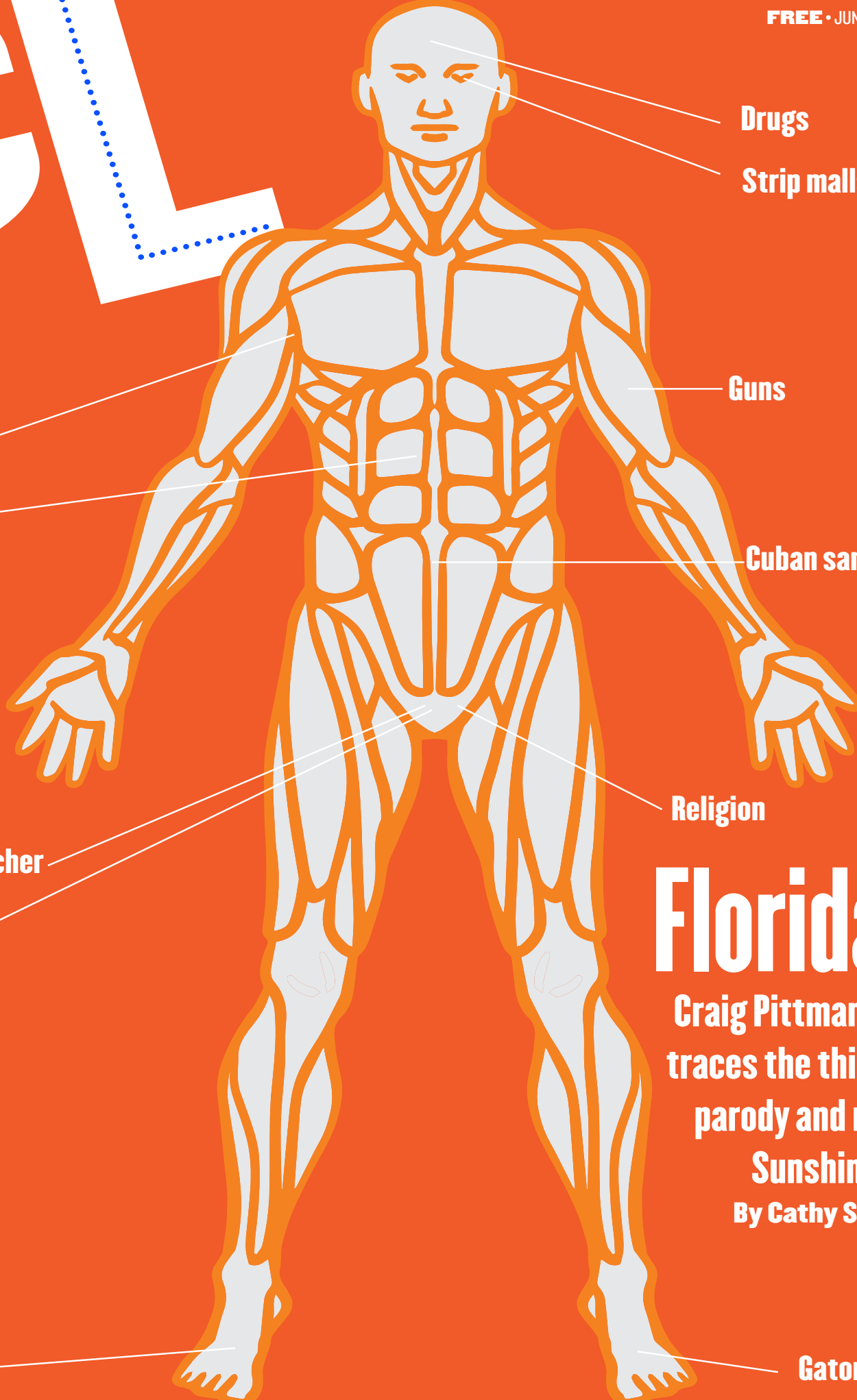


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Drugs

Strip malls

Guns

Cuban sandwiches

Religion

Florida Man

Craig Pittman's *Oh, Florida!* traces the thin line between parody and reality in the Sunshine State.

By Cathy Salustri P. 24

Humidity

South Beach

Sex with teacher

Strip clubs

Highways

Gators

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inside



“Mullet flatulence aside...”

An only-in-Florida segue by Cathy Salustri in “Florida man writes book,” p. 24.

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“If I hadn’t hated fireworks before Bentley, I’d hate them now.”

Scott Harrell in “Life As We Blow It,” p. 15.

ON THE COVER: A Florida Man anatomy, by Julio Ramos and CL staff.

cltampa.com



/arts A gas-powered human Sea Doo? *Swiss Army Man* reviewed

/music It’s just like getting in on the list

/food + drink It all ends up in the same place

/news Florida election news heats up, Sh*t Happened

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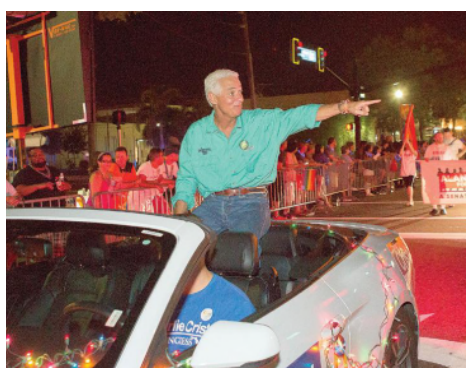
Johnny and Diego Tanner, married last year, partied in peace with Arthur Costa.

did this

St. Pete Pride: 6/25/16

Photos by Chip Weiner

The mood of St. Pete Pride 2015 was jubilant — the Supreme Court had just legalized same-sex marriage. This year, in the aftermath of the massacre in Orlando, feelings of loss and apprehension were unavoidable, but the celebration itself was more necessary than ever: a chance to defy the hatred, to show the power of a community united, and to love and party just as freely and colorfully and courageously as we have in every Pride that has gone before. —David Warner



Former governor and current Congressional candidate Charlie Crist rode in the parade, as tan as ever.



Some thought the homophobic preachers just needed a lil' lovin'.



Old Key West Bar & Grill threw a foam party.



Saturday night's procession paid multiple tributes to those lost in Orlando.



The rainbow flag and a whole lotta bubbles kicked off the parade at sunset.



Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival volunteer Eunice Fisher (center) occupied a seat of honor on the TIGLFF float.

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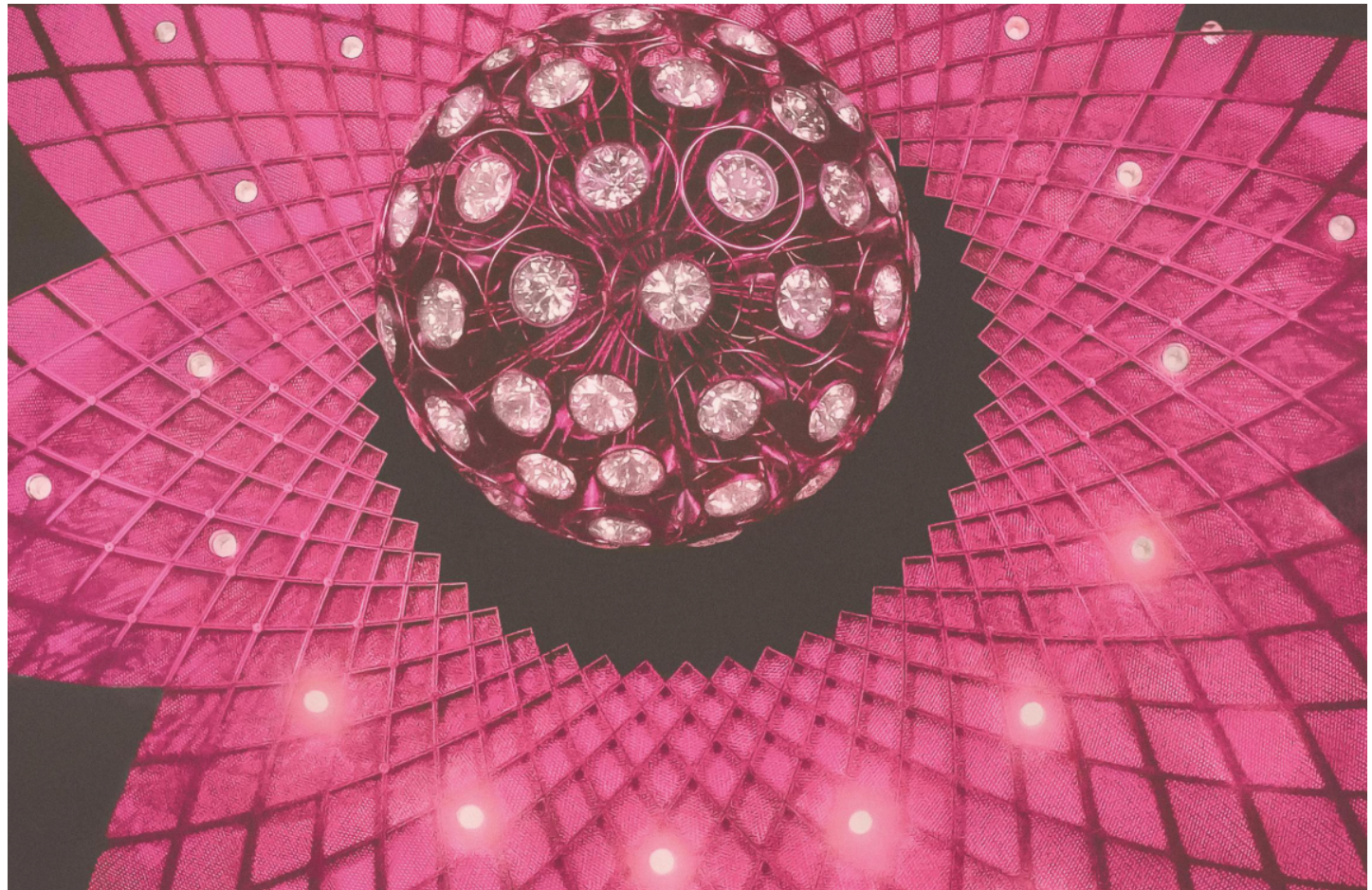
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AMY MARTZ

photography Two visions

ONGOING: FMoPA. Say it with me: fuh-MOE-puh. As far as acronyms go, it's my favorite (but don't tell the others, 'cause they'll get jealous). FMoPA stands for Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, and photography (if the name doesn't clue you in) is their thing. As in, only nine other museums in the country do this. What does that mean for you? It means when FMoPA announces a new show, you should go, because what they deem some of the best photography really is some of the best photography. **New Visions 2016: An Examination of Landscapes from Disparate Points of View**, open now at FMoPA, features work from two celebrated local photographers, Maria Bevilacqua and Amy Martz. The exhibit name is self-explanatory. Sort of: *Which* two points of view? What *sorts* of landscapes? Well, micro and macro and everything from landscapes to cityscapes. The bodies of work on exhibit contradict and complement, both within each artist's work and with one another. Head over Friday, when they're open until 7 p.m., or on Sunday, when you can take a docent-led tour at 2 p.m. Through July 26. Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, 400 N. Ashley, Cube 200, Tampa. \$10. 813-221-2222. fmopa.org. —Cathy Salustri

fireworks Waiting for the next explosion



MONDAY: True story: If you watch the fireworks from Boca Ciega Bay, you can see not one but several shows. In a galaxy far, far away, I crewed on sailboats and other seaworthy vessels, and every Independence Day, I'd work the **Sunset and Fireworks Sail or Cruise** at Dolphin Landings. We could see fireworks from St. Pete Beach, Gulfport, St. Pete, Treasure Island and quite a few others. I don't do that anymore, but you can, if you make reservations now — these cruises typically sell out. Dolphin Landings provides water and soda; if you want something more alcoholic, you can bring it. Same for food. Take your pick of a sailboat or a pontoon boat, grab a seat, and wait for the show. After the sun explodes into a glorious sunset, all you have to do is wait for the other detonations to begin. The hard part? Knowing where to look next, because the fireworks are everywhere. 7 p.m. Dolphin Landings at Dolphin Village, 4737 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach. \$60. 727-360-7411, dolphinlandings.com. —CS



HORST P. HORST, MURIEL MAXWELL (AMERICAN VOGUE COVER, 1 JULY 1939), 1939 © CONDENAST/HORSTESTATE

fashion

The Horst you rode in on

SATURDAY: Left up to me, all clothes would come with Garanimals tags — you remember them from childhood, right? If the shirt had a hippo tag and the pants had a hippo tag, the outfit matched. If the shirt had a hippo tag but the pants had a shark tag, they didn't match, because hippos eat sharks, I guess. I don't really understand fashion (clearly). When I look at fashion magazines, though, they make me want to be a better dresser, to paraphrase Jack Nicholson. The truly fine fashion spreads don't sell an outfit — they're surreal depictions of the life you could have, if only you could have those clothes. Horst P. Horst mastered this with light and the way he created an atmosphere in every photo. His fashion photography intrigues me — I want to live in his work. The Dalí probably won't let me live there during the **Horst: Photographs — Fashion and Surrealism** exhibit, but I'm a member, so I can go back as often as I'd like. *Through Sept. 6. The Dalí Museum, One Dalí Blvd., St. Pete. \$24. 727-823-2767. thedali.org. —CS*

visual art

Pre-Kodachrome, post-Blackberry

FRIDAY: When PORTSPACE opened its doors in Gulfport, I rejoiced: A real art gallery! Yay! Nothing wrong with studios — who *doesn't* love to watch artists at work? — but a gallery implies a level of sobriety about one's art, and no one's ever accused Gulfport of being sober. Critics (of which I'm one) complain the Art Walk has little art, so the Gallery's arrival on the scene brought some art cred back to the small town. The suck about PORTSPACE, though, is they only open for those slightly misnamed ArtWalks. The fantastic thing? This Friday is first Friday, so stroll on over and take in Marcus DeSieno's darkroom-meets-smartphone photography exhibit, **The Age of the World Picture**. DeSieno hacks into surveillance footage and uses that in his exhibit, and then he uses darkroom processes to print the photos. He also uses a circa-1800s printing process on smartphones. Art? More like deep-fried awesome, drizzled with honey and dusted with powdered sugar. *6-9 p.m. PORTSPACE Gallery, 3007 Beach Blvd. S., Gulfport. portspacegallery.com. —CS*



MARCUS DESIENO

theater

Some enchanted evening

FRIDAY: James Michener set to music. Specifically, Richard Rodgers' music and Oscar Hammerstein's lyrics. St. Pete Opera brings it all to the 'Burg with its production of **South Pacific**. There's love. There's palm trees. There's people spontaneously bursting into song, because, yeah, that happens in real life. Oh, right, it doesn't, but since we go to the theater to escape reality for a while, why not do it with a feel-good musical that makes you think maybe you really could move to French Polynesia and that, in the end, race and all the bullshit don't matter. After all, it worked out OK for Nellie Forbush, right? Seriously, before you write this off as "just another musical" you should know this: **South Pacific** called bullshit on racism in 1949, because Broadway's kind of awesome like that. *Through July 10. The Palladium, 253 5th Ave. N., St. Pete. \$22-\$67. 727-823-2040. stpeteopera.org. —CS*



MOTIVIS VPIR

daybyday

THU 30

Check out the **July Vintage Market** at Picker Place: 10,000 square feet of junk — er, *vintage stuff*. You say "crap," we say "Pre-Etsy." *Kidding!* They have some cool shit. 9 a.m.-7p.m. 1402 E. 2nd Ave., Ybor City. pickerplace.com.

FRI 01

Praise god and pass the gumbo, it's mudbug season. At the **Louisiana Crawfish Boil** at Chief's Cafe, \$30 gets you live crawfish, fresh shrimp and previously frozen dungeness, plus sides and live music. 6 p.m. 901 22nd St., St. Pete.

SAT 02

Do you love Ybor City whole-arterdly? Check out **For the Love of Ybor Art Show** at The Bricks, where JunkYard, Chevy Chevarria and other artists love Ybor with all their art. 8 p.m. 1327 E. 7th Ave., Ybor City. Event on Facebook.

SUN 03

Celebrate Florida and all its quiriness at the **Oh, Florida!** book publication party at the Oxford Exchange. 2 p.m. 420 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. oxfordexchange.com. *Read more, p. 24.*

MON 04

Think you have what it takes? Winner takes all in the **Shuffleboard Mini-Tournament** at St. Pete Shuffle, where five bucks gets you into the tourney. No need to bring your own partner, but BYOB. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Event on Facebook.



