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OUR 1543RD ISSUE 09.20.18

The week that was …

“Hi, y’all! My name’s Marsha and I’m a big Tigers fan! Check out my blue dress! Anyhoo, I’m just wondering if y’all could do me a little ol’ favor. Could you just cheer, ‘Marsha! Marsha! Marsha!’ while my um, brother films it for Facebook? It’ll be so fun and it won’t take but a few seconds. Y’all are awesome, too!”

University of Memphis Cheerleaders (in unison): “SURE, WHY NOT? SURE, WHY NOT? MARSHA, MARSHA, MARSHA!”

The above scenario is just my guess about what happened at the Liberty Bowl, Friday night, when senatorial candidate Marsha Blackburn showed up for the Memphis-Georgia State game and got the Memphis cheerleaders to “endorse” her. I could be wrong, of course.

State-connected schools are not allowed by law to endorse candidates. The cheerleaders obviously didn’t know the law, and apparently neither did Blackburn, unless she chose to ignore it. She then tweeted the video and posted it on her Facebook page, adding, “Marsha Loves Memphis!”

That tactic quickly garnered Blackburn the wrath (and snark) of many Memphians, who prefer Senate candidates who don’t dodge a Memphis debate, then show up for a football game and “borrow” our cheerleaders.

The university was not amused: “The Athletics Office was notified that pictures of the University of Memphis Spirit Squads were posted on political social media sites. U of M Spirit Squads do not endorse any candidate(s) for political office in accordance with U of M policies. Political organizers were contacted to remove any and all posts suggesting endorsement by the University of Memphis.”

Presumably, the candidate learned that Memphis is not fond of faux fans who appropriate local culture.

Speaking of local culture … Trader Joe’s, opened a store in Germantown last week. The crowds were huge, lining up outside to get a chance to buy the store’s signature line of groceries and beverages, including “Two Buck Chuck” wine, which now costs a little more than three bucks. Sadly, “Three Dollars and 47 Cents Chuck” just doesn’t have the same ring to it, but who’s counting?

The only real snafu was the fact that the store gave out souvenir cloth bags emblazoned with “Nashville! Music City.” Ouch. More like “Traitor Joe’s,” amirite?

In an attempt to quiet the miffed social media masses, a poster on the Trader Joe’s Germantown Facebook fan page offered this explanation: “Having a city bag is a legacy that TJ’s bestows upon existing stores after they have been around for awhile. New stores do not get their own bags — basically they have to ‘pay their dues’ before getting a bag that TJ’s bestows upon existing stores after they have been around for awhile. New stores are only given bags if they have a certain amount of sales volume. The only “exception” to this rule is when a company merges with TJ’s and they are allowed the bag as long as they still have regular business hours. The store will also give out a bag if a customer requests it (this is less common).”

Well, okay then. Here’s hoping Memphis pays its dues, behaves itself, and soon becomes bag-worthy.

What else? Oh, Nike announced increased sales and new highs for its stock prices.

The “boycott” by angry septagenarian white men apparently fizzled, when many of them mistakenly threw out their New Balance mall-walking shoes, which have a big “N” on the side. It’s understandable. Initials can be confusing. For example, did you know that the “boycott” by angry septagenarian white men apparently fizzled, when many of them mistakenly threw out their New Balance mall-walking shoes, which have a big “N” on the side. It’s understandable. Initials can be confusing. For example, did you know that the N” on the Nebraska football helmets stands for “Knowledge”? Didn’t think so.

And speaking of Music City … Rolling Stone reported that 85-year-year-old Loretta Lynn has released a new song called “Ruby’s Stool.” Which, it turns out, is about Ruby’s bar stool and not the first image that came to my mind, considering Loretta’s age. Pro tip: Never use the word “stool” in a song title.

And finally, the digital Daily Memphian news-site launched on Monday with stories by, among others, former Commercial Appeal writers Marc Perrusquia, Geoff Calkins, Tom Bailey, and Jennifer Biggs. The site looked good, and I signed up for the $7-a-month subscription. The more reporting we get in Memphis, the better.

And I’m taking it as a good sign that someone almost immediately created a Daily Memphian parody account on Twitter.

Bruce VanWygarden
brucev@memphisflyer.com
WEEK THAT WAS

Purple Haze, Beale Bucks, & Secrets

Purple Haze closes

Purple Haze nightclub closed indefinitely last week after an early-morning shooting there sent four to the hospital.

The shooting came just more than two weeks after Purple Haze owners won a court case that allowed them to keep the bar open until 5 a.m., like clubs on Beale Street.

The club has been the site of numerous violent events since December. But club owners said last week Purple Haze has been unfairly portrayed by media and police as a hub of violence.

Carvana’s “vending machine”

A building permit pulled recently shows Carvana, the online car dealer, plans to build a $5 million facility here.

The project includes one of the company’s signature vending machines, tall glass structures that store customers’ cars.

Airport to modernize

Airport officials formally kicked off a three-year construction journey to modernize the Memphis International Airport (MEM) last week.

The massive project will consolidate all airline, retail, and food and beverage businesses into the airport’s concourse B. It will bring wider corridors, moving walkways, larger boarding areas, higher ceilings, increased natural lighting, more concessions, and seismic upgrades.

Fee to drive?

A new transportation utility fee could generate up to $60 million a year, Memphis City Council were told last week, which could help fund Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) and road infrastructure projects.

The fee would be tacked on to utility bills and would be based on the number of trips on Memphis roads generated by individual properties. For example, experts said a large church could generate up to $6,300 in additional revenue, a sit-down restaurant up to $500, and a fast food restaurant anywhere from $125 to $1,000.

Beale Bucks back

The council also voted Tuesday to reinstate the fee to enter Beale Street based on “needs-based determination.”

The council eliminated the controversial Beale Street Bucks program last year. The cover charge came back after a review by a third-party consultant and months of meetings by a special task force. The charge will come back to Beale only if a crowd of more than 10,000 is expected.

New views for the color blind

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development recently installed 13 special viewfinders to allow those with color blindness to see the state’s fall foliage. The closest viewfinder to Memphis is at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park’s Poplar Lake.

Pink Palace comes back

After close to two years of construction, the Pink Palace Mansion is set to re-open December 8th, museum officials announced last week.

Promotions at City Hall

Kyle Veazey and Chandell Carr were promoted last week to serve as two Deputy Chief Operating Officers in Mayor Jim Strickland’s administration.

Veazey was the deputy director of communications and joined Strickland’s office in 2016 in a high-profile move from The Commercial Appeal. Carr was the city’s Equity, Diversion & Inclusivity Officer for the Division of Human Resources.

State secrets reviewed

A panel of state lawmakers met again last week to review the 563 current exemptions to Tennessee’s Open Record Act.

Jack McElroy, executive editor of the Knoxville News-Sentinel, said public records are vital to a newspaper’s watchdog function.

McElroy said he was especially concerned about two exemptions. One allows the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to forever keep their files secret. Another allowed Google to keep secret details of a tax-break deal with the city of Clarksville.

For fuller versions of these stories and more local news, visit The New Blog at memphisflyer.com.
**The New York Times Crossword**

**ACROSS**
1. Someone who plants too much?
2. Serious competition
3. Easily waves through teams
4. College Board offering, for short
5. Guarded
6. Newcomer
7. Age
8. Foggy condition
9. They go to the
10. Unveiling
11. Stops
12. Part of ISL
13. Small slice of pizza
14. Party hearty
15. X
16. Help in a gym
17. Plastic preparation

**DOWN**
1. Part of a locker
2. Love symbol that names another love symbol if you move the first letter to the end
3. Mean buggy
4. Kick-start
5. Barred pollutant, for short
6. A large quantity
7. Drive way
8. Have a large quantity of liquor
9. Veh
10. Drink after a race
11. Pressure mean
12. French toast maker, maybe
13. 14-cheese stem with only two rhymes
14. Prefix with tea
15. Yes ___
16. Veteran's opposite
17. Certain letter, old-fashioned, for short
18. Result of an oil surplus
19. 25-down until
20. Thread holder
21. Santa ...
22. Word from the French for "fabric"
23. Civil rights icon
24. Quick test for illness
25. Full places

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The Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) is proposing service cuts this fall that would affect almost 30 routes, and Memphis bus riders aren’t happy.

The proposed changes include the elimination of seven routes. One of those is the coveted 31 Firestone, a demonstration route implemented last August that services the New Chicago area. When MATA created the Firestone route, Justin Davis of the Memphis Bus Riders’ Union (MBRU) called it a “big victory” for the residents of New Chicago in North Memphis as the route restored service to an area that was lost when the 31 Crosstown route was discontinued in 2013.

John Lancaster, MATA’s director of planning and Title VI officer, said the Firestone route could be eliminated because it didn’t meet the “minimum lifeline standard” threshold of about five passengers per hour. Since the route was introduced, there’s only been an average of about 4.5 riders an hour. Lancaster said taking the route away is a “tough choice,” but that allowing it to continue would be “throwing away money.”

“We are on a very tight budget,” Lancaster said. “It’s costing us extra money to provide service to these few people, and who do we take it away from? We don’t want to take money away from more efficient routes.”

But, Davis with MBRU said if the route is eliminated, those who do depend on public transit in the New Chicago neighborhood will “essentially have no service at all.”

To that end, Gary Rosenfeld, MATA’s CEO, said the agency is looking to develop creative solutions or alternatives to the standard fixed-bus routes in areas like New Chicago that need transit service, but often have low ridership.

“Constraints on our resources today warrant us to take a look at these numbers,” Rosenfeld said. “We have to have this discussion every six months so that we make sure we’re being good stewards of taxpayers’ dollars. As we look for alternatives and ways to integrate new approaches to transit into the system, this area would be high on the list of trying something new.”

Apart from eliminating routes, MATA is also planning to cut many weekend and late-night trips, as well as reduce the frequency of several routes. For example, MATA’s proposed cutting Saturday service on the 13 Lauderdale and 17 McLemore in South Memphis.

“Put all that together, and MATA’s plan will remove a huge amount of service from working-class neighborhoods and majority-black neighborhoods — all at once,” Davis said.

“What does this mean for bus riders? If these cuts go through, bus riders will lose jobs, drop out of classes, and lose access to their vote.”

“For many people in Memphis who don’t have cars, transit is the key to their livelihoods. And if we want to create more thriving neighborhoods, we can’t keep cutting them off from the rest of the city.”

The MATA Board of Commissioners will vote on the set of services changes at their next meeting on Thursday, September 27th at 3:30 at the MATA headquarters. If approved, the changes will go into effect on Sunday, November 11th.

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Stirring the Wave

Bredesen, Dean are hoping that momentum still holds for the Democrats.

With six weeks to go before the November 6th election, the question on most minds — certainly on the minds of Democrats — is whether the blue wave that was so evident locally on August 2nd exists in enough strength statewide to affect the outcome of the races for governor and senator.

Former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and former Governor Phil Bredesen, the Democratic candidates for governor and senator respectively, certainly hope so. And so far their efforts to swell that wave have made them more evident in the Memphis area than their Republican opponents, Franklin businessman Bill Lee, the GOP gubernatorial nominee, and 7th District Congressman Marsha Blackburn, the party’s candidate for senator.

When Blackburn opted out of an invitation for a gubernatorial debate at Rhodes College last Thursday, Bredesen turned up anyhow, converting the aborted showdown with his opponent into a “Memphis Matters’ Ideas Forum” before a nearly full house in Rhodes’ McNeil Concert Hall.

