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BANDING TOGETHER
Local relief efforts for Hurricane Dorian exceed expectations.

After Hurricane Dorian ravaged the Bahamas for days as a Category 5 storm, a local nonprofit stepped in to help. Sol Relief began sending planes filled with supplies out of Albert Whitted Airport on Sept. 3. By Sept. 8, the organization had so many donations that it temporarily suspended acceptance.

USF St. Petersburg’s Student Government partnered with the organization to help raise money and supplies to aid in relief.

“We here in the Bay area were lucky to have only been marginally impacted, but that is not true for all of the communities USFSP represents,” said Vice President, Hannah Rose Wanless in a written statement.

Sol Relief has collected over 36,000 pounds of supplies, sent 18 relief flights and is still assisting in evacuations.

By Katlynn Mullins
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Sol Relief has collected over 36,000 pounds of supplies, sent 18 relief flights and is still assisting in evacuations.

A junior graphic design major got the opportunity of a lifetime when he was invited to work with an accomplished sculptor this summer. Their work is now featured in the lobby of Harbor Hall.

After months of planning, USF St. Petersburg’s “Support-A-Bull Market” has finally come to fruition. Read more about how you can help it reach new heights.

$5.5 million for mental health
By James Bennett III
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The USF St. Petersburg College of Education will continue spreading mental health awareness across the state thanks to a hefty grant from the Florida Department of Education.

Through the Youth Mental Health Awareness Training Administration Project, which was established by the university last year with the help of a $2.2 million grant from the Florida Department of Education, K-12 personnel are trained to recognize when students are struggling with emotional or mental health.

The recently awarded $5.5 million grant will be allocated for things like training materials, travel expenses and hiring substitutes when teachers are out of the classroom.

The program doesn’t just focus on teachers, though. School personnel like principals, cafeteria workers, custodians and bus drivers are also trained to identify the warning signs and help distressed students find professional help.

Everybody who is employed by the school district is trained because “people see different things in a classroom that they might not see on a bus, or vice versa,” said Jordan Knab, the university’s principal investigator.

There are a few steps to the training.

First, there’s a “train the trainer” component, where personnel from the National Council for Behavioral Health meet with up to 16 people at a time and teach a three-day course on “mental health first aid.”

Next, those 16 people go back to their school district and train school employees.
Pantry addresses needs of struggling students

Story and Photos By Dylan Hart
dhart4@mail.usf.edu

L ast semester, it was a rough draft sketched by Student Government members. Now, just months later, the campus food pantry is a reality — and it’s aiming even higher.

Located in Room 1702 of the Student Life Center, which is the Leadership and Student Organizations office, the pantry has just a few shelves for now, but all of them are fully stocked, and staff are ready to provide resources to students.

Students who are in need of support can call the office of Student Outreach and Support at 727-873-4278. Once a staff member is reached, the student will then fill out an intake request form and provide their U-number.

From there, students are given a receipt to take a number of items from the shelves.

Although initially envisioned as a food pantry, like Feed-A-Bull at USF Tampa, it has been rebranded as the Support-A-Bull Market and has fallen under the care of the Student Outreach and Support office.

The market held a “soft open” on Aug. 19. SOS plans to invite local politicians and community donors to an official grand opening on Sept. 23. The office is still hiring student workers through Federal Work Study, but the market has already been seen by students.

Plans to expand

Joseph Contes, assistant director of SOS, already has big plans for the market. But expansion is going to rely on the campus community. The program has no assigned budget. Instead, it relies entirely on donations and awards.

“We’re trying to use our limited resources wisely,” Contes said.

Less than a month after opening, Support-A-Bull Market is already a finalist in a competition called Block By Block, which would give the program a grant if it wins. “I think that one of the reasons we’re a finalist for that competition is because of our unique model,” Contes said.

Unlike many other food pantries, where staff make the decisions and give recipients their food, the Support-A-Bull Market is a “grocery store” model, where students are given options for what to pick.

They are bound by a “receipt,” which aims to guide them toward a balanced and nutritious diet, but students still have some choices to make — all of which are free of charge. The aim with this model, Contes said, is to foster independence, dignity and nutritional education in students.

