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CONTENTS

NEWS & OPINION
THE FLY-By - 4
NY TIMES CROSSWORD - 6
POLITICS - 8
FINANCIAL FEATURE - 11
COVER STORY “BEST OF MEMPHIS” BY FLYER STAFF - 13
WE RECOMMEND - 42
MUSIC - 44
CALENDAR - 46
FILM - 51
CLASSIFIEDS - 52
LAST WORD - 55

BEST of memphis

OUR 1653RD ISSUE 10.29.20
It’s the Flyer’s annual Best of Memphis issue. Cynics among you might say being the best of anything in 2020 is like being named least homely stray dog at Memphis Animal Services. But they would be wrong. There truly is a lot to be grateful for in this seemingly unending stretch of masked weeks and days. We Memphians, along with millions of other Americans, are the living embodiment of the old cliché: “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.”

Thousands of us — businesses large and small, organizations, nonprofits, families, and individuals — have struggled and experimented and tried to learn how to adapt and scrap and hustle in order keep the bills paid, to keep some sort of revenue coming in, to survive until better times return. We’ve innovated; we’ve created hundreds of new side-hustles; we’ve found new opportunities in the darkest hours and the oddest places. We’re doing our Best.

Those of us who are lucky are getting by — juggling childcare, education, work, and tight financial straits, though there’s no clear end in sight. We’re working from our kitchens and bedrooms and dens. We’re spending hours staring at computer screens filled with our co-workers’ faces in little boxes, like some Bizarro World version of Hollywood Squares. We’re living in Zoomland! We’re making plans, discussing business, and talking smack on Slack.

Millions of Americans and thousands of Memphians are now “front-line” workers — keeping food and supplies on the shelves of our stores, teaching our children, carrying our mail, delivering our packages, treating the sick and dying in our hospitals. Thousands of people working behind cash registers and steering wheels and server aprons are risking their health to pay their bills, to feed and shelter their families. They wear masks because they come in contact with hundreds of people and are exposed to the virus on a daily basis.

They deserve our respect and gratitude — respect we show by wearing masks to help protect them and their families. It’s the Best thing we can do, and millions of us are doing it — something that, obviously, everyone knows it is important to do. We Memphians and Americans, are still capable of caring for others, still capable of working together for the common good.

We’re living through a sea-change year, one that will be examined and analyzed in future history books. Was 2020 the end of a short, strange, scary, and aberrant era? Or was it the beginning of the country’s descent into even more chaos and disruption and tribal antipathy? With any luck, we will know a week from now. And frankly, given how 2020 has gone thus far, we are way overdue for some luck.

Either way, the presidential election goes, the remaining two months of 2020 will likely be very difficult. President Trump will remain in office until January, at least, meaning there probably will continue to be very little national leadership on tackling the virus — something that visibly demonstrates that we Americans, we Memphians, are still capable of caring for others, still capable of working together for the common good.

The holidays are coming, traditionally a time for getting together with our families — for children, parents, grandparents, and others to gather around the dinner table, to hug and tell stories, to give thanks for another year. That won’t happen for a lot of us in 2020. Traveling around the country will be difficult and even dangerous, particularly for older folks. Cramming a dozen people from all over into a single room is playing with fire. If you’re going to do it, get everybody tested first, unless you want to remember 2020 as Meemaw’s last Christmas.

Those 225,000 COVID deaths (and counting) have touched the lives of millions of Americans, when you consider that most of those who’ve left us had friends and family who cared about them and who will miss them, especially as the holidays come around. It will be up to all of us to honor their memory by being our Best selves, by doing whatever we can to get all of us — even those whose politics we don’t share — through this strange year, this strange time.

Love each other. This will end. Be Best.

BRUCE VANWYNGARDEN
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CONTENTS
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BETTER.
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Fraud, Crime, & COVID-19

Three charged in $1.1M scheme, violent crime on the rise, cases rise as state readiness vaccine.

WEEKLY VIRUS COUNTS

The fall surge of new virus cases continued last week with new daily cases usually over 200. Active cases of the virus rose over 2,000 again. Shelby County topped 35,000 total cases of the virus last week in another dismal milestone.

Monday: new cases - 287, total cases - 34,508, total deaths - 553
Tuesday: new cases - 342, total cases - 34,850, total deaths - 554
Wednesday: new cases - 227, total cases - 35,077, total deaths - 553
Thursday: new cases - 202, total cases - 35,279, total deaths - 556
Friday: new cases - 208, total cases - 35,487, total deaths - 560

COVID-19 FRAUDSTERS CHARGED

Three people employed by a Memphis tax firm were charged last week in a $1.1-million fraud scheme taking money from a COVID-19 relief fund. U.S. Attorney Michael Dunavant unsealed the charges. They claim Brandy D. Scaife, 42; Janisha L. Jones, 22; and Sharika L. Carpenter, 42; of Better Days Tax Service committed wire fraud and conspiracy. Between April 2020 and June 2020, the three allegedly defrauded the Small Business Administration in a scheme that resulted in 401 fraudulently filed applications seeking Economic Injury Disaster loans for those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

If convicted, each defendant faces up to 30 years in federal prison. There is no parole in the federal system.

STATE PLANS FOR VACCINE

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) released its plan last week to distribute COVID-19 vaccines across the state once they are available.

• 5 percent will be distributed equitably among all 95 counties.
• 10 percent will be used in targeted areas with high vulnerability to illness and death from the virus.
• 85 percent will be distributed among all 95 counties based on their populations.

“We assure Tennesseans that safe, effective, and approved COVID-19 vaccines will be released in Tennessee when they are available to reduce the spread of the virus,” TDH Commissioner Lisa Piercey said in a statement. “Our vaccine distribution plan will be modified as more is understood about the virus and the availability of approved vaccines currently in development.”

The plan is modeled on recommendations from the CDC and the National Academies of Science in consultation with Tennessee’s Unified Command Group and a stakeholder group of more than 28 partner agencies and offices.

The agency is now working to recruit hospitals, pharmacies, clinics, and others capable of storing vaccines and administering them to priority populations.

VIOLENT CRIME RISES

Despite the initial fall, major violent crime rose by 17.6 percent by the end of the third quarter of 2020, according to numbers released last week by the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute (PSI) and the Memphis Shelby County Crime Commission.

The increase in major violent crime is directly tied to the significant increase in murders throughout Memphis. Murders were up 62.7 percent in the city of Memphis and 55.1 percent countywide.

Aggravated assaults were up 27.2 percent in the city of Memphis and 26.6 percent throughout the county. In both instances, the victims were most likely to know each other.

Major violent crime had been trending downward in the first quarter of 2020.

Visit the News Blog at memphisflyer.com for fuller versions of these stories and more local news.
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fedexishiring.com
Memphis tarot readers saw change coming, less change ahead.

Emily Guenther and Erin Larivee saw that change in their cards last fall, one card specifically.

“The Tower Card is one of the change cards, but it’s my least favorite,” said Guenther. “It’s a big change; it’s disruption. It’s your life being turned upside down. And, a lot of times, there’s no preparation for any of this.”

Guenther owns The Broom Closet, a metaphysical shop and spiritual supply store on South Main. There, she and Larivee read tarot cards for clients. Both of them said they began seeing the Tower Card appear for more clients more often last fall. Back then, Guenther was even walking through her tarot class through an exercise on picking their card of the year. She picked the Tower Card.

“I’m having a meltdown in front of the class, like, oh my god, this is going to be the worst year of my life forever,” Guenther said. “Little did I know it was for everybody.”

Just like much else, COVID-19 has pushed once face-to-face tarot readings into the digital world. Guenther said she resisted at first, “I wanted you to touch my cards. That’s how I was going to read your energy.” She relented and said a virtual reading “doesn’t interfere with the messages and the ability to give a good reading.”

“It’s not about being in the same space,” Larivee said, noting she’s done readings on Zoom and Skype for years. “Sharing energy is sharing energy. It’s not about being in the same space.”

Unstable times did not produce an uptick in overall clients, both readers said. That is, questions and uncertainty about the global pandemic did not send many more people seeking answers or stability in a tarot reading.

But the global situation has made for some consistent messaging in many readings, as people worldwide deal with the same issue. People worry about their lives in the context of the world-changing pandemic, Larivee said. From many of those readings, she said a common theme has emerged: “Normal is never going to be normal again.”

“Someday we will have something normal, but something’s going to change,” Larivee said. “We may not be living with a mask, I don’t [perceive] that. But normal is changing. I’m getting that very frequently.”

Tarot readings usually seek answers about two things — love and money, Guenther said. Since COVID-19, there’s a third reason.

“I think tarot reading is a bit like therapy and counseling,” Guenther said. “So, I feel like a lot of it is just people needing someone to talk to that they haven’t already been talking at for a few weeks now.”

There’s another trend Guenther, Larivee, and others are noticing in their cards, or not seeing.

“I’m seeing [the Tower Card] less frequently!” Larivee said. “A lot of the members of the community that I know personally and professionally have been noticing the exact same pattern. That’s been consistent nationally and globally.”

Guenther, too.

“I’ve noticed I’ve stopped seeing it quite as much, which gives me a little bit of hope,” she said.
VICTORY FORMATION

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POLITICS By Jackson Baker

It Ain’t Beanbag
Local campaigns sling mud in last-ditch efforts.

So you think this is the hard stuff — President Trump calling his opponent Joe Biden “Sleepy Joe” and using the term “criminal enterprise” to describe the Biden family — or Biden reciprocating by calling the president a “clown” and saying to him, “Man, why don’t you just shut up!”

Both presidential candidates have addressed each other coarsely, though Trump certainly has been worse. Think of Trump’s newest audience-participation contribution: When a disapproved-of public figure is mentioned, the crowd chants, “Lock him up!” That epithet has even been hurled at Dr. Anthony Fauci, the hard-working, non-political chief of infectious disease research in these pandemic times. It’s the sort of thing that is regarded as unprecedented — as a sign of irreversible decline in the civility of our political process.

Well, the fact is, such invective is par for the course, and always has been in the practice of our national democracy. Just look at some of the stuff that’s being put out in our local elections.

Here’s a recent mailout from the Tennessee Republican Party, up in Nashville, aimed at Democrat Gabby Salinas, candidate for local state House District 97: Side one warns boldly, “Gabby Salinas and her Socialist friends are taking aim at our guns.” To the right of this is a huge, ugly, bright-red gun sight, and underneath the warning and the graphic is a triad of heads: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC), Gabby Salinas, and Bernie Sanders. If that side of the mailer is outrageous, side two is all of that and a blatant fraud as well.

The reverse side of the mailer is loaded up with more gun symbols and with the information that Salinas is “Endorsed by Democratic Socialist of America; endorsed by far-left Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren; Supports Socialist Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.”

The negative lines quoted above from the mailer were more likely aimed at Warren or AOC or some other person concerned about firearm violence. Both Salinas and her opponent, John Gillespie, a grant coordinator for Trezevant Episcopal-Home, have issued mailouts touting their own claims to office.

And the Tennessee Tomorrow PAC has put out its own attack mailer on Gillespie. It brands Salinas as a cancer survivor who came to St. Jude from Bolivia as a child to get medical treatment that saved her life, and stayed on as a naturalized American and as a research scientist interested most of all in public health — someone given the highest possible endorsement by Marlo Thomas of St. Jude.

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October 29-November 4, 2020

Election Day — Tuesday, November 3rd — is almost upon us! After a long, unique campaign during the COVID pandemic, Americans who exercise their right to vote are choosing a president, senators, congresspersons, and a whole host of local politicians. Let’s hope we know the results on November 4th!

How will the election impact your long-term investments? Much speculation has been bandied about how the U.S. stock market will react. Pundits on the various business television channels (and Cheddar) are gaining PR exposure by making their own predictions of coming stock market gains or losses post-Election Day. Of course, many of these prognosticators are primarily seeking attention, so the more extreme their views, the more likely their comments will be promoted and shared.

Should long-term investors worry about this chatter? Many of us have passionate opinions about our political choices, but should we act on our convictions when it comes to election-influenced short-term volatility in the stock market?

It may come as a surprise to know, according to Forbes magazine research, stock market returns for the six Democratic presidents since 1952 have averaged 10.6 percent/year versus 4.8 percent/year for seven Republican presidents. Richard Nixon and George W. Bush really brought the Republican average down with cumulative losses of 20 percent and 40 percent, respectively. In the Nixon years, stagflation took hold — high inflation, slow growth, and high unemployment. The stock market fell 50 percent from the beginning of 1973 to two months after his resignation due to the Watergate scandal. Bush’s term started with the dot-com bust and ended with the financial crisis — the “lost decade” for the U.S. stock market.

Investors profited during the eight-year terms of Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, Dwight Eisenhower, and Ronald Reagan (from best to fourth best) as economic recoveries and expansions took hold.

Back to our question. Should long-term investors care about short-term volatility that often surrounds a presidential election? Stock markets over the long term reflect the growth and profitability of public corporations. Corporations have a long, successful history of adjusting to changing tax, regulatory, and global trade policies. This will continue to be the case for the 2020 presidential election and those to come.

Therefore, vote for the values and leadership for which you are passionate. Whatever the outcome, according to Forbes research, take comfort that the “buy and hold” investment strategy is the best policy for the long-term investor.

Carol Lee Royer, CFP, CFA, CDFA, is senior vice president and senior wealth strategist for Waddell & Associates.

How do presidential elections affect your investments? Taking Stock

FINANCIAL FEATURE

By Carol Lee Royer

The chart below quantifies how much $100 invested in the total U.S. market on the Election Day would have grown during the terms of the last 12 past presidents.
Taking Stock
How do presidential elections affect your investments?