A questioner in the audience suggested that, if 80 percent of succeeding at something consisted of just showing up, the former two-term governor might get 80 percent of the votes from those who turned out. Bredesen upped the ante a bit, suggesting hopefully that he might get as much as 82 percent of the audience vote. Given the strongly partisan cast of the attendees, that didn’t seem terribly far-fetched.

The more objective polls taken to date of the population at large have seesawed, with Bredesen and Blackburn trading small leads back and forth.

Dean’s situation is a bit more challenging. In his latest Memphis appearance, at a Monday afternoon fund-raiser at the Central Avenue home of Cynthia and Mark Gravemeyer, the Democratic nominee for governor noted the progression from a Fox News poll showing him 20 points behind Lee to a “newer and bigger and more accurate” poll by CNN cutting the gap to a mere nine percentage points.

“Nine points is fantastic!” said Dean, who told his sizeable crowd of well-wishers that he’d expected to come out of the primary-election period something like 12 points down, with the opportunity to chip away at his GOP opponent’s lead on the strength of vigorous campaigning and persuasive issues like the state’s need for Medicaid expansion, which he favors and Lee does not.

Dean described other “clear differences” with Lee: “He’s for arming teachers. I’m for security officers. I’m for the Second Amendment but want some sensible background checks. He’s for permitless carry, not a good thing.”

Karl Dean (above) speaks at the fund-raiser in a Memphis home.

Decrying the local poverty rate of “46 or 47 percent” as “simply not tolerable,” Dean promised help in what he described as Memphis’ “existential battle” with the neighboring states of Mississippi and Arkansas in the competition for economic growth. “It’s time to win some of those battles,” he said.

There’s no doubting that Memphis will figure large in Dean’s own battle with Lee, who narrowly lost Shelby County to Diane Black in the GOP primary but had made considerable gains here late in that campaign, as he did elsewhere in the state — mainly, it would seem, on the basis of a compelling personality. But Dean professes confidence. “If we vote, we win,” he said Monday, predicting, “There’s going to be a blue wave of some sort.”
**EDITORIAL**

**Dumb and Dumber**

One of the object lessons of the late political-primary season was the realization that you can dumb down political messages to the point that even the dimmest of voters is too smart to be hoodwinked.

The perfect example was the GOP gubernatorial primary, when two multi-millionaires, Diane Black and Randy Boyd, decided to blow their own money and that of their deep-pocketed donors on a negative-ad battle in which Black essentially tried to convince the Tennessee electorate that all the state needed was to trust in such national issues as she and Donald Trump favored — you know, like a wall on the Southern U.S. border and tax breaks for the wealthy — and that Boyd was a stinker because he wasn’t properly zealous about such things.

Boyd — who, on his record as a cabinet member in the Haslam administration, was actually a moderate, thoughtful social engineer of sorts — countered with ads suggesting that he was as far to the right as Black was and that he worried himself sick about welfare chiselders and sneaky immigrants. And he did, too, favor the wall and had actually gone to the border to pose for pictures there. He insisted that he loved Trump as much as Black did. Back and forth, they went, tearing each other down.

Meanwhile, Bill Lee, an almost overlooked third-place candidate for much of the way, kept gaining, mainly on the basis of a pleasant personality and a reluctance to play the dozens with the other two. He won the primary.

Tennessee is now getting a partial rerun of the embarrassing Black-Boyd antics in the race for the U.S. Senate between Republican Marsha Blackburn and Democrat Phil Bredesen. The mischief here has been pretty much one-sided. Blackburn and the National Republican Senate committee — and whoever else has been thinking this stuff up — have been laboring hard to make Bredesen — a middle-of-the-roader who was so conservative as governor that he made his GOP predecessor Don Sundquist look like a Democrat — appear to be a crazed tax-and-spend liberal.

One Blackburn ad has Trump himself saying such things about Bredesen, who has promised, reasonably enough, to support such actions by the president as might seem good for Tennessee. Another ad states that Bredesen wildly hiked up state taxes (actually, no, he really didn’t) and, worse, enjoyed himself at taxpayers’ expense by gussying up the governor’s mansion, which, as Bredesen notes correctly, he never even lived in as governor.

If Bredesen has wisely chosen, for the most part, not to reciprocate, the Democratic National Committee seems to have fallen into the trap of responding to Blackburn’s bait with its own ad claiming that she’s the one who’s really been fleecing the taxpayers by excessive globe-trotting and constantly gadding about on the public dime.

Stop it, everybody. You’re trivializing the democratic process, turning it into a preposterous flame war. Stick to the issues, please. There are real ones, after all, and, honestly, we can tell the difference between the stuff some of you are doing and shinola.
The Dead Aren’t Dead

President Trump’s politicization of the death toll in Puerto Rico is a new low.

President Trump captured the headlines last week by announcing that the dead in Puerto Rico were, essentially, fake dead. It’s a new and curious turn of events in the haphazardly choreographed collapse of our American democracy.

We all agree that Hurricane María engulfed the Island of Puerto Rico one year ago, in September of 2017, causing massive damage to the Caribbean Island. President Trump and Melania visited the island, and he famously tossed rolls of paper towels to Puerto Ricans as islanders, by the hundreds of thousands, contemplated a future without electricity or a roof over their heads.

This was, essentially, Trump’s “Heck of a Job, Brownie” hurricane moment. That comment, from George W. Bush in New Orleans immediately after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 did not end Bush’s presidency, but it certainly made millions of Americans see in real time a totally out-of-touch and ineffective Republican administration working against the best interests of poor people marooned in the Crescent City.

President Bush never disputed the number of dead in Katrina. President Trump, representing the man who can’t be contradicted or corrected, announced that the number of officially reported dead from the Puerto Rican Hurricane (2,975) must be a made-up figure. Who would make such a claim? Two possibilities come to mind: a petty, 19th-century Latin American dictator or a character in a Gabriel García Márquez novel.

Last Thursday, the president, while disputing the official death toll via a tweet, suggested the number was inflated by Democrats at home to make him look bad, but the essentially pro-Trump Governor of the Island Commonwealth accepted the 2,975 casualty figure. According to the President, inflating the numbers was simple, and not so scientific. He explained, “if a person died for any reason, like old age, just add them onto the list.”

Researchers from George Washington University’s Milken Institute of School of Public Health, in collaboration with researchers from the University of Puerto Rico, spent six months studying death certificates, visiting funeral homes and morgues to arrive at the official tally via a soundly designed study that few — if any — have found politically motivated.

Puerto Rico, it’s important to remember, is part of the United States. We separated it from Spain via a short war in 1898, and it currently holds the status as “Island Commonwealth of the United States.” Puerto Ricans have no representation in Congress and do not vote in presidential elections. Puerto Ricans pay taxes and are full citizens of the United States; they have been for the past 101 years — since 1917.

As U.S. citizens, Puerto Ricans can fly or boat away from the island and traditionally, they found a home in New York City, but more recently, Puerto Ricans have been moving to Florida. In New York, during the 1960s and ’70s Puerto Ricans were reliable Democratic voters. Their migration south (mainly to central Florida in recent years) reflects an aging, more prosperous community that has tended to vote more conservatively.

Denying that the dead have died — a surreal, magical realist twist on an environmental catastrophe — is where we are with this administration.

Perhaps as many as 400,000 people fled Puerto Rico post-María (about 6 percent of the island’s population) and maybe 75,000 have decided to stay on the mainland, mostly in Florida. Thus, the extremely sad official response of the U.S. government to Puerto Rican suffering — summed up in rolls of tossed paper towels — means the swing state of Florida could swing blue in November. Puerto Ricans in Florida need only to register to vote, and then show up on Election Day.

Hurricanes can break an administration, which nearly happened to President Bush in New Orleans, or show an administration’s determination to cast politics aside and bring aid to the stricken as occurred via the Obama/Christie collaboration after Super Storm Sandy slammed New Jersey/New York in 2012. Denying that the dead have died — a surreal, magical realist twist on an environmental catastrophe — is where we are with this administration: Sinking poll numbers suggest that the American people, on the mainland and on its islands, are starting to tire of the Trump magic.

Bryce Ashby is a Memphis-based attorney and board chair at Latino Memphis; Michael J. LaRosa is an associate professor of history at Rhodes College.
Star Power

Stubby Clapp and Darrell Henderson further solidify their places in Memphis sports history.

It’s unlikely Stubby Clapp and Darrell Henderson have met each other. One manages a professional baseball team (our Triple-A Memphis Redbirds), his season ending in September. The other carries the ball for a college football team (our University of Memphis Tigers), his season beginning in September. It would be a nice tandem photo, though, of Clapp and Henderson arm in arm. For they have delivered the kind of star power that fuels a fan base, regardless of season.

Over the course of 27 hours last weekend, within about 10 miles of each other, Clapp and Henderson further solidified their places in Memphis sports history.

The junior tailback rushed for 233 yards — on merely 14 carries — and scored two touchdowns to help his Tigers evasculate Georgia State at the Liberty Bowl. Henderson has 521 rushing yards over his first three games, tops in the entire country. No one will confuse Georgia State’s defense for Alabamais, but 4.3 speed doesn’t slow for any opponent. With good health, Henderson will enter All-America conversations and climb NFL draft boards, another college season of eligibility be damned.

As for Clapp, he delivered a second-straight Pacific Coast League championship to Memphis, despite being asked by the parent St. Louis Cardinals to juggle 66 players over the course of the five-month season. (Last year it was merely 62.) Clapp’s entire starting rotation and outfield — at least those we saw in April — are now in uniform for St. Louis. But it didn’t matter. Clapp sent Tommy Edman onto the field, an infielder who spent most of his season at Double-A Springfield, and Edman proceeded to earn co-MVP honors — with Randy Arozarena — for the PCL championship series. (Ironically, Edman is one of just two Redbirds position players to appear in the championship series each of the last two years, the other being shortstop Wilfredo Tovar.) Edmundo Sosa, playing third base, caught the final out in Saturday night’s clincher. Like Edman, Sosa played more games this season at Double-A than Triple-A. Didn’t matter. He’s been sized for a Pacific Coast League championship ring.

Clapp and Henderson are bound for the highest level of their respective sports. A manager who wins back-to-back championships at the highest level of the minor leagues with whichever the parent club provides brings the kind of touch major-league teams crave. A running back whose 54-yard touchdown run is merely second on his game-night highlight reel is an all-too-rare breakaway talent most NFL teams lack.

Thanks to the NBA’s Grizzlies, Memphis has been a “big-league town” for 17 years now. And it’s nice to belong at the adult table for sports. But let’s not lose an appreciation for the rising stars we glimpse on their way to larger stages, brighter lights. A fan’s greatest challenge is recognizing — identifying — history before it happens. Crystal balls shatter like light bulbs in the hands of analysts and those paid the big bucks to forecast greatness. (Where are you, JaMarcus Russell?) Stubby Clapp and Darrell Henderson will be wearing different uniforms in the near future. Which makes the present they’ve provided Memphis all the more special.

• The Redbirds are now one of only three current PCL franchises with as many as four championships. And only Sacramento has won as many since Memphis joined the PCL in 1998.