Food insecurity is a serious problem on college campuses in America, and SOS is no stranger to the statistics.

Contes said that 75 percent of students on Financial Aid faced food insecurity within the past 30 days of answering a survey, and 55 percent either skipped meals or had to choose between food and some other essential, like a doctor’s visit or a textbook for class.

Even students with prepaid meal plans can struggle, with 43 percent still facing food insecurity. This is especially common when options for food have limited hours.

Part of the purpose of the market is to gauge how food insecurity impacts the student body at USF St. Petersburg. Contes said.

Basic data, such as gender and race, are collected from every participant via their U-number.

56 percent of students who face food insecurity work, too, so we have to be flexible to that,” Contes said.

The office also plans to use the data to offer help to struggling students, as repeated visits may indicate deeper problems like economic, domestic or relationship issues. Contes said that there will be no limit on how many times a student can visit the market, even if they decline services offered to them by SOS.

The only requirement to visit the food pantry is active student status. This doesn’t necessarily mean that the student has to be taking classes this semester.

SOS is still determining the best hours for students and plans to establish a more routine schedule once more data is collected, but the office is prepared to change its hours per semester if the student body demands it.

Despite the program’s reliance on outside funding, Contes hopes to start a competitive food drive later this semester and offer an incentive to the winning organization. He also wants to mirror the Feed-A-Bull program in Tampa by partnering with Sodexo to help students in need.

“I see the program going a lot further,” Contes said. But for now, they’re “here to help.”

Donations

If you would like to make a donation, visit the SOS office in the Piano Man Building, 701 Third St. S, or call the office at 727-873-4278. The office accepts all donations, but lists several items as “needed” on its page at usfsp.edu/student-outreach-and-support/food-pantry under “donations information.”

Food items must be non-perishable, cannot be expired or opened, and must be in their original packaging or label. Canned items should be free of “major dents.”

Contes said that tampons and pads are some of the rarest and most needed products in any community outreach program, and the Support-A-Bull Market is no exception. Some females who struggle with food insecurity may forgo feminine hygiene in favor of meals, or vice versa.

Cash donations can also be made through the USF Foundation at giving.usf.edu.
Talk nerdy to me: Professors featured at monthly ‘nerd nite’

Photo and Story by Carrie Pinkard
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“Turn to the person next to you. Their head is the size of a giant squid’s eyeball.”

This sentence was uttered by Heather Judkins, a USF St. Petersburg biology professor, at Iberian Rooster last week. Judkins has become a celebrity scientist over the past month, since she and her research team captured the second ever film footage of a giant squid in June.

The footage was captured in the Gulf of Mexico, roughly 250 miles from Tampa.

Judkins shared many facts about cephalopods with the audience, including that most of them “grow fast, have sex, and then die,” which got a “woohoo” from the inebriated crowd.

She said there are over 700 species of cephalopods, including one whose scientific name translates to “vampire squid from hell.”

Judkins was speaking as part of St. Petersburg’s “Nerd Nite” series.

Once a month, “nerds” from around the city gather in the basement of Iberian Rooster to hear experts speak on a variety of topics. The venue features couches and comfortable lounge chairs, giving people the feeling that they never left their living rooms.

St. Petersburg is one of over 100 cities globally that hosts a “Nerd Nite.” The founders of the event describe it as the Discovery Channel — but with cocktails.

August’s “Nerd Nite” featured Judkins’ talk about cephalopods and Ricardo Williams dissecting the Marvel Universe.

“You can be a nerd about anything,” Williams said at the beginning of his talk.

The next “Nerd Nite” will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 6:30 p.m. It will also feature a USF St. Petersburg professor, Gary Mormino from the history department, who will speak on the future of Florida.

Tickets for Nerd Nite cost $5 and usually sell out in advance.

St. Petersburg is one of over 100 cities globally that hosts a “Nerd Nite.” The founders of the event describe it as the Discovery Channel — but with cocktails.

HEALTH, continued from P1

Since the in-person training will likely take a few years to reach every school district, YMHA’s has contracted with a New York-based online training course called Kognito.

“Some people in the training say, ‘The only thing I knew about mental illness is something I saw in a movie, or read in a book.’” Knab said. “So it’s really a kind of rudimentary understanding of mental health as a whole.”