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SU 7/10 **WMNF Presents The Last Edition...**
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FR 7/15 **Come Back Alice** w/ The Heather Gillis Band 8PM \$10/13

SU 7/17 **An Evening with Chaka** (JAZZ/FUSION) 5PM \$6

FR 7/22 **The Ultimate Joe Cocker & Santana Experience: Mad Dogs and Sacred Fire** (CLASSIC ROCK/TRIBUTE) 8PM \$9/11

SA 7/23 **American Supermodel, Four Star Riot and Save the Radio** 8PM \$7/10

SU 7/24 **Soul Circus Cowboys** (TAILGATE COUNTRY) w/ The Bearded Brothers (DRINKIN' BAND w/ PARTY PROBLEM) 5PM \$7/10

FR 7/29 **Heatwave Favorites:** Trae Pierce and the T-Stone Band, Vanessa Collier, The War and Treaty 8PM \$12/15

SA 7/30 **Halcyon** w/ The Cheaters 8PM \$12

SU 7/31 **DieDra The Alabama Blues Queen and The Ruff Pro Band** (BLUES/SOUL) 5PM \$5/8

TU 8/2 **Leisure Chief** (FUNK/ROCK/FUSION/HIP-HOP) and **Wild Root** (FUNK/ROCK) 7PM \$7

SA 8/20 **Bryan Lee "Braille Blues Daddy"** New Orleans Blues Institution 8PM \$10/13

SA 8/27 **A Tribute to Frank Zappa, Parliament Funkadelic and Herbie Hancock** 8PM \$7/10

SU 11/6 **Tommy Castro and the Painkillers** (BLUES/SOUL/ROCK) w/ TBD 5PM \$15/20

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NEWS OF THE **Weird**

Chuck Shepherd

GETTING FANNIES IN THE SEATS

The Bunyadi opened in London in June for a three-month run as the world's newest nude-dining experience, and now has a reservation waiting list of 40,000 (since it only seats 42). Besides the nakedness, the Bunyadi creates "true liberation" (said its founder) by serving only food "from nature," cooked over fire (no electricity). Waiters are nude, as well, except for minimal concessions to seated diners addressing standing servers. Tokyo's Amrita nude eatery, opening in July, is a bit more playful, with best-body male waiters and an optional floor show — and no "overweight" patrons allowed. Both restaurants provide some sort of derriere-cover for sitting, and require diners to check their cellphones at the door.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Milwaukee's WITI-TV, in an on-the-scene report from Loretta, Wisconsin (in the state's northwest backwoods), in May, described the town's baffling fascination with "Wood Tick Racing," held annually, provided someone finds enough wood ticks to place in a circle so that townspeople can wager on which one hops out first. The "races" began 37 years ago, and this year "Howard" was declared the winner. (According to the organizers, at the end of the day, all contestants, except Howard, were to be smashed with a mallet.)

GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

The Department of Veterans Affairs revealed in May that, between 2007 and last year, nearly 25,000 vets examined for traumatic brain injury at 40 VA facilities were not seen by medical personnel qualified to render the diagnosis — which may account for the result that, according to veterans' activists, very few of them were ever referred for treatment. (TBI, of course, is the "signature wound" of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.)

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Basking in its "record high" in venture-capital funding, the Chinese Jiedaibao website put its business model into practice recently: facilitating offers of "jumbo" personal loans (two to five times the normal limit) to female students who submit nude photos. The student agrees that if the loan is not repaid on time (at exorbitant interest rates), the lender can release the photos online. (The business has been heavily criticized, but the company's headquarters said the privately negotiated contracts are beyond its control.)

PERSPECTIVE

News updates from Kim Jong-un's North Korea: In March, a South Korean ecology organization reported that the traditional winter migration of vultures from China was, unusually, skipping over North Korea, headed directly for the South — apparently because of the paucity of animal corpses (according to reports, a major food source for millions of North Koreans). And in June, the Global Nutrition Report (which criticized the U.S. and 13 other countries for alarming obesity rates) praised North Korea for its "progress" in having fewer adults with "body mass index" over 30.

RECURRING THEMES

The super-painful "Ilizarov procedure" enables petite women to make themselves taller. (A surgeon breaks bones in the shins or thighs, then adjusts special leg braces four times daily that pull the bones slightly apart, awaiting them to — slowly — grow back and fuse together, usually taking at least six months. As *News of the Weird* reported in 2002, a 5-foot-tall woman, aiming for 5-4, gushed about "a better job, a better boyfriend ... a better husband. It's a long-term investment." Now, India's "medical tourism" industry offers Ilizarovs cut-rate — but (according to a May dispatch in *The Guardian*) unregulated and, so far, not yet even taught in India's medical schools. Leading practitioner Dr. Amar Sarin of Delhi (who claims "hundreds" of successes) admits there's a "madness" to patients' dissatisfactions with the way they look.

ARMED AND CLUMSY

More people (all are males, as usual) who accidentally shot themselves recently: Age 37, Augusta, Kansas, while adjusting his "sock gun" at a high school graduation (May). Age 28, Panama City, Florida, a jail guard "preparing" for a job interview (May). An unidentified man in Union, South Carolina, who, emerging from a shower, sat on his gun (December). The sheriff of Des Moines County, Iowa, who shot his hand while cleaning his gun (Burlington, Iowa, December). A movie-goer adjusting in his seat in Salina, Kansas, shot himself during the feature (October) (three months after acquiring a no-test-required concealed-carry permit). Age 43, Miami, demonstrating to a relative how to clean a gun (December). A teenager, Overland, Missouri, trying to take a selfie holding a gun (June). (The last two people are no longer with us.)

Read more weird news at WeirdUniverse.net; send items to WeirdNews@earthlink.net, and P.O. Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679. ☞

NEWS ^{+VIEWS}

POLITICS ISSUES OPINION

Dem vs. Dem vs. Dem vs. Dem

Is it cannibalism or common sense?

By Kate Bradshaw

For once, Tampa Bay Democrats find themselves with a glut of good candidates capable of contending with GOP's political stronghold.

"We have some excellent people in the Democratic Party this election season," said Ione Townsend, chair of the Hillsborough County Democratic Executive Committee. "We have people who are passionate about representing their constituency, they're passionate about the party, about their issues. And that's an exciting thing to see."

If only they weren't all fighting amongst themselves.

Three state House seats, a state Senate seat, and the Dist. 6 Hillsborough County Commission seat all have Democratic primaries Aug. 30, some with three or four candidates, even as some nearby Republican incumbents go unopposed. And Kevin Beckner, who's leaving the Dist. 6 commission seat due to term limits, is running for county clerk against another member of his party, longtime incumbent Pat Frank.

"Everyone wants to run for the same seat," said Susan Smith, head of the Florida Progressive

Democratic Caucus, "and it can be really frustrating to those of us who live in a district where we don't really have representation."

She lives in Florida State House District 64, which is represented by Republican Jamie Grant, who is unopposed this year despite ethics questions in recent years. She said it may be an issue of residency — no Democrat would want to move to run there — and that perhaps residency requirements ought to change.

But there's also the reality that an incumbent Republican like Grant would be incredibly well-funded, and most sane people who run for office do so because, well, they'd like to win.

It makes sense: Open seats that appear winnable for Democrats will draw more primary contenders.

"Rational people look at these things and say, 'What are my odds?'" said Democratic political consultant Steve Schale, who led President Obama's Florida campaign in 2008 and has

worked to recruit candidates for legislative runs. "If you're a Democrat, are you more likely to run in an open seat in St. Pete, a leaning Democrat seat, or are you going to move up north and run against Chris Sprowls in a Republican seat? If you want to win, you're going to run in the place that's more competitive."

Schale was referencing the two-person primary for St. Pete's House District 68 seat, which Rep. Dwight Dudley is leaving to run for judge. Democrats Ben Diamond and Eric Lynn are in a tough primary there, the latter having dropped out of a Congressional primary against former Governor Charlie Crist.

Unfortunately, one major reason for some of the more crowded Dem primaries is identity politics — i.e. the thought that skin color trumps charisma and good policy when it comes to electability — and the fact that "minority access districts" are still a thing. House District 70, which Rep. Darryl Rouson is leaving due to term limits and to run for State Senate, has three Democrats: CJ Czaia, Dan Fiorini and former St. Pete City Councilman Wengay Newton. It's a bizarrely shaped district consisting of predominantly African-American parts of four different counties. State Senate District 19 has a similar makeup. Four Democrats are running for that

seat: State Reps. Ed Narain and Betty Reed, Augie Ribeiro and Rouson.

A wealth of primary candidates can be a good thing for a party that is trying to beat back the Republican Party's dominance in the state.

"Not everybody's going to win their contest. So what that does is, that deepens our bench. And that's exciting," Townsend said. "Candidates, when they come to me before they get into a race, I say to them, 'Promise me one thing: you will not be one and done.'"

Primaries have their obvious downsides: They cause bitter division among party membership, which is perhaps best seen at the national level in the battle between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. They cost money when campaign dollars could be spared for the general election. Accusations hurled during the race at the eventual primary winner can be used against him or her in the general. And so on.

One advantage? They could be good practice for the general.

"I think that if Alex Sink had had a primary opponent when she ran for governor in 2010, she would have been a much stronger general election candidate and I think she would've been elected," Smith said. "But she wasn't really tested... and I think that hurt us when it came down to the general election."

continued on page 11

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CANDIDATE



FOUR FOR SIX: The four Democratic candidates for Hillsborough County Commission District 6, a countywide seat, are (L to R) Brian Willis, Tom Scott, John Dicks and Pat Kemp.



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THURSDAY 23



Strip club magnate and sometime political rabble-rouser **Joe Redner** files to run for the State Senate District 18 seat as an independent. And once again, he may be the least objectionable man in politics.



Britain votes to exit the European Union. The world goes apeshit, but not to worry — by Monday morning, one of the most significant world events of the post-Cold War era will pale in comparison to the single most significant world event ever: The season finale of a show about dragons and not showering.

MONDAY 27



The U.S. Supreme Court strikes down Texas' uber-obstructionist and obviously unconstitutional anti-abortion law, and rules that domestic abusers convicted of misdemeanors can be barred from gun ownership. Um ... thanks, Brexit?

Westfield Brandon mall announces it will not be hosting a July Fourth fireworks extravaganza this year, breaking a 12-year tradition. Bored suburban kids whose parents have dragged them to the display since toddlerhood will go all *The Purge* by about 8:47, so lock it down, people.



TUESDAY 28

A three-person panel rules that the **Florida Department of Corrections** abused its power in its retaliation against a whistleblower who uncovered corruption and inmate abuse — but that it didn't engage in any criminal activity. Then it packed up and moved on, presumably to give some human traffickers a stern talking to.

➔ continued from page 9

There is one Democrat-held legislative seat in the Tampa Bay area that Republicans aren't challenging: the H.D. 62 seat in which Rep. Janet Cruz is the incumbent. Hillsborough County Commissioner Les Miller and Pinellas County Commissioner Janet Long are also unopposed this year.

And while there are a handful of crowded Democratic primaries, it appears that some lesser-known Democrats are challenging strong Republican incumbents, but a quick glance at campaign finance records suggests they're not getting help from the party, or anyone else, in terms of fundraising.

If the party doesn't deem a candidate particularly strong, Schale said, it shouldn't be obligated to spend time and resources on what will likely be a lost cause.

"Politics is the ultimate free market," he said. "The party's job is to win seats. The party's job is not to cater to people who are running or do this or that... If they've got a candidate in the race who's not performing, despite being a nice guy, he's not going to win."

Take Bernie Fensterwald, who is challenging the above-mentioned State Rep. Chris Sprowls for his seat in north Pinellas, a GOP stronghold. Fensterwald has qualified for the ballot, but records suggest no fundraising to

date. Sprowls, on the other hand, has amassed over \$168,000 in his reelection bid.

Schale said one way of determining a candidate's viability is to scope out their ability to raise money.

Laila Abdelaziz, legislative director for the Council on American-Islamic relations and Tampa Bay regional director for the Florida Young Democrats, warns that the focus on fundraising ability is a symptom of "corporatization" of the party, and could discourage prospective candidates from wanting to learn how to win seats.

"This is a pattern that goes on around the state," she said. "We have very brave and very committed people that are filing to run for

"Everyone wants to run for the same seat."

—Susan Smith,
Florida Progressive Democratic Caucus.

state House races, but the party is not helping them, is not supporting them, is not developing them because the party won't think twice about that race unless that candidate can raise \$50,000." Meanwhile, less-polished newcomers, despite potential (with a little grooming), get overlooked when the party should be trying to get them elected to city councils and other lower-level seats to prime them for future races.

"Every single election year there are municipal seats that are vulnerable and open," she said. "You have elections that people don't even file to run in. So there's a lot of low-hanging fruit, there's a lot of leadership development that's

missing from the party as well, I think."

But Townsend said locally, the party has sought to recruit younger activists and acquaint them with the party, and for those interested in running, groom them to run.

"I do believe in that very strongly that it's our responsibility in the leadership to bring the young people up, to guide them, to develop them, to nurture them and to give them leadership opportunities and to start grooming them for office," she said.

The four Democrats who qualified to run for Hillsborough's District 6 commission seat by the June 24 filing deadline are a diverse bunch: former Plant City Mayor John Dicks, longtime activist Pat Kemp, former County Commissioner Thomas Scott and lawyer/transit advocate Brian Willis.

Dicks is running, he said, because he wants to help guide the county's decisions on growth and infrastructure. Also, he said, he thinks he can win, and, perhaps unlike some Democrats, thinks he can do so beyond Tampa city limits.

"We took a good, hard look at the numbers, and Hillsborough County is trending Democratic," he said. "And being a countywide seat — it's a pretty big county — it looks like it would favor someone who had a broad appeal to the entire county. I think that's where I'll be successful."

Kemp, meanwhile, came very close to winning in 2014 against GOP incumbent Al Higginbotham — she lost by half a percentage point despite being outspent four to one for another countywide seat. She thinks she'd do even better in November when, again, Democrats are supposed to turn out more heavily.

"That tells me the county is changing, because I did not change my message," said Kemp, a progressive.

Scott said he waited out the 2014 election and wasn't expecting a challenge.

"My plan was to get in in 2016 since I couldn't get them to change their minds. So once everyone, I guess, heard I was running, the folks jumped in," he said. "That's neither here nor there; this is America. You have the right to run."

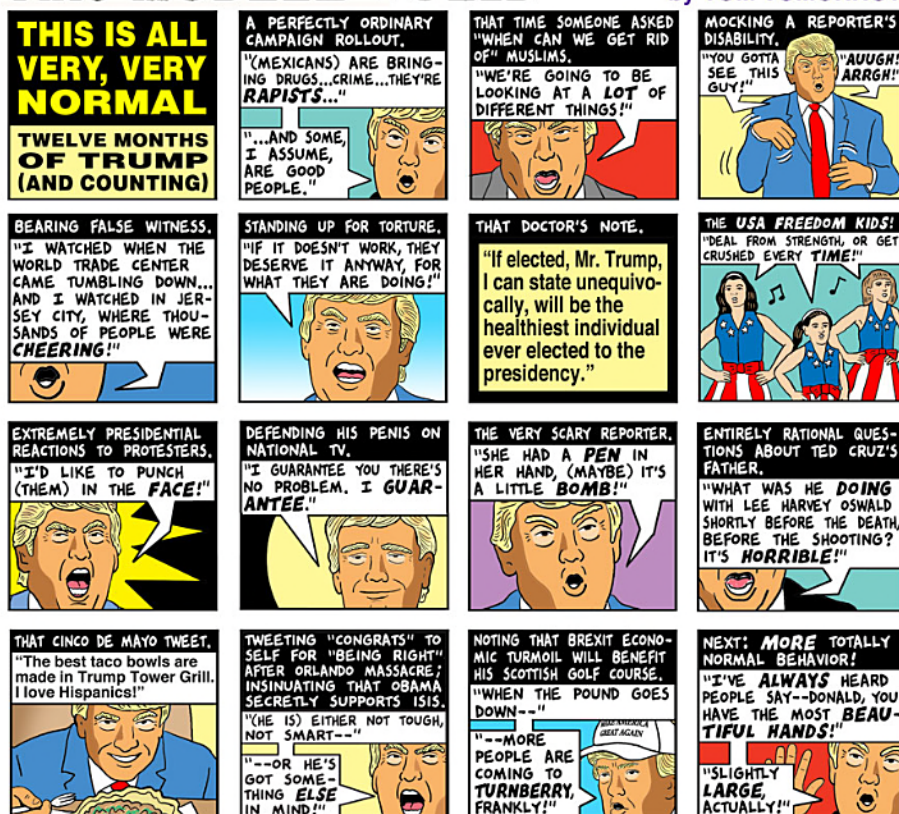
Willis, who was the first to officially run, said he doesn't want to run for any other seat — that he wants to tackle transit and other issues head-on at the county level.

