YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG!

Ten ways to improve your outlook and your life in 2018
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OUR 1506TH ISSUE 01.04.18

Information is power, but disinformation is also power. We've learned this the hard way over the past 18 months.

Not so long ago, we read newspapers and watched the national television news to gain our information. We all got our information from what was meant to be one of the cornerstones of our democracy — the free press. That's no longer the case.

Facebook, Twitter, and other social media have changed everything. Facebook, in particular, has become a central focal point for information — and disinformation — distribution. And it's how we — you and me and most everyone you know — built Facebook and made Mark Zuckerberg rich and powerful. He owes everything to us and the content we provide.

That's because Facebook needs "content" like a zombie needs brains. It survives and grows by providing a constant stream of information. When you go to your Facebook page, there's always something new. And that's because millions of people, here and around the globe, helpfully feed Facebook with fresh content.

Sure, there are your vacation pictures and ubiquitous videos of frisky cats and cute goats, but much of that content consists of links to news articles and opinion pieces.

The problem is that it's all presented like a veggie platter at your office party — a news story from The Washington Post, a video from Alex Jones, a Breitbart "expose," a Flyer editor's column — it's all just consumable content to Facebook, a way to keep you coming back for more. Content is king.

But if content is king, those who present the content are the king-makers, the ultimate arbiters of what the public consumes as "news." And what we've learned the hard way is that our new content distribution systems can be gamed. They can be gamed by Facebook algorithms that ensure you see ads that tempt you over and over to buy that pair of Timberlands you looked at on Zappos.com. And they can be gamed by bad actors who buy information about your interests and opinions and target you with content that shapes your worldview, that drives and reinforces your political disposition just as effectively as Zappos can shape your desire to buy those Timberlands.

These days, the truth is just another product. It's available, but it's queued up in your Facebook feed next to all the other products: lies, disinformation, propaganda, huckster schemes, and cat videos.

This is a dangerous and vulnerable situation for a democratic republic that relies on an informed public to set the course for its leaders. It's exacerbated by the decline of the country's traditional bastions of reliable information — its daily newspapers. With few exceptions, our great city newspapers have shrunk to shells of their former glory days; they have fewer reporters, fewer pages, and fewer subscribers.

How many Harvey Weinsteins and Roy Moores are out there? If not for the New York Times and Washington Post, we wouldn't have learned of either man's sordid past. However flawed those newspapers are, they are essential to our democracy.

Without the free press, propaganda becomes easier. Lies can be repeated without fear of rebuttal. Agendas that serve only to further empower the already powerful are easier to get away with.

For example, polling tells us that 77 percent of Americans wanted net neutrality, but the powerful didn't want it, so it went away. A great majority of Americans were opposed to the GOP tax plan, but we got it anyway, because the corporations who own Congress wanted it. Most Americans do not want to see the Affordable Care Act destroyed, but millions of Americans are about to lose health insurance or pay much higher premiums. The vast majority of Americans want stricter gun laws, but the NRA doesn't and the NRA controls Congress.

If we the people don't control Congress, we've lost our country. If the will of the people can be so easily ignored, the system is broken. I believe we're at a tipping point, here on the precipice of 2018. Great crises loom. The current situation — with a president who appears to be mentally unfit for the office and a Congressional majority that appears to have sold its soul for manna — can't be allowed to stand. We all need to seek the truth — and speak the truth to power. The future of our country lies in the balance. Happy New Year. Saddle up.
New Grizz in Town

Grizz Gaming brings Memphis basketball to new venue.

Qualifying rounds began earlier this week for a brand new basketball team that will don the Memphis blues. But it's unlikely you've ever heard any of the players' names on ESPN.

The Memphis Grizzlies are a founding team of a new league. But it's unlikely any of those teams will ever meet face-to-face on the floor of FedExForum.

The new league is for esports, or electronic sports — video games — and right now thousands of players from all over the world are vying to join 17 brand new basketball teams for the very first season of NBA 2K League.

Anyone who grew up around video games knows NBA 2K. The game debuted in 1999 and looks like a real, live basketball game. The teams and players are real, too, down to the mascots and tattoos.

In esports, teams compete live and, yes, people tune in to watch the games. The industry is expected to grow to $1.5 billion by 2020, and the esports audience was expected to reach 385 million by 2017.

In Memphis, the Grizzlies have hired Lang Whitaker as the general manager of Grizz Gaming, the city's new esports team.

"As someone who has voraciously consumed both basketball and video games for my entire life, being the general manager of Grizz Gaming is, in many ways, the culmination of my life's work," said Whitaker. "I always told my mom that playing video games would one day pay off. Today is that day."

To qualify for invitation-only tryouts in February, players must win 50 games in NBA 2K18's pro-am mode and fill out an online application by the end of January. The qualifier is open to anyone in the world who is 18 or older and has a copy of NBA 2K18 on either Xbox One or PS4.

Players selected from the tryout will be drafted to league teams in March. Drafted players will get a "guaranteed, competitive salary," according to the league's website, benefits, and housing, meaning each player drafted for Grizz Gaming will be brought to Memphis for the season.

Players will create their own player avatar, instead of playing as Marc Gasol, for example. Each game will feature two teams in five-on-five gameplay. The games will be broadcast, though "the league is currently in media rights discussions," according to the NBA 2K League website.

In a recent Ask Me Anything session on Reddit, the esports league's managing director, Brendan Donohue, said salary figures have yet to be finalized, along with other details like quarter lengths, and on which console games will be played.

"Grizz Gaming provides the Memphis Grizzlies organization and our partners with a new avenue to engage with a passionate and dedicated fan base through an esports team that reflects our culture and identity," said Jason Wexler, Memphis Grizzlies president of business operations.

NBA 2K league play tips off in May.
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

DOWN
1. First name in country
2. Hacker’s tool
3. Vixen’s carrier
4. “110%” effort
5. How write “Fake me more from less than the wine”
6. Joints: offspring
7. “The”
8.的一部分（hit）
9. Short
10. “the”
11.Suffix with escalators
12. Part of a gig
13. Unwavering
14. Sources of delays, say
15. Feeling
16. Vase style
17. Not to, say
18. Long intervals of
19. Who wrote “I became insane, with...
20. Not accidental
21. Votaries of
22. Not accidental
23. Like the
24. Compatriot of
25. “the”
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The Memphis City Council is considering an ordinance that would change how public art dollars are spent by ensuring that a set percentage goes to local artists.

The key change of the ordinance, sponsored by council chairman Berlin Boyd, mandates that the UrbanArt Commission (UAC) awards 60 percent of dollars to local artists annually, rather than over a five year period as previously required.

Lauren Kennedy, executive director of the UAC, said she believes the primary goals of the changes — outside of the local artist allocation — are related to transparency of the program rather than its function. — Maya Smith

Memphis Flyer: Do you think the changes will be better for public art in Memphis?

Lauren Kennedy: I think that all of the discussions over the last number of months have improved public understanding of our processes to some extent and focused attention on the public art landscape in our city.

It is important to highlight that greater participation from the local artist community in the city’s public art program will not just happen because of the change to the annual mandate. Investments that will be made by UAC and other organizations over the next several years to develop resources and programs that support artists will be more meaningful in developing a greater arts ecosystem in the city.

MF: How will the UAC go about contracting more local, minority, and women artists?

LK: There is an incredible breadth of talent and creativity in Memphis, but the cross-section of local artists who are actively working in public spaces gets much smaller. Some calls to artists for city-funded projects will only be open to local artists, but it’s going to take more than that.

We often see greater responses from local artists on national calls quite simply because there are more places for those calls to be seen. We are having to develop new marketing strategies to share artist calls and leverage partnerships and relationships to help spread the word. Our team will also consistently provide workshop and training opportunities to help artists navigate the submission process.

For some artists, we recognize that we have to rebuild trust and relationships where artists have felt disenfranchised. Our team is here to understand what the barriers to applying might be for artists and to removing them and opening up the process.

MF: What does the future of UAC look like?

LK: This question is at the heart of the strategic planning process that we are undertaking over the next several months, and we look forward to sharing that in the summer. The board and staff at UAC are committed to being a greater resource to artists and neighborhoods and pushing for greater equity for artists and art experiences in our city.

We also remain focused on inserting Memphis into national dialogues around art and public space and supporting creative exchanges between artists working in different contexts and media. Memphis should not operate in a bubble, and we will continue exploring how to grow public art through all the avenues available to us.

See the full Q&A at memphisflyer.com

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As we begin 2018, President Donald Trump claims he is picking up speed after the late December passage of tax cut legislation. But the tax cut is even less popular than the president. And his approval rating is the lowest in history for any first-year president.

The real problem is that tax cuts for the rich are not what candidate Trump promised his populist supporters. Trump said he was going to raise taxes on the rich and eliminate deductions that favored the investor class, while cutting taxes on the middle class. He also said he was going to end the carried interest deduction that allows hedge fund millionaires to pay at a lower tax rate than working-class Americans.

The bill Trump signed does the exact opposite. It gives a big tax cut to the rich and allows the carried interest deduction to remain.

Trump has distracted the nation with his clown show while the “too big to fail” crowd of corporate lobbyists, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Koch brothers passed a tax bill to make themselves even richer. This is a triumph for establishment Republicans.

For most of 2017, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Speaker Paul Ryan were ridiculed on right-wing talk radio and conservative websites for not advancing the Trump agenda. The Republican Congress’s approval ratings sank lower than Trump’s. But in retrospect, it looks as if McConnell and Ryan never cared about their low ratings. They wanted the president to fill up the front pages with his attacks on them, as well as bluster, bullying, and scandal. It allowed them to work without the glare of public scrutiny for a rushed tax bill that gives small, temporary breaks to Trump’s “forgotten” working people while the wealthiest 1 percent of taxpayers get 83 percent of the benefit.

Establishment Republicans also let Trump have the spotlight while working in the dark to advance three other long-held agenda items. Firstly, allowing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve; secondly, repealing the individual mandate in the Affordable Care Act; and thirdly, pushing poorly qualified but pro-business and anti-regulation judges onto federal courts.

Establishment Republicans plan to use Trump as a distraction once again in 2018. While Trump is caught up battling the special counsel probe into alleged collusion between his 2016 campaign and Russia, McConnell and Ryan plan to cut federal spending on social safety net programs, including welfare, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. These are politically popular programs. Trump promised during the 2016 campaign not to cut Social Security. But now the populist politician will again be reneging on a pledge.