• Henderson has a slight lead over Wisconsin’s Jonathan Taylor atop the country’s rushing leaders. He’s averaging 173.7 yards per game while Taylor has averaged 171.7. Taylor has the advantage of one of the biggest and best offensive lines in the country, though he also faces a Big Ten schedule, while Henderson will be able to feast on AAC competition. Also keep an eye on Henderson’s career total (currently 2,157 yards). He stands a reasonable chance of becoming only the second Tiger to gain 3,000 yards on the ground. DeAngelo Williams, it should be remembered, gained 6,026. •
On August 2nd, the voters of Shelby County resoundingly voted for Lee Harris, a law professor at the University of Memphis, a former city councilman, and the Democrats’ leader in the state Senate, to be county mayor for the next four years. Harris, who was sworn in on August 30th in a joint ceremony with other county officials, is still in the early stages of organizing his mayoralty. On Monday, he sat down with the Flyer in his 11th-floor office in the Vasco Smith County Administration building to discuss the prospect of things to come.

“Going forward, we’re going to be talking about education, public safety, and taxes.”

as a minority legislative leader to being a county executive. What’s it like in those circumstances, going from one branch of government to another?

I think there’s a huge difference. I didn’t realize how big a difference there was until I got here a couple of weeks ago. You really have your hand on the lever in this office, no doubt about it, and you can effectuate change and drive a message and an agenda. That’s much better! No doubt about it.

As a minority leader in the Senate, I had a role in putting messages in the pipeline and putting the brake on some things. But here you get to set the stage for change. And before I was part-time. Now I can do this every single day, all day long, bringing beneficial change for our community. Two early examples have been the opportunity to appoint Patrice Thomas as CAO and Marlinee Iverson as county attorney.

You're going from the position of being a minority legislative leader to being a county executive. What's it like in those circumstances, going from one branch of government to another?

I know you're aware of the schism that has existed between your predecessor, Mayor Mark Luttrell, and the Shelby County Commission the last couple of years. Can you avoid something like that?

I didn't realize how bad it was until I won the election and began the process of settling in. It's even worse than you reported. I don't think they got along well. I gave Mayor Luttrell high marks in terms of leadership and the team he put together, but he really fell down in terms of relating to the commission.

Like this idea, four years ago, of separate inauguration ceremonies for... continued on page 12
the mayor and the commission. There was the expectation that I was going to have a separate ceremony. I thought, “Are you kidding me? If we do, we’ll start off on the wrong foot.” This is local government, not Washington, D.C., and all of us in local government should be on the same page. [Outgoing commission chair] Heidi Shafer did a great job working with me to make a unity ceremony, bringing together a lot of stakeholders. So far we’re getting along very well.

As for why they [Luttrell and commissioners] didn’t get along, part of it was a matter of perspective. On both the 11th floor [site of mayor’s office] and the 6th floor [site of commission offices] it’s too easy to surround yourself with fans feeding your point of view. But I’ve served as a local legislative official on the city council; so I know they [members of the legislative branch] expect somebody to communicate and work with them.

Your profile on the Shelby County website notes, “He has won numerous awards because of his work in politics and government.” What awards do you take most satisfaction from? I just won one a couple of days ago for environmental justice. I joined with others to point out contamination of water at TVA’s new power plant and got them to stop drilling. And there are only 10 states that have a law requiring pure water in public schools. Tennessee became the 10th state because of legislation I sponsored. If they find lead contaminant at a school, they’ll have to take that water out of circulation and replace it with water free from contamination. I worked with Senator Bo Watson on that one.

Then I sponsored bills, some with [Senator] Brian Kelsey, to get ourselves into the conversation on the aquifer. We got the Ground Water Control Board to start meeting and write new rules for drilling, and to work with the University of Memphis on aquifer issues. You have to make the effort to get all the stakeholders involved. In Nashville, there are a lot of stakeholders involved on issues all the time.

You have to deal with a lot of polarities in government, don’t you? Democrats vs. Republicans, cities vs. suburbs, blacks vs. whites, and so forth.

Yes. One of the first persons I talked to in Nashville and tried to befriend was [Representative] Andy Holt. He’s a teacher, a part-time professor, and he likes to talk about economics, and I don’t mind talking about economics. He likes to talk about Republican orthodoxy and I love to talk about Republican orthodoxy and what they should be doing, about how they’re concentrating on giveaways instead of being true to the free market. We’ve sponsored bills together. He was skeptical of me for a long time. You can find common ground with anyone.

At your first campaign debate with Republican nominee David Lenoir, you mentioned “segregation” as a major county issue. Would you elaborate on that? Yes, sure. De facto segregation is still with us — schools and all the major places. How do we combat it? With high-quality schools that you want to put $300 million into the schools. What are your plans? Well I don’t think I said a specific number. But, yes, there’s a lot of need for more investment in our school systems. I don’t want to get into the weeds on specific structural issues. That’s one of those things that’s been a distraction for years. I’m saying that, no matter what, there’s room for investment in education. And I think everybody in the community wants to see more investment. We need both more funding and more accountability. I’m one of the few Democrats, by the way, who say we haven’t made gains fast enough. I’m not a cheerleader unless we’ve been stone-cold successful.

Is the independence of the public schools from direct control by the mayor and commission a barrier? Yes, and the first thing I’m going to do on Monday will be to announce to the commission my intention to appoint an educational liaison officer. That’s step number one: someone to work with Shelby County Schools and the other stakeholders.

Way down the line are structural and legal challenges. First we need to get everybody connected — mayor, county commission, superintendent, school boards, etc.

That sounds like something your opponent David Lenoir talked about. Lenoir did talk about it. Oh, yeah, I got it from him. I spent a career as a [law school] teacher. The best teachers in my view are really great students. You learn things from the give-and-take of a conversation. The campaign was a great conversation, and that was a good idea. Schools are a major expense, and we need a liaison.

What persuaded you to run for County Mayor? Two friends, Steve Mulroy and David Upton, hounded me about it. They explained to me things about this role, and I became convinced. There were two major considerations: Can you win? And the other is much more service-minded. If you win, would it really make that much of a difference? I concluded “Yes” on both fronts. Even if I didn’t win, I thought I could change the entire conversation, I knew I would force everybody else to talk about things in a totally different way.

My opponent would talk about tax cuts, people leaving the county, made-up stuff. The only way to grow your county is to make your county attractive to move into, with great schools, great neighborhoods and people, and good public transit. If I wasn’t in the race, nobody would talk about those things. And I think it was right that I could hold on to the Democratic vote and stretch out to get others better than some predecessors. Some people think that to get the urban vote you’ve got to be a certain kind of candidate, that if you’re not behind on your taxes and haven’t piled up bankruptcies, you’re not qualified. Such folk don’t think a lot of the voters. The voters want high-quality representation. I talk the same way in Collierville as I do in Orange Mound.

Lenoir did take you to task on some crime issues. Well, criminal justice, in my view, is not a bumper sticker. There’s such a thing as being “tough on crime” for the sake of being tough — without making us safer. The “Crooks with Guns” bill he talked about, for example, giving previously convicted felons stiff penalties merely for possessing a gun. If you’ve committed a crime, I’m happy to give you 10 years [in incarceration]. If you’re asleep in town, and a weapon is found under your mattress, I’m not happy about giving you 10 years. That’s more than you’d get if you raped somebody or committed manslaughter.

And there was my opposition to the Drug-Free School Zones bill, with its...
I argued we should have incremental reform. My position was supported by both the ACLU and the Koch Brothers, by the way. The 1,000-foot radius of that bill swallows entire communities. Liberally defined, you’re almost always in a school zone in the city of Memphis, which means that a drug sale there can get you eight to 15 years instead of 11 to 29 months if you’re not in a school zone.

In Tennessee’s four urban counties, you’re almost always in a school zone; in the other 91, you’re almost never in one. So urban violators are penalized enormously and unfairly more than rural ones for exactly the same crimes.

Crime control should be like a three-legged stool. The first leg is arrest and prosecution. The second has to do with education and other preventive efforts to keep people from going down the wrong path. We need to emphasize pre-K, K-12, and teaching vocational skills. The third leg is re-entry. The county runs the re-entry office, and I’m going to have an announcement on that in the next 10 days. We’ve got to make sure we are meaningfully reintegrating people into the community.

"Things that people really care about are education, health care, and transit issues."

Memphis Mayor Strickland has his Memphis 3.0 project. Do you envision doing something similar?
I don’t do a lot of planning, a lot of committees. I talk to people in the communities. I know what they want. In order to bring stakeholders together you may have to do some planning, but it’s not my custom. I usually vote no on them and don’t participate in any of them. Like the city council committee to rename parks when I was on the council. They formed a committee. I couldn’t believe it! What is there to talk about? I just don’t know what there is to study. You either do something or you don’t. Either you pick up the trash or you don’t. And instead of firing somebody, the school system hires a “consultant” to look into the grading scandal!

What’s your take on the current dissatisfaction with EDGE [the city/county industrial recruitment board]?
I don’t plan to get involved in that unless the county commission really desires my presence on this new task force. We do need new leadership in the Chamber of Commerce, though, and new leadership all over the place. But EDGE is a priority for special interests. Of the 950,000 people in the county, 949,000 of them do not care about EDGE — absolutely, positively do not care about this issue at all. Things that people really care about are education, health care, and transit issues. We need to do something to improve health care and to take care of Regional One [aka The Med], our only public hospital. Utilities are a big issue for everybody, and MLGW functions as an instrument of taxation, also. Should there be voting representatives from the county at large on the MLGW board?

And the EDGE board should have some regular people on it, too, just people from the neighborhoods. It’s the quintessential special interest. PILOTs [payments-in-lieu-of-taxes as an incentive for business] surrender too much revenue. Of course, businesses come here in order to make profits. To get them here, we’ve got to make this an attractive place to live. We need to invest in neighborhoods, invest in education, workforce development. I don’t think anybody seriously thought we were in competition for Amazon.

Frankly, we could shut down EDGE and give everybody a tax cut. If you cut taxes on everybody, we’d get more investment and more economic activity. If there’s a county commissioner out there who wants to take the lead on a tax cut, have at it! I’m not taking a position, other than to say I’m not for raising taxes. Tax cuts benefit everybody. A lot of this other stuff does not register.

Going forward, I think we’re going to be talking about education, public safety, and taxes. I don’t think people want to get distracted about these sideshow issues.

Looking ahead, do you think two terms as mayor are going to be necessary?
Yes. I think there are lots of things that can be done in the short term, but lots of things, too, that are going to take more than four years.
Bag Lady  By Chris Davis

Taja Lindley knows a thing or two about trash bags. Her installations and performances as “The Bag Lady” require boxes of them.

“And not all trash bags are created equal, I’ll tell you that,” the visual and performing artist says. She’s attracted to a particular store brand because of the shininess and opacity. And she recycles, shipping her boxes full of bags from town to town as she tours “The Bag Lady Manifesta,” a one-woman show, art installation, and participatory performance ritual.

“The bags people touched in Tulsa are the same bags people touched in New York and will be the same bags people touch in Memphis,” she says, connecting the medium to a message about the disposability of black lives in America.

“When we have debates, people double down on their judgments and assumptions,” Lindley says, trying to define The Bag Lady’s role at the nexus of performance and activism. She wants to explore personal choices and responsibility and create openings for dialogue, says she of work that can reflect on immigration policy and the social safety net.

“We can talk about mass incarceration,” Lindley says, acknowledging that the work can be difficult to describe. “So many dots we can connect . . . It’s definitely an experience.” Lindley says it’s an experience that involves dance, text, projection, elements of burlesque, and, as previously mentioned, trash bags. Lots and lots of trash bags. So many trash bags.

