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University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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YOU’RE ‘PUTIN’ ME IN A BIND

Before the end of the year, President Obama sanctioned Russia for interfering with U.S. affairs. With President-elect Donald Trump taking the helm later this week, read about his reaction to one of Obama’s last actions as president.

TEMPORARY ISN’T LONG ENOUGH

Where the Pheil Hotel used to stand in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg, now lies a gated park, but it’s only temporary. When the owners decide on a new structure, it’ll be gone forever and that’s a problem.

GETTIN’ SMURPHY WITH IT

Sean Murphy began rapping from his college dorm in summer 2015. On Dec. 10, he released his first mixtape, the "SmurphTape." The project now has more than 2,000 views and will be followed by "Smurph Mode" in February.

Food Not Bombs continues to share despite 7 arrests

By Evy Guerra
evelyng1@mail.usf.edu

Just four days after getting handcuffed and placed in the back of a police cruiser for feeding the homeless without a permit, William Payton was at Lykes Gaslight Square Park once again. Payton works with Food Not Bombs, a group that meets in the park Tuesday mornings and Saturday afternoons to feed those experiencing homelessness. Since 2011, the organization served food without police incident, but Tuesday officers arrested seven members of the group. Payton and the rest of the volunteers in the gathering were not deterred by the incident.

“I mean, what do you say?” Payton said. “That’s why I’m here again. There’s people that need things more than I do. “We’re not here for notoriety, we’re here to feed people.”

The permit the city would require the group to have in order to continue without trouble would be $91 a day, according to Florida’s Department of Business and Professional Regulation. The group is not a nonprofit and does not receive donations, so that isn’t an option. Payton does not blame the police, he said they were just doing what they are supposed to. He hopes city council will begin to make changes regarding the permit requirement.

Jimmy Dunson, an alum of USF St. Petersburg in 2013, has been involved in both the St. Petersburg and Tampa chapters of Food Not Bombs. He said it’s important to stand up to the criminalization of sharing in Tampa.

Dunson also emphasized that the group is not a charity.

“We have to dismantle that power imbalance. We don’t want us vs. them, we want mutual aid. Solidarity,” Dunson said.

Dunson took to the Food Not Bombs Facebook page to explain why a permit wouldn’t be such a simple fix for them, aside from the money factor.

“We believe that food and the people we share food with are worth more than the sustenance our shares offer.”

According to the organization, the government should not have a say in the act of other people sharing food. See “Not Bombs,” P2

Students walk to honor civil rights hero’s birthday

By Evy Guerra
evelyng1@mail.usf.edu

Sharing is Caring: Jason Grimes (left), Jimmy Dunson (middle), and Dezeray Lyn (right) pass out food to Mark Beloch as they volunteer with Food Not Bombs on Saturday Jan. 14.

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“We believe that food is a right, not a privilege. We believe sharing food is a right, not a privilege, as a permit would demote. We believe that the people we share food with are worth more than the sustenance our shares offer.”

According to the organization, the government should not have a say in the act of other people

See “Not Bombs,” P2

THE CROW’S NEST
Since 1969

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Sharing a meal. The group allows anyone in attendance to grab a free plate. Every Tuesday and Sunday, those who will be eating the food help set up and carry from the car, even helping to serve the food.

All of the food is made by group members in their own kitchens, and the rest is donated by local restaurants and bakeries. Everything is either vegan or vegetarian, due to the group’s belief in nonviolence.

The spread Saturday evening consisted of a wide variety from vegan pizza, rice dishes, pastries and pasta. Even after being raided by the police, Food Not Bombs is determined to continue bringing food into the park, Dunson said.

“[Tuesday] was a really powerful experience,” Dunson said. “Surrounded by so much love and support, they [Those experiencing homelessness] felt empowered to affirm their human rights.”

After the events with the police and videos of the morning blew up on Facebook, a large number of people turned out to support. They sang Food Not Bombs’ song together, “Love is not a crime, we are not for sale. When the people come together, yes we will not fail.”

There were plenty of signs depicting different messages. Some of them read “Being hungry is not a crime,” “Cops: is this serving and protecting?” and “Sharing shouldn’t require a permit.”

