be a good thing, so check out the acrobatics and magic of **Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy** at the Mahaffey. 7:30 p.m., 400 1st St. S., St. Pete. 727-898-7832.

THU 12

Last week we told you to go see the new **Henthorne** photos at HCC Ybor, but neglected to mention you could go meet the artist at **his talk tonight**. 4:30 p.m., with talk at 6:15 p.m. 1403 E. 9th Ave., Tampa. local.cltampa.com.



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UPCOMING SHOWS

- TU 1/10** John Nemeth Band (BLUES) with The Broadcast **7PM \$10/13**
- FR 1/13** The Ultimate Joe Cocker & Santana Experience: Mad Dogs and Sacred Fire **8PM \$10/13**
- SA 1/14** Holey Miss Moley (FUNK/ROCK/SOUL) and Ajeva (INTERDIMENSIONAL/GOSPEL/FUNK) **8PM \$7/10**
- SU 1/15** Women's March to Washington for Women's Rights Fundraiser with Judy Tampa and Friends **5PM \$10 MSD**
- WE 1/18** WMNF Presents Bella's Bartok (KLEZMER/PUNK/POP) and Positive Mental Attitude (REGGAE) **7PM \$10/13**
- FR 1/20** Tab Benoit (BLUES) w/ In Business (FUNK) **8PM \$20/25**
- SA 1/21** Tab Benoit (BLUES) w/ TBA **8PM \$20/25**
- SU 1/22** In Business (FUNK) and Gumbo Boogie (ZYDECO/ROCK) **5PM \$7**
- TU 1/24** "Old School Tuesdays" featuring the Hubbtones **7PM \$5**
- FR 1/27** Tim Dorsey Book Signing "Clownfish Blues"
- SA 1/28** Trae Pierce and Shevonne (FUNK/BLUES/ROCK) **8PM \$10/13**
- SU 1/29** Talking Dreads **5PM \$7/10**
- SU 2/5** **CLOSED for the Big Game**
- WE 2/8** Melodime (SOUTHERN ALT-ROCK), Jared & the Mill (WESTERN INDIE ROCK), and Caleb Hawley **8PM \$12/15**
- FR 2/10** Anders Osborne (ROCK N ROLL) with special guests Honey Island Swamp Band **8PM \$15/20**

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NEWS OF THE **weird**

Chuck Shepherd

OH-SO-SWEET DREAMS

The Hastens workshop in Koping, Sweden, liberally using the phrase “master artisans” recently, unveiled its made-to-order \$149,900 mattress. Bloomberg News reported in December on Hastens’ use of superior construction materials such as pure steel springs, “slow-growing” pine, multiple layers of flax, horsehair lining (braided by hand, then unwound to ensure extra spring), and cotton covered by flame-retardant wool batting. With a 25-year guarantee, an eight-hour-a-day sleep habit works out to \$2 an hour. (Bonus: The Bloomberg reviewer, after a trial run, gave the “Vividus” a glowing thumbs-up.)

SUSPICIONS CONFIRMED

Humanity has accumulated an estimated 30 trillion tons of “stuff,” according to research by University of Leicester geologists — enough to fit over 100 pounds’ worth over every square meter of the planet’s surface. The scientists, writing in the *Anthropocene Review*, are even more alarmed that very little of it is ever recycled and that buried layers of technofossils that define our era will clutter and weigh down the planet, hampering future generations. (Don’t just think of “garage sale” stuff, wrote Mother Nature News; think of every single thing we produce.)

FINER POINTS OF THE LAW

A federal appeals court agreed with a jury in December that Battle Creek, Michigan, police were justified in shooting (and killing) two hardly misbehaving family dogs during a legal search of a house’s basement. Mark and Cheryl Brown had pointed out that their dogs never attacked; one, an officer admitted, was “just standing there” when shot and killed. The officers said that conducting a thorough search of the premises might have riled the dogs and threatened their safety.

SOUNDS LIKE A JOKE

Spencer Hanvey, 22, was charged with four burglaries of the same MedCare Pharmacy in Conway, Arkansas, in October and November, using the same modus operandi each time to steal drugs. (Bonus: Oddly, the drugs were not for obsessive-compulsive disorder.)

Hamden (Connecticut) High School was put into lockdown for an hour on Dec. 15 when a student was seen running in the hallway, zig-zagging from side to side, swinging an arm and leaping into the air. Police were called, but quickly learned that it was just a 12th-grade boy practicing a basketball move and pretending to dunk.

THE ARISTOCRATS!

A camera-less Alan Ralph, 62, was arrested in Sarasota, Florida, in December after being seen on surveillance video in October in a Walmart stooping down to the floor to peer up the skirt of a woman.

John Kuznezow, 54, was charged with invasion of privacy in Madison, Wisconsin, in November after he was discovered, pants down, up a tree outside a woman’s second-floor bedroom window.

BRIGHT IDEAS

For about 10 years, organized crime rings operated a makeshift U.S. “embassy” in a rundown pink building in Accra, the capital of Ghana, issuing official-looking identification papers, including “visas” that theoretically permitted entry into the United States. The U.S. State Department finally persuaded Ghanaian officials to close it down, but it is unknown if any purchasers were ever caught trying to immigrate. The “embassy,” with a U.S. flag outside, had

well-spoken “consular officers” who reportedly collected about \$6,000 per visa.

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Leonard Rinaldi, 53, was arrested in Torrington, Connecticut, in November following his theft of a rare-coin collection belonging to his father. The coins were valued at about \$8,000, but apparently to make his theft less easily discoverable, he ran them through a Coinstar coin-cashing machine — netting himself a cool \$60.

Read more weird news at WeirdUniverse.net; send items to WeirdNews@earthlink.net. 🐼

THE RUTH ECKERD HALL EXPERIENCE

COMEDY! WHAT A LINEUP!

 LEWIS BLACK	THU, JAN 12 8PM CAPITOL THEATRE	 LISA LAMPANELLI	SAT, JAN 21 8PM CAPITOL THEATRE
 TOM SEGURA	SUN, JAN 22 7:30PM CAPITOL THEATRE	 JERRY SEINFELD	THU & FRI JAN 26 & 27
 KATHLEEN MADIGAN	SAT, JAN 28 7PM CAPITOL THEATRE	 BILLY CRYSTAL	TUE, JAN 31 8PM
 GALLAGHER	FRI, FEB 3 8PM CAPITOL THEATRE	 STEVE MARTIN MARTIN SHORT	SAT, FEB 11 8PM
 JIM BREUER	FRI, MAR 3 8PM CAPITOL THEATRE	 ELAYNE BOOSLER	THU, MAR 9 7PM MURRAY THEATRE RUTH ECKERD HALL
 PAULA POUNDSTONE	FRI, MAR 10 8PM CAPITOL THEATRE	 SINBAD	SAT, MAR 18 8PM CAPITOL THEATRE
 CARROT TOP	WED, MAR 22 8PM CAPITOL THEATRE	 WHOOPI	SAT, JUL 29 8PM



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NEWS ^{+VIEWS} S

POLITICS ISSUES OPINION

Political prognosis: Still crazy

And you thought you'd get a breather...

By Kate Bradshaw

It was a common refrain in the final days of the 2017 election cycle, as candidates and their surrogates crisscrossed the all-important swing state of Florida: *I just want this damn thing to be over.*

Politics was everywhere, so filthy and contentious it sparked acute anxiety among even the most casual observers. Of course, it was a presidential year that featured two of the most divisive people ever to run.

And now, it's over — sort of, but not really. Sorry, Florida.

It's not just that people are looking forward to the (ugh) 2020 election season.

It's that 2017 has its own set of political machinations that, while they won't capture our imaginations nearly as bigly as a Donald Trump-Hillary Clinton battle royale, they're pretty damned important.

Here's what's coming over the next 12-ish months, and how things might pan out.

State party chair elections

In most years, this wouldn't be interesting to anyone who's not an ingrained politico.

That may be more or less true on the Republican side, because they're pretty content with their election-winning prowess at the state level (*cough* rampant gerrymandering and scheduling major elections in off years when no one's paying attention *cough*). Party chair Blaise Ingoglia is in the running, and since dude helped deliver the state to one Donald J. Trump, one would assume the party is pleased with him.

That's not the case on the Democratic side.

Given the events of the past year or six, the Florida Democratic Party obviously has some soul-searching to do. The departure of state party chair Alison Tant offers a chance for them to do so. But a long-running complaint among the party's progressives, that monied moderates want to control who runs and where (and try to strong-arm candidates they deem un-electable out of the primaries), may fall into play here.

Citing party powerbrokers' attempts to push them out of the running, two of the five candidates vying for state chair (activist Alan Clendenin and South Florida State Sen. Dwight Bullard)

moved to rural counties where they could easily win local chair posts, and thus be qualified to run for state chair.

All five candidates say they want to reform the party, after several bruising election cycles in which Democrats ran moderates who lost (save for U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson), as they did in the presidential race with disastrous results.

The notion that Sen. Bernie Sanders could have beaten Trump is probably emboldening the state's progressive wing, which largely backs Bullard.

Whoever wins will determine the direction of the party: who runs for governor, what kind of message the party promotes, how inclusive it is, etc.

Trump's inauguration

This goes without saying.

On Jan. 20, people from across the country, including Florida, will flock to Washington, DC to watch the culmination of the transition of power or some such.

A good chunk of those throngs of people will be vocal protesters.

How they and Trump supporters interact with one another will probably help set the tone for the next four years (haven't we had enough tone-setting by now?). Let's hope it goes well and no one gets hurt.

Sesh, dude

Florida's annual parade of God, guns and school vouchers begins on the first of March, and there are already loads of bills that do things like allow open carry or ban fracking. Lawmakers will also have to figure how to implement a voter-approved constitutional amendment legalizing medical marijuana, and considering that most of them opposed the law, it should be fun watching it play out. Same goes for the voter-approved amendment creating more tax breaks for solar power.

St. Pete elects, or reelects

St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman hasn't announced his bid for reelection, but it's not a stretch to say you can expect an announcement soon.

He'll probably have at least two challengers

PREDICTIONS '17



PREDICTIONS '18? Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn is a possible Democratic contender for governor in 2018.

(Tea Party activist Paul Congemi has already filed).

Possible other challengers include former mayor Rick Baker, former mayor Bill Foster, and Councilman Karl Nurse.

Kriseman can boast some key accomplishments in areas where past mayors had stalled, namely in forging ahead on the Pier and the Rays' stadium search, as well as promoting LGBTQ equality.

But critics have been trying for years to play up his vulnerabilities. Some vocally blame him for the city's handling of the Pier selection process, which led to the demolition of the inverted pyramid structure that some loved and others reviled. He's also been blamed for the city dumping tens of millions of gallons of sewage into Tampa Bay after major rain events, though supporters say previous administrations' neglect of city infrastructure contributed to the problem.

Four council seats will also be up for reelection: districts 2, 4, 6 and 8. Councilwomen Darden Rice and Councilwoman Amy Foster will be up for reelection (should they choose to run again, and why wouldn't they?). Nurse and Councilman Jim Kennedy are terming out and, aside from activist Sharon Russ, no one has officially qualified for any of the council races.

Chances are, we'll start hearing more

rumblings pretty soon.

The primary is Aug. 29 and the general is Nov. 7.

And then, 2018 fires up

Remember how Rick Scott is our governor?

Well, many political scientists say that if Florida Republicans hadn't placed gubernatorial contests in off years, when Democrats tend to forget about voting, that might not have happened.

Oh, well.

But wait: the race for governor in 2018, when Scott terms out, has been speculated upon for years already, even if we're probably still months out from any candidacy announcements.

In the Dems' corner, prospective candidates have been lining up for years, including Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, former Panhandle Congresswoman (and daughter of a well-liked former senator/governor) Gwen Graham, Congresswoman Kathy Castor, Miami Beach Mayor Phil Levine and, more recently, well-known lawyer John Morgan. For the GOP, possible contestants include Ag Secretary Adam Putnam, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, State Sen. Jack Latvala and former St. Pete Mayor Rick Baker.

That race is likely to be packed with she-nigans, so stay tuned. 🍷

WEDNESDAY 28



A 19-year-old and a 16-year-old rob a **Hillsborough lemonade stand** manned by a couple of 9-year-olds, making off with \$13 and an iPod. Thanks, 2016, for ending things with the class for which you've been consistently known.

SATURDAY 31



Two local people are hit by **celebratory gunfire** on New Year's Eve. Yep, that has an official name now. Hopefully "looting" can soon be upgraded in similar fashion to "protest shopping."

SUNDAY 1



Canadian authorities charge a **Sunwing Airlines pilot** after he was found passed out in the cockpit prior to takeoff. Some jobs you

can pull off with a bit of a buzz. Jobs you can't include piloting commercial aircraft.

TUESDAY 3

Medical marijuana becomes officially legal in the state of Florida. Which means you'll actually be able to run down to the local dispensary and get it in 3, 2, 1... sometime in 2019, probably.



The new U.S. Congress is sworn in, including **four new representatives from the I-4 corridor**. This might've been more inspiring had the GOP majority not dropped the ball in a bungling, massively scandalous way like 12 hours prior (and fewer than 48 hours into the new year). Meet the new boss, etc.

Satire forever

Armed with tons of fresh material, The Capitol Steps are coming to the Straz.

By Kate Bradshaw

Much like the rest of us, Elaina Newport and her colleagues went into Election Night 2016 with a set of expectations that did not pan out.

But for Newport, a co-founder of the satirical comedy troupe and Washington, DC institution The Capitol Steps, who perform in Tampa Jan. 12, the stakes were particularly high.