According to Knab, 1,116 instructors have been certified in youth mental health first aid. Additionally, 72,000 people have completed the online Kognito training.

Knab added that, at this point, the strongest indicators of YMHA’s success have been subjective comments from individuals who have identified students with issues. In some cases, the students who received help reported they were thinking about committing suicide or had intended to commit suicide that day.

“When we first initiated the training, we saw a number of those coming forward. Folks were saying, ‘Wow, this really is making a difference. This really is working.’” he said.

The funding for YMHA was allocated through state legislature under the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. The bill was passed less than one month after the school shooting and is summarized as “critical public safety legislation (to) establish safeguards designed to enhance safety in schools.”

The College of Education was awarded the $5.5 million grant to continue training K-12 personnel on how to spot students with emotional and mental health issues. In some cases, the students who received help reported they were thinking about committing suicide or had intended to commit suicide that day.

“The College of Education was given the $2.2 million and the following $5.5 million because of the university’s connection with the Multiagency Service Network for Students with Severe Emotional Disturbance Administration Project, also known as SEDNET, which is hosted at USF St. Petersburg.

SEDMET is a statewide network of 19 regional projects that provide intensive services for students with severe emotional or mental health problems.

“Recognizing the warning signs of mental health distress is a vital part of keeping our schools safe and our students healthy.” Brenda L. Walker, Associate Dean of the College of Education said in a university press release.

“We’re pleased to continue to raise awareness and understanding on this important issue,” she said.

"Recognizing the warning signs of mental health distress is a vital part of keeping our schools safe and our students healthy.”

- Brenda L. Walker
O

ver the summer, 20-year-old Darnell Henderson stumbled his way into an internship—literally.

Henderson and his peers were having dinner at the studio of USF St. Petersburg adjunct professor Ericka Greenberg-Schnieder and her husband Dominique Labauvie when he knocked over a sculpture and broke it.

Instead of reacting with anger, Labauvie offered to mentor him in welding and sculpture building.

Henderson worked alongside Labauvie to create a mass of manipulated steel that, while lying flat, may seem nothing more than that. But prop it up on the wall, and music notes form in the shadow of the steel.

Henderson said it serves as a visual representation for a lyric from a Thomas Moore song.

Labauvie was born in France but relocated to Tampa after marrying Greenberg-Schneider. He’s had his work featured across Europe and the U.S., and in 1997, he was commissioned by the City of Paris to create a large cast iron sculpture at the entrance of the Park of the Villette.

“Most days, I began by showing him any work I did prior,” said Henderson, a junior graphic design major. “We go through the process, receive his critiques, and work through those.

“In the afternoon, I’ll begin to actually work in the studio, welding, putting the pieces together, kind of taking what I did in the morning—the conceptual piece—and then beginning to actualize that.”

The artwork went through three phases: deconstruction, reconstruction, and simplification. With the help of Greenberg-Schnieder, Henderson found out the day before classes started that it would be installed in Harbor Hall—replacing the decades-old Dalí portrait that once stood on the wall facing the entrance.

On Sept. 5, Labauvie, Henderson and others gathered in the lobby as the duo assembled the piece and drilled it into the wall.

“It was a good time working with Dominique,” Henderson said. “He respects your space and your process. He’ll be there to support and instruct me if I need it, but most of the time, it’s me working independently, which I really appreciate.”

While USF St. Petersburg has plenty of public art projects featured on campus, none have been done by a student. Labauvie said the piece is a dedication to teaching and creating art, and something to exhibit in the building that houses the visual and verbal arts programs.

“The sculpture is more strange and mysterious than what you see on the street,” Labauvie said. “You feel the strength and resistance of the material fight against gravity. It’s more important to perceive than to understand.”

Henderson said his internship is ongoing and the two will continue to create together, but the fact his first welded piece will be seen by all who walk through the building brings a smile to his face.

“It’s quite nerve-racking, I know people will see it,” he said.

“But I think for me on a personal level, I’m really happy about it. It makes me smile looking at it, just knowing that I created that.”

For this artist, change is a constant comfort

Story and Photos by Kata Lynn Mullins kataynnmm@mail.usf.edu

S

ometimes, catharsis—an act of purging pent-up emotion—is found without trying.