He is being repositioned by the GOP establishment into demanding smaller government and making their case that starving big government begins by cutting spending on domestic programs. Trump and the Republican majority in Congress will not mention their 2017 tax cuts that drove up the deficit by more than $1 trillion. These Republican bait-and-switch games are urgent with the midterm elections approaching. Democrats are likely to make gains that could halt the GOP establishment agenda. A Quinnipiac poll taken before Christmas found Democrats with a 15-point advantage on the 2018 generic Congressional ballot question, 52 to 37.

Charlie Cook wrote recently in the Cook Political Report that the GOP is facing “enormous” problems heading into the new year. “The odds of them losing the House are now at least 50-50, and the Senate is in real doubt.”
Democrats need a net gain of 24 House seats to wrest back control. Twenty-three districts currently represented by GOP congressmen voted for Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election. Seven of them are in deep-blue California.

When control of the House flipped from Democrats to Republicans in 1994, the GOP picked up 54 seats. In 2006, the Democrats won control of the House by picking up 31 seats. In 2010, control switched again with the GOP netting 63 seats.

The GOP has something of a “red wall” in the House through years of gerrymandered districts by Republican governors and state legislatures. But as the 2016 election proved with Hillary Clinton’s fabled “blue wall” in the electoral college, walls work great — until they are breached.

Charlie Cook wrote recently in the Cook Political Report that the GOP is facing “enormous” problems heading into the new year. “The odds of them losing the House are now at least 50-50, and the Senate is in real doubt.”

One of the most underreported stories of 2017 was the failure of Republicans to recruit top-tier candidates with name recognition and fundraising prowess to run for these seats. Democrats are growing in confidence as they see the second and third-rate Republican contenders. And Democrats need a confidence boost. They are defending an unenviable 26 Senate seats — one more than expected, because there will be a special election in Minnesota as a result of Senator Al Franken’s resignation — while the GOP is defending only eight.

Trump gave his conservative supporters heartburn earlier this year when he struck a temporary spending deal with Congressional Democrats. It is good that Trump appears to get along so well with “Chuck and Nancy” — Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

The smart money says he will be spending a lot more time with them when they are Senate Majority Leader and Speaker this time next year. By then, the Republican Establishment will be done with the Trump show. ■ Juan Williams is an author, and a political analyst for Fox News Channel. Jackson Baker’s regular Politics column will return next week.
A Bad Precedent

Dawn’s first light of 2018 found two empty pedestals where symbols of oppression once stood — and in their place, fresh concerns have grown about the method and processes that emptied them.

Officials at the highest levels of local government toiled in secret harmony over many months to devise the complicated plan that yielded the seamless choreography of the night the Confederate statues came down. The government process is most often likened to the ugly, blood-and-guts process of making sausage, so anything seamless is an improvement.

The Memphis City Council publicly heard plans, options, legal opinions, and more for weeks, as the ordinance to remove the statues moved through the legislative and legal process. But in the end, council members unanimously approved a plan that was never vetted in a public hearing.

During the day of Tuesday, December 20th, government officials began enacting a process that was shielded from the public and the press. While council members went about their daily business at city hall, police readied to secure the parks for the statues’ removal. Contracts selling the parks to Greenspace Inc. had been proofed, finalized, and waited only for Mayor Jim Strickland’s signature.

When the time came, council member Edmund Ford Jr. brought a substitute ordinance to his colleagues. Surely every council member knew what the ordinance contained and surely each and every one of them had already agreed to it. Because they all approved the new rule without discussion. They didn’t read it aloud. They didn’t even offer up copies of it to the public after the vote. The public was left in the dark.

With the council vote in hand, Strickland quickly signed the sale documents. Police mobilized, possibly even before the ink had dried. Soon, blue lights flooded Health Sciences Park on Union Avenue and Memphis Park on Front Street.

We’ve been supportive of the removal of the Confederate statues numerous times in these pages, but we cannot support the new precedent for the city council to do whatever it wants without any public inspection or input.

What if the council had simply sold Overton Park’s Greensward to, say, the Memphis Zoo? The new precedent would have certainly streamlined that process, of which more than one council member complained.

Council member Kemp Conrad recently poked fun at the public’s mistrust of the city council. During a discussion of proposed changes to the city’s rules for permitting races, protests, and other public gatherings on WKNO’s Behind the Headlines, Conrad joked that “It’s not like [council member Reid Hedgepeth] is riding around in a black helicopter trying to figure out a way to squash free speech.”

But if you wonder why some Memphians don’t trust the council, look no further than the vote that brought those statues down.

Experts could argue, perhaps, that the method of the final vote was completely legal. And they may be correct. But is it the right way to govern?

We don’t think so. The public has every right to know what their council is voting upon. They earn that right every time they pay taxes and every time they pull the handle in a voting booth.
With the announcement of former Governor Phil Bredesen that he would seek the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate seat being vacated by Bob Corker, it looked like the Tennessee Democratic Party would have not one, but two primaries at the top of their ticket in August. However, the withdrawal on December 13th of newcomer James Mackler leaves the Senate primary all to Bredesen, at least for now.

This would have worked well in Shelby County, where county-wide Democratic candidates face a general election in August at the same time as state and federal primaries. In recent years, with few statewide candidates, this has hurt local Democrats, who were wiped out, except for Assessor Cheyenne Johnson.

The gubernatorial primary features House Democratic Leader Craig Fitzhugh of Ripley, who is beloved by his caucus and has a good reputation for working with local leaders, and former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, who is given some of the credit for the rapid growth in Davidson County. They are similar in age and temperament, and each has a good working knowledge of government operations.

However, the true divide among Tennessee Democrats was more visible in the Senate primary. The initial entrant in the race was Nashville attorney Mackler, whose bio notes that he quit his job in the early 1990s in order to enter the Iraq War. He entered the race before Corker announced that he would not seek re-election; however, Corker’s withdrawal from the race did not prevent Mackler from demonstrating why he wanted the office or from assailing the presumed GOP front-runner, U.S. Representative Marsha Blackburn.

Mackler is only 44 years old and had not sought public office prior to this race, which had some longtime Democrats worried about how he would do in a statewide election. That said, he appeared to have the ability to draw younger voters, as well as those who have stayed out of the process, back to the voting booth. As reviews of the 2016 election have indicated, non-voters have hurt Democrats the most — with a lack of enthusiasm being a major problem.

The election of Donald Trump to the presidency dramatically increased leftward activism here and throughout the country; the Democrats need to be able to turn this interest into votes.

This begs the question of why a 74-year-old former governor, who has not been on a Tennessee ballot since 2006, would enter a Senate race when he has never been a legislator, only a mayor and a governor. Bredesen’s entry video indicated not that he would serve as a rebuttal to the GOP, but that he would work across the aisle with legislators to get things done. He did not even indicate that he would work to save the Affordable Care Act, upon which many Tennessee lives depend.

For some of the activist groups that have risen in the aftermath of last year’s election, the question that will be asked is this: Who is this guy, where did he come from, and has he been paying attention? For younger Democrats, who may not be old enough to remember his administration, Bredesen is reminiscent of a past they never knew.

Only longtime Democrats, with nostalgia for the days when they held power, seem to be excited over a Bredesen candidacy.

Only longtime Democrats, with nostalgia for the days when they held power, seem to be excited over a Bredesen candidacy. He is certainly to the right of those new activists, who are raising new generations of Democrats. While Mackler is not exactly Bernie Sanders, his appeal would have skewed younger and more in line with the people knocking on doors and making phone calls.

Without Mackler in the race, Bredesen can focus on the general election. A Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee poll taken in October, before Bredesen’s entry, showed him with a 46-41 lead over Blackburn, which may have been the deciding factor for him to get in the race.

As the headliner of the Democratic ticket, he won’t just be responsible for his own victory, he will be expected to help raise turnout levels in down-ballot races, especially those in the state legislative races. It’s a lot to ask from someone who won’t have been on a ballot for 12 years; for Tennessee Democrats, it appears to be the best chance at this time.

Steve Steffens, is a longtime Democratic activist and the proprietor of Leftwingcracker.com weblog.
COVER STORY BY FLYER STAFF / ILLUSTRATIONS BY GREG CRAVENS

YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG

HOW TO BE FUNNIER
So you’re an edgy comedian? Do you really think you’re in some vanguard of shock-troop comics dropping the N-word on people for the first time? If so, you’re doing it wrong.

To borrow a line from all those Avengers movie trailers, “The world is changing.” As more and more people awaken to inequality, institutional dysfunction, and secret oppression of all kinds, it gets harder and harder for the hard-touring hack to get by on jokes about rape, the mental capacity of Polish people, or the general assumption that LGBTQ lifestyles are a punchline in and of themselves. Still, every time a comedian goes too far and gets in trouble, the cry goes up: Political Correctness is killing comedy. Memphis comics Katrina Coleman and Richard Douglas Jones recently shared a story from open mic night at the P&H Cafe about how they watched negative crowd response flip an aspiring funny guy’s punchline from something cliche and negative, to something almost empowering — and still funny!

Midtown’s a charming place, so naturally Midtowners love the pleasure of their own company. The P&H crowd is self-entertaining, and any performer who’s ever tanked there knows the sick, sinking feeling you get when the crowd starts ignoring you and talking among themselves. But the famously open and accepting bar doesn’t put up with mess and vocally rebuked a comic for his routine about how upsetting it was to see his son playing in a dress.

The joke tanked twice, but the comic kept it in his set. He even kept a bit of its original tone in order to divert expectations. But the routine’s emphasis shifted from heteronormativity to fashion. “He changed the punchline to, ‘AND HE’S CLEARLY A SUMMER,’” Coleman says emphatically. “It made the joke hilarious. Thereafter, I saw it kill at a state fair in Mississippi and multiple other places.”

There are probably some good rules to follow, like “don’t punch down.” But better joke telling may come down to how much the teller values cheap shots and cheap laughs. Comedy is craft, and there’s nothing cheap about good craftsmanship. — Chris Davis

HOW TO COOK TOFU
Is your tofu tofunky? A flavorless and flat disappointment? We turned to the

Ten ways to improve your outlook and your life in 2018

mari-nade or dressing. I mean, lots and lots of marinade. (Shiberou’s own is a combo of soy, worcestershire, rosemary, garlic, salt and pepper, and pineapple.) The fried tofu will soak it up. He then grills it to “bring it up a notch.” The grilling caramalizes the marinade and elevates this tofu to greatness. “That’s all I know about tofu,” says Shiberou.

