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In five weeks, more or less, Memphians will be voting for a mayor and city council. The three most recognizable mayoral candidates are the incumbent, Jim Strickland, longtime former Mayor Willie Herenton, and activist and County Commissioner Tami Sawyer.

Strickland touts the city’s “momentum” and its surging economic developments. Herenton wants Memphis to “do it again” and send him back to the office he held for several terms during the 1990s and early 2000s. Sawyer, perhaps best-known for her “Take/EmDown901” campaign to remove the city’s Confederate statuary, is raising hell, poking at Strickland’s record, trying to elevate her profile.

A debate between the three of them would be an interesting exercise in democracy and would give the public a chance to see how the candidates handle themselves in the heat of the moment and where the fissures between them exist.

But it doesn’t appear it’s going to occur. Herenton was the first to opt out of a scheduled debate sponsored by The Commercial Appeal and WMC-Channel 5. Strickland then withdrew, saying, via a spokesperson, “without the top challenger in the race participating, an informed and balanced debate could not happen.”

Sawyer responded as you might expect: “Mayor Strickland and Herenton are denying taxpayers the right to hear where we all stand on the issues and make an informed choice on who will lead our city over the next [four] years.”

Sawyer is correct, but she’s battling realpolitik. Neither Herenton nor Strickland perceive that they have anything to gain from a debate (see Politics, p. 7), so any opportunity to avoid such an event will be taken. And that’s too bad because there are a number of issues that could stand a public airing, including the ongoing battle between Memphis in May and the proponents of the redesign of Tom Lee Park by the Memphis River Parks Partnership.

Last week, Memphis in May issued its report on the 2019 festival, citing a month-long economic impact of festival events totaling $149,112,480. MIM also cited tax revenues for the city at $4.6 million and an attendance of 107,153. Impressive stats, no doubt. Well done, Jim Holt and crew.

A couple days later, a group representing 70 Downtown businesses released a letter they had written to Strickland in June, citing their support for the MRPP redesign: “We believe a revitalized Riverfront, and in particular, the effort to build a bold new Tom Lee Park, is critical to maintaining and capitalizing on [the city’s] economic momentum, and we believe the time to make that happen is now.” Straightforward enough. A simple statement of support.

In response, Amy Howell, a spokesperson for a group called Get Our Riverfront Right and MIM, issued the following statement to the Daily Memphian: “While the taxpayer funded RDC/MRPP may not be competent is [sic] running our park system, they are good at PR and swaying public opinion to fit their agenda(s). Our group of volunteer tax paying citizens comprised of a diverse group of well intentioned Memphians have [sic] amassed almost 7,000 signatures against what RDC/MRPP has planned for Tom Lee Park as well as letters from the MRA and Hotel/Motel Association. We know there have [sic] been no operational strategy, budgeting and plan to maintain our park system.”

Grammar aside, the attacks on MRPP staff and their motives by Howell and various ad hoc social-media groups have often been clumsy and mean-spirited. And frankly, pointless.

I have news for MIM and those who want Memphis to “leave Tom Lee alone.” Tom Lee Park is going to get a redesign, though it may be modified to some degree. Mediation is ongoing, though I don’t believe any decision will be made public until — wait for it — after the mayoral election. Rather than publicly assaulting the integrity of the other side (and dozens of Downtown business owners), it might behoove Howell and MIM to tone down the public rhetoric and continue to quietly work together to create a park that will accommodate the MIM events, even if it means some adjustments must be made.

In a world where the Amazon is burning and climate change is uppermost on minds of serious world leaders, opposing the planting of trees and the installation of water features and a shelter in a treeless, blazing-hot public park is a bad look. Trashing the integrity of fellow Memphians who support creating a new riverfront is a bad look. Nobody wants Memphis in May to go away. The city welcomes the friendly May invasion of barbecuers and music lovers from around the world. But we also want to welcome tourists and locals to the river the rest of the year. ■

Bruce VanWyngarden
brucev@memphisflyer.com

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Bruce VanWyngarden
MeMernet

NUGGS FOR A HO
This East Memphis Wendy’s did some “targeted advertising. next level,” according to Reddit user u/cats_dinosaur.

NESTDOOR CLASSIC
Midtown social media is the place for wild speculation and snarky opining.
Last week, a NextDoor user wondered what new business was going into the former Henry Smith building on Cooper. She’d heard it was a biker bar and wanted to confirm.
The answer was CycleBar, a new gym and cycling studio. This answer was given in the second comment on the post.
That didn’t stop NextDoor users on the thread from speculating that it was going to be an “upscale gentlemen’s club,” wondering if a cycling studio was really necessary, complaining about the “unused” bike lanes, and opining that “Midtown is getting so yuppie-fied.”

RANDOM OF THE WEEK
Someone thought last week that drivers on Sam Cooper needed to know that “Skeletor Lives.”

Questions, Answers + Attitude
Edited by Toby Sells

{ WEEK THAT WAS
By Flyer staff

Zoo, Robocalls, & Poverty

Zoo parking project begins, AGs look to curb robocalls, group hopes to end criminalization of poverty.

NEW ZOO PARKING
It’s the beginning of the end for parking on the Overton Park Greensward.
Construction began this week on a project that will reconfigure the Memphis Zoo parking lot, adding an additional 415 parking spaces. Those spaces are expected to end the decades-long practice of parking cars on the Greensward, the grassy field adjacent to the zoo’s parking lot.
The first phase of the project will focus on the Prentiss Place parking lot, on the northwest side of the zoo. Work there will take about three months, and during that time, the lot will be completely closed. Once complete, the new Prentiss Place lot will have gained 108 parking spaces.
Work will then begin on the main zoo lot, just south of the zoo entrance. That work is slated to start this fall and winter, an optimum time to transplant many trees, which officials have said is necessary to the project.

DECLIRRALIZING POVERTY
A Tennessee organization is looking for community-sourced solutions to the criminalization of poor Tennesseans.
Free Hearts is asking the public to complete a survey to help generate community-based solutions to decriminalize poverty in Tennessee. Dawn Harrington, executive director of Free Hearts, said the survey will help identify new Tennesseans who want to join their efforts to end the criminalization of the poor and “transform our state into one that is just and equitable for all.”

REDUCING ROBOCALLS
Tired of robocalls blowing up your phone? So is the Tennessee Attorney General (AG).
State AG Herbert Slattery said last week that he and 51 other attorneys general and 12 phone companies have adopted a new slate of protocols to fight robocalls.
“Robocalls are uninvited, a breach of privacy, distracting, and generally a menace,” said Slattery. “This agreement should better protect Tennesseans from illegal robocalls and enable this office and other attorneys general to investigate and prosecute offenders.”
The new plan would install call-blocking technology at the network level, give consumers free call-blocking technology for their phones, and implement new technology that would ensure calls are coming from a valid source.
Phone companies will assist in the effort by helping to identify bad actors, notifying law enforcement if they find them, tracing the origins of robocalls, and requiring call traceback identification.

JUVENILE CRIME NUMBERS
Juvenile crime is down, overall, in the first half of 2019, but violent crime is up enough for a law enforcement official to call the trend “disturbing.”
New figures from the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County were published last week by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission. The numbers had “both good news and bad news on juvenile crime,” according to the commission.
The good news: The number of overall charges against juveniles was down 9 percent from the same time last year. So far, 3,096 charges were lodged against youths here.
The bad news: The number of charges for violent juvenile crime is up. These charges include murder, rape, robbery, and other offenses. So far this year, 463 such charges have been filed. That’s up from 282 charges in the same time last year.

Visit the News Blog at memphisflyer.com for fuller versions of these stories and more local news.
Clear the Air { CITY REPORTER  
By Toby Sells

Downtown business owners support a renovated Tom Lee Park, despite ‘inaccurate’ reports.

Owners of well-known Downtown restaurants — Aldo’s Pizza Pies, The Majestic Grille, Catherine and Mary’s, and more — say they and nearly 70 Downtown businesses fully support a renovated Tom Lee Park.

Last week, the group made public a letter of support it sent to Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland in June. The letter urged Strickland to move ahead with the Mississippi River Park Partnership’s (MRPP) $60 million plan for the park.

That plan adds contours, trees, facilities, and more to the now-wide-open Tom Lee Park. The plan was unveiled in February and raised concern for Memphis in May (MIM) officials, worried that their month-long festival would not fit inside the new park.

That concern simmered to a boil for some citizens, afraid the new plan is taking precedent over the MIM tradition. A Facebook group called “Save Tom Lee Park & The Festivals” has nearly 2,500 members. Another Facebook group is called “Memphis-Wake Up Save Memphis In May, Riverside Dr. and Tom Lee Park,” and yard signs for another group read, “Let Tom Lee Be.”