Mind you, it didn't matter who won the election per se in terms of her political leanings; Newport calls herself an "extreme moderate." It was just that the Steps had written two scripts based on potential outcomes of the election, and they'd spent more time on the scenario that seemed like it *would* happen rather than the one that actually did.

"We had written, basically, two versions of the show, because we... sort of expected Clinton to win, and as you recall the odds-makers were saying 80 percent that she was going to win," Newport said. "And so we had written two versions of the show, one for either outcome. But to be honest, I spent a little more time on the Hillary-won version, because that's what the people were predicting."

But it didn't work out that way, and The

Capitol Steps' writing team had to scramble to come up with fresh material for their next show later that week. They had to figure out how to work in Mike Pence, for example, to whom they hadn't given much thought before.

But it could've been worse — and has been.

"Unlike 2000, when we woke up the morning after the election and didn't know who won, that was the worst year, because we had to all of the sudden write songs about hanging chads and butterfly ballots — thank you, Florida — and that was the year that we, for a month, couldn't do either version of the show. We had to sort of do a third version of the show," she said. "So this time, at least we knew pretty definitely who won."

POLITICS

THE CAPITOL STEPS/STRAZ CENTER



DYNAMIC DUO: The troupe's Trump and Hillary parody songs include "Shut Up and Vote For Me" and "Deleter of the Facts."

The Capitol Steps got their start in the early 1980s, when the founders of the group were staffers for U.S. Senator Charles Percy, a moderate Republican from Illinois.

"You don't find those in the wild anymore," she said of moderates in Congress. "They're in the history books and that's about it."

From the start, the idea was to mock U.S. politics and culture in a way that pokes fun at all sides.

Think Bernie Sanders doing show tunes, Joe Biden belting out classic rock parodies and Vladimir Putin prancing around shirtless. During election season, she said, having Hillary Clinton in the running meant they could bring back an old favorite: her husband.

But even if they strive to be even-handed, given the cantankerous tone that's taken over U.S. politics, it could be easier than ever to alienate half the audience.

In the days following the election, when Republicans and Democrats were angrily divided, the Steps had a show in the DC metro area. It

was unclear whether the divisive climate would yield an audience that was universally offended — some with wounds still fresh from Election Night, others wary of the frequency with which their president-elect was being targeted.

But the show went over well, even among those still in mourning.

"After the show a lot of people were coming up to the cast and saying, 'Oh my goodness, I needed to laugh.' Because it was a tense fall," she said. "But you can't go around being tense all the time. You have to laugh."

That doesn't mean she and her co-writers don't take advantage of the most obvious, larger-than-life target, Trump. But satirizing the president-elect has its challenges, Newport said; his antics would often parallel the absurdity of their scripts.

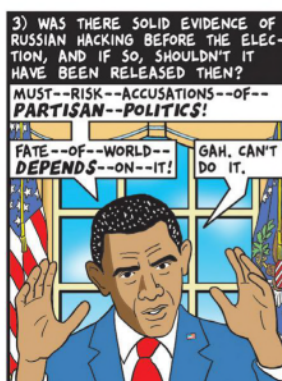
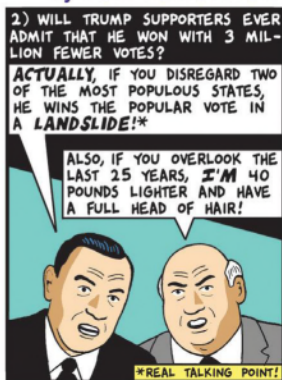
She recalls one point during the election at which she wrote a joke for their Trump character in which he said he won't kiss babies because "babies are losers."

"That seemed to me like an exaggeration of something Donald Trump would say," she said. "Then, of course, he did get into it with a baby at a campaign rally. He kicked a baby out."

The Capitol Steps perform 8 p.m. Jan. 12 at the Straz Center's Ferguson Hall. Tickets are \$55.50-\$60.50. For more info, visit straz-center.org.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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More, more, more

That's what's in store for our urban landscape in 2017. But is more necessarily better?

By **Linda Saul-Sena**

Pick a quality from Tampa Bay's building profile from 2016 and add Miracle-Gro: That's the trajectory for this new year. Better biking, more traffic, taller buildings, enhanced water mobility, additional everything!

A prime example of this activity level is developer John Avlon's plan to build three large buildings on the west side of the Hillsborough River, across from the University of Tampa. He purchased this land two decades ago, invested \$4 million in infrastructure, secured zoning for 1 million square feet of development and

has patiently bided his time until downtown was ripe to grow westward.

His plans, which are currently undergoing rezoning, include Lafayette Tower, a 40-story structure comparable in height to the Bank of America, situated on the river; Lafayette Central, just south of the Christian Science Church with 26 stories; and Lafayette Parkview, just east of the First Baptist church with 26 stories.

These new, massive buildings will change the density and character of this area, luring activity and residents to cross the Kennedy Bridge. John LaRocca, vice president of Hillsborough River Realty Company and an urban planner, explained how the project would play nicely with its neighbors. "Each spire will have ground floor retail and the two located on Kennedy Boulevard will orient themselves to the street."

Thinking ahead, the developers sank pilings for a west-bank riverwalk connection under Kennedy Bridge years ago, so that there could be a smooth transition from the river to their property. Mickey Jacob of BDG Architects described the tower's integration with the river as key to the design.

In 2017, the City of Tampa will begin construction of a path on the west side of the river starting at the Platt Street Bridge on the south, hugging the riverbank by the Avlon venture, then continuing along past the University of Tampa, Tampa Prep, the \$34 million makeover of Julian B. Lane Park, and Blake High School.

This western riverwalk should mirror the activity and flow of its eastern compatriot, introducing a fresh take on Tampa's heart and sparking density and development in North Hyde Park and West Tampa. Stay tuned for more condos and the first wave of new construction where the North Boulevard Homes stood.

Unfortunately, none of the smaller bungalows or brick warehouses in the area are protected by any preservation overlays, and I worry for a

massive loss of character as market forces wash over these historic neighborhoods.

What does the western riverwalk's north-south axis call for? An east-west connection! Happily, the Green Spine, a 3.4-mile protected bikeway which safely separates bikes from cars with a cement barrier, is being built this year. The route links the new JCC at the Armory in West Tampa through downtown on Cass Street eastward to Cuscaden Pool in Ybor City.

As car traffic worsens, the option of safe cycling is increasingly attractive.

Increasing density in our urban cores rather than sprawling endlessly is smart growth. Using the riverwalks, water taxis, bicycles, Uber and the Downtowner shuttle mean that these new residents will, hopefully, not have to drive much.

St. Pete's successes along Central Avenue have been buoyed by the city's smart investments in bike paths, angled parking and pedestrian-friendly streetscaping along that corridor. The condos and new breweries growing there are testament to the attraction of an easy-flowing boulevard.

To make movement easier, the ferries

between Tampa and St. Pete allow passengers to bring their bikes aboard for free, and there are now rent-a-bike stands at the docking areas so it's easy to explore both downtowns on two wheels.

St. Pete's version of mega-development, One, is under construction at the corner of First Street and First Avenue North. Rising 41 stories, One will be the tallest building in Pinellas County. Its clever slogan — "Live in the Sky. Walk to Everything Else" — sums up the urban aspiration.

The good news is that the ground floor will be activated with shops, and the hotel and condos will add to the vibrancy of the core. The bad news is that all of the people featured in One's promotional video are white.

True urban centers have a mixture of people. We need diverse price points to add young people to the mix. Our downtowns need to keep some of the remaining historic buildings so that they have some context and soul. New buildings need to be architecturally exciting, not just cookie-cutter condos from Atlanta.

And we desperately need transit.

Former Tampa Mayor, Dick Greco, who loves living in downtown St. Pete, spoke recently of Tampa's gridlock. "It took us 25 minutes to drive from our place to Ashley Drive, then it took us 45 minutes to park!"

Florida as a whole, and Tampa Bay in particular, needs to think beyond the daily maelstrom of busyness and plan ahead. Our vibrant cities need to be diverse, above the flooding, accessible to airports and each other.

Smart cities plan. We can, too! 🇺🇸

TRANSFORMING TAMPA BAY

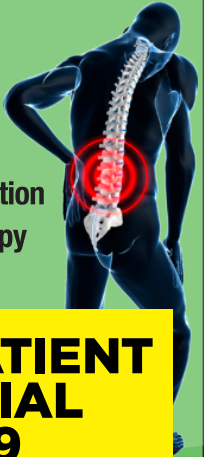


BIGLY: The 40-story Lafayette Tower (left) is one of three large buildings planned by developer John Avlon for the west side of the Hillsborough.

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Ring in the new

It's time to look forward, with both hope and caution.

By Peter Meinke

*Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws...*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.*

2016 has gone. Let it go. It was the worst year in our memory, at least since 1963, when President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and nine Vietnamese Buddhist monks were assassinated, boiling up the Vietnam War into our national consciousness.

We thought we'd start 2017 in a foul mood, bringing to mind the mordant New Year's Eve wish of the Poles struggling under Communism when we lived in Warsaw; translated to today the toast as the bells rang out would be: "May 2017 be worse than 2018." That was as optimistic as the Poles could get.

But for the last two weeks, we've had a rich, invigorating, and inspiring holiday visit from our far-flung children and four grandchildren (Sophie, 11; Julian, 9; Tai, 8; and Kai, 6). It was impossible to sit around our overflowing table, looking at these healthy, handsome, intelligent and responsible citizens without being optimistic about America in spite of everything. (It was also impossible to sit there without spilling a glass.) We want to be responsible, too, so our beautiful grandkids will live long and happy lives, and grow up proud of their country.

So although it's true that from the beginning of 2016 we've called our president-elect a nutcase, we're going to begin this year by letting the grandeur and dignity of his office wash over him, at least for a while. We'll keep our eyes open, naturally, remembering one of a poet's inherited tasks is speaking truth to power. With President Trump, this will become tricky.

Everyone says, for example, that we should take him seriously, but not literally. I've taught English all my life and know that kind of sentence

is aimed at giving the person, in this case Trump, a passing grade; but what it means exactly is, *Although he's continually lying his gold teeth out, don't worry: in the end it will turn out all right.* Well, OK. He won, didn't he? Because of the office, we shall hold off a bit, but keep our eyes wide open, like his mouth. (We'll still allow room for a little snarkiness.)

President-elect Trump has already chosen a cabinet that looks like it's ready to whisk insurance out from under the ragged shoes of the poor; make further cuts to our struggling public school system; undermine our progress with climate change; and rescind rights from women that have taken a century to achieve. This list could go on — but as they haven't actually done anything yet, we'll wait, and hope somehow they'll behave better than their records indicate.



POET'S NOTEBOOK

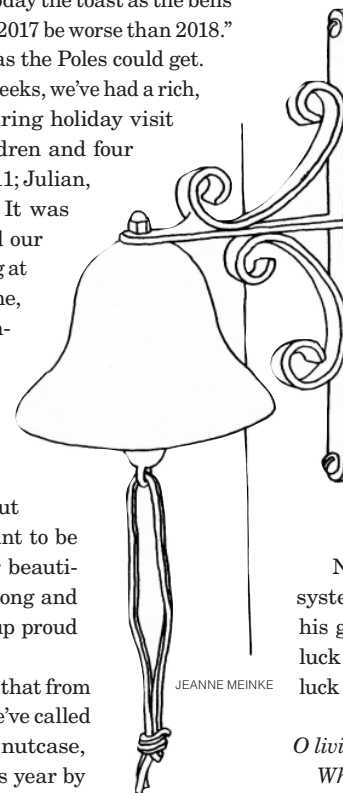
The Russian novelist and outspoken critic of authority Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008) said in a 2005 interview on Russian television, "Democracy is not worth a brass farthing if it is installed by bayonet." He was talking about our efforts to influence Iraq and other countries, but looking at our recent Russian-flavored election, I'd suggest that democracy isn't worth a tin ruble when installed by fake news, misleading government announcements, blatant lies, and an archaic system. Both candidates played in the same game, of course, like football players in a snowstorm. But in this particular game, Trump was the professional and Clinton the amateur.

No one likes a poor loser, shouting "The system's rigged." Let's wish Trump and his gang, and all of us citizens, the best of luck in 2017. And may their luck and our luck coincide.

*O living will that shall endure
When all that seems shall suffer shock,
Rise in the spiritual rock,
Flow through our deeds and make them pure...*

*With faith that comes of self-control,
The truths that never can be proved
Until we close with all we loved,
And all we flow from, soul in soul.*

—both quotes from "In Memoriam A.H.H." by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) ❧



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RESTAURANTS RECIPES DINING GUIDES

Putin-esca, alt-right burgers & EVOO pipelines

Tongue-in-cheek culinary trends for Trump's America.

By Jon Palmer Claridge

In the world of food criticism, I always try to remain apolitical. I even refrain from identifying the age or gender of servers and my circle of dining companions.

But as the calendar pages turn over to 2017, I must confess that the tone-deafness of the GOP Christmas message makes me snicker: "Just as the three wise men did on that night, this Christmas heralds a time to celebrate the good news of a new King." Can you picture Pence, McConnell and Ryan riding their camels from the Capitol past the new Trump (conflict-of-interest) Hotel at the Old Post Office to the little manger at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue?

As I watched with bemusement while the President-elect assembled his new cabinet, my mind couldn't help wandering and wondering — tongue in cheek — what this age of Trump might mean for the world of cuisine.