— Susan Ellis

SELF-SERVICE CHECKOUT
There’s a reason stores like Kroger and Home Depot always have an attendant on duty near their self-checkout machines: Too many people do it wrong. You may be one of them — seldom able to get through the whole process without hitting a snag and having to timidly raise your hand to ask Charlotte for help.

It shouldn’t be that hard, really. Scan the bar-codes for your items, put them in a bag, press “PAY,” insert your debit card or a few bills, and take your receipt! Easy, right?

Oh, wait. Those bananas have to be weighed? Dang. “Ma’am?”

The important thing is not to panic. Everything you need in order to do checkout like a pro is there: a scale, a list of items and prices, a keypad. You can do this. Maybe.

The first thing to remember is not to get too ambitious. Think of the self-service line as you would the “15 Items or Less” line. In other words, don’t attempt to self-checkout $250 worth of groceries. That’s a job for Brenda over on aisle six.

If you have a week’s worth of groceries, just go wait in line and look at your phone. It’ll be over before you know it.

Second, be aware that if you buy produce, you’re probably going to have to weigh it and key in your PLU code. Same with some baked goods. If that sounds scary, then don’t attempt it. You’ll only tick people off. If you do attempt it, you’ll have to key in a PLU...
BRUSH YOUR TEETH, IDIOT.
The words “brush your teeth” sound so... self-explanatory. You got the brush. You got the teeth. Bada-bing. Bada-boom.
I was wrong.
I know someone once explained the correct procedure to me along the way. But it wasn’t until I was facing disappointing reports at the dentist’s office that I stumbled upon Quip.
Reviews say it’s like “Apple designed a toothbrush,” or “Tesla’s toothbrush.” For me, it was small and used regular-old AA batteries instead of a bulky charger. So, I was in.
The brush came with these Ike-esque directions. But unlike Ike’s, these directions were clear, precise, and — for me — revelatory.
Brush at a 45-degree angle, the directions said, because brushing your teeth really means brushing your gums. Derp.
Also, they said, brush for two minutes, breaking up your mouth into four, 30-second segments. The Quip brush pulses for me at intervals for a derp-free workout.
Finally, don’t wash out your mouth after you brush. Do it, and all that fluoride goodness is washed away. — Toby Sells

RINSE & REPEAT
Surely, you know how to wash your own hair by this point. But, chances are, you’re doing it wrong — and too often, according to Meagan Kitterlin, salon director of Pavo.
Kitterlin says your scalp will tell you when it’s dirty and needs a wash. Laying off washing provides some relief for taxed hair. If your hair tends to be oily, use a shampoo with an astringent. If it’s dry, go for a creamier shampoo. You then get your hair wet, apply your product to your scalp (use less product if it’s from a salon), massage the product into a lather. “You should massage your scalp in and out of the shower. It helps prevent premature hair loss,” Kitterlin says. After you rinse the shampoo out, you’ll want to apply a conditioner or hair mask. You’ll apply it mid-length down and leave it in for the duration for the shower. Rinse that out with hot water, followed by cool water. “It adds shine and seals in moisture,” Kitterlin says.
For stretching in between shampoos, Kitterlin says, “Dry shampoo is amazing. It’s good for daily upkeep, and it adds texture.” A good dry shampoo absorbs oil and is good for freshening up after a workout. For those with curls, Kitterlin recommends a co-wash, which is a conditioning wash that doesn’t weigh down curls. “Overwashing is kryptonite,” she says. — SE

HOW TO CURE A HEADACHE
After the excitement of the new year wears off, the normal day-to-day stress is bound to return. And when the stress arises for some of us, so does a throbbing, achy headache. And for me, nothing is more bothersome or distracting than that.
Usually I give in, reach for a bottle of Excedrin, and pop two of them. But, in the spirit of the new year, I’ve been trying some natural, healthier ways to nip my headaches in the bud.
But, before we talk remedies, let’s talk prevention. If you experience a lot of headaches, maybe start with asking yourself these two questions: First, are you drinking enough water each day? That could be a contributing factor to your headaches. Coffee, sugary drinks, and alcohol can further dehydrate you, too. So pour yourself a glass or eight of water and drink up.
Second, are you getting enough hours of sleep? Lack of sleep or irregular sleep patterns can trigger a headache like nothing else. On the flip side, too many hours of sleep can also cause one. The best thing to do is to figure out how many hours of sleep your body needs and consistently try to get that amount.
When the headache has already kicked in, here are two remedies that I find useful:
Massage a drop of either peppermint or eucalyptus oil on your temples, forehead, or wrists. Tension will be released, and your headache will likely subside.
Try stretching. Tension headaches can be caused by staying in the same position for too long. I once read that hunching over a computer screen, can put up to 30 extra pounds of pressure on your neck. So every 30 to 60 minutes at work, get up, stretch — dance if you have to. Just keep moving.
— Maya Smith

GOOGLE BETTER
Google gets you. But speak its language, and it’ll really get you.
Looking for Imagine Vegan Cafe but don’t wanna see all that “Buttholegate” stuff? Just put hyphens in front of the stuff you don’t wanna see. So, you’d type: imagine vegan memphis -buttholegate -babies -toddlers -naked. (After some Googling, that was, seriously, the only search recipe that DID NOT yield items related to Buttholegate. Wow.)

HOW TO PLAY PIANO
This lesson is not for everyone. Memphis is crawling with accomplished musicians who are not afraid to learn a song and perform it. But I encounter so many who are. My brother, a theoretical physicist, once saw me play and confessed, “I’m amazed that you can do that!” People are far too mystified by music. It’s a holdover from those childhood piano lessons.
One of my favorite piano books is How to Play the Piano Despite Years of Lessons (Cannel & Marx, 1976), its point being that sight-reading will not necessarily help you keep music in your life. Photographer William Eggleston, who has improvised and played by ear since he was four, likens sight-reading to typing, which gives short shrift to all the classical and session musicians of the world but contains a kernel of truth: Sight-reading alone is not enough. For many it’s a barrier to simply playing — and listening.
What my favorite piano book says in 240 pages, Jim Dickinson says in two. In his recent (posthumous) memoir, I’m Just Dead, I’m Not Gone, he describes a childhood encounter with a man he referred to privately as “the Phantom.” Sitting briefly at the Dickinson family piano, the Phantom turned to young Jim and revealed a secret: “Everything in music is made up out of codes.” As Dickinson writes, “I thought, ‘Codes … Secret codes!!! Like Captain Midnight.’
“This is how you makes a code,” said the Phantom. “You take one note, any note. Then you goes three up and four down, just like in poker. Three up and four down and you gets a code.”
As Dickinson explains, “Of course, he meant chord … a major triad.” But “code” is more appropriate. It’s what stylin’ would-be tunesmiths who humbly think they could never play a song.
Learn some “codes” and bash out a song. Just remember, Jim broke the code, and Jim was a maker. Be like Jim. — Alex Greene

Want to see stuff that only contains the word “Buttholegate?” Just throw it in quotation marks. So, you search: “buttholegate” and relive summer 2017, when times were simpler.
Finally, want to see every time the word “Buttholegate” has appeared in the Flyer? Google it like this: buttholegate site:memphisflyer.com.
It’ll bring up every time the word has appeared on our site. I tried it. Here’s the result: Flyer: 2. Commercial Appeal: 0. Your move, CA. — TS

continued on page 14
WIN AN INTERNET ARGUMENT

Many of us have spent years engaged in running arguments across the internet, trying to desperately to convince our fellow Americans to turn away from encroaching fascism. How’s that been working out?

Obviously, we need to get better at changing people’s minds. Here, according to science, are some tips:

1. **STAY CALM:** Yes, it feels good to yell at your opponents. It’s also counterproductive. You want them contemplative, not defensive. If you look hostile, you risk activating their tribal instincts and shutting out your words.

2. **ASK “WHY?”**: Don’t try to talk your opponents out of their position — help them talk themselves out of it. Drill down into their reasoning by asking them to articulate it. Then they can find the holes themselves. Be prepared to do the same.

3. **K.I.S.S.:** Keep It Simple, Stupid. Fox News reasoning is so effective because it demands very little mental work except blaming the “Other” for all problems. The less mental energy the listener expends, the more persuasive problems. The less mental energy the listener expends, the more persuasive arguments you will find the argument. Remember: The brain is like a muscle. It literally burns energy to think, and when it works too hard, it gets sore. When a student says “calculus makes my brain hurt,” they’re being literal. Keep your sentences as short and simple as possible: noun, verb, object. The less energy they burn understanding your words, the more energy will be available for reasoning.

4. **REFRAME THE ARGUMENT:** Sun Tzu says, “Whoever is first in the field and awaits the coming of the enemy shall be fresh for the fight.” Choose the battlefield. Make your position the default position, and make them come to you. This is why plutocrats call the estate tax the “death tax” — it changes the argument from “Why should people have excessive wealth they didn’t earn?” to “Why should dead people pay taxes?”

5. **SMILE WHEN YOU SAY THAT:** If you’re face to face, make eye contact. Nod. Encourage empathy. Point out areas where you are in agreement. Compliment them. “That’s a good point, but…”

6. **BE A GOOD WINNER:** People can be stubborn because they’re afraid of looking stupid. Allow your opponent to back down from their position gracefully. Give them a way to save face. Your default mode should not be “You’re wrong!” It should be “Join us!”

7. **KNOW YOUR REAL AUDIENCE:** The hard truth is, you’re probably not going to change the mind of the person you’re arguing with. The guy who comes out swinging in defense of white supremacy is likely not persuadable, but there will be other, more persuadable people who will be reading your words and watching how you conduct yourself in the argument. Even if you lose the battle with this particular troll, a solid rhetorical style can still win the war. — Chris McCoy

ON FIGURING THINGS OUT

The advice I consider most relevant to the theme of this week’s cover story came from good ole Sergeant Rollins, the kind-hearted World War II vet and Army careerist who oversaw my R.O.T.C. instruction way back in the day at Central High School. “There’s the right way, the wrong way, and the Army way,” he informed us, and that paean to transcendent authority made as much sense to me then as a paradox can.

I choose to apply that same kind of thinking to the issue of how one finds a solution, any solution, or courts Lady Luck. And make no mistake: She’s out there, somewhere, in the warp and woof of Einstein’s universe, just outside the reach of Newton’s logic and the doomed presumption of those mathematical “systems” that habitual gamblers think they can apply to the workings of fate.