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Should investors care about short-term volatility that surrounds a presidential election? Vote for the values and leadership for which you are passionate.

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The votes have been tallied, and Memphis has spoken. Ready to see the results of the Memphis Flyer's annual Best of Memphis readers' poll? From restaurants to radio, salons to smoke shops, family fun and festivals, and everything in between, you chose your favorites. Winners with “BOM” next to their name absolutely dominated their category. Any ties have also been noted.

The Flyer staff had a little fun with this, as well, and chose some of our own faves in this COVID-doomed year. You can find those, including Best Place to Pretend Everything is Normal, Best Wildlife Whisperer, and Best Reason to Break Quarantine (hint: there isn’t one), in the Staff Picks section.

This issue was written by Samuel X. Cicci, Shara Clark, Jesse Davis, Michael Donahue, Michael Finger, Alex Greene, Matthew J. Harris, Chris McCoy, Julie Ray, Toby Sells, Jon W. Sparks, and Bruce VanWyngarden. It was designed by Carrie Beasley with images by Justin Fox Burks.

Thanks to our readers, those who submitted nominations and voted and those who didn’t. Y’all are the true Best of Memphis. And we thank our advertisers, who make it possible to keep the Flyer free, always.

Food + Drink  P14
Nightlife   P18
Arts + Entertainment  P20
Media + Personalities  P24
Goods + Services  P26
Wellness  P34
Staff Picks  P39

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**BEST BREAKFAST**
1. Brother Juniper's
2. Sunrise Memphis
3. Bryant's Breakfast

They say breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and Brother Juniper's does it right. From expertly crafted omelets with all the fixins to delicious breakfast burritos (or just a simple two-egg breakfast with bacon), Brother Juniper's has the goods to get your day going.

**BEST LUNCH**
1. Elwood’s Shack
2. Huey’s
3. Pho Binh

**BEST SANDWICHES**
1. Elwood’s Shack
2. Young Avenue Deli
3. Kwik Chek

It may not look like much from the outside, but this little shack on Summer packs a big punch in flavor. With a variety of stellar sandwiches on offer — Club, Cuban, or Debris Po’Boy, for example — Elwood’s is a go-to lunch (or anytime) spot for you’ve seen the line that forms as soon as they open. We, for one, are there for those Bloody Marys — a little spice and the right amount of booze to get an acceptable mornin’ buzz on. Add beignets, Zydeco wings, or any number of N’awlins-inspired dishes to the mix, and you’ll see why Bayou tops in these two categories.

**BEST LATE-NIGHT DINING**
1. Huey’s
2. Alex’s Tavern
3. Young Avenue Deli

**BEST BAR FOOD**
1. Huey’s
2. Young Avenue Deli
3. Slider Inn

**BEST SERVICE**
1. Huey’s
2. Folk’s Folly Prime Steak House
3. Germantown Commissary

**BEST KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT**
1. Huey’s
2. Memphis Pizza Cafe
3. Railgarten

**BEST BREAKER**
1. Huey’s
2. Tops Bar-B-Q
3. LBOE

**BEST BAR-STYLE FOOD**
1. The Beauty Shop
2. The Bar-B-Q Shop
3. The Bar-B-Q Shop

**BEST BAR-SCORED FOOD**
1. Central BBQ
2. Ching’s Hot Wings
3. Central BBQ

For sweet or savory, classic brunch dishes — Kitfo, Yesiga Wot, Bozeno Shiro, and more — served as a colorful spread (with spongy injera) and bursting with exotic spices, Memphis chooses Abyssinia.

**BEST TACO**
1. Las Delicias
2. Maciel’s
3. Babalu

**BEST TAXI**
1. Las Delicias
2. Babalu

**BEST MEXICAN**
1. Las Delicias
2. Babalu
3. Cassablanca

**BEST TAPAS**
1. Babalu
2. Maciel’s
3. Babalu

**BEST MARGARITA**
1. Molly’s La Casita
2. Las Delicias
3. Babalu

**BEST MEXICAN**
1. Las Delicias
2. Molly’s La Casita
3. Las Tortuga Deli Mexicana

**BEST ETHIOPIAN**
1. Abyssinia Restaurant
2. Stickem
3. Derae Restaurant

**BEST BLOODY MARY**
1. Bayou Bar & Grill
2. The Beauty Shop
3. Owen Brennan’s

If you’re looking for a mean spaghetti, look no further than Pete & Sam's. The Romero family’s traditional Italian recipes have been honed in Memphis since 1948, transforming the eatery into a darling of the Bluff City’s dining scene. The oodles of red sauce, pizza, and other favorites will have you saying “Buonissimo!”

**BEST BREAKFAST**
1. Brother Juniper’s
2. Sunrise Memphis
3. Bryant’s Breakfast

**BEST LUNCH**
1. Elwood’s Shack
2. Huey’s
3. Pho Binh

**BEST SANDWICHES**
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3. Kwik Chek

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3. Houston’s

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2. Memphis Pizza Cafe
3. Railgarten

**BEST BREAKER**
1. Huey’s
2. Tops Bar-B-Q
3. LBOE

**BEST BAR-STYLE FOOD**
1. The Beauty Shop
2. The Bar-B-Q Shop
3. The Bar-B-Q Shop

**BEST BAR-SCORED FOOD**
1. Central BBQ
2. Ching’s Hot Wings
3. Central BBQ

**BEST LATE-NIGHT DINING**
1. Huey’s
2. Alex’s Tavern
3. Young Avenue Deli

**BEST BAR FOOD**
1. Huey’s
2. Young Avenue Deli
3. Slider Inn

**BEST SERVICE**
1. Huey’s
2. Folk’s Folly Prime Steak House
3. Houston’s

**BEST KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT**
1. Huey’s
2. Memphis Pizza Cafe
3. Railgarten

**BEST BREAKER**
1. Brother Juniper’s
2. Sunrise Memphis
3. Bryant’s Breakfast

They say breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and Brother Juniper’s does it right. From expertly crafted omelets with all the fixins to delicious breakfast burritos (or just a simple two-egg breakfast with bacon), Brother Juniper’s has the goods to get your day going.

**BEST LUNCH**
1. Elwood’s Shack
2. Huey’s
3. Pho Binh

**BEST SANDWICHES**
1. Elwood’s Shack
2. Young Avenue Deli
3. Kwik Chek

It may not look like much from the outside, but this little shack on Summer packs a big punch in flavor. With a variety of stellar sandwiches on offer — Club, Cuban, or Debris Po’Boy, for example — Elwood’s is a go-to lunch (or anytime) spot for Flyn readers.

**BEST BRUNCH**
TIE 1. The Beauty Shop
2. Bayou Bar & Grill
3. The Majestic Grille

For sweet or savory, classic brunch dishes or those with a modern twist, Memphis just won’t choose between Cooper-Young’s Beauty Shop and Owen Brennan’s out East because they’ve both got it all. Add a mimosa or two, and we’ll cheers to this tie win!

**BEST BLOODY MARY**
1. Bayou Bar & Grill
2. The Beauty Shop
3. Owen Brennan’s

If you’ve ever been to brunch at Bayou, you’ve seen the line that forms as soon as they open. We, for one, are there for those Bloody Marys — a little spice and the right amount of booze to get an acceptable mornin’ buzz on. Add beignets, Zydeco wings, or any number of N’awlins-inspired dishes to the mix, and you’ll see why Bayou tops in these two categories.

**BEST CHINESE**
1. Mulan Asian Bistro
2. Wang’s Mandarin House
3. A-Tan

With chicken egg rolls, vegetable spring rolls, and some of the best dumplings in town on a menu that covers a lot of authentically Asian bases, it’s no wonder our readers have named Mulan No. 1 for Chinese cuisine.

**BEST MEXIAN**
1. Las Delicias
2. Maciel’s
3. Babalu

**BEST MEXICAN**
1. Las Delicias
2. Molly’s La Casita
3. Las Tortugas Deli Mexicana

**BEST ETHIOPIAN**
1. Abyssinia Restaurant
2. Stickem
3. Derae Restaurant

**BEST INDIAN**
1. India Palace
2. Golden India
3. Bombay House

Do you ever daydream about the lamb meatballs from India Palace? I don’t know what kind of magic is added to the sauce they’re swimming in, but I could eat a vat of it. The curry, tikka, and tandoori options are all top-notch as well. Grab an extra piece of naan to help clean your plate, and you’ll understand why it’s Memphis’ best for Indian food.

**BEST ITALIAN**
1. Pete & Sam’s
2. Andrew Michael Italian Kitchen
3. Bari Ristorante e Enoteca

If you’re looking for a mean spaghetti, look no further than Pete & Sam’s. The Romero family’s traditional Italian
Our staff offers samples of all of our cold pressed juices, plant based foods, medicinal elixirs and smoothies since 2011.

Thank you, Memphis, for choosing us as the best juice and smoothie bar!

Rawgirls Memphis has provided cold pressed juices, plant based foods that are dairy free, gluten free and refined sugar free!
**THANKS MEMPHIS FOR YOUR VOTES**

**Sunrise Memphis**

- Best Bloody Mary • Best Breakfast

**Central BBQ**

- Best BBQ • Best Ribs • Best Hot Wings

**Sunrise Memphis**

670 Jefferson Ave. 901.552.3168 • Menu: sunrise901.com

**Central BBQ**

Midtown: 2249 Central Ave. 901.272.9377
Downtown: 147 E Butler Ave. 901.672.7760
Summer: 4375 Summer Ave. 901.767.4672
Poplar: 6201 Poplar Ave. 901.417.7962

eatcbq.com

**FOOD + DRINK ...**

Continued from page 15

**BEST SMOOTHIES/ JUICES**

1. Raw Girls
2. City Silo Table + Pantry
3. Tropical Smoothie Cafe

The Raw Girls’ iconic, silver, winged food truck is a staple in the Eclectic Eye parking lot and also of Midtown culture. It’s why Colliervillians probably scoff at us for a $9 cold-pressed juice with romaine, kale, spinach, cucumber, celery, lemon, ginger, and sea salt. But, dude. Have you ever had one? There’s a reason our readers think they’re the best.

**BEST DONUT SHOP**

★ BOM 1. Gibson’s Donuts
Tie 2. Howard’s Donuts
Midtown Donuts
3. The Donut Box

Gibson’s Donuts is the rock arena and the maple bacon is the rock star. Both are a bit more homespun than that, but the comparison isn’t far off. People — food bloggers, Food Network stars, and foodies in general — hit Gibson’s when they come to town, and they come to get that maple bacon. Alton Brown said Gibson’s is his favorite. Don’t trust him? Trust Flyer readers.

**BEST BAKERY**

★ BOM 1. Muddy’s Bake Shop
2. Frost Bake Shop
3. La Baguette French Bread and Pastry Shop

**BEST DESSERT SHOP**

1. Muddy’s Bake Shop
2. Cheesecake Corner
3. La Michoacana

If you need to impress at a party or a family gathering, nervous newbies and new girlfriends know you go to Muddy’s Bake Shop. When the white box top is popped, eyes glaze and minds forget everything else. It comes down to one question: Which one will I pick? Me? Prozac. Every. Dang. Time.

**BEST FOOD TRUCK**

TIE 1. New Wing Order
Cousins Maine Lobster
2. El Mero Taco
3. Say Cheese

Cousins Maine Lobster is a franchise with locations in 13 states. New Wing Order (NWO) is Memphis-clusive … for now, anyway. But what they have in common makes them our winners; their food is so good you’ll want to punch someone in the face. Get the Maine lobster roll at Cousins. Get the Hot Wing Nachos at NWO.

**BEST PATIO**

1. Slider Inn
2. Coastal Fish Company
3. Bhan Thai

Slider Inn is a patio powerhouse. Misters in the heat. Covered in the cold. There’s almost no bad time for the Slider patio. I’ve even seen folks out there in a light rain. The magic’s in the quick service that sometimes comes with a sly one-liner.

**BEST DOG-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT/BAR**

1. Loflin Yard
2. Railgarten
3. Slider Inn

When it opened, Loflin Yard was an innovation in the old-fangled. The food is simple. Fire pits and conversation are the main attractions. Dogs are honored guests. Unlike some places, dogs at the Yard have room to move and places to flop. Dogs just seem at home at Loflin. Our readers think so, too.
BEST PLACE FOR PEOPLE-WATCHING
1. Peabody Hotel Lobby
2. Crosstown Concourse
3. Beale Street Entertainment District

Great Memphis stories start with, “I was at the Peabody bar when…” I’ve heard my share of them, and they do not disappoint. The place is a magnet for characters. And why not? It has high ceilings, rich wood, a sophisticated beverage menu, oh, and a mega-fountain filled with live ducks. From wrestlers to regional sales managers, you’ll find them all at the Peabody bar.

BEST LOCAL BREWERY
1. Wiseacre Brewing Co. Tie 2. Ghost River Brewing Co. Memphis Made Brewing Co. 3. Crosstown Brewing Company

Wiseacre Brewing is a perfect blend of whimsy and dogged determination. Consider that its flagship beer is called Tiny Bomb and is one of the most carefully crafted in Memphis. Consider its tech-forward brewery Downtown features a bust of Beavis and Butthead creator Mike Judge. Wiseacre takes having fun seriously.

BEST COFFEE ROASTER ★
1. Ugly Mug
2. French Truck Coffee
3. Vice & Virtue

Ugly Mug has been roasting coffee in Memphis for three generations. What we get are some unique coffee blends, a name that’s crazy fun to say, and a bangin’-ass cup of go-juice. Roll into Ugly Mug’s comfortable East Memphis location for coffee, of course, but stay for some breakfast or lunch. You’ll be glad you did.