"There's just a lot of hunger out there for some new leadership and some new perspective on the county commission," he said. "People are excited about some of the things that are happening in the community, but they see these generational challenges like transportation that have gone unresolved year after year."

CL reached out to the Florida Democratic Party for comment, but did not hear back by deadline. ☹️

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW





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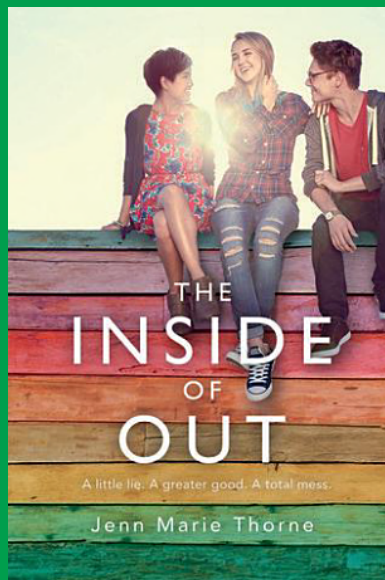
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Rebirth on the river

Ambitious plans for the Hillsborough's west bank.

By Linda Saul-Sena

What do the Thames, Seine, Tiber and Hillsborough rivers have in common? Strollable riverbanks in the urban core. While some of these walkways date back centuries, Tampa is just getting around to making the most of its riverfront. The nearly completed Riverwalk on the east side of the Hillsborough has grown into a popular destination in only a few years, and now it looks like it will have a counterpart: the West River Trail.

TRANSFORMING TAMPA BAY

That's the so-far unofficial name of a 1.5-mile path that's part of Mayor Bob Buckhorn's ambitious plan to enhance and activate public land on the west bank, hoping that the changes will woo private dollars to build housing and retail in this previously underinvested area.

At the Tampa Downtown Partnership Annual Meeting last week, the mayor introduced this transformative vision for the connected walk/pedestrian way. Less uniform and polished than the Riverwalk on the river's east side, the trail will be at least 10 feet wide, with a natural edge and no rails, just a sloping shoreline, like Cotanchobee Park near the History Center.

Beginning at Bayshore Boulevard, at the Columbus statue and moving under the Platt Street Bridge, the walkway will meander past the tiny Tony Jannus Park, under the Brorein Bridge, pass the soon-to-be-replaced-with-condos *Tampa Tribune* site, under the Kennedy Bridge and alongside Plant Park, next to the University of Tampa.

Moving under the Cass Street Bridge, Tampa Prep's portion will feature a softened shoreline with native vegetation, great for students studying

the river's ecosystem. Headmaster Kevin Plummer cites "a great partnership between the Southwest Florida Management District (SWTMD) and the school resulting in the shoreline project."

In the 1960s, homes, businesses and the field where University of Tampa football games were played were all torn down to build the interstate, using the excuse of slum demolition. The waterfront was rebuilt and a 23-acre park was created. Richard Dattner, a nationally respected landscape architect, designed a modernist adventure playground acclaimed by the Cultural Landscape Foundation for "the pleasing simplicity" of its "biomorphic landforms."

The design is now considered "dated" by the mayor, so Julian B. Lane Park, on Tampa Prep's north flank, will undergo a \$35.5 million face-lift, with \$15 million coming from the BP Oil Settlement. Plans include a boathouse and docks for the rowers, running and jogging paths, new tennis, basketball and sand volleyball courts, a performance pavilion and green spaces for concerts, a multi-use regulation-sized field for football, lacrosse and soccer and new play areas, including a splash pad, for kids. Whew!

The West River Trail then winds behind Blake High School, under the North Boulevard Bridge, past Young Middle School onward to Columbus Drive and Rick's on the River, improving the restaurant's current design flaw of placing its parking lot adjacent to the water.

Currently, 80 percent of the property in the area called West River is publicly owned, by either

the Tampa Housing Authority (THA), the school board, the city or the county. In an extraordinary display of cooperation, they are working together to implement a master plan developed with public input.

West River is bounded by North Boulevard to the east, Rome Avenue to the west, the interstate to the south and most importantly, the Hillsborough River to the north. All the plans focus on the river, and new connections for walkers, bicyclists and cars are central to the plan. Leroy Moore, THA's COO, calls for "land uses which embrace the river."

Is this heady vision of townhouses and mid-rises facing the river, with new retail and parks, a good idea? Well, North Boulevard homes, Tampa's oldest public housing, has already been demolished and the residents scattered.

Many folks who'd lived in North Boulevard homes want to move to the new mixed-price apartments when they're completed, and they've been promised that an equal number of units will await their return. Using the Encore development just north of Tampa's downtown as a template, the THA is seeking partners to invest in this very ambitious redevelopment plan.

The renderings of the proposed buildings and public spaces are typically attractive and certainly an improvement physically over the earlier apartments. Attention to quality design and construction will be key, and the retention of the graceful oak canopy will help soften the newness of this area.

Whether a development costs billions or millions, the key to its success is livability. Do people like the vibe? Is it shady? Does it feel comfortable to walk with your child or dog? Can you walk to ice cream?

If the West River redevelopment can create this sense of place, of rootedness and serenity, then it will be a miraculous transformation. It's up to all of us to support this effort with an eye to careful design, human scale and beauty. **21**



GO, WEST! An illustrative rendering depicting a segment of the proposed West River Trail looking south.

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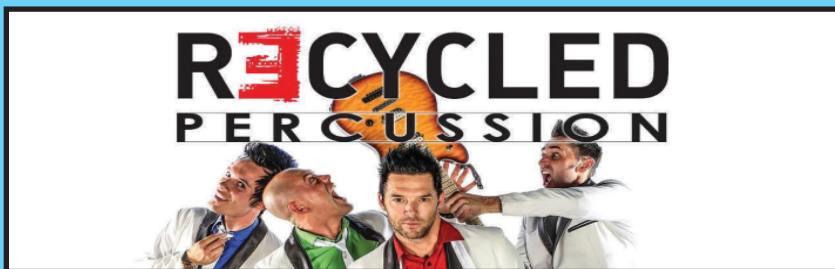
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SOUND AND FURY: The author and his dog just don't get it.

Not having a blast

Fireworks: Not fit for man nor beast.

By Scott Harrell

Bentley hates fireworks.

Yeah, I know a lot of dogs don't like fireworks — they don't exactly send our other two into orgasmic seizures of joy, either — but a lot of dogs don't fling themselves up at a window three feet above them and lock their jaws on the blinds, snarling, back legs scrabbling as they try to force their way through the window to find the fireworks, to masticate the fireworks, to destroy the fireworks.

Bentley fucking *hates* fireworks.

And Bentley doesn't care about the reasons why most reasonable people hate fireworks. He doesn't care about little kids' fingers (try to swab his eye with medicine, and you'll find out how much Bentley cares about

LIFE AS WE BLOW IT

phalangeal integrity), or atmospheric pollution, or the irony implicit in commemorating wars won through the loss of countless lives by symbolically recreating their mayhem in miniature. Bentley just hates, hates, hates the noise, the sudden application of unwelcome and wholly unnecessary bombast upon his hyperacute senses. He's a rogue rescue who looked a bit like Rob Zombie's "Gandalf The Homeless Gray" phase when somebody found him living at large, an amoral, streetwise Nino Brown-level criminal genius, and he's seen some things — basically, fireworks trigger the canine version of a latent-PTSD freakout in him.

So we sedate him early on holidays like the Fourth, and try to keep the other dogs out of lunging range, and hope for the best.

If I hadn't hated fireworks before Bentley, I'd hate them now.

Honestly, though, I've disliked fireworks for most of my life. As a young, only mildly deranged kid (all male kids are deranged to some degree),

fireworks were an excellent way to gauge which other deranged kids were going to be my good friends, based on compatible levels of derangement. Kids that set off fireworks unattended by adults: my edgiest allies. Kids that blew shit up with fireworks: avoid unless suicidally bored or jonesing to experiment with smoking cigarettes. Kids that shot bottle rockets directly at myself and other only mildly deranged kids: flee like hell and allow starring roles in murderous revenge fantasies.

I developed a healthy fear of all ignitables that was eventually (just barely) overcome by curiosity: Why did other people get such a rush from them? I hid my trepidation at a few porch parties, holding lighter to fuse before stepping behind the nearest fellow reveler/human shield and waiting, wincing, to ultimately be disappointed by the whole thing.

Discovering no thrill only deepened my irritation at having to listen to them at all.

And now Bentley is here, yowling and flying around the room at the slightest muffled pop and generally reinforcing my conclusions: that fireworks suck, and what's more, kids who set off fireworks days before and/or days after any "firework holiday" are not just deranged, but actively evil as well.

(There isn't a word to describe individuals over the age of 15 who set off fireworks days before and/or days after any "firework holiday," because those individuals defy consideration.)

So I sedate myself early on holidays like the Fourth, and loudly curse the culture, and vehemently suggest that bad things befall the neighbors' children.

And blame the fact that I'm not having a good time squarely on the goddamn psychotic dog. **3!**



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NICOLE ABBETT

Tasty surprise

Mexican delights abound at Marina Cantina, Frank Chivas's latest concept.

By Jon Palmer Claridge

Frank Chivas and the Baystar Restaurant Group are on a roll.

In May, when I described Salt Cracker Fish Camp as looking like a “giant, sleek, white-and-silver three-tiered rectangular wedding cake” rising “majestically from the asphalt at the Clearwater Beach Marina,” I didn’t realize that the sweet spot on top was Marina Cantina. And that the additional space on the north side of the “cake” will soon become their artisanal pizza joint.

Up the stairs is a wonderful outdoor area. There are torches, lanterns and multiple fire pits with the marina to the south. The third level is destined to become a great bar scene facing the gulf. Although there’s not too much beach visible, there are 30 or so tequilas and inventive margaritas, plus a wide range of cocktails, beer and wine to assure you’re well-lubricated while watching Apollo’s fiery chariot descend below the horizon.

Sunset, of course, is when the show begins. I’m always amazed when tourists leave before the thrilling colors of the afterglow light the sky. Now you’ve got a great place to linger with the adult beverage that makes your heart sing. Perhaps red sangria? MC’s recipe is a winner, elevating dry red wine with dashes of brandy, fresh citrus

and pineapple juice, as well as black raspberry liqueur for a complex and refreshing drink.

Complimentary chips and salsa make a bold statement. The crisp corn chips pop with adobo spices and chunky salsa packs big-time heat; it also rocks ample bits of fiery jalapeño. Proceed with care, especially if you’ve got a “too darn hot” palate.

The guacamole has huge chunks of fresh avocado, no tomatoes, and just enough white onion, cilantro, jalapeño and fresh lime in perfect balance to make it interesting. It’s a tasty beginning along with the bubbling queso fundido. The wide, flat ramekin of warm, mild and creamy asadero cheese is dotted with spicy chorizo sausage and topped with overlapping swirls of roasted poblano chile and cilantro pesto sauces. They both match well with the toothsome chips.

Our entrees are also full of surprise. Lamb doesn’t immediately jump to mind when you think of Mexican cuisine. But our three double-cut chops are delicious with a touch of sweet, spicy, dark mole. The white sweet potato mash

is satisfying, and the “Aztec corn” turns out to be wonderful, unexpected baby maize tempura on a stick. I’m knocked off-kilter; this seems more fine dining than beach fare. But there it is before me — as I watch the marina’s assorted birds and the faux pirate ship pass by.

The restaurant’s trio of grouper tacos is sensational. Nuggets of grouper are blackened, but not so much as to overwhelm the fish. They’re layered in soft flour tortillas on top of crunchy jicama slaw

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Marina Cantina

★ ★ ★ ★

25 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater Beach. Appetizers: \$5-\$16; entrees: \$14-\$23; desserts: \$5.50; wines by the glass: \$6-\$12. 727-443-1750; baystarrestaurantgroup.com.

with creamy jalapeño salsa, then finished with a generous helping of thin, revelatory and crispy zucchini straws. This quickly jumps to the do-not-miss category.

Also terrific is the carnitas. Juicy, slow-cooked pork is

shredded and served with salsa verde, alongside a crunchy red onion and radish escabeche. The pickled accent balances the fat in the meat as you load it into a warm tortilla or just enjoy it with the scrumptious rice, which features bits of tangy green olive and pimento. It’s another unanticipated treat.

My table is all smiles as we chow down on two beautifully executed sides. Topped with a snaking drizzle of thick cream and queso fresco, sweet sliced plantains are oven-roasted with rum butter. It’s delightful, as is the grilled street corn. Its husk is pulled back to expose the bright yellow

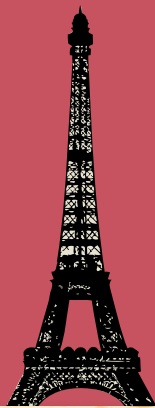
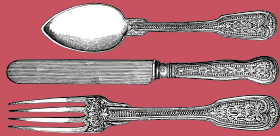
ear brushed with chipotle crema and sprinkled with chile powder, cotija cheese and a few grinds of black pepper. Each cob may arrive whole or cut into pieces for sharing. In any case, it’s another reminder of the importance of corn to Mexican gastronomy — and really yummy to eat.

The kitchen also makes a statement with desserts. As I promised last week, the tres leches cake is the polar opposite of Chakana SoHo’s; the one you prefer totally depends on personal preference. MC floats the cake in a bowl of “three milks” sauce and garnishes with toasted coconut and crunchy pepitas (roasted pumpkin seeds) that add plenty of texture. I’m trying to make up my mind as I watch my companions empty the bowl like starving buzzards. It’s really an individual question of your own sauce fetish.

Possibly the biggest surprise of the night is the arresting chocolate-on-chocolate cake with piped avocado mousse and mole. At first, the avocado with chocolate strikes me as a repulsive combination. But after our lovely meal, I should be more trusting. The avocado mousse has a sweet cream cheese base that’s absolutely wonderful with the rounds of moist chocolate cake. The mole sauce wisely only hints at spice, and the result is transporting. In one bite, I go from doubting Thomas to devoted disciple. It’s a dish I won’t soon forget.

Now, I can’t wait to check out the pizza that’s promised soon. My peek in the window reveals a Lamborghini of an oven that bodes well for another trip west to view Apollo’s chariot from the top tier of the house that Frank built. 🍕

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Missing link

Inside Escape Root Juicery, everything has a story — including you.

By Meaghan Habuda

A new cold-pressed juicery headed for Dunedin is bringing wanderlust back.

Building up their Green Elephant Juice Bar through the Westchase Sunday Morning Market and private clients for a couple years, serial travelers Alexandra and Maria Chaar — who've driven as far as the Orlando area to meet up with customers requesting delivery — decided to find their storefront on a whim. They needed something different.

"It's time to open a store," Alexandra recalls telling her older sister.

Less than 48 hours later, a 1,200-square-foot former antique shop not far from the heart of downtown was theirs.

But to grow the business, **DRINK NEWS**

they had to go all in with a fresh identity. So, with trips throughout Europe, Africa, South America and the Caribbean under their belts, the twosome went with a nod to their globe-trotting tendencies: Escape Root Juicery.

The Chaars see their vision at 769 Main St. as more than a juice bar. It's a way to "escape to the good life" — and away from the ordinary.

Coffee, smoothies, raw snacks, acai bowls and kombucha on tap, plus popular juices like The Big Green (spinach, apple and way more) and The Islander (coconut water, fresh citrus and ginger), will be served to start. A few months after an opening at the beginning of August, the juicery will start offering veggies, fruit and hummus on its raw foods-driven menu.