“By-the-numbers” can only take you so far. Consider how one reaches any conclusion. You start building premises slowly and methodically: Point Number One, hmmm; Point Number Two, okay; and you keep this up all the way to, say, Point Number Seven, when, all of a sudden, your mind abandons the whole pile-up, you let go (or surrender, if you will), and with a swoop of unpremeditated intuition, you are transported all the way to Point Ten, the Eureka! The tell. The reveal.

That wasn’t you who did it, it was the aforesaid Lady Luck who filled in your blanks, or, if you want to keep things gender-free it was the IT of Zen. There’s the right way, the wrong way, and, er, The Way. And, baby, it don’t belong to you. n — Jackson Baker

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/T_h e brain is like a muscle. It literally
they will /f_i  nd the argument. Remember:
listener expends, the more persuasive
problems. /T_h e less mental energy the
work except blaming the "Other" for all
because it demands very little mental
prepared to do the same.
Drill down into their reasoning
— help them talk themselves out of
instincts and shutting out your words.
hostile, you risk activating their tribal
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counterproductive. Y ou want them
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working out?
Fellow Americans to turn away from
trying to desperately to convince our
running arguments across the internet,
Many of us have spent years engaged in
Win an Internet Argument
continued from page 13
2. ASK "WHY?": Don't try to talk
1. STAY CALM: Y es, it feels good
Of the person you're arguing with.
probably not going to change the mind
AUDIENCE: /T_h e hard truth is, you're
gracefully. Give them a way to save
back down from their position
of looking stupid. Allow your opponent
point, but … "/T_h at's a good
Compliment them. "/T_h at's a good
areas where you are in agreement.

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NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER

Across the country, healthcare is one of America’s most rapidly growing job sectors. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says that healthcare will add more jobs (over 4 million) than any other industry through 2022. The Memphis area is critically in need of healthcare workers in our hospitals, research institutions, and in companies that support healthcare in areas such as medical devices, medical equipment, and packaging.

The degrees earned by Christian Brothers University students at both the undergraduate and graduate level prepare them well for success. Each year, CBU graduates attend the highest quality medical schools and enter graduate programs in health-related fields at universities across the nation. CBU graduates have an 85% medical school acceptance rate (the national average is 45%), a 94% acceptance rate in nursing school (national rate is 44%), and comparable acceptance rates for pharmacy school and physician assistant programs.

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Raelyn and Willie and the Boys
Willie Nelson’s granddaughter comes to Memphis with a pocketful of surprising influences.

Raelyn Nelson, granddaughter of Willie, makes her Memphis debut this Thursday at Lafayette’s Music Room. Purists beware: though she’s a mom of three, she exudes the rock-and-roll energy of a much younger soul, tempered by the wisdom only an outlaw grandpa can bring.

Memphis Flyer: I saw your first EP cover was an homage to the Ramones. Were they a big influence on your sound?
Raelyn Nelson: Yeah. Cheap Trick and Big Star. All the guys in the band brought that into our music. Mine are like Loretta Lynn and all the old country greats. Kitty Wells. My mom kept me pretty sheltered with music when I was younger. It was a lot of Amy Grant, a lot of Christian music, my grandpa’s music, and old country. That’s kinda where she kept me until I got into my teens, then I ventured out little bit and got into the country scene at that time. I was a big Dixie Chicks fan.

And my main influence is my grandpa. He gave me my guitar when I was 14; it’s what I’ve written all my songs on. If it wasn’t for him, I wouldn’t even wanna sing. When my kids were babies, I was stuck at home while they were sleeping all the time. I picked up the guitar again and started writing some of the songs that you hear now.

Jonathan Bright [JB], my music partner and guitar player, had a studio, and I was just looking for a place to record these songs. I recorded two or three, and by the end, he was like, “We should write some songs together and form a combo and play!” All of the guys I originally got were already in a band with JB, very much a part of the underground rock scene here in Nashville. Those guys [JB and Preach Rutherford] and my drummer chick [Angela Lese] are all rock-and-roll based, and I’m the one who’s country. Of course, I love the hybrid of old country and rock-and-roll. It’s super fun, and everyone can’t help but get up and dance to it.

It reminds me of the cowpunk bands from the ’80s … Jason and the Scorchers were a Nashville band and kinda did the cowpunk thing. We’ve been compared to them a lot. It’s funny, because Jason is now Farmer Jason, on our Channel 8, the kids’ channel. He pops up and says, “It’s Faaaarrrmer Jason!” And he starts fucking around on one, and started playing our songs on it, and I’m like “I think I wanna play this when we play!” We plug it into an amp, so it sounds like a really high guitar. And it turned into this cool thing that I can make a lot of fun moves with, ‘cause it’s really teeny tiny. So I guess my whole thing is to try to be as different as possible.

Raelyn Nelson Band plays Lafayette’s Music Room on Thursday, January 4th at 9 p.m.

Has the band ever joined your grandpa on any gigs?
We played Farm Aid in 2014. And my Aunt Amy and I have plans for an Animal Aid, too, similar to Farm Aid but for animals. We actually started a nonprofit organization called Willie’s Kids, to create humane education that can be used in schools globally. To help generations be more mindful of animals. You know, it also connects with the factory farming here, ‘cause it’s really bad for the environment, really bad for the animals, really bad for us, the stuff that they’re putting into these animals. It’s just incredible, the greed for money and the over-consumption of meat that people are doing. It’s too much. We don’t need it.

Willie Nelson’s Kids, to create humane education that can be used in schools globally. To help generations be more mindful of animals. You know, it also connects with the factory farming here, ‘cause it’s really bad for the environment, really bad for the animals, really bad for us, the stuff that they’re putting into these animals. It’s just incredible, the greed for money and the over-consumption of meat that people are doing. It’s too much. We don’t need it.

Willie must be proud that you’re carrying on the tradition of being both compassionate and a little ornery.
Well, my grandpa has always said the number one rule is, “Don’t be an asshole”; number two is, “Don’t be a titty”; and number three is, “Don’t be a fucking asshole.”

The Raelyn Nelson Band plays Lafayette’s Music Room on Thursday, January 4th at 9 p.m.

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# steppin’ out

We Recommend: Culture, News + Reviews

## Victoria’s Secrets  By Chris Davis

The Giant Rat of Sumatra entered the imaginations of Sherlock Holmes fans in *The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire*. It wasn't an auspicious mention, really, just a colorful quip from the great detective to his biographer and companion Dr. Watson. “Matilda Briggs was not the name of a young woman,” Holmes said to Watson. “It was a ship which is associated with the giant rat of Sumatra, a story for which the world is not yet prepared.” From that point, this rodent of unusual size took on a life of its own. In 1942, the tale was told on radio with the airing of Edith Meiser’s “The Giant Rat of Sumatra” episode of the *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. The rat is often referred to in a series of Holmes films starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, and comedy fans with a thing for terrible puns will be familiar with the Firesign Theatre’s comedy LP *The Tale of the Giant Rat of Sumatra* starring Hemlock Stones and his friend Dr. Flotsom. This is also the tradition from which Memphis’ Sherlock Holmes fan club takes its name. And the time has come once again for the Giant Rats of Sumatra to congregate and raise a toast to the world’s greatest consulting detective on his birthday, January 6th.

This year, the Giant Rats will congregate in the Walnut Room at the Racquet Club to eat, drink, check out Holmes memorabilia, play trivia games, and enjoy a concert by violinist Alice Hasen. Classic movies will be screened, and Dr. Karen Golightly will speak on the topic of “Victorian Crime and Horror.” Festivities begin with a 6 p.m. happy hour/cash bar. Period dress is encouraged, not mandatory. ■

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### Breakfast at Sunrise.
Food, p. 32

### FRIDAY January 5

#### “Beginnings”
*Levy Gallery, Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s School, 5-7 p.m.*

Opening reception for this group show from the Artist Group of Memphis.

#### Memphis Made
*Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s School, 8 p.m., $10-$15*

Part of the Memphis Made series, featuring Americana rockers the Dead Soldiers.

#### All Saints in the Old Colony
*TheatreWorks, 8 p.m., $15*

Story of Irish brothers in Boston. The family is falling apart.

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### SATURDAY January 6

#### Elvis’ Memphis
*Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., $15-$88*

A tribute to the tunes Elvis made in Memphis, from Terry Mike Jeffrey and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra.

#### Graceland Excursions Trip: Tupelo
*Graceland, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., $100*

A new bus tour to Elvis’ birthplace.

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### SUNDAY January 7

#### Young Marx
*Malco Paradiso, 1 p.m.*

A screening of the play of the early life of Karl Marx.

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### THURSDAY January 4

#### The Nate Silverstein Tournament
*Agricenter International, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., $12*

A super-huge bridge tournament.

#### “(Dis)placed Bodies”
*Memphis College of Art, 10 a.m.*

A cross-disciplinary show from students of University of Memphis and Memphis College of Art exploring how people are displaced through poverty, class, housing, and justice.

#### Tree Recycling
*Memphis Botanic Garden, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.*

The garden will take your tree and turn it into reusable material.

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### SUNDAAY January 7

#### The Gospel of Donald J. Trump.
The Last Word, p. 39
Talk Talk  By Chris Davis

As this column is being typed, there are very few tickets left for Memphis’ latest TEDx conference at the Halloran Centre. Bad news for those who want to hear the speakers live, but that doesn’t mean slowpokes can’t still enjoy the show in real time. All speakers will be live-streamed over the internet, and the raw footage will be edited and archived for future viewing. For the lucky few who grab the last tickets, TEDx organizer Anna Mullins gives us a taste of what’s in store.

Memphis Flyer: The TEDx is just like a regular TED talk but local, right?
Anna Mullins: TEDx follows all the same rules. It’s an idea-driven talk. It’s less than 18 minutes, and the conference is intended to cover a vast array of ideas.

What are some of the talks you’re excited about?
We have talks covering everything from technology to food. [Music producer] Boo Mitchell is going to talk about his father [Willie Mitchell]’s legacy. There’s a talk about diversifying the arts and what that means.