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BEST RESTAURANT FOR DESSERT

You don’t need to eat dinner when you order a hefty slice of cheesecake at Cheesecake Corner. They’re tantalizingly good, and our readers voted them the best.


In-the-know diners hope to snag a table in the back left rear of the north dining room at Rendezvous. They know the friendly, helpful (and all other good adjectives) Calvin Bell will take care of them. He’s a consistent BOM winner.


Who doesn’t know chef Kelly English by now? In addition to his innovative Restaurant Iris and other eateries, English, a consistent BOM winner, is a cheerleader for other local restaurants.

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

Owner Miles Tamboli created something great when he opened Tamboli’s Pasta & Pizza. The food is delicious. And he even makes his own pasta. Look for him in front of the pizza oven.

BEST DATE-NIGHT RESTAURANT
1. Catherine & Mary’s 2. Folk’s Folly Prime Steak House 3. Flight Restaurant and Wine Bar

Couples grab a seat at the bar at Catherine & Mary’s. The ambience is just as cool there as sitting at a table. In addition to eating the innovative dishes barside, customers can check out the who’s who coming into the restaurant.

BEST FINE DINING/NEW AMERICAN
1. Restaurant Iris 2. Folk’s Folly Prime Steak House 3. Southern Social

If you mention you’re going to Restaurant Iris, whomever you’re talking to is going say they’re jealous. That’s a given. Chef Kelly English’s elegant Midtown restaurant is well-known for its creative cuisine.


Flight is the place to savor a glass of vino while enjoying several types of entrées in the same sitting.

BEST STEAK ★
1. Folk’s Folly Prime Steak House 2. Ruth’s Chris Steak House 3. The Butcher Shop Steakhouse

“Folk’s Folly” is synonymous with “steak.” Just walking into the restaurant, diners can smell steak cooking. And there’s a cozy bar, where they can grab a cocktail and, if they choose, eat dinner, while listening to live piano music.
Maybe Granny was right and nothing good ever happens after 2 a.m. But then again, even Granny has been wrong once or twice. So where to go after last call on those nights that just shouldn’t end? Alex’s Tavern. When you need some Rock-’n-Mot Chicken Drummies to soak up all that cheap beer? Definitely Alex’s.

Best Beer Selection (In a Bar)
1. Flying Saucer Draught Emporium
2. Young Avenue Deli
3. Lucchesi’s Beer Garden
The UFO-themed bar Downtown has made its name by having the best beer selection in the galaxy. Frankly, we wouldn’t be surprised if they could even serve up a Romulan Ale or a Pan Galactic Gargle Blaster. Seriously, if anyone could, it would be Flying Saucer. Beam us up.

Best College Hangout
1. RP Tracks
2. Railgarten
3. Newby’s
Anyone who has spent any time near the University of Memphis campus has popped into RP Tracks for a brew or a bite. It’s the one great uniter between students, professors, and staff. Well, that and maybe getting caught by the train. For excellent BBQ Tofu Nachos and enough beer to float a frat party, it’s got to be RP Tracks.

Best After-Hours Night Spot
1. Alex’s Tavern
2. Earnestine & Hazel’s
3. Paula & Raiford’s Disco
Maybe Granny was right and nothing

Best Happy Hour
1. Alchemy Memphis
2. The Blue Monkey
3. Babalu

Best Bar
1. Alchemy Memphis
2. Lafayette’s Music Room
3. Art Bar at Crosstown Arts
The mix masters at Alchemy must have found the secret ingredient to a BOM hat trick. With an overwhelming win for Best Craft Cocktails, and wins for Best Happy Hour and the coveted Best Bar title, the tastefully appointed Cooper-Young bar has all the right ingredients for a happy hour hotspot.

Best Gay Bar
1. Dru’s Bar
2. Mollie Fontaine Lounge
3. The Pumping Station
Dru’s is the little neighborhood bar on Madison Avenue with the cool murals outside. They have karaoke, pool, comedy, and drag shows three nights a week. And cold brews served by friendly staff, of course. Like the mural says, Dru’s is “not just a bar, it’s your bar!”

Best Karaoke
1. P&H Cafe
2. Dru’s Bar
3. The Blue Monkey
The last six or seven months have been a long year. A really long year. But one of the things keeping us going is the thought of karaoke at the P&H Cafe. The mural on the ceiling, the various portraits of Elvis scattered about, the bobcat above the bar — this is the neighborhood dive where you’re always welcome, no matter how off-key your rendition of “Memory” may be. That’s right, we’re singing “Memory” from Cats, and they still serve us. Bless em.

Best Hole in the Wall
1. Earnestine & Hazel’s
2. Alex’s Tavern
3. P&H Cafe
It’s not every hole in the wall that used to be a brothel, or used to host hometown hero Craig Brewer’s famous Heaven and Hell Halloween parties. Or that’s totally haunted, has a long-running jazz night, and serves up a Soul Burger so tasty it’s been known to bring grown men to tears. Maybe that’s why Memphians proudly choose Earnestine & Hazel’s as Memphis’ Best Hole in the Wall.

Best Place to See Stand-Up
1. Chuckles Comedy House
2. P&H Cafe
3. The Orpheum
In the 14th century, Henri de Mondeville,
a professor of surgery, promoted laughter as a post-operative therapy. Laughter, he said, was the best medicine. He’s not wrong. Laughter causes a release of pain-numbing endorphins, and it improves blood flow, too. So get ye to Chuckles for some stand-up comedy and healing humor. Doctor’s orders.

BEST PLACE TO SHOOT POOL
1. Young Avenue Deli
2. Highpocket’s
3. P&H Cafe

Ah, the Deli. It’s perfectly situated, stumbling distance from all of Cooper-Young. Fuel your pool game with a reuben or a Sam I Am sandwich and a local beer, sidle up to the green-felted table, and slap your quarters down. Chalk up your cue, sip on your brew, and get ready to win this thing. Rack ’em up!

BEST SPORTS BAR
1. Brookhaven Pub & Grill
2. Bayou Bar & Grill
3. Huey’s

This East Memphis hotspot has everything one could ask for in a sports bar. Impressive selection of foreign, domestic, and local brews? Check. Great pub grub? Check — try Brookhaven favorites like the Memphis Melt or the BLTC. All that, and the game is on. Owner Rick Spell says it best: “We serve fun here.”

BEST STRIP CLUB
1. Gold Club
2. The Pony
3. Purple Diamond

At the church picnic, Linda served the fried chicken. One man was having trouble deciding what piece of chicken he preferred. Linda helped him out by saying, “Most men prefer thighs and breasts.” For the hottest thighs and breasts in Memphis, see Linda at the Gold Club.

BEST BARTENDER
1. Allan Creasy, Celtic Crossing
2. Morgan McKinney, Bari
3. David Parks, The Cove

Allan Creasy has topped this list many times in his 15 years behind the bar at Celtic Crossing. But he told the Flyer recently that he feels guilty about it. Others are better at mixology than he is, he said, he’s just quick with a pint and a joke. Nevertheless, hordes of Celtic regulars have decried Creasy’s departure but celebrated his new gig raising political cash for Future 901.

BEST NEW BAR
1. Slider Inn - Downtown
2. Knifebird Wine Bar
3. Bar Keough

Burgers and beer. What more do you need? With their savory sliders and robust drink menu, Slider Inn’s Downtown location tops the list as the Best New Bar in town.
Dear Memphis,

Thank you for voting for Huey’s in Memphis Flyer’s Best of Memphis Awards!

Thank you for voting for Huey’s Instagram: @hueysrestaurant
Facebook: @Huey’s Restaurants

BEST CASINO
★ BOM 1. Southland Casino Racing
2. Horseshoe Tunica
3. Gold Strike Casino Resort
Many identify Southland Casino with its grandest feature: a world-class dog racing track. But this West Memphis institution has much more, including slots, table games, and a high-limit room.

BEST GALLERY
1. Brooks Museum
2. Crosstown Arts
3. Metal Museum
The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art is truly the jewel of Overton Park, with ever-captivating curation that both spans the world and honors local visionaries. Beyond that, in safer times, its performance space brings music and other events, like chamber ensemble concerts or special film events.

BEST PARK
★ BOM 1. Shelby Farms Park
2. Overton Park
3. Tom Lee Park
Shelby Farms Park offers a true escape from the city’s pavement, glass, and steel with its 4,500 acres of green space. But the sheer variety of activities, from kayaking to axe throwing to the Treetop Adventure zipline course, offers escape from the mundane as well.

BEST DOG PARK
1. Shelby Farms Dog Park
2. Overton Bark
3. Sea Isle Dog Park
The dog park at Shelby Farms, aka The Outback, is a paradise for pups with its 100 acres of open fields, ponds, unpaved trails, and other off-leash areas. But your pooch might think it’s a spa as well, with its doggie bowl/water fountain and dog-wash station.

BEST FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT
1. Memphis Zoo
2. Levitt Shell
3. Pink Palace Museum and Planetarium
The Memphis Zoo has so many nooks and crannies, kids can explore it for hours. Where else can you turn a corner and find yourself face to face with an inquisitive gorilla? The habitats are brilliantly designed, and their inhabitants help us forget the petty squabbles of Homo sapiens for a while.

Continued on page 22
TUT-UNCOMMON ANTIQUES
421 N. Watkins, Memphis, TN 38104
901-278-8965

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE
EVERYTHING GOES AT 50% OFF
Tuesdays - Saturdays 10am - 5pm

THANK YOU
for your votes, Memphis Flyer readers!

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT
A Four Day Holiday Preview at Cotton Row Uniques!
Spreading cheer for the end of the year

Join us for Holiday Preview
November 5–8, 2020
Cotton Row Uniques has extended shopping hours to allow for social distancing.
OPEN: Thursday through Saturday 9am–7pm
Sunday 10am–5pm

Holiday Snacks & Beverages will be available.

With purchase, customers are registered to win a $250 gift card, redeemable at our Poplar Avenue location only. Winner will be drawn November 15th.
Cotton Row Uniques
4615 Poplar Avenue, Suite 3
901-990-3647
cottonrowuniques.com

THE NEGRO MOTORIST GREEN BOOK
Stories of community, business innovation, and creative self-determination

Started in 1936 by Harlem postman Victor Green, The Negro Motorist Green Book was an annual guide that helped African Americans travel the country safely, and with dignity, during a time of Jim Crow laws and segregation. The Green Book was also an indispensable resource for the era’s successful Black-owned businesses and rising African American middle class.

The Negro Motorist Green Book exhibition is at the National Civil Rights Museum, located at the Lorraine Motel, one of few Green Book sites remaining.

October 3, 2020 – January 3, 2021

Thank you Memphis for voting Hernando’s Hide-A-Way for Best Night Club!

www.worldfamoushernandoshideaway.com

450 Mulberry Street, Memphis, TN 38103
civilrightsmuseum.org

The Negro Motorist Green Book exhibition was created by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in collaboration with Candacy Taylor and made possible through the generous support of Exxon Mobil Corporation.
BEST FESTIVAL
1. Cooper-Young Festival
2. Memphis in May
3. Memphis Italian Festival
Missing it this year only made C-Y Fest that much more dear. What other festival combines the charm of its neighborhood with the panache of the entire city’s food, arts, and musical fare?

BEST LOCAL BAND
1. Lucero
2. Almost Famous
3. Lucky 7 Brass Band
Lucero captured the hearts of many Memphians over 20 years ago. As they’ve grown old with us, they haven’t lost the plot. Bleak tales from Among the Ghosts continue to resonate with the times.

BEST LOCAL SINGER
1. Joyce Cobb
2. Amy LaVere
3. Austin Carroll
Joyce is a soul and jazz institution, but she’s surprisingly eclectic. Her first record was a minor hit on the country charts. With that inclusiveness in her radio show, she represents the best of what we can be.

BEST MUSEUM
★ BOM 1. National Civil Rights Museum
2. Pink Palace Museum and Planetarium
3. Stax Museum of American Soul Music
“We are talking about the continuation of the struggles that take place in the realm of civil and human rights,” Terri Lee Freeman, president of the National Civil Rights Museum, has said. That spirit of continued relevance shapes the ever-evolving exhibits and perspectives of this globally recognized institution.

BEST PERFORMING ARTS VENUE
1. Minglewood Hall
2. Playhouse on the Square
3. GPAC | Germantown Performing Arts Center
With a capacity of 1,600, Minglewood Hall is one of the premiere mid-sized venues that can consistently draw national acts. It’s especially on-point with its hip-hop shows but has always programmed eclectic artists, from Steve Earle to the late Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings.

BEST LIVE THEATER
★ BOM 1. The Orpheum
2. Playhouse on the Square
3. Hattiloo Theatre
From Alvin Ailey to Elvis Costello to Wicked, the Orpheum brings world-class performances to Memphis time and time again. Who could resist taking the stage within that classic gilded interior? Hard to believe that only a citizens’ movement, including the late Jim Dickinson, saved it from demolition in the ’70s.

BEST PLACE TO SEE LIVE MUSIC
1. Levitt Shell
2. Live at the Garden
3. Lafayette’s Music Room
The Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation restores classic bandshells across America, and this one in Overton Park is one of their gems. Aside from the family-friendly space and the well-curated music programming, outdoor venues like this may be the key to enjoying live music as we adapt to COVID-19.

MUSEUM of Science & History
PINK PALACE
WWW.MEMPHISMUSEUMS.ORG

CRAFTS FAIR POP UP SHOP
Open Fridays, Saturdays, & Sundays
Crafters on the Mezzanine Sat & Sun
Sponsored by BANK OF AMERICA

THANK YOU MEMPHIS!
With inclusiveness in her radio show, she's surprisingly eclectic. Her first record was a minor hit on the country charts.