To normalize healthier choices and incorporate them into more daily routines, Escape will accept takeaway or call-ahead orders. But those who choose to stay awhile can lounge in everything

from a peacock chair to bar stools to mismatched chairs. Spanish tile and photos from the the duo's previous trips will also reflect the spacious juice bar's around-the-world theme.

"It's gonna make you feel different," Maria says. "All those things that get you on a feel-good level, that's what we want to encompass when you're here. We want this place to feel like your good day."

Everything will have a story, the sisters say, including the patrons. They're eager to collaborate with the community on their juice bar, whether that means evolving the cold-pressed selection or putting a customer's travel mementos on display.

Maria and Alexandra plan to showcase their travel photos on a wall in the bathroom, and once the neighborhood gets to know Escape, they hope others will bring their own to add. Community trips to somewhere like Lake Tahoe could take place down the line, too.

"There's nothing more exciting than to have our business grow with other people," Alexandra says.

While their juicery is the first of its kind for Dunedin, the Chaars knew they wanted a storefront there. And Escape's location on the main commute route, rather than downtown, doesn't bother them, either. Their delivery truck is on hiatus, but they're still close enough to downtown to make deliveries nearby.



"You're seeing more cafes and more stuff [opening outside of downtown], and Dunedin is exploding," Maria says. "I think [Escape is] the missing link. It's going to complement everything that's already here." ☺



SISTER, SISTER: Escape's co-founding sisters Maria and Alexandra Chaar.

MEAGHAN HABUDA

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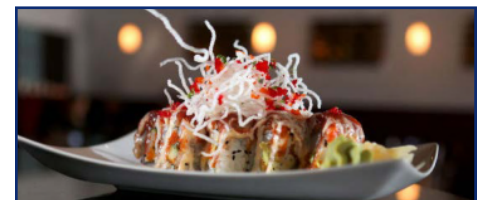
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JOE FOODIE VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

YOUNG AT HEART: Vinho Verde refers to a style of wine meant to be enjoyed young.

A grape by any other name

Take a dip into the realm of albariño wines this summer.

By Jon Palmer Claridge

With the feasts, bonfires, picnics, songs and dances of the solstice behind us, it's time for summer wine. I still love rosé for picnics and bubbles for sunset, but there's a refreshing grape from the Iberian peninsula that deserves your attention.

In northwestern Spain, the lightness and zippiness of albariño wine (with heady aromas of peach and honeysuckle) make it perfect for the heat of summer. Albariño also has an underlying seashell minerality, which makes it a great match with shellfish and other seafood, reinforcing the axiom that "what grows together goes together." The misty region of Galicia is home to Rías Baixas (REE-ass BY-shass) which acquired official status as a "Denominación de Origen" (DO) in 1988. Designated wines are your guarantee of varietal character and, in most cases, are symbols of quality.

Since you're probably most familiar with California wines, let's use them as a corollary. Jug or box wines may simply list a grape and the state of origin; a better one will identify a specific region, like Napa or Sonoma, and qualify to be listed as an AVA (American Viticultural Area) with specific distinguishable features, or what the French call terroir. So, for example, in Italy, look for certification in three categories of decreasing strictness — DOCG, DOC and IGT — and AOC or AOP in France. Your wine merchant will guide you. Finding and tasting with a retailer you trust will help expand your wine horizons and understand your palate. This is a lifelong pursuit of knowledge; don't allow yourself to be overwhelmed.

Let's return to drinking in Iberia. Tucked just below the Galicia region as you cross the Minho river into Portugal, the albariño grape becomes "alvarinho" and produces a wine known as Vinho Verde (green wine) that often blends with some other local varietals. The name doesn't reflect the color, but instead refers to a style of wine, different from Spain, meant to be drunk young.

Traditionally, Vinho Verde is bottled right after fermentation, undergoing a second (malolactic) fermentation in the bottle to produce CO₂ that dissolves in the wine. While the cork doesn't pop, there's a slight pétillance, a refreshing prickle on the palate that's ideal in the heat. You may have encountered Italian wines that are frizzante (e.g. red Lambrusco), which has the same delightful crackle.

Vinho Verde is a simple, inexpensive way to celebrate summer with clams, lobster, crabs or shrimp. Some producers add a bit of sweetness to counter the searing tartness for New World palates. More typically, though, the wines are dry and low in alcohol (~9 percent) with rapier-like acidity. They're also pale in color and delicately perfumed, featuring fresh flavors of green apples, mint and a light, spicy nuttiness.

Albariño hasn't made huge inroads in the New World. However, there are American producers in California, Oregon and Washington experimenting. Whether you call it albariño or alvarinho, the wine is worth exploring on your quest for the perfect summer libation. ☞

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Florida man writes book

Craig Pittman's *Oh, Florida!* celebrates both what's weird and what's wondrous about the Sunshine State.

By Cathy Salustri

Florida, man. “@_FloridaMan blocked me for a while, but recently unblocked me, and I don’t really know why either event occurred. It’s one of Florida’s many mysteries, like why mullet jump,” Craig Pittman says. “I’m convinced it’s due to fish flatulence, by the way. The mullet, that is. Not the Twitter blocking.”

BOOKS

Oh, Florida! Publication Party

Sun., July 3, 2 p.m. Oxford Exchange, 420 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa. 813-253-0222. oxfordexchange.com.

Mullet flatulence aside, Pittman’s experience with Florida Man speaks to the condition of, well, the Florida man. And woman. Only in Florida would the self-proclaimed “Florida Man” block the state’s preeminent environmental reporter. Pittman, who works for the *Tampa Bay Times*, is the force behind exposing the King’s Ranch scandal, a bear hunt chronicler, and now a voice for Florida’s more unusual stories. That last item resulted in the aforementioned @_FloridaMan blockage, which makes you wonder: How obnoxious does one have to be to get blocked by the Twitter incarnation of Bizarre Florida?

“Early on I was a follower,” said Pittman in one of several conversations via email. “But I noticed a lot of what he was posting was old news — stuff from at least two years before — and so I pointed it out on Twitter, addressing him but getting no response. Then my colleague Ben Montgomery did a short piece about that Twitter account’s growing popularity, and [Montgomery] noted in it that the photo used was not a Florida Man at all, but rather an Indiana Man, so I tweeted that too. Not long after that I discovered I’d been blocked by both @_FloridaMan and his counterpart, @_FloridaWoman. I notice they’ve both slowed down posting stuff, and usually what they post is stuff that I (and others) have already put up.”

Apparently, @_FloridaMan couldn’t handle the truth. (CL reached out to @_FloridaMan via Twitter, but hadn’t received a response at press time.)

Of course, in Florida, truth needs no help from fiction.

Case in point: Pittman’s new book (on shelves July 5), *Oh, Florida! How America’s Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country*, which takes a

leisurely 300-page journey through Florida history to explore not only the absurdity of the Sunshine State, but to make the case that as Florida goes, so goes the country.

Skeptical? Read the book. America can thank us for Billy Graham (he started his career preaching at alligators in the Tampa Bay area), the computer (the inventor? A Floridian) and open public records laws. Of course, America can also thank us for Donald Trump, Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush.

Yeah, sorry about that, America.

We have some wacky stuff happening down here and even if you argue that it happens because the people doing the wacky stuff hail from Up North, you can’t disagree with the frequency with which Florida news items make people shake their heads.

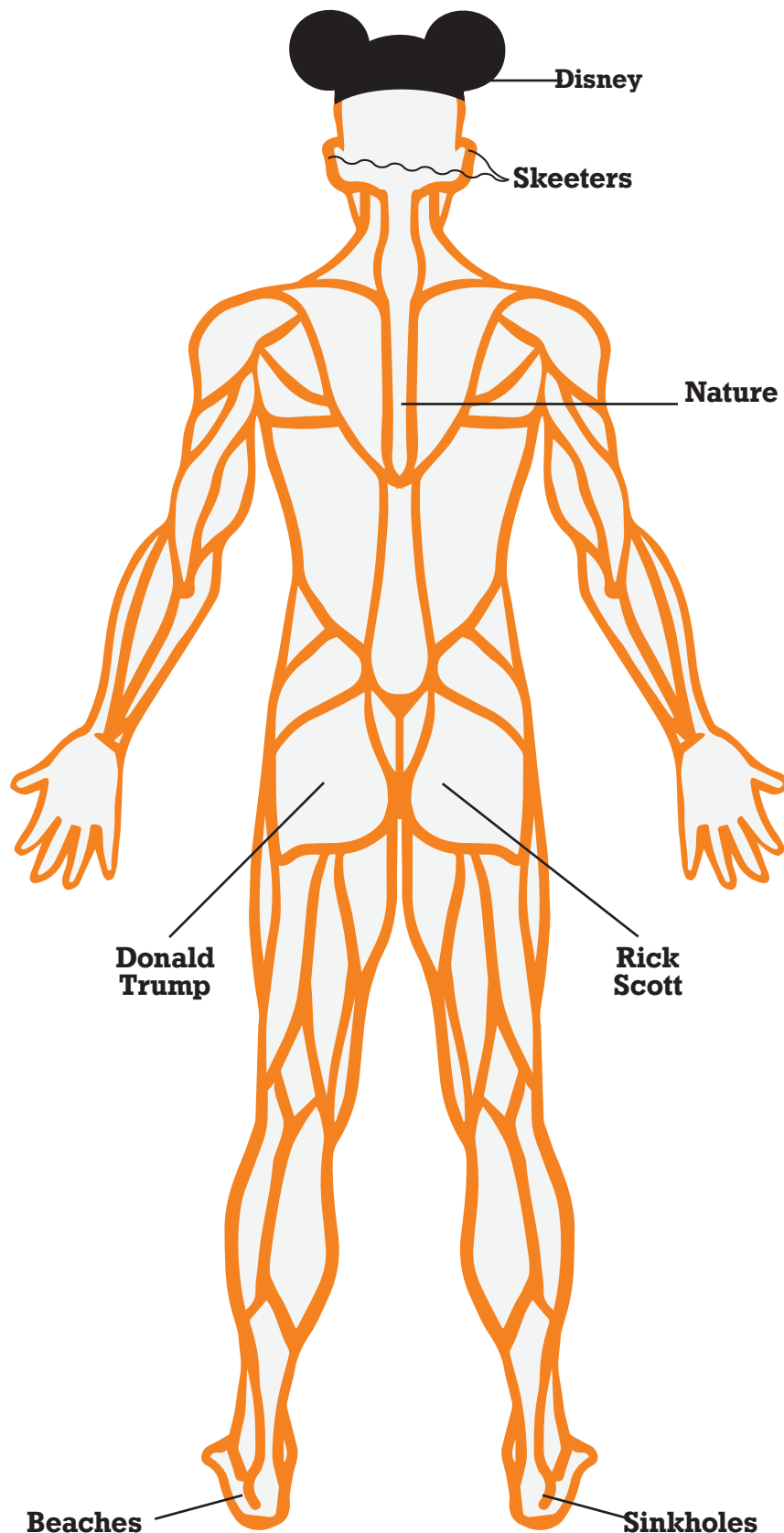
“People who see the news coming out of Florida are astounded at what they read,” Pittman says. “The commentary usually carries a tone of ‘Holy cow! Can you believe this?’”

But Pittman’s book is much more than just a collection of strange Florida news items; throughout, his respect for the state leads the narrative. He admits — freely and repeatedly — that Florida has a statistically unusual percentage of odd-ball stories, but he also points out — freely and repeatedly — that Florida’s history has shaped the history of America, from civil rights to strip-pers, from tourism to mobsters.

Florida, man... go big or go home, that’s our motto.

That respect sets apart Pittman’s compendium of Florida stories from Reddit posts, derisive Thrillist articles and the often-not-so-true @_FloridaMan tweets.

“I’ve been collecting these stories for years and years, dating back to when I was a kid in Pensacola,” Pittman says. “As I mention in the acknowledgments, though, I really got serious about it when a *Times* reporter named Tom Zucco recruited me to help him wrangle anecdotes for an annual feature called the Sour Orange Awards. The Sour Oranges were created by him and Tom French. They were modeled on *Esquire*’s Dubious Achievement Awards but focused on wacky Florida stories. The Sour Orange Awards faded out a



JULIJO RAMOS

HOMO FLORIDIENS:
On the cover and above, an anatomy of Florida, the Man and the State, as conceived by CL staff.

FLORIDA PITTMAN: “I always tell new Floridians: Park in the shade, don’t mistake the cone of uncertainty for the actual storm path and lick your fingers before removing a sand spur.”

few years ago, but then Twitter came along and I started posting them there.”

Pittman, a 55-year-old native, put those stories into *Oh, Florida!* St. Martin’s bought the book, perhaps itself a sign of Florida’s influence. A search for “Florida nonfiction” on Goodreads yields a colorful assortment of books — most of which were published by the University Press of Florida. UPF published Pittman’s first three books, but *Oh, Florida!* will find a larger audience with a larger publisher.

“St. Martin’s editors realized what people in Florida already know: We’re a hot property in an election year, the swingiest of swing states,” Pittman says. It helps, too, that *Oh, Florida!* reinforces the notion of the state as bellwether with historic examples — like the fact that Florida paved the way for casinos in states without legalized gambling.

“The Florida stories I love best are the ones that keep going and keep getting stranger and stranger. For instance, take the Seminole Tribe. A 1920s report said that gambling was unknown to them, and yet they’re the ones who opened the door for all the Native American tribes to open casinos, and they’ve made so much money off of it that they bought control of the Hard Rock chain, and their chairman is a guy who used to wrestle

alligators. Where but Florida would you find a story like that?” he asks.

Rather than derision, Pittman focuses on what he calls the “astonishment” people feel when they hear yet another peculiar story about Florida.

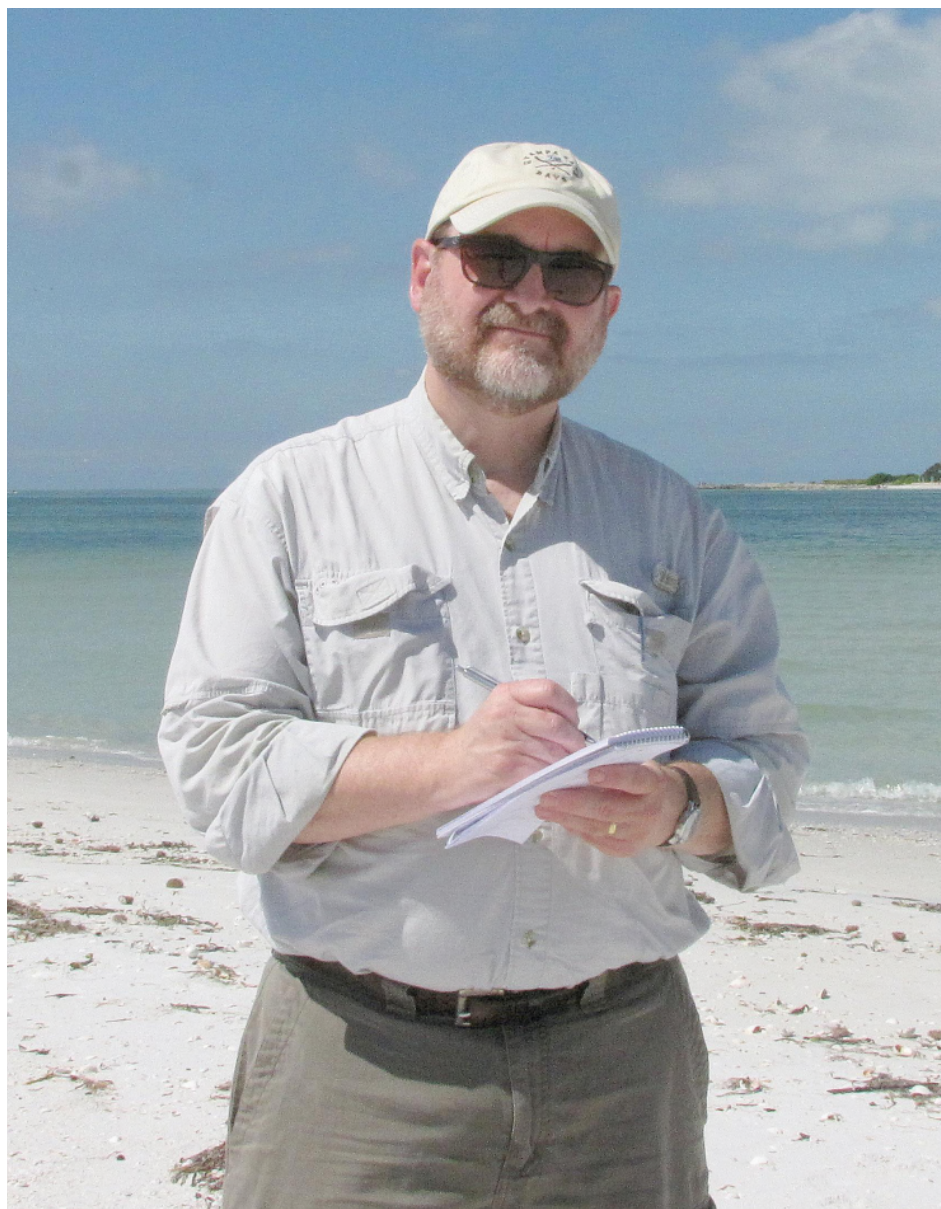
“Florida is the most interesting state in the Union, partly because of the wacky stuff that happens here, partly because of the amazing stuff that happens here,” he says. “The

point I make in my last chapter is that people should realize there’s a lot more to Florida than the craziness. There’s plenty that’s cool, too — our state parks, the fact that the guy who invented the computer grew up here, that kind of thing.”