TED talks had so much buzz a few years ago but not as much lately. What does a zeitgeist moment like that mean a few years later? I’m sure every market is different. We’ve sold out every year. But part of the TED requirement is that we capture all of these on video. Last year, our videos were viewed more than 200,000 times. This year, we’re going to have a world-class doctor from St. Jude talk to us, and you don’t have to be a medical professional to appreciate it. That’s what’s so relatable about TED, not just as a brand, but as a format. They’re supposed to be conversational and intentionally provocative.

TEDx at the Halloran Centre Saturday, January 6th, 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. TEDXMEMPHIS.COM/

MONDAY January 8

WWE Monday Night Raw
FedExForum, 6:30 p.m., $35
The WWE Monday Night Raw event returns to Memphis and will feature Roman Reigns, Seth Rollins, Braun Strowman, Sasha Banks, and Bayley.

Elvis Birthday Proclamation Ceremony
Graceland, 9:30 a.m.
They do it every year. City officials declare it Elvis Presley Day in honor of his birthday. Followed by cake!

TUESDAY January 9

Front Porch Music Series
Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 6-8 p.m.
A music series with videos, performances, talks, and more. Tonight will feature the Memphis Jazz Workshop High School Ensemble.

WEDNESDAY January 10

Tea for Three
Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s School, 7:30 p.m., $50
Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, and Betty Ford gather to talk about the “hardest unpaid job in the world,” touching on civil rights and women’s rights.

The Shape of Water
Film, p. 34

January 8

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The Shape of Water
Film, p. 34
January 4-10, 2018

After Dark: Live Music Schedule January 4 - 10

**BEALE STREET**

- **Alfred's**
  - 197 BEALE 525-3711
  - Gary Hardy & Memphis 2
- **Tucker Band**
  - Wednesdays-Sundays, 5-7 p.m., Will Tucker Band
- **Lisa G and Flic's Pic's**
  - Band Saturdays-Sundays, 12:30 p.m., Blind Mississippi Morris
  - Band Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m., Memphis Jones
  - Thursdays-Saturdays, Wednesdays
  - Doc Fanga and the Remedy
  - Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.
  - **Blue Note Bar & Grill**
    - 341-345 BEALE 577-1089
    - Queen Ann and the Memphis Blues Masters
    - Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.-midnight.

**Blues City Cafe**

- 138 BEALE 526-3637
- Blind Mississippi Morris
- Fridays, 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 5:30 p.m.
- Brad Burkholder Band
- Wednesdays, Fridays, 8 p.m., John Paul Keith
- Thursday, Jan. 4, 8 p.m.
- Earl "The Pearl" Banks
- Saturdays, 12:30 p.m. and Tuesdays, 7 p.m.
- **King Jerry Lawler’s Hall of Fame Bar & Grille**
  - 159 BEALE
  - Chris Gales Solo Acoustic Show
  - Mondays-Saturdays, noon-4 p.m.
  - Eric Hughes solo/acoustic

**Club 152**

- 152 BEALE 544-7011
- Live Music Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8-11 p.m., Live Dj
- Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 p.m., Third Floor: DJ Tubbiz
- Fridays, Saturdays, 10 p.m.
- **Handy Bar**
  - 200 BEALE 527-2887
  - The Amazing Rhythmicists
  - Tuesdays-Saturdays, 7 p.m.-1 a.m.
  - **Itta Bena**
    - 145 BEALE 578-3031
    - Nat “King” Kerr Fridays, Saturdays, 9-10 p.m.

**King’s Palace Cafe**

- 162 BEALE 521-1851
- Sonny Mack Mondays-Fridays, 2-6 p.m., Cowboy Neil Mondays, Thursdays, 7-11 p.m. and Saturdays, 2-6 p.m., Sensation Band Tuesdays, Fridays, 7-11 p.m., Fuzzy and the Kings of Memphis
- Saturdays, 7:11 p.m., Chic Jones and the Blues Express
- Sundays, 7-11 p.m., North and South Band

**Memphis Jones**

- Band Saturdays, Sundays, 12:30 p.m., Blind Mississippi Morris
- Band Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m., Memphis Jones
- Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., Doc Fanga and the Remedy
- Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.

**Party at the Park**

- 138 BEALE 522-9596
- Blues Masters
- Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, 6 p.m., and Mondays, 7 p.m.
- **Blind Mississippi Morris**
  - Band Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.-midnight.

**Buckman Arts Center**

- **The 901 Heavy**
  - Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.
  - **Lisa G and Flic’s Pic’s**
    - Band Saturdays-Sundays, 12:30 p.m., Blind Mississippi Morris
    - Band Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m., Memphis Jones
    - Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., Doc Fanga and the Remedy

**Rum Boogie Cafe**

- 182 BEALE 528-0150
- Young Petty Thursdays
- Thursdays, 8 p.m.-midnight, Sensation Band
- Friday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m.-midnight
- Saturday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m.-midnight and Sunday, Jan. 7, 11 p.m.
- **Eric Hughes Band**
  - Mondays, 8 p.m.-midnight
  - **Gracie Curran**
    - Tuesdays, 9 p.m.-midnight
  - **Plantation AllStars**
    - Wednesdays, 8 p.m.-midnight.

**FreeWorld**

- 331-345 BEALE 526-3637
- Brandon Cunning Band
- Sundays-Mondays, 10 p.m.-2 am.
- **Blues Masters**
  - Band Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, 12:30 p.m.
  - **Blind Mississippi Morris**
    - Band Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.-midnight.

**Gary Hardy & Memphis Blues Masters**

- **B.B. King’s Blues Club**
  - Wednesdays, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
  - **Jazz Orchestra**
    - Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.
  - **Kari Jobe & Cody Carnes**
    - Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.
  - **Memphis Jones**
    - Band Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.
  - **Rum Boogie Cafe**
    - Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.
  - **Shuckin’ Shuckers**
    - Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m.

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**DIRECTV SVC TERMS:** Subject to Equipment Lease & Customer Agreements. Switch to DIRECTV and lock in your TV price at $50/month for 2 years when you have AT&T Wireless! *See att.com/directv. 

**Pricing, promotions, restrictions & terms subject to change & may be modified, discontinued or terminated at any time without notice.**
DOWNTOWN

Center for Southern Folklore Hall
119 S. MAIN AT PEABROOKE SQUARE 525-3655
Delta Cats, Billy Gibson & Lin- ear Smith First Friday of every month, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Dirty Crow Inn
855 KENTUCKY Street
Nancy Apple Thursdays, 8 p.m.; Bobbie & Tasha Wednesdays, 8-11 p.m.

Earnestine & Hazel’s
531 S. MAIN 523-9754
Amber Rae Dunn Hosts: Earnestine & Hazel’s Open Mic Wednesdays, 8-11 p.m.

Flying Saucer
Draught Emporium
130 PEABODY PLACE 523-8536
Songwriters with Roland and Friends Mondays, 7-10 p.m.

Huey’s Downtown
77 S. SECOND 527-2700
Bluff City Soul Collective Sunday, Jan. 7, 8:30 p.m.-midnight.

Mollie Fontaine Lounge
679 ADAMS 524-1886
Dim the Lights featuring live music and DJs First Saturday of every month, 10 p.m.

Panadelle’s
RIVER INN, 50 HARBOR TOWN SQUARE 260-3300
Live Piano Thursdays, 5:30-8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 5:30 p.m.-sundays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and Mondays-Wednesdays, 5:30-8 p.m.

Rumba Room
303 S. MAIN 523-0020
Salsa Night Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.-3 a.m.

The Silly Goose
100 PEABODY PLACE 415-6915
Dj Cody Fridays, Saturdays, 10 p.m.

South Main
Loffin Yard
7 W. CAROLINA Electric Church Sundays, 2-4 p.m.

Midtown

Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library
3030 POPULAR 415-2700
Front Porch Music Series - Memphis Jazz Workshop High School Ensemble Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6-8 p.m.

Boscos
2120 MADISON 432-2222
Sunday Brunch with Joyce Cobb Sundays, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Celtic Crossing
903 S. COOPER 274-5151
Jeremy Stansfill and Josiah Cosby Sundays, 6-9 p.m.; Candy Company Mondays

Growlers
1911 POPULAR 244-7904
Crockett Hall Tuesdays with the Midtown Rhythm Section Tuesdays, 9 p.m.

Hi-Tone
412-414 N. CLEVELAND 278-7777
Battle of the Bands Friday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m.; The Clinics, Levi J Miller, Wesely Wolfe Friday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m.; Battle of the Band Flyers Friday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m.-midnight; Za Fest IV Saturday, Jan. 6, 6 p.m.; Castaway, Insurgence Sunday, Jan. 7, 4 p.m.; SooN the Truth, Minor Nine Monday, Jan. 8, 8 p.m.; Traversa, China Gate, Geist, Richard Dalton Wednesday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m.

Huey’s Midtown
1927 MADISON 726-4372
Amy LaVere Trio Sunday, Jan. 7, 4-7 p.m.; Scott Thompson’s Dog Horse Rescue Unit Sunday, Jan. 7, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

Lafayette’s Music Room
2119 MADISON 207-5007
The ShotGunBilhous Thursday, Jan. 4, 6 p.m.; Radlyn Nelson Band Thursday, Jan. 4, 9 p.m.; Luthi Friday, Jan. 5, 6:30 p.m.; Groovement Friday, Jan. 5, 10 p.m.; Memphis Funk-N-Horns Saturday, Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m.

P&H Café
1532 MADISON 726-0906
Rock/SignUp Karaoke Fridays, Open Mic Music with Tiffany Harmon Mondays, 9 p.m.-midnight.

Railgarten
2150 CENTRAL
John Paul Keith Friday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m.; McKenna Bray Saturday, Jan. 6, 8 p.m.; Live Band Karaoke with Public Record Wednesday, 7 p.m.

East Memphis

Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s School
60 N. PERKINS EXT. 537-1483
Dead Soldiers Friday, Jan. 5, 8 p.m.

Howard Vance Guitar Academy
978 REDDITCH 767-6940
First Friday at Five Coffee House Concert First Friday of every month, 5 p.m.

Suburbs

Bartlett

Huey’s Collierville
921 202-4157
Songwriter Night hosted by Leigh Ann Wilmott and Dave “The Rave” Saturdays, 5-8 p.m.

Huey’s Millington
8570 HWY 51 N.
The Pisto & the Queen Trio Sunday, Jan. 7, 4-7 p.m.

Toni Green’s Palace
4212 HWY 51 N.
Toni Green’s Palace Mondays, Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Live DJ Thursdays, Fridays, 7 p.m.

Germantown

Huey’s Southwind
7825 WINCHESTER 624-8911
“The Happening” Open Mic Thursday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m.