The group of Downtown business owners said they want to set straight “recent inaccurate news reports that the majority of Downtown businesses are opposed to the transformation of Tom Lee Park and other misinformation being disseminated on social media.” They say “a world-class, riverfront park that is activated 365 days per year will be better for business, better for Downtown, and better for Memphis as a whole.”

“We need this park to happen” said Andy Ticer, partner in Catherine and Mary’s and The Gray Canary. “A re-envisioned Tom Lee Park affirms our and others' investments in Downtown and helps our businesses and Memphis continue to move forward.”

The group said they collectively employ thousands of people and generate tens of millions of dollars in annual tax revenues for the city. The group includes creative agencies, developers, retailers, major corporations, tourist destinations, “and contrary to the official stance of the Memphis Restaurant Association, over 40 restaurants and bars.”

“While I understand the economic impact of May’s festivities, as an owner of multiple Downtown businesses, I’d rather see my chosen city benefit from the year-long activity and density that a single month’s revenue can’t hope to match,” said Aldo Dean, owner and operator of Bardog Tavern, Aldo’s Pizza Pies, and Slider Inn. “The prototype at River Garden exists as a glimpse of the long-term vision of this much-needed improvement, and any argument against the proposal is short-sighted and self-defeating.”

Renovation construction was slated to begin right after the festival ended this year. In May, it was pushed back to the fall. Strickland announced in late July that MIM would return to the park next year, be held at an alternate location in 2021, and return to Tom Lee Park in 2022.

“The revised timeline ensures Memphis in May ample time to plan for alternate sites in 2020 and almost two years to plan the evolution of the festival to the new space and a new era,” said Patrick Reilly, co-owner of The Majestic Grille.

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Studio Gang’s vision of Tom Lee Park as a festival grounds

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Dr. Allison Siles

Memphis Flyers
With little more than a month left in the city election contest, the bad news is that there will almost certainly be no public debate featuring the three major candidates for mayor against each other.

The key point is that former Mayor Willie Herenton will not debate. He has made his position clear, most recently last Friday night, on the occasion of the Shelby County Republican Party’s annual Lincoln Day banquet, which both he and Mayor Jim Strickland attended. (Mayoral candidate Tami Sawyer harshly criticized them both for doing so.)

Herenton’s refusal to be involved led to the cancellation of the event, inasmuch as Strickland had made it clear that he would not consent to any debate format involving Sawyer that did not also involve Herenton. Strickland had initially accepted the debate invitation “conditionally” but withdrew his willingness to participate in the wake of Herenton’s refusal.

Only Sawyer and LeMichael Wilson, the other two candidates who had met the benchmark requirement of having raised at least $30,000, had made unqualified acceptances of the debate invitation. And Sawyer has been especially avid for an opportunity to appear on the same stage as Strickland, who has been just as determined to avoid any situation that had the appearance of being a one-on-one with her, or anything close to it. A debate sans Herenton would, in his estimation, have created that situation.

Bad feeling between Strickland and Sawyer has persisted at least since the prolonged public debate involving removal of the city’s Downtown Confed-

continued on page 8
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**POLITICS**

continued from page 7

As of now, in any case, the three major mayoral campaigns are all proceeding along separate pathways, with no opportunity for joint appearances or collegial presentations. Another likely casualty of this circumstance is a Mayoral Candidate Meet-and-Greet, co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Tennessee Nurses Association and set for Friday, September 6th, at the National Civil Rights Museum. Herenton had also reportedly turned down an invitation to debate from the Urban League.

While at the Lincoln Day dinner on Friday night, Herenton explained to the *Flyer and Peg Watkins* of the League of Women Voters, which is continuing to seek his participation in its meet-and-greet, that his campaign strategy would be based on a series of meetings which he would control — an instance of which was a Women for Herenton rally held on Saturday in South Memphis.

At the rally, attended by upwards of 1,000 women, virtually all African-American, Herenton told the attendees, "I don't mind telling you what part of our strategy is. We're going to win the election in early voting. We're going to have a caravan of buses. We're going to have vans called the Herenton Express. We'll do an early voting like they have never seen before."

Sawyer, who has been holding a series of neighborhood meet-and-greets, has built up something of a Midtown base. She also got a boost this week with a public endorsement from Our Revolution, the national progressive organization that was founded as an offshoot of the 2016 presidential campaign waged by Bernie Sanders. She also tweeted with justifiable pride an endorsement from Hillary Clinton via the progressive vehicle Run for Something.

Strickland, meanwhile, has launched an extensive series of radio and TV ads touting his accomplishments and has indicated he is prepared to spend every penny of the $1 million in his campaign budget in the course of this election battle.

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**COMMENTS**

by Greg Cravens

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**P.S.**

healthy Shelby 5K & ONE MILE RUN/WALK

Join Mayor Lee Harris and Shelby County Commissioners at the healthyShelby ‘19 5K! There will be a health fair, activities for children, and much more! The theme for this year’s 5K is “Healthy Eating From Birth.” Proceeds from the race will go toward healthyShelby ‘19 priorities, including initiatives and programs in support of breastfeeding.

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We measure eras differently when it comes to University of Memphis football. Can three years possibly represent an "era" in Tiger history? In the case of the three seasons (so far) under head coach Mike Norvell, the answer is a resounding yes.

Under Norvell, Memphis has won 26 games, as many as his predecessor, Justin Fuente, won in four seasons and more than Rip Scherer (remember him?) could win in six. With merely five wins this fall — count on them — Norvell will move into fifth on the Tigers' all-time wins chart. Still just 37 years old (he turns 38 on October 11th), Norvell's fourth Memphis team has been picked to win its division of the American Athletic Conference a third straight season. The Norvell era is still taking shape, yet has already established historical status in these parts.

"I'm excited about where we are," says Norvell. "When you take a job, you have hopes that the program will progress, that it's going to be perceived well locally and nationally. You want to recruit and improve personnel each and every year. Looking back over the last three years, I think we've done that. We're relevant nationally. We had to show that Memphis football could sustain success. We've shown that Memphis football is here to stay."

Despite a 1-3 start in American Athletic Conference play last season, the Tigers reached the AAC championship game by winning their final four regular-season games. Memphis lost (again) to UCF in the title game but finished the season with an 8-6 record, giving the program five straight winning seasons for the first time in four decades (1973-77). The row in a pair of Top-25 finishes (after the 2014 and 2017 seasons), and the U of M has indeed reached a tier unrecognizable to previous generations of Tiger fans.

"We've enhanced the program in lots of ways, on the field and off," emphasizes Norvell. "Three of the last four semesters we've had the top GPA academically in the program's history. So it's all over. I take a great deal of pride in that. But we talk about that hard-earned culture. It's every single day; we are challenged, and we challenge others. Each day is an opportunity to get better."

For a second straight year, the Tiger offense is losing a first-team All-America, with running back Darrell Henderson now cashing checks with the NFL's Los Angeles Rams. A team that averaged 45.5 points per game in 2017 (second in the country) and 42.9 last year (seventh) intends to reload, and with some familiar faces.

Back in the fold this year is Henderson's 2018 ball-carrying...
partner in crime, Patrick Taylor, who managed to rush for 1,122 yards and 16 touchdowns last season despite playing a supporting role to Henderson. Taylor actually carried the ball only six fewer times than Henderson in 2018, though the latter averaged a ridiculous 8.9 yards per carry. Taylor averaged “only” 5.4 yards. With 1,012 yards this season, Taylor would pass Henderson for second place on the Tigers’ career-rushing chart.

Taylor may have the best smile on the Tigers’ roster, but he’s almost placid in evaluating the role he expects to play as a senior. “I want to be the best player I can be for my teammates,” he says. “I want to be the best leader I can be, and help our team win games. I know I have to step up, and the standard has been raised for me. If the team needs me to carry the ball more, I’ll do it. Stay true to myself."

Also back to help fuel the Tigers’ attack is receiver Damonte Coxie. The junior from Louisiana had the impossible task last year of following Anthony Miller (a 2017 All-America) as the Tigers’ primary down/field target. But even with a pair of 1,000-yard rushers, Coxie managed to catch 72 passes (fourth-most in Memphis history) for 1,174 yards, a total that would top the Tiger record book were it not for Miller’s last two seasons in blue and gray.

“I practiced and played with Ant,” says Coxie. “I knew how he worked, the way he would grind. I knew if I worked that way, I’d be all right.” Coxie is the opposite of the pass-catching divas who seem to absorb camera time on NFL Sundays. He goes about his offseason work methodically, with an emphasis on improving his nutrition and getting the right amount of sleep (he won’t stay up past 11 p.m.). And forget playing for statistics. "My mom, my family . . . that’s my personal goal for everything,” says Coxie. "I want to make sure I’m doing right for them. I want to make sure we all stay focused. Last year, we got high and low, ups and downs. It’s easy to get complacent."