Joyce Cobb is a soul and jazz institution, but among the Ghost plot. Bleak tales from grown old with us, they haven't lost the spirit of continued relevance shapes the Civil Rights Museum, has said. That Terri Lee Freeman, president of the National realm of civil and human rights, “We are talking about the continuation of this globally recognized institution. ever-evolving exhibits and perspectives

Continued from page 2

Dap-Kings.

Earle to the late Sharon Jones & the programmed eclectic artists, from Steve Hall is one of the premiere mid-sized venues that can consistently draw national acts. It's especially on-point with its hip-hop shows but has always with its charm of the national acts. It's especially on-point with its hip-hop shows but has always

ARTS VENUE

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2. Playhouse on the Square
3. GPAC | Germantown Performing Arts Center

★

BEST MUSEUM

1. National Civil Rights Museum
2. Pink Palace Museum and Planetarium
3. Stax Museum of American Soul

★

BEST LIVE THEATER

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BOM

★

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LIVE MUSIC

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ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT ...

Memphians over 20 years ago. As they've

Among the Ghosts

...Continued from page 20

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Continued from page 2

Dap-Kings.

Earle to the late Sharon Jones & the programmed eclectic artists, from Steve
BEST PODCAST
1. Chris Vernon Show
2. Night Classy
3. Verbally Effective Podcast
Chris Vernon took his popular sports talk show from FM radio to the internet a few years ago. Listeners managed to follow him and make him the top vote-getter for Best Podcast.

BEST COLUMNIST
1. Geoff Calkins, Daily Memphian
2. Wendi Thomas, MLK50
3. Michael Donahue, Memphis Flyer
Geoff Calkins is a perennial winner in this category. Leaving The Commercial Appeal and moving to the online Daily Memphian hasn’t hurt his following among Flyer readers. Sports or human interest, Geoff is the best.

BEST REPORTER
1. Kontji Anthony
2. Joe Birch
3. Jeremy Pierre
Kontji Anthony takes the prize in this new category. She’s smart, she’s on top of her game, and she’s on top of the Flyer’s poll. Get your news clues from Kontji!

BEST LOCAL RADIO SHOW
1. Gary Parrish Show
2. Ron and Karen
3. South Main Soul Club on WEVL
Gary Parrish’s blend of humor, entertainment, insight, and the occasional political opinion has landed him at the top of the radio dial for hosting the Best Local Radio Show.

BEST SPORTS RADIO
1. 92.9 ESPN
2. Chris Vernon Show
3. Gary Parrish
It’s clear that Flyer readers think 92.9’s lineup is the best sports programming in town from dawn to dusk — talking Tigers, Grizzlies, SEC, and smack.

BEST SPORTSCASTER
★ BOM 1. Jarvis Greer
Tie 2. Doc Holliday
Jessica Benson
3. Pete Pranica
Jarvis Greer is another of WMC-Channel 5’s year-after-year winners. The former Memphis Tiger has a great attitude and stellar reporting chops, plus that ever-present upbeat hometown spirit.

BEST TV WEATHERPERSON
★ BOM 1. Chelsea Chandler
2. Ron Childers
3. Brittany Bryant
Chelsea Chandler steps up to the green screen and talks about the weather better than anybody in town, say our Flyer voters. She’s definitely on the radar these days.

BEST RADIO PERSONALITY
1. Ron Olson
2. Drake Hall
3. Gary Parrish
A longtime and much-traveled veteran of Memphis’ radio wars, Ron Olson moves into the No. 1 slot as Flyer readers’ favorite radio personality. Perseverance pays off!

BEST RADIO STATION
★ BOM 1. WEVL-FM 89.9
2. The River 104.5
3. WKNO
Listener-supported and listener-programmed, WEVL takes this category year after year. And this year is no exception. Tune in for an eclectic mix of music — from hip-hop to bluegrass to Celtic.

BEST TV ANCHOR
1. Joe Birch
2. Kontji Anthony
3. Mearl Purvis
What can you say about perennial Best News Anchor Joe Birch. He’s won this award so many times we ought to name it after him. Congrats for the millionth year in a row!

BEST TV SPORTSCASTER
★ BOM 1. Jarvis Greer
Tie 2. Doc Holliday
Jessica Benson
3. Pete Pranica
Jarvis Greer is another of WMC-Channel 5’s year-after-year winners. The former Memphis Tiger has a great attitude and stellar reporting chops, plus that ever-present upbeat hometown spirit.

BEST TV WEATHERPERSON
★ BOM 1. Chelsea Chandler
2. Ron Childers
3. Brittany Bryant
Chelsea Chandler steps up to the green screen and talks about the weather better than anybody in town, say our Flyer voters. She’s definitely on the radar these days.
Thank you Memphis for making us your favorite for 2 years in a row.
We love you too.

NOW SERVING MEMPHIS X COLLIERVILLE
BEST ANTIQUES STORE
1. Sheffield Antiques Mall
2. Cotton Row Uniques
3. Antique Warehouse Mall

If you just have a short amount of time, you probably still can find something you can’t live without at Sheffield’s Antiques Mall by just going down two or three aisles. If you plan on spending some time, get one of their “grocery” carts. Antiques and other pieces in people's booths change, so customers find new items every time.

BEST GIFT SHOP
1. Cotton Row Uniques
2. Babcock Gifts
3. The Broom Closet

BEST HOME FURNISHINGS
1. Cotton Row Uniques
2. Bartlett Home Furnishings
3. The Great American Home Store

Aunt Gladys has everything. Everyone has an Aunt Gladys. What Aunt Gladys doesn’t have is a hand sanitizer tree ornament, a Chewy Vuiton for Puddles, or a Turkish rug stool. Cotton Row Uniques is the Best of Memphis when shopping for gifts and home furnishings for Aunt Gladys (and yourself).

BEST BEER SELECTION (IN A STORE)
1. Buster’s Liquors & Wine
2. Madison Growler and Bottle Shop
3. Joe’s Wines & Liquor

It's official. Memphis finds Buster’s Liquors & Wines intoxicating. Voted the Best of Memphis for best beer selection and liquor store, we couldn’t be hoppiest for your un-beer-lievable success. Cheers!

BEST LOCAL ATHLETIC GOODS STORE
★ BOM 1. Outdoors Inc.
2. Fleet Feet Sports
3. Breakaway Running

BEST BICYCLE SHOP
1. Outdoors Inc.
2. Victory Bicycle Studio
3. All About Bikes

For shoes, water vessels, bikes, and everything in between, Memphis goes outdoors with Outdoors Inc. Bike, hike, and launch from the dike geared up from the best local athletic goods store and bike shop.

BEST BOOKSTORE
1. Novel
2. Burke’s Book Store
3. Barnes & Noble

What’s the best bookstore for shelf awareness — the place to not only get books, but puzzles, games, crafts, toys, and more? With more stories than the Tower Center, Memphis voted Novel the best bookstore. Let the good tomes roll.

BEST BUTCHER
★ BOM 1. Charlie’s Meat Market
2. The Fresh Market
3. Thomas Meat & Seafood Market

Some places are all meat and no potatoes. Not Charlie’s Meat Market. They’ve got potatoes, too. There’s no mis-steakin’ why Memphis voted this butcher a cut above the rest.

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BEST CREATIVE AGENCY
1. Sauce Marketing
2. Archer Malmo
3. Neon Canvas

Oh, you saucy little minx, enticing us with your spicy marketing strategies. You add the most flavor and visual appeal to websites, branding, and growth strategies, according to Memphis Flyer BOM voters. You’re awesome, Sauce.

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BEST DAY CARE FOR KIDS
1. Lindenwood Christian Child Care Center
2. Memphis Jewish Community Center
3. Christ the King Lutheran Church

No kidding. Memphis gave Lindenwood Christian Child Care Center the lion’s share of votes for best day care for kids. With class names for infants to toddlers like lambs, bunnies, and dinosaurs, it’s no wonder they’re the bees’ knees.

BEST EVENT RENTAL VENUE
1. Memphis Botanic Garden
2. Dixon Gallery and Gardens
3. 409 South Main Events

What’s the best place in Memphis to have a wedding, host a party, or plan a meeting? Flyer readers voted Memphis Botanic Garden as the best bloomin’ event rental venue in town. It’s no garden variety space.

BEST FARMERS MARKET
1. Memphis Botanic Garden
2. Agricenter Farmer’s Market
3. Cooper-Young Community Farmers Market

Vegetables and communities must be grown with care. Maybe that’s why Memphis Farmers Market is the pick of the crop when it comes to farmers markets, by adding herb appeal to Downtown Memphis.

BEST FLORIST
1. Pugh’s Flowers
2. Holliday Flowers & Events
3. Rachel’s Flower Shop

Ah, what pray tell is that pungent scent of roses and honeysuckle filling the air? It must be Pughy, the world’s only delightfully fragrant skunk, who works so hard for the locally owned Pugh’s Flowers family business. It makes scents that Pugh is the Best of Memphis florist.

BEST GARDEN CENTER
1. Dan West Garden Center
2. Urban Earth Garden Center
3. Midtown Nursery

Since 1952, Dan West’s has been the go-to place for your botanic necessities, whether it’s plants, supplies, or knowledge. What you need to grow and what you need to know is either at the original store on Poplar or the facility out in Eads.

BEST GOLF COURSE
1. Windyke Country Club
2. Links at Galloway Golf Course
3. TPC Southwind

As a family-oriented country club, Windyke offers not only a terrific golf experience on three courses, but also dining, tennis, and swimming. There are seasonal events throughout the year, and it’s an ideal place to have a banquet or a wedding ceremony.

BEST GROCERY STORE
1. Trader Joe’s
2. ALDI
3. Superlo Foods

What does Germantown have that Memphis doesn’t? Yep, a Trader Joe’s, although there’s considerable sentiment for the grocery chain to open another location in the Bluff City. Fans love the prices, the white cheddar popcorn, the selection, the customer service … well, you get the picture.

BEST SPECIALTY TREAT SHOP
1. Dinstuhl’s Fine Candies
2. Jerry’s Sno Cones
3. Tia La Michoacana

Muddy’s Bake Shop + Coffee
There are several locations around town (and Downtown has reopened), and doesn’t your mouth water when we mention cashew crunch, caramel
NAIL BAR & CO IS A HIGH-DESIGN NAIL STUDIO PROVIDING A LUXURY EXPERIENCE WITH SEASONAL COLLECTIONS AND PERSONALIZED NAIL ART. OUR CREATIVE ARTISTS OFFER COLOR CONSULTATIONS AS WELL AS KEEPING IN THE KNOW WITH THE LATEST TRENDS TO ENSURE YOU LEAVE WITH A MANICURE / PEDICURE AS UNIQUE AS YOU ARE.

@NAILBARANDCO

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7815 W. FARMINGTON
GERMANTOWN, TN

HARBOR TOWN
(901) 527-5107
117 HARBOR TOWN SQ
MEMPHIS, TN

OXFORD
(662) 238-6244
107 NORTH 13TH ST
OXFORD, MS 38655
apple, chocolate covered pineapple, cat (and bat) suckers, chocolate playing cards, and chocolate pecan fudge? We don’t need Willy Wonka when we have Dinstuhl’s.

**BEST SHOPPING CENTER**
1. Shops of Saddle Creek
2. Laurelwood Shopping Center
3. Crosstown Concourse

The Germantown shopping complex is an elegant place to seek out great fashion, beauty, home, and technology goods, from the trendy to the iconic. And then stop for some coffee or a bite to eat. Its architectural design and singular shops make Saddle Creek a lifestyle center.

**BEST HOTEL**
★ BOM 1. Peabody Hotel
2. The Central Station Memphis, Curio Collection by Hilton
3. ARRIVE Memphis

It’s called the historic Peabody for a reason. The “South’s Grand Hotel” has charm, elegance, and a warm hospitality to offer guests, along with ducks and their duckmaster, remarkable shops, and a lounge that has entertained the famous, the infamous, and everyday folks.

**BEST LAW FIRM**
1. Baker Donelson
2. Nahon, Saharovich & Trotz Personal Injury Attorneys
3. Burch Porter & Johnson PLLC

As one of the city’s best-known firms, Baker Donelson offers trusted counsel, innovative services, an award-winning culture, a wide reach and deep bench of talent, and a powerful commitment to the community. That’s why it’s been a prestigious firm for all of its 130 years.

**BEST LINGERIE SHOP**
★ BOM 1. Coco & Lola’s
2. Trousseau
3. A Fitting Place

They’re more than happy to mention all of the unmentionables at Coco & Lola’s. They’ll show you two-piece bra and panty sets, two- and three-piece garters, chemises, babydolls, bustiers, and corsets. If there’s anything intimate you haven’t thought of, trust them. They have.

**BEST LOCAL BANK OR CREDIT UNION**
★ BOM 1. Orion Federal Credit Union
2. First Horizon Bank
3. First South Financial Credit Union

For some time now, Orion has upped the ante on customer service as well as community involvement. It also has something most credit unions don’t: being cool. Just check out its new headquarters in the old Wonder Bread building near Downtown.

**BEST LOCAL FINE JEWELRY STORE**
1. Ed Harris Jewelry
2. Mednikow Jewelers
3. Sissy’s Log Cabin

With its large inventory of designer watches, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, and rings, Ed Harris is ready to provide what’s needed for an engagement, wedding, anniversary, birthday, or special occasion. If you’re looking for something elegant and unique, he’s got it.
**BEST REGIONAL COLLEGE**

★ BOM 1. University of Memphis
2. Southwest Tennessee Community College
3. Rhodes College

The Tigers are roaring, and it’s not because of their football or basketball teams. The latest issue of *U.S. News & World Report* now ranks the U of M at No. 126 in its national list of the nation’s “Top Public Universities,” one of only three schools in Tennessee mentioned in that category.