How will trickle-down economics, "free trade," neocon warmongering and various fronts of the culture wars affect the world of gastronomy? Trump has appointed an unprecedented number of people to head departments and agencies whose mission or very existence they oppose, which ironically conflicts with the

Constitution preamble's claims that government should "promote the general welfare."

Let your imagination go and you may see the following 10 food trends in 2017.

1. The small-plate movement will thrive, but serving sizes will shrink as portions refuse to trickle down.

2. Though Russian caviar prices will soar, the classic, questionably named Italian pasta sauce will now be widely known as Putin-esca.

3. Big Oil will reign supreme; the controversy over EVOO pipelines will continue.

4. With Rick Perry at the Department of Energy, new energy bars will be Texas-sized, but new flavor names will be restricted to fossil fuels.

5. Advisor Steve Bannon and Andy Puzder (Secretary of Labor) will team up for a new fast-food restaurant chain hawking "alt-right burgers" celebrating the old Confederacy. Orders will be served by Jeff Sessions robots in KKK

hoods, and the packaging will be based on the Stars and Bars. Puzder will praise the robots as ideal workers, and the long history of allegations that he cheated his managers out of overtime pay will be forgotten.

6. As the the GOP works to replace Obamacare, there will be a new Health &

Human Services advertising campaign based on the old axiom, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" (which dates back to the days when life expectancy was 40.5 years). Sales of apples will soar.

7. Daily restaurant specials — designed to clear out the walk-ins before any food spoils — will be sold on menus nationwide as a tasty "basket of deplorables."

8. Bakers across America will develop a delicious, moist "kleptocracy cupcake with tangy billionaire buttercream" in a craze that will sweep the nation.

9. Trump's hostility toward the government in Beijing will depress Chinese takeout, and chop suey, egg rolls and fortune cookies will finally be unmasked as being as legit as Trump University.

10. Finally, the "Make America Grate Again" movement will see a rise in recipes that include bits of orange and lemon zest, cheese, ginger, chocolate, nutmeg and "orange alert" carrots. 🍷

PREDICTIONS '17

Presidential provisions

Boulevard Burgers & Tap House seems to be leading the way for Trumpy food trends — at least in Tampa Bay.

The St. Pete Beach restaurant, which opened its doors in 2015 and is known for its lineup of "bigger is better" burgers, has dedicated a new burger of the month to the President-elect and his empire, dubbing January's limited-edition creation none other than **The Trump Tower Burger**.

You can see a few similarities between Donald Trump and this double cheese-burger, too.

Two Boulevard Burgers patties allow the menu item to stand skyscraper-high, like its

58-story namesake. Wispy onion straws on top pay homage to the Donald's famously mysterious blonde hairdo. And melted American cheese brings the burger all together, because duh.

For the Trump-inspired burger, the indoor-outdoor dining destination has even coined its own spin on the campaign phrase that just might live on forever: Make American Cheese Great Again.

Boulevard Burgers is set to offer The Trump Tower Burger through the end of the month. You're welcome.

—Meaghan Habuda



JULIO RAMOS

FORGET VODKA SAUCE: There'll be a new pasta sauce in town, named for Trump's Russian BFF.



Revelation in a revolution

UNION72 is proof that good things come in mall packages.

By Jon Palmer Claridge

Good things come in small packages. Or so they say. It's also true that great food sometimes appears in the unlikeliest of places. Way out Wesley Chapel way at The Shops at Wiregrass you'll find an intimate new barbecue restaurant called UNION72 wedged between The Brass Tap and Cantina Laredo, just past the plastic ice skating rink, where the inventiveness of American entrepreneurship is on full display.

U72 is a casual place. You order at the counter and take a number, then grab a drink and wait. Shortly, your meal appears. In some establishments, this ritual usually augurs humdrum food that may be fine, but nothing to write home about. It's with that modest mindset that we make our choices, expectations firmly in check.

Our first surprise is that there are special treats on the drinks front, especially if you're not in the mood for a lager, ale or house-made tea. First is the craft fountain soda, which expands on cola to embrace black cherry and orange cream. Even better is grilled lemonade served in a logo-emblazoned glass jar. The secret is grilled caramelized lemons, which are then chilled, freshly squeezed and infused with lavender. The result is memorable, and we're all abuzz.

But when our food arrives and we start chowing down, there's an unexpected silence — followed by some "oohs" and "aahs." We're distracted for a moment before my dining companions and I exchange curious glances. *Is yours as good as mine?* Something special is going on here.

It seems that local restaurateurs Jeff Martin and Bharat Chhabria felt a revolution was in order. It was time to unleash the global spices of the world's street cuisine to create a chef-inspired barbecue restaurant; time to "challenge the rules; free my BBQ." With pitmaster Geoff Zukosky, the owners have cracked the secret code. At the core, of course, is the quality of the eatery's slow-smoked meat. But UNION72 really soars with the menu's "handhelds," where chef-inspired combos can take flight.

The Cali features chicken marinated overnight and slow-smoked for four hours. Its pulled shreds are topped with avocado, caramelized onions, candied bacon, and Cheddar and drizzled with house-made smoked tomato barbecue

sauce on a toasted brioche bun. What's wonderful about the mashup is that it's in perfect balance, where each element is identifiable. The layers of flavor meld together beautifully. It's simply a joy to eat.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

UNION72

★★★★

The Shops at Wiregrass, 2000 Piazza Ave #150, Wesley Chapel. Barbecue: \$3.50-\$17; sides: \$2.50; desserts: \$5; drinks: \$2-\$6. 813-575-9999; union72.com.

The bánh mì puts a Texas twist on this Vietnamese favorite with dry-rubbed beef brisket that gets the 16-hour slow-smoked treatment. A baguette filled with tender beef slices comes alive with pickled vegetables, cucumbers, bean

sprouts and spicy aioli to make it sing. Again, the synergy of ingredients delivers a surprising package that's a delight.

I'm on record as a pork devotee, so The Conquistador's marinated, Spanish-spiced slow-smoked pork (a mere 14 hours in this case) has me swooning. A toasted brioche bun appears once more with pulled meat topped with chimichurri, caramelized onions and a fried egg oozing yolk. It's just delicious.

These handhelds, or sandwiches, are triumphant. There are other variations that add kimchi or fried jalapeños, as well as a trio of tacos. And then there are wings — glorious wings.

The smoked hot wings are superb, even

without any of the six dipping sauces. They're dry-rubbed and slow-smoked, then finished in the deep fryer. You may opt for them to be served wet (with your choice of sauce) or naked (just the rub). Each sauce has its own allure: white barbecue (aioli-esque), sweet barbecue, spicy barbecue, the aforementioned smoked tomato barbecue, sticky Asian (with a hit of soy) and Carolina-style (yellow with mustard). These house-made dips all hit the mark.

Every meal features a choice of sides. There are the usual suspects of fries, slaw, collards and okra. Plus, our picks of mac and cheese (slightly sweet with a candied bacon garnish); a loaded "smoked potato" buried in sour cream, chives, Cheddar and bacon; and beautifully charred grilled corn coated with herbed cotija cheese. As with everything else we taste, the sides are fresh and made with care.

The day's desserts by Buttermilk Provisions (just a mile down the road) are listed on a chalkboard behind the counter. We sample both available options.

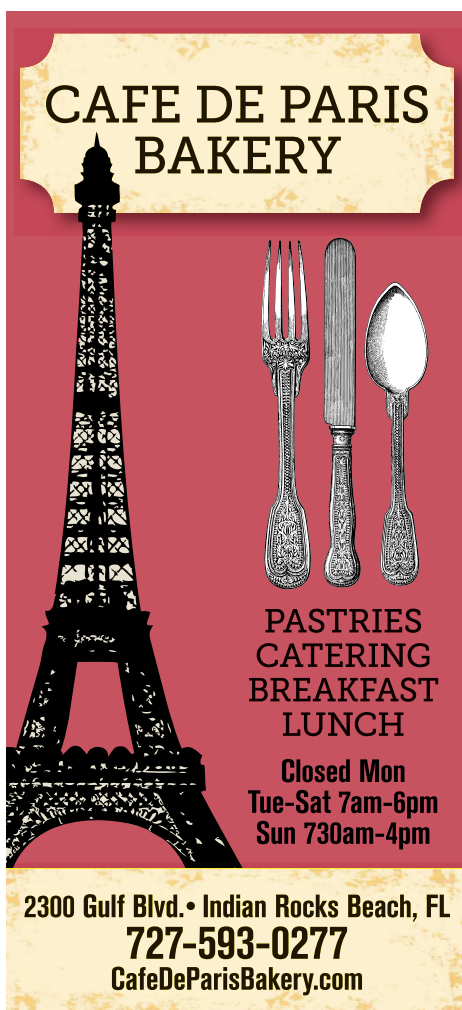
The doughnut banana pudding is made with sugar doughnuts instead of bread. It's very tasty, with strong banana aromas and a smooth texture. And while the tiramisu has lots of flavor, it's not what you'd expect. I wouldn't have recognized it without being told. It doesn't mention doughnuts, but whatever's in it isn't light like ladyfingers and mascarpone. The individual serving in a plastic cup is very dense at the bottom, where the coffee flavor is hiding. If you keep an open mind, you'll enjoy this one as well.

UNION72 is a revelation wrapped in a revolution. If only I didn't reside in a condo — then I could have a "Free My BBQ" lawn sign. 🍷



CAN BÁNH MÌ LOVE: UNION72's bánh mì is layered with smoked brisket, pickled veggies, cucumbers, bean sprouts and spicy aioli.

CAFE DE PARIS BAKERY



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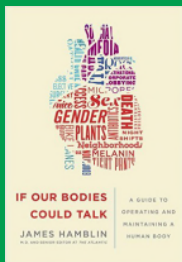
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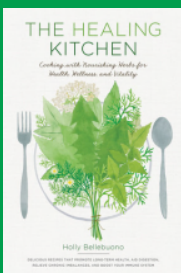
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JUST ROLLED IN: Takara Sushi's new home in Brandon features an outdoor patio.

Ampersanded comings, goings

Takara Sushi and others have the latest in food and drink.

By Meaghan Habuda

1 **Takara Sushi & Sake Lounge** has officially moved its Japanese fusion cuisine from Tampa to Brandon. Opened in 2012, the popular Japanese fusion eatery served its final meals at its Bruce B. Downs Boulevard location on Oct. 22 before moving to 795 W. Lumsden Road, where Poblanos Mexican Grill & Bar previously operated. Takara's new standalone building, Takara Sushi, is more spacious, with a wraparound patio, outdoor seating and more parking because of its location inside the Oak Park Plaza. The menu features everything from nigiri and sashimi to grilled seafood and steaks. "Without all of your support, we would not be where we are today, doing what we love," the restaurant posted to its Facebook page Oct. 19.

2 **Mickey Quinn's Crafthouse & Eatery** has launched in Largo. At 9057 Ulmerton Road, the bar and grill — which held its soft opening back in October — showcases 22 taps dedicated to local craft beer and a food menu, with items like Guinness bratwurst, offered until 2 a.m. daily. Craft cocktail creations are served from the full liquor bar, too.

3 In Clearwater, another bar and grill recently has begun specializing in gourmet tacos. The fast-casual **Breakroom Bar & Grill**, located at 13575 58th St. N., cooks up seven taco varieties — pork shoulder, buffalo chicken and vegetarian among them. Black bean and corn salsa,

spicy cilantro sour cream and blue cheese are just a few of the ingredients that top these Mexican favorites.

A Philly cheesesteak, zucchini parm hoagie and more sandwich combos make up the bill of fare's other "handhelds" alongside entrees, salads and starters. But diners can also get in on The Breakroom's weekday happy hour of half-price bottles of wine, \$2 signature cocktails and \$2 craft beer bottles and cans.

FIVE COURSES

4 St. Petersburg has a new destination for kava in Bryan Peacock and Kevin Eckelkamp's **Muddy Water Kava & Tea**. Inside cozy digs at 6111 10th St. N., the owners and friends' cafe debuted two months or so ago with a selection of kava drinks, coffee and tea. Daily specials include \$20 all-you-can-drink kava on Mondays and \$3 loose-leaf tea and coffee for Therapeutic Thursday.

5 Patio 6, which brought its first location to Westchase, has introduced its unconventional chicken wing mashups (you remember those salted caramel cheesecake wings, right?) to St. Pete. **Patio 6 Prime Smokehouse Wing Bar & Grill** celebrated with a soft opening in November at 10400 Roosevelt Blvd. N. (where Steel City Brewhouse used to be), dishing a similar menu to what was offered at its flagship, but with the addition of slow-cooked meats. Smoked specialties include PB&J ribs, St. Louis-style ribs, brisket, a smokehouse Cuban and all the staple sides. 🍷



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3 DAUGHTERS BREWING One of the Warehouse Arts District's most popular hangouts, and a beautiful facility in which to drink some great brews. 222 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg. 727-495-6002, 3dbrewing.com.

7VENTH SUN BREWING Some of the best sours, IPAs and collabs going. 7venth Sun is one of those places adventurous diehard beer fans travel to visit. 1012 Broadway, Dunedin. 727-733-3013, 7venthsun.com.

81BAY BREWING CO. South Tampa's first craft brewery boasts a wide variety of styles. 4465 W. Gandy Blvd., Tampa. 813-837-BREW, 81baybrewco.com.

ANGRY CHAIR Five beers on tap, open Tuesday-Sunday. 6401 N. Florida Ave., Seminole Heights. 813-238-1122, angrychairbrewing.com.