Coxie will lead a receiving corps that includes Pop Williams (33 catches for 304 yards as a junior) and not one, but two senior tight ends who could land all-conference honors: Joey Magnifico and Sean Dykes.

They’ll be catching passes from quarterback Brady White. After transferring from Arizona State before the 2018 season, White started all 14 games, passing for 3,296 yards with 26 touchdowns and 9 interceptions. (White will play this fall as a redshirt-junior.) Less about numbers than attitude and approach, White has embraced what he recognizes as a football culture designed — intentionally — for sustained success.

“T_h is is Grind City, right? Our mentality is what sets this culture apart. It’s not me, but the guys who came before me. We’re trying to build on that standard. When you don’t have the strength coaches yelling at guys for missing lines during runs, that’s player-led [growth]. I feel like I’m a part of that [leadership] group, my brothers on this team. I see people stepping up, being more vocal. This is it. You hold your best players accountable, and they set the standard."

The offensive line entrusted with protecting White returns only two starters: senior center Dustin Woodard (the former guard is on the Outland Trophy watch list) and sophomore guard Dylan Parham. But Norvell likes the depth of this position group, and Taylor — the man craving gaps through which to run — sees little reason for concern.

“T_h e off   ensive line made some good strides in the spring, “ Taylor says. “T_h ey continued on page 12
continued from page 11

opened a lot of holes, and they’ve gotten better with summer conditioning. I’m very confident in them.”

“I don’t have any concerns,” White adds. “We have young guys with a lot of ability, and they’ll step into their roles. They’ve shown a lot of growth since spring [practice]. They’re super-talented, so the potential is really high. Day by day, rep by rep.”

Veteran linebackers should fuel the Tiger defense under new coordinator Adam Fuller. Austin Hall, J.J. Russell, and Tim Hart were among the Tigers’ top 10 tacklers a season ago. Senior Bryce Huff led the team with 9.5 sacks last season and moves up to the defensive line this year, where he’ll torment opposing quarterbacks from the edge. Leading the secondary will be junior cornerback T.J. Carter, a second-team all-conference honoree in 2018 and on the watch list for the Jim Thorpe Award this season.

While the Tiger offense has surged in recent years, the defense has surrendered its share of points, finishing 94th in the country last season with 31.9 points allowed per game. Fuller smiles when asked about his plan for the Memphis defense: “To not give up points,” he says. “It’s not broken here on defense,” adds Fuller, who joins the Tiger program after six years at Marshall, the last as DC. “They’ve played well enough to play for the conference championship the last two years. But there needs to be improvement. When we talk about how we want to look, we want a fast, tough, smart group. That’s all-encompassing. And it’s not just running fast. It’s being able to teach fast, to learn fast, to get lined up fast, to react fast. Communication needs to be clean and concise.”

With the exception of Huff, there’s been little position shifting under Fuller’s watch. His chief interest is in seeing how the position groups meld into a single, solitary, game-changing unit. “The pass rush and coverage work in unison,” he emphasizes. “They’re not independent of one another. Whether you’re playing man or zone coverage, they always work in unison. Full-unit meetings are important. That’s when you sell the cohesiveness, the reliability on each other.”

It’s not just veteran talent that will shape the Tigers’ 2019 season. In one conversation, Norvell mentions no fewer than eight members of his most recent recruiting class he expects to make an impact immediately: defensive linemen Everett Cunningham and Jailal Clemons, cornerback Malikie Stallings, defensive back Rodney Owens, running back Dreke Clark, and a trio of receivers (Tahj Washington, Javon Ivory, and Cam Baker). This is how success multiplies upon itself in college football, how a legitimate era is built. Lose a class with four winning seasons in the books? Welcome another with four winning seasons to create.

Motivation for the season ahead? You might start with those two losses in the AAC title game (both played in Orlando). Memphis shared an AAC championship with two other teams in 2014, before the league split into a pair of divisions, but an outright title has remained elusive. Then there’s the program’s bowl performances. Since beating BYU in an epic Miami Beach Bowl after the 2014 season, the Tigers have lost four straight postseason games, including the 2017 AutoZone Liberty Bowl, played in their home stadium. Work remains to be done.

“You want to finish a season hoisting a trophy,” Norvell says. “We’ve had [losses in] two one-possession games. There have been unique circumstances: coaching changes, players not available. But we compete to win every single game. We learn from our experience. You have to trust the process. We’ve been in position to win but just came up short.”

“You want to finish a season hoisting a trophy,”

Norvell says.

“The big thing about goals,” adds White, “is that they have to be realistic. For me, I expect to go 1-0 every week. That’s my team goal. Personally, I have goals, but I lay them out in phases. There’s an ultimate goal for the end of the season, but there are smaller goals — month by month — that I need to achieve to reach that ultimate goal. You can’t overlook anyone. Even the games you may feel confident going in, you need to get the job done. All that matters is going 1-0.”

The two players on the cover of this week’s issue will have a significant impact on the 2019 Tiger football season, and there’s some irony to their leading the program’s continued rise. Taylor is a native of Humble, Texas, and Coxie hails from Reserve, Louisiana. It’s hard to be humble, much less reserved, if the goal is an AAC championship or — dare we dream — a New Year’s Six bowl game.

Leave it to Coxie for a final thought on what’s to come for Memphis football. “We want a [conference] championship,” he says. “We want to win a bowl game. We talk about what we want, but now we get to see how much we really want it. We gotta go get it.”
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Exposed  By  Julia Baker

Since 2016, New Memphis has hosted Exposure in conjunction with 901 Day and to carry along its mission of seeing to the prosperity and success of the city through growth, exposure, and support of local businesses, talent, government, communities, and education. This year’s Exposure event, which falls three days before September 1st, celebrates the Bluff City while connecting longtime Memphians and newcomers alike to more than 175 local businesses and organizations.

“The event is kind of twofold,” says Anna Thompson, marketing communications manager for New Memphis. “If you’re a lifelong Memphian, you might not know all that Memphis has to offer because we’re moving, changing, and evolving every year. So we help to reignite Memphians’ love of their city. The second part of that is if you’re a newcomer, we want to expose you to all of what Memphis has to offer, which is why it’s called Exposure.”

Organizations representing categories like arts and culture, community, volunteer opportunities, fitness and outdoors, and social and entertainment will be set up in FedExForum’s concourse, with interactive activities like Southern Reins Center for Equine Therapy’s pool-noodle horse races and Memphis Escape Rooms’ 10-minute escape room challenge.

The Beale Street Flippers, Goldperms, and Opera Memphis are just a few of the performers providing entertainment on the two stages in the plaza and on the concourse. Other events and offerings include giveaways to the first 200 attendees, celebrity bicentennial games, New Memphis T-shirts for sale, and a scavenger hunt with prizes like tablets and Explore Bike Share memberships.

For more information, visit exposurememphis.com.

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Wiseacre 6th Birthday Party
Wiseacre Brewing Company,
2783 Broad, 1-10 p.m.
Karaoke, watermelon-eating contest, and a group costume contest with discounts for groups of six or more in costume. Festivities continue Saturday with Obruni Dance Band and other fun.

Opening Reception: Kyle Taylor, “In the Balance”
Stock+Belle, 387 S. Main, 6-9 p.m.
Stop in during Trolley Night to see works by the local muralist and designer. Described as “a surrealist snapshot of a world in which objects are interacting with each other on a plane that stretches beyond any one context or origin.”

Mo’Nique Live
Chuckles Comedy House, 1770 Dexter Springs Loop, Cordova,
7 p.m. and 10 p.m. shows, $40
Enjoy a night of laughs with this Academy Award-winning actress and comedian who first gained fame as a member of the Queens of Comedy and through her role in The Parkers.

Dinner and Music Cruise
Memphis Riverboats, 251 Riverside,
boards at 7 p.m., $45 (adult ticket)
Two-hour cruise on the Mississippi River features live music, a one-trip buffet-style meal (Memphis-style pulled pork barbecue, spaghetti, sides, and dessert), and a cash/credit bar.

The Detectives Comedy Dinner Theatre
Atomic Tiki, 1545 Overton Park,
7-9 p.m., $50
Three-course mystery dinner theater, with audience participation, hosted by Mississippi-based performance group Detective Dinner Theatre. You’ll laugh. You’ll eat. You’ll drink. Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m.

Transmission: ’90s Dance Party
Lamplighter Lounge, 1702 Madison,
9 p.m.-2 a.m., $5
I’m sorry, but I’m just thinking of the right words to say … about this party with DJs Plastic Citizen and Alpha Heather spinning your favorite new wave, goth, ska, and more.