Billy Mays III, a local musician, believes this relief can be found in music.

At the beginning of 2019, he challenged himself: three songs, 3 minutes and 33 seconds each, released on the 3rd, 13th and 23rd day of each month.

For six months, this continued—until he realized he’d created an album. The 13-track record, “Imprints,” was released Aug. 12, his 33rd birthday.

The ambient tracks guide the listener through his mind, much like his live shows. The experience is meant to be “immersive, but also passive.”

Mays believes the music doesn’t have to be focused on to be felt.

“If I’m making music, and someone is listening, the energy goes to them,” Mays said.

Before adopting the moniker “Infinite Third,” Mays created heavy metal under different names.

He marks the beginning of his career after an apartment fire in 2009. With that, and the death of his father—a famed television pitchman Billy Mays, in June of that year—he had to start from scratch.

Armed with grief and a guitar, he dove into his first album as Infinite Third, “Gently.”

“It’s more connected to what I was going through at the time,” Mays said. “Because the two albums were released 10 years apart, ‘Gently’ and ‘Imprints’ are often compared in his mind.

“Gently” was “all over the place, but there was a certain vibe to it,” Mays said. “Imprints,” however, is “clearer, and the songs are more accessible and present,” Mays said.

The biggest accomplishment, he feels, is the progression he’s shown in all the albums released between the first and last.

“I feel like it keeps getting...not better, but more and more what I want it to sound like,” Mays said.

According to Mays, the music is more accessible now, rather than resting, he experiments with new styles to find what suits him best.

“Infinite Third, Mays feels, is something bigger than him. “I feel like I’m on a good path in life,” Mays said. “The music is also sort of evolving in that direction, too. I always just want it to be a good reflection.”
New Dalí Exhibit puts the ‘AR’ in art

Story and Photos by Thomas Iacobucci
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There is a sharp contrast between the Dali museum’s white walls and the dark hues of blue and black that hide the mysteries of what lie beyond the newest exhibit’s doors. The few lights amidst the darkness spin shadows and reflections onto the walls and the adjacent floor. Etched on the wall outside, parallel to the permanent collection are The Dalí museum, sit the words “Visual Magic: Dalí’s Masterworks in Augmented Reality.”

Inside, an island — erected in the middle of the room and spanning across most of the exhibit — sits two feet above everything else, allowing guests to have a full visceral, surreal experience. The exhibit is unlike any endeavor The Dalí museum has tackled since opening its new doors in 2011.

Allowing guests to fully immerse themselves, “Visual Magic: Dalí’s Masterworks in Augmented Reality” highlights The Dalí’s collection of its most popular masterworks — paintings that exceed over five feet in height or width and that took over a year to paint — by the Spanish painter.

“The masterworks that we have in the exhibit are the actual, authentic Dalí masterworks he painted and not copied images,” said Maxwell Hague, a membership and services coordinator at the museum.

With the exhibit housing eight original masterworks, the most of any collection within the world, the augmented reality technology gives each visitor a new way to engage with the real images Salvador Dali painted.

Using a mobile device or tablet, visitors can download The Dalí Museum app and simply point their cameras at one of the masterworks.

From there, each painting explodes to life through your screen, highlighting the intricacies and surreal imagery that are prevalent in Dalí’s work.

Each of the eight pieces begins with an animated short, giving the feeling that the viewer is stepping through a portal and entering the painting.

When experiencing the AR of “The Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus,” one of Dalí’s eight masterpieces, the sights and sounds emitting from your phone transport you directly into the painting.

A ship appears through the mist when the sequence begins. A banner that bares a depiction of Gala, Dalí’s wife and muse, in a Madonna-like state flutters in the virtual wind as the moving mist over the sea in the background floats to the left.

As each animation concludes, distinct pieces within the image become highlighted, offering the viewer a chance to further explore the deep imagery that might have been originally lost when first looking at the painting.

After clicking on the highlighted pieces, a voice erupts from the device and further explains the complexities behind each of the small details Dalí worked in.

Museumgoers will become lost as they navigate from one masterwork to the next. “The Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus,” stands at 14 feet tall and 9 feet wide, though it’s hardly noticeable, as each visitor will be engrossed in their small screens that display so much more.