North Mississippi/Tunica

Sam’s Town
1477 CASINO STRIP RESORT BLVD. TUNICA, MS 662-363-0711
The ShotGunBilhous Friday, Jan. 5, 9 p.m.

Raleigh

Stage Stop
2951 CELA 382-1576
Blues Jam hosted by Brad Webb Thursdays, 7-11 p.m.; Open Mic Night and Steak Night Tuesdays, 6 p.m.-midnight.

Downtown

The Cove
2559 BROAD 730-0719
Jazz w/Ed Finney, Deb Swiney & David Collins Frog Squad Thursday, Jan. 4, 8-11 p.m.; Big Burton Friday, Jan. 5, 9 p.m.; The Burners Jazz Saturday, Jan. 6, 9 p.m.; David Collins & Frog Squad Sunday, Jan. 7, 6-9 p.m.; Russell Lee Weaver Monday, Jan. 8-9 p.m.; Ben Minden-Birkennieter Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6-8 p.m.; Karaoke Wednesdays, 9 p.m.

Wild Bill’s
1580 VOLLINTINE 207-3975
The Wild Bill’s Band with Tony Chapman, Charles Cason, and Miss. Joyce Henderson Fridays, Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 a.m.

University of Memphis

Amuro Music Store
2918 POPULAR 325-6403
Come Fly with Me Sunday, Jan. 7, 2-3:30 p.m.

The Bluff
535 S. HIGHLAND
DJ Ben Murray Thursdays, 10 p.m.; Bluegrass Brunch with the River Bluff Clan Sundays, 11 a.m.

Mortimer’s
590 N. PERKINS 761-9321
Van Duren Solo Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Wang’s East Tapas
6059 PARK 665-9284
Lee Gardner Friday, 6:30-9 p.m.; Eddie Harrison Tuesdays, 6:30-9 p.m.

East 1-2-40
East Tapas and Drinks
6059 PARK 767-6002
Eddie Harris Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m.; Van Duren Solo Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m.

Neil’s Music Room
5727 QUINCE 325-6403
Official Celebrity Jam Sunday, Jan. 7, 10-12 p.m.; Blues Jam hosted by Brad Webb Thursdays, 7-11 p.m.; Open Mic Night and Steak Night Tuesdays, 6 p.m.-midnight.
CALENDAR of EVENTS: JANUARY 4 - 10

THEATER

Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s School


New Discovery

Christian Church

Auditions for The Hunchback of Notre Dame, all roles available for ages 14 and over. Visit website for more information and audition form. www.kudzuplayers.com. Sat., Jan. 6, 9 a.m. 961 VISON ROAD.

TheatreWorks

All Saints in the Old Colony, after emigrating from Ireland to South Boston, Kierman’s family fell apart. Though he sacrificed his own life to raise his three younger brothers, they are not all that grateful. www.theatreworksmemphis.org. $15. Sundays, 2 p.m., and Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Through Jan. 28. 2003 MONROE (274-1138).

ARTIST RECEPTIONS

Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s School


David Lusk Gallery


Eclectic Eye


OTHER ART HAPPENINGS

Casting Demonstration

 Saturdays, Sundays, 3 p.m. METAL MUSEUM, 374 METAL MUSEUM DR. (744-6380), WWW.METALMUSEUM.ORG.

Cooper-Young Art Tours

 For more information, featured artists, and pop-up performances, visit website. First Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m. COOPER-YOUNG DISTRICT, CORNER OF COOPER AND YOUNG. WWW.COOPERYOUNG.COM.

Crosstown Arts Digital Lab

Six-station computer lab supports Memphis’ creative community by providing artists and musicians full access to industry standard art- and music-making technology. Tuesdays- Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., and Fridays, Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. CROSSTOWN ARTS, 430 N. CLEVELAN (597-8100), WWW.CROSSTOWNARTS.ORG.

Open Crit

Visual artists are invited to bring new and/or in-progress studio work for critical feedback and group discussion particular to each artist’s practice. All sessions are free and open to the public. Tues., Jan. 9, 6-8 p.m. CROSSTOWN ARTS, 430 N. CLEVELAND (597-8100). WWW.CROSSTOWNARTS.ORG.

Sonnet Contest

Shelby County students are invited to submit their original composition for Rhodes College inaugural Sonnet Contest, Winners will receive a prize book and have their poem published. Submit by email, yearwoodj@rhodes.edu. Through March 2. WWW.BROOKSARTS.EDU.

“Stargazer Garden”

Flower-Folding

Stop by and fold a paper flower for collaborative art installation. Mondays-Fridays, 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CROSSTOWN CONCOURSE (FORMERLY SEARS CROSSTOWN), N. CLEVELAND AT NORTH PARKWAY. WWW.CROSSTOWNARTS.ORG.

ONGOING ART

Art Museum at the University of Memphis (AMU)


ANF Architects


Bingham and Broad


Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s School


Crosstown Concourse (formerly Sears Crosstown)


David Lusk Gallery


The Dixon Gallery & Gardens


Eclectic Eye


Send the date, time, place, cast, info, phone number, a brief description, and photos — two weeks in advance — to calendar@memphians.com or P.O. Box 1738, Memphis, TN 38101.

* DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS, ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS WILL APPEAR IN THE FLYER’S ONLINE CALENDAR ONLY.
CALENDAR: JANUARY 4 - 10

Marshall Arts Gallery
“Love of Art” and “Memphis,” exhibition of work by Nikki Gardner and Debra Edge by appointment only. (647-9242), Ongoing. OXFORD, MS (662-234-9090).

Memphis Brooks Museum of Art

Memphis College of Art

Memphis College of Art
“Displaced Bodies,” exhibition of cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration by Dr. Susan Nordstrom at University of Memphis, O. Gustavo Plascencia at Memphis College of Art, and graduate students from both institutions. www.mca.edu 4. Jan. 4-30.

Memphis Brooks Museum of Art

Southside Gallery

Top Gallery: Madison Avenue Park

POETRY/ SPOKEN WORD
Epiphany Lutheran Church
Centering Prayer, opportunity for silent contemplation, followed by inspirational poetry and readings. sundays, 5 p.m., and Wednesdays, noon. 7887 POPULAR (661-6227).

POETRY/ SPOKEN WORD
Epiphany Lutheran Church

BOOKSIGNINGS
Booksigning by Jean Morris Long
Author discusses and signs “Miracles on the Bayou.” Sun., Jan. 7, 2 p.m.

CONFERENCE/ CONVENTIONS
TEDxMemphis Conference
Affords Memphians a chance to share their ideas and to connect in-person with similarly engaged audience online. Sat., Jan. 6.

continued on page 26
TOP 20 MEMPHISIANS UNDER 30
WHO ARE SHAPING OUR CITY'S FUTURE.

COME CELEBRATE
January 24th
from 4:30-7:00pm at
Old Dominick’s Distillery.

Sponsorship opportunities available, if interested please call 901-575-9402.

continued from page 25

TOURS
Bite-Sized Tours
Order lunch from Park & Cherry, and then Dixon staff members and docents will lead a quick tour of their favorite works of art or plants in the garden. Your lunch will be waiting for you after tour. Thurs., 11:45 a.m.
THE DIXON GALLERY & GARDENS, 4339 PARK (761-5250), WWW. DIXON.ORG.

Calvary Episcopal Church Tours
Docent-led tours discuss stained glass windows, architecture, and symbols in Christian art. In addition, private tours are available by appointment for a suggested donation of $10 per person. Free. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 142 N. SECOND (529-6602), WWW. CALVARYMEMPHIS.ORG.

City Tasting Tours
Save tastings at five eateries, interact with chefs and managers, and sample local flavors while strolling down Main Street and enjoying new art installations and historic landmarks. Wednesdays-Saturdays. Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.
WWW.CITYTASTINGTOURS.COM.

Cutting Garden Tours
Garden docents will focus on the cutting garden each week on Saturday morning. Meet in the Catmur Foyer to see the large urn design and start tour. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon. THE DIXON GALLERY & GARDENS, 4339 PARK (761-5250), WWW. DIXON.ORG.

Preview Graceland Excursions Trip: Tupelo Tour departing from Graceland Guesthouse to Elvis’ birthplace. Visit website for more information. $100. Mon., Jan. 8, 11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
GRACELAND, 3777 ELVIS PRESLEY (332-3322), WWW.GRACELAND.COM.

Preview Tour: Musical Landmarks of the Mississippi Delta Tour
Trace the influences that inspired the creation of rock-and-roll music. Expert tour guides will narrate a detour down the backroads and explore the deep roots of blues culture. $119. Thurs., Jan. 4, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
GUEST HOUSE AT GRACELAND, 3600 ELVIS PRESLEY (332-3322), WWW.GRACELAND.COM.

“Yellow Fever Rock & Roll Ghost Tour”
See what used to be, Memphis style, with Mike McCarthy. Call to schedule a personal tour. Ongoing. (466-6325).

EXPOS/SALES
Gun & Knife Show
$12. Sat., Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
AGRICENTER INTERNATIONAL, 7777 WALNUT GROVE (757-7777), WWW.RKSHOWS.COM.

Soul Market
Enjoy vendors with unique products, great food, music, and more. Saturdays, 12-4 p.m.
THE DEN, 656 MARSHALL (773-7384).

BOOKS

Get Right 4 the Night
Get fit and have fun with Kelly Crawford. $10. Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m.
FIREHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER, 945 S. BELLEVIEW (948-9522), WWW.MEMPHISBLACKARTSALLIANCE.ORG.

getaway Weekend
Getaway Weekend
Get away for a magical weekend getaway with your partner. $399. Thurs., Jan. 4, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
GUEST HOUSE AT GRACELAND, 3600 ELVIS PRESLEY (332-3322), WWW.GRACELAND.COM.

MEETINGS
Memphis Area Beekeepers Meeting
Meet in wing “C” at the back of the Expo Center. Open to anyone who is interested in bees and beekeeping. Second Monday of every month, 7 p.m.
OUTMEMPHIS: THE LGBTQ CENTER OF THE MID-SOUTH, 892 S. COOPER (278-6422), WWW.OUTMEMPHIS.ORG.

Merristem Women’s Book Club
Read and explore written works by women and LGBT authors. Second Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m.
OUTMEMPHIS: THE LGBTQ CENTER OF THE MID-SOUTH, 892 S. COOPER (278-6422), WWW.OUTMEMPHIS.ORG.