BARLEY MOW BREWING COMPANY Lovingly crafted brews in Largo. 518 W. Bay Dr., Largo. 727-584-7772, barley-mowbrewingco.com.

BIG STORM BREWING CO. Stop by this Pasco brewery's Storm Room for a flight, or visit their taproom on 49th Street in Clearwater, too. 2438 Merchant Ave., Odessa. 727-807-7998, bigstormbrewery.com.

BIG TOP BREWING Perhaps Sarasota's premier purveyor of locally crafted beer, Big Top's reputation has spread far beyond the region. 6111 Porter Way, Sarasota. 941-371-2939, bigtopbrewing.com.

BREW BUS Not just a tasting tour, BB brews its own suds and now has its own place in the former Florida Avenue Brewing space in Seminole Heights. 4101 N. Florida Ave., Tampa. 813-990-7310, brewbususa.com.

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CITRUS PARK BREWERY & HOUSE OF BEER In-house beer, guest taps and BBQ, too. 8552 Gunn Hwy, Odessa. 813-920-8889, citrusparkhob.com

COPPERTAIL BREWING CO. Amazing handcrafted offerings now available on-site. 2601 E. 2nd Ave., Tampa. 813-247-1500, coppertailbrewing.com.

CROOKED THUMB BREWERY Safety Harbor's first brewery boasts homegrown flavor and local guest taps. 555 10th Ave. S., Safety Harbor. 727-724-5953, crookedthumbbrew.com.

CYCLE BREWING One of St. Pete's favorites. 534 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. 727-320-7954.

DARWIN BREWING CO. Unique beers crafted with South American influence. 803 17th Ave. W., Bradenton. 941-747-1970, darwinbrewingco.com.

DE BINE BREWING CO. This addition bolsters the Northern Pinellas craft beer scene. 933 Florida Ave., Palm Harbor. 727-233-7964.

DUNEDIN BREWERY Florida's oldest microbrewery boasts beer, eats and live music. 937 Douglas Ave., Dunedin. 727-736-0606, dunedinbrewery.com.

ESCAPE BREWING CO. Another very worthy Odessa/Trinity destination. 9945 Trinity Blvd., Suite 108, Trinity. 727-807-6092, escapebrewingcompany.com.

FOUR STACKS BREWING An always-changing lineup of local and regional guest suds, along with an active space that features trivia, live music and more. 5469 N. US HWY 41, Apollo Beach. 813-641-2036, fourstacksbrewing.com.

GREEN BENCH BREWING COMPANY A space worthy of the adventurous beers it produces. 1133 Baum Ave. N., St. Petersburg. 727-800-9836, greenbenchbrewing.com.

HIDDEN SPRINGS ALE WORKS This Tampa Heights brewery features a rotating tap selection. 1631 N. Franklin St., Tampa. 813-226-2739, hiddenspringsaleworks.com.

LAGERHAUS BREWERY & GRILL A Palm Harbor bar and eatery that offers seasonal brews to complement their regulars.

3438 East Lake Business, Palm Harbor. 727-216-9682, lagerhausbrewery.com.

MAD BEACH CRAFT BREWING Brews, ciders, and meads by the beach. 12945 Village Boulevard, Madeira Beach. 727-362-0008, madbeachbrewing.com.

MASTRY'S BREWING CO. From CD Roma's restaurant to sweet new digs on St. Pete Beach. 7701 Blind Pass Rd., St. Pete Beach. 727-202-8045, mastrysbrewingco.com

MOTORWORKS BREWING A taproom and beer garden feature full liquor and wine as well as 30 taps, including a healthy variety of on-site brews. 1014 9th Street West, Bradenton. 941-567-6218, motorworksbrewing.com.

MR. DUNDERBAK'S The longtime restaurant, biergarten and homebrewers' hangout is serving up its own beers, some based on patrons' award-winning recipes. 14929 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., Tampa. 813-977-4104, dunderbaks.com.

PAIR O' DICE BREWING This Clearwater brewery offers a wide variety of beer styles well worth scheduling a stop. 4400 118th Ave. N., Clearwater. 727-755-3423, pairedicebrewing.com.

PINELLAS ALE WORKS One of the 'Burg's newest, PAW offers a dog-friendly environment in addition to tasty brews. 1962 1st Ave. S., St. Petersburg. 727-235-0970, paw-beer.com.

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TAMPA BEER WORKS At the former site of ESB Brewing, TBW focuses on American craft styles. 333 N. Falkenburg Rd., Suite D407 Tampa. 813-685-1909, tampabeerworks.com.

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THE WILD ROVER BREWERY What started as an English pub in Odessa is now a higher-production facility in Westchase. 13921 Lynmar Blvd., Tampa. 813-475-5995, thewildroverbrewery.com

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MOVIES THEATER ART LISTINGS

The year of the indie bookstore

Local independents are on the rise again.

By Cathy Salustri

I've always wanted to own a bookstore. If you write — or if you read voraciously — that's sort of a universal dream: Surround yourself with stacks of books, maybe a cat named Orlando or Sherlock, and write, in between thoughtful discussions with well-read customers turning to your shop for the next great read.

Unfortunately, the only thing that pays less than journalism is owning a bookstore.

Except maybe not. Turns out, indie bookstores are on the verge of a renaissance. While no one wants to see any bookstore close, the fact that Borders couldn't make it while shops like Wilson's and Inkwood can lifts the heart of every bibliophile. Indies, it seems, are hitting their stride.

I don't make this observation anecdotally. Last fall I met the couple who run Paz & Associates, a company that helps launch indie bookstores. Donna Paz Kaufman and Mark Kaufman work with new bookstores before they open their doors, helping them get set up for success. They've seen an uptick in business as well as registrants for their "bookstore boot camp" for prospective bookstore owners. Registration has grown steadily, more than doubling since 2012. Likewise, sales of their book, *Owning a Bookstore: The Essential Planning Guide*, have also dou-

bled. That book isn't a 99¢ special on Amazon; it costs \$100, which means the people who buy it aren't indulging a "someday" fantasy.

Mark Kaufman says that computers and big box stores deserve both credit and blame for the indie bookstore trend.

"As more and more consumers seek authentic experiences — as well as suffer from screen fatigue — and embrace the Shop Local movement, indie bookstores have an important niche to fill," he says.

Of course, it isn't as easy as ordering some

books and hanging out a shingle; books cost money, and while publishers don't charge resellers the cover price (40 percent is the standard discount), inventory costs mount quickly. Without several credit references, a business will often have to pay cash for books. Add rent and utilities, licenses, credit card fees and staff, and the idyllic dream can quickly turn into a fiscal nightmare.

So what does it cost to open a bookstore?

"The three most significant costs are inventory, fixtures (bookcases and display accessories), and computerized inventory management system," Mark Kaufman says. "We suggest a budget of \$125 per selling square foot." Add in any redesign or additions and that can run up to \$200 per square selling foot.

Doing that math, opening a bookstore with 1,000 square feet of selling space would cost between \$125,000 and \$200,000. That's not something you do on a whim.

"If you're wealthy enough to have a bookstore as a hobby, by all means go for it," he says. "Otherwise, invest in learning the best business practices that apply to independent bookstores."

His wife agrees: A dream is not enough.

"Most new owners do not come with a business background and if they have retail experience, it's generally limited to front line work during

school years," Donna Paz Kaufman says. "The book business is also nuanced; millions and millions of titles remain in print and sometimes continue selling for years and years, while new books are released at the rate of over 2,000 a week."

So much for me and my dream (and my bookstore cat, who would have been named Travis McGee).

Still, Kaufman assures me a bookstore owner "should do well with the proper education and training."

PREDICTIONS '17

"As more and more consumers seek authentic experiences, indie bookstores have an important niche to fill."



LOCAL LIGHT: South Tampa's Inkwood Books is finding creative ways to compete in a digital world.

In the Tampa Bay area, Paz & Associates worked with Inkwood Books, and now they're helping a local woman find the best location for her indie bookstore in St. Petersburg. The duo recently worked with one of Jeb Bush's top advisers, Sally Bradshaw, to open the 1,400-square foot Midtown Reader in Tallahassee.

Meanwhile, Inkwood is finding its own creative ways to compete in a digital world. At a recent book talk and signing with Randy Wayne White, the ticket price included the cost of his latest book, *Seduced*. This keeps the book sales local, explains owner Stefani Beddingfield; otherwise, people might buy the book online or from a big box store and bring it to the signing. This way, they get to meet the writer and the indie bookstore gets the sale.

So, yes, the number of indie bookstores is expected to grow in the coming year — no surprise, really, with the support from local groups like Keep St. Pete Lit and Wordier Than Thou, the latter of which has a live/work space that serves as a bookstore in Pinellas Park's creative district.

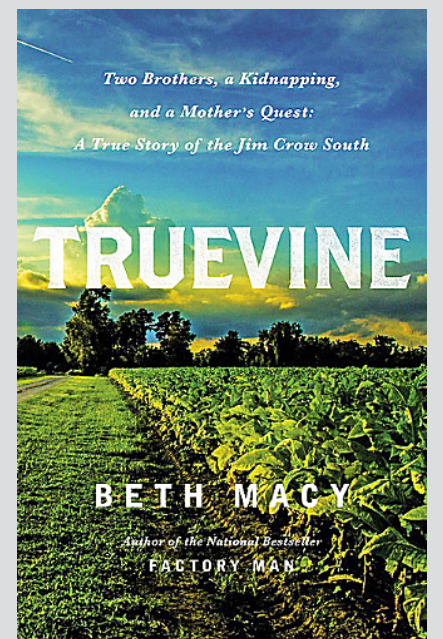
For the right person, says Mark Kaufman, an indie bookstore *can* be a dream come true. "You may never work harder, but you'll never find work that's more rewarding."

But he does add a word of caution.

"Don't make the mistake of thinking that you'll have more time to read." ☞

Read local

On Jan. 11, join *Creative Loafing* at Inkwood Books for our first-ever book club, **Creative Reading**. For the first book, we selected *TrueVine*, the story of two black albino brothers kidnapped from the Jim Crow South in 1899 and forced to work as circus freaks. If you still go to the circus, this book will probably make you think twice. This low-key book club will have mature themes, so please think twice before bringing a kiddo. —CS





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Zapped!

The complicated allure of neon signs, captured in Alison LaMons's watercolors at Polk.

By Caitlin Albritton

Nowadays, New York City isn't the only city that never sleeps. With "OPEN" signs still gleaming in the window of the mattress store at 2 a.m. (they can't really be open then, can they?), it's an oddity if a town shuts down before 10 p.m. The 24/7 business phenomenon owes its origins in part to the discovery and implementation of neon signs. In a series of watercolor paintings of these relics of the not-so-distant past, Alison LaMons explores the allegory, irony, and metaphor hidden just behind the façade.

Neon is an art form in its own right (more prevalent in the Northwest), and the artist depicts designs fancier than your typical "Cold Beer" light. Advertisements tend to toy with semiotics (signs and signifiers), something that LaMons both exploits and subtly mocks because there's no doubt that her paintings are beautiful. Yet, she capitalizes on the pull of beauty to poke fun at these signs' strangeness.

"Overcoat of Shame Dry Cleaners" is a particularly weird sign; you don't know whether to be offended or drawn to their services. A man in an all-white suit holds a coat gloriously up in the air, hinting that you won't have to look like a hot mess if you bring your dirty clothes to the cleaners. The wear and tear of life has caught up with the metal man's clean suit; it's marred by rust stains and holes. The glowing splendor of the sign calls out our inadequacies, but it is falling into a state of decline itself.

The propaganda of advertisement is overt and unashamed, accentuated by LaMons's buzzing color palette. The format of her paintings is not unlike what you would see on a vintage postcard, but the addition of glittery iridescent paint speaks of the American preference for a gaudy outward show to reality. While most marquees include a business name, "Joy" says only that. Similar to that person who tells you to smile even though

you're feeling less than awesome, it depicts life as perpetually peachy-keen. Aiming to be inspiring — though it may be rubbing life in your face — it trivializes good times by shun-

VISUAL ART

Neon Nostalgia:

Watercolors by Alison LaMons

Through March 12. Polk Museum of Art, 800 E. Palmetto St., Lakeland. polkmuseumofart.org.

trying to sell me, with Porky Pig promoting live blues and real pit barbecue. Where exactly the religious and Looney Tunes references come into play is beside the point: The iconographic language is enough of a draw. Instead of perfecting the pig's face, LaMons makes visible the nuts, bolts, and wires that seem to barely hold the monstrosity together.

LaMons captures each poster of light at twilight so you can see the sign in the transition period between day and night. Fully

blossomed flowers and leaves burst from around the signs, teasing the advertisement's own game of imbuing the plentiful, the luscious, and the perfect — everything that the broke-down signs were meant to embody.

Many pieces reference nature while emphasizing the streamlined flawlessness of industry. Stallions freely splash in a river in the "Wild Horses Car Wash" sign perched atop a brick building. These wild beasts serve as a symbol for power, masculinity, and progress (and more specifically reference the exploration and conquest of the West). Glamorizing the yesteryears, these symbols tap into our anxieties about human imperfection by advertising what could be ours but is always just barely out of reach.

It's been known that the light produced from tweeting at 2 a.m. stimulates the brain, so it's a no-brainer that neon, its electrodes zapped by voltage running through bent tubes, would produce similar effects. LaMons captures the electricity of these cultural artifacts that seem to declare that sleep is unnecessary and the day isn't over just

because the sun goes down.