People > Profit: Food Not Bombs, accompanied by local activists, share food and hold up their messages.

Food Not Bombs event, she came out on Saturday to show support. “It makes me furious. For years I had done it [and] no one had bothered me in the multiple parks I would go to,” Diaz said.

There were plenty of signs depicting different messages. Some of them read “Being hungry is not a crime,” “Cops: is this serving and protecting?” and “Sharing shouldn’t require a permit.”

Alejandra Gonzalez Diaz waved a large black flag with a heart in the middle, symbolizing love and anarchy. This was her third Food Not Bombs event, she came out on Saturday to show support.

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“I think it’s in progress. I want to be optimistic and say ‘yes it will change’,” he said.

Students looking to graduate from USF St. Petersburg after the spring 2017 semester need to act fast. The deadline to apply for graduation is Feb. 3.

In order to complete the application, students must log into OASIS using their NET ID and fill out a survey. Make sure to fill out all sections of the survey. Failure to do so will result in a rejected graduation application.

If a student doesn’t meet the February 3 deadline, their name will not appear within the Commencement Brochure Program. It may also push the student’s graduation date to the following semester.

In order to find the survey in OASIS, click Student and Apply for Graduation. Ensure that the spelling of your name and address are correct so that there aren’t any issues with your diploma.

The deadline varies by college and some colleges require a mandatory review. Be sure to meet with your academic advisor for additional details about your graduation status.

The graduation commencement for USF students attending the USF St. Petersburg will be held on May 7.

Contributors Wanted

Tuesdays @ 4 PM
SLC 2400

Writers, Photographers, Graphic Designers, & Cartoonists
By Ryan Callihan  
rgcallihan@mail.usf.edu

With less than a month left in his presidency, Obama isn’t done calling the shots.

On Dec. 29, President Obama announced strong sanctions against Russia for its involvement in the Democratic National Committee hacks. A breach that revealed private conversations among Democratic Party leaders and stole the group’s research data about Donald Trump in an effort to deliver him the expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats stationed in the U.S. and the closure of two compounds that intelligence officials believe the Russian government used to gather intelligence. Obama says that the Russian intelligence operatives were “acting in a manner inconsistent with their diplomatic status.”

In early October, the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence announced a joint statement that both “these thefts and disclosures are intended to interfere with the U.S. election process.” It also maintains that it would have been nigh impossible for Russia to tamper with actual vote count on Election Day.

Despite Obama’s obvious displeasure with Russia’s involvement, President-elect Donald Trump seems unperturbed and looks forward to moving away from the issue, telling reporters, “I think we ought to get on with our lives.”

“In an effort to mend ties with the incoming Donald Trump administration, Putin will not expel American ambassadors from Russia.”

For citizens of St. Petersburg, the income limit to receive tax preparation assistance is $64,000 annually. The program also provides help for individuals with disabilities, limited English proficiency, and community seniors who may require additional help or counseling with electronic tax filing systems.

USFSP tax instructor, Nathan Wadlinger, will direct this year’s community tax preparation service. It will be his first year since James Fellows who holds a doctorate in Economics, founded the collaboration efforts between USFSP and VITA, secured his direction from the program after his retirement in the summer of 2016. Fellows initiated the involvement in 2009 with only six student interns and had assured its continuance since. This year, he will be helping out in the program as a community volunteer.

Under Wadlinger’s new direction, the College of Business plans on increasing the number of training dates and introducing night sessions to allow for volunteers to attend after work.

“It’s a free service, volunteers get community service [hours], and it will look good on a resume for business students to get valuable face time with clients,” said Wadlinger. Tax-filing services run from the end of January into April, with the busiest dates trending towards the beginning of tax season as people file in to receive a faster refund. Events will be held at different times throughout a number of different sites. To find the nearest location, community members may visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov/vita and select VITA/TEC Locator Tool at the bottom of the page. “This is a great service for a lot of elderly taxpayers,” said Wadlinger, who added that students could also benefit by receiving help with their taxes.

People who are interested in participating in the program and would like more information on how to become a volunteer, have questions regarding the service, or on how to find a local site may contact Wadlinger through his email at nwadlinger@mail.usf.edu.