This exhibit essentially allows museumgoers the chance to revisit Dalí’s most cherished paintings, exploring the life and work of the surreal artist through this emerging technology.

As one of the few museums in the country that offers an augmented reality experience, The Dalí museum adds to an already extensive list of technological advancements that include virtual reality and artificial intelligence experiences.

For more information on the exhibit, visit thedali.org or download The Dalí Museum app.

Admission is free for USF St. Petersburg students with a valid student I.D.

The exhibit will run until Nov. 3.
An honest conversation about suicide

By Katlynn Mullins
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I'm not sure what caused it, but the illness evoking the feeling is. Suicide is the breaking point, the part that's preventable. Prevention, however, starts with making it comfortable to talk about — providing an environment that acknowledges suicide as a problem instead of an escape. This comes from talking about what happens after death: grief.

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By Bryce Lawson
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A fresh coat of paint on a sinking ship

With new coach Bruce Arians at the helm and quarterback Jameis Winston in the last year of his deal, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are looking to rebound after a 5-11 season. The Bucs were able to get Arians out of retirement, with the hopes of making the team one of the most high-powered offenses in the league. Although Arians struggled in the playoffs as head coach of the Arizona Cardinals, he was able to take on Ben Roethlisberger-led offense to two Super Bowl victories as offensive coordinator. As the so-called “QB Whisperer,” Arians’ biggest task this year is to help Winston grow up and really take this Bucs team to the next level. With undrafted Pro Bowl receiver Mike Evans as his main target, there should be no reason for Winston to have a mediocre season entering the prime of his career.

The Bucs selected the former Heisman winner with the first overall pick in the 2015 NFL Draft, but various on-field issues have affected his playing career. Last season, after facing suspension, Ryan Fitzpatrick took position as starter. Coming into his fifth NFL season with a new contract preventing, it’s now or never for Winston.

Former New York Jets head coach Todd Bowles has been brought in to run the defense. In the offseason, the Bucs released one of the team’s longest standing players, Pro Bowler Gerald McCoy, in favor of the NFL’s version of a mercenary, Ndamukong Suh. Since being drafted second overall by the Detroit Lions, Suh has been on three teams in the last three years, including last year’s NFC Championship-winning Los Angeles Rams. The Bucs also lost a former Pro Bowler and fan favorite, Kwon Alexander, to the 49ers in the preseason. This year’s fifth overall pick from LSU, Devin White, will hopefully boost the linebacking core. The Bucs have a storied history with defensive prowess. The team has been known for its defense from its very first pick — the legendary Lee Roy Selmon — all the way to the Hall of Fame defense that won Tampa Bay its first ever Super Bowl in 2003.

I would like to see the organization take a turn back in that direction, because when you compare Winston with other young quarterbacks in the NFC South, he comes up short every four times.

As a reporter, I’m expected to be impartial. I’ve always told myself that I’d take the opportunity to cover a suicide story if it arose because I’d know to handle it. But the truth is, I couldn’t and wouldn’t be expected to. I can leave advice though, whether it’s taken or not. Take your time if you feel it’s necessary.

Don’t get caught up in the speed of chasing a story and pull the trigger too early. This news, like any news, affects people. Break slowly.

Suicide isn’t scandalous. It’s heartbreaking. I do believe it’s romanticized, but I also believe the media has made a conscious effort in recent years to bring it to light. Prevention is an ongoing battle that we’ve only just begun. But I have hope.
Five favorite restaurants within walking distance

By Dylan Hart
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We have no shortage of dining — fine and otherwise — here in downtown St. Petersburg. We have greasy 2 a.m. pizza from Joey Brooklyn’s, fine Italian food at Grazzi, and everything in between.

I’ve walked that “in between” stretch quite a bit in the past few years because I’m not rich enough for the latter and never drunk enough for the former. I’ve only recently uncovered the joys that are driving in St. Petersburg, so I have quite a bit of pedestrian experience going back and forth from the dorms.

So, here’s a few spots for meals without wheels.