LaMons isn't the one that's nostalgic in this exhibition. Instead, it's the neon signs themselves that seem to long for the greatness of the past — ironically insinuating there is something missing in our lives as the rust slowly eats away at their colorful veneer. **A**



LOONEY TUNE: Alison LaMons, "Whole Hog Gospel Bar B Que," watercolor and iridescent medium on paper, 2016

ning the imperfect and forever lighting up the sky with its immutable message.

Playing off the psychology of fulfillment, ads bank on FOMO (or the "fear of missing out") and create an expectation of a good time, because how can the sign lie? But I'm not quite sure what "Whole Hog Gospel Bar B Que" is



Want to spread the word about a cool event?
Submit the info at least 10 days before the issue date at local.ctampa.com. Please include high-resolution art (three megs or greater) and a brief description (no all caps, exclamation points (!) or ad-speak, please). To read more about events listed here — and others not listed — see Do This on p. 4 and visit local.ctampa.com.

Theater

CL Recommends

As You Like It Jobsite opens 2017 with this Shakespeare classic — set in Tampa with local music from New Granada Records. If you know Jobsite — and really, you should — you know not to expect frilly collars and a play you don't understand. Previews Jan. 11-12. Runs through Feb. 5. Shimborg Playhouse, Straz Center, 1010 N. W. C. MacInnes Place, Tampa. \$14, preview; \$28 after Jan. 12. 813-229-STAR. jobsitetheater.org.

Br'er Cotton The latest in Tampa Rep/ Creative Loafing's staged reading series, Terrance Chisholm's play takes place in an impoverished neighborhood on the former site of a thriving cotton mill. Ruffino, a 14-year-old young black man, aroused by the killings of young men like himself, incites a riot at school and online. History, myth, and the present interact in this sizzling exploration of race and place in America, a potent and poetic expression of anger and hope. Directed by Erica Sutherland. Mon., Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m., CL Space, 1911 N. 13th Street, Tampa. Tickets \$10, available at TampaRep.org/Cotton or at the door.

Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy The astounding feats performed in this action-packed Cirque Dream are enhanced by costumes nominated for an American Theatre Wing Best Costume Design Award. The journey comes to life in a fantastical jungle setting filled with flowers, magical trees and a variety of special effects. This explosion of imagination, athleticism and Broadway theatrics will exhilarate with numbers like the "Butterfly Ballet" and "Flipping Monkeys" to "Hopping Frogs" and "Stretching Lizards." The Mahaffey Theater, 400 1st St. S., St. Pete. Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m. \$29.50-\$59.50. 727-893-7832.

Grounded Emilia Sargent plays an Air Force fighter pilot whose pregnancy kills her career flying F-16s; instead, she's relegated to another task that leaves her with ethical questions. Jan. 12-29. Tampa Rep at the University of South Florida, USF Theater Center 120, 3837 USF Holly Dr., TAR 120, Tampa. Wed.-Sun., 8 p.m. \$20-\$25. Read *Cathy Salustri's Do This, p. 4*.

Happy Opera New Year The tree is down, the company is gone and the bills haven't come in yet. Take a break with Happy Opera New Year. The Matinee Opera Players perform more than opera, including show tunes, popular songs, and, of course, a goodly amount of opera. With pianist Rena Massey and led by Mario Laurenti. Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, 4951 78th Ave. N., Pinellas Park. Jan. 8, 3-5 p.m. Pay what you can. 727-204-4163.

The two shows listed below run in rep; you can see them individually, or see them both on the same day or on different nights. Here's the schedule for this coming week: Jan. 5: *Starcatcher*, 7 p.m. Jan. 6: *Pan*, 8 p.m. Jan. 7: *Starcatcher*, 2 p.m. *Pan*, 8 p.m. Jan. 8: *Starcatcher*, 2 p.m. Jan. 11: *Starcatcher*, 7 p.m. Jan. 12: *Pan*, 7 p.m.

Peter Pan The classic that spawned countless adaptations and derivative works comes to the 'Burg's west side in a production that will tempt anyone who has ever dreamed of taking flight and never growing up. freeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave., St. Pete. Through Jan. 29. \$37-\$52; \$23 under 18. 727-498-5205. freefalltheatre.com. Read Mark Leib's review online at ctampa.com/arts.

Peter and the Starcatcher Odds are, as a kid, you sort of accepted that Peter Pan and Captain Hook didn't like each other. It's the classic battle of good green guy versus bad guy with a kick-ass 'stache. As an adult, though, feel free to wonder why they were mortal enemies. Did Hook feel threatened by Peter's daring fashion? Was Peter jealous Hook could grow decent facial hair? Was it something about a crocodile? On select days, catch this show (first mounted last year and brought back this year in response to the wild popularity) in rep with *Peter Pan*. freeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave., St. Pete. Dec. 16-Jan. 29. \$25-\$52. 727-498-5205. freefalltheatre.com.

Preview to The Elixir of Love: Love Potion Number Nine Mark Sforzini, Executive and Artistic Director, combines entertainment and education with short performances. This program centers on upcoming operas and a common theme in opera: characters making decisions that, in hindsight, are ill-advised. Sforzini uses humor, audience participation and, of course, SPO singers. Following the performance, Sforzini invites the audience to join the cast at a local restaurant. Clearwater Music Gallery, 5990 Ulmerton Rd., Clearwater. Jan. 12, 6 p.m. \$17-\$20. 727-823-2040. stpeteopera.org.

Words

Lectores at the University of Tampa In the factories of Tampa and Ybor City, Lectores de Tabacques were men who read aloud to the workers who rolled the cigars on the factory floor. In honor of this literary tradition, the University of Tampa MFA program named its public readings Lectores. Twice a year, the program hosts visiting writers, screenwriters, singers and other artists to campus to give a public performance from their work. Here's what the first week of 2017's Lectores has on offer:

• **Colson Whitehead** 2016 National Book Award winner for his best-selling novel, *The Underground Railroad*. A book signing follows. David Falk Theater 428 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. Jan. 5, 7 p.m. 813-253-6243.

• **David Finkel** Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Thank You for Your Service*. A book signing follows. Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.

• **Sarah Domet and poet Phillip B. Williams** Sarah Domet, author of *The Guineveres*, and Phillip B. Williams, author of *Thief in the Interior*, read from their work. A book signing follows. David Falk Theater 428 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. Jan. 7, 7 p.m. 813-253-6243.

• **Aimee Nezhukumatathil** The award-winning poet will speak. A book signing follows. Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.

• **Gina Frangello** The author of *Slut Lullabies*. Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.

• **Peter Meinke** FL Poet Laureate and CL columnist, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. See *Do This p. 5*.

Monthly Zine Workshops Daddy Kool Records and Keep St. Pete Lit have partnered to showcase zines in monthly workshops. January's workshop will focus on printing methods, paper, layouts, technique and desktop publishing. Morean Arts Center, 719 Central Ave., St. Pete. Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m. \$10.

They Were Neighbors Author and historian Jan T. Gross will present this lecture in conjunction with the showing of *Aftermath*, inspired by Gross's book *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*, which tells the story of one summer day in 1941 when half of the population of the town of Jedwabne murdered the other half — some 1,600 men, women, and children. Only seven of the town's Jews survived. In this shocking and compelling study, Gross pieces together eyewitness accounts as well as physical evidence into a comprehensive reconstruction of the horrific July day remembered well by locals but hidden to history. Revealing wider truths about Jewish-Polish relations, the Holocaust, and human responses to occupation and totalitarianism, Gross's investigation sheds light on how Jedwabne's Jews came to be murdered, not by faceless Nazis, but by people who knew them well. Preregistration requested but attendees may pay at the door. Bryan Glazer Family JCC, 522 N. Howard Ave., Tampa. Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m. \$5.

Museums

Closing

Manuel Carrillo: Mi Querido México (My Beloved Mexico)

Photographs by "El Maestro Mexicano," who worked on both sides of the border shooting his homeland and its people. Through Jan. 8. Tampa Museum of Art, 120 W. Gasparilla Plaza, Tampa. Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 813-274-8130. Read *Jim Cole's review online at ctampa.com/arts*.

Self-Taught Genius: Treasures from the American Folk Art Museum

Works from a broad spectrum of artists, dating from the mid-18th century through today. Through Jan. 8. Tampa Museum of Art, 120 W. Gasparilla Plaza, Tampa. Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 813-274-8130. tampamuseum.org. Read *Jim Cole's review at ctampa.com/arts*.

CL Recommends

Frida The exhibit showcases the extraordinary career and life of Kahlo with over 60 pieces, including 15 paintings, seven drawings and numerous personal photographs. The exhibition extends outdoors, where a special collection of flowers and plants representative of those in Kahlo's own garden at Casa Azul graces the grounds of the Avant-Garden. The exhibition gives a complete view of Kahlo's world, along with the joys, passions and obsessions of this remarkable artist. One Dalí Blvd., St. Pete. Through April 17. Fri.-Wed., 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m.-8 p.m. \$8-\$24. thedali.org. Read *Caitlin Albritton's review online at ctampa.com/arts*.

I Am My Brother's Keeper: A Tribute to the Righteous Among Nations This exhibition highlights Yad

Adventures in Weekending:

Ah, the first Friday of the new year. I see good things for you, 2017. Let's not waste time thinking about all the weekends we wasted last year with laundry and cleaning and instead let's focus on the days before us. Friday night, head to Seminole Heights for **Art in the Heights**, including Pussy Riot, music video screenings by Russian artists and activists at Tempus, as well as the see-it-before-its-gone *Boys on Film* (Friday's its last day), an exhibit about the media and Columbine. Last weekend I saw *Peter Pan* at freeFall and found it the perfect depiction of how a child imagines things; this weekend I'll see its prequel, *Peter and the Starcatcher* (also at freeFall). Feeling adventurous? Catch them both Saturday, but break for lunch at Alesia. Unwind with a drink at the Blue Goose, where Whitney Holborn will make a one-night-only appearance at her first solo art show, *Neon Dreams*. Other things I'd like to cram into my weekend (and think you should, too) include Henthorne's *Between Worlds* at FMOpa, a Lectores reading with Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist David Finkel and, of course, Sunday morning brunch. My latest passion? **Craft Kafe** on St. Pete's ever-expanding West Side. If there's time left, maybe I'll get to that pile of clothes. Maybe. *Get the where and when of these events and more with Adventures in Weekending every Friday morning at ctampa.com/arts. —Cathy Salustri*



Vashem's task of commemorating the acts of the "Righteous Among the Nations" who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. This includes Varian Fry, a Harvard-educated editor from New York City who became involved with the Emergency Rescue Committee (ERC), an organization that promoted the emigration of refugee intellectuals from Nazi occupied Europe. In 1940, he traveled to Europe to assist a small number of intellectuals with emigrating but found an even greater number of artists, writers, and others, all desperately trying to escape. Fry sought assistance from other American diplomats and French citizens. Together, they aided in securing false papers and escapes from French internment camps. Over 4,000 refugees received assistance from Fry and his group. In 1941 Fry was expelled from France because of his activities. Upon returning to the United States, he learned the State Department and the ERC disapproved of his activities. Through Jan. 15. The Florida Holocaust Museum, 55 5th St. S., St. Pete. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$8-\$16. 727-820-0100. flohococaustmuseum.org.

Matzevot for Everyday Use: Photographs by Łukasz Baksik. Baksik went through Poland, taking pictures of Jewish gravestones people had stolen and, um, "upcycled" into fences, pavement and other places where they could literally have used anything else if they cared at all about the dignity of hu The result? A shocking picture of hatred made mundane, of people living every day with antisemitism

and belonging to a culture that's disappearing, often by theft and force. Through Jan. 29. Florida Holocaust Museum, 55 5th St. S., St. Pete. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$8-\$16. 727-820-0100. flohococaustmuseum.org.

Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art Focusing on works produced from the 1950s onward, this exhibition explores how the contributions of Latino art, identity, and culture influenced important movements of the mid-20th century. From the colorful (and sorta apocalyptic) paintings of Luis Cruz Azaceta to the bold abstracts of Olga Albizu, there's no easy way to encompass the breadth of Latino art and its contributions to past and current movements. Ana Mendieta is a standout among artists including Mario Brito, Frank Romero, Ignacio Gomez, Marcos Dimas, Margarita Cabrera, and Sophie Rivera. Through Jan. 22. Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Dr. N.E., St. Pete. Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sun., 12-5 p.m. \$10-\$17. fine-arts.org.

Rattner's Contemporaries in Paris This exhibition features work by prominent Parisian artists who influenced Rattner's work through the decades, as well as art history as a whole, featuring 21 prints by Édouard Manet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Paul Cézanne, Paul Signac, Max Ernst, Pablo Picasso, Fernand Léger, and Joan Miró. Included are rare paintings and precious objects from Rattner's archives, including

continued on page 29 ➔

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► continued from page 27

his sketchbook and photographs of Monet's home and grounds. Through Dec. 3, 2017. Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, 600 E. Klosterman Rd., Tarpon Springs. \$6-\$7. leepa-rattner.org.

The Far North: Inuit Prints and Sculpture
Lotta Latino art in town these days... but you want even more diversity, you say? How about checking out *The Far North: Inuit Prints and Sculpture* at the MFA? Merging elements of tradition with hints of contemporary life thrown into the mix, Inuit narratives are explored in a newer, exciting context. Through Mar. 20. Museum of Fine Arts 255 Beach Dr. N.E., St. Pete. \$10-\$17. 727-896-2667.