Taxation with Representation: Tax instructor, Nathan Wadlinger, talks about how the College of Business is readying to assist the community and how students can volunteer and benefit.

Key Dates

Jan. 14
Free training for tax prep in LPH 217

Jan. 21
Free training for tax prep in LPH 217

April 15
Tax Day, and standard deadline for tax season

The document, which had been floating around amongst certain elected officials and intelligence agencies originated as a hunt for dirt on Trump by one of his political opponents in 2015. An outside agency led by a former high-ranking British intelligence official conducted the investigation. Though the claims within the report are unsubstantiated, there are other reasons to believe that negligence played a role in the investigation. For example, there are typos and other incorrect information that is uncharacteristic of a professional report.

At Trump’s first press conference since July, he denounced BuzzFeed, calling the outlet a “failing pile of garbage.” He also labeled CNN as “fake news” and refused to take a question from one of its reporters.

President-elect Trump will be inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States on Friday Jan. 20.

Information from the Tampa Bay Times, the Washington Post, BuzzFeed, BBC and WIRED was used in this article.

For more information or to register for training, contact Wadlinger through his email at nwadlinger@mail.usf.edu.

The Kate Tiedemann College of Business partnered with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to offer tax-preparation assistance to the community.

Students who volunteer with the college, and community members, can sign up for training session to take place Jan. 24:

Training will be held in the new Lynn Pippenger Hall, room 217 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Trainings will cover how to electronically file taxes, and count towards university credit to satisfy course requirements. Information will also be provided regarding other volunteer positions, such as greeters and translators. All volunteers will be applicable to receive community service hours.

The VITA program is designed to connect people of the community with IRS service members and trained individuals to prepare tax documents. They aim to assist individuals who fall within a determined income, which fluctuates depending on area of residence.

The College of Business offers its services to the community.

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Frida Kahlo’s self-portraits blend emotional defiance with magical symbolism. Her stern features unapologetically tell of the inner turmoil and pain she suffered throughout her life. A pain that, in some paintings, manifests as symbols ranging from animals to shapeless masses that both torture and comfort her.

André Breton, a French writer, poet and the founder of surrealism, once described Kahlo’s work as a ribbon tied around a bomb. “The Great Collection of Frida” opened at the Salvador Dalí Museum on Saturday, Dec. 17 and will run through April 17.

The exhibit was curated in part by the Dalí and the Museo Dolores Olmedo in Mexico City. Utilizing her paintings, drawings, personal photographs, the exhibit hopes to tell the story of her troubled life.

The exhibition also expands to the garden behind the museum with a number of plants and sculptures that resemble the artist’s own garden outside her home Casa Azul (Blue Home.) “Dreams of Dalí,” an interactive VR experience that allows users to enter Dalí’s famous painting Archaeological Reminiscence of Millet’s “Angelus,” has been reintroduced to the public, as well. Kahlo, born in Mexico City in 1907, has been internationally celebrated as representative of the Mexican and indigenous tradition. Today she is respected as a great feminist artist for her vivid and uncompromising vision of the female form and experience.

Like Dalí, Kahlo’s look is iconic with her uni-brow and hairline mustache, she often paints herself in an autobiographical style, depicting visions of inner pain, desire and hope.

Dr. Hank Hine, co-curator and executive director of the Dalí, said that two Kahlo’s can be seen throughout her work. At the age of 18, Kahlo was in a bus accident that left her bedridden and near death. A handrail entered through her left side and exited near her genitals. The doctors expected her to die. She survived and began painting during her painful recovery. This accident took her ability to bear children. Kahlo suffered a number of health problems throughout the rest of her life. This sick and weak form stood in stark contrast with the vibrancy of the artist within her, Hine said.

Representative of her autobiographical style, the painting “La Columna Rota” was created while Kahlo’s health deteriorated. She wore a metal corset for five months, in many ways it was the only thing holding the young artist together. In the painting, Kahlo stands, her chest split open revealing a broken column. Her body is covered in nails and she weeps, indicative of the pain she suffered.

Hine also pointed out an important similarity between Dalí and Kahlo: their love lives. Kahlo’s muse, Diego Rivera was another revered Mexican artist. Their love was tumultuous and difficult, much like Dalí and Gala’s love.