First, a personal favorite: 2nd and Second, located unforgettably at the corner of 2nd Ave S and 2nd Street, is a good spot for comfort food. It has burgers, sandwiches and breakfast food, but the real benefit of this spot is that it’s open all night.

Many a night was spent last year working through the darkness, trying to finish a newspaper. By the time we were ready to send off to the presses, everything was closed except 2nd and Second, which was just a few blocks away. Because of that, I’ve had far too much late night French toast.

It’s reminiscent of a place like IHOP, but without corporate mediocrity. Instead, you get a friendly staff, an inviting atmosphere and a good meal. If I had one recommendation for the business, it would be a bigger menu.

It’s a bit on the pricey side, but Datz, at 180 Central Ave, is a nearby gastropub with a wide variety of food. Originally a Tampa staple, the restaurant added a St. Petersburg location in June. The menu is as expansive as it is weird — and it is incredibly weird. Everything has strange names, from “Waffles and Tweet” to the “Biggity Big Big Burger.” The menus have a hipstery, tabloid-style design that shows off the restaurant’s legion of Tampa fans on the inside.

That being said, everything I’ve had there has been fantastic, and it’s easy to keep coming back to try new things. Datz has plenty of oddities, like a burger with donuts instead of buns. If you like it the first time, there’s a good chance it will drag you deeper down the rabbit hole.

Just across the street is Oak & Stone, my favorite walking-distance pizza joint. I’m normally the kind of guy who only eats pizza at a pizzeria, as a bonafide pizza fanatic, but Oak & Stone has some very solid pasta and burgers as well. The pizzas are individual, but the restaurant has a good amount of variety, too. Oak & Stone also has a beer wall with 48 beers on tap, if you’re into that sort of thing. A lot of it is local beer, too, and it’s a great opportunity to try new drinks. All you need is an ID and a credit card and you can pour away.

Poppo’s Taqueria was a weekly visit for me during my summer internship in Sarasota. During my last week, I was ecstatic to learn that the company was expanding to St. Petersburg at 1033 Central Ave. It’s definitely a bit of a drive, but if you ever head down Central Avenue to check out shows at the State Theatre, peruse antique stores or morn the departure of Daddy Kool Records, Poppo’s might be worth checking out.

Poppo’s is a family-run Mexican food chain located in Bradenton, and the Central Avenue location is its first restaurant north of the Skyway Bridge. The family likes to follow a similar model to California-based fast food chain In-N-Out, which expands at a snail’s pace but keeps its quality consistent.

It’s worked so far for me. It averages about $8, but the menu is high-quality, the service is fast and the food is good — a one-up on Chipotle in my book. If there is a bit closer and had existed in my freshman year, I probably would be going to this branch once a week, too.

Not far from Poppo’s is Buya Ramen, 911 Central Ave. It’s an industrial black building, and it’s easy to miss, but it’s definitely worth checking out. I’m hardly an Asian food aficionado, but Buya hits the spot for me.

It’s definitely on the pricier side, but you get a full, nutritious meal with meat, noodles, broth, an egg and a side, all in a very authentic Japanese style that strays from the usual Florida fare of Asian fusion that’s more American than it is Asian. Make sure you have a good grasp of your chopstick chops.

What to do this week: Sept. 9-15

By Bryce Lawson
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MONDAY
Sacred Lands Preservation and Education, 1700 Park St. N, will have an “Introduction To Vegetable Gardening in Florida” class looking at the steps you need to get your garden started. Tickets for the class are $15. For more information, visit their website. The classes will run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 9 p.m.

TUESDAY
Florida CraftArt, 501 Central Ave., will showcase Eggs & Skulls clothing art and trends from the ’60s to present, created by George Stovall. The free event is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The James Museum, 150 Central Ave., will host a $10 live music event from 4 to 7:30 p.m. This week, Rebekah Pulley will bring some bluey vibes to the museum.

WEDNESDAY
Ali Shahred Muhammad, from legendary hip-hop group A Tribe Called Quest, will be called by producer Adrian Younge to present The Midnight Hour at The Palladium Theatre, 253 Fifth Ave. N, from 7 to 11:30 p.m. Tickets are $12 with a student ID.