What’s more, Memphis made the top-100 in “Top Performers in Social Mobility,” and its engineering program was ranked No. 161 nationwide.

**BEST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL**

1. Christian Brothers High School
2. Lausanne Collegiate School
3. Briarcrest Christian School
4. St. Mary’s Episcopal School

Academics? Last year, every graduate of CBHS was accepted to college. Athletics? How about 17 different sports and 45 state championship appearances. Combine that with learning based on the Lasallian tradition, low student-teacher ratio, and a school that considers itself a community instead of just a campus, and the Brothers are a winner.

**BEST LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL**

1. White Station High School
2. Snowden School
3. Houston High School

Let’s see: Accomplished teachers, up-to-date facilities, winning sports teams, state-of-the-art equipment for in-person or remote learning, and a record of achievement at every level. It’s easy to see why parents and students picked White Station as the best public school in the Memphis area.

**BEST PLACE TO GET VINTAGE/USED CLOTHING**

1. Flashback
2. Goodwill
3. City Thrift

“Used clothing”? Oh please, this is like stepping into a vintage department store, packed to the rafters with classic clothes in styles that have remained timeless. And it’s not just clothes — how about lamps, furniture, and other items from times past? We have no idea where longtime owner Millett Vance finds these wonderful treasures, but we’re glad she does.

**BEST LOCAL STORE FOR MEN’S CLOTHING**

1. Oak Hall
2. Oxbeau (formerly Dixie Pickers)
3. Outdoors Inc.

Founded in Memphis in 1859, Oak Hall is one of the country’s oldest family-owned businesses. If you’re looking for the very best designer clothes, shoes, and accessories, combined with a relaxing shopping experience and first-class customer service, look here first. As one of their old advertisements proclaimed, “Oak Hall is the store with more.”

**BEST LOCAL STORE FOR MEN’S SHOES**

1. Oak Hall
2. Outdoors Inc.
3. Breakaway Running

**BEST LOCAL STORE FOR WOMEN’S CLOTHING**

1. Indigo
2. The Ivory Closet
3. Crazy Beautiful

At first, it seems a bold move to open a boutique that offers mainly denim clothing, but Indigo takes it a step further than just designer jeans. Customers won’t get the blues when

Continued on page 30
they encounter the selection of tops, handbags, shoes, jewelry, and other first-rate accessories.

**BEST LOCAL STORE FOR WOMEN’S SHOES**
1. Joseph
2. Kaufman Shoes
3. Cook & Love Shoes

When the Wexner family opened a tiny shoe store Downtown in 1930, they probably never imagined that modern-day customers would consider it one of the top-rated high-fashion stores in Memphis. But if you’re looking for international designers like Louboutin, Prada, St. Laurent, Gucci, and more, this is the place that lets you put your best foot forward.

**BEST MUSIC EQUIPMENT STORE**
1. Amro Music
2. Memphis Drum Shop
3. Martin Music

Need a guitar so you can become a rock star? Sure, you can buy one here. But if you’d rather play the flute, bassoon, French horn, or even the oboe, you can find those here, too. For anybody who wants to march to the beat of a different drummer, Amro’s the store for you. Oh, and they sell drums, too.

**BEST PET BOARDING/DAY CARE**
1. BrownDog Lodge
2. Dogs Rule Day Care & School
3. Claridge Spa Pet Resort

Man’s best friend gets Best of Show treatment at BrownDog, where pets are pampered with a private room, bed, flat-screen TV, three walks daily, a real grass yard, and even personal massages. Heck, we’d stay there ourselves if we could.

**BEST PET STORE**
★ BOM 1. Hollywood Feed
2. Three Dog Bakery
3. PetSmart

The “Feed” part of their name is only part of the story. No matter what kind of critter you have, this store has something for them (and you): bowls, collars, leads, treats, toys, medications, beds, crates, cages, kennels, grooming tools, and yes — even pet clothing. If you come home to Mr. Puddles empty-handed, don’t blame us if he lives up to his name.

**BEST VET**
1. Walnut Grove Animal Clinic
2. The Pet Hospitals
3. Utopia Animal Hospital

Since Dr. Chuck Halford founded Walnut Grove Animal Clinic 27 years ago, he and his colleagues have been taking good care of our furry (and scaly) friends. Our readers chose them because they recognize that our pets are members of our families.

**BEST REALTOR**
1. Ashley Onsby, MidSouth Residential
2. Julie Upchurch, McWaters & Associates Realtors
3. Todd “Too Tall” Adams, Keller Williams Realty

The Memphis-area real estate market has never been hotter. Whether you’re looking for a starter home or trying to upgrade your living space, you need someone you trust to represent your interests in a complicated world. Our readers chose Onsby, who works from Arlington to Downtown and all points in between.

Continued on page 32
AUTUMN Auto Showcase
Saturday, Nov 7, 9am - 1pm
Cordova Branch @ 8195 Dexter Rd.

• Vehicles from Wolfchase Toyota, Roadshow BMW, & Mini Cooper.
• Get pre-approved on the spot.
• Win over $500 in prizes & giveaways!

Meet Grizz!
Grand-Prize drawing at 11:30
The coronavirus pandemic has upended the lives of millions of people. No one has been hit harder than food service workers. When entrepreneur Taylor Berger’s restaurants closed for lockdown in March, he put displaced bartenders to work providing home services of all kinds. In just a few short months, Two Broke Bartenders has become indispensable to Memphis.

BEST RECORD STORE
1. Goner Records
2. Shangri-La Records
3. Memphis Music

Goner isn’t just carrying on the proud tradition of Memphis music retailing, it’s also a record label and center of a music community. This year, they’ve expanded into another realm. Gonerfest, the annual gathering of the punk rock tribes, moved online and included bands from as far away as Auckland, New Zealand, and Berlin, Germany. Goner proves Memphis music’s worldwide reach.

BEST SEX SHOP
1. Lovers
2. Inz & Outz
3. Romantix

What do you want from a sex shop? Selection and discretion. The Memphis favorite Christal’s has changed its name to Lovers, but they’re still sex-positive. Flyer readers’ go-to for lingerie, toys, and novelties. Treat yourself when it’s time to spice up the boudoir.

BEST TATTOO ARTIST
1. Nathan Parten, Trilogy Tattoos
2. Peter Miller, Underground Art
3. Jordan Epperson, Bluff City Tattoo

Tattoo artists have been hit hard in the pandemic. Nathan Parten’s fine linework and creative designs have made him a favorite of the Bluff City inked set. He has recently expanded his pallet by making forays into animation, creating music videos for Louise Page and HEELS.

BEST TATTOO STUDIO
1. Bluff City Tattoo
2. Trilogy
3. Underground Art

When you’re stuck at home in quarantine, you need to chill. Our readers chose Whatever as the place to go for chillout accessories both basic and exotic. Their profile has been boosted by the legalization of CBD flower and other products. It’s an anxious time, so take the edge off.
Over 70 years ago, our family navigated tow boats on the choppy waters of the mighty Mississippi River. Through tributaries and oxbows, our ancestors created a life on the untamed river and came to call Memphis their home.

After all of these decades, we still call Memphis our home. The river once again inspires us to create a distinct and original service for our city and its visitors — OXBEAU.

OXBEAU is your destination for inspired style - clothing and accessories with comfort, quality and well-suited for any occasion. The OXBEAU shopping experience offers Memphis-themed gifts and tees, vintage vinyl, sports memorabilia, hunting and outdoor gear.

Heart and soul go into creating a unique shopping experience in which service and individual styles matter for every person. We will bring you trending and original brands that are a reflection of Memphis and everything it has to offer.

Since 2012, our customers have trusted us to listen, be authentic, and to help them step out of their comfort zone from time to time, without pressure. That commitment holds true today. As an independent family owned business, we make decisions that align with our core values: family, faith, and community. We offer customers a remarkable shopping experience while strengthening OXBEAU's commitment to the Memphis area.

Anchored in Memphis. 
Raised on the river.
We are seeking blood and cell donors to support important medical research focused on fighting life-threatening diseases.

Qualified donors are compensated for their time— from $50 to several hundred dollars depending on the time required.

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researchchampions.com

PAY IT FORWARD & GET PAID

Best Barber Shop
1. 1776 Men’s Grooming Parlor
2. The Kee Barber
3. Gould’s Salon Spa

1776 Men’s Grooming Parlor offers haircuts, beard trims, and kids’ cuts. Serving both Collierville and Memphis, if you are looking for a close cut, fresh fade, or a prestigious pompadour, 1776 will have you “groomed for freedom,” just like their tagline guarantees.

Best Day Spa
1. Gould’s Salon Spa
2. The Well by Pavo
3. Rachel’s Salon & Day Spa

Best Place to Get a Facial
1. Gould’s Salon Spa
2. The Well by Pavo
3. The Skin Clinics (Germantown)

If you want to step away from reality for a few hours, Gould’s Salon Spa has you covered. Our readers think it’s the best place in Memphis to escape from the stress of the city and melt into relaxation.

Best Place to Get a Tan
1. Custom Spray Tanning by Bari @ SkinBody Memphis
2. Palm Beach Tan
3. Esthetiques Skin Spa

We all want good skin, but tanning isn’t necessarily the easiest thing in the world. Luckily, SkinBody Memphis has you covered. They are the No. 1 place Flyer readers choose in Memphis for tanning.

Best Hair Salon
1. Pavo Salon
2. Verseau Hair Studio
3. Gould’s Salon Spa

Is it their friendly faces? Their talented stylists? Their great service? More than likely, it’s all three that made Memphis choose Pavo Salon as the Best Hair Salon. This high-end salon can do it all while making it look easy.

Best Hair Stylist
★ BOM 1. Erica Richardson, Verseau Hair Studio
2. Angela Windsor-Cummings, Gould’s
3. Jarrad Baker, Hero Saga Salon

They say hard work pays off. Erica Richardson at Verseau Hair Studio was voted Best in Memphis last year and continues her streak. Her commitment to her customers and ability to leave them satisfied make her a cut above the rest.

Continued on page 36
Searching for a fun winter sport to keep your kids active and engaged? High Point Climbing and Fitness offers a variety of youth teams to meet your whole family’s needs!

Our non-competitive teams provide a fun way for climbers ages 6-18 to learn more about the sport of climbing in an instruction-based environment. Young athletes learn about everything from body movement on the wall to good gym etiquette, all while performing drills, age-appropriate workouts and, of course, playing some games along the way. Coaches will meet athletes at their individual level of strength and comfort and help them progress.

Non-competitive teams meet once per week during 8 week sessions.

Team 1: Ages 6-9
Team 2: Ages 10-13
Team 3: Ages 14-18

Interested in taking the next step? Our competitive youth team is an ongoing training program designed for kids ages 7-18 and will prepare young athletes for USA Climbing competitions. Athletes will work extensively with our coaches to develop better techniques, both physically and mentally, for higher level competition climbing.

Competitive Team: Ages 7-18
Mon / Wed / Thu from 4:30 - 6:30PM

To learn more or sign up, give us a call at 901-203-6122!
WELLNESS …
Continued from page 34

BEST NAIL SALON
1. Nail Bar & Co.
2. Gloss Nail Bar
3. Envy Nail Bar
Nail Bar & Co. turns nails into art. While you can go in and get the usual mani and pedi, they also provide personalized nail art. No matter how you want your nails to look, they will create a design to fit your style.

BEST HEALTH/
FITNESS CLUB
1. Kroc Center Memphis
2. YMCA
3. Any Body Yoga
With your body in mind, Kroc Center was an easy choice for Flyer readers’ Best Health/Fitness Club. Their helpful staff, top-notch fitness equipment, and commitment to fitness provide a great place to get fit.

BEST PLACE TO GET
WAXED
★ BOM 1. European Wax Center
2. Gould’s Salon Spa
3. The Well by Pavo

With a clean environment and knowledgeable, well-trained staff, the European Wax Center is waiting to spoil you and reinvigorate your skin. Their need to please set them apart in our poll.

BEST SPECIALTY
FITNESS STUDIO
1. Any Body Yoga
2. Better Bodies Yoga
3. CycleBar
Everybody is welcome at Any Body Yoga. The friendly studio tops the list as the best Specialty Fitness Studio in the city due to its commitment to welcoming all.

BEST MEDICAL
AESTHETIC SPA
1. The Skin Clinics (Germantown)
2. SkinBody Memphis
3. Memphis Laser Clinic
The Skin Clinics set a pretty high bar when it comes to skin care. Providing a wide array of services, they will help you reclaim your beautiful skin.

Any Body Yoga

Thanks Memphis for your votes

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We know these are difficult times. Here’s one way to make them easier: Eat local. You get a tasty break from cooking; Memphis’ restaurant community gets some local love. They’ve served us, now let’s serve them.

SO JOIN US IN SUPPORT BY EATING LOCAL.
Our restaurants are safe, open and Ready To Serve You.

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*IMAGE OF ALLIGATOR RECORDS' ARTIST CHRISTONE “KINGFISH” INGRAM BY RORY DOYLE

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326 BLUES ALLEY LANE • 662.627.6149
BEST POST-COVID DOG PARK
Tobey Dog Park doesn’t have the cool, big-tree shade and hip cachet of Overton Bark or the wide-open spaces and lakes of Shelby Farms Dog Park, but after a months-long COVID shutdown, Tobey Dog Park came back with lush new grass, new seating, a few new plantings, lots of room to run, and a friendly bunch of regulars. It’s become my hounds’ new go-to fave.