“By the time they met, Kahlo’s famous work, ‘Autorretrato con chan guito’ was created in 1945. She often incorporates magical symbolism to her paintings, manifesting itself as animals, symbols and shapeless masses,” Hine said. “Dalí’s ‘La Columna Rota’ was created in 1943. He included objects such as a broken column, a metal corset and a biography of a broken body.”

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Gold Star: For the first time in program history, the USF Bulls finished the season ranked with the Associated Press Top 25 Rankings. Other achievements this year include a bowl win over South Carolina.

By Michael Ferguson
mfergusonus@mail.usf.edu

Bulls cap historic season with bowl win

I mproving their record from 8-5 to 11-2 this year, it feels like the Bulls came, saw and conquered the football season.

Any average opposing defense crumbled against the Bull’s offense, headed by junior quarterback Quinton Flowers.

Flowers started the season with a pass completion percentage of 59.1, 22 passing touchdowns, and 2296 total passing yards. In the 2015 season he had 991 rushing yards and 12 rushing touchdowns.

This may have been good enough for the average bowl, but Flowers was hungry.

In 2016, Flowers upped his completion percentage to 62.2, threw for a total of 2812 total yards and had 24 passing touchdowns. His rushing also improved, with a total of 1530 yards on the ground and 18 rushing touchdowns.

Numbers like this are few and far between.

Flowers is the first player in USF history to pass for over 2000 yards and rush for over 1000 yards in a single season. He also holds the record for the most rushing touchdowns in a single season at USF with 36. He also holds the record for the most rushing yards per game for USF with 285.3, which ranked 5th in the nation compared to the national average of 183 rushing yards per game.

These statistics prove that USF is a force to be reckoned with and deserve to have the best record in program history and in the American Athletic Conference with 11 wins and only 2 losses, gaining the 11th win in the Birmingham Bowl over the South Carolina Gamecocks, a powerful Southeastern Conference team.

The Bulls are also the only team in the AAC to finish the season in the Associated Press Top 25, sitting at No. 19. It’s the first time the USF football has ever finished a season ranked by AP. With figures like this, it becomes clear why former head coach Willie Taggart was hired by Oregon as their new head coach.

There is no need for USF fans to panic, the program hired former Texas head coach Charlie Strong. In his career, Strong was the defensive coordinator for the University of Florida Gators from 2003-2009, which included two BCS National Championships. Strong was also the head coach of the Louisville Cardinals from 2010-2013, with a win in the 2013 Sugar Bowl.

Many believe Strong is a good fit to replace Taggart at USF because of his defensive experience, and with the offense rolling, USF is projected to win the AAC Championship in the 2017 season.

Quinton Flowers Stat Comparison

2015:  
- Passing Touchdowns: 22  
- Total Passing Yards: 2,296  
- Rushing Touchdowns: 12

2016:  
- Passing Touchdowns: 24  
- Total Passing Yards: 2,812  
- Rushing Touchdowns: 18

By Erin Murphy
emanmurphy@gmail.usf.edu

Brownstone: “Teardrop” by The Weeknd

E ven if 2016 found you rocking back and forth in the fetal position, we can all agree that the year was not without a glorious selection of groovy tunes. Reminisce with us on 2016’s classics as we pay a musical tribute to the year that changed everything.

“Formation” by Beyoncé

“Formation” that she sings about love and activism in equal measure. Beyoncé gave the world a lot to think about (and dance to) with the release of this track in early February. Despite the controversy and backlash that followed the song, one thing about Queen Bey is quite clear: she slays.

“Fireworks” by Mitsu

Indie singer Mitsu keeps it real with this stellar track off of 2016’s celebrated “Puberty 2” album. While Mitsu’s haunting vocals and gritty instrumentation would be enough to endear her music to any hipster, it is her lyrics that truly pack a punch. “I will go jogging routinely, calmly and rhythmically run,” she sings casually on “Fireworks.” Before adding that “when I find that a knife’s stick out of my side, I’ll pull it out with questioning why.” Wow.

“Angela” by The Lumineers

Completely obliterating the myth of the “sophomore slump,” the Lumineers followed up their much-buzzed-about 2016 musical tribute to the year that was. The band’s second album, “Cleopatra,” was everywhere, from the radio to the stage, and the pair even penned a track called “Suicide Squad” soundtrack.