The Hideaway Café, 1756 Central Ave., will host a Blues Night featuring Best of the Bay award winner Betty Fox Band from 6 p.m. to midnight. The show is free, but food and drinks will be available for purchase.

THURSDAY
Intermezzo Coffee & Cocktails, 1111 Central Ave., will host The Royal Palm Market from 6 p.m. to midnight. It will be a free event featuring local artists and vendors.

The Cat’s Meow Swing Dancing group will give free swing dancing lessons in the Sundial courtyard, 153 Second Ave. N, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

COMPASS will host Lunch & Learn from noon to 1 p.m. in HWH 101. This free session will teach you to be more organized using tools from the Google Suite, like Google and Calendar.

FRIDAY
Celebrate the seventh anniversary of The Bends, 919 First Ave. N, with great music and an outdoor market including Nah Dogs Vegan Hot Dog Cart. The party will be from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. This will be a free event with food and drinks available to purchase.

SATURDAY
Daddy Kool Records, 2430 Terminal Drive S, Side B, will host the Marianne Wynsocki Art Show from 5 to 9 p.m., featuring artwork by Rocky Wilcox & The Moonsnakes. This will be a free event.

SUNDAY
The Hollander Hotel will host the Deep Splash House Music Pool Party from 1 to 5 p.m. Soak up the sun and enjoy some house music at this free event.

Test your knowledge of sexual assault awareness and prevention at Sexual Assault Trivia Night from 6 to 7 p.m. in Davis 130. This free event will be facilitated by Sexual Assault Survivors Support Group.
S
o you’re new to St. Petersburg. There’s the heavy hitter landmarks that will be in any typical welcoming pamphlet, like the Dali Museum, St. Pete Beach, Vinoy Park and the classic window-shopping stroll downtown — even when you don’t have any money to actually buy anything. But there are eight spots that will help you delve into the lay of the land of this multifaceted, perpetually growing city. I’m not from here, but these locals have helped me love and understand the city like a native.

**The Blueberry Patch**

4923 28th Ave. S

The Blueberry Patch is an outdoor music venue and gathering space covered in decades’ worth of murals, repurposed decor and communal art. It’s an inclusive space for all types of creativity, supporting artistic endeavors such as music, painting, dancing, artisanship and poetry. They have shows on 1st, 7th, 11th, and 22nd days of each month, and following the performances, there’s a peaceful 01Hm circle.

Operated by the nonprofit organization Sharevival, The Blueberry Patch is on the southside being an eclectic portrayal of the culture of a city than to the artistic community that is utterly old-fashioned. It’s a place truly dedicated to art, community and expression — despite being located directly behind a Wells Fargo bank. Kind of ironic, right?

**Second Saturday Art Walk**

St. Petersburg Arts Alliance’s Second Saturday Art Walk deserves a complete afternoon dedicated to its multi-venue arts showcase. Twice a month, the working artists of our city keep their studios and galleries open late to create an easily accessible art walk through the city, connecting must-visit art destinations throughout five districts of St. Petersburg (yeah, there’s a lot). The city also offers free trolley lines connecting the featured galleries and studios, so you don’t have to worry about the pains of downtown parking on a Saturday night. There’s no better way to start understanding the artistic culture of a city than to literally walk into an artist’s personal studio and strike up a conversation with them.

Galleries usually reserve openings for new exhibits during a Second Saturday Art Walk, so you can get a first glance into the city’s newest art.

**Munch’s Diner**

3920 Sixth St. S

This diner has not changed since the ‘50s, and it has the character to prove it. Its walls are adorned with Lobwood Elementary School class photos (yes, before integration), fading metal signs, vintage posters with old-timey catch phrases, and even a giant poster of Guy Fieri from when Munch’s was featured on “Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives.”

This dines serves up all of the comfort breakfast foods and American favorites, including homemade milkshakes handpumped by a tie-dye-wearing waitress who is most likely calling you “baby.” It’s a diner that is utterly old-fashioned and predictable in the most comforting way possible.