— Bruce VanWyngarden

BEST PLACE TO PRETEND EVERYTHING IS NORMAL
Let’s face it: The great outdoors is the safest place to be in these scary microbe-laden times, and Overton Park is the escape destination of choice for lots of Memphians. There’s room to spread out on a blanket on the Greensward, if you’re feeling pastoral. You can hike and bike the miles of trails — paved and unpaved — if you want to exercise or just get into nature. You can play a round of woodsy golf on the old Links course, or take your pups for exercise at the dog park. Get out of the house. Breathe.

— BV

BEST PANDEMIC RESPONSE
Heroes are those who deign to tilt a lance at 2020’s never-ceasing stream of hot, fresh bullshit. Heroes are those Cooper-Young residents who, since the beginning of the pandemic, have fought against it all with a front-yard display of skeletons that’s part social commentary and part salve for the soul. These skeletons have played volleyball, poker, gotten drunk at a bar, and honored the passage of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

— Toby Sells

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— Toby Sells

BEST OF MEMERNET
Ryan Hailey is the funniest, hardest-working citizen of the MEMernet this year. His Ryan’s Shorts YouTube channel spews Memphis comedy gold. For proof, look no further than “Memphis Bass Pro Shop Pyramid Party Rock Anthem.”

“When the aliens come down, all they really want to see is the pyramid by the river down in Memphis, Tennessee. Made of glass and some brass, it’ll knock you on your ass. Make your damn jaw drop. What’s that? It’s our Bass Pro Shop.”

— TS

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD STROLL
If nothing else, this year has made us all slow down — and that’s not a bad thing. Starting in late March, I began taking more walks in my neighborhood, Normal Station, and around the University of Memphis campus. I’d taken lots of strolls down those streets over the years, but this year they morphed into mediation-in-motion sessions, a break from the work-from-home slog, a mental distraction from COVID stress. Each day, I found new beauty: fresh floral blooms in neighbors’ front-yard gardens, college kids practicing their band instruments in the then-deserted U of M parking garage on Southern (the acoustics were phenomenal), and I even made it a mission to walk and photograph every single Tiger statue around campus. When the world was closed and all we had was home, I grew closer to my neighborhood. I bet you can find similar beauty in yours.

— Shara Clark

BEST COVID-19 FIGHTERS/KEEPING SHIT TOGETHERERS
Maybe Alisa Haushalter and Dr. Bruce Randolph weren’t household names in February. But, by now, everyone in Memphis knows that Haushalter, director of the Shelby County Health Department, and Randolph, the Shelby County Health Officer, have led the charge here to keep our collective shit together through this COVID-19 nightmare.

Behind the scenes, they watch the virus data and help form the plan on how to fight it. In front of the scenes, they give Memphians the straight dope on our situation and relentlessly crusade for mask-wearing, social distancing, and hand-washing.

— TS

BEST HISTORIC HOMECOMING
When Booker T. Jones moved away from his hometown, the tensions...
and turmoil of that time clouded his brow. Recalling that in his just-published autobiography made his show at Crosstown Theatre in January especially meaningful. Not only was his son Ted playing guitar, his old friend Carla Thomas and the Stax Music Academy band delivered “B-A-B-Y” with aplomb. — Alex Greene

BEST CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

BEST ARTIST TO WATCH
Local indie band Blvck Hippie recorded a pair of singles, “Bunkbed” and “Rhodes Avenue,” at Sun Studio during quarantine, and the songs have legs. We at the Flyer were early cheerleaders for the band, fronted by songwriter Josh Shaw, but the buzz has gone international, landing the group a sponsorship from Ernie Ball and positive reviews from AFROPUNK, The Daily Indie, and La Blogothèque. — JD

BEST REASON TO BREAK QUARANTINE
There is no good reason to break quarantine! If you feel sick, stay home! I’m serious! Watch John Carpenter’s The Thing or something. Why do you make me say these things, man? — JD

BEST ADVERTISEMENT
Flyer columnist emeritus Chris Davis recently clapped eagle eyes on what

↓ Josh Shaw of Blvck Hippie
will soon be a legend in Memphis advertising. A huge sign for Drain Cleaning and Repair Co. faced Danny Thomas. Its classic lines read, “who pooped,” “oh, [poop emoji],” and “40 yrs. of straight turd chasin.” — TS

BEST PLACE FOR THE MOST UNLIKELY PAIRING
Have you ever seen something so unlikely that you’re not quite sure what you are actually seeing? Like if you saw that George Takei was cast in the movie The Blind Side — not in the role of Leigh Anne Tuohy, but as Michael Oher — you might just stand there for a moment and go, “Wait. What? Hm. Okay.” Meet Mr. Casas Japanese and Mexican Food Truck. Wait. What? Hm. Okay. The unlikely food pairing is at first perplexing. A Japanese menu on one side, a Mexican menu on the other. Give it some time. You’ll get used to eating your nachos with chopsticks.

— Julie Ray

BEST WILDLIFE WHISPERER
Sami Harvey was furloughed from her job at Hilton earlier this year due to the pandemic, but that didn’t keep her down. Harvey set out to save the world, one squirrel at a time. After realizing the need for more licensed wildlife rehabilitators in the Memphis area, she used the downtime to launch Out of the Woods Wildlife Rescue & Rehab from her home in Shelby Forest, where she now cares for injured and orphaned wildlife. The facility — where she treats squirrels, raccoons, foxes, opossums, cryptids, and some birds — houses indoor and outdoor enclosures and enrichment areas, and lots of love. Follow Out of the Woods on Facebook or Instagram (@outofthewoodswildlife) for some of the cutest damn pictures you’ve ever seen, and watch while these sweet little critters grow and heal.

— SC

BEST CELEBRATION OF MEMPHIS BY NON-MEMPHIANS
The Iris Orchestra comprises players from all over the country. Conrad Tao is an acclaimed New Music composer based in New York. Yet those forces converged when Iris commissioned Tao to write a piece for the city’s bicentennial. Tao’s “Spoonful,” inspired by and incorporating a recording by Charlie Patton, embodied Memphis history in all its unhinged drama, angst, and humor. — AG

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Our Downtown restaurant community has been here for you in the past, but now they need your help! Head #BackDowntown to eat at the 60+ restaurants participating in Downtown Dining Week!

learn more and check out the menus: HTTPS://DOWNTOWNMEMPHIS.COM
Go Further  By  Julie  Ray

This one is personal. Chances are it's personal for you, too. According to breastcancer.org, about one in eight U.S. women will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. Most of us know at least eight women. One of those women will be affected.

Susan G. Komen is the largest and best-funded breast cancer organization in the United States. Our local chapter, Susan G. Komen Memphis-MidSouth Mississippi, makes sure that 80 cents of every dollar is directed to its mission, and of that, 75 percent remains local. The remaining 25 percent funds breast cancer research.

Contemporary Media, the Memphis Flyer parent company, is once again participating this year. The team is racing through Central Gardens for our sisters, mothers, aunts, and other women (as well as men). Come down and cheer our small but mighty group to the finish line as we Race for the Cure. We'll be starting at 9 a.m.

A childhood friend, MaryBeth Werner Connor, who had been diagnosed with breast cancer, recently gave us all great news.

"All of my cancer is gone," said Connor. "The chemo worked, and the cancer has been eaten up. No lymph node involvement. I could not have made it through this without all of my family and friends who gave me the strength to handle this and kick cancer's butt." MaryBeth, this one's for you — and for breast cancer research, so that more women can say they kicked cancer's butt.

KOMEN MEMPHIS-MIDSOUTH VIRTUAL RACE FOR THE CURE®, KOMENMEMPHISMS.ORG, SATURDAY, OCT. 31.

Webbstar releases hypnotic reggae soul single “South Memphis Woman.”

Music, p. 44

(above) Participants in the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama

The Last Word, p. 55

VARIOUS DAYS & TIMES  October 29th - November 4th

Art + Environmental Justice Conversation Series
uac.org, Thursday, Oct. 29, 6 p.m., free with registration
Shana M. Griffin of New Orleans is this week’s socially engaged artist who, together with Memphis organizers, will discuss the importance of art at the intersection of environmental activism and struggles for social justice.

Bartlett Drive Boo
Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center, 3663 Appling, Thursday, Oct. 29, 6-8 p.m., $5-$10
Put on your costume, drive up, and enjoy the views. Leave with a bag of treats. For children ages 4-10. Registration required. No walk-ups.

Alpha Omega Golf Classic
Windyke Country Club, 8335 Winchester, Thursday, Oct. 29, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., $20
Honors the losses incurred on 9/11 and serves as a reminder of how our country was forever changed on that tragic day. Benefits Veterans Services, Inc.

A Virtual Visit with Edgar Allan Poe
elmwoodcemetery.org, Friday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m., $20
Edgar Allan Poe, portrayed by literary historian Rob Velella, returns from beyond the grave to read several of his works, both well-known and forgotten, in a virtual format. For ages 13+.

Bats and Bonfires
Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center, 21430 TN-57, Moscow, TN, Friday, Oct. 30, 6-9 p.m., $100 for up to 4 people, $8 additional people
Build a functional bat house for your yard, learn about bats, and enjoy activities under the stars with dinner and s’mores.

Halloween’s Tell-Tale Heart: Edgar Allan Poe, Ambrose Bierce, and Flannery O’Connor
Tennessee Shakespeare Co., 7950 Trinity, Friday, Oct. 30, 8 p.m., $15-$25
A literary celebration. Expect thrills and surprises as these writers take unexpected twists and turns with terrors both real and imagined.

Hallowed History Tour
Elmwood Cemetery, 824 S. Dudley, Saturday, Oct. 31, 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., $25
Join staff in particularly small groups for a visit to resident scalawags, madams, martyrs, and saints during this all-walking tour. Adults only.

Breathwork: Balancing Our Bodies During Times of Unease
aceawareness.org, Saturday, Oct. 31, 1-2 p.m., free
This online series will help you use the power of breath to restore the nervous system to a balanced state. Move past blockages and stress and toward holistic healing.
Gravel Grinder
By Julie Ray

I guess the cat’s out of the bag — or rather, the bike’s out of the shop. Outdoors Inc. showed up in a big way for the Best of Memphis awards. The local sporting goods store took awards for Best Local Athletic Goods Store and Best Bicycle Shop. No wonder, with great events like the Grit & Grind Gravel Grinder.

On Sunday, get revved up and ready to bike a pancake-flat course that will be fast and rideable. With a mix of asphalt, gravel, and dirt, be ready to get muddy if it rains. You should be in the clear though. By all accounts, the weather is supposed to be a cool 67 degrees with cloud cover.

While the course is currently being updated, Outdoors Inc. says, “The newly improved gravel is complete and looks good. It will be even better with a little time. ‘The race course [this year] is 55 percent tarmac, 45 percent gravel.’” Laps are roughly 6.5 miles long. There will be no separate starts for male and female divisions; each lap category will start at the same time. A reminder: Helmets are required. Stay tuned for awards, which will be given to the top five male and female winners in each division (5 Lap, 4 Lap, 3 Lap).

After the race, celebrate at Grind City Brewing Company, 76 Waterworks, with entertainment by Chinese Connection Dub Embassy.

GRIT & GRIND GRAVEL GRINDER, BIG RIVER CROSSING, CHANNEL 3 DRIVE, SUNDAY, NOV. 1, 9 A.M., $45-$65.

Scandals & Scoundrels: A Tour of Elmwood Cemetery
Elmwood Cemetery, 824 S. Dudley, Saturday, Oct. 31, 11 a.m., $25
Tour of the infamous residents of Elmwood Cemetery, all of whom have interesting stories. But some of the deep history found at Elmwood comes with a questionable ending. That’s where this tour begins.

Hallowdaze: Theatre Memphis Trunk or Treat
Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Ext., Saturday, Oct. 31, noon-3:30 p.m., free
Participants can walk from trunk to trunk collecting goodies. Cars will be spaced out and masks will be required.

Memphis Reggae Halloween
Brisonis, 341 Madison, Saturday, Oct. 31, noon-9 p.m.
Family-friendly outdoor event. Rock your favorite Halloween costume and enjoy jerked chicken sandwiches, reggae music, and candy. Curbside pick-up available.

Black Panther
Shelby Farms Park, 500 N. Pine Lake, Saturday, Oct. 31, 5 p.m., $25 per car
Family-friendly, socially distant evening featuring the American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name. Wakanda forever!

The Art of Paper Making with Rebecca Shellabarger
Arrow Creative, 2535 Broad, Sunday, Nov. 1, 1 p.m., $125
Learn all about paper pulp preparation and about which papers are best for recycling. All materials included to complete basic sheet formation.

Cornhole Tournament
FedEx Event Center at Shelby Farms Park, 415 Great View, Sunday, Nov. 1, 1-6 p.m., $75 per team
Open to 32 teams of two. Meddlesome Brewery, Old Dominick Distillery, and 9Dough1 will be on site. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams.

“Please, come and see my film” — Sacha Baron Cohen (above) returns as Borat in Borat Subsequent Moviefilm. Film, p. 51

“Thank you for voting Mulan Best of Memphis! Open 7 days a week for take out and delivery at all locations. We apologize, but our dining rooms remain closed for now.”

“I want to ride my bicycle — I want to ride my bike!”

“Gravel Grinder” is a special feature of the Memphis Flyer. It is written by Julie Ray. If you would like to contribute a story to our next issue, please contact Julie at julie@memphisflyer.com or 901.734.0510.
he singer, songwriter, and rapper Webbstar has one message for music fans: Expect the unexpected. Over his years of music making, he's skipped across multiple genres, sometimes in a single song. Starting as a young rapper, his first record, Cuffing Season, also showed considerable melodic and R&B chops. The dawn of 2020 saw him introducing serious rock elements into his sound, especially with the single, "Shine," which could be a collaboration with Gary Clark Jr., but it really springs from his partnership with Micah Wilshire and Ryan Peel. Peel has been integral to Webbstar's most recent work, further broadening his production palette this summer in having him record with local reggae masters Chinese Connection Dub Embassy (CCDE).