KIDS

Boys Hip-Hop Classes
For boys ages 5-10. $135 per semester session Wed., 6 p.m. Through March. 21.
BALLETONWHEELS.ORG.

Tennessee Shakespeare Company Education Programs
Featuring an opportunity for students to participate in playshops, performances, and learn about TSC. For more information, visit website. Through March 21.
WWW.TNSHAKESPEARE.ORG.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Big Gay Dance Party Vol. 2
Mash-up ’80s and ’90s hits and current favorites. General admission includes unlimited keg beer. VIP admission includes open bar, full buffet, and special seating. $10-$50. Sat., Jan. 6, 6 p.m.
STOP 345, 345 MADISON (507-2720), WWW.FRIENDSFOREQUALITY.ORG.
Hungry Memphis: A Very Tasteful Food Blog
by Susan Ellis

Dishing it out daily at MemphisFlyer.com
Need Rental Property Management?
Reedy and Company Realtors, LLC is now managing single-family homes and multi-family properties in Midtown!

- Quality Property Management
- Personal Service/Consistant Communication
- 98.5% Occupancy
- In-house Leasing Department
- In-house Accounting Department
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Midtown Properties Available
- 2 bedroom 1.5 bath townhomes $1,125 with garage!!
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- Homes In All Areas Of Memphis
- Move-In Specials
- Quality Properties
- Great Maintenance Service
- Call A Leasing Specialist Today!

Share The Ride
COMMUTE BY CARPOOLS OR VANPOOLS.
SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT | MEMPHIS AREA RIDE SHARE PROGRAM
WWW.SHELBYTNHEALTH.COM

-upcoming games-

vs. blue
thur, jan. 4 7:00pm

vs. mad ants
sat, jan. 27 7:00pm

vs. legends
education day game presented by
mon, jan. 29 10:30am

memphis hustle
MEMPHISHUSTLE.COM OR CALL 901.888.HOOP

LANDERS CENTER

LESS FUEL... LESS POLLUTION... LESS STRESS
HOLIDAY EVENTS

Away in 100 Mangers: Nativities from Around the World
Special exhibition of nativity scenes from over 45 countries. See the Nativity Story as it is envisioned by people from the world over, reflecting diverse aspects of each of their countries. $5, $15 for family up to 5 people. Thurs.-Sat., 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Through Jan. 6. BIBLE MUSEUM ON THE SQUARE, 140 E. MULBERRY (954-9576), WWW.BIBLEMUSEUMONTHESQUARE.ORG.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Memphis Symphony Orchestra:
Elvis in Vegas
$15-$58. Sat., Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.
CANNON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, MEMPHIS CIVIC CONVENTION CENTER, 255 N. MAIN (TICKETS, 529-1515), WWW.THECANNONCENTER.COM.

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Music at St. Mary’s
A celebration of the last of the Twelve Days of Christmas, when the men take charge of kids and the women head to the pub. Sip, stretch, do yoga, and enjoy an appetizer buffet. RSVP by phone. $95. Sat., Jan. 6, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. BRASS DOOR HIGH PUB, 152 MADISON (572-1813), WWW.THEBRASSDOOR.COM.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

ST. MARY’S CATHEDRAL, 700 POPULAR (527-2361), WWW.STMARYSMEMPHIS.ORG.

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

Memphis Made Brewing Company, 768 S. COOPER
Different themes each week. Free. Thursdays, 8-9 p.m.
WWW.MEMPHISMUSEUMS.ORG.

FOOD & DRINK EVENTS

MEMPHIS AGRICENTER INTERNATIONAL, 7777 WALNUT GROVE
Thur.-Sun., Jan. 4-10, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Call for more information. $12 per session.
The Nate Silverstein Tournament

ON THE FITZ, TUNICA’S LUCKIEST CASINO IF YOU:

• Are a current Celebrity, Platinum, Sapphire or Pearl status at another Tunica casino

• Are a new or 3+ months inactive Key Rewards member

JANUARY 2 - FEBRUARY 28

ATTENTION PLAYERS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Jackpot Winner, Brigitte S.
won $494,198 on 12/22!

ST. MARY’S CATHEDRAL, 700 POPULAR (527-2361), WWW.STMARYSMEMPHIS.ORG.
Always wanted to teach?

Arkansas State University Mid-South is hiring adjunct faculty for the following areas:

- Criminal Justice
- Hospitality Management
- Information Technology
- Mathematics
- Aviation Maintenance

For more info, visit asumidsouth.edu/career-opportunities

Arkansas State University Mid-South

2000 West Broadway | West Memphis, AR | 870.733.6722 | www.asumidsouth.edu

STORE CLOSING SALE

After over 40 years as Memphis’ premier frame shop it is time for us to enjoy retirement! We will be closing our doors forever on April 28, 2018 and our expansive inventory must go! Just in time for the holidays!

All Framed Art 30% OFF
All Prints 50% OFF

1910 FRAME WORKS

Over 100 Years Experience Framing Memories
www.1910frameworks.com
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MISSING

Jon McGregor’s Reservoir 13.

This rich, layered novel opens with the mysterious disappearance of a girl, Rebecca “Becky” Shaw, on the Irish moors. But, lest you think you’re in for another page-turner like Gone Girl or Girl on a Train, be aware that the author has something deeper in mind, which becomes clear four or five pages in. Reservoir 13 is what you might call a sociological thriller: McGregor is more interested in what happens to the lives of the people in this small village after the disappearance than in the particulars of the crime, if indeed a crime has been committed. The book resembles Dylan Thomas’ Under Milkwood more than it does Mary Higgins Clark’s Where Are the Children?

It reminded me also of A. S. A. Harrison’s The Silent Wife, which has been described as a domestic noir. In that novel we are aware from page one that a murder has been committed, but the narrative is more concerned with the characters than the felony.

McGregor’s prose style and approach are unique. His sentences circle the subject, build on non-sequiturs and juxtapositions, accumulate like imagistic flashes. When he mentions the missing girl, the reader is shocked back to the center, having become rapt in the happenstances of the village where the action takes place. McGregor employs a large mise en scène and populates it with individuals, all acutely drawn, in a democratic process similar to what Robert Altman used to do in films like Nashville and Gosford Park. Are any of these good folks guilty of a crime, complicating somehow in Becky’s disappearance? The answer is secondary to the analysis of each character, to the psychology of what makes us human, what makes us stick together or fly apart.

The amassing of mundane elements and facets of character, the bone-deep life of the village, create a complex quilt of intensely rendered components: “The clocks went back and the nights overtook the short days. The teenagers walked home from the bus stop in the dark. A man fitting the missing girl’s father’s description was seen walking farther and farther away from the village.” And: “By April the first swallows were seen and the walkers were back on the hills. At the heronry high in the trees above the quarry there was a persistent unsettledness of wings.” And: “Jane Hughes held a service at the church to mark five years since the girl had gone missing, and this time the mother managed to attend. Care was taken not to call it a memorial service…”

There’s a grace and shimmer to McGregor’s prose reminiscent of the great Irish writers like William Trevor and Brian Moore. There’s also, at times, a drunken port that recalls the bravura of Scotland’s James Kelman. But McGregor is his own man, and, ultimately, his style is as idiosyncratic as it is utilitarian. His seemingly simple sentences carry great weight.

What the author seems most interested in is the passage of time, how it flows around and through us no matter what occurs. How we reckon it, how we are aware of it, never varies. “The clocks went forward,” he says, “and the evenings opened up and the days stood a little straighter on their feet. The catkins came out on the willows by the river and swung wildly in the wind.” Seasons change, animals arrive and depart, the air is cooler, the rain more insistently, people move away, and some come back and some don’t. The river rises and then abates. Holidays come and go. Men and women get together, break apart. Landings, parties, marriages, deaths. There is a rhythm to life that even death is woven into. Even the death of a child. As the years go by, the picture of Becky changes. She’s near 15 now, now 17. Computer generated imaging comes into play. This is how she would look if she’s still alive. She’s still alive, many say.

Years on, some of the villagers still feel they are under the Curse of the Missing Girl. Even in McGregor’s elegant, controlled, lapidary technique, the mystery still rises to the surface. What happened to Rebecca “Becky” Shaw?
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FOOD By Susan Ellis

Three Squares

Now open: The Liquor Store and Sunrise.

A couple weeks ago, a customer at Five in One Social Club on Broad was hungry. Where should she go to lunch?, she asked the owners. What about Bounty? The owners suggested the newly open Liquor Store, as Broadway Pizza was the only place in the area serving lunch.

It was a scenario exactly pictured a few years back by Lisa and Luis Toro of the high-end gift and coffee shop City & State. When a liquor store just about a block away from City & State became available, Toro kept her eye on it, sure that other folks could see the wide-open market for a breakfast and lunch place. No one did, so Toro took on the project herself, opening the Liquor Store.

“There was a black ceiling, black wood beams. There was no plumbing,” says Toro. What it did have, according to Toro, was “such personality, such character. “The sign’s iconic.” What Toro envisioned for the space was “mid-century Miami” — bright whites and playful palm leaf prints of Toro’s own design. The mood she was going for was “happy.”

Happy, indeed. Folks can follow their bliss down the cocktail menu with its trio of toast-worthy champagne drinks. There’s also the intriguing Negroni Bianco with pisco, cocchi Americano, port, vermouth, bitters, and palo santo — described as “a spirit-forward brandy cocktail with a mysterious smoky finish.”

The breakfast menu, available all day, includes classic egg plates and pancakes as well as biscuit sandwiches. For lunch, vegan and vegetarians will most certainly tuck into the Cuban Platter, a colorful array of fried plantains, black beans, yellow rice, and other veggies. More Latino/ by-the-sea influence is seen in the crab cakes with a lime vinaigrette and the fantastic Dulce De Leche cake from Ali Rohrbacher.

Next up for the Toros is expanding the smallish space. The plan is to add storage containers for a bar and a patio area in the back.

Sunrise opened on November 27th downtown, more than a year after it was supposed to. The founders held a “soft opening” the week beforehand to work out the kinks. One thing they adjusted was the biscuit recipe. They reworked the recipe to make it hold up better to the ingredients — ingredients such as house-smoked sausage, eggs, chicken, cheese, pork shoulder, steak, and pickles. Other dishes include the Bim Breakfast, a popular dish with pork, scrambled egg, kimchi, scallion, daikon served over sticky rice.