“City of Stars” by The Cast of La La Land

This charming duet from the much-hyped-about 2016 musical “La La Land” is a pleasant and pleasing throwback to old Hollywood. The duet features actors Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling’s musical talent. Both the soundtrack and the score to the film offer inspiring and upbeat jams to help you get your homework done and put a bit of a spring in your step.

“Welcome to the Black Parade” by My Chemical Romance

Great for the eyelet! Embrace the angst! 2016 marked the 10-year anniversary of My Chemical Romance’s iconic “The Black Parade” album. Although the group has long since disbanded, their September release of an special edition of “The Black Parade” had former emo kids up in arms, sparking hope of an MCR reunion. No? Just me? I’m still not okay.

“I Feel It Coming” by The Weeknd featuring Daft Punk

Bust out your dancing shoes, folks, because this electronic groove from the Weeknd has a decidedly dancy feel. Equal parts Michael Jackson and Daft Punk, “I Feel It Coming” has both a modern and throwback vibe, with the song’s catchy chorus never being too far from your mind as you drive down the windows down and the stereo blastin’.

“Najah” by Leonard Cohen

We’ve made it this far, folks. Enjoy the brand new start that a fresh year brings, and let 2017 find you optimistic and excited for whatever lies ahead. Happy New Year!

You can find this playlist on our website.
On the rise and fall of “Rowdy” Ronda Rousey

By Michael Moore Jr.
Junior Journalism and Media Studies Major
michaelmoor@mail.usf.edu

In 2015 she was dubbed the world’s most dominant athlete by Sports Illustrated. Now she’s a meme. The last 14 months have not been kind to the Ultimate Fighting Championship’s first female champion. After losing her bantamweight title to Holly Holm Nov. 15, 2015 via the “kick heard around the world” Ronda Rousey largely dropped off the face of the planet. Speculation ran wild whether or not she would ever fight again.

Dec 30 saw Rousey step back inside The Octagon for the first time in 411 days in an attempt to regain her title. Winning the fight was step one in rebuilding her image as the baddest woman on the planet. #Earthshaker was her slogan leading up to the contest. It took newly crowned champ Amanda Nunes just 48 seconds to win all of that. She bewildered Rousey with a barrage of punches in a thoroughly one-sided affair.

It was the second time in as many fights that saw Rousey go viral for all the wrong reasons. A meme of her being punched in a stroller by Nunes (has been retweeted 27,000 times. All fighters face criticism when they lose. A win and we would have presumed the conversation of her greatness. A loss and now she’s seen as being overrated.

This is the world we live in: “what have you done for me lately?” culture.

Stick around long enough and eventually you’ll find yourself on the bad end of a bout. No matter how invincible you are, the fact remains that father time is undefeated.

It happened to Muhammad Ali. It happened to Mike Tyson. It happened to Anderson Silva. Rousey’s dilemma isn’t all that unique because everyone loses eventually.

Get out during your peak and you can maybe sneak away with an underequipped record. Rocky Marciano and Floyd Mayweather Jr. (so far) were two of the rare exceptions.

But stay around a hair too long and you will devolve into the nai. No matter how accustomed you are to your role as the hammer. Rousey’s downfall is more the norm rather than anomaly. The only thing that separates her career trajectory from those of other fighters? Hyperbole.

The level of exaggeration used to describe her throughout the course of her rise to superstardom is unprecedented. We weren’t talking about whether or not she was going to defeat her next opponent, we were talking about how quickly she would manage to do it this time.

“We always like to use that term once in a lifetime. Once in a lifetime does not apply to Ronda Rousey. We refer to it as an eternity...in our profession,” UFC commentator Joe Rogan.

Rousey is a phenomenal fighter who has inspired millions of people as a world-class athlete. She was the first American to medal in judo in the Olympics. She paved the way for women in the UFC, something that seemed unfathomable just a few years ago.

For now she’s a meme, but her legacy is too hard to ignore.
The Crow’s Nest accepts letters to the editor. All submissions should be no more than 250 words. Writers must include their full name. In addition, USF faculty should include their title, department and extension. All letters are subject to editing for clarity and length. Letters can be sent to drodriguez7@mail.usf.edu with subject title “letter to the editor.”