That stroke of genius yielded two hot summer singles, "Bad Bad Ting," a tribute to a certain woman's hotness released under Peel's name, featuring both Webbstar and CCDE, and the politically woke "Dem A Callin (Flodgin)," credited to CCDE, featuring Webbstar. Now, under his own name, Webbstar has released a new single created by the same collaboration, the hypnotic reggae soul of "South Memphis Woman."

The stylistic shift might surprise anyone who's known Webbstar as Derrick Webb, a rapper since grade school, when he had a partner who's since gained considerable acclaim. "I also work with Memphis Track Boy," Webb explains. "He produced a lot of stuff for Moneybagg Yo, BlocBoy JB, and other big-time guys. And a lot of Cuffing Season was done with Memphis Track Boy. He's had a lot of success. But I've known him since third grade! Then we started doing music when I was a sophomore in high school. By 10th grade, I had already recorded a mixtape. And he was doing beats already. He had a studio in his mom's house. So we linked up, and the next year, I created a song for my football team. I was a junior at Whitehaven High School."

Football fed his rap talents, but also opened up new perspectives when he got a scholarship to play with the University of Colorado Buffaloes. "I did all that rapping in Memphis, then I went to college in Colorado, with a whole different scene, a whole different culture. I started to really explore different music styles at that time. And I'd say that made me a songwriter. It gave me the ability to move between genres. There's a lot of different ways into the game."

"South Memphis Woman," for example, first grew out of Webb's other great musical love. "My granddaddy used to always play the blues," he says, "taking me to football games on Saturday mornings. So I had the blues feel, like most Memphis children do. And that's what he had in mind when writing the song. "South Memphis Woman" had been in the works in my head, only in my head, for about a year. And I imagined doing it as some kind of soulful blues ... a kind of hole-in-the-wall type of feel."

But then came his sessions with CCDE. "We started getting in the studio together, and Ryan brought it up. And when we created it right there on the spot, with Chinese Connection Dub Embassy, they took it in a reggae direction, and it was perfect. I think it was just meant for them to be on that song. They're so talented, as soon as Ryan told them the idea, we made it immediately. Right there on the spot. That's all it took."

The track sports CCDE's trademark groove with subtle atmospherics, Webbstar's soulful singing, background vocals, and horn punches, adding up to a sound evoking reggae from decades past. As Webb notes, it may not be the direction of most music coming out of Memphis, or anywhere, these days, but he's undeterred. "Because of the modern thing, some of the better reggae groups today are just not noticed. It's not in the pop culture right now. It's its own lane."

He seems to relish surprising music fans with such twists and turns. "It can be hard for people to grab a hold of it at first, until they see the consistency. I'm gonna rap, I'm gonna make some melodies, I'm gonna give you lyrical content, but I've been keeping people guessing. I want people to know they can expect the unexpected. But whatever I make, it's going to have my DNA in it."
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376 N CLEVELAND ST.
901-585-0941

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Thanks, Memphis, the love is mutual.
CALENDAR of EVENTS:
Oct. 29 - Nov. 4

THEATER

Germantown Community Theatre
Circa On Stage, it’s a dark and stormy night, and you’ve been invited to a very unusual dinner party. The host is dead. So who dunnit? Join the iconic oddballs to find the murderer in Boddy Manor. Oct. 30-Nov. 15. 3037 FOREST-HILMERE (453-7447).

Hatillo Theatre

Kudzu Playhouse
Kudzu Playhouse Virtual, join Kudzu social media for donation-based classes, games, scholarship opportunities, and more. Download the app for more fun theater activities and information. Ongoing. 1934 POPLAR (544-6209).

The Orpheum
Orpheum Virtual Engagement, join Orpheum staff, artists, and students for activities, interviews, and more on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. Visit website for more information. Ongoing. 203 S. MAIN (525-3000).

Playhouse on the Square

Playhouse on the Square
In the Zoom Where It Happens, integrating solo comedy segments with Zoom-based sketches. Share the laughter, not the spittle. memphiss.edu. Sat.-Sun., Oct. 31-Nov. 1. 2745 CENTRAL (685-2575).

Tennessee Shakespeare Company
Halloween Tall-Tale Heart: Edgar Allan Poe, Ambrose Bierce, and Flannery O’Connor, salon curated by Stephanie Shine and Dr. Diane Dombrowski. Fri.-Sun., Oct. 30, 5-8 p.m. 7950 TRINITY (759-0604).

“Wading Birds of the Southern United States” by Joseph A. Sullivan at Gallery 1091, opens Saturday, October 31st

University of Memphis, Department of Theatre & Dance
In the Zoo: Where It Happens, integrating solo comedy segments with Zoom-based sketches. Share the laughter, not the spittle. memphiss.edu. Sat.-Sun., Oct. 31-Nov. 1. 2745 CENTRAL (685-2575).

The Art of Paper
Making with Rebecca Sheflabages
Learn all about paper pulp preparation and about which papers are best for recycling. All materials included to complete basic sheet formation. $15. Through Oct. 31. OFF THE WALLS ART, 358 WALNUT, CHRISTOPHERBRETTES.COM.

Memphis Flyer Coloring Book
Order your book today benefiting local artists and journalism. $35. Ongoing. MEMPHISFLYER.COM.

Pinch District Art on the Patio Artists’ Market
First Sunday of every month, 2 p.m. WESTY'S, 345 N. MAIN (543-3278).

ONGOING ART

ArtsMemphis

David Lusk Gallery
“Charity & Terror,” exhibition of work by Anne Siems. Through Nov. 17. 97 TILLMAN (767-3800).

The Dixon Gallery & Gardens

Gallery 1091

Memphis Botanic Garden

Memphis Brooks Museum of Art

Memphis College of Art

OFF THE WALLS ART, 358 WALNUT, 203 S. MAIN (525-3000).

Thank you,
Memphis for voting for Crone Construction!
We will see you again in 2021.

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EVERYTHING IS ON THE LINE

This election and your health are important. Remember you have options to vote and ways to stay healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Shelby County wants you to Mask up, Social Distance and exercise your right to vote in the upcoming Election. Here are voting options for registered voters to consider:

- Absentee ballots must be received by October 27th
- Early vote during October 14th through October 29th
- Vote election day on November 3rd

www.shelbycountymtn.gov/ShelbyVotes #ShelbyVotes #EverythingIsOnTheLine

OVER 4 MILLION IN SALES BY THIRD QUARTER OF 2020!

From founding the HiTone and overseeing some of the best kitchens in town to succeeding in local real estate since 2007, this 30-year Memphian and entrepreneur, David Lorrison, knows Memphis!

David maintains a sense of urgency and work ethic that is hard to find. We have really enjoyed working with him over the past few years as both a listing and selling agent. I would highly recommend him for buying or selling an investment property in Memphis! — Clifton Stone with Riverstone Properties

We now live in the perfect mid-century modern dream house! There is no way we could've found our home or been able to close so quickly if it weren't for David's knowledge, guidance, and persistence. — Dr. and Mrs. E. Ritter Sansoni

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| SOLD | DUPLEX | 266 HAWTHORNE ST | MEMPHIS, TN 38112 |
| SOLD | MID-CENTURY MODERN | 998 FAIR MEADOW RD | MEMPHIS, TN 38117 |
| SOLD | COTTAGE | 746 HOLLY ST | MEMPHIS, TN 38112 |

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
TWO SHOWS:
1:00 PM AND 3:30 PM
OUTDOORS AND SOCIALLY DISTANT.

Tickets are at GPACweb.com

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
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OUTDOORS AND SOCIALLY DISTANT.

Tickets are at GPACweb.com

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Tours
Ghost Walk
Explore the macabre and dark history of Downtown Memphis. $20. Fridays-Sundays, 8 p.m.
THE BROOM CLOSET.
546 S. MAIN (497-9486), HISTORICALHAUNTSMEMPHIS.COM.

Hallowed History Tour
Join staff in particularly small groups for a visit to resident scalawags, madams, martyrs, and saints during this all-walking tour. Adults only $25.
Sat., Oct. 31, 9 & 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.
ELMWOOD CEMETERY.
824 S. DUDLEY (774-3212).

Metal Museum Audio Tour
Explore the newly updated Sculpture Garden and accompanying audio tour while adhering to safe social distancing.
PWMG. Ongoing, 11 a.m. -5 p.m.
METAL MUSEUM, 374 METAL MUSEUM DR. (774-6380).

Scandals & Scoundrels: A Tour of Elmwood Cemetery
Tour of the infamous residents of Elmwood Cemetery. $25.
Sat., Oct. 31, 11 a.m.
ELMWOOD CEMETERY.
824 S. DUDLEY (774-3212).

A Virtual Visit with Edgar Allan Poe
Edgar Allan Poe portrayed by literary historian Rob Veleva returns from beyond the grave to read several of his works, both well-known and forgotten. For ages 13+.
$20. Fri., Oct. 30, 7 p.m.
ELMWOOD CEMETERY.
824 S. DUDLEY (774-3212).

Walking Tour and Ghost Hunt
Part walking tour and part ghost hunt. Tour the South Main district and investigate a well-known site which was the scene of the brutal murder of patrolman Edward Broadfoot in 1918. 13+. $25.
Sat., Oct. 31, 7-10 p.m.
THE BROOM CLOSET.
546 S. MAIN (497-9486), HISTORICALHAUNTSMEMPHIS.COM.

Crafts Fair Pop-Up Shop
Featuring 30-plus artists and brands. From paintings and home decor to jewelry and candles in a safe and socially distanced pop-up experience.
Fridays, Saturdays, 10-3 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.; and Sundays, 12-5 p.m. Through Dec. 27.
MEMPHIS PINK PALACE MUSEUM, 3050 CENTRAL (683-2362).

Wicked Ways Haunted House, Cumberland Warehouse, Fridays-Sundays
Online Fall Plant Sale
Featuring plants for immediate color in the autumn landscape, including mums, pancies, ornamental kale and cabbage. Order online. Curbside pickup.
Through Oct. 29.
MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDEN, 750 CHERRY (684-4100).

SPORTS / FITNESS
Alpha Omega Golf Classic
Flowers the losses incurred on 9/11 and serves as a reminder of how our country was forever changed on that tragic day. $20. Thurs., Oct. 29.
WINDY KBSITE: 8535 WINCHESTER (734-8898), ALPHAOMEGAVETERANS.ORG.

Ballet Memphs Online Pilates and Ballet Classes
Classes offered include Espresso Flow, Stretch & Burn, Fascial Fun, Intermediate/Advanced Ballet, Intermediate Mat Flow, and Get Moving. $10. Ongoing, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
BALLET MEMPHIS, 2144 MADISON (737-7322).

Breathwork: Balancing Our Bodies During Times of Unease
Use the power of breath to restore the nervous system to a balanced state. Move past blockages and stress and toward healing. Online series.
Free. Sat., Oct. 31, 1-2 p.m.
ACEAWARENESS.ORG.

Grit & Grind Gravel Grinder
Gravel bikes, cross bikes, or mountain bikes welcome. Choose your Grinder division, 3-5 laps. $45-$65. Sun., Nov. 1, 9 a.m.
BIG RIVER CROSSING, CHANNEL 3 (729-8007).

Kroc Center Online Fitness Classes
Classes will be offered free and online. From mediation and yoga to Boot Camp and kickboxing, find the right class for you. Free. Ongoing.
THE SALVATION ARMY KROC CENTER, 560 S. PARKWAY S. (729-8007).

Our Virtual Yoga Downtown
Join Charlie Baxter Hayden for yoga on IG Live.
downtownmemphismodays. Tues., 6 p.m.
downtownmemphismodays.com.

Virtual PuppyUp Walk
Walk to promote awareness of canine cancer and fundraise for cancer research to benefit both pets and people. Through Nov. 14.
puppyupwalk.org.

Ruby Buckle Barrel Race
Wed.-Sat., Nov. 4-7.
AGRICENTER INTERNATIONAL, 7777 WALNUT GROVE (901-602-7872), THEBURFBUCKLE.COM.

Tennessee Reining Horse Association
AGRICENTER INTERNATIONAL, 7777 WALNUT GROVE (731-7777), TRBA.COM.

Virtual Training & Group Fitness
Workouts for anyone to try at home. Workouts include yoga, barre, exercises for active older adults, and Les Mills training. Visit website to join. Free. Ongoing.
ymcarememphis.org.

MEETINGS
Churches from the Presbytery of the Mid-South: Sunday Worship Livestream
Combined livestream worship. Visit website for more information and livestream link. Sun., 11 a.m.
southpensacola.bethelchurch.com.

Virtual-T
Weekly Zoom gathering for anyone 18+ who identifies as a member of the trans or GNC community. For login information, email ashauptman@outmemphis.org. Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
outmemphis.org.
**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Early Voting for General and Municipal Election**
Visit website for mail-in ballot, voting locations, and more information. Through Oct. 29. [VARIOUS LOCATIONS. SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION. SHELBYVOTE.COM.]

**General and Municipal Election**
Visit website for mail-in ballot, voting locations, and more information. Tues., Nov. 3. [VARIOUS LOCATIONS. SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION. SHELBYVOTE.COM.]