We Recommend: Culture, News + Reviews

Clairvoyant Edgar Cayce (above) predicted troubling times for America. The Last Word, p. 31

Drinking Al Rayess beer in sunny southern Iraq. Brews, p. 25

Expose yourself to
good times.
Beat the Train

By Julia Baker

Last Wednesday, University of Memphis’ new Hunter Harrison Memorial Bridge opened to the public, allowing students to cross over the railroad tracks that divide the campus between Walker and Southern Avenues.

“This bridge is a huge accomplishment, especially for the students, because for decades, they’ve been having to go across the railroad tracks to get from the south part of campus to the main part of the campus,” says Connie Thiemonge, assistant director of alumni relations at the University of Memphis. “We’re always concerned for student safety. And this has been years negotiating with the railroad companies and making sure that we can make this happen to keep the students safe.”

Construction on the bridge (and a new parking garage and amphitheater) began in May 2018 and wrapped up this month, right on track with the original projected deadline and just in time for the fall 2019 semester.

“We’ve been getting some fantastic responses from our alumni and friends on social media,” Thiemonge says. “Our alums can remember having to cross those tracks and ‘beat the train’ to get to class. Now that situation won’t be a problem. So we’re very excited to be able to offer this to our students.”

To celebrate, the University of Memphis Alumni Association hosts a bridge lighting in the new UofM Alumni Mall Amphitheatre this Friday. Open to the public, this event features performances by Mighty Sound of the South, Memphis Second Line Jazz Band, the Spirit Squad, and Pouncer.

“Pouncer is going to have a special guest push the magic button and bring the lights up,” says Thiemonge.

Guests are welcome to bring lawn chairs and blankets, and food and drink will be available for purchase.

Hunter Harrison Memorial Bridge Lighting, University of Memphis, Friday, August 30th, 7-9 p.m., Free.

Samara Weaving (above) plays a deadly serious postnuptial game of hide-and-seek in Ready or Not. Film, p. 26

SATURDAY August 31

Crosstown Splashdown
Crosstown Concourse Plaza, 1350 Concourse, noon-5 p.m.
Have you ever seen a jellyfish on stilts? We hear there will be one at this free end-of-summer party. Also sprinklers, sandboxes, games, live music by The Love Boat, and free snow cones for all!

Beale Street Cigar Festival
Handy Park, 200 Beale, noon-6 p.m., $10 (general admission), $50-$75 (VIP) Robusto by Havana Mix hosts this fifth annual festival for both serious cigar connoisseurs and those who enjoy an occasional smoke. Live music, food trucks, vendors, and more. Light ’em up, y’all.

901 Wrestling Live
Rec Room, 3000 Broad, 7-9 p.m., $5
In this corner, we have some dude in tights who’s gonna get his butt kicked. Sit back with a brew and enjoy real-deal professional wrestling matches with hometown athletes. Under 21 welcome with parent or guardian.

Toby Keith
Memphis Botanic Garden, 750 Cherry Rd., 8 p.m., $65
Should you have been a cowboy?
Live like one at this Live at the Garden performance where you’re sure to hear the 1993 song that explores that dream, among other hits like “I Love This Bar,” “Beer for My Horses,” and more.

COLD BREW THROWDOWN
City & State, 2625 Broad, 2-6 p.m.
Third annual event for coffee enthusiasts is free to attend. Purchasing a $6 ticket guarantees samples. Competitors prepare straight cold brews and signature beverages for a chance to win prizes.

SUNDAY September 1

901 Day Celebration
Bailgarten, 2166 Central, 11 a.m.-2 a.m., $10
All-day party celebrating the 901! Local vendors on site. Music begins at 2 p.m. with Chinese Connection Dub Embassy. Lucky 7 Brass Band and Star & Micey also perform. MJG birthday celebration featuring 8Ball & MJG at 8 p.m. DJ Siphne Aaye spins tunes to close it out.

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City & State, 2625 Broad, 2-6 p.m.
Third annual event for coffee enthusiasts is free to attend. Purchasing a $6 ticket guarantees samples. Competitors prepare straight cold brews and signature beverages for a chance to win prizes.
Good People Even Do Bad Things is the title of the new HEELS album. “That is a Mr. Rogers reference,” says Joshua McLane, who is one half of HEELS. “And also an Insane Clown Posse reference.”

“It’s a Mr. Rogers sample that’s at the beginning of a song by the Insane Clown Posse,” says Brennan Whalen, the other half.

“Every time we come home from a tour, we listen to the same Insane Clown Posse song called ‘Southwest Song,’” McLane says. “This is a kind of a love song from the point of view of somebody that’s going through dementia,” Whalen says. “‘Bright Red’ is kind of a love song to your partner that you’re forgetting about.”

“Box of Porn in the Woods” is a “hyper-sexualized love song” to his wife, Whalen says. “It’s about the thought of building a Ted Kaczynski compound somewhere with her out in the middle of the woods.”

McLane wrote the music and lyrics to “Picking Fights Like a Coward,” which he says is “about starting shit with people who want to feel good about themselves. I like quoting Bible verses back to people who are being very racist or hateful.”

He and Whalen didn’t labor over each song for months like they did on their other four recordings. “We didn’t want to, for lack of a better term — ‘Leonard Cohen’ it — keep working on it till it’s just dead in the water. Not fun anymore.”

But each song still sounds like a HEELS song. “It’s still upbeat. It’s Brennan making you very sad with his lyrics while you still love him more, which is just something insanity does. And me getting bored with dynamics very quickly.”

HEELS is the perfect musical partnership, McLane says. “I’ve never been in a band where I could say whatever I want about whatever I want, whether that be with a riff or a lyric or anything.”

“That’s maybe one of my favorite lines Brennan ever, ever written,” McLane says. Another favorite Whalen line is from ‘Antics’: “I don’t love you because we’re different. I don’t love you because we’re the same. I don’t love you.”

“King Drunk,” the first single from the album, is “essentially like a breakup song with my on-again off-again partner — alcohol,” Whalen says. “It’s a breakup song with her.”

One of the lines is, “If you see her, tell her I was wrong. If you see her, tell her I didn’t write this song.”
CORDOVA INTERNATIONAL
FARMER’S MARKET

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1150 N. Germantown Parkway, Cordova, TN 38016
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After Dark: Live Music Schedule August 29 - September 4

**BEALE STREET**

**Alfred’s**
197 BEALE 525-2711
Gary Hardy & Memphis 2
Thursdays-Saturdays, 9-6:30 p.m;
Karaoke
Thursdays, Tuesdays-Wednesdays, 9 p.m.;
Karaokes Mondays-Thursdays, 9 p.m.;
Lisa G and Flick’sPic’n Band
Sundays, 12-3 p.m.;
Dance Band
Sundays, 5-9 p.m.;
Eric Hughes solo/
Micki Foster and Friends
Sundays, 7-11 p.m.;
Scott King’s
Sundays, 12-3 p.m.;
Steve ‘n’ SEAGULLS
Sundays, 7-11 p.m.;
Sundays, 7-11 p.m.
**Handy Bar**
200 BEALE 527-2687
The Amazing Rhythmatists
Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays, 7-11 p.m.
**Ita Bena**
145 BEALE 578-3031
Nat ‘King’ Cole Fridays, Saturdays, 9-10 p.m.
**King Jerry Lawler’s Hall of Fame Bar & Grille**
159 BEALE
Lunch on Beale with Chris Gales
Wednesdays-Sundays, 12-4 p.m.;
Eric Hughes solo/ acoustic
Thursday-Thursdays, 5-8 p.m.;
Karaoke
Mondays-Thursdays, 7 p.m.,
Sundays, 8 p.m.;
Live Bands
Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.
**King’s Palace Cafe**
162 BEALE 521-1851
David Bowen Thursdays, 5-9 p.m.
**King’s Palace Cafe Patio**
162 BEALE 521-1851
Sonny Mack Mondays-Fridays, 2-6 p.m.;
Cowboy Neill Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 7 p.m.;
Midnight and Saturday, 8 p.m.;
Frog Squad
Thursdays, 5-9 p.m.;
Sundays, 8 p.m.;
Live Bands
Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.;
**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.,
Fridays, Saturdays, 7-11 p.m.;
Pam and Terry Fridays, Saturdays, 5:30-8 p.m.
**Rum Boogie Cafe**
182 BEALE 528-0150
Eric Hughes Band
Thursdays, 7-11 p.m.;
Vince Johnson and the Plantation Allstars
Thursdays, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 7-11 p.m.
**Rum Boogie Cafe Blues Hall**
182 BEALE 528-0150
Memphis Blues Masters
Thursdays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.;
Karaoke
Fridays, August 30, 8 p.m.,
Saturdays, 8 p.m.
**Silky O’Sullivan’s**
183 BEALE 522-9596
Dueling Pianos
Thursdays, Wednesdays, 9 p.m.;
Fridays, Saturdays, 9 p.m.;
Sundays, 9 p.m.;
**The Silly Goose**
100 PEABODY PLACE
535-6915
DJ Cody Fridays, Saturdays, 10 p.m.
**The Walley**
124 GE PATTSON
Grant Holt and Friends
Sunday, Sept. 1, 6-11 p.m.