JANUARY COMMUNITY EVENTS

Jan 18
Screen on the Green: The Girl on the Train on Harborlawn - 7:30 pm
Marvel’s Monsters Comic Release Party at Daddy Kool Records - 6:00 pm

Jan 18 & 19
Preview for American Stage’s “Joe Turner’s Come and Gone”
Running: Jan. 18- Feb 19 ($)  

Jan 20
Burger Bash in Da Burg at St. Pete Port - 6:00 pm
The People’s Inauguration at Williams Park - 4:00 pm.

Jan 21
I Love St. Pete Art/Music/Fashion art pARTy ARTpool Gallery - 8:00 pm
Open Mic at Black Crow Coffee - 7:00 pm
Women’s March on Washington - Florida at Demen’s Landing, Noon - 3:00 pm

Jan 26
Lip Sync Battle in the USC Ballrooms - 7:00 pm
Grand prize is tickets to see The Weeknd

Jan 28
3rd Annual Grandiversary Block Party at Grand Central District - 2:00 pm
St. Pete Zine Fest 5 at Cage Brewing - 6:00 pm
Gasparilla Pirate Fest in Tampa - 11:00 am

Jan 31
Tibetan Buddhist Monks building World Peace Sand Mandala at Florida CraftArt- 501 Central Ave - 10:00 am
Under the moniker “Smurph,” Sean Murphy hopes to create a lucrative hip-hop career. A career that started in his USF St. Petersburg dorm during the summer of 2015. Murphy, 20, didn’t start college with an interest in rap. The mass communications major found his calling after listening to beats made by Martin “Mak” Kelly, his dormmate.

“In high school I didn’t think I was going to be a rapper, I just liked music,” Murphy said. After finding out that Kelly made music, which he posted to Soundcloud, Murphy decided to try rapping over them. One song they recorded featured the instrumental to ‘Holy Water’ by The Game. Murphy said the success of that song made him reconsider his priorities.

“It got 15,000 plays total, and as soon as it hit 10,000 I wanted to take music seriously,” Murphy said. “Martin eventually dropped out, so I was here by myself with just a mic.”

Murphy, aRichlands, North Carolina native, moved to St. Petersburg in 2015. He became a peer coach and helped incoming freshman at the university. He said he wanted to focus on promoting his music to younger people across the Tampa Bay area through social media. St Petersburg, he said, is his community.

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“My favorite songs off the tape are ‘Spazz’ and ‘All my.’ In ‘All my’ I’m paying homage to everybody in Tampa Bay and back home that likes my music. ‘Spazz’ is more like a Drill type of song so it’s more upbeat and fun to do. Every song I made I never struggled, as soon as I start struggling to write it I don’t do it because I’m going to go in the booth and mess up so every song I do has a freestyled hook.”

Drill music is a style of trap music that originates from young rappers in Chicago’s Southside in the early 2010s. Artists like Chief Keef and Fredo Santana helped it break into mainstream hip-hop around 2012. In the future, Smurph wants to work with artists who have influenced the youth such as Lil Yachty or Kodak Black. The two were part of the 2016 XXL freshmen list and grew their fan base tremendously throughout the year. XXL is a hip-hop magazine that releases an annual list of young rising artists.

“I want to work with artists who have cult followings,” Murphy said. “I don’t want to go viral by DMing people a song after I make it, that’s when I started going to Executive Sound Studios and started meeting all the DJs and people I’m working with. After this next mixtape and when I get more of a following, I want to bring it back to St. Pete. I want to do it for youth here.”

Murphy was originally set to open for the popular rap group Migos at Revolution Live in Fort Lauderdale. After a disagreement between him and the venue his performance ended up being canceled. Murphy is planning to release his next mixtape, “Smurphmode,” on Feb. 4th. One of the features is JBan$2Turnt, a member of Lil Yachty’s group, “Sailing Team.” The tape is also hosted by DJ Jon Wells who is the official DJ of Rae Sremmurd. Smurph’s first performance will be at the Local 662 on Thursday, contact Sean Murphy for more information.