Wes Hunting and Wesley Hunting, Jr.: Like Father Like Son — Creations in Glass
Wes Hunting has created glass art for over 30 years and has become one of the most respected and successful glass artists in the craft. Wesley Jr. was exposed to the creative and technical aspects of being a professional artist at an early age; no doubt he would follow in his footsteps. Through Jan. 14. Syd Entel Galleries, 247 Main St., Safety Harbor.

Galleries

CL Recommends

Between Worlds Something about high-contrast black-and-white landscape photos evokes a sense of the mystical, and Tampa-based photographer Henthorne does it exceptionally well. He focuses on oceans and how they intersect with the earth, and his work gives you the sense of viewing epochs, not moments. There's more we could tell you about how he works with light direction, tide and composition and how nature makes his pictures magical — or not — but really, wouldn't you rather see for yourself? Parking available in HCC visitor lots, the Ybor City Garage on 15th St. and the Nuccio Parking Garage. Through Jan. 31. Meet the artist Jan. 12, 4:30-7:30 p.m. HCC Ybor City, 1403 E. 9th Ave, Tampa. 813-253-7674. Mon. & Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tues.-Wed., 12-7 p.m.

Coffee and Conversation with Joyce Curvin
This artist blends papier mâché with reused objects to create what she calls "Art Offical Pets" (get it?). Come hear her talk about how she went from using other materials to blending repurposed items with papier mâché to create these, well, adorable pieces of art. Dunedin Fine Arts Center, 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin. Jan. 12, 12 p.m. \$5 for non-members. 727-298-3322. dfac.org.

Living Life: Portraits and Words Over the years, Gulfport-based artist Janet Folsom has painted portraits of youth, hoping to capture the spirit, dreams, hopes and anxieties that embody the young. See how she accomplishes this at her show in south St. Pete. Through Jan. 20. St. Petersburg College Allstate Center, 3200 34th St. S., St. Pete. Mon.-Fri.

Neon Dreams Artist Whitney Holborn has her first-ever solo art show at everyone's favorite neighborhood bar, the Blue Goose. She spent five months with



Art in the Heights across Seminole Heights.

no running water, heat or electricity (and almost no cell service) in northern California. The result? *Neon Dreams*. She'll be in town for one night only, and if you like what you see you can, of course, buy it — or have a t-shirt printed on site. The Blue Goose, 48 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., St. Pete. Jan. 7, 8 p.m. Event page on Facebook.

Unfurled An exhibition of abstract paintings and mixed media artwork by local artists Stephanie Ong and Laura Kmetz. Ong's paintings are about the process, the use of light and scale, the strength of color and an alternate form of communication. Her latest body of work, *Habitats*, explores transitions in life. It's inspired by what it means to have a safe place to inhabit, to return to, and to move on from. Kmetz conveys the transience and intricacy of nature through multi-layered, nuanced mixed media works. The embedded beauty and value in fragmented organic artifacts offers further associations with displacement, loss, search, recovery and preservation. Her interpretations of land, water, and sky in motion are informed by the cycles of life and atmospheric shifts. She holds an MA from Columbia University and BFA from the University of Louisville. She exhibited in several New York City galleries over eighteen years, and was a teacher of Art and Humanities. Hit the opening reception and then head to the rest of First Friday Art in the Heights. Red Door No. 5, 1910 N. Florida Ave., Seminole Heights. Jan. 6, 7-10 p.m.

Wine and Art from the Patch Nature's Food Patch will feature original works by our talented employees. Taste wine, mingle and meet the artists, who include Jaimie (Produce), Denise (Body Care), Margarete (Wellness), Di (Demos), Paul (Bulk) and Lora (Marketing). The store will also have a wine tasting. Nature's Food Patch, 1225 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Jan. 7, 7:30-9 p.m. 727-443-6703.

Closing

Boys on Film Noelle Mason — who recently won the 2016 Florida Prize for Contemporary Art at the Orlando Museum of Art for this body of work — explores the fiction and fantasy created by the media in retelling the story of Columbine High School Massacre. Tempus Projects, 4636 N. Florida Ave., Tampa. Through Jan. 6; artist talk Dec. 10, 7 p.m. tempus-projects.com. *Caitlin Albritton has more to say about this chillingly crafted exhibit; read her review online at cltampa.com/arts.*

Festivals

First Friday Art in the Heights A monthly local event, where art galleries, studios, and businesses featuring original art, open their doors. First Friday Art

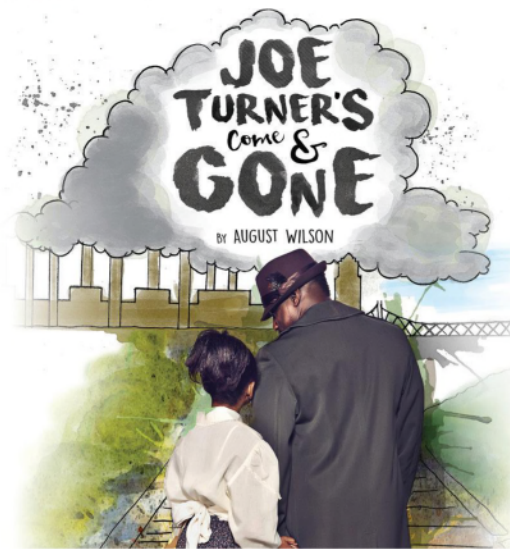


Joyce Curvin at DFAC.

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→ continued from page 29

in the Heights doesn't happen at one place; it takes over the Heights. These all take place in Seminole Heights, Tampa. Here's what to expect this month:

• **Cleanse Apothecary and Urban Bungalow** Artists from the Life Enrichment Center redefine aging with a bold and brave art show, *Living Life Out Loud: The Art of the Life Enrichment Center*. The exhibit spotlights local, post-retirement age artists who stay young through art. Expect the unexpected from 20 LEC artists "living life out loud" through art. From realism to the abstract, traditional to modern funk, this show embodies the spirit of its creators. Represented by a variety of mediums, these artists diligently invest in personal lifelong learning and practice, and the fruits of these efforts comprise *Living Life Out Loud*. Here you'll find art, cocktails and coffee. 6500 N. Florida Ave.

• **Dustin Goolsby** The Disco Dolls Studio hosts Dustin Goolsby and his show, *Re-Emerge*. For every disaster, there is now room to re-emerge; this exploration of self-renewal and the journey through its peaks and valleys will be on display all month. Studio Punch in the Salon Bar. 4632 N. Florida Ave.

• **Phoenix Glass Studio & Gallery** features artist Susan Gott and glass blowing demonstrations. A family-friendly affair (and educational opportunity, but don't tell the kids!) where you can see the fiery furnaces of the artists' atelier and the ancient art of blowing and shaping molten glass by hand. Seating available, as it blown glass giftware by Phoenix Studio artisans. 811 East Knollwood St.

• **Red Door No. 5** January brings several featured artists: Mary Mirabal, Elizabeth Fontaine-Barr, Sean Moilanen, Helena Stein, Patricia Fosnaught, Alyson Maier, Alex Coyle, Stephanie Ong, Angelina Parrino and Kennedy Bailey. Red Door No. 5 features paintings, drawings and jewelry from Tampa Bay artists. 1910 N. Florida Ave.

• **Revolution Ice Cream** Matthew Gaunt's gallery-style exhibit of his neon works alongside displays of handmade ice cream (some flavors are 21 and up because they have liquor or wine as major ingredient), paintings by Alejandro Alegrain and paintings and sculpture from Ira McEachern. 6701 N. Florida Ave.

• **Spaddy's Coffee Co.** Find Lauren Vanderhoof making art in the courtyard. Vanderhoof will make art; Spaddy's will also have "in Stitches", music from by Salvaged Sound vinyl records and the Kaixo Food Truck (5-10 p.m.). 5206 N. Florida Ave.

• **Smoke Signals** This smoke shop, art gallery and glass studio features local artists giving demonstrations. This includes glass blowing and other mediums. 5132 N. Florida Ave.

• **Tempus Projects** Here you'll find Noelle Mason's *Boys on Film*. *Boys on Film* delves into the feedback loop of fiction and fantasy that contributed to the making of the Columbine High School Massacre — a violent reality staged to look like a Hollywood film and strategically orchestrated to make use of the media spectacle. 4636 N. Florida Ave.

• **The Brew Bus: Creative Life Mini Market** Brew Bus Brewing will feature artists and handmade vendors at the Brew Bus Terminal and Brewery for an indoor/outdoor mini market hosted by The Creative Life Project. Guests will enjoy local vendors like Black Magic Soap, Valhalla Resale and original artwork and apparel by Hoolie Prytyka. 4101 N. Florida Ave.

• **Crafter Dark** Discover the benefits of essential oils by making a floating lava bead necklace to use as a wearable diffuser. Adults may bring children who are 10 years or older, but supplies are limited. Registration required. Largo Library, 120 Central Park Dr., Largo. Jan. 11, 6 p.m.

• **Grand Central Market** Skip the big box stores and mall for locally made goods. This St. Petersburg market in the Grand Central District, now hosted at Punky's, offers free parking on top of a selection of art, antiques, crafts, food and collectibles. 3063 Central Ave., St. Pete. Jan. 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 727-201-4712.

• **Tampa Bay Beach Bash** The Tampa Bay Sports Commission and the College Football Playoff National Championship host the Championship Beach Bash to celebrate the final game of the season. Show some

Shut up & Laugh

We can all use a laugh, right? At **Shut Up & Laugh**, an annual comedy-palooza, Carlos Mencia, Jo Koy, Robert Kelly and Leonard Ouzts will attempt to not only tickle your funny bone, they'll look to take it hostage and not give it back until you've guffawed yourself into a happy place. And why shouldn't you? This ain't any of their first rodeos. So, you know, Shut Up & Laugh. After all, it's a new year. Maybe this year will have more funny business than last, and not in a bad way. *The Mahaffey Theater, 400 1st St. S., St. Pete. Jan. 12. 7:30 p.m. \$35-\$69. 727-893-7832. —Cathy Salustri*



school spirit (yours or the one you wish you'd attended) at this family-friendly event featuring the bands and cheerleaders from both championship teams. The Beach Bash will feature a "Kids Zone" with various activities for the youngsters. Pier 60, Clearwater. Jan. 8, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 727-449-1036. tampabay2017.com.

• **Techs on Tour St. Pete** Computer running slow? Financial has partnered with CDW to provide free computer diagnostics as part of their Techs on Tour. Bring your computer between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.; pick it up by 1 p.m. the same day. Please sign up online. St. Pete Community Financial Center, 4584 38th Ave. N., St. Pete. Jan. 7, 9-11 a.m.

Film

• **Minimalism: A Documentary** This film examines minimalism by taking the audience inside the lives of minimalists from all walks of life: families, entrepreneurs, architects, artists, journalists, scientists and even a former Wall Street broker — all of whom strive to live a meaningful life with less. Nature's Food Patch, 1225 Cleveland St., Clearwater. Jan. 8, 4 p.m. 727-443-6703.

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MUSIC

REVIEWS PROFILES MUSIC WEEK

The best laid plans

A bevy of local musicians tell us their ambitions for the coming year.

By Ray Roa

Throughout this issue, CL's edit staff is predicting what may or may not happen in 2017. Instead of hoping that Jeebus will bring Lemmy back, I asked Tampa Bay artists to declare what their plans actually were. The response was overwhelming, and we've highlighted what your neighbors, friends and co-workers are plotting in the New Year. Reading about it on paper is good and all, but do yourself a favor and make it out to a show, or at least to cltampa.com/music, where we're sharing what these plans (plus others that didn't make print) sound like.

Please meet...

MC Kenna. An East Coast run during the summer is possible for MC Kenna, who wants to bring more creative events to Tampa. His platform, BeautiFLorida, conducted an event called Connect The Dots over last summer, and he'd like to fold that success into a quarterly mix-tape of Florida musicians that you can check out on January 7 at The Venture Compound in St. Pete's Warehouse Arts district.

TRC (formerly The Real Clash). TRC formed at St. Petersburg College, but the hip-hop collective's members come from all over the Bay area. Their latest release is *Clash Wednesday*, and they hope to play Okeechobee Festival after barely missing the cut in a fan-driven contest last year. Keep an eye out for a still-untitled solo EP from one TRC member, Shadcore, too.

M W Walker. A solo project from Matt Walker, who released a new LP, *Half Awake*, in November. The St. Petersburg-born songwriter has plans to tour the entire South as well as California, and may even hit Colorado. Get linked to Walker's excellent 2015 EP of covers via cltampa.com/music.

Natalie Claro. St. Pete-based songwriter Claro has already opened for Hawthorne Heights and Spill Canvas."Mountain," from her new EP *Atychiphobia* (it's the fear of failure), is all guitar-pop polish, and Claro, 17, flexes her radio-ready vocal even more across the 20-minute effort.

Billy Mays III. Mays drives his ambient project Infinite Third, but he's also a facilitator for vocal looping project Mouth Council and folk-pop duo Memorycode. As he readies a new Infinite Third LP, Mays is also planning a 2017 tour that will add the West Coast to a road history that's seen him play in the Midwest, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and West Virginia.

Acho Brother. Tampa songwriter and Latin pop guitarist Hector Mayoral has returned home to Puerto Rico to help Mijo De La Palma record a full-length in Cabo Rojo, but the Bay area looks forward to his return in the summer, when we hope he records a follow-up to his *Illegal Brown Island Flower* album that has earned him accolades in CL's Best of the Bay awards.



STRAIGHT OUT OF THE GATE: St. Pete's 17-year-old Natalie Claro welcomes 2017 with a new EP.