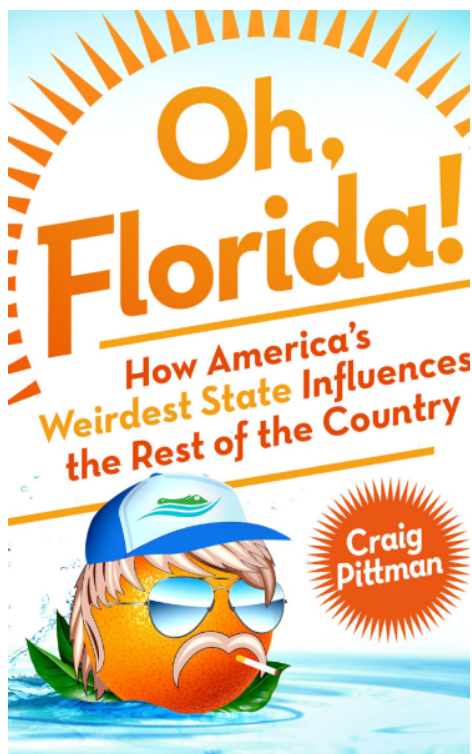
Pittman, like most of us who love our much-maligned state, understands why people want to live here, and he understands that, statistically, some of them will keep making those Florida Man headlines.

“My hope for Florida is that it continues being crazy and unpredictable but also begins to appreciate its own wild and woolly history more, and what makes it stand out from all the other states,” he says. “But you can’t separate the craziness from the coolness. The conditions that create one are necessary to create the other.” 🐊

“We’re a hot property in an election year, the swingiest of swing states.”



COURTESY CRAIG PITTMAN



Sex and the Sunshine State

An excerpt from Craig Pittman’s *Oh, Florida!*

In Florida, sex is money. Our tourism industry has been using sex as a weapon since Carl Fisher lined up bathing beauties on Miami Beach for photos to send the Northern papers. Across the state, St. Petersburg’s publicity agent invented a Purity League to “complain” to the mayor about all the scantily clad women at the beach in the winter. The Northern papers ate it up. “Protect Our Husbands from the Wiles of the ‘Sea Vamps’” read a *Pittsburgh Press* headline above a story with lots of pictures of “vamps.”

“The human form is divine,” the mayor, a bachelor, declared, “and judging from some of the bathers I have seen, a divinity shaped their ends for they are certainly well shaped.”

It’s not difficult to draw a direct line from those 1920s sales gimmicks to modern-day Panama City Beach hotels enticing spring breakers by promising the “world’s largest &

longest keg party, Wet T-shirt Contest, and Wet Jockey Short Contest.”

Florida tourism ads of the 1980s featured a flirtatious blond lifeguard who purred, “The rules are different here.” The implication was that there were no rules at all, that Florida is the place to fulfill your wildest desires and never fear the consequences.

Alas, consequences do occur. Just ask the guy visiting Orlando on his honeymoon who got busted trying to hire a prostitute who was an undercover cop. Or the couple, ages sixty-eight and forty-nine, who were caught having sex in the middle of a town square at the Villages. Or the Philadelphia weatherman vacationing in

Miami whose bid for a threesome with two Latvian women he met in a bar led to him being lured into a swanky nightclub where he was drugged and ran up a charge of \$48,000 on his American Express card. This eventually led to the indictment of seventeen people connected to the Russian mob. The nightclub owner got twelve years in prison, while the mobster who organized the racket got only

three because he agreed to testify for the government. As for the weatherman, he lost his job.

Even people who aren’t looking for a kinky time can be ensnared in Florida’s sex games. The prime example: the New Jersey woman who

in 2013 sued a posh South Beach hotel. She said a gang of ten high-priced prostitutes had assaulted her in the lobby. They took one look at her and figured she was a competitor hornoring in on their turf. However that case turns out, I hope the Jersey lady will get a makeover. 🐊

Even people who aren’t looking for a kinky time can be ensnared in Florida’s sex games.



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See The Light

The Light in the Piazza shines at freeFall.

By Cathy Salustri

With its latest musical, *The Light in the Piazza*, freeFall sends a message to every other local theater company: You're going to have to up your game. After Saturday night's performance, I more firmly than ever believe that everyone who enjoys theater should buy season tickets to freeFall. Now,

freeFall describes this show as "deeply romantic," and while I don't agree with that description — *The Light in the Piazza* tells the story of a mother's selfless love, or *agape*, and not *eros*, or romantic love — everything about this show was a joy.

Adapted by Adam Guettel and Craig Lucas from a 1960 novel by Elizabeth Spencer that was also made into a film, *Light* focuses on Margaret (Melissa Minyard) and her daughter, Clara (Kelly Pekar), on vacation in Florence, Italy. There, Clara meets handsome, impulsive Fabrizio Naccarelli (Nick Lerew), and the two, fancying themselves in love, pledge to marry. For reasons you'll have to see the show to learn, Clara's parents do not want her to marry.

Although *Light* is not an opera — not even close — Guettel's Tony-winning score employs some of the genre's conventions. Fabrizio and his family sing to each other in Italian (and often speak it as

well); it is to the singers' credit that we don't need to know the meaning of the words to know the intent. Some of these numbers, including "*Il Mondo Era Vuoto*," convey the strongest emotion in the show.

THEATER

The Light in the Piazza

★★★★ 1/2

\$33-\$48. Through July 17. Wed.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; and Sat.-Sun., 2 p.m. freeFall Theatre Company, 6099 Central Ave., St. Pete. 727-498-5205. freefalltheatre.com.

The context, the vocal quality (well done, Mr. Lerew) and the richness of the score make us feel and understand; translations or English would be extraneous. The masterful collaboration between director Eric Davis and musical director Michael


Raabe evidences itself most strongly in the ensemble musical numbers.

Although the entire cast makes this an emotionally involving experience and an overall pleasure, Minyard and Stephan James Jones (who plays Fabrizio's father) deserve praise for exceptional performances. Margaret and Signor Naccarelli walk a tricky line between parenting and being adults in their own right, plagued by their own demons even as they struggle to navigate the best future for their respective children. Not many actors in the area could have conveyed the multi-dimensionality of these characters as seamlessly as Minyard and Jones do, particularly in the subtle negotiations of Act Two's "Let's Walk."

Nick Lerew demonstrated incredible depth — if you saw him in freeFall's *Mr. Burns*, you'll

appreciate his fluidity as an actor. Both he and Pekar are members of freeFall's resident company; while I don't want to see them in every freeFall show, à la Showboat Dinner Theater of the '80s, their versatility shows the advantages of a residency program. Joshua Romero as the statue (don't ask which one he's supposed to be; assume he plays all the statues in Florence, and at least one in Rome) drives this production beyond lovely night out to something transcendent. The statue conceit is Davis's brainchild, something the original production did not include. A tangible incarnation of the story's spirit — the notion of falling in love so rapidly, the romance of Italy — the statue is, in many ways, the light in the piazza.

freeFall has the gift of an unconventional space, which means the set can take any form. This one, designed by Charles Murdock Lucas, seems simple but must have taken a bit of planning to orchestrate, because the actors — chiefly, the statue — move the set pieces in an elaborate choreography that sometimes resembles a ballet. Also, the "marbled" floor exemplifies the attention to detail we so often see at this venue.

A word of warning: Don't go to this show expecting a light romantic musical. I mean, absolutely, go to this show, but not because you expect a love story à la, say, *Guys and Dolls*. Yes, at its core, *The Light in the Piazza* is a love story — not a believable one, though that's not freeFall's fault — but it's not the story of the love you think it is: It's about a mother's love, about finding a balance between loving and letting go and about how to love the way someone needs you to love when it isn't the way you want to love. 

STEVEN LE THE PHOTO NINJA



SMOTHER'S LOVE: Melissa Minyard and Kelly Pekar (Margaret and Clara) demonstrate the balance between loving and letting go.

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Driving for pie

Literary pedigree aside, Cross Creek is the place to go for sour orange pie.

By Cathy Salustri

A crucial part of any road trip? Road food. I don't mean string cheese and Doritos. (Don't judge me; it's not like I eat them at the same time. *Usually.*) I mean regional dishes. You can't swing a dead cat in Florida without hitting someone claiming they have the world's best key lime pie. Usually they don't (that honor goes to the Key Lime Products store at MM 95.2 in Key Largo), so much so that I'm rarely inclined to order it.

As much as I love local food, I don't typically take a road trip only to find a certain meal — with one exception: Cross Creek and its sour orange pie.

Never heard of sour orange pie? Odds are you aren't the only one.

Sour oranges, also called Seville oranges, hail most recently from — appropriately enough — Seville, Spain. They arrived via a convoluted route that began in southeast Asia, continued through Arabia, then into Sicily and, finally, to Seville. That was in the 12th century. Today, the popular notion of the Florida orange has more to do with the juicy Valencias used in orange juice, the seedless navels you can eat without picking out seeds, or the sweet honeybells available for a narrow window every year. However, for 500 years, the bitter Seville orange was the only orange in Europe. It was also the first orange to make it to America.

The sour orange looks like a lemon on steroids. The uninitiated will often insist you are, in fact, holding a lemon. You'll know you're not because the juice is not quite as sour as a lemon, the fruit is huge, and, oh yes, it's *orange*. Even if you think you haven't tasted sour oranges, you have. Sour orange juice features prominently in mojo pork. In our home, the sour orange also finds its way into sour orange margaritas, a delightful concoction of tequila, Tupelo honey from north Florida, brown sugar from south Florida, and the juice of several sour oranges.

If you want sour oranges in Florida, you have to drive. The closest place that grows them, The Citrus Place in Terra Ceia, doesn't let you stroll onto their groves, and they only have a smattering of these trees, so they don't sell the oranges. If you call and sweet-talk the owner, he might be persuaded to send his son into the groves to gather a few for you. Near Disney, Lake Louisa State Park has a few wild trees by the cabins, although not enough for much of a pie. Down south, several wild trees remain on a privately held tract of land near Fisheating Creek, near what historians believe

are abandoned Seminole settlements. Aside from the whole “private property” thing, trespassing isn't easy — we needed a swamp buggy.

ROAD TRIP

The Yearling Restaurant

14531 East County Road 325, Hawthorne. 352-466-3999, yearlingrestaurant.net.

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park

18700 S. CR 325, Cross Creek. 352-466-3672, floridastateparks.org.

Finding sour oranges, then, becomes an adventure in itself. Once you get home, making the pie also has its challenges. The lesser-known sour orange pie puts key lime pie to shame. That is, of course, when the pie is well-made.

Rare enough are these precious sour orbs that every time I fail at making a pie, I want to cry. And so I content myself with tasting it in restaurants, but the only one that does it right requires quite a drive — all the way to Cross Creek, just outside Gainesville. The world knows Cross Creek because writer Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings made it famous in her book by the same name; she also set *The Yearling* in the same sort of Florida environment.

If you loved *The Yearling*, congratulations.

I hated it. The deer dies, y'all. It's a *horrible* story. But I do love *Cross Creek*, Rawlings's stories about life on the Florida frontier. If you read our feature in this issue about Craig Pittman's *Oh, Florida!*, you'll know the book contains Florida stories, albeit of a less “aw, shucks” variety than Rawlings's. Nevertheless, she, too, tells Florida stories — about wrapping a brilliantly colored coral snake around her wrist because she didn't know the snake's incredibly deadly powers, about parties and run-ins with her colorful neighbors, about the poverty and beauty of her neighbors.

In true Florida fashion, one Cross Creek resident — a woman Rawlings considered a close friend — sued the author for invasion of privacy, over the way Rawlings depicted her in *Cross Creek*. The courts found in favor of her — and awarded her one dollar.

How very Florida.

Rawlings's book about Florida food and entertaining — *Cross Creek Cookery*, sort of a frontierswoman's *Martha Stewart Living* — doesn't contain a recipe for sour orange pie (although you can find the proper way to cook Florida black bear as well as gopher tortoise),

but the restaurant on the creek, The Yearling, serves one of the two best in the state (I ate the other at Southern Charm, not so far away, which leads me to believe the sour oranges here have magic things).

The Yearling's dining room looks like a set out of Rawlings's life — and is much more enjoyable than seeing her actual house as part of a state-guided tour, largely because you can

dine on fork-tender venison, juicy duck breast, Florida catfish, and other Florida-themed dishes. This is Florida country food, not unlike the food Miss Marjorie prepared when she lived just down the road. Drizzled with chocolate, the sour orange

pie makes the perfect end to a meal at this storied restaurant. So long as you've come all this way, you may as well pop over to Rawlings's estate, now a historic state park, and wander through the remaining groves, the garden and past her old yellow Oldsmobile. The estate offers insight into a culture unheard of in the populated Tampa Bay area.

That pie, though... that's the reason to make the trip. The venison and catfish and park? They are, so to speak, gravy. **🍷**

CATHY SALUSTRI



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Music of the Grateful Dead
- 17 - *A New Generation of Jazz*
- 22 - Ward Smith & Friends,
w/ Amanda Jordan,
Jerry Outlaw & The
HubbTones, Lou Angelwolf,
Comedy/Rock

- 23 - Lauren Mitchell:
Unplugged and Plugged,
Blues
- 24 - The Florida Bjokestra,
Music of Bjork & Kate Bush
with Whitney James
- 29 - Pure Zeppelin Experience,
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- 30 - Cece Teneal: *Aretha,*
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Do you need to get the word out about a cool event? Send info at least 10 days before the issue date to events@creativeloafing.com. Include event name, date, time, venue, street address, admission price and a brief description (no all-caps, exclamation points (!) or advertising-speak, please). To read about events not listed here, see Do This on p. 6 and visit cltampa.com/arts.

Fourth of July

all events July 4 unless noted

\$5 History at the Tampa Bay History Center

If you look at all these day-long street parties on the Fourth and think, "Do these people not realize it's July in Florida? Are they joking with this noon bullshit?", you may find the cool comfort of the Tampa Bay History Center appealing. One, they have costumed military re-enactors strolling about; two, they only want \$5 for admission (not an insignificant discount off their regular prices); and three, it's air-conditioned. Did we mention the Channelside views from the Columbia bar? \$5. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tampa Bay History Center, 801 Old Water St., Tampa. 813-228-0097. tampabayhistorycenter.org.

A Night of Fireworks, Reggae-Style

Ya, mon. Jamaican food, reggae music, bottle service and fireworks. Kick back and ramp up the night with a party that starts right before the fireworks and lasts well into the night. Poison Dart Sound with DJ Kirky C along with Madd Squad Sound with Froggy; Early Vybz set by Night Hawk Sound with DJ Speedy. \$10-\$15. 9 p.m. Jerk Hut, 513 N. Franklin St., Tampa. 727-735-8021. Event on Facebook.

Celebrate America in Kenneth City

It's all about family in Kenneth City! Look, any city can have a street fair with food and crafts and a kids' area (and most do), but in Kenneth City the street fair includes a rock wall, bungee jumps and hula hoop contests. While the street fair doesn't cost anything, some of the activities do. July 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. James Ernst Park, 4600 58th St. N., Kenneth City. 727-498-8948. Event on Facebook.