Making healing art from a medium that’s not Earth-friendly comes with a lot of responsibility. “Oh my God, I need storage,” Lindley says.

THE BAG LADY MANIFESTA” BY TAJA LINDLEY AT MCCOY THEATRE, RHODES COLLEGE, SEPTEMBER 21ST-22ND, 7:30 P.M. FREE BUT SEATING IS LIMITED. 901-843-3000
Author, Author!
By Samuel X. Cicci

Forget “To be or not to be.” It’s “Is he or isn’t he” that’s sure to drive scholars wild. Who is the author behind Shakespeare’s works? That debate has so far introduced over 80 different candidates to be the true genius behind the Shakespeare name, including Sir Francis Bacon, 17th Earl of Oxford Edward de Vere, and Christopher Marlowe. The alternative authorship questions stretches even to the United States supreme court, where Justice John Paul Stevens has come out in support of de Vere.

Now Tennessee writer Aaron F. Tatum has taken on the query in his recently published *Shakespeare’s Secrets*. The novel follows former musician and now music critic Ian Scarborough on a globetrotting affair as he researches relics and manuscripts that can point him to the true author of Shakespeare’s works. Through action set pieces and heavy exposition sequences, Tatum, through Scarborough, attempts to make the case that de Vere is responsible for the famous plays and sonnets.

For those interested in diving deeper into the Shakespeare authorship question, *Shakespeare’s Secrets* provides an easier route to the argument through its narrative approach. To keep the pace moving, the inclusion of Sherlock Holmes-esque mysteries and historical elements temper some of the more long-winded sections. At the end of the day, *Shakespeare’s Secrets* is an endorsement of Edward de Vere. If you find that theory to be anathema, well, at least you’ve still got a solid thriller on your hands.

Tatum’s fascination with the subject is nothing new; he is the former president of the Shakespeare Oxford Society of North America and a member of the United Kingdom’s de Vere Society. Longtime Memphis residents may recognize previous work of his from *Memphis* magazine, *Germantown News*, and other assorted Tennessee weeklies.

AARON F. TATUM BOOKSIGNING AT NOVEL, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 6 P.M.

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Olivia Munn (above) plays an evolutionary biologist in Shane Black’s action-packed *The Predator*. Film, p. 34

SATURDAY September 22

Clint Black
*Gold Strike Casino*, 8 p.m., $39-$64
A concert from this country music superstar.

Time Warp Drive In
*Sumner Drive-in, dusk, $10*
Featuring the films of trash-is-cool director John Waters. Screening includes *Cry Baby*, *Pink Flamingos*, and *Female Trouble*.

SUNDAY September 23

*Rebel Without a Cause*
*Malco Paradiso*, 2 p.m.
A screening of this James Dean classic.

Mid-South Fair
*Landers Center, noon, $10*
Includes rides, plenty of food, a bear show, a pirate show, and more.

MONDAY September 24

Nine Inch Nails
*The Orpheum*, 7 p.m.
Rock group brings its Cold and Black and Infinite tour to Memphis.
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MEMPHIS MARVEL

The legendary Charles Lloyd on his music and his roots.

of the many music talents that Memphis has sent out into the world, Charles Lloyd, the master of the saxophone and flute, may have traveled the furthest and the widest. Indeed, his genre-breaking career has taken him into such diverse musical landscapes, with such grace, that now, aged 80, he’s become a kind of musical Walt Whitman, singing the body electric in all its forms.

His appearance at the Germantown Performing Arts Center on September 28th will feature the Marvels. While the rhythm section of Rauben Rogers and Eric Harland remains, the group is filled out with Greg Leisz on pedal steel and Bill Frisell on guitar. This was the group behind Lloyd’s latest album, Vanished Gardens, which also features Lucinda Williams on some tracks.

I connected with Lloyd to ask him what Memphis means to him, how the Marvels came to be, and walking the fine line between order and chaos in his music.

Memphis Flyer: What do you take away from your Memphis years that you still feel is fundamental to your playing today?

Charles Lloyd: The mysticism of sound has always been around Memphis, going back to the early spirituals and blues guys to WC. Handy and Jimmy Lunceford. There was music everywhere. Just walking down a street — if the windows were open, you heard music. It was our inspiration and consolation. In the fourth grade at Melrose, I heard Willie Mitchell’s big band and it was like a thunderbolt to my heart. They were standing on the shoulders of Lunceford and Duke Ellington, but more modern — like Dizzy Gillespie’s big band. At that time, I had wanted to be a singer, but hearing Willie’s band encouraged me to appeal to my parents to get me a saxophone.

I was also blessed that Phineas Newborn Jr. discovered me early and took me to the great Irvin Reason for alto lessons. And Phineas put me in his father, Phineas Sr., band. Together with Junior and his brother, Calvin, we played at the Plantation Inn in West Memphis. Phineas became an important mentor and planted the piano seed in me.

I went to Manassas High School where Matthew Garrett was our bandleader. Talk about being in the right place at the right time! We had a band, the Rhythm Bombers, with Mickey Gregory, Gilmore Daniels, Frank Strozier, Harold Mabern, Booker Little, and myself. Booker and I were best friends; we went to the library and studied Bartók scores together. He was a genius.

Growing up, Herman Green was a highly respected musician. We played together in Willie Mitchell’s band for a time. He has had an important impact on many Memphis musicians. Willie was also an important mentor to me. I am proud of having grown up in Memphis and to be a part of its musical heritage.

There’s a deep feeling for Latin/Brazilian idioms in much of your music. What first turned you on to Latin sounds?

When I was at the University of Southern California, Billy Higgins and I used to play in the pit band at the Million Dollar Theater. We played behind all of the Latin bands coming through L.A. I loved hearing Lucho Gatica, the Frank Sinatra of Latin America. Billy would go rambling with those Latin beats, and the songs opened another world for me. After the gig, they would have a big comida for us. It was great! During this time I also discovered Ravi Shankar, Ali Akbar Khan, and the Ali Brothers.

had you worked with bill frisell before the marvels?

Bill and I used to run into each other at European festivals, and we had a mutual admiration for each other. In 2013, I invited him to do some dates with me. When we first got together, he told me that when he was in high school in Denver, he heard my quartet with Keith Jarrett and that the experience changed the way he looked at making music. Bill has a broad and far-reaching palette. We have a beautiful simpatico together; it’s telepathic.

Is the tension between the arranged and the free a constant in your music?

This is a music of freedom and wonder. We challenge ourselves to go exploring. It’s about transformation and elevation.
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After Dark: Live Music Schedule September 20 - 26

Club 152
152 BEALE 544-7011
Sean Apple Thursdays, Sundays, 5 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, 4 p.m. and Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m; Live Music Thursdays-Sundays, 7-11 p.m.; Blues Players Club Thursdays, Sundays, 8 p.m. - midnight; A.M. Whiskey Trio Friday, Sept. 21, 7-11 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 22, 7-11 p.m.; Monday, Sept. 24-26, 6-10 p.m. and Tuesday, Sept. 25-26, 11 p.m.; DJ Ron Fridays, 11 p.m.; DJ DNye Saturdays, 11 p.m.; Brimstone Jones Sunday, Sept. 23, 7-11 p.m.; DJ Mad Dog Sundays, midnight; A.M. Whiskey Trio Mondays, 6-10 p.m.

FedExForum
191 BEALE STREET
Wild N’ Out Live Saturday, Sept. 22, 8 p.m.
Handy Bar
200 BEALE 527-2687
The Amazing Mathematical Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays, 7 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Itta Bena
145 BEALE 528-0311
Nat “King” Cole Fridays, Saturdays, 9-10 p.m.

King Jerry Lawler’s Hall of Fame Bar & Grill
159 BEALE
Chris Gales Solo Acoustic Show Mondays-Saturdays, 4 p.m.; Eric Hughes solo/ acoustic Thursdays, 5-8 p.m.; Karaoke Mondays-Thursdays, 8 p.m.; Live Bands Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.

King’s Palace Cafe
162 BEALE 521-1851
David Bowen Thursdays, 5-9:30 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 6:30-10:30 p.m. and Sundays, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

King’s Palace Cafe-Patio
162 BEALE 521-1851
Sonny Mack Mondays-Fridays, 2-6 p.m.; Cowboy Neil Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 7 p.m. - midnight and Saturdays, Sundays, 2-6 p.m.; Fuzzy Wednesday, Fridays, 7 p.m. - midnight; Myra Hall Band Saturday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m. - midnight; Bannie and Soul Sundays, 7 p.m. - midnight.

King’s Palace Cafe-Tap Room
168 BEALE 576-2220
Big Don Valentine’s Three Piece Chicken and a Biscuit Blues Band Thursdays, Tuesdays, 8 p.m. - midnight; Delta Project Friday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m. - midnight; Fuzzy Saturday, Sept. 22, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

New Daisy Theatre
330 BEALE 525-8981
TAMIA Sunday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.

Run Boogie Cafe
152 MADISON 432-2222
Eric Hughes Band Thursday, Sept. 20, 8 p.m. - midnight; Vince Johnson and Plantation Allstars Wednesdays, 8 p.m. - midnight; Friday, Sept. 21, 5-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 22, 5-8 p.m.; FreeWorld Friday, Sept. 21, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. and Saturday, Sept. 22, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.; Memphis Blues Masters Sundays, 7-11 p.m.; Fuzzy Tuesdays, 8 p.m. - midnight.

Run Boogie Cafe Blues Hall
182 BEALE 528-0150
Memphis Bluesmasters Mondays, Thursdays, 8 p.m. - midnight; James Jones Fridays, 4-8 p.m.; Sundays, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. and Wednesdays, 8 p.m. - midnight; Eric Hughes Friday, Sept. 21, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. and Saturday, Sept. 22, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.; Little Boys Blues Saturday, Sept. 22, 4-8 p.m.; Vince Johnson and the Plantation Allstars Sundays, 4-8 p.m.; Delta Project Tuesday, Sept. 25, 8 p.m. - midnight.

Silky O’Sullivan’s
183 BEALE 522-9596
Dueling Pianos Thursdays, Wednesdays, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. and Mondays, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 9-3 a.m. - 11 p.m.

DOWNTOWN

Belle Tavern
117 BARBORO ALLEY 249-6580
The Rusty Pieces Sunday, Sept. 23, 5-8 p.m.

Blind Bear Speakeasy
115 S. MAIN, PEMBERROKESQ 417-8435
Live Music Thursdays-Saturdays, 10 p.m.; The Rusty Pieces Saturday, Sept. 22, 11-1 a.m.

Brass Door Irish Pub
152 MADISON 572-1813
Live Music Fridays, Karaoke with Carla Worth Saturdays, 9-11 p.m.

Dirty Crow Inn
855 KENTUCKY
Hillbilly Mojo Friday, Sept. 21, 9 p.m.; Broke Tail Folk Saturday, Sept. 22, 9 p.m.; Robbie Stacks and Friends Wednesdays, 8-11 p.m.

Earnestine & Hazel’s
531 S. MAIN 525-8754
Amber Rae Dunn Hosts Earnestine & Hazel’s Open Mic Wednesdays, 8-11 p.m.

Harbor Town Amphitheatre
740 HARBOR BEND 494-9716
Cameron Bethany, Kid Maestro Sunday, Sept. 23, 3 p.m.

Midtown

The Orpheum
203 S. MAIN 255-3000
Nine Inch Nails: Cold and Black and Infinite Tour Monday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.