Radarmen? Made of members from other Bay area bands like Navin Ave. and Down By Law, indie-post-rock outfit Radarmen? revolves around frontman Rodney Smith, who hopes to release a follow up to 2015's *Echoes in Sound* before the fall.

DieAlps! Fuckin' A. CL's favorite alt-waltz outfit bought a van. DieAlps! have expanded an already charming sound since we first gushed about a debut EP two years ago, and their new vehicle means

the band will be bringing their forthcoming debut full-length (*Our City*, due early this year) to new fans up and down the East Coast very, very soon. Frontwoman Cornelia Calcaterra and hubby/guitar player Frank sound all kinds of grown up on "Battles" and "I Can See It Now" from *Our City*, and we can't wait for you to hear it, too.

Bride of Chaotica. Psych-rock outfit Bride of Chaotica will release *Ghosts on Television* in less than two weeks, and hope to add more southern Florida dates to a touring history that already features stops all over the Bay area festival scene.

The Tattered Saints. Bay area rock outfit The Tattered Saints have plans to record their first full-length this year, but already have a nice stable of Springsteen and Stones-loving Bay area fans who enjoy the band's three-guitar harmonies and anthemic rock.

House of I. These Miami transplants now calling Tampa home underwent a lot of changes in 2016, but frontmen Daniel Caballero and Kenny Rodriguez are ready to bring the rowdy garage-blues from a 2014 EP (*Mechanic Vida Y La Luna*) to more and more local audiences in 2017.

DAWNS. It's not right to consider Chris Horn, Ariel Cortes, Michael Barrow and Bryson St. Angelo "leftover pieces from other bands," but the boys now collectively known as DAWNS did just that in their note to CL. Their February 2016 EP of fuzzy indie rock was backed up by a new single, "Embrace," and we look forward to hearing stuff from a new EP the band just finished mixing and mastering.

DrewB. He was born in The Bronx, but DrewB is making a name for himself from deep within Plant City and Tampa, where his 2013 EP *Language Arts* (especially lead track "Good Chance") has helped him land shows in the Carolinas, Brooklyn and Atlanta. He hopes to hit Nashville, Raleigh and Jacksonville as part of his first proper tour.

Sean Hamilton. Tampa composer Hamilton loves to be on the road (he was from Pittsburgh before settling in Tampa Heights) and has done it solo en route to touching down all over the globe. He's a classically trained percussionist who really turns heads with improvised, electroacoustic live performances. Hamilton's most exciting plan is a collaborative album with Tampa standout Leo Suarez, who'll play percussion while he handles prepared vibraphone.

Mike Chinn. This Cincinnati native moved to St. Pete in his 20s and hasn't looked back. Mike Chinn has opened for Hall & Oates, Grand Funk Railroad, Rare Earth and others in his time, and publishing deals have helped him place songs on CBS's *The Mentalist* and *Zero Hour* on ABC. He'll be spending his year placing more songs on TV and in film while also hosting an acoustic night at Finley's Irish Pub in Largo. ☺

music week

THU JANUARY 05-WED JANUARY 11



AK1200

By Ray Roa

CL recommends

THU 05

Florida International Toy Piano Festival Concerts Music fans might not realize it, but there's actually a lot of toy piano in their lives. Radiohead's "Kid A," Seal's and Crofts' "Summer Breeze," Tom Waits' *Blood Money* LP and even The Cure's *MTV Unplugged* performance of "Just Like Heaven" all feature its distinctive sounds. Last year, the first-ever Florida International Toy Piano Festival took over multiple Bay area venues to celebrate the instrument with performances that ranged from traditional to experimental. They'll do the same starting Thursday in the 727, when the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center hosts two children's outreach concerts at noon and 6 p.m. Things kick into high gear on Friday when festival co-founder Elizabeth A. Baker and Bay area composer Erich Barganier take to other Pinellas Park venue COVE (Creative Opportunities & Visual Ent.) to marry electronics (think theremin, live coding) and Indian harmonium to the toy piano. Visuals will be culled together from archival footage plus Game Boy, Merlin and other interactive light displays. Special guests throughout the weekend (which is comprised of over a dozen events) include Atlanta's Amy O'Dell, New York City viola player Carrie Frey and Texan cello player Mandy Milliot. The festival will also pay tribute to late experimental composer Pauline Oliveros on Saturday night. All events are free except for shows at COVE and The Space at 2106 main shows, which have a \$10 cover. More information is available at cltampa.com/music or thenewmusicconflagration.org.

FRI 06

Colt Ford Colt Ford is a cool name, but so is Jason Farris Brown. That's the tag that his momma put on him, but we're not going to dock points off the Athens, Georgia country crooner's scorecard for switching it up. The 46-year-old arrives at The Bull in support of a new, sweet and slow single ("4 Lane Gone") in which he tells the story of a guy losing his mind because his girl is gone. The melody is actually pretty damn catchy, so stay away if you don't want to be stuck humming it all day long. (The Dallas Bull, Tampa)

DJ Dara and AK1200 w/Jaybee/uAnimals/Thee Joker/TL Jentgens/Diaz/Soundleake/Hellman/Danny Danny/Kay-S/more A drum & bass patriarch is coming to Ybor City. Dave "AK1200" Minner was there when the genre was born (he put his mixes on CDs, not Mixcloud, kids) and his dedication and devotion to D&B is almost unrivaled. At the turn of the century, AK1200 teamed up with DJ Dara to form the Planet of the Drums collective, whose goal was to bring drum & bass to the mainstream. Dara will also be in the building to keep the roots of the genre alive, but this bill does not ignore the evolution of electronic music. Jaybee will perform an all-hip-hop set, Diaz will do moombahton and uAnimals will be doing a set featuring dubstep and trap. (Crowbar, Ybor City)

Blind Not Deaf Presents: Heady Stones Vinyl Release Show w/Soapbox Soliloquy and the Nimbus Initiative/Sonic Graffiti/Pleasures/Luxury Mane Jasmine Deja's other band Veiny Hands (with Rod Olfo, Christina Sanchez and Brie Denicourt) just released their "Dirty Sheets"/"Tonguing" seven-inch three months ago, but now the St. Pete songwriter

and frontwoman for Soapbox Soliloquy is finally bringing her sophomore LP *Heady Stones* into the real world on some sweet purple vinyl. In her May 2016 review of the 14-track effort, former CL music editor Leilani Polk called the album "an impressive exercise in acid-washed sounds" that also drops "heavy deposits of psychedelia, with surprising moments of catchiness and cohesion found amid the eye-crossed haze." The bill for this free show is kind of a monster thanks to the addition of guitar-shredding trio Sonic Graffiti, psych-pop outfit Pleasures and the rock & roll of Billy Summer's *Luxury Mane* project. (The Local 662, St. Petersburg)

The 5th Dimension Let's go on a "Stoned Soul Picnic," because Florence LaRue's old school PR&B outfit (that's pop plus R&B) outfit is in town with other hits like "Up, Up, and Away" and "One Less Bell to Answer" in tow. (Mahaffey Theater, St. Petersburg)

College Football Playoff Playlist Live Three days of free activities and concerts kick off in downtown Tampa, where Curtis Hixon Park will welcome ESPN's *SportsCenter* as well as a diverse roster of artists including Usher, Eric Paslay and more. Read our preview of the weekend on p. 36. (Curtis Hixon Park, Tampa)

SAT 07

FYA Fest w/Blistered/Trapped Under Ice/Strife/Merauder/Indecision/Criminal Instinct/Take Offense/King Nine/Gag/The Wrongside/Advent/Lifeless/more Between Saturday and Sunday, almost forty bands will take to the Orpheum in Ybor City for the fourth FYA Fest. The gathering of hardcore superfans looks nearly sold out (as of press time only single day passes were available) and a lot of that probably has to do with Maryland outfit Trapped Under Ice, which went on an extended hiatus after the 2013 edition of This Is Hardcore at Philadelphia's Knitting Factory. Last year, frontman Justice Tripp revealed that the band started writing songs again and would play "a few shows." Their Saturday appearance is Trapped Under Ice's return to Florida, and comes alongside performances from Brooklyn's Indecision and southern California five-piece Strife. The weekend shows are sandwiched in between three pre- and post-shows at the Skatepark of Tampa. Bands start at 1 p.m. EST daily, and more information is available at facebook.com/fyafest. (Orpheum, Ybor City)

The Toasters w/Station Cases/No Need Full disclosure: the Toasters will always hold a special place in my heart because their set at Pre-Fest in 2015 is where I saw my wife of almost a decade crowd surf — and stage dive — for the first time. The long-running New York second-wave ska heroes probably mean a lot to countless people, and you can

bet that they'll call on a lean (but mean) nine-piece discography at this show, where one of Tampa Bay's most fun ska outfits (Station Cases) plays support. (Crowbar, Ybor City)

Emo Night Tampa: January Episode w/The Crate Bros. There's no better way to start a new year than with a tear, or eight, in your eye. The Crate Bros. (Mes McDonald and Theo Severson) will provide the tunes at this monthly, but you'll be responsible for finding friends to cry with. That should be easy though, since Emo Night has become of the best-attended DJ nights in the district. (First Chance Last Chance Bar, Ybor City)

The Sh-Booms/The Jackettes/Sad Shibas Soul and funk and all the good young bands are once again making it rain beautiful noise in the Green Bench Brewing Co. courtyard. At this point, Orlando's Sh-Booms play so frequently that they might as well have a timeshare in Tampa Bay, and we're excited to see how the garage-soul collective looks and sounds at this show since it comes just over a week after they opened for The Roots at the House of Blues just 92 miles away. (Green Bench Brewing, St. Petersburg)

Elvis Birthday Bash w/Dwight Icenhower No one, and we repeat no one, will ever hold up to The King. Still, on what would've been the day before Elvis Presley's 81st birthday, it's okay to acknowledge that there are folks out there still preaching Elvis's Memphis gospel. You don't have to check out Dwight Icenhower on Saturday, but you better listen to "In The Ghetto" or "Suspicious Minds" a couple of times. (Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center, Pinellas Park)

Florida Orchestra Masterworks: Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony Not to confuse you, but Camille Saint-Saëns's 1886 "Symphony No. 3" (or "Organ Symphony" as it has come to be known) isn't a true symphony for organ, since the instrument is only used in two of the composition's four movements. No matter, though — most classical music fans agree that the piece was written at the French composer's artistic peak. Fans laud the piece's dramatic ending, and Michael Francis will lead The Florida Orchestra through the premiere performance at St. Pete's Mahaffey Theater, where they'll also take on Sean Shepherd's "Magiya," Edouard Lalo's "Symphonie Espagnole" and Claude Debussy's "La Cathédrale Engloutie" (as orchestrated by Colin Matthews). Grammy winning violinist Augustin Hadelich (Best Classical Instrumental Solo in 2016 for his recording of Henri Dutilleux's *Violin Concerto, "L'Arbre Des Songes,"* with the Seattle Symphony) will join TFO for the performance, which happens again on Sunday at Clearwater's Ruth Eckerd Hall. (Mahaffey Theater, St. Petersburg)

Ronny Elliott (early set) and UNRB This Saturday-afternoon lineup kind of epitomizes

continued on page 36 ▶

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THURSDAY, FEB. 9 - MICHAEL FRANTI	

how eclectic The Ale & the Witch can be. At 4 p.m. EST, Ronny Elliott — a 69-year-old gravelly voiced Tampa Bay songwriting legend (and sometime/co-host of multiple WMNF shows) — will do a set and then break down only to have long-running St. Pete ska outfit UNRB play the later set at 7 p.m. EST. The weather has been perfect as of late, and there aren't very many good reasons not to get out and enjoy it at this beloved St. Pete beer stop. (The Ale & the Witch, St. Petersburg)

First Saturday Jazz w/KELP We probably won't be seeing a bunch of live music happening at the Independent's St. Pete location (remember what the neighbors did to The Amsterdam?), but the beer, wine and thought bar's Seminole Heights location rolls on. This installment of its First Saturday Jazz series finds cellist Tom Kersey leading a trio through a brand of "avant garde and melodic jazz" that incorporates sax and guitar into cheeky, laid-back tunes like "Octogenarian Law School," "Realtor Safety Seminar" and "Masami Wasabi." (Independent Bar and Cafe, Tampa)

Arts Conservatory for Teens Presents: Downtown Funk w/Hannah Barrens/Gordon Bonnett/Alex Harris/Anthony Murphy/more Co-founded in 2009 by singer Alex Harris, the Arts Conservatory for Teens serves the Midtown neighborhood of St. Petersburg as it works at its mission to educate, empower and enrich the lives of the community's youth in the hopes that they are prepared for high school graduation and college. On Saturday, over a dozen performance and visual artists (including ACT alumni and students) will come together for a showcase where all the proceeds go back into the Conservatory. (Hideaway Café, St. Petersburg)

SUN 08

Florida Mountain Boys If you like watching some of the Sunshine State's best pickers while picking at your own Funky Monkey Waffle, then you might want to be in Seminole Heights on Sunday when Ella's does their Soul Food weekly. Big Banjo Bob Bailey, Austin, Andy Karpay, Richard Lepps and Tom Hicks (collectively known as the Florida Mountain Boys) will be there performing their infectious, toe-tapping style of bluegrass. Humming a catchy tune is more fun when there's biscuits & gravy in your mouth, so hold off on getting there until 4 p.m. when the fellas hit the stage. (Ella's Americana Folk Art Cafe, Tampa)

Sarah Lee Guthrie Was Sarah Lee Guthrie just in Pinellas a couple of months ago? Yup, but if you thought that set at Ruth Eckerd Hall's Murray Theatre was intimate, then you're gonna wanna get a load of the Craftsman House in St. Pete's Grand Central district. The venue is a fully restored bungalow style home built in 1918, and owner Jeff Schor does a great job reconfiguring the gallery space into a listening room for concerts. Those keeping score will can rest assured that Ms. Sarah Lee does come from the authentic Guthrie bloodline (Arlo is her dad). Everyone else will be glad to hear that the 37-year-old songwriter can more than hold her own in front of a crowd, name and pedigree aside. This is an early show set for 5 p.m. (Craftsman House, St. Petersburg)

Gridiron grooves

You're going to have to be holding a ticket to the big national championship game if you want to see Dierks Bentley outside Raymond James Stadium on January 9. Those things start at just below \$600 on StubHub. But you don't have to be about the Benjis if you wanna get some high-quality live music in your life when the **College Football Playoff Championship** comes to town. Starting on Friday, downtown Tampa will welcome ESPN's *SportsCenter*, bringing tens of thousands of football-loving (and sports-ball-allergic) music fans to Curtis Hixon Park for three days of concerts featuring some of the biggest names in pop, country and R&B. The shows are free and open to the public, but Ashley Bauman, the City of Tampa's Director of Public Affairs, is advising anyone planning on coming to the shows to travel light, since they will be subject to search and asked to walk through metal detectors. Gates open at noon for fan-friendly entertainment daily; festivities will be over by 11 p.m. Carpooling is highly suggested.