**DOWNTOWN**

**Belle Tavern**
117 BARBORO ALLEY
249-6580
The Rasty Pieces
Sundays, 6-9:30 p.m.
**Brass Door Irish Pub**
152 MADISON 572-1813
Live Music Fridays, Carma Karaoke with Carla Worth
Sundays, 9-11 p.m.
**Dirty Crow Inn**
355 KENTUCKY
Chris Johnson Saturday, August 31, 7 p.m.,
The Accessories Sunday, Sept. 1, 10-11 p.m.
**The Orpheum**
2559 BROAD 730-0719
Crystal “The Sax Lady” Brown Jazz Trio Fridays, 7-10 p.m.
Magnolia Jazz Trio Saturday, Aug. 31, 7-10 p.m.
**The Silly Goose**
100 PEABODY PLACE
435-6915
DJ Cody Fridays, Saturdays, 10 p.m.
**The Vault**
124 GE PATTSON
Grant Holt and Friends Sunday, Sept 1, 6-11 p.m.
**Medical Center**
Sunrise
670 JEFFERSON
Me and Leah Sunday, Sept. 1, 10-11 p.m.

**South Main**

**South Main Sounds**
550 S. MAIN 493-6043
Frank McClendon, Stephen Sciara, Andy Fellows Friday, Aug. 30, 7 p.m.
**Spindrift**
383 S. MAIN 578-2767
Crystal “The Sax Lady” Brown Jazz Trio Fridays, 7-10 p.m.
Magnolia Jazz Trio Saturday, Aug. 31, 7-10 p.m.
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**MEMPHIS JAZZ ORCHESTRA**

**The Kemp Center**
710 S. MAIN 940-3164
Jazz Trio
Fridays, Saturdays, 5-9 p.m.
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Jazz Trio
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After Dark: Live Music Schedule August 29 - September 4

The Green Room at Crosstown Arts
1350 CONCOUITE, SUITE 280
(901) 507-8330

The PRV LG Thursday, Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m.; Grace Askew Friday, Aug. 30, 7 p.m.; Two Tons of Steel Wednesday, Sept. 4, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Growlers
1911 POPULAR 244-7904
Afton Shows Presents Thursday, Aug. 29, 7 p.m.; Mojo Medicine Machine’s Peace in Memphis Unity Jam Friday, Aug. 30, 8 p.m.; The Early Roman Kings, Gristrodent Saturday, Aug. 31, 7 p.m.; Byrd’s Drag Variety Show; Freaks ‘n’ Geeks Saturday, Aug. 31, 8 p.m.; Hank von Hell, Overdose, 7 p.m.; Restivo 4 Aug. 31, 2 p.m.; Carlos Ecos Band 3 p.m.; Mondays Battle Thursday, Aug. 29, 9 p.m.; Sonic Shockers and the Sinners Friday, Aug. 30, 10 p.m.; Thumpdaddy Saturday, Aug. 31, 9 p.m.; River Blues Cafe Sundays, 11 a.m.

P&H Cafe
1532 MADISON 762-0906
Rockstar Karaoke Fridays, BKG, As We Are Saturday, Aug. 31, 10 p.m.

University of Memphis
The Bluff
525 S. HIGHLAND 454-7771
DJ Ben Murray Thursdays, 10 p.m.; Kudu Kings Friday, Aug. 30, 8 p.m.; Skinny Powers Saturday, Aug. 31, 9 p.m.; River Blues Cafe Sundays, 11 a.m.

Poplar/I-240
Neil’s Music Room
7502 QUNCE 682-2300
Eddie Smith Fridays, 8:30 p.m.; Debbie Jamison & Friends 8-11 p.m.

Memphis Botanic Garden
750 CHERRY 636-4100
Toby Keith Saturday, Aug. 31, 9 p.m.

Mortimer’s
590 N. PERKINS 761-9321
Van Duren Solo Thursdays, 8 p.m.; Live Entertainment Mondays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Elvis Gospel Music Show Fridays, 1-2:30 p.m.; Karaoke hosted by DJ Maddy Wednesdays, 8-11 p.m.

Rock-n-Roll Cafe
3855 ELVIS PRESLEY 709-6528
Elvis Tribute featuring Michael Callipher Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Live Entertainment Mondays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Elvis Gospel Music Show Fridays, 1-2:30 p.m.; Karaoke hosted by DJ Maddy Wednesdays, 8-11 p.m.

Cordova
Huey’s Cordova
1771 N. GERMANTOWN PKWY. 318-330
The Smokin’ Jays Sunday, Sept. 1, 8:30 p.m.-midnight.

T.J. Mulligan’s Cordova
8071 TRINITI 756-4490
The Southern Edition Band Tuesdays.

Frayser/Millington
Golden Gate Baptist Church
3260 JAMES
Billy Rivers and the Angelic Voices of Faith 40th Reunion Concert Sunday, Sept. 1, 1-6:9 p.m.

Huey’s Millington
8570 US 51 N.
The Amber McCain Band Sunday, Sept. 1, 1-6:9 p.m.

Germantown
Huey’s Germantown
7677 FARMINGTON 318-3034
Soul Shockers Sunday, Sept. 1, 11:30-11:30 p.m.

North Mississippi/Tunica
The Crossing Bar & Grill
7281 HACKS CROSS, OLIVE BRANCH, MS 662-893-6242
Karaoke with Buddha Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8 p.m.-midnight.

Dan McGuinness
3964 GOODMAN, SOUTHWIND, MS 662-890-7611
Acoustic Music Tuesdays.

Fox and Hound Tavern
6565 TOWNE CENTER, SOUTHWIND, MS 662-256-2520
Live Music Thursdays, 5 p.m.; Karaoke Tuesdays.

Gold Strike Casino
1010 CASINO CENTER, TUNICA, MS 1-888-245-7829
East Carolina Saturdays, Aug. 31, 8 p.m.

Hollywood Casino
1150 CASINO STRIP RESORT, TUNICA, MS 662-357-7700
Live Entertainment Fridays, Saturdays, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Horseshoe Casino Tunica
1021 CASINO CENTER, TUNICA, MS 800-337-5600
All That You Love: Pink Floyd Tribute Saturday, Aug. 31, 8 p.m.

Huey’s Southaven
7090 MALCO, SOUTHAVEN, MS 662-349-7091
Frankie Hollie & the Noise Band Sunday, Sept. 1, 8:30 p.m.-midnight.

Raleigh
Stage Stop
2951 CILLA 282-1576
Open Mic Night and Steak Night Thursdays, 6 p.m.-midnight, Blues Jam hosted by Brad Webb Thursdays, 7-11 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28
25th Anniversary Celebration
Featuring Crab Legs & Prime Rib
3 p.m. – 10 p.m. • $25 per person

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29
$25,000 FREEPLAY® Giveaway
Drawings from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.,
each hour.
Earn 75 Slot Points or tables equivalent per drawing entry. Prize amounts will increase by the hour!
See M life® Rewards desk for details.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31
NOON–5PM
FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

THEATER
- Circuit Playhouse
  The Humans, at Thanksgiving, the Blake family gathers at the run-down apartment of Brigid Blake and her boyfriend. The parents are unhappy that their daughters have left home and have abandoned their religion.
  www.playhouseonthesquare.org. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m., and Sundays, 2 p.m. Through Sept. 8.
  51 S. COOPER (726-6565).

- Hello, Dolly Theatre
  Jelly’s Last Jam, he wore a diamond in his tooth, denied he was black, and claimed to have single-handedly invented the genre we know as jazz. Jelly Roll Morton, jazz pioneer, reinvented himself so as to conquer the vast American expanse. Born a Creole of color in turn-of-the-century New Orleans, he came of age playing piano in the bawdy houses of Storyville. Through Sept. 1.
  37 S. COOPER (502-3488).

- Playhouse on the Square
  Emily Boott, in this musical with music and lyrics by Cyndi Lauper and a book by Harvey Fierstein, Charlie has inherited a shoe factory from his father. It sounds like a great deal, except the factory is failing and on the way to being shut down. Enter Lola, a cabaret performer and drag queen, who sees what Charlie can’t — and it’s all in the big playhouseonthesquare.org. Through Sept. 1.
  66 S. COOPER (726-6565).