Regina’s
60 N. MAIN
Open Mic Night Sundays, 4-7 p.m.; Richard Wilson Sundays, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sleep Out Louie’s
150 PEABODY PL SUITE 111
ENTRANCE ON S 2ND ST Brandon Heath Friday, Sept. 21, 6 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 22, 6 p.m.

The Vault
124 E. PATTISON
Heath and Bobbie Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Shannon LaBrie Friday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m.; Todd Nations with Shufflette Saturday, Sept. 22, 9 p.m.

South Main

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

South Main Sounds
550 S. MAIN 494-6543
Sande Lollis and Friends Friday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m.

Spinlindie
383 S. MAIN 578-2767
Crystal “The Sax Lady” Brown Jazz Trio Friday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.

Metro

Bar DKDC
964 S. COOPER 272-0830
Goner Thrusday Thursday, Sept. 20, Marcella and Her Lovers Friday, Sept. 21, Faith Ruth Saturday, Sept. 22, 9 p.m.; Pride Kickoff with The Dixie Dixie and Glory Hobes Sunday, Sept. 23, Devell Train Monday, Sept. 24, Dave Cousar Tuesday, Sept. 25, Some Sons of Mudboy Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7-30 p.m.

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

Canvas
1737 MADISON 443-5232
Karaoke Thursdays, 9:30 p.m.; Kyle Preszina Live Mondays, 10 p.m. - midnight.

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One of the best-loved Cirque Du Soleil productions, Corteo, is coming to Memphis. Tickets on sale Friday, September 21 at 10am!
After Dark: Live Music Schedule September 20 - 26

Celtic Crossing
903 S. COOPER 274-5151
Live Music: Brian Sharpe Duo Sunday, Sept. 23, 4-7 p.m.; Jeremy Stendall and Joshua Cosby Sundays, 6-9 p.m.; Candy Company Mondays.

The Cove
2559 BROAD 730-0719
Jazz with Ed Finney, Deb Swiney, and David Collins Thursday, Sept. 20, 8 p.m.; Wayde Peck Friday, Sept. 21, 6-9 p.m.; Turnstyres Friday, Sept. 21, 9 p.m.; Hope Clayton & the Soul Scrimmage Saturday, Sept. 22, 10 p.m.; David Collins Frog Squad Sunday, Sept. 23, 6 p.m.; The Tailored Renegades Monday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m.; Richard Wilson Tuesday, Sept. 25, 6 p.m.; Ben Minden & Birkenmaier Wednesday, Sept. 26, 5:30 p.m.; Karaoke with DJ Eggroll Wednesday, Sept. 26, 9 p.m.

Growlers
1911 POPULAR 244-7904
Belle Thursday, Sept. 20, 8 p.m.; Jesse Dayton Friday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m.; PJXLS w/ Rocky Whispers and Ben Church Band Saturday, Sept. 22, 6 p.m.; Black Cream Sunday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.; Future Generations with Zuli Monday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.; EVEHATEGOD & the Obsessed Monday, Sept. 24, 8 p.m.; DUEL Tuesday, Sept. 25, 8 p.m.; Crockett Hall Tuesday days with the Midtown Rhythm Section Tuesday, 9 p.m.

Hi-Tone
412-414 N. CLEVELAND
278-TONE
Nordista Freeze, Hot Gates, Evereddems Thursday, Sept. 20, 9 p.m.; Alton Shows Presents: Sons of Priapus Friday, Sept. 21, 6 p.m.; Thair’s Hand, Time and Pressure, Over Stayer Friday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m.; Godson Blonde, John Hart Saturday, Sept. 22, 8 p.m.; Jacuzzi Boys, Berkano, Opposumosa Saturday, Sept. 22, 9 p.m.; MDC, the Elected Officials, Pez, Negro Terror, HEELS Sunday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.; Eve Minor, Ego Sip, Stupid Games Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.

Huey’s Midtown
1927 MADISON 726-4372
The R.I. Mischo Hash Brown Blues Band Sunday, Sept. 23, 4-7 p.m.; Young Betty Thieves Sunday, Sept. 23, 8:30 p.m.; midnight.

Indian Pass Raw
Bar Memphis
2059 MADISON 207-7397
Paul Taylor Jazz Quartet Thursdays, 7-10 p.m.; The Mighty Souls Band Friday, Sept. 21, 7-10 p.m.; Obruni Dance Band Saturday; Sept. 22, 7:30-10:30 p.m.; Deborah Swiney Duo Sunday, Sept. 23, 12-3 p.m.

Lafayette’s Music Room
2119 MADISON 207-5097
Blue Day Thursday, Sept. 20, 6 p.m.; Jake McVey Thursday, Sept. 20, 9 p.m.; Shelby Lee Lowe Friday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m.; Almost Famous Friday, Sept. 21, 10 p.m.; Shannon Lollar Saturday, Sept. 22, 2 p.m.; Seeing Red Saturday, Sept. 22, 6:30 p.m.; One Less Reason Saturday, Sept. 22, 11 p.m.; Joe Restivo Sunday, 11 a.m.; Pearl Sunday, Sept. 23, 4 p.m.; Deborah Swiney Trio Sunday, Sept. 23, 8 p.m.; Memphis Jazz Orchestra Monday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m.; The City Fathers Tuesday, Sept. 25, 5:30 p.m.; Jerried Price Tuesday, Sept. 25, 8 p.m.; The Weight (members of The Band, Levon Helm Band) with Tony Manard Wednesday, Sept. 26, 6 and 8 p.m.

Levitt Shell
OVERTON PARK 272-2722
Low Cut Connie Thursday, Sept. 20, 7-8:30 p.m.; Memphis of the Blues Friday, Sept. 21, 6-9 p.m.; Zombii Saturday, Sept. 22.

Raingarten
2160 CENTRAL
Dale Watson Thursday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.; Hope Clayton & the Soul Scrimmage Friday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m.; Octoberfest with Mighty Souls Brass Band, Side Street Steppers Saturday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m.; Brunch with School of Rock Sunday, Sept. 23, noon.

New South Memphis
FireHouse Community Arts Center
985 S. BELLEVUE 948-9522
Voices Open Mic Variety Show Third Friday of every month, 7 p.m.

South Memphis
Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s School
60 N. PERKINS EXT. 537-1483
John Popper of Blues Traveler Thursday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.

Church of the Holy Communion
4645 WALNUT GROVE
767-5997
Trombone Organ Recital Saturday, Sept. 22, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

East Memphis
Rhodes College West Campus
613 UNIVERSITY 843-3775
Rhodes Music Faculty Concert Series Monday, Sept. 23, 3 p.m.

Midtown Crossing Grill
394 N. WATKINS 443-0503
Natalie James and the Professor Saturday, Sept. 22, 7-8:30 p.m.; Open Mic Wednesday, Sept. 26, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Mingledown Hall
1555 MADISON 866-609-1744
Jonathan McReynolds Thursday, Sept. 20, 6-9 p.m.; J Grey & Mofro Friday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m.; Adam Wakefield Friday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m.

Murphy’s
1589 MADISON 726-4193
Tongue Party Thursday, Sept. 20; Earl “The Pearl” and the People of Memphis of the Blues Friday, Sept. 21, 6-9 p.m.; Zombii Saturday, Sept. 22.

Raingarten
2160 CENTRAL
Dale Watson Thursday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.; Hope Clayton & the Soul Scrimmage Friday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m.; Octoberfest with Mighty Souls Brass Band, Side Street Steppers Saturday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m.; Brunch with School of Rock Sunday, Sept. 23, noon.

Huey’s Poplar
4872 POPULAR 682-7729
Marcella and Her Lovers Sunday, Sept. 23, 8-11:30 p.m.

Various locations
SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION 30 Days of Opera.

Poplar/I-240
Neil’s Music Room
5727 FARMINGTON 318-3034
Jamie Baker and the VIP’s Thursday, Sept. 20, 6-8 p.m.; Live Entertainment Mondays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Karaoke hosted by DJ Maddy Wednesdays, 8-11 p.m.

Whitehaven/Airport
Rock-n-Roll Cafe
3855 ELVIS PRESLEY 398-6538
Elvis Tribute featuring Michael Cullipher Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m., Live Entertainment Mondays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Karaoke hosted by DJ Maddy Wednesdays, 8-11 p.m.

South Suburbs
Bartlett
Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center
3663 APPLING 385-6440
Aaron Tippin Friday, Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m.
CALENDAR of EVENTS: 
SEPT. 20 - 26

THEATER

Hattiloo Theatre
Pipelines, tale refers to the “school-to-prison pipeline” and in it, Nya, an inner-city public high school teacher, is committed to helping her students but desperate to give her only son opportunities. www.hattilootheatre.org. 5:30. Thursdays, Fridays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 2 & 7:30 p.m., and Sundays, 3 p.m. Through Oct. 7. 66 S. COOPER (226-4656).

McCoy Theatre
The Bag Lady Manifesto, an immersive installation of memory followed by a participatory performance ritual where audiences are invited to (re) consider what to let go and what to remember — individually and collectively. (843-3839), www.rhodes.edu. Free with RSVP. Fri.-Sat., Sept. 21-22, 7:30 p.m. RHODES COLLEGE, 2000 N. PARKWAY (843-3000).

Playhouse on the Square
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, a brilliant 15 year-old boy who is ill-equipped to interpret everyday life falls under suspicion for killing his neighbor’s dog. playhouseonthesquare.org. 925-440. Sundays, 2 p.m., and Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Through Oct. 7. 66 S. COOPER (226-4656).

Theatre Memphis
Heineken, contemporary drama filled with twists and turns, introduces two strangers, an older man and a younger woman, who meet on a subway platform in the most unlikely of circumstances. www.theatrememphis.org. 925 Sundays, 2 p.m., and Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Through Oct. 7. 630 PERKINS EXT. (882-8323).

Universal Parenting Place
Playback Memphis, bringing stories to life in a safe space to unlock healing, transformation, and joy. Families welcome. (207-3604). Free. Third Thursday of every month, 4:30-6 p.m. LEMONS OWEN COLLEGE, 990 COLLEGE PARK.

Various locations

ARTIST RECEPTIONS

430 Gallery

Bike to Art

Casting Demonstration

St. George’s Episcopal Church

St. George’s Church
Click here to go to the website for the church.

"Origami in the Garden" at Memphis Botanic Garden, through March 24th

Crosstown Concourse

The Dixon Gallery & Gardens
Open Late
Galleries and gardens will be open late. Free with admission. Every third Thursday, 6-9 p.m. THE DIXON GALLERY & GARDENS, 4339 PARK (761-5250), WWW.DIXON.ORG.

Submissions Open for MCA 60th Annual Holiday Bazaar & Fund-raiser
Visit website for more information. Through Oct. 1. WWW.MCA.ORG.

ONGOING ART

Art Museum at the University of Memphis (AMUM)

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ONGOING ART

Art Museum at the University of Memphis (AMUM)
CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 20 - 26

Bela Museum of Asian and Judaic Art

Buckman Arts Center at St. Mary’s School


Germantown Performing Arts Center
“A Call to the Wild: Speak to Me of Love,” exhibition of works by Debra Edge, John Brookshire, and other folk artists. Ongoing.

Simply Hemp Shop
We carry CBD oils, CBD honey sticks, CBD Teas & even CBD for Pets. Call 901-443-7157 simplyhempshop.com

Yin and Young Soul Artistry
“Underwater Worlds,” exhibition created by the layered accumulation of pours, stains and diverse mark-making. Ongoing.