Here's the schedule. More details are available at cltampa.com/music. —Ray Roa

FRIDAY, JAN. 6

Nashville songwriter Clare Dunn ("Tuxedo," "Move On") kicks off a mostly twangy evening that also features soul-pop quintet The Shadowboxers ("Build the Beat") and Grammy-nominated, Texas-based country boy Eric Paslay, who'll surely give fans a performance of his 2014 hit "Friday Night."

SATURDAY, JAN. 7

The late addition of "Fight Song" singer Rachel Platten rounds out a Saturday lineup that lacked a pop angle, and she'll warm the crowd up for Los Angeles indie-rock darlings Cold War Kids, who've managed to turn momentum from their impeccable 2006 album, *Robbers & Cowards*, into a full-fledged career that includes five LPs and appearances at festivals like Coachella and Bonnaroo. Carol City's Flo Rida ("Low," "My

House") adds some somewhat hometown flavor to the bill, and we've got our fingers crossed for at least a few bars from "Wild Ones," the 37-year-old rapper's Grammy-nominated collaboration with Sia.

SUNDAY, JAN. 8

Officials are expecting up to 30,000 people to move in and out of Curtis Hixon on the weekend's biggest day. Gruff-voiced UK songwriter Jamie N Commons (whose "Lead Me Home" appeared on The Walking Dead soundtrack) should be up to the task, and he'll be followed by piano-pop crooner Gavin DeGraw. The big coup, and legitimate "Climax" for local music fans comes in the form of a set by R&B superstar Usher Raymond (pictured), who brings along a two-decades-long career that includes Grammy-winning hits like "My Boo," "Yeah!" and "U Remind Me." No telling how packed it'll actually get for this show, but you can bet that we'll be imitating Mr. Raymond's moves from somewhere in the crowd.



TUE 10

Hungrytown This is not a food-themed musical event, but Hungrytown's jams are tasty. The Vermont-based duo (Ken Anderson, Rebecca Hall) employ Weepiesque harmonies every now and then ("Hard Way To Learn"), but what's most enjoyable about their sounds are the easy plucking and simple gift for melody. This is a free show smack-dab in the middle of a Tuesday afternoon, so you can totally swing by with nana after your weekly lunch — just don't leave her in the car with the windows rolled up because she might want to hear the show, too. (Clearwater Library Main Branch, Clearwater)

WED 11

Henry Rollins Dear Mr. Henry Rollins:

we did make fun of you for rescheduling your October concert because there was a storm a'brewing (we can't even remember that raincloud's name). We do, however, appreciate the fact that you were thinking about your fans and making sure they didn't drive to the show in potentially dangerous conditions. We still think this new date is going to be an abrasive experience, and we're also convinced that things are probably going to be extra-heated considering the fact that that the American general election has fully ignited a societal situation that we'll be wading begrudgingly through for the next few years. We're really hoping that your 55-year-old-man wisdom schools all of us on what's wrong with it all, and how we might start working to right it. Please do address topics from your column for *L.A. Weekly* ("Bigotry is now in the open," "Embrace your inner pussy" and "White

continued on page 37

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Trapped Under Ice

America couldn't handle what Black America deals with every day") and please do rattle our souls. We still kind of want to wrestle our most irrational All Lives Matter friend, but trust that we won't do it until we down some what productive pints at the bar afterwards. (Capitol Theatre, Clearwater)

Turning Emotion To Melody w/Charles Calandra/Leah Rothe (Lecture) Talks about music. They can sometimes be as inspiring as a concert itself, and that's what Carrollwood Cultural Center is hoping for when composer Charles Calandra comes to talk about his life in the industry. The self-taught musician is also a practicing lawyer who attended the Valparaiso School of Law, and he's currently working on a pair of albums at Tampa's famed Morrisound Recording studio. Anyone who would like to attend is being asked to RSVP to Aaron Washington by emailing aaron@carrollwoodcenter.org. (Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa)

Acoustic BBQ w/Lost Axis/Daniel Kushnir They're back! After hitting New World's Acoustic BBQ in January, New York City's Lost Axis have returned to bring some of their guitar-driven, punk-rooted stylings to our favorite patio. You bet your ass that we're stoked to see the return of beloved songwriter Joe Popp (and his pal Shaugn O'Donnell on lead), and you know we're excited to nom nom on Bird and Pat's famous \$5 plates of smoked deliciousness. (New World Brewery, Ybor City)

ALSO THIS WEEK

The Reality Thu. Jan 5, Dunedin Brewery, Dunedin

Crush Tone w/Sunshine & Bullets/Bad Blood/Cruel Curses/Esquem Fri. Jan 6, State Theatre, St. Petersburg

Midnight Tyrannosaurus Fri. Jan. 6, The Ritz, Ybor City

Piano Concert Series: Lincoln Mayorga Fri,

Jan. 6, St. Petersburg College Gibbs Campus, St. Petersburg

First Fridays Under the Dome w/Faye Turke/The Jazz Pulse/Chuck Hill Fri, Jan. 6, UU Dome at Unitarian Universalists Church of Tampa, Tampa

Judas Maiden w/Absolute Queen/Highway to Hell Fri, Jan. 6, Jannus Live, St. Petersburg

Victor Wainwright and the Wildroots Fri, Jan. 6, Palladium Theater, St. Petersburg

Rumours: A Fleetwood Mac Tribute w/The Lint Rollers Fri, Jan. 6, Skipper's Smokehouse, Tampa

Rosewood Creek Fri, Jan. 6, The Ale & the Witch, St. Petersburg

John Nowicki Fri, Jan. 6, Ella's Americana Folk Art Cafe, Tampa

Ocean Stone Sat. Jan. 7, Dunedin Brewery, Dunedin

Talk To Mark w/Ricky Wilcox & the Moonsnakes/Steve Connelly Sat. Jan. 7, Skipper's Smokehouse, Tampa

Dénudés w/In Oculus/T3ddy Ruxpin Sat. Jan. 7, The Bends, St. Petersburg

BFLradio:Live w/Danny Towers/Heavy J/Tre Southside/Myke Nation/Tim Apexx/Riplon/more Sat. Jan. 7, The Venture Compound, St. Petersburg

Channel Drive/Mollust/Slick Hot/Isaac and the After Show Sat. Jan. 7, Brass Mug, Tampa

Polar Summer w/A Brilliant Lie/Nevertel/Dreamhouse/Sahe Sat. Jan. 7, The Local 662, St. Petersburg

The Broadcast w/The Happy Campers Sun. Jan. 8, Dunedin Brewery, Dunedin

Adults at Leisure: Blue Suede Shoes w/Scot Bruce/Mike Albert and the Big E Band Sun. Jan. 8, Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater

Mike Compton and Joe Newberry Sun. Jan. 8, New Hope United Methodist Church Logan Hall, Brandon

Order Of The Owl w/Junior Bruce/Shroud Eater Sun. Jan. 8, NewWorld Brewery, Ybor City

John Nemeth Band w/The Broadcast Tue. Jan. 10, Skipper's Smokehouse, Tampa

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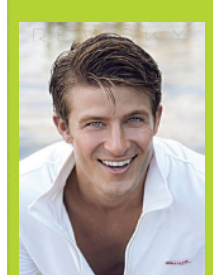
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January 5 Capricorn

The Goat (Dec. 22-Jan. 19))

I thought of you when I read a tweet by a person who calls himself Vexing Voidsquid. "I feel imbued with a mysterious positive energy," he wrote, "as if thousands of supplicants are worshipping golden statues of me somewhere." I think it's quite possible you will have similar feelings on regular occasions in 2017. I'm not necessarily saying there will literally be golden statues of you in town squares and religious shrines. But who cares how you're imbued with mysterious positive energy as long as you are?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): When it's summer in the Northern Hemisphere, the birds known as arctic terns hang out in Greenland and Iceland. Before the chill sets in, they embark on an epic migration to Antarctica, arriving in time for another summer. In the course of a lifetime, a single bird may travel as far as 1.25 million miles. I propose that you make this creature your spirit animal in 2017, Aquarius. May the arctic tern inspire you to journey as far as necessary to fulfill your personal equivalent of a quest for endless summer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In June 1962, three prisoners sneaked out of the Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary, located on an island in San Francisco Bay. Did they swim to safety through the frigid water and start new lives abroad? No one knows. Law enforcement officials never found them. Even today, the U.S. Marshals Service keeps the case open. Are there comparable enigmas in your own life, Pisces? Events in your past that raised questions you've never been able to solve? In 2017, I bet you will finally get to the bottom of them.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Light, electricity, and magnetism are different expressions of a single phenomenon. Scottish scientist and mathematician James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879) was the first to formulate a theory to explain that startling fact. One of the cornerstones of his work was a set of 20 equations with 20 unknowns. But a younger scientist named Oliver Heaviside recast Maxwell's cumbersome theory in the form of four equations with four unknowns. In 2017, I believe you Aries will have a knack akin to Heaviside's. You'll extract the shining truths trapped inside messy confusions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "The thornbush is the old obstacle in the road," wrote Franz Kafka. "It must catch fire if you want to go further." Let's analyze this thought, Taurus. Did Kafka mean that you're supposed to wait around passively, hoping the thornbush will somehow catch fire? Or should you, instead, take matters into your own hands — douse the thornbush with gasoline and throw a match into it? Is the thornbush really so broad and hardy that it blocks the whole road? If not, maybe you could just go around it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Scott Pilgrim is the hero of Bryan Lee O'Malley's series of graphic novels. He becomes infatuated with a "ninja delivery girl" named Ramona Flowers, but there's a complication. Before he can win her

heart, he must defeat all seven of her evil ex-lovers. I'm sure your romantic history has compelled you to deal with equally challenging dilemmas, Gemini. But I suspect you'll get a reprieve from that kind of dark melodrama in 2017.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The creature known as the short-eared elephant shrew is typically four inches long and weighs a little more than one ounce. And yet it's more genetically similar to elephants than to true shrews. I propose we regard it as one of your spirit animals in 2017. Its playful place in your life will symbolize the fact that you, too, will have secret connections to big, strong influences; you, too, will have natural links with powerhouses that outwardly don't resemble you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "When I look back, I see my former selves, numerous as the trees," writes Leo poet Chase Twichell. I'm sure that's an experience you've had yourself. Do you find it comforting? Or is it oppressive and claustrophobic? Does it muffle your spontaneity and keep you tethered to the past? I think these are important questions for you to meditate on in 2017. It's time to be very conscious and creative about shaping your relationships with all the people you used to be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "'Life experience' does not amount to very much and could be learned from novels alone... without any help from life." So said Nobel Prize-winning author Elias Canetti. Although his idea contradicts conventional wisdom, I am presenting it for your consideration in 2017. You're ready for a massive upgrade in your understanding about the nature of reality — and firsthand "life experience" alone won't be enough to ensure that.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I am rooting for you to be flagrantly unique in 2017. In this spirit, I offer the following four rallying cries: 1. "Don't be addicted to looking cool, baby!" — my friend Luther. 2. "Creative power arises when you conquer your tendency to stay detached." — paraphrased from poet Marianne Moore. 3. "If you want to be original, have the courage to be an amateur." — paraphrased from poet Wallace Stevens. 4. "In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, in the expert's mind there are few." — Zen teacher Shunryu Suzuki.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "There is a desperation for unknown things," wrote poet Charles Wright, "a thirst for endlessness that snakes through our bones." No one feels the pull toward perplexing enchantments and eternal riddles more often and more intensely than you Scorpios. You will experience this pull even more often and with greater intensity than ever before. Is that a problem? I don't see why it should be. In fact, it could make you sexier and smarter than ever.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) I hope you will seek out a wide range of intoxicating experiences in 2017. I hope you will gracefully barrel your way through the daily whirl with a constant expectation of sly epiphanies, amusing ecstasies, and practical miracles. There has rarely been a time in your life when you've had so much potential to heal old wounds through immersions in uncanny bliss. But please note: The best of these highs will NOT be induced by drugs or alcohol, but rather by natural means like sex, art, dancing, meditation, dreamwork, singing, yoga, lucid perceptions, and vivid conversations.

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