- Theatre Memphis
  Dammus Mnt, set on a Greek island and to the music of the international pop group ABBA, a young girl plans her wedding while trying to discover who of three men may be her father — all to the distress and ultimate joy of her mother. www.theatrememphis.org. $35. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m., and Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Through Sept. 8.
  620 PERKINS EXT. (682-8323).

ARTIST RECEPTIONS
Fogelman Galleries of Contemporary Art, University of Memphis Opening Reception for “Not Dead Wood,” exhibition of new work by Jean Koeller. Her paintings explore the tension between human perception of time and nature’s rate of change — and the realities of chaos punctured by an illusion of order. (678-2216), Free. Fri., Aug. 30, 5-7 p.m.

- The Withers Collection Museum & Gallery
  Casting Demonstration with Leadership Memphis to display a monthly exhibit open to the public the last Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m. First Sunday: 30 Years Better The Wither Collection Museum & Gallery has partnered with Leadership Memphis to display a monthly exhibit open to the public the last Friday of every month. Free. 6-8 p.m.
  365 S. MAIN ST. (523-2344), every month. Free. 6-8 p.m.

OTHER ART HAPPENINGS
“R.L. Boyce Ain’t the Man Alright” Exhibition of photos and film by Yancey Allison, a Como photographer who first met and photographed R.L. Boyce in the late 1990s. Free. Sat., Aug. 31, 6-8 & 9-11 p.m.
  COMO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 104 MAIN (682-8098), RLBOPHOTO.COM.

- Westy’s, 346 N MAIN (543-3278)
  Art Trolley Tour Tour the local galleries and shops on South Main. Last Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m.

- METAL MUSEUM DR. (774-6380), METALMUSEUM.ORG.
  Leadership Memphis Exhibition The Withers Collection Museum & Gallery has partnered with Leadership Memphis to display a monthly exhibit open to the public the last Friday of every month. Free. 6-8 p.m.
  204 MAIN (543-5270), YESN’S 546 N MAIN (543-5270), THEWITHERSCOLLECTION.COM.

- Westy’s, 346 N MAIN (543-3278)
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  204 MAIN (543-5270), THEWITHERSCOLLECTION.COM.

- Westy’s, 346 N MAIN (543-3278)
  Make Your Own Copper Cuff Create copper cuff bracelets using a hammer and steel surface. Ages 15 and up (Ages 10-15 may attend, but must have an adult registered with them), $10. Sat., Aug. 31, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
  374 METAL MUSEUM DR. (774-6380), METALMUSEUM.ORG.

- Westy’s, 346 N MAIN (543-3278)
  Memphis Magazine Fiction Contest
  Winning authors will be honored with a $200 gift certificate to Nerd. For more information, contest rules, and submission, visit website.
  WWW.MEMPHISMAGAZINE.COM.

- Westy’s, 346 N MAIN (543-3278)
  ONGOING ART
  Blues Hall of Fame Museum “The Blues According to Arhoolie,” exhibition honoring Arhoolie Records, an independent record label famed for publishing and promoting obscure folk
CALENDAR: AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 4

and blues artists. www.blues.org
Through Sept. 1.
421 S. Main (527-2583).

Buckman Arts Center at
St. Mary’s School
“Ray of Light,” exhibition of
new works by Sydney Gruber.
Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4
p.m. Through Sept. 9.
60 N. Perkins ext. (537-1483).

CHOICES Midwifery
“Our CHOICES,” exhibition to
create an environment where
people can come together in
solidarity, raise hope, and hope
for a future unaccompanied by
a constant threat to reproduc-
tive rights. memphischoes.org
Through Sept. 6.
144 N. BELLEVUE (274-3550).

Crozstown Arts at
The Concourse
“Counterpoint,” exhibition of
new work by Scott Carter, a
former Crosstown Arts resident

The Dixon Gallery &
Gardens
“Place Shapes,” exhibition of
recent work by Elizabeth Alley.
“Central to Their Lives:
Southern Women Artists in
the Johnson Collection,” ex-
hibition spanning the decades
between the late 1890s and
early 1960s, which examines
the particularly complex
challenges female artists
confronted in a traditionally
conservative region during
a period in which women’s
social, cultural, and political
roles were being redefined and
reinterpreted. dixon.org.

“Kate Freeman Clark,”
exhibition that brings
together nearly 40 paintings
from nearly 40 pieces that
Clark’s work was defined
by Southern-born Impression-
ism. musiccityartmuseum.org

Now Open “Kate Freeman Clark, ”
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ism. musiccityartmuseum.org

William-Adolphe Bouguereau.
French academic painter,
“Bouguereau & America, ”
exhibition of work by the
6. 4339 PARK (761-5520).

Epiphany Salon
& Gallery
“Seeing Dots,” exhibition of new
works by Dale Martin and Julie
726 NORTH PARKWAY (406-3026).

Memphis Brooks
Museum of Art
“Arts of Global Africa,” histor-
ic and contemporary works.
“Bouguereau & America,” ex-
hibition of work by the
French academic painter,
William-Adolphe Bouguereau.
Through Sept. 22.

“Native Son,” exhibition of
sculpture and sound installa-
tion by Terry Adkins. Through
Sept. 3.

“Ray of Light,” exhibition of
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Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4
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60 N. Perkins ext. (537-1483).

Memphis Brooks
Museum of Art
“Central to Their Lives:
Southern Women Artists in
the Johnson Collection,” ex-
novation spanning the decades
between the late 1890s and
early 1960s, which examines
the particularly complex
challenges female artists
confronted in a traditionally
conservative region during
a period in which women’s
social, cultural, and political
roles were being redefined and
reinterpreted. dixon.org.

“Kate Freeman Clark,”
exhibition that brings
together nearly 40 paintings
from nearly 40 pieces that
Clark’s work was defined
by Southern-born Impression-
ism. musiccityartmuseum.org

Now Open “Kate Freeman Clark, ”
exhibition that brings
together nearly 40 paintings
from nearly 40 pieces that
Clark’s work was defined
by Southern-born Impression-
ism. musiccityartmuseum.org

William-Adolphe Bouguereau.
French academic painter,
“Bouguereau & America, ”
exhibition of work by the
6. 4339 PARK (761-5520).

Epiphany Salon
& Gallery
“Seeing Dots,” exhibition of new
works by Dale Martin and Julie
726 NORTH PARKWAY (406-3026).

Memphis Brooks
Museum of Art
“A Arts of Global Africa,” histor-
ic and contemporary works.
“Bouguereau & America,” ex-
hibition of work by the
French academic painter,
William-Adolphe Bouguereau.
Through Sept. 22.
CALENDAR: AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 4

continued from page 21

the Bark Kays, the Echohoes, Gospel Four, and more. Sat., Aug. 31, 7 p.m. LEVITT SHELL, OVERTON PARK (272-2722).

SPORTS / FITNESS
Forrest Spence 5K
Includes 5K, food, door prizes, music, 1-mile fun run, 100-yard dash, bounce houses, slides, face-painting, and games. 515-$25. Sat., Aug. 27, 8-11 a.m. MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDEN. 746 CHERRY (272-0971). FORRESTSPENCEFUND.ORG.

Memphis vs. Ole Miss
The Tigers take on the Rebels. Sat., Aug. 31, 11 a.m. LIBERTY BOWL MEMORIAL STADIUM, 395 S. HOLLYWOOD (727-4344).

KIDS
Angelina Ballerina
Release Party
Party celebrating the release of the newest Angelina Ballerina. Sat., Aug. 31, 10 a.m. NOVEL, 387 PERKINS EXT. (922-5526).

PAW Patrol: Adventure Play
Free-flowing exhibit with activities encouraging teamwork, self-confidence, and playing the roles of the rescuing heroes. Included with museum admission. Through Feb. 2, 2020, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

SUMMER CAMP
Each week-long session includes rental gear, four hours of games, instruction, and climbing each day. A healthy snack and drink is provided each day. Participant ages range from 5-14. $189. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Through Aug. 30. HIGH POINT CLIMBING AND FITNESS, 21 N. HUMPHREY’S (203-6122). HIGHLIGHTCLIMBING.COM.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Beale Street Cigar Festival
Fifth annual festival celebrating the smooth sensation of cigar-smoking. $10-$75. Sat., Aug. 31, 12-6 p.m. HAVANA MIX CIGAR EMPORIUM, 6122), HIGHPOINTCLIMBING.COM.

CHOICES Shrink Watch Party, Midtown Crossing Grill, Thursday, August 29th, 6-8 p.m.