Platelet Donors Needed
If you are between the ages of 18 and 50 and in good health, you may be eligible to donate platelets for support of important research activities. Eligible donors can donate every two weeks. Donations require about two hours of your time and you will receive $150 in compensation.

Walk-in donations are not accepted.

For more information or to make an appointment contact: 901-252-3434 info@keybiologics.com www.keybiologics.com

Marshall Arts Gallery
“Love of Art” and “Memphis,” exhibition of work by Nikki Gardner and Debra Edge by appointment only. Ongoing. 635 MARSHALL (675-6837).

Memphis Botanic Garden

Memphis Brooks Museum of Art


MEMPHIS FLYER September 20-26, 2018

continued on page 24

We carry CBD oils, CBD honey sticks, CBD Teas & even CBD for Pets.

Call 901-443-7157 simplyhempshop.com

September 20 - 30

GET TICKETS AT LANDERS CENTER BOX OFFICE | TICKETMASTER LOCATIONS | TICKETMASTER.COM | 1.800.747.3000

September 27

October 4

October 12

LANDERS CENTER

Mid-South Fair

Just Fair

Tiger Lane (Old Fairgrounds) Fri-Sat on the 3rd weekend of each month.

The Memphis Yoga Festival
"The Big One"

at Tiger Lane (Old Fairgrounds) Fri-Sat on the 3rd weekend of each month.

COME SEE US AT

www.brooksmuseum.org
True Story:

They wanted church to be relevant, not hip.
They found a church where talk and faith are real.

First Congregational Church

www.firstcongo.com
Phone: 901.278.6786
1000 South Cooper
Memphis, TN 38104
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
continued from page 22


196 MAIN, COLLEGEVILLE (453-2650).

National Civil Rights Museum


Playhouse on the Square


Slavehouses Underground Railroad Museum

"Images of Africa Before & After the Middle Passage," exhibition of photography by Jeff and Shaakira Edison. Ongoing. 826 N. SECOND (527-3427).

St. George's Episcopal Church


Tallot Heirs

Debra Edge Art. Ongoing. 59 S. SECOND (927-9772).

TOPS Gallery


Village Frame & Art

"20th Century Memphis Photographs," exhibition of work by Charlie Ivey and Virginia Schoenber, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 540 S. MENDENHALL (767-8882).

St. Jude Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer, Saturday, September 22nd, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

WKN0 Studio


30 Days of Opera

Free opera performances across Memphis and Mid-South. For more information, visit website. Through Sept. 30. various locations. See website for more information. www.30daysofopera.com.

DANCE


BOOKSIGNINGS

Booksighting by Aaron F. Tatum


Booksighting by Alice Bolin


Booksighting by Sharon Rene


LECTURE/SPEAKER

Diamond on the Table


“Finding Integrity and Authenticity: A Personal Perspective”


Lunch and Learn: A Step Ahead

CALENDAR: SEPTEMBER 20 - 26

09.21

Wish Book
Exhibition of works by John Pearson, with a special performance by >mancontrol< at 7pm. The Wish Book series focuses on non-traditional approaches to using film as a medium.
Opening reception: Fri, Sept 21, 6 - 8pm
On view: Sept 21 - Dec 2
Place: East Gallery & East Atrium

09.22

Mid-Autumn Festival
Join us for our Mid-Autumn Festival, including a lantern lighting, dragon dance, mooncake and candy giveaway, live music, and crafts for kids.
Time: 6 - 9pm    Place: Central Atrium

10.06

Crosstoberfest
Celebrate Oktoberfest at Crosstown Brewing Co. with live music, $5 beer, games, face painting, a photo booth, a caricature artist, and more.
Time: 2 - 7pm    Place: Crosstown Brewing

ARTRAGEOUS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018, 7 P.M.
$35 FOR ADULTS AND $25 FOR STUDENTS

Imagine an artist creating a masterpiece before your eyes in mere moments. With a palette that mixes captivating vocals, intricate choreography and thrilling audience interaction, Artrageous takes you on a unique visual journey packed with wild inspiration, creativity and fun! The Artrageous troupe of painters, musicians, singers and dancers pays tribute to a variety of art forms, pop icons and musical genres culminating in a gallery of fabulous finished paintings. The result? A one-of-a-kind, interactive, crossover experience!

TICKETS
BuckmanArtsCenter.com
(901) 537-1483
60 Perkins Extended
Memphis, TN 38117

Now Arriving @ Your Concourse

*Does not include Justin Moore / Tyler Rich. Purchasing ticket to that show includes free fair admission plus another free admission on the day of your choosing.

VIEW OUR SPECIAL OFFERS AT MIDSOUTHFAIR.COM

LANGERS CENTER

VIEW OUR SPECIAL OFFERS AT MIDSOUTHFAIR.COM

*Does not include Justin Moore / Tyler Rich. Purchasing ticket to that show includes free fair admission plus another free admission on the day of your choosing.

FREE FARE ADMISSION PLUS ANOTHER FREE ADMISSION ON THE DAY OF YOUR CHOOSING.
New boutique restaurant in Chickasaw Oaks / Midtown in need of staff for the front and back of the house.

Smart, dependable, and creative staff needed.

Please send resumes or inquiries to jstce4all@aol.com or call Johnnie at 901.205.4201. Only serious applicants.
continued from page 24

Startup Grind Memphis
September Event
Featuring Jack Simon as the Fireside Chat Speaker
on the topic, “Live Your Best Life & Create Your Culture.” $10. Tues., Sept. 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
MEMPHIS BIOWORKS FOUNDATION, 20 DIUSLEY (666-1400). WWW.STARTUPGRIND.COM.

MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY, 5500 VICTORY LANE, MEMPHIS, TN 38120. WWW.RACEMIR.COM.

Firebird car event schedule. Fri.-Sat., Sep. 21-22.
Visit website for America’s largest Camaro and 2018 Rick’s Camaro F-Body Nationals.

Mid-South Fair
CROSSTOWN CONCOURSE, N. CLEVELAND AT NORTH PARKWAY (462-4854). WWW.MIDSOUTHFAIR.COM.
4560 VENTURE, SOUTHAVEN, MS (662-280-9120), WWW.MEMPHISFARMERSMARKET.COM.
The Biggest Loser. Coach from NBC’s The Biggest Loser.

Graceland Excursions Trips: Tupelo, Mississippi — Birthplace of Elvis Presley
Experience the rural setting of Elivs’ upbringing and see where it all began. $99. Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
GUEST HOUSE AT GRACELAND, 3800 ELVIS PRESLEY (322-3322), WWW.GRACELAND.COM.

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GUEST HOUSE AT GRACELAND, 3800 ELVIS PRESLEY (322-3322), WWW.GRACELAND.COM.

Preservation Posse: After Hours at the W.C. Ellis Building
Soon to be One Beale, tour the W.C. Ellis Building, 245 S. Front. Learn more about preserving our city’s treasures over beer and wine featuring introduction by Chance Carlisle. $10, $15 door.
Thurs., Sept. 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
MEMPHIS HERITAGE, 2282 MADISON (272-2727), WWW.MEMPHISHERITAGE.ORG.

Yellow Fever Rock & Roll Ghost Tour
See what used to be, Memphis style, with Mike McCarthy. Call to schedule a personal tour.
(429-6325), WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/YELLOWROCKGHOST/.

Get Lit Book Club
Thursday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m.
GHOST RIVER BREWING, 827 S. MAIN (278-0087).
Group on Facebook to learn more. Free. Third Thursday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m.
MEMPHIS CHRONICLE, 2282 MADISON (272-2727), WWW.MEMPHISHERITAGE.ORG.

The Dixon Book Club
Interactive discussion on great reads. For more information, email lischmidt@dixton.org. Free with admission. Third Thursday of every month, 6-7:30 p.m.
THE DIXON GALLERY & GARDENS, 6439 PARKWAY (761-5300), WWW.DIXON.GRACELAND.COM.

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MEMPHIS HERITAGE, 2282 MADISON (272-2727), WWW.MEMPHISHERITAGE.ORG.

Morning Buzz
Be part of the creative community and AIGA Memphis. Third Thursday of every month, 7:30 a.m.
Cafe Eclectic, 603 N. McLern (725-1718), WWW.AIGA.MEMPHIS.ORG.

City Tasting Tours
Savor 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, 1:30 p.m.
WWW.CITYTASTINGTOURS.COM.

MEMPHIS COOK CONVENTION CENTER, 255 N. MAIN (576-1200), WWW.MEMPHISAUTOSHOW.COM.

MEMPHIS HERITAGE, 2282 MADISON (272-2727), WWW.MEMPHISHERITAGE.ORG.

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Memphis International Auto Show
Hundreds of cars, trucks, SUVs and crossovers featuring the latest in-car technology, ultra-luxurious exotics, and classics. $8. Fri., Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY, 5500 VICTORY LANE, MEMPHIS, TN 38120. WWW.AGRICENTER.ORG.

Memphis Agricultural Club
Meet in the C Wing of the Expo Building. Lunch provided for $10. Fourth Monday of every month, noon.

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MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY, 5500 VICTORY LANE, MEMPHIS, TN 38120. WWW.AGRICENTER.ORG.

MEMPHIS COOK CONVENTION CENTER, 255 N. MAIN (576-1200), WWW.MEMPHISAUTOSHOW.COM.

FESTIVALS
Get Outside! Fitness Festival
Featuring health and wellness vendors, free fitness classes, healthy food options, and the opportunity to hear from Dolvett Quince, fitness coach from NBC’s The Biggest Loser. Free. Thurs., Sept. 20, 5-7 p.m.
SHELBY FARM, 500 N. PINE LAKE (767-PARK), WWW.SHELBYFARMSPARK.ORG.

Mid-Autumn Festival
Featuring lantern lighting, dragon dance, kids crafts, music, mooncakes, and more with the guidance and support of the Vietnamese Association of Memphis. Free. Sat., Sept. 22, 6-9 p.m.
CROSSTOWN CONCOURSE, N. CLEVELAND AT NORTH PARKWAY, WWW.CROSSTOWNARTS.ORG.

Mid-South Fair
Sept. 20-30.
LANDERS CENTER (DESO COCIV CENTER), 4560 VENTURE, SOUTHWEST, MS (662-280-9120), WWW.MEMPHISFARMERSMARKET.COM.

Red’s Old-Timers Blues Festival
Music all day on the Martin Luther King Park Stage, just down the street from Red’s Lounge in downtown Clarksdale. Free. Sat., Sept. 22, 1-2:30 p.m.
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN CLARKSDALE, CLARKSDALE, MS, WWW.CATHEAD.BIZ.

SPORTS / FITNESS
2018 Rick’s Camaro F-Body Nationals
Visit website for America's largest Camaro and Firebird car event schedule. Fri.-Sat., Sept. 21-22.
MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY, 5500 VICTORY LANE, WWW.RACEMIR.COM.
continued from page 27

We Say No! We Want Waste Connections to Go!

Join the McCordle Road Neighborhood Development Association, Inc. of Memphis for a discussion and petition signing event against Waste Connections of TN. Call for more information. Every other Monday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Through Sept. 26. (901-6950).

KIDS

DiscoverREAD Grand Opening

Interactive space designed to give caregivers an opportunity to help their children build early literacy skills. Free Tues., Sept. 25, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. WHITFIELD BRANCH LIBRARY, 4120 MILLERBANK (295-9700). WWW.MEMPHISTN.GOV.