Chill n' Grill Independence Day Adoption Event

The Cat Depot — who doesn't love that name? — will grill hot dogs (we see what they did there), drinks and a prize wheel to lure you in to their cornucopia of cats available for adoption. Cats, unlike dogs, always never need you too much, which apparently is part of their passive-aggressive charm. If you've long considered bringing a ball of haughty love into your life, this could be



Let freedom ring at Gaspar's Grotto on the Fourth.

your lucky weekend. July 2 & 3. Hot dogs available from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; cats available both days 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Cat Depot, 2542 17th St., Sarasota. 941-366-2404. catdepot.org.

Clearwater Celebrates America

Clearwater's beloved annual celebration returns on the Fourth, this year with live music from Aubrey Wollett (4 p.m.), The Ries Brothers (5:30 p.m.) and Coachman Park Pops Orchestra featuring the Wilsons (7:30 p.m.). The city shuffles its homeless out of sight for the day so other locals can celebrate what it truly means to be American. Coachman Park explodes into a family-friendly festival of kids' activities, music and food, ending with a fireworks show sponsored by Clearwater Gas. The show's title? You're gonna love this: Spark the Sky. 4-9:30 p.m. Coachman Park, 301 Drew St., Clearwater. myclearwater.com.

Fireworks Celebration Cruise at the Florida Aquarium

Watch the fireworks from the Florida Aquarium's 72-foot catamaran. The evening includes hors d'oeuvres, one free drink ticket, access to the Florida Aquarium exhibits and a cash bar on the boat. \$69. 7:30 p.m. 701 Channelside Dr., Tampa. 813-273-4000. flaquarium.org.

Fourth of July at the MFA Aside from boasting an incredible collection of art and a yummy cafe, the MFA has something else going for it when it comes to the Fourth fireworks: location! If you can grab a spot here, you'll have an excellent view. Want a front-row seat to the fun? Head here and celebrate with a buffet, music courtesy of the Hummingbirds and admission to the museum. \$46. 6:30 p.m. 255 Beach Dr. N.E., St. Pete. 727-896-2667. mfastpete.org.

Fourth of July Celebration in Largo

Fourth of July feats of strength like watermelon seed-spitting and pie-eating contests let you prove your Fourth-worthiness to your closest friends. The party also includes a T-shirt decorating event and inflatable activities, which sound intriguing. It goes without saying (and yet we're saying it anyway) the celebration also comes with all the regular trappings (food, entertainment, fireworks... you know the drill). 6 p.m., Largo Central Park, 101 Central Park Dr., Largo. largo.com.

Fourth of July Picnic

While Rusty Trumpet plays songs infused with national pride, Tarpon Springs is offering free hot dogs and drinks, a water slide, paddleboarding and inflatable lawn games (again, we're intrigued). 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Craig Park, 5 Beekman Ln., Tarpon Springs. 727-942-5628. Event on Facebook.

Gaspar's Grotto Let freedom ring during this Ybor City pirate-themed spot's holiday fundraising celebration. Each time guests make a donation to Shriners Hospitals for Children, they'll get to chime the Grotto's new half-ton bell, which Gaspar's hopes will be recognized by the Guinness World Records as the World's Largest Tip Bell. July 1, noon-close. 1805 E. Seventh Ave., Tampa, 813-248-5900.

Gulfport's 4th of July Celebration

Gulfport, more than any other town in the tri-county area, specializes in vintage

hometown shtick. An all-day street party, a parade with a trolley and boat carrying the town's Mullet Kings — think fish, not hairstyles — and fireworks at dark only tell part of the story. A fishing derby, sand castle contest, live music and more food and drink than you can possibly imagine, all stuffed into one day. The city has remote parking with transportation to the street party. Dog friendly except for beach activities; expect a crowd. 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Historic Gulfport Waterfront District, 3129 Beach Blvd. S., Gulfport. 727-322-5217. Event on Facebook.

Stars & Stripes Boat Parade

Ever notice most boat parades take place around the holidays, when it's often less than pleasant to be on the boat? The Tarpon Turtle Grill & Marina has the right idea with its inaugural Fourth of July parade. Prizes for the best boat and also the best costume (we're assuming people, because it's really hard to get a boat into costume). July 2, 6 p.m. 1513 Lake Tarpon Ave., Tarpon Springs. Event on Facebook.

Tampa Red White & Blue Festival

Stock up early on Fourth of July merriment at Channelside with Miss National Patriot 2016, Ann Poonkasem. The late afternoon/early evening Sunday event includes kite flying and an igloo dog race. There's more to the event, but they had us at "igloo dog race" because, well, it's July. In Tampa. Should be fun to watch. July 3, 5-10 p.m. Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park, 601 Old Water St., Tampa. 813-447-8538. jazzinulytampa.com.

Opening & Limited Run

Tribes in Transition Dana Gluckstein's black and white photographs of imperiled indigenous tribes speak to the interdependence of all people. As society pushes forward, these cultures face greater challenges; Gluckstein's work shows the frailty of these people in the face of a new world. Opening reception with artist talk, July 8, 6-8 p.m. Through Sept. 25. \$5. Dunedin Fine Art Center, Entel Family Gallery, 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin. 727-298-DFAC. dfac.org.



Tribes in Transition at the Dunedin Fine Art Center.

Welcome to Night Vale

Picture WMNF meets H.P. Lovecraft... on acid. For one night at the Tampa Theater, you get that experience live. The *New York Times* likens *Welcome to Night Vale* to "what might occur if Stephen King or David Lynch was a guest producer at your local public radio station." Yeah, like David Lynch could ever compete with these guys. All hail the glow cloud! \$31-\$40. July 7, 8 p.m. Tampa Theatre, 711 N. Franklin St., Tampa. 813-274-8981. tampatheatre.org. Read *Cathy Salustri's interview with co-creator Jeffrey Craner at cltampa.com/arts*.

Think pink

If you didn't get to see John Hughes's teen masterpiece *Pretty in Pink* in theaters as a teenager, now's your chance to see it on the silver screen. Not familiar with the story? Why the hell not? John Hughes gives us classic '80s movie fodder: lower-middle-class girl (Molly Ringwald) pines after upper class guy named Blane (Andrew McCarthy), who is the sort of character you expect when the screenwriter names him Blane. Because typical teen angst alone doesn't make for an '80s masterpiece, Hughes made sure to include the uber-sympathetic character Ducky (Jon Cryer) who is, of course, madly in love with Andie. Throw in a prom, a single dad and a dress, and you have middle-aged-ish women like me sighing and saying, "Yeah, they just don't make movies like this anymore." \$10. July 3, 3 p.m. Tampa Theatre, 711 N. Franklin St. 813-274-8286. tampatheatre.com. — *Cathy Salustri*



Theater

The Iceman Cometh Final Days

Set in a tavern and flophouse in New York City's then-grubby Greenwich Village in 1912, *The Iceman Cometh* studies a collection of broken, lost men and women, and the salesman who arrives with a perverse pitch to save each of them from themselves. It's a story of hope and regret, of how the lies people tell themselves can both sustain and destroy them. \$20. Thurs.-Sun., 7 p.m. Through July 3. Blackbox Theatre 120, USF-Tampa College of Visual and Performing Arts, Tampa. 813-783-5465. tamparep.org.

The Light in the Piazza

We can't give freeFall enough Best of the Bay awards (apparently) and with good reason: This company's found a sweet spot when it comes to what audiences like. Each show appeals to many, while every show offers something that appeals just a touch more to some; *The Light in the Piazza* appeals to musical theater fans, but more than that, it appeals to anyone who's ever had a mother or been a mother. \$33-\$50. Through July 17. 6099 Central Ave., St. Pete. 727-498-5205. freefalltheatre.com. Read *Cathy Salustri's review, p. 27*.

Rocket Science Final Days

Astronauts never hit hard times, right? After all, they're *astronauts*, which guarantees them an endless supply of amazing job offers and hot women, right? Right? What if that isn't how it works? This play goes another way: An astronaut prepped for space, not the teaching job where he lands after drifting a while. Lab Theater Project's *Rocket Science* tells the story of how he handles two students who've shared an awful experience

and don't know what to do next. \$15. Through July 3; Thurs.-Sun., 8 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 2 p.m. Silver Meteor Gallery, 2213 E. 6th Ave., Ybor City. 813-238-1756.

Museums

Florida Museum of Photographic Arts

New Visions: An Examination of Landscapes from Disparate Points of View: Two local artists, Amy Martz and Maria Bevilacqua, have two disparate ways of seeing things. *New Visions* juxtaposes their works so you can see the world they way each of these two photographers see it. Through July 26. \$10. 400 N. Ashley Dr., Cube 200, Tampa. 813-221-2222. fmopa.org.

Leepa-Rattner Museum

*Youth Gone Wild: The History and Art of Pinball That deaf, dumb and blind kid sure plays a mean pinball... or so goes the song. Why does pinball merit inclusion in our iconic music? Because it's a mixture of dexterity, timing, eye-hand coordination and, yes, let's just say it: awesome. For a time, every TV show worth its salt had a companion pinball game (raise your hand if you remember *Charlie's Angels* pinball). The Leepa-Rattner Museum's partnering with nearby Replay Amusement Museum for a pinball-themed history exhibit. The exhibit reaches back to the prohibition period (1930s-1960s) and also focuses on the arcade era (1970s-1990s). A gallery of machines will allow people to play pinball (through September 18). *Into the Third Dimension: Sculpture from the Collection* Sculptural work from the permanent collection, including modernist works by Henry Moore,*

continued on page 35 →

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→ continued from page 33

Victor Vasarely, Vladimir Yoffe, Abraham Rattner and Esther Gentle to contemporary works by Richard Beckman, Jack King, Charles Parkhill and Lin Emery. Through Sept. 18. \$7,600 E. Klosterman Rd., Tarpon Springs. 727-712-5762. leeparattner.com. *Read Cathy Salustri's review online at cltampa.com/arts.*

Museum of Fine Arts *Beginning at the Cornice, Not the Foundation:* Vanessa Diaz uses sculpture, furniture, curtains and other textiles, and found objects to turn domestic, museum, and gallery interiors into dream-like environments in the MFA's first-ever site-specific installation (through July 20). *Harold Edgerton: What the Eye Can't See:* An exhibit of 25 of Harold "Doc" Edgerton's photographs, ranging from the unusual gelatin silver prints from as early as 1932 to colorful dye transfer photographs. The high-speed stroboscopic short film about Edgerton, *Quicker'n a Wink*, will also play in the gallery. Robin O'Dell, Manager of Photographic Collections, curated this exhibit (through July 31). \$17,255 Beach Dr. N.E., St. Pete. 727-896-2667. fine-arts.org.

St. Petersburg Museum of History *Cuba, The Natural Beauty – A Photography Exhibit* Florida photographer Clyde Butcher takes his lens 90 miles south of Cayo Hueso to reveal how he sees Cuba. Think of Butcher as Florida's answer to Ansel Adams, if Adams had the gumption to wade past gators to get the perfect shot. The exhibit also includes work from two Cuban artists, Los Carpinteros and Ibrahim Miranda, and photos of Cuba taken by locals. (through September 30). \$12,335 Second Ave. N.E., St. Pete. 727-894-1052. spmoh.org. *Read Cathy Salustri's feature online at cltampa.com/arts.*

Tampa Museum of Art *Peter Max: 50 Years of Cosmic Dreaming* The museum celebrates a 20th-century pop culture icon with 90 works spanning 50 years. Max's use of bold colors and uplifting images captured and inspired the public imagination starting in the early 1960s. His art is like American Express: He's everywhere you want to be, including the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, a stage at Woodstock, the Winter Olympics and the NYC Marathon. Through September 11. Tampa Museum of Art, 120 Gasparilla Plaza, Tampa. 813-274-8130. tampamuseum.org.

USFCAM *Amplified: Reverberations from The Music Box* USF says this exhibit delves into the "history, collaborative process, and impact of New Orleans Airlift's musical architecture project *The Music Box*, including the recent installation in Sulphur Springs, through video documentation, instrumental elements, performance videos, ephemera and new work by local artists inspired by the project." We say you kind of have to experience it to understand it. Through July 23. 3821 USF Holly Dr., Tampa. 813-974-4133. graphicstudio.usf.edu.

Gallery Shows

Golden Legacy: Original Art from 65 Years of Golden Books The Tampa Bay History Center has 60 pieces of original artwork from Golden Books, culled from the Random House archives. Yes, the *Poky Little Puppy* is among them, as is *I Can Fly* and *Home For a Bunny*. Little Golden Books had rich art; artists included many Europeans who fled Europe in the early '40s (Little Golden Books started in 1942). Through August 14. Tampa Bay History Center, 801 Old Water St., Tampa. 813-228-0097. tampabayhistorycenter.org. *Read Cathy Salustri's review at cltampa.com/arts.*

The Loudest Line: Imaginary Boundaries Ya La'Ford plays with lines and shapes. This painter and muralist, based jointly in St. Pete and New York, has her first solo Tampa exhibit at the TECO Gallery. The exhibit features the artist's signature geometric stylings. Through July 20. TECO Public Art Gallery, 702 N. Franklin St., Tampa. yalaford.com.

Film

Dalí & Beyond Film Series: James and the Giant Peach Well, if you're going to see a movie about a kid who lives inside a giant peach, odds are, you're going to see it at The Dalí July 2, 1 p.m. The Dalí Museum, 1 Dalí Blvd., St. Pete., 727-823-3767. thedali.org.

Jaws The classic beach movie about a misunderstood shark. What if he wasn't trying to terrorize the town?

We all scream for ice cream



USF St. Petersburg has a big chunk of my money and, in all probability, they may have something to do with your close, personal relationship with a lady named Sallie. No way will you recoup all that interest by eating a few bowls of ice cream, but hey, *ice cream*. For free, so long as you qualify as "USFSP alumni, students, staff, faculty, community partners" which, I think, means everyone within striking distance of this paper, right? To celebrate 50 years of educating those of us scared to cross the bridge for an education — or those of us who simply loved the campus and the programs — USFSP has a free (well, less than 6.25%) **Ice Cream Social** planned, complete with over 50 toppings. Now, no word on how many flavors, but when you can top your ice cream with crushed Oreos (we hope!), does it matter? *June 30, 2 p.m. University Student Center at USF St. Petersburg, 140 USFSP Harborwalk S., St. Pete. 727-873-5180. Event on Facebook. — Cathy Salustri*

What if he only wanted to warn them about sea level rise? Sure, you scoff, but 41 years later, look at what's taking place on waterfronts around the world. That shark — nicknamed Bruce — was a prophet. And, like most prophets, man killed him. July 2, sunset. 10 Pier 60 Dr., Clearwater Beach. sunsetstapier60.com.

Words

Critical Drinking: A Wordier Than Thou Book Club Read *Let the Lover Be*, by local author and inspiration to the rest of us writers, Sheree Greer, then come to Wine Madonna (the only wine bar in the area owned by the also-inspirational, nationally-known writer, Kris Radish) to discuss it. Wordier welcomes everyone, even those who maybe didn't finish the book or didn't read it but want to check out a book club. Tamara Lush moderates. July 7, 7 p.m. Wine Madonna, 111 2nd Ave. N.E. #102, St. Pete. Event on Facebook.

continued on page 37 →

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Raise a glass

Downtown Dunedin's 7venth Sun Brewery is gearing up to honor a late, well-liked member of the Florida craft beer community during an upcoming fundraiser. MIA Beer Company co-founder Piero Rodriguez was killed in a car accident June 20, and proceeds from the 7venth Sun-hosted benefit, titled "**Piero Rodriguez — Let's raise some money and raise a few pints.**" will be donated to the Rodriguez family via a GoFundMe campaign, which has already received nearly \$40,000. Three MIA brews (Rodriguez's own creations and favorites) — Mega Mix (a West Coast-style tropical pale ale), El Cuco (a session white ale) and Regresa A Mi (a Berliner Weisse) — will be showcased in addition to raffle prizes that include a handful of collaboration beers and 7venth Sun swag. Winners, who must claim their hauls within two weeks of the announcement, will be revealed in the tasting room the day of, as well as on the brewery's Facebook. *Money for beer. June 30, 5 p.m. 1012 Broadway, Dunedin. 727-733-3013. Event on Facebook. —Meaghan Habuda*

→ continued from page 35

Festivals, Markets & Events

Deuces Live Sunday Market A Midtown market with food and drink, fresh produce, baked goods, seafood and meat, along with art vendors and live entertainment. Rain or shine. July 3, 1-6 p.m. Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum, 2240 Ninth Ave. S., St. Pete. 727-323-1104. woodsonmuseum.org.