The Three Amigos Tacos are breakfast tacos with eggs, chorizo, potatoes, cotija, salsa, and jalapenos.

The menu, says manager Johnny Lawrence, “goes a little against tradition. We were not anticipating the [Bim Breakfast] to be the best-seller. The Chicken biscuit is doing well. It’s not your everyday chicken biscuit. Its cajun batter is super crispy, a little spicy. It’s very Southern.”

Another thing worth crowing about is Sunrise’s house-smoked meats, specifically the salami and sausages. They took advantage of the old smokers (left behind by the Neelys, who used to operate a restaurant in that space).
Pears are having a moment. My interest in the winter fruit, a staple of holiday gift baskets, was piqued in late November, when I discovered a recipe for a sparkling pear sangria on the website The Kitchn. There, the cocktail was touted as a Hanukkah crowd pleaser, but it’s simple enough to make for any gathering. Core and slice a few green pears (Bartlett or D’Anjou), and toss into a pitcher filled with Prosecco (or cava), pear liqueur, lemon juice, and seltzer. Don't have pear liqueur in your liquor cabinet? St. Germain Elderflower liqueur will do.

Ever since sampling that crisp, elegant drink, I’ve noticed pear cocktails popping up everywhere. Downtown, Automatic Slim’s has a Peartini (made with Absolut Pear) on the menu; on the other side of town, East Tapas & Drinks has a version of the pear martini that includes an infusion of ginger. At Alchemy in Cooper-Young, you can sip a concoction that includes pear puree, pear vodka, and Prosecco.

A bottle of that Absolut Pear, which you should be able to find on the shelf of your favorite liquor store, is something I recommend having on hand this time of year. The subtle flavor addition makes the tedium of January a little easier to tolerate, especially if you use it to create drinks like the Tuscan Pear, which I found on The Spruce. This cocktail, served in a lowball glass, is an easy blend of pear vodka, limoncello, a ginger liqueur (if you have it), simple syrup, and orange juice. If that’s not your style, check out AbsolutDrinks.com for inspiration: You can make a Pears Mule, a pear and mango Collins, a Pear Fizz, and much, much more.

You can also make your own pear vodka, if you have the time. Simply core up to 10 pears and cut them into wedges, place in a sterilized jar, and cover with vodka. Seal the jar, and place in a cool, dry place for at least two weeks. Strain, and decant into a bottle.

Or just make a spiced pear syrup. Via their food blog, Nerds with Knives, Matt and Emily recommend chopping a few sweet pears and combining them with a cup of water, ½ cup white wine, a cup of sugar, a cinnamon stick, star anise, and a strip of lemon zest to make a variation on simple syrup. Once that’s done, use it as the base for a Spiced Poached Pear Cocktail, a blend of vodka, Lillet Blanc, spiced pear syrup, and fresh rosemary.

Pears are having a moment. My interest in the winter fruit, a staple of holiday gift baskets, was piqued in late November.

The website for Tito’s Vodka, one of my favorite brands, has their own recipe for a Spiced Pear Cocktail, which also has a spiced syrup for the base. This one is flavored with cinnamon sticks, fresh ginger, a vanilla bean, allspice, cloves, and star anise. Combine a half-ounce of the finished product with an ounce of Tito’s, and a half-ounce each of pear liqueur and pear nectar. Shake, pour into a martini glass, and top with Champagne or Prosecco.

It’s also easy to make your own roasted pear puree: Just core and slice two Bartlett pears, then roast them until they begin to caramelize. Toss the pears into the blender with a few tablespoons of fresh lemon juice and 1/8 teaspoon of ground cloves. Now you’ve got the base for a bourbon-pear mixer, made by adding a cup of puree to two cups of bourbon and ¼ cup maple syrup. Refrigerate the mixer for up to four hours, then use it to make a sparkling bourbon pear cocktail by topping the mixer with sparkling wine. Drink enough of these, and you’ll see a partridge in a pear tree, even though Christmas was last month.
Loving the Amphibian

Guillermo del Toro returns to form with *The Shape of Water.*

ish. Everybody loves them, but some people really love them.

Okay, I’m going to try to keep the jokes to a minimum in this review, because Guillermo del Toro’s *The Shape of Water* is a good movie. You might even call it the *Citizen Kane* of fish fetishist films.

Okay, I’ll stop. I promise. *The Shape of Water* begins beautifully, with an art deco apartment completely submerged in water, with the furniture floating everywhere and our heroine Elisa Esposito (Sally Hawkins) suspended in ecstasy. The apartment drains suddenly as Elisa wakes from her dreamworld to discover that she is still in 1962 Baltimore, and her existence is just as dreary as she left it. Elisa, rendered mute from a childhood injury that left her throat scarred, works in housekeeping at a secret government lab. She’s not unhappy, per se — she’s got her bestie Zelda (Octavia Spencer) to watch her back at work, and her neighbor Giles (Richard Jenkins), a commercial artist freelancing after he lost his job for being gay — but she’s not exactly fulfilled, either. The highlight of most days for her is masturbating in the tub. Yeah, she’s got a thing for water.

The apartment, by the way, is above a movie theater called The Orpheum whose signage and interior look almost exactly like Memphis’ venerable downtown treasure.

A lot of weird stuff goes through the lab, so the housekeeping staff is used to keeping their mouths shut and mopping up the occasional pool of unexplained blood. But nothing prepares Elisa for the moment she sees the lab’s latest “asset,” a humanoid amphibian creature that, for complex copyright reasons, I can’t say looks like a super-cool version of the Creature from the Black Lagoon. In charge of the Asset is Colonel Strickland (Michael Shannon), a sexually harassing creep whose idea of scientific research is torturing the gentle Amphibian Guy with an electric cattle prod he calls his “Alabama Howdy-Do.”

Elisa takes pity on the poor fish out of water and starts sneaking into the lab to feed him eggs and play him Benny Goodman tunes on her portable turntable. As his condition deteriorates and she overhears plans to vivisect the Asset, she hatches a hare-brained plan to bust him out of the lab and return him to the ocean. Once she gets him back to her apartment, their relationship deepens, and Elisa finds herself on slippery ground.
Naturally, things spiral out of control, and she and her new fishy beaux are plunged into a whirlpool of Soviet spies, shady scientists, and aquatic intrigue.

The Shape of Water grew out of del Toro’s failed pitch to direct a reboot of The Creature From the Black Lagoon for Universal’s monster universe. Those execs are probably kicking themselves for passing over del Toro after his gothic horror romance Crimson Peak — which, admittedly, some people liked, but which I thought was tedious and silly.

The difference here is Hawkins, whose near wordless performance mixes perfectly with del Toro’s always inventive visual sense. She actually manages to have good chemistry with the six-foot amphibian, played in a horribly restrictive, CGI-augmented suit by Doug Jones (but not that Doug Jones, senator-elect from Alabama).

Sure, the premise is goofy as a clownfish, but late in the film, when Elisa slips into a dream where she and her Special Amphibian Friend dance together in an Astaire-Rogers musical number, I realized that del Toro had drawn me into this world. The Shape of Water will charm the pants off of you, and you won’t even care about the fishy smell afterwards.

The Shape of Water
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Beatitudes

The Gospel of Donald J. Trump

Among the more perplexing phenomena of the Cult of Trump is the nearly universal backing the president gets from people who identify as Evangelical Christians. Recent exit polls showed eighty-five percent of evangelicals cast their votes for a man who is the antithesis of Christian teaching.

Did they hate Hillary so much that they voted for a sybarite? Prosperity gospel pastor Paula White, chosen by Trump to pray for him at the inauguration, encouraged viewers of the Jan Bakker Show to be obedient and loyal to Trump because it is what God wants. Author Lance Wallnau said God spoke to him and claimed, “I really believe that the mercy of God intervened in the last election cycle.” Reverend Franklin Graham, the poorly informed son of Nixon pal Billy Graham, gushed, “Never in my lifetime have we had a president willing to take a strong, outspoken stand for the Christian faith like President Trump has.” And Texas mega-church pastor Robert Jeffress said, “God has given Trump authority to take out Kim Jong-Un. “If that were God’s will, you would think He wouldn’t need help from Trump.

It’s unfathomable to me how conservative Christians can still be the main defenders of this crude idolater of mammon. My Catholic education informs me that Matthew chapters 5-7 contains the Sermon on the Mount, otherwise known as the Beatitudes. These words are the basis of Jesus’ early moral teachings, so let’s check the record and see how the family values agenda is stacking up.

Jesus: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Trump: “Show me someone without an ego, and I’ll show you a loser.”

“Sorry losers and haters, but my I.Q. is one of the highest — and you all know it. Please don’t feel so stupid or insecure. It’s not your fault.”

“Ask for forgiveness if I’m not making mistakes.”

Jesus: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

Trump: “First of all, I am a great Christian, and I am. Remember that.”

“Why do I have to repent? Why do I have to ask for forgiveness if [I’m] not making mistakes?”

Jesus: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Trump: “Nobody could have done what I’ve done for Puerto Rico with so little appreciation. So, what’s your death count? Sixteen? You can be very proud, only sixteen instead of thousands in Katrina. … Such poor leadership ability by the mayor of San Juan, and others in Puerto Rico, who are not able to get their workers to help. They want everything done for them.”

Jesus: “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

Trump: “Part of the beauty of me is that I am very rich.”

“I like money. I’m very greedy. … I love money, right?”

“Torture works! … Would I approve of water boarding? You bet your ass I would — in a heartbeat. And I would approve more than that. Believe me, it works. And you know what? If it doesn’t work, they deserve it anyway.”

Jesus: “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for they shall be comforted.”

Trump: “Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shut down of Muslims entering the United States. They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen. … If forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea.”

“With Iran, when they circle our beautiful destroyers with their little boats and they make gestures … that they shouldn’t be allowed to make, they will be shot out of the water.”

Jesus: “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Trump: “Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shut down of Muslims entering the United States.”

“When people wrong you, go after those people, because it is a good feeling and because other people will see you doing it. … When someone hurts you, just go after them as viciously and violently as you can.”

“If you do not get even, you are just a schmuck. I love getting even.”

Jesus: “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”

Trump: “You tell people a lie three times, they will believe anything. You tell people what they want to hear, play to their fantasies, and then you close the deal.”

I don’t know about you, but in a two-man race, I’ll be voting for the liberal candidate: Jesus. — Randy Haspel writes the “Recycled Hippies” blog.