Parent & Me

Offers silly songs, baby play time, and more for parents and children ages six months-two years. A little for you, a little for kiddos, a whole lot of fun. $15. Thurs., Sept. 20, 10 a.m.-noon. AWEK SPACE - SHOP, 942 S. COOPER (336-4168). WWW.AWAK-ENSPACEMEMPHIS.COM.

Peanut Butter & Jam: Okurani Dance Band

Highly interactive performances inspired and influenced by highlife music from West Africa. $8. includes, two ice cream. Reservations recommended. Fri.-Sun., Sept. 21-23, 5 p.m. CAFE 1912, 243 S. COOPER (262-6309). WWW.BLUFFCITYFAIR.COM.

Friday Night Dance Party

Themed outdoor dance parties featuring illuminated dance floor, food vendors on site, and beer and wine available with a valid ID. Free. Fridays, 6-9 p.m. MEMPHIS PARK (FOURTH BLUFF), FRONT AND MADISON. WWW.THEFOURTHBLUFF.COM.

Harvest Fest

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 22-23. MEMPHIS ZOO, 2000 PRENTISS PLACE IN OVERTON PARK (333-6500). WWW.MEMPHISZOO.ORG.

Flight Tour: A Taste of Memphis

Up to 16 people per bike enjoy a flight of local spirits and brew during this two-hour pub-crawl with Sprock’n Roll bike bar to Old Dominick Distillery and Ghost River Brewing Tap Room. $315 - $400. Thursdays, 4-7 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, 12-8 p.m., and Sundays, 12-5 p.m. Through Dec. 31. DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS. WWW.MEMPHISMUSEUMS.ORG.

Park Life is Brew-tiful

Cold brews and great views with Meddlesome Brewing Company pouring pints in Heart of the Park and local food trucks on-site. A portion of proceeds from each beer will be donated to the park. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Through Sept. 30. SHELLEY FARMS, 500 N. PINE LAKE (767-PARK). WWW.SHELLEYFARMS.PARK.ORG.

Sunday Supper Series

Includes new cocktails, new bar menu, and a family-style, dinner. Raw bar and a list of cocktails, beer, and wine priced $10 or under will also be available. Call or visit website for reservations. $40. Sundays, 3-9 p.m. GRAY CANARY, 301 FRONT. WWW.THEGRAYCANARY.COM.

Taste of Gallery

Six-course tasting with Chef Dave Krog at Memphis Music Mansion includes dinner, art on display and for sale by local artists, wine pairing, and presentation. Advance purchase required. 21+ $150. Sat., Sept. 22, 7-10 p.m. GALLERYOFWINE.COM.

FILM

Becoming Americans: A Documentary Film & Discussion Series

Six-part series which features documentary film screenings and scholar-led discussions on immigration issues against the backdrop of our immigration history. Every other Thursday, 6 p.m. Through Nov. 29. BENJAMIN L. MIDDLETON CENTRAL LIBRARY, 3030 POPLAR (415-2700). WWW.MEMPHISLIBRARY.ORG.

Hispanic Film Festival

Celebrate the Hispanic Heritage Month. All movies will be shown in Spanish with English subtitles. Free Tues., Sept. 25, 6-8 p.m. UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, UNIVERSITY CENTER (678-2507). WWW.MEMPHIS.EDU.

Movie Night:

Blacksmith Workshop

Witness the rebirth of a craft during a screening of the first blacksmithing workshop at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Popcorn and light refreshments will be provided. $7. Thurs., Sept. 20, 5:30-7 p.m. METAL MUSEUM, 374 METAL MUSEUM DR. (774-6300). WWW.METALMUSEUM.ORG.

Time Warp Drive-In

Season 5

Sat., Sept. 22, 8 p.m. MALCO SUMMER 4 DRIVE-IN, 5130 SUMMER (661-2020). WWW.MALCO.COM.
Grady Hendrix talks conspiracy theories, heavy metal, and the cruel trap of “cool.”

Grady Hendrix, the author of *Horrorstör* and *My Best Friend’s Exorcism*, is an animated speaker. It’s easy to picture him sitting near an open window in his home in New York, leaning forward as he tells me over the phone about the guitar lessons, the solo speaking engagements, and the rewrites that went into his newest novel, *We Sold Our Souls* (Quirk Books).

The supernatural thriller tells the story of washed-up metal band Dürt Würk from the point of view of lead guitarist Kris Pulaski. After two albums recorded on a shoestring budget and countless cross-country tours measurable only in gallons of gas burned and number of bottles smashed onstage, Dürt Würk crafts their magnum opus, a concept album called *Troglodyte*. Then, when Terry Hunt, the band’s vocalist, gets them kicked off a tour, he decides to bury *Troglodyte* deep in the vault, and he convinces the band to sign over their rights to the band and its albums, to unknowingly sell their souls.

“"In a modern-day context, what's selling your soul?" Hendrix asks. "With the medieval idea, you sold it to Satan. That's conspiracy theories now. It's this idea that there's a secret 1 percent who control the world, and if you get in league with them, they will overcome all obstacles and you'll be successful, not because you've earned it, but because you paid some price to join this cabal."

Hendrix spent time with the conspiracy community, which, he says, can feel as if "you were beaten by the secret forces that run this world before you got out of bed, before you were even born." But Hendrix had the antidote to defeatism right in front of him: "Bands are the most hopeful thing in the world. Nine out of 10 bands know they're never going to make it big, but they're up there on these stages throwing messages in bottles out into the ocean. And they will never see the beaches those bottles wash up on."

*Troglodyte* is that message in a bottle. It’s a key for deciphering the novel and the only weapon at Kris’ disposal. “A lot of times, we rescue ourselves from terrible situations, we just don’t realize it. You're in the past firing a bullet into the future that saves you and kills the monster. I wanted *Troglodyte* to be that," Hendrix says. "Kris, when she was really connected to what she was doing and just doing it for the love of it, she tapped into whatever this is — the collective unconscious, Black Iron Mountain — and encoded this message to herself in the future."

The novel plays out as a dark riff on the reunion tour trope. More than a decade after Terry dissolved Dürt Würk and shelved *Troglodyte*, Kris tries to reunite her old band and to understand the importance of the album they never released — and of Black Iron Mountain, the shadowy force haunting the pages of the book, dogging Kris as she hurtles toward a reunion.

"The supernatural gives you a chance to literalize things that are hard to define but that are feelings everyone has," Hendrix says. "Black Iron Mountain isn't real, but as a metaphor, there are these forces that are bigger than we are and older than we are. They want us not to be weird and just be ashamed of ourselves, and I think it's hard to resist them."

Hendrix talks about social media influencers and branding in the entertainment industry, saying “you have to flatten yourself. You have to get rid of all the weird stuff, all the contradictory stuff that makes us people." He thinks the pendulum is swinging the other way, though, that people crave authenticity.

Hendrix says his previous novel got the best response when he “cut closest to the bone" and was honest about his most embarrassing moments, which inspired him when writing *We Sold Our Souls*. "There is this emphasis on cool, but I prefer enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is hot. Sometimes it makes you get carried away and forget the social niceties, and you can look a little nuts. But cool is removed and remote. Life is hot; corpses are cool."

*We Sold Our Souls* is a redemption song in a minor key. The reader can’t help but hope Kris can pull off one last tour, a final road trip to salvation. Hendrix conjures the anguish of betrayal and the frustration of powerlessness in this novel about what passion is worth and how long to keep fighting to keep it alive in a world of pragmatic cool. 

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**Sinister Song**

Grady Hendrix talks conspiracy theories, heavy metal, and the cruel trap of “cool.”

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**Books**

By Jesse Davis

Grady Hendrix talks conspiracy theories, heavy metal, and the cruel trap of “cool.”

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**Memphis Flyer**

September 28

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**We Saw You.**

with Michael Donahue

memphisflyer.com/blogs/WeSawYou
Do Good

Mac Edwards is new head of Caritas Village.

It’s a gathering place, a safe place,” says Mac Edwards of Caritas Village. Edwards, who was the driving force behind the restaurants McEwen’s, The Farmer, and Brooks Pharm2Fork, recently took over as executive director of Caritas Village from its founder Onie Johns.

Johns created the community center under the ethos of “love for all people.” Edwards fully buys into the idea. “It was the chance to do something good, something different,” Edwards says of taking the gig.

Like Johns, Edwards lives in the neighborhood, in a blue duplex right across the street from the center. It was part of his compensation package, says Edwards.

As for the restaurant, Edwards says to expect a lot of the old favorites — the sloppy joes, the patty melt — as well as some dishes borrowed from the Farmer.

On a recent afternoon, the special was chicken thighs and legs with mashed potatoes and green beans (plus dessert!). Sides included braised greens and sautéed carrots, zucchini, and yellow squash.

Prices top out at $8, and guests can always pay it forward by adding an extra buck or two to cover the next fellow.

There are grilled cheese sandwiches and a “one story” club, quesadillas, chicken soup, and meat and two plates. More favorites on the menu are the Cobb salad and the veggie burger. The patty for the burger comes from Fuel. Edwards plans to source as much as possible locally. The pasta, for example, is made by Miles Tamboli.

There’s a pot of vegetable beef stew near the door, along with squares of cornbread.
DO GOOD

Edwards says anyone who needs a meal can get one at Caritas, gratis. It’s a place where all races, of all stations can break bread.


The Hi-Tone is finally, finally (!) serving food. It’s been a process, says Hi-Tone owner Brian “Skinny” McCabe. It took three-and-a-half years to bulldoze through low-dollar summertimes and “janky-ass” equipment to get to this point.

The menu is spare but creative, designed by Josh McLane. The emphasis here is on hand-held foods. Think of those paper food trays and you’ve got the picture.

There’s the Tapenadchos, with homemade pita chips and olive tapenade and pizzas straight out of your high-school cafeteria (cheese, pepperoni, and sausage). Sandwiches include the Hamtone and the vegetarian Cara. HEELS is a tribute to McLane’s band and is made with bacon, Provolone, spicy peanut butter, and homemade fruit jam. “It’s a beautiful, beautiful marriage,” says McCabe of the sandwich, which he says is straight-up stoner food.

Right now, the Hi-Tone is working out the kinks. Getting the staff used to serving food, correcting the typos on the menu.

But, McCabe says, so far so good. Folks are coming after work to eat, or eating before gigs. “I won’t say it’s selling like hot cakes because we don’t serve hot cakes. It’s selling like hot sandwiches,” he says.

Specials start at about $3, and sandwiches run to $9.

One thing that folks can just forget about is the resurrection of the old favorite dishes from the original Hi-Tone. No way, no how. “It’s my Hi-Tone,” McCabe asserts.

Hi-Tone, 412 Cleveland, 490-0335, hitonecafe.com

Cafe 1912 will be marking its 16th year this weekend with menu specials. Much-beloved dishes that have slipped from the menu will reappear. Among them are the pizza with caramelized onions, mushrooms, and gorgonzola cheese; arugula salad caprese; fried spring roll with vegetables and beef; and veal piccata.

The Queen Mother cake with cassis ice cream is being revived from the La Tourelle Menu. Queen Mother Cake is the flourless rich chocolate cake using ground almonds, based on Maida Heatter’s recipe. Reservations are recommended (722-2700).

Cafe 1912’s 16th anniversary, September 21st-23rd.

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Let It Breathe

Why — and how — to oxidize a wine.