Gulfport Fresh Market Open year-round with various foodstuffs, plants and art. Plan on parking at the library or along Shore Boulevard; this popular midweek market consumers Gulfport's small downtown area. Restaurants like Little Tommies Tiki and Yummy's stay open during the market, which makes for a cool break in the summer sun. Some favorite offerings include honey from local beehives (fun fact: Bees can't handle pesticides, so you could make the case that all honey is organic), more flavors of handcrafted fudge than one family needs and, because it's Gulfport, no shortage of

pet treats and flea treatments. A produce vendor sells fruits and vegetables although, as with any Florida market, ask if the produce comes from a local farm and if it's organic; never assume. July 5, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Beach Blvd. (south of 28th Ave. S.), Gulfport. gulfportma.com.

St. Pete Indie Market Sick of markets with mass-produced crap? This market curates its offerings and calls itself a "makers market" which implies the sellers there have made what they sell, a nice guarantee. The maker's market includes a pop-up bar, courtesy of The Bends (who promise summery cocktails), and a food court type of arrangement with Urban. Also, they've moved it all inside the Morean Center for Clay. July 2, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Morean Center for Clay, 420 22nd St. S., St. Pete. stpeteindiemarket.com.

Sunsets at Pier 60 Key West's Mallory Square has nothing on Clearwater's Pier 60, but Key West has something Clearwater doesn't: boatloads of cruise ships. Who'd have thought Clearwater Beach would be the "low key" alternative? Also, it's closer. Every night at sunset the pier fills with buskers, artists and crafters peddling their wares. Look, we know you probably don't want to buy anything here, but the atmosphere's fun and you could probably use an excuse to watch the sun go down. 4:30-10:30 p.m. Pier 60, 10 Pier Dr., Clearwater. 727-449-1036. sunsetsatpier60.com.

Ybor Saturday Market Besides local produce and foods, this market has some eclectic finds with an array of handmade jewelry, art, photography, candles and soaps. Lots of original and unique finds that make great gifts, historical statues and local flavor. Please don't approach the roosters. July 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Centennial Park, 1800 E. Eighth Ave., Tampa. ybormarket.com.

Outside & Walking Tours

Boyd Hill Wildflower Walk Grab your binoculars — or borrow a pair and take advantage of a guided tour through the preserve. This hike, led by a birder, starts early enough that you won't collapse under the sun and also early enough that you'll likely see some nifty birds. The preserve has sapsuckers, raptors, shorebirds and songbirds —to name a few. They may or may not even have a dodo in there somewhere; it's a pretty big preserve, so you never know... Bring water, a hat and a camera — if you have a telephoto lens, bring it. July 2, 8 a.m. Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, 1101 Country Club Way S., St. Pete. 727-893-7326. stpeteparksrec.org.

Downtown Park Cart An array of recreational activities including kick balls, Frisbees, games, Hula Hoops and blankets to borrow. June 30-July 1, 4 p.m.; July 2, 2 p.m.; July 3, 12 p.m. Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, 600 N. Ashley Dr., Tampa. 813-731-4508.

Safety Harbor Food & Art Tour Spend a few hours sampling local eats, exploring the Safety Harbor arts scene and learning about what makes downtown Safety Harbor special. Advance purchase required. \$50. July 2, 1:15 p.m. John Wilson Park, 401 Main St., Safety Harbor. 727-458-1778.

Safety Harbor History Tour Stroll through this small bay side town and learn its history. Who discovered the (allegedly) healing springs? Which pirate lost a treasure in Tampa Bay? See buildings from the turn of the last century, hear stories of Odet Phillipe and learn how grapefruit was discovered. Dog-friendly. \$15. June 30-July 1, 10 a.m. John Wilson Park, 401 Main St., Safety Harbor. 727-687-8785. safetyharbortours.com.

Weedon Island Guided Hikes and Kayak Tours Row through quiet, pristine waterways or learn about the coastal environment and the early residents of the preserve during a guided hike. Bring water, a snack, a hat and closed-toed shoes. Register online by July 2; paddle July 3, 9 a.m. 1500 Weedon Island Dr., St. Pete. 727-453-6500. pinellascountyextension.org.

Weedon Walkabout Hike through coastal mangrove and upland ecosystems of the preserve and learn about the coastal environment and the early residents of Weedon Island Preserve. You'll want to bring a hat (sunburn), closed-toe shoes (muddy things) and water (Florida summer). Please register in advance for the walk. June 30, 9-11 a.m. Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center, 1800 Weedon Dr. N.E., St. Pete. 727-453-6500.

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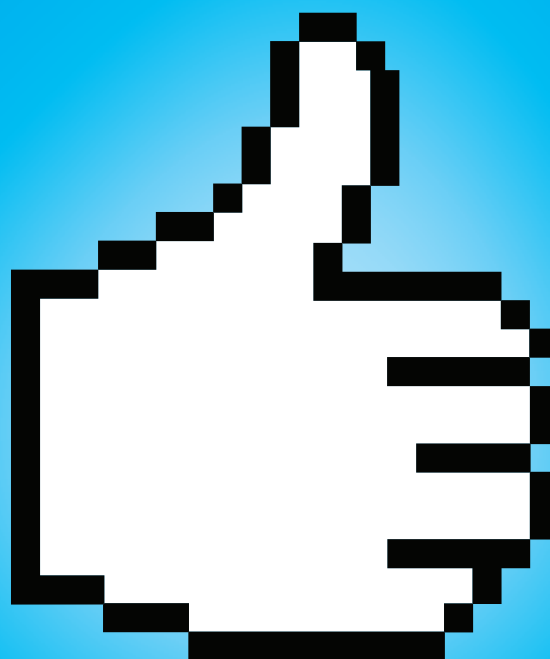
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MUSIC

REVIEWS PROFILES MUSIC WEEK

The rise of Ries

These Tampa Bay siblings are on the road to breaking out.

By Leilani Polk

Editor's Note: In our upcoming Music Issue, we'll be spotlighting local artists poised to break out of the local scene, and are featuring a different local artist here each week leading up to it, with the rest revealed when the issue hits stands July 14. This week, we look at a band of youthful brothers who've come a long way in a short time.

Since forming in Tampa Bay four years ago, The Ries Brothers (pronounced "Rees") have toured with Butch Trucks and Chicago; warmed the stage for others, like David Cook, Los Lonely Boys and Edgar Winter; sold out three headlining shows in four months at Ruth Eckerd Hall's Murray Theatre; and are booking some East Coast dates to play on their way up to New Jersey's Rock The Farm Music Festival this August.

The band has two members, Charlie and Kevin, and they are 20 and 17 years old.

Sibling rivalry isn't an issue. The brothers' easygoing relationship, shared ambition, complementary skills and natural chemistry make it work, and living in the same house means they can practice whenever they want. All these factors fueled their decision to remain a duo when they debuted in 2012. "We were trying to put together a band, but schedules with other musicians didn't line up and it was hard to find someone as motivated as us," Charlie explained. "We really wanted to go for this."

Both have been playing music since they were in the single digits. Currently, Charlie juggles drums and bass-keys simultaneously, his self-taught technique inspired by his hero, Doors keysman Ray Manzarek; he sings lead, too, and his vocals have an enchanting, R&B-velvety quality. Kevin lays down searing guitar licks, riffs and rhythmic texture and provides fine backing harmonies, and he's also added ukulele, bass, keys and percussion to his arsenal. "We're similar but we're different enough in personality and in musical style and taste, that we have a healthy friction," Charlie said.

Their sound is rooted in rock 'n' roll, mature songwriting chops reflected in two EPs and a live album of original material that includes tracks like the slinky, scorching "Voodoo," which has that indie blues/garage appeal of Black Keys but with spacious guitar passages and upbeat vibes. "Typical Day" incorporates acoustic guitar textures amid reggae-hued grooves and beats, while "Love So

Real" is a buoyant acoustic-rock love song.

The novelty of two teen brothers playing rock and Top 40 covers is likely what drew people to see the duo in the beginning, but their talent and passion and have spurred a growing fanbase (15.5k Facebook likes and counting). Their parents have also played a big role in their success. Kevin and Jenifer Ries not only supplied the gear and a big black conversion van to cart it all around, but also provided an encouraging environment for their sons' creativity, and manage their musical careers with sharp business savvy and marketing acumen.

Their first significant gig was Clearwater Jazz Holiday in 2013 ("Coming off that stage was a big moment," said Charlie), and that cemented their relationship with its host, Ruth Eckerd Hall. "They've been crucial in giving us big-stage experience, and that really prepared us for the Chicago tour and everything we've done since."

Relentless gigging didn't hurt. In fact, they played as many as five times a month at Pinellas beach bars like their homebase, Crabby Bill's, where they had their first break in 2014 when a fan brought along a friend who happened to be an employee of Chicago. "She ended up liking us and sent some of our stuff off to Chicago management, they ended up liking us and offered us one show as a tryout," Charlie explained. That was in Orlando at Hard Rock Live's CityWalk, and an invitation to play Atlanta followed. On the way home from that gig, Charlie said, "We were stopped at a Chili's in the middle of Georgia, and we got a text that they wanted us for the rest of their Southeast tour."

The Ries Brothers were allotted a 20-minute opening set each night, and said everyone from the Chicago camp was extremely accommodating, especially trombone player Jimmy Pankow. "He'd stop by and check out what we were doing, at least part of our set, pretty much every stop," Charlie said. Others offered words of wisdom about the road that amounted to one underlying theme: touring can be grueling, but if you love playing, don't stop. "It's not like them just telling us not to

stop, it's them going on stage, so we could actually see it in action."

The highlight for both was the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville. "That was mind-blowing," Kevin gushed. "Its history and all the legends that have played there... getting to be backstage and then be on the stage there, was such an eye-opening moment for us, like, 'Wow, this is real.'"

After their second Chicago tour in April 2015, they set out to build on their momentum. "We didn't want to go back to the beach bars, we wanted to take the next step." Ruth Eckerd had just finished renovating its Murray Theatre and at 150 seats, it seemed like the perfect upgrade. They nailed down a date that August and sold it out, as well as two dates that followed in September and November.

The Ries Brothers now have a publicist, are seeking a booking agent, and just finished recording a new track in LA with Grammy-winning producer Carlos Battey (Justin Bieber, Madonna) that could be fuel enough to ignite a full-blown headlining tour. For the time being, they gear up for a busy weekend of hometown fireworks and rock-outs. **🔥**

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BROTHERS IN CHARMS: Kevin and Charlie Ries.

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THURS 30

☑ **Steely Dan w/Steve Winwood** My love of Steely Dan came in at a slow burn. Admittedly, I was the opposite of a fan to start. My ex's ardor didn't change how I felt, exactly, but over a dozen years of regularly hearing the band's mix of soft rock and prog-jazz on albums like *Aja*, *Gaucha* and *Countdown to Ecstasy* sparked a like, but my appreciation for the band's intricate jazz-influenced arrangements and harmonies, especially the horns and back-up vocals, the fluid keyboard melodies and funkier grooves, and the impeccable production qualities eventually turned it to love. Original leaders Walter Becker and Donald Fagan bring the Dan to the amphitheater with Steve Winwood in tow. Perhaps you know him from his '80s-era AC rock ("Back in the High Life Again," "Roll With It," "While You See a Chance," "Valerie"), but he has multi-instrumental jazz rock chops he flexed in Traffic, Blind Faith and Spencer Davis Group prior to his easy feeling hits. (MidFlorida Credit Union Amphitheatre, Tampa)

☑ **Transcendental Telecom w/Draem Girl/Dawns** Their (short) Facebook description reads "Slack indie surfers ride the jazz chord tidal wave," and based on Transcendental Telecom's 2015 *Escape from Shred City* EP, the Orlando-five piece sums it up pretty well; but it's not so much slacking as purposefully lackadaisical, calling on a nice mix of '60s garage pop and '90s alternative influences and shining it up with fine boy-girl vocal harmonies. Draem Girl plays the lo-fi shoegaze-y angle while DAWNS adds brooding power and calculated fuzz to the evening's sounds. (The Bends, St. Petersburg)

☑ **Dunedin Brewery 20th Anniversary Blowout** Dunedin's favorite craft beer haven celebrates two decades of operation with special brews (including a 20th Anniversary Bohemian Pilsner and archived DunBrew beers on tap) paired with four days of live music that's heavy on improvisation and ranges from synth-fueled EDM-influenced livetronica to funk-ed-out rock 'n' roll to progressive jazz-fused grooves: Aqueous and Universal Sigh perform Thursday, Broccoli Samurai and Funk You hit the standing room stage on Friday, Displace, Row Jomah and The Orange Constant lead Saturday's festivities, and The Fritz and Backup Planet close things down on Sunday night. (Dunedin Brewery, Dunedin)

☑ **Czar Takeover Thursdays** There's been all kinds of uproar on Facebook over the recent ejection of Czar from The Ritz Ybor. Seems the Amphitheatre folks took up residence and claimed the coveted Friday-Saturday night time slots that were formerly inhabited by the Czar Nation and Filthy Richard parties. Whether or not Czar will be ushered back in and Amp will return to its original headquarters once the fire clean-up is done remains to be seen; there's rumors of a purchase offer, but for legal reasons, no one on either side is talking officially. While the attorneys battle on, Czar's self-styled "traveling hustlers of culture" have planted roots at The Kennedy, and kick off Takeover Thursdays with all the CZARtenders, CZARbacks, security and even door staff occupying both the ballroom and patio and Filthy producers, DJs and VJs pumping with indie dance, alternative, electro, remixes, EDB, hip-hop and hipster hop, trap, twerk, juke, b'more club, booty and underground dance music. Visuals, video mapping and eye candy included. (The Kennedy, Tampa)

FRI 01

☑ **A GWAN Takeover** Gwan Massive is Tampa Bay's own rather fine hip-hop collective — a loose, rotating lineup of instrumentalists, vocalists and emcees throwing down potent, ass-shaking beats and grooves infused with elements of funk, soul, rock and even a little reggae. This showcase of GWAN talent assembles collective members (and friends) into one spot for solo sets and performances in their "other" groups, including DUBB Tenn (the dub oriented project of TK and Mugdub) and The Rukus (featuring rhyme-slingers KeithElite and Rude with DJ Blenda). Also on the bill: NoNeed, Jinx, Ryan Breakdown McGown, Wally Clark and O.P. SUPA. (New World Brewery, Ybor City)

☑ **Wonky Tonk** Both the pseudonym and alter ego of Kentucky native songstress Jasmine Lorraine Poole, Wonky Tonk combines the vintage twang of classic country and honky-tonk with indie punk attitude and folk troubadour restlessness, her sweetened drawl delivering a balance of poignant waxings and whiskey-soaked heartbreak ("Be weary of those you give your heart/Stayin' in love is much harder than falling apart"; "Cause there's nothing like, that old frontier whiskey/to help me forget, that you're no longer mine") and sharp social commentary ("Cleveland" off 2015 debut full-length *Stuff We Leave Behind* touches on food additives and big business practices). R.I.Y.L: Jenny Lewis, Jessica Lea Mayfield, Lucinda Williams. (Ella's Americana Folk Art Café, Tampa)

☑ **In This Moment w/Hellyeah/Shaman's Harvest/Sunflower Dead** Female-fronted metal bands have been on the rise as the genre has grown more diverse in sound, values, thoughts and fans. And that's awesome. In This Moment leader Maria Brink directed the band's music video for "Sex Metal Barbie," which finds her clad in a naval officer's uniform and pink hat that reads "SEX." The titular character? We think yes, and live shows are just as cool. Remember Mudvayne? I don't either, but that band's vocalist settled in Hellyeah, a metal supergroup that also includes members from Pantera and Nothingface. Shaman's Harvest may sound like a vegan-inspired craft brew conceived by pagans, but alas, it's a metal band from Missouri with some smooth and accessible tunes. Sunflower Dead meets the mandatory nü-metal aesthetic of dreadlocks and goatees; luckily, the California outfit plays some surprisingly catchy tunes, or as catchy as nü-metal gets. (Jannus Live, St. Petersburg) —**Brian Roesler**