**Sunshine Thrift Store**

8008 34th St. N

Thriftling is cold again, perhaps because of the pro-sustainability wave and changes in fashion trends, and Sunshine Thrift store is where your St. Petersburg thrilling journey should begin. This secondhand store spans about 13,000 square feet, and its seemingly endless racks can lure you in for hours, especially with their low prices and consistent sales. All of the clothes are coordinated by colored tags, and at any given time there are two colors that are half-off, with one Thursday of every month bringing the craziness that is half-off all clothes. If you plan to shop on a half-off day, be prepared to throw some elbows, because it gets cutthroat.

**Community Cafe**

2444 Central Ave.

Community Cafe, just west of campus, is a vegetarian- and vegan-friendly restaurant, coffee shop, board game destination, and most importantly, a gathering place for community events. With a weekly drag show, story hour, game nights, screenings of educational films, art shows, yard sales, and LGBTQ+ coming out parties, Community Cafe is much more than a restaurant. Its eclectic, mix-matched decor contradicts the sleek coffee shop it shares with Central Avenue. It’s also open until midnight on weekdays and until 2 a.m. on weekends, so it’s a place for night owls to work late. It’s truly a collaborative, welcoming space that’s here to serve the community and fill their stomachs with homey, vegetarian food.

**Haslam’s Book Store**

2025 Central Ave.

Haslam’s Bookstore, with its peeling beige paint, fading red letters and large posters, has over 80 years of history behind its doors.

Haslam’s expansive interior sells books and magazines — new and old — about every topic one can fathom. It’s another one of those typical, must-see places of St. Pete, but for a good reason. As the self-proclaimed “Largest new and used bookstore in Florida,” it’s a place to easily get lost in as you mindlessly browse the endless shelves of books you’ve never heard of. There’s also a local rumor that it’s haunted — how alluring.

**Sawgrass Lake Park**

7400 25th St. N

Sawgrass Lake Park is an escape from the bustle of downtown St. Pete: a 400-acre, swampy escape, to be exact. From the closed boardwalk trail, half-mile dirt trail, picnic tables and outlook towers, this park is an ideal way to explore Florida’s natural habitat. It’s only 15 minutes north of campus, and a visit to the outdoor destination that isn’t the beach — if sand isn’t your thing — and allows more privacy than Vinoy Park.

Sawgrass Lake Park was established in 1952 to provide flood protection to the Pinellas Park Area. It has since evolved into a relaxing getaway while still Naturally enhancing the quality of water drainage throughout the Tampa Bay area.

**Favorite memory:** It’s my favorite spot for strolling in the sun and journaling in the grass, with Maximo Park on the southside being an honorable mention. I have yet to see a gator, but there’s still time.

**Favorite memory:** I went to Fresh Start Drag Showcase for the first time there or you’re a veteran. Your first time there or you’re a regular, you look like, and whether it’s your first time or you’re new to St. Petersburg, you’re welcomed with open arms. It’s a hippie wonderland that will help you delve into the city like a native.

**Favorite memory:** I wrote my story, the blueberry patch for one of my classes, so I went to one of their shows for some field reporting. I interviewed three children, ages 8 to 10, and they all gushed about how much they loved the Blueberry Patch and how much they loved creating art and sharing it with everyone. It’s a place truly dedicated to art, community and expression — despite being located directly behind a Wells Fargo bank. Kind of ironic, right?

**Cascade Community Cafe**

4724 49th St. N

Cascade Community Cafe, just west of campus, is a vegetarian- and vegan-friendly restaurant, coffee shop, board game destination, and most importantly, a gathering place for community events. With a weekly drag show, story hour, game nights, screenings of educational films, art shows, yard sales, and LGBTQ+ coming out parties, Community Cafe is much more than a restaurant. Its eclectic, mix-matched decor contradicts the sleek coffee shop it shares with Central Avenue. It’s also open until midnight on weekdays and until 2 a.m. on weekends, so it’s a place for night owls to work late. It’s truly a collaborative, welcoming space that’s here to serve the community and fill their stomachs with homey, vegetarian food.

**Favorite memory:** Community Cafe is where I have spent every finals week of college thus far. I’d get off work at 10pm, change into sweatsuits in the bathroom, and head directly to Community Cafe. It’s also open until midnight on weekdays and until 2 a.m. on weekends, so it’s a place for night owls to work late. It’s truly a collaborative, welcoming space that’s here to serve the community and fill their stomachs with homey, vegetarian food.

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