A
fter inflicting a Bud Light Orange on Mrs. M. last week, she declared that I owed her a decent bottle of wine as restitution. Fair point, but which wine? The climate in northern California provides a wonderful stand-in for north and central France, and if you move down toward the Central Coast toward Santa Ynez Valley, what you get is a pretty fair approximation of the south of France. It’s called the American Riviera — and not just because the members of the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce are delusional. These vineyards are some of the oldest in the country, but they differ in character from their Napa and Sonoma Valley cousins by leaning toward the Rhône style.

I picked up a bottle of 2006 Zaca Mesa Z Cuvée from Santa Ynez Valley, a blend of 59 percent Grenache, 23 percent Mourvèdre, 15 percent Syrah, and 3 percent Cinsaur. Theoretically, this should have been a perfect Rhône stand-in, but I wasn’t impressed. I found it astringent and faded quickly to water. Mrs. M. was a little more visual, describing a bowl with heavy lines and nothing in the center. I’ve been doing this long enough to know that some reasonable wines that start off peculiar improve if allowed to “breathe.”

Understand that opening a bottle 10 minutes before drinking it will not allow it to breathe, as there isn’t enough exposed surface area in the bottleneck to allow air to pass. I’ve heard opening the bottle an hour earlier is best, but the physics don’t really support this, either. Besides, different wines benefit from aeration differently: Younger, harsher wines can be vastly improved, while the flavors of an older vintage will flatten out. Aeration triggers two reactions in wine. Oxidation, the process that turns an apple brown once you break the skin — which is bad — and evaporation, which can mellow flavors. Aeration reduces the sulfites that are added to all wines sold in the U.S. and at least partially responsible for the “wine headache” you get. Since the Zaca Mesa had that astringent or ethanol taste, I reckoned we’d aerate the hell out of it and see what happened.

The mere act of pouring wine into a glass aerates it. So does swirling it around. Swirling thoughtfully also improves conversation by giving you time to think up lies to make yourself seem more interesting. If the wine in question needs more CPR than that, decant it in a wide-bottomed ship’s duck decanter that creates a lot of surface area. If you aren’t going for stylist points, a water jug will do the same thing.

You can buy aerators that mix the wine with oxygen as it pours. They work well enough and show assembled company that you are a sophisticate — and probably a pretentious ass — in the bargain. Much more effective, however, is to just dump the wine into the decanter. And I mean dump. We’ve built up so much prissiness around wine that we think it needs to be treated like nitroglycerin. Just turn up the bottle, vertically, and dump it. This will churn up the oxygen and speed up the process considerably.

A note of caution, if you’ve got an older bottle that might have some sediment in it, don’t do this. You’ll only mix the crud in the decanter to settle in your glass later. This is bad.

An inventor called Nathan Myhrvold claims to have pioneered hyperaeration — pouring wine into a blender and pulsing it for 30 to 60 seconds. While that sounds fun enough, if you need to assault your vino with whirling blades to make it drinkable, then perhaps your brand loyalty is misplaced. Half an hour in a decanter did improve the Zaca Mesa somewhat. Mrs. M. marked more improvement than I did, but conceded that it might just be because we were getting toward the end of the bottle and, well, you know how it is at the end of the bottle.
Night of the Hunter

As a child, R-rated horror films were terrifying to me. The thought that any of the generally tense, unhappy people onscreen might explode in a mess of organs and blood meant not averting my eyes was an almost spiritual ideal. I felt utter dread. A movie that caused this frozen quality was 1987’s Predator. Balanced on the knife edge of horror, Schwarzeneggerian self-parody, and a sci-fi Most Dangerous Game, it showcased director John McTiernan and writer/actor Shane Black at their best.

Like most movie monsters, the Predator has been watered down in repeated attempts to wring cash from the intellectual property. McTiernan went to jail for perjury in the Pellicano wiretapping case, and Black ascended as a director (despite his own scandals, including a new one during this film’s release) making well-received action comedies like Kiss Kiss Bang Bang and The Nice Guys.

With screenwriter Black now in the director’s chair, the dialogue in The Predator is quippy and witty, and the people being split open onscreen spill unusually chunky blood. Characters in life-or-death situations share his trademark concern with the nuances of language, debating when to use the term galaxy or universe and whether the Predator, who hunts for sport and not survival, should really be called the Hunter. (“What you described sounds more like a bass fisherman.”)

But it can’t be as urgent as it once was. The original was about a team of mercenaries slowly being revealed not as ultra-macho badasses, but horror movie victims, killed off one by one. Here, a Mexican jungle encounter with the dreadlocked alien leads to sniper Quinn McKenna (Boyd Holbrook) being sent to an insane asylum, but not before mailing the Predator’s gauntlet and helmet to his ex-wife and autistic son. Another Predator chasing the first converges on their suburban town, along with a busful of mercenary soldiers escaped from a mental ward, an evolutionary biologist (Olivia Munn), and an amoral special ops guy (Sterling K. Brown). The arenas of battle include an elementary school, a nicely lit suburban house, and a street full of trick-or-treaters. The resulting tone is more like Monster Squad, Black’s previous partnership with co-writer Fred Dekker: relatively cute and light.

While the dialogue is quirky, the action is less idiosyncratic. There’s less of the perversity that had Kiss Kiss Bang Bang’s Robert Downey Jr. accidentally peeing on an innocent person’s corpse or shooting someone in the head when trying to interrogate them. Acknowledgement of failure in the realm of murder makes an important moral point: Small physical actions have big consequences when it comes to violence, even if they don’t always lead to ethical, grandiose, or climactic outcomes.

Some actors get better material than others. Sterling K. Brown, who was in Memphis recently filming for This Is Us, does great as the gum-chewing CIA fiend. Keegan-Michael Key sings out dirty jokes as Black’s character did before. Thomas Jane plays a character with Tourette’s, which results in the non sequitur “Well fuck me with an aardvark! I want to be famous!” when someone points a gun at him. He seems more like Jane yelling than an actual character.

Though out of place, I liked the moments with Jacob Tremblay as the autistic son, holding his ears during a fire alarm and facing off bullies. “I’m sorry I
didn't grow up the way you wanted me to," he tells his father, and the movie responds with Munn's reassurance that being on the spectrum is "the next step in the evolutionary chain." In a movie filled with puerile, nostalgic vulgarity, it's a moment of cutting-edge progressivism: It reflects the modern neurodiversity movement of those of us labeled mentally ill who denote themselves more positively.

But such things are about building people up, while The Predator is mostly about dramatizing neurotic fears over an inability to be macho. Our lead, Holbrook, barely suffers any qualms. His team befriends a giant mutant hunting dog the Predator brings with him, and everything is copacetic.

One idea the movie does dramatize is Stephen Hawking's warning that we should not send messages into space for aliens, for fear they might be malevolent. Humanity is just in its childhood phase now, able to develop tech that expands into the universe, punchdrunk with the idea of being able to talk. Freezing, turning invisible, usually negatives when it comes to Predators and autism, might be a good idea.

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Tremendously Wet

The “big one” is imminent … and watch your cell phone.

This is the big one.

I know that’s what they always say, but this really is the big one. The upcoming elections will determine if we can preserve this nation’s noble experiment in democracy or sink further into the man-made chaos spewing from the White House.

This is the final chance to put a check on the blatant corruption of Donald Trump because no one in his party dares stand up to him. No Republican confronts his ignorance, his cruelty, his self-absorption, his greed, his serial lying, and his disregard for the rule of law. It’s imperative that these elections must flush the remnants of the Tea Party, aka the Freedom Caucus, from the body politic.

Trump and his weaponized propaganda machine, Fox News, has poisoned the electorate as surely as the governor of Michigan poisoned the residents of Flint. We’ve had bad presidents before, James Buchanan sided with slave owners and was an ardent supporter of the Dred Scott decision. (Google it.) Andrew Johnson showed up intoxicated to Lincoln’s second inaugural and three months later found his drunk ass in the White House. Then there was George W. Bush, the first American president to invade another sovereign country with the kinds of disastrous repercussions that we’re still enduring. But this country has never seen a dangerous lunatic in the Oval Office before. Donald Trump may never have taken a drink, but he’s most assuredly drunk on power. Let’s put Baby in a corner and see what happens.

As his approval rating drops like the Hindenburg, the gaseous menace’s conduct over the past two weeks has been particularly disturbing. First came his noxious tweet about the revised death toll from Hurricane Maria:

“3,000 people did not die in the two hurricanes that hit Puerto Rico … When I left the Island AFTER the storm had hit, they had anywhere from 6 to 18 deaths … Then, a long time later, they started to report really large numbers, like 3,000. … This has been done by the Democrats in order to make me look as bad as possible when I was successfully raising Billions of Dollars [sic] to help rebuild Puerto Rico. If a person died for any reason, like old age, just add them onto the list. Bad politics. I love Puerto Rico!”

A study at George Washington University, financed by the government of Puerto Rico, placed the number of deaths related to the storm at 2,975, so at least Trump was correct in stating there weren’t 3,000. Independent studies by The New York Times, Penn State, and Harvard all estimated deaths in the thousands. After being called “fake news,” George Washington University responded: “We stand by the science underlying our study. This study … was carried out with complete independence and freedom from any kind of interference.”

Yet Trump continues to place blame on San Juan’s mayor and the country’s fragile infrastructure. Trump claimed it was difficult to get supplies trucked in to hurricane victims because, “This is an island surrounded by water, big water, ocean water.” Has he not been informed that we have jumbo cargo jets for that specific purpose? Three thousand dead is the equivalent of Puerto Rico’s own 9/11, yet Trump actually said, “I think that Puerto Rico was an incredible unsung success.” At long last, sir, have you left no sense no decency?

Residents in the path of Hurricane Florence were warned by the chief executive that the storm would be “tremendously big and tremendously wet.” No shit. The president has congratulated himself in advance for responding to this disaster even while area rainfall has set new records and flooding continues.

Speaking of rain, by the time you read this, you could have received a text from the new “Presidential Alert System.” FEMA, in partnership with the FCC, has devised the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system, which sends direct messages to anyone owning a cell phone. The FEMA homepage divides the alerts into three categories: Extreme warnings, tornadoes and flash floods, hurricanes, typhoons, dust storms, and extreme wind warnings.

I’ve never been much of a conspiracy theorist, but I’ll bet my iPhone that as the walls close in, you’ll be receiving text messages from Donnie the Liar. And the walls are closing in on a president that historians might well call “The Great Aberration.” That’s why the upcoming election is The Big One. Certainly the biggest one of my life. Mad King Doni’s daily assaults on the free press and anyone who has the temerity to disagree with him must end. And the same goes for his cowardly enablers in the bankrupt GOP! The “Witch Hunt” has now snared Paul Manafort, whose plea deal puts Don Jr., Jared Kushner, Roger Stone, and the president himself in serious legal peril. This “fake Russer,” thing has now produced eight convictions plus indictments for 26 individuals and three corporations. After Manafort does his Tony Bennett impression, an avalanche of indictments will be forthcoming. One morning, and it won’t be long, we’ll all awaken to hear Robert Mueller speak for the first time. Pandora’s Box is fixing to open, and when it does, all the fraud, the money laundering through Trump properties, the Russian Mafia connections, influence peddling, graft, tax evasion, and whatever Putin has on Trump will come pouring out, and when that happens, it will be “tremendously big and tremendously wet.”

Randy Haspel writes the “Recycled Hippies” blog.
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11/3: Underneath w/ Dance Gavin Dance
11/7: Wizard Fest
11/8: Cody Johnson & Josh Ward
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