☑ **Applebutter Express w/Row Jomah/The Good Bad Kids** The Skipperdome gets the toes tapping and heels kicking with an evening of uke-driven newgrass (Applebutter Express), jammy rocking funk-blues fusion (Row Jomah) and Naples-bred harmony-rich folk-Americana (The Good Bad Kids). (Skipper's Smokehouse, Tampa)



Wonky Tonk

☑ **Stu Hamm** He's developed a rep for his virtuoso bass-playing technique (his pops, slaps and two-handed taps are showcased during a pretty cool arrangement of Vince Guaraldi's "Linus and Lucy"), and for his session work and live sideman duties with another brilliant stringsmith, guitar whiz Joe Satriani, as well as various others; he's also an educator and leading clinician. Hamm also has a solo repertoire that encompasses six LPs touching on blues, jazz fusion and prog-rock; the most recent was 2015's *Book of Lies*. (State Theatre, St. Petersburg)

☑ **Vans Warped Tour** My first Warped Tour was in 2004. My fondest memory involved a woman at a drink cart who, every so often, in the midst of slinging Gatorades to the left and right, would retrieve a huge double-sided dildo from a nearby bucket of ice and spin it overhead. I haven't seen something that unsanitary or as punk rock since. The lineup for this year's 21st annual edition is more diverse than ever, and there's something here for everyone with artists like rapper Wacka Flocka Flame, Warped Tour veterans Atreyu and the current champs of disaffected teenage youth, Sleeping With Sirens. Big-name headliners include Falling In Reverse, Good Charlotte, Less Than Jake and New Found Glory. Expect horribly overpriced water, heat exhaustion, and plenty of weirdness in the best way possible. (Vinoy Park, St. Petersburg) —**BR**

☑ **Official Warped Tour After Party** Operation Coexist — which provides instruments and music lessons to at-risk youth — re-partners with Never Take It Off (the self-empowerment celeb bracelet series founded

continued on page 43 ▶





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Nothing



BEN BARKER

by Simms siblings Juliet and Tommy) to throw the third annual post-Warped throw-down. Sleeping With Sirens hosts, joined by special guest DJ Christian McAlhany (of Anberlin and Acceptance), plus more guest DJ sets from TBA Warped performers, appearances by and hang-sesh opportunities with members of bands currently playing the tour, and a fashion show by Romantic Rock Designs. Ages 18 and up; free guest list entry for clicking “attending” on the FB event page by midnight on Thurs., June 30. (Local 662, St. Petersburg)

Permanent Make-Up Tour Kick-Off Playfully discordant No Wave trio Permanent Make-Up (Chris Nadeau, James Bess and Susan Dickson-Nadeau) are hitting the road to continue hyping up 2015 sophomore LP *Taker*, but also promise a set of all-new songs for this kick-off party, which also features the live debut of noise-fuzz outfit Ethical Trash and Plural Being, from Cape Coral. (Cage Brewing, St. Petersburg)

SAT 02

Nothing w/Wrong/CultureAbuse Nothing might be an indie shoegaze/noise/haze-pop band, but had enough backbone to sever its contract with Collect Records because of its financial ties to pharmaceutical supervillain Martin Shkreli. The group re-signed to Relapse to issue sophomore LP *Tired of Tomorrow*, produced by the legendary Will Yip and released in May to exhaustive (and well-deserved) critical acclaim. Miami-based Wrong offers the perfect foil to Nothing’s disarmingly peaceful sound — hardcore punk aggression with all of the familiar tropes we’ve come to love (or tolerate) over the years. Culture Abuse’s Bandcamp bio reads “we like to party” and it sounds like it — sort of a degenerate version of a bunch of guys who grew up listening to chill rock and ear-shattering punk at the same time. A precarious line to walk, but they definitely pull it off. (Local 662, St. Petersburg) —BR

Slipknot/Marilyn Manson w/Of Mice & Men Slipknot drummer/percussionist Clown (aka Michael Shawn Crahan) once said he keeps a dead bird in a bag and huffs carrion

fumes before starting each show to put him in a proper mindset. Sounds more like something you’d do if you were trying to summon Baphomet, but whatever works, right? We’ve all enjoyed Marilyn Manson’s antics over the years and while he doesn’t wear BDSM thongs on stage anymore, and has been experimenting with a more blues-driven sound, he still tears it up in performance, even engaging and joking around with fans in the crowd. Of Mice & Men has been cultivating a newer sound to set itself apart from its metalcore contemporaries, and with rumors of a new album swirling, expect to see some new tracks on display. (MidFlorida Credit Union Amphitheatre, Tampa) —BR

Rev. Billy C. Wirtz and Ronny Elliott w/Steve Connelly and the Foreign Objects Band Two elder statesmen of wry folk-rooted songwriting who’ve made the Tampa Bay area their primary stomping ground — local guitar-strumming alt-folksman Elliott and Ocala-based keys banger Wirtz — re-convene for a night of humorous serenades, with support from the latest Connelly-fronted roots rock ‘n’ roll project. (Skipper’s Smokehouse, Tampa)

SUN 03

Modern Baseball w/Joyce Manor/Thin Lips The latest album from Modern Baseball, *Holy Ghost*, finds the Philadelphia band stretching beyond the boundaries of emo into experimental realms, the group’s lyrics and subject matter not only thoughtful and affecting but revealing keen societal and political awareness. This rare quality is likely why Modern Baseball fans remain so loyal. Cali tourmates Joyce Manor know how to write a hook, the kind that sinks deep into your grey matter and never lets go; charming and sincere, with deep jangly melodies. Another Philly band, Thin Lips, proves just how diverse that city’s music scene really is, its sound punky with huge melodies and chaotic sing-along anthems, Chrissy Tashjian’s vocals evoking the best sensibilities of early riot grrrl bands. (Orpheum, Ybor City) —BR

Sublime With Rome w/Dirty Heads/Bleeker/Tribal Seeds Some people would call California’s Sublime With Rome a cover

band. There may be an essential degree of truth in that statement, but in this (Brad-free) lineup, the reggae-punk rockers have managed to produce a couple of new tracks that show some wisdom and maturity. A lot of ska-influenced bands seem to come out of Cali, and Dirty Heads is no exception. Bleeker, fka Bleeker Ridge (which is right next to Makeout Point) is a Canadian hard rock band. Don’t believe me? Well, they played on the Jagermeister Tour, that’s pretty hard rock, right? Tribal Seeds is another island-vibing group from Cali, and they may or may not endorse weed. Hint: They totally do. (MidFlorida Credit Union Amphitheatre, Tampa) —BR

Hot Dog Party 10: A Decade of Delicatessen w/Roadkill Ghost Choir/SAMURAI SHOTGUN/Wolf-Face/Poetry ‘n Lotion/RGSM The hot dog-eating contest is primed and ready to go, the new championship Title Belt is up for grabs, and five diverse bands are slated to play the 10th annual pre-Fourth of July Hot Dog Party, with sounds ranging from the heavy prog-hop jams of Samurai Shotgun (formerly local, currently working the ATL scene) to the future-soul grooves of RSGM, to the haunting, dreamy indie-folk-rock of Roadkill Ghost Choir. This shit is ON. (Crowbar, Ybor City)

Quintron & Miss Pussycat w/Sonic Graffiti/Seafang New Orleans’ weirdo fringe duo Quintron & Miss Pussycat hit town armed with their usual arsenal of keys, synths, electronic instruments invented and built by Quintron, and puppets and puppet sideshow props as created by Miss P. Together, they make “swamp tech” dance rock, and their live spectacle of near-bedlam is definitely worth witnessing. (The Bends, St. Petersburg)



Quintron & Miss Pussycat

TUE 05

Pinegrove w/Sports/Half Waif/Ratboys New Jersey outfit Pinegrove plies music that marries indie-rock guitar solos and distortion with heartfelt lyrics and poignant roots-rock embellishments like plucked banjo and twangy, sliding pedal steel. The overall result is fresh, airy, easy and critically laudable; Pitchfork.com gave 2016 *Cardinal*

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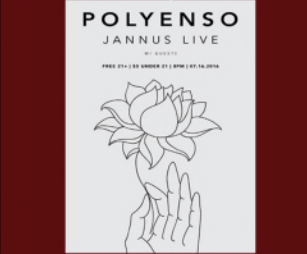
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Pinegrove

LP an impressive 8.0 rating, while *Spin* magazine called it "a record lovingly crafted and intimately written, full of sounds, observations, and emotional realizations that you didn't know you wanted in 2016, but, in fact, needed desperately." (Crowbar, Tampa)

WED 06

☛ **Culture Club** Boy George and the original lineup of Culture Club (Roy Hay, Mikey Craig and Jon Moss) landed on the beach to headline Unity fest last August. The R&B-infused New Wave-era dance-pop group returns for a full-on theater showing that'll most definitely feature hits like "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?" and "Karma Chameleon" in addition to other select material from CC's five-album repertoire. (Mahaffey Theater, St. Petersburg)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Meg Shannon** Thurs., June 30, Ale and the Witch, St. Petersburg
- 4th of July Party! w/Archangel/Pagan Faith/Red Calling/Alpha Decay** Fri., July 1, Brass Mug, Tampa
- TC Carr & Bolts of Blue** Fri., July 1, Ale and the Witch, St. Petersburg
- UP the ANTE Summer Concert Series w/ Mosquito Teeth/Teacher Teacher/Blonk/Yogurt Smoothness** Fri., July 1, Fubar, St. Petersburg
- Summer Festival of Racing & Music w/Soul Circus Cowboys/The Black Honkeys** Fri.,

- July 1, Tampa Bay Downs, Tampa
- Drezo** Fri., July 1, The Ritz Ybor, Ybor City
- Nicky Jam w/De La Ghetto/Zion & Lennox/Valentino** Fri., July 1, Amalie Arena, Tampa
- The JPs** Fri., July 1, Hideaway Café & Recording Studio, St. Petersburg
- Funeral Portrait/The Ivory/Seek Well** Sat., July 2, Brass Mug, Tampa
- Zack Poole** Sat., July 2, Hideaway Café & Recording Studio, St. Petersburg
- Ari & the Alibis** Sat., July 2, Ale and the Witch, St. Petersburg
- The Elements w/SB/YBless/Laz/Gat & Cris B/Worthy/Fene Da Mayor/J Nasty/?nowledge** Sat., July 2, Fubar, St. Petersburg
- Ol' Glory Rising 3 w/5 Star Hooker/SaHe/Slingshot Robot/Polar Summer/Deviate The Plan** Sat., July 2, State Theatre, St. Petersburg
- Part CD Release Party w/Trisma/Somatic/MingusKingus/Vallam/Derridada** Sat., July 2, The Venture Compound, St. Petersburg
- The All American Summer Hot Mess w/The Black Honkeys/Death, Love and Addiction/Shevonne and the Bad Boys** Sun., July 3, Jannus Live, St. Petersburg
- The Ries Brothers w/Angie Ray** Sun., July 3, CJ's, Treasure Island
- Almost Independence Day w/The Prosecution/Channel Drive/Paper City/Mollusk** Sun., July 3, Brass Mug, Tampa
- All American Soul Party - JGLB with special guest Otis Velt and Souliz** Sun., July 3, Skipper's Smokehouse, Tampa
- Oak Hay** Mon., July 4, Ale and the Witch, St. Petersburg
- BBQ Wednesday Acoustic Series w/Jeff Brawer/Russ Van Cleave/David Kibby** Wed., July 6, New World Brewery, Ybor City

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June 30

Cancer

The Crab (June 21-July 22)

Once upon a time, weren't you the master builder who never finished building your castle? Weren't you the exile who wandered aimlessly while fantasizing about the perfect sanctuary of the past or the sweet safety zone of the future? Didn't you perversely nurture the ache that arose from your sense of not feeling at home in the world? I hope that by now you have renounced all of those kinky inclinations. If you haven't, now would be an excellent time to do so.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In accordance with the astrological omens, I have selected three aphorisms by poet James Richardson to guide you. 1: "The worst helplessness is forgetting there is help." You have the power to avoid that fate. Start by identifying the sources of healing and assistance that are available to you. 2: "You do not have to be a fire to keep one burning." Generate all the heat and light you can, yes, but don't torch yourself. 3: "Patience is not very different from courage. It just takes longer." But it may not take a whole lot longer.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may not know this, but I am the founder and CEO of Proud To Be Humble, an acclaimed organization devoted to minimizing vanity. It is my sworn duty to protest any ego that exceeds the acceptable limits as defined by the Geneva Convention on Narcissism. However, I now find myself conflicted. Because of the lyrical beauty and bighearted charisma that are currently emanating from your ego, I am unable, in good conscience, to ask you to tone yourself down. In fact, I hereby grant you a license to expand your self-love to unprecedented proportions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The next 28 days will not be a favorable period to sit around passively wishing to be noticed. Nor will it be a good time to wait to be rescued or to trust in others to instigate desirable actions. On the other hand, it will be an excellent phase to be an initiator: to decide what needs to be done, to state your intentions concisely, and to carry out your master plan with alacrity and efficiency.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "In life, as in bicycling, pedal when you have to, coast when you can." So says author James Lough, and now I'm passing on his advice to you — just in time for your transition from the heavy-pedaling season to the coasting-is-fun phase. I suspect that at this juncture in your life story you may be a bit addicted to the heavy pedaling. You could be so accustomed to the intensity that you're inclined to be suspicious of an opportunity to enjoy ease and grace. Don't be like that. Accept the gift with innocent gratitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "When a jet flies low overhead, every glass in the cupboard sings," writes aphorist James Richardson. "Feelings are like that: choral, not single; mixed, never pure." That's always true, but it will be intensely true for you in the coming weeks. I hope you can find a way to

tolerate, even thrive on, the flood of ambiguous complexity. I hope you won't chicken out and try to pretend that your feelings are one-dimensional and easily understandable. You are ripe to receive rich lessons in the beauty and power of mysterious emotions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Pop artist Andy Warhol said that in the future, everyone would be famous for 15 minutes. You Capricorns are entering a phase when you're far more likely than usual to bask in the spotlight. Between now and September 2017, I bet you'll garner at least a short burst of glory, acclaim, or stardom — perhaps *much* more.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): One of my readers, Jay O'Dell, told me this story: "After my cancer surgery, a nurse said to me, 'You may as well try magical thinking. Regular thinking hasn't helped.' I said to the nurse, 'Well, why the hell not?' That was seven years ago." I don't mean to suggest you will have any health problems that warrant a strong dose of magical thinking. But you may get wrapped up in a psychological twist or a spiritual riddle that would benefit from magical thinking. The stories that unfold in your imagination might have important effects on what actually happens to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let's talk about X-factors and wild cards and strange attractors. By their very nature, they are unpredictable and ephemeral, even when they offer benevolent breakthroughs. So you may not even notice their arrival if you're entranced by your expectations and stuck in your habitual ways. Right now you aren't; odds are high that you will spy the sweet twists of fate as they float into view.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): During winter, some bears spend months hibernating. Many hummingbirds engage in a similar slowdown — but they do it every single night. By day they are among the most manic creatures on earth, flapping their wings and gathering sustenance with heroic zeal. When the sun slips below the horizon, they rest with equal intensity. In my estimation, Aries, you don't need a full-on immersion in idleness like the bears. But you'd benefit from a shorter stint, akin to the hummingbird's period of dormancy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Dear Dr. Breznsy: A psychic predicted that sometime this year I will fall in love with a convenience store clerk who's secretly a down-on-his-luck prince of a small African country. Together we will break the world's record for dancing without getting bitten in a pit of cobras while drunk on absinthe on our honeymoon. But I didn't have time to ask the psychic how I'll meet my soulmate. Can you help? -Mopey Taurus." Dear Mopey: The psychic lied. What the future brings you will be largely determined by your own actions. I suggest you celebrate this fact. It's the perfect time to do so: July is Feed Your Willpower Month.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Eighty percent of all the world's concert pianos are made by Steinway. A former president of the company once remarked that in each piano, "243 taut strings exert a pull of 40,000 pounds on an iron frame." He said it was "proof that out of great tension may come great harmony." That will be a potential talent of yours in the coming weeks, Gemini. Like a Steinway piano, you will have the power to turn tension into beauty.

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