**ACEAWARENESS.ORG.**
10-11 a.m. Through Nov. 28. The Flyer’s Memphis Blog
For those experiencing the unrelenting stress of the pandemic and finding themselves struggling to handle the excessive needs placed on them due to school closures and other challenges. Free. Saturdays, to school closures and other needs placed on them due to school closures and other challenges. Free. Saturdays.

**“The Negro Motorist Green Book”**
Exhibition highlighting an annual guide started in 1936 that helped African Americans travel the country and was a resource for the era's Black-owned businesses. $10. Through Jan. 3, 2021. NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM, 404 W. CLAY, 901-521-9699.

**Bats and Bonfires**
Build a functional bat house for your yard, learn about bats, and enjoy activities under the stars with dinner and s'mores around a campfire. $100 for up to 4 people, $8 additional people. Fri., Oct. 30, 6-9 p.m. PINECREST CONFERENCE AND RETREAT CENTER, 21430 TN-57 (878-1247), CAMP@PINECREST.ORG.

**FILM**

**Virtual PuppyUp**
Memphis Walk, puppyupwalk.org, through November 14th
Wicked W ays Haunted House
Memphis’ largest indoor haunted house. Masks required. $23-$35. Fridays-Sundays, 7 p.m. Through Nov. 8. CUMBERLAND WAREHOUSE, 140 CUMBERLAND, WICKEDWAYSCHAUNTEDHOUSE.COM.

**FILM**

**Black Panther**
$25 per car. Sat., Oct. 31, 5 p.m. SHELBY FARMS PARK, 500 N. PINE LAKE (767-PARK), SHELBYFARMSPARK.ORG.

**Virtual Trunk or Treat**
Participants can walk from trunk to trunk, collecting goods. Cars will be spaced out, and masks will be required. Sat., Oct. 31, 10-3:30 p.m. THEATRE MEMPHIS, 630 PERKINS EXT. (682-8323).

**FOOD & DRINK EVENTS**

**Downtown Dinner + Music Series**
Distanced, outdoor, and unplugged live music. Thurs., 6-9 p.m. Through Oct. 29. MEMPHISTRAVEL.COM.

**Zoo Boo**
Activities for the whole family, including pumpkin patch, Magic Mr. Nick, and more. $13 members, $15 non-members. Fri.-Sun., 6-9 p.m. Through Oct. 31. MEMPHIS ZOO, 2000 PRENTISS PLACE IN OVERTON PARK (333-4500).

**Zoo Boo**
Activities for the whole family, including pumpkin patch, Magic Mr. Nick, and more. $13 members, $15 non-members. Fri.-Sun., 6-9 p.m. Through Oct. 31. MEMPHIS ZOO, 2000 PRENTISS PLACE IN OVERTON PARK (333-4500).

**Memphis Dawah Association: Mobile Food Pantry**
A weekly mobile food pantry organized by Memphis Dawah Association and Mid-South Food Bank. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. MEMPHIS DAWAH ASSOCIATION, 837 CRAFT (661-472-0239).

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Amok in America

Sacha Baron Cohen returns to skewer us in *Borat Subsequent Moviefilm.*

In 1831, a French magistrate named Alexis de Tocqueville conned his government, known as the July Monarchy, into sending him on a trip to the United States, ostensibly to investigate the prison system. For nine months, he and a friend traveled through the young republic, making cursory visits to prisons while observing the people and institutions that had grown up in the four decades since the Constitution was adopted.

The French Revolution, which quickly followed the American one, had ended in terror and failure, reverting to a constitutional monarchy. De Tocqueville asked why the United States succeeded where the French had failed. What did it mean for a subject of a monarchy to become a citizen of a democracy? And how, the abolitionist Frenchman asked, did the country that so valued equality and human rights reconcile those views with the institution of slavery? In 1835, he published the first volume of *Democracy in America.* The book is considered one of the first works of modern sociology and political science, and is required reading for any student of American history.

Around 174 years later, in 2006, “Borat Sagdiyev” toured America in order to make a documentary he could take back to his native Kazakhstan, so the people of that brutal post-Soviet dictatorship could learn what it meant to be a citizen of a democracy in the 21st century. The resulting film, *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan,* became something of a modern classic — for some people, anyway. Kazakhstan, and the plaintiffs behind seven lawsuits seeking millions of dollars in damages from the film’s producers, were less impressed. But Kazakh diplomat Yerlan Askerbekov wrote that the film allowed audiences to “get an outsider’s view of the U.S. and reveal the prejudices of the Americans who Borat interacts with, functioning as a sort of 21st century Alexis de Tocqueville.”

Borat is, of course, not really from Kazakhstan. He’s British-born comedian Sacha Baron Cohen. The character Borat first appeared on *Da Ali G Show,* the British comedy show where Baron Cohen would adopt different personae and do interviews with unsuspecting people in “real life” situations. Airing on HBO in the U.S., it was a game-changer, blending reality television with fairly high-minded pranks. At least, they were high-minded compared to the oodles of pranks shows that now infest YouTube.

On the eve of the most important election in America in generations, Baron Cohen brought Borat out of retirement and once again sent him on a tour of America. What he found in *Borat Subsequent Moviefilm:* Delivery of Prodigious Bribe to American Regime for Make Benefit Once Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan was a country at once familiar and transformed. Since Borat is now a known prankster, he brought along his daughter Tutar (Maria Bakalova) to take point on some of the more delicate operations.

Borat’s mission, as it says in the title, is to bribe Vice President Michael Pence with the gift of a monkey. When the monkey doesn’t survive the trip from Central Asia, Borat decides to use his daughter as the bribe instead. The high point of *Subsequent Moviefilm* is when Baron Cohen walks into the Conservative Political Action Conference dressed in KKK robes, changes into a rather uncanny Donald Trump costume in the bathroom, and interrupts Pence’s speech with Tutar thrown over his shoulder.

The looks of horror and confusion in the room full of Republican activists are what you want out of a Borat movie. But what comes before is even more shocking. The conference was held at the end of February 2020, and...
NOTICE TO BIDDER(S)

Bids will be received by the Shelby County Government through the Shelby County Roads, Bridges, and Engineering Department, 6463 Haley Road, Memphis, TN 38134 until November 16th, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. as shown below:

- Big Creek Wetland & Recreation Area Project, Activity #4-NDR-01; Phase Nos. 01, 02 & 03 - from U.S. Highway 51 North to Sledge Rd.
- South Cypress Creek Property Acquisition Project, Activity #2-NDR-04; located within a residential community generally bounded by CN Railroad on the north, Ford Road on the east, West Mitchell Road on the south, and an irregular boundary between Weaver Road and CN Railroad on the west.

These Closing Services would include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Review our existing Title Searches and securing any necessary Title Search updates.
2. Preparing all closing documents, including the Warranty Deeds, Releases, Affidavits, Closing Statements, etc.
3. Scheduling and conducting the closings with the property owners.
4. Receiving, escrowing and disbursing closing funds.
5. Processing payoffs on outstanding loans, liens, taxes, etc.
6. Recording the property transfer documents (i.e. Warranty, Releases, Affidavits, etc.)
7. Issuing Title Policies on all acquisitions with a purchase price of $25,000 or greater.
8. Billing the County for closing costs.

This Bid must be based upon the provider’s ability/commitment to complete all closings within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of the County’s Notice to Proceed with each closing.

In order to be considered for the above described Closing Services solicitation, your Bid must be submitted via email to William.Goss@shelbycountytnt.gov and must be received by Monday, November 16th, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Your Bid response must include the following information:

- Company name and contact information.
- Description of the company, number of years in business and services provided.
- Unit price for closing of each improved residential property.
- Unit price for closing of each unproved property.
- Shelby County E.O.C Number.
- Current vendor number.

Any additional specifications may be obtained from the Shelby County Roads, Bridges, and Engineering Department, by contacting William Goss, 6463 Haley Road, Memphis, TN 38134, (901) 222-7715, TTY Number (901) 222-2301 or for information in Spanish 901-222-4289.

As a condition precedent to bidding, each bidder must apply and qualify for a Current vendor number.

NOTE: The Selected contractor will also be required to provide proof of registration within the Federal SAM system to ensure that they do not appear on the debarred/suspended registry prior to issuance of a contract.

Shelby County is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer and drug-free with policies of non-discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or military service. The Shelby County Roads, Bridges, and Engineering Department encourages participation from WBE, MBE, LOSB, and Section 3 firms and vendors under this CDBG-NDR response.

The Shelby County Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities therein.

William Goss, Right of Way Manager
Shelby County Roads, Bridges, and Engineering Department

continued from page 51

Pence dutifully repeats the administration’s line that only 15 people have COVID, and that the coronavirus was no threat to Americans. As I write this, more than 225,000 Americans have died of the virus, more than any other country in the world. CPAC is suing, but not for that.

Baron Cohen adapted to the pandemic, which broke out while he was filming, by quarantining himself with a pair of alt-right QAnon fans. The scenes are equally funny and queasy. I am not a huge fan of cringe comedy (it makes me cringe), but I found Borat repeatedly wringing laughs from me. Borat is cluelessly retrograde in his social beliefs and mores. This time around, he makes himself the butt of the joke even more than usual, foregrounding Tutar’s arc into a kind of feminism. Bakalova is the star of the instantly infamous scene where she entraps Rudy Giuliani into what he thinks is going to be a tryst with a naive young reporter in a hotel room. In context, it’s kind of anticlimactic. They’re probably going to get sued again.

One thing’s for sure: Baron Cohen and Bakalova have ice water in their veins. Sometimes their counterparts are not unwitting — scenes with a Black babysitter look more like a pro-am improv session. But when it works, it’s a sight to behold. Subsequent Moviefilm delivers queasy laughs for a queasy time in America. Watch it before or after you vote. Subsequent Moviefilm is streaming on Amazon Prime.
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The Lies I Tell

The election, my niece, and voter suppression.

Last week, I took my 6-year-old niece with me to early vote. As we walked into the polling place, hand in hand, I lied to her. I didn’t intend to. I just wanted to make the short walk from the parking lot to the building a quick lesson on voting rights.

What we’re about to do, I told her solemnly, is very, very important. Slipping into the same voice I use to read bedtime stories, I began: A long, long time ago, there were people who fought really hard to keep people like us — Black people — from voting. But Black people and some white people worked really hard to make sure we could. To make those Black people proud, I said, we have to vote in every election. And, I added as a happily ever after, that’s why we were going to vote today.

No sooner had the words left my mouth when I realized I had not been honest. Why had I placed voter suppression in the distant past? Why did I feel compelled to leave out the violence, the blood spilled, the murders? Why did I obscure the villains, leaving them colorless as if their identities aren’t known?

The truth is this: Voter suppression, intimidation, and systemic disenfranchisement wasn’t long, long ago or in a place far away. It’s happening now, here, and all around.

Since the 2010 elections, 24 states have passed laws making it harder to vote, according to the Brennan Center for Justice. From shrinking the number of early voting locations, cutting back the early voting period, enacting strict voter ID laws, and purging infrequent voters from the rolls, Republican-led attacks against the franchise seem unrelenting.

Recently, the Memphis branch of the NAACP sued the Shelby County Election Commission after it limited early voting locations to the Agricenter, which is outside the city core and closer to parts of the county that are majority-white, even though Shelby County is predominantly Black.

The NAACP won its suit, but the commission still managed to open late a key early voting site in the city’s core. The commission blamed it on a miscommunication with poll workers, but it read as spiteful, as if election officials were thumbing their noses at voting rights advocates.

The NAACP and the Tennessee Black Voter Project have since sued the commission again, “for its refusal to allow voters who submitted timely, but allegedly deficient, voter registration applications to correct any deficiencies in those applications on or before Election Day and then vote regular ballots.” A judge ruled against the commission this week.

In Houston, Texas, there have been allegations that volunteer Korean translators were being kicked out of polling places. In Kansas, the lone polling place in the majority-Hispanic town of Dodge City has been moved into the county, a mile from the nearest bus stop.

Ever since the Supreme Court overturned parts of the Voting Rights Act in 2013, Southern states previously required to get federal okay before changing election laws rushed to make it harder for Black and brown people to vote.

“The decision in Shelby County opened the floodgates to laws restricting voting throughout the United States. The effects were immediate. Within 24 hours of the ruling, Texas announced that it would implement a strict photo ID law. Two other states, Mississippi and Alabama, also began to enforce photo ID laws that had previously been barred because of federal preclearance,” said the Brennan Center.

But I didn’t tell my niece about the Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder case that took the teeth out of the Voting Rights Act.

I didn’t tell her about Mississippi voting rights advocate and all-around badass Fannie Lou Hamer, an Indianola, Mississippi, tenant farmer who was fired by her plantation owner after she tried to register to vote in 1962. Undeterred, she opposed the state’s all-white delegation at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Four years later, she was chosen as a delegate for the party’s presidential nominating committee in Chicago.

If I close my eyes, I can see the horrifying image of a battered John Lewis, beaten by a state trooper on Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama, in 1965 for the crime of being a Negro trying to register other Negroes to vote. I know the names of martyrs Andrew Goodman, Mickey Schwerner, James Chaney, Rev. James Reeb, and Viola Gregg Liuzzo, all slain because they sought voting rights for Black people in the South.

None of this brutal, gruesome, painful, wretched history did I share with my beautiful, cornrow-wearing, baby teeth-missing, still-needs-a-nap niece. These American stories are the stuff of Black nightmares. So I lied. I turned the fight for the ballot into a fairy tale, where in the end, the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice. And while I hope that comes to pass, I’m not sure that’s true either.

I’m not proud of my lie. I was simply trying to shield my niece from what she’ll see soon enough: That the mean people who didn’t want Black people to vote then are still with us now.

Wendi C. Thomas is the editor and publisher of MLK50; Justice Through Journalism, where a version of this column first appeared.
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