Filmmaker Aidy Bryant as Annie in Shrill

The staff and supporters of CHOICES host this party for a comedy series starring Aidy Bryant as Annie, a fat young woman who wants to change her life — but not her body. Annie is trying to start her career while juggling bad boyfriends, a sick parent, and a perfectionist boss. Thurs., Aug. 29, 6-8 p.m. MIDTOWN CROSSING GRILL, 394 N. WATKINS (443-0502).

Star Wars Episodes V: The Empire Strikes Back
Luke Skywalker travels to Dagobah in search of Yoda. Only with the Jedi master’s help will Luke survive when the dark side of the Force beckons him into the ultimate duel with Darth Vader. Fri., Aug. 30, 7 p.m. CT 3D GIANT THEATER, IN THE MEMPHIS PINK PALACE MUSEUM, 3050 CENTRAL (639-2363).

Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi
Luke Skywalker battles Jabba the Hut and cruel Darth Vader to save his comrades in the Rebel Alliance and triumph over the Galactic Empire. Fri., Aug. 30, 9:30 p.m. CT 3D GIANT THEATER, IN THE MEMPHIS PINK PALACE MUSEUM, 3050 CENTRAL (639-2363).

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CONTEST RULES:

1. Authors are strongly encouraged to bring Memphis or the Mid-South into their stories.
2. How to do this is open to your interpretation.
3. Entries will be accepted throughout the year. The winning entry in any given month must have been received by the end of the second month prior (i.e., November’s winner must be received by the end of September).
4. Each story should be typed, double-spaced, and should not exceed 750 words.
5. With each story should be a cover letter that gives your name, brief author bio, address, phone number, and the title of your story. Please do NOT put your name anywhere on the manuscript itself.
6. Manuscripts may not have been previously published.
7. Manuscripts should be sent to fiction@memphismagazine.com as .doc, .rtf, or .pdf files.
Bartholomew Jones wants to “make coffee black again.”

Jones, 28, is the creator of the website cxffeeblack.com, which he describes as “a lifestyle brand and a social experiment — just asking and trying to answer the question, ‘Why aren’t there more black people in speciality coffee? And what would happen if there were?’

“If you go to Ethiopia right now, coffee is offered to you the same way the British serve tea. Three times a day.”

But, Jones says, “In America, coffee is not seen as a black drink.”

Cxffeeblack.com offers coffee and coffee-related products and information “as a way to spark a movement for black people to reclaim high-quality coffee as a part of our culture,” he says.

Growing up in Whitehaven, Jones, who was born Maurice Henderson II, watched his dad drink Folgers and other “regular coffee.” But his father also drank Starbucks Kenyan coffee “before it was cool to get into Starbucks.”

Jones drank coffee at his church, but, he says, “I would try to cover it up as much as possible with cream and sugar. The powdery cream. Just scoop as much of it as I could to hide the fact that it was coffee.”

Jones, a hip-hop artist, also spent late nights in coffee shops working on his music. He began to wonder why he didn’t see more black people in the shops. “I was the only black person there,” he says.

He tried his first Americano — a double shot of espresso and hot water — and began to explore why some espressos taste better than others.

In 2012, Jones met his wife, Renata Henderson, at one of his hip-hop shows. He asked her, “Hey, do you like coffee?”

“She said, ‘Yes’. I told her, ‘Cool. I know the best spot that has the best lattes.’”

Jones began serving coffee to friends at his house. They’d listen to music and drink black coffee. “I was starting to see people say, ‘Hey, this is not bad without sugar or cream.’”

Jones, who got a job as a barista at Society Memphis, originally started Cxffeeblack on Instagram as a way to bring awareness of specialty coffee to his community through music.

The “x” in Cxffeeblack stands for the “x” slaves used as their last name after emancipation, Jones says. It also pertains to himself. “As a connection to my ethnic identity.”

Jones partnered with a roaster, Kenny Baker from Ethnos Coffee. They collaborated on their first coffee, Guji Mane. Jones describes the taste as “ripe raspberries on your granny’s caramel cake and the mouthfeel of flan from your homie’s abuelita, which is ‘grandma’ in Spanish.”

They sold 30 pounds of Guji Mane in 10 days. “All word of mouth. Eighty to 90 percent to people of color.”

In addition to the coffee, on cxffee-black.com, Jones is offering T-shirts and mugs hand-lettered by his wife. He’s in the process of “creating an all-black line of products.”

Jones plans to one day have his own roasting equipment at home and eventually open his own brick-and-mortar shop.

He wants people to do more than just drink his coffee. He wants them to learn from it. “By learning about coffee’s origins, we might learn about our own origins.”
Al Rayess
The pleasures of drinking Lebanese beer in Iraq.

You’ve never really seen the sunny Shia south in Iraq until you’ve seen it at midnight, when it’s still 91 degrees. It looks pretty much like you are picturing it right now, unless you haven’t turned on the news for a decade. Then it’s hard to explain.

Earlier that evening, I’d attended a meeting of community leaders discussing the establishment of a regional medical center and had managed to accidentally get myself on national television. Which is why I always travel with a blazer or a suit: You really don’t want to get caught in an international incident and not be properly turned out.

This was all pre-ISIS, back when no one was taking the civil war all that seriously. In the north, around Baghdad, you could buy booze. Despite the U.S. “withdrawal,” our people are all over the place there. Things were a little trickier in the south, where there were what we’d call Blue Laws. And like drinking in a dry county, life was easier if you knew a guy. During a civil war, everyone has a guy.

Which is how I wound up with some of the nicest, most interesting people I’d ever met, drinking Lebanese beer in the back of a café. It was called Al Rayess, and it tasted, more or less, like an Amstel Light. I know this because there was a “This’ll do” sign is universal, across all languages and beers.

The Arabs prize eloquence almost as much as Americans sneer at it. A formal debate is like dueling orations, theatrical and profound, and to Westerners, a bit stifling. Then you break rank and head out to some café that’s supposed to be closed. But you know a guy and you have a beer and it tastes like an Amstel Light.

The eloquence is still there, the poetic allusions and the vivid imagery, but the stilted orations evaporate. That’s when the theatrics get replaced with humor. While I was a lad at CBHS, for instance, they failed to lean into the part in the Epic of Gilgamesh where the priestess of Inanna has sex with a feral man in order to make him human. And then gets him drunk. Now that’s funny.

And I was drinking the best beer in the world. Not the one with the innovative take on a traditional style, or the most traditional style for that matter. Sometimes where the hops come from or how its malted makes less difference than a clean, light cooler that tastes like Amstel Light on a hot night, in a not strictly legal café, taking shelter from a world gone mean and unspeakably cruel.

And why not? Al Rayess is a refreshing beer, crisp and light. Fortunately, my translator, whom I’ll call Rafiq, was drinking a non-alcoholic Almaza NA, so while the conversation relaxed, we were still making ourselves understood. I asked Rafiq how the Almaza was, and he gave me the squinting-and-rocking-the-hand-back-and-forth motion. Apparently the “This’ll do” sign is universal, across all languages and beers.

They thanked America for overthrowing Saddam Hussein, which they either couldn’t or wouldn’t do. Either way, we did, and they were grateful. Like eloquence, Arabs also prize good manners, again almost as much as Americans like to sneer at them. So they were very polite when they asked why, despite the withdrawal, the Americans were still around? They liked me personally, they said, and asked — still smiling but not entirely joking — if we could please just go away. I drank to that. Oh, boy, did I drink to that.
Bride Hard
Samara Weaving has the worst wedding night ever in Ready or Not.

Weddings should be a joyous time — a celebration of love between two people, and a joining together of two families. The ceremony and reception bring the community together. It is one of our most enduring rituals.

But let’s face it — weddings can also be a stressful time. Emotions are running high. A lot of money is being spent to ensure that everything goes exactly as planned. There’s a lot of opportunity for family conflict to spill out into the public sphere. Just because the bride and groom love each other doesn’t mean that the new in-laws have anything in common.

Also, there’s an outside chance that your newest relatives will try to kill you.

Grace (Samara Weaving) is about to get the wedding of her dreams. Her fiancé Alex (Mark O’Brien) is the scion of the Le Domas family, and they are loaded. We’re talking one-percenter rich, with a huge, sprawling family mansion that dates back to the Victorian age. They’ve got so much filthy lucre you’d think they made a deal with the devil a few generations back.

But Alex doesn’t necessarily get along with his family. As Grace and Alex get their courage up for the ceremony, we learn that he hasn’t been home in years. They only met 18 months ago, and Grace didn’t even know about all the money until recently. The introductions to the Le Domas family have been a little awkward, to say the least. Dowager matriarch Helene (Nicky Guadagni) glares at Grace with a silent, barely contained malevolence. Alex’s father Tony (Henry Czerny) openly criticizes his son and new daughter-in-law, and mother Becky (Andie MacDowell) makes only token attempts to defend the new girl in the family. Alex’s sister Emilie (Melanie Scrofano) sees the ceremony as yet another excuse to party. Cousin Fitch (Kristian Bruun) sees the whole thing as a tedious inconvenience. No one is thrilled about letting a potential gold digger like Grace get a claim on the family fortune, especially since she and Alex eschewed the usual three-year courtship for an “18-month bone-a-thon.” Maybe they should have just eloped.

But no, Grace is determined to get into the family’s good graces. So the guests — so, so many guests — arrive, the vows are exchanged, the cake eaten, and the champagne sipped. Things go off without a hitch. Then, just as Grace is getting ready to slip out of her exquisitely tasteful wedding gown and get down to postnuptial coital business, Alex stops her. There’s one more wedding tradition to attend to, one the Le Domas family takes even more seriously than the vows. You see, great-grandfather Le Domas made his initial fortune in playing cards before expanding to board games and then, eventually, owning professional sports teams. They’re all about playing games and sticking to the rules. After all, that’s how they amassed this ungodly fortune. So every time a new spouse is added to the family, she or he must draw a card from a special box. On it will be the name of a game, like tiddlywinks or Parcheesi. Then the assembled Le Domases will play the game together, and the new family member will be officially welcomed into the fold.

But maybe since Grace and Alex saw each other...
before the ceremony on their wedding day, Grace draws the one bad card in the bunch: hide-and-seek. Grace is given a 100-count to hide somewhere in the sprawling mansion, and then the other family members have until dawn to find her and sacrifice her to Satan.

You don’t remember weddings or hide-and-seek going like that? Maybe you were doing them wrong.

Ready or Not is a nasty little bit of exploitation satire in the tradition of Little Shop of Horrors, and I’m frankly surprised at how much I enjoyed it. Once things get rolling, it basically becomes Die Hard in a haunted house. Weaving, whose pretty wedding dress tracks the progression of the plot by becoming more and more torn and blood-stained, carries the picture. Her surly, foul-mouthed asides call to mind Bruce Willis’ star-making turn as put-upon policeman John McClane. Like Willis, she plays the whole thing with a little wink to the audience, like when she pauses for a second when she sees a mirror to admire how her ammo bandolier sets off the lace in her wedding dress. The Le Domases are a parade of rich-jerk stereotypes (the fright-wigged Helene gets a laugh when she arms herself with a literal battle axe), and it’s lucky for Grace that none of them are very good shots. I guess the rich really are different from you and me — unless, that is, you’re a murderous Satanist.

Ready or Not
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Multiple locations
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Participants will receive monetary compensation ranging from $25 to $300 based on the level of participation.

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Call 901.252.3434
email researchchampions@keybiologics.com
or visit researchchampions.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
SHELBY COUNTY CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION MEETING REGARDING POTENTIAL HUD FUNDED CONTRACTS AND SECTION 3 CONTRACTOR OPPORTUNITIES

Shelby County provides a variety of community development and rehabilitation services throughout Shelby County utilizing U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds which are subject to reporting under Section 3 Contracting Opportunities. These services are carried out under the auspices of federally funded programs such as CDBG-NDR, CDBG, and other grant programs.

As a recipient of HUD funds, Shelby County is currently certifying Section 3 Contractors to insure eligible contractors are aware of opportunities to participate in future bidding opportunities under these grant programs.

Interested firms and individuals are strongly encouraged to attend this contractor and Section 3 opportunities meeting at the following location, date, and time:

Agricenter International Banquet Room
7777 Walnut Grove Rd, Memphis, TN 38120
Wednesday September 18, 2019
10:00 AM
C-Entrance

For more information, contact Sonja Worthy (901-222-2250) at the Purchasing Department; or Mario Moton (901-222-7614) at the Department of Housing Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. If you plan to attend the meeting and have special needs, please contact Mr. Moton no later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday September 11, 2019 and we will work to insure your accommodations. TTY Number (901) 222-2301.

Para más información en Español, por favor llame al 901-222-4289.

Shelby County Government, the Office of Resilience, and the Department of Housing are equal opportunity employers and encourage the enrollment and participation of minority and female owned and operated businesses, companies certified as Locally Owned Small Businesses through the Shelby County Equal Opportunity Compliance Office, and Section 3 Contractors in all HUD programs.
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If you cancel your wireless service plan, your remaining installment balance becomes due.
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The world burns as we dance ever closer to Edgar Cayce’s dystopian future.

Well, we human beings had a good run. We’ve gone from green slime crawling out of the sea to the discovery of fire, the invention of the wheel, the use of tools, the dawn of civilization, the Dark Ages, the Renaissance, the creation of industry, mass production, the invention of the printing press, the automobile, the telephone, modern cities and suburbs, space exploration, and the telecommunication revolution.

Then we hit a bump.

Suddenly, we’ve regressed into green slime slouching back into the sea. Between the melting of the polar ice caps and the fires ravaging the Amazon rain forest, we’ve reached a climate apocalypse that may well be irreversible. This didn’t have to happen. It just proves how mindless leadership can alter the world’s climate in the shortest time. Civilisation will mock the naiveté of such dire forecasts as Anthony Burgess’ A Clockwork Orange.

Say goodbye to the Earth as we know it, and say hello to water wars, mass migrations, riots, and the shredding of the fabric of society.

In the middle of the last century, a clairvoyant named Edgar Cayce became famous for his prophecies and remedies. An institution in Virginia Beach houses more than 14,000 of his readings — which have been determined to be 85 percent accurate. His clients included Woodrow Wilson, Thomas Edison, Irving Berlin, and George Gershwin. Cayce — “The Sleeping Prophet” — would lie down and enter a state of altered consciousness, which allowed him visions of the future. They were alarming when I first read them, many years ago. They’re terrifying now. In a reading from 1934, Cayce said, “The earth will be broken up in many places. The early portion will see a change … in the West Coast of America. Open waters appear in the northern portion of Greenland. The greater portion of Japan must go into the sea. There will be upheavals in the Antarctic … beginning in 2000-2001.”

Any of this sound familiar? Cayce continues, “There are predictions of temperature changes in the deep waters which impact weather patterns, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.” Also, “New York itself, in the main, will disappear. Southern portions of Carolina, Georgia — these will disappear. Los Angeles, San Francisco … will be among those destroyed.”

On a cheerier note, Cayce claimed that Atlantis would reappear and unearth hidden knowledge. He also said that his dystopian vision need not take place with the proper awareness coupled with action. Considering the state of the planet today, that’s pretty incredible stuff, but guess who’s rushing us headlong into extinction?

Our mock president’s performance at last week’s G7 summit in France did nothing to advance the cause of addressing climate change. Laughingly declaring himself to be “an environmentalist,” Trump said, “I want the cleanest water on earth. I want the cleanest air on earth. … I think I know more about the environment than most people.”

This, coming from a man who boasted about opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling, withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord, claimed that windmills cause cancer, and wondered aloud if it were possible to “nuke” hurricanes.

Then, Trump skipped a climate discussion with other world leaders, leaving an empty chair in his stead. Other G7 participants walked on eggshells around Trump, hoping that America’s human wrecking ball wouldn’t destroy another meeting of sane heads of state. While French President Emmanuel Macron was expressing outrage over Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro’s (or, as he’s been dubbed by some, the “Trump of South America”) handling of the Amazon fires, Trump himself was advocating for Russia’s re-admittance to the G7 and hyping one of his Florida resorts for the next summit, citing its many wonderful accoutrements.

Like Trump, the Brazilian president is a climate change denier. He relaxed environmental regulations and permitted farmers and other commercial interests to burn off parts of the Amazon rain forest, then claimed the current conflagration was caused by “non-governmental organizations” for the purpose of “drawing international criticism to [his] government.”

The rain forest produces 20 percent of the world’s oxygen. The World Wildlife Fund stated that if the Amazon rain forest, sometimes known as “the world’s lungs,” reaches the point of no return, the area could become a “dry savanna,” emitting carbon instead of oxygen. Without Trump’s input, the G7 pledged $20 million to help contain the fires that are destroying two and a half football fields worth of rain forest every minute of every day and are spilling over into neighboring countries.

Meanwhile, NASA and the European Space Agency have determined that the polar ice caps have melted faster in the last 20 years than in the previous 10,000. Antarctica and Greenland have lost three times as much ice, compared to 20 years ago. A rise in sea level of more than six feet would be enough to inundate most major coastal cities. If the Greenland ice sheet melted, sea levels would rise by more than 20 feet. So long, New Orleans. Nice to know you, Miami. It’s good that Denmark refused to sell Greenland to Trump. He’d only melt it and turn it into the world’s largest water park.

Randy Haspel writes the “Recycled Hippies” blog.
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