

"BUILDING STRONGER CITIES"

MAY 2023 | ISSUE 67

BUNGALOWER

IS PRIDE A SIN?

2023 PRIDE PARADE AT RISK

BEHIND THE SCENES

GET AN EARLY LOOK AT BRIGHTLINE

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONCERTS, DATE NIGHTS, AND MORE

NATURE IN THE CITY

WE HAVE SOME WILD ROOMMATES



*"TAKE LONG HARD SWIG,
"THERE'S ENOUGH TO GO AROUND
IF YOU WANT TO SHARE. - A. HAIKU*

BUNGALOWER.COM



Poster design Jeff Matz/Lure

NOW ON DISPLAY – AN EXHIBITION THAT ROCKS!

Between 1985 and 2001, the Orlando concert promoter Figurehead invigorated the musical landscape in Central Florida. Catch a glimpse into what made this time in the Central Florida music scene so memorable – the bands and the clubs, the community and the chaos.

COMING THIS SEPTEMBER...

FIGUREHEAD NIGHT OUT! A weekend of live music and more!

Stay tuned for details!

ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL

HISTORY CENTER

DOWNTOWN ORLANDO

TheHistoryCenter.org

65 E. Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL
407-836-8500





PHOTO BY MICHAEL HODGES

FROM THE EDITOR:

If spring is any indicator, our summer is going to be super busy, y'all.

Holler at our friends at the Florida Film Festival for an amazing job with this year's festival. We have been a proud sponsor of the event for years and we're always excited to see what our friends at Enzian Theater are cooking up.

The annual Easter Bonnett Pub Crawl in Ivanhoe Village had to be seen to be believed this year. Special thank you to everyone who donned a massive, elaborate bonnet and joined in the fun this year. And thank you to all of the bars and bar goers who cheered us on along the way. Scan the code above for photos of the attendees.

Coming up we have our Freedom Flop belly flop contest at Tactical Brewing on May 6th for the Cinco de Mayo weekend. We've teamed up with our pals at Tactical Brewing and Cholo Dogs to bring the party to Baldwin Park and we're simultaneously excited and terrified to see what this year has in store. belly flop

Be sure to sign up for our Bungalow Buddy membership program so you don't miss out on any of our events and shin digs and stay tuned to our website and socials for any updates. We're planning some really fun activations and activities for the next few months and we can't wait to see all of your pretty faces out in the City Beautiful.

-Brendan O'Connor, Editor.



COMING AND GROWING: WHAT'S CLOSED AND OPENED?

The folks at Mills 50 barbakoa, **Pig Floyds**, have opened a new sister restaurant up the street called **Pigzza** which obviously stands for a mashup of barbecue and pizza.

Portuguese/Mexican fusion restaurant, **Bem Bom**, has just signed a lease for the former 4 Rivers Smokehouse storefront in City Hall. They'll be open for breakfast and lunch only and will have a different menu from their Audubon Park location.

Proper Orlando is a new vinyl listening lounge in downtown Orlando that focuses on good music and vibes with music that doesn't play so loud you can't hear your friends checking their Instagram posts.

RockPit Brewing just added a new distillery to their SoDo brewhouse and they're now serving liquor. The first booze they decided to make was moonshine, which tells you everything you need to know about them. They like a party.

College Park's **Graffiti Junktion** closed suddenly last month when the owner decided not to renew his lease. A replacement concept hasn't been named yet but second generation restaurants don't stay vacant for long on Edgewater Drive.

Harry Buffalo on Church Street closed too, but we don't know why because they don't answer our emails. The building owner is allegedly gutting the space and renovating it for a new concept.



SCAN THE QR
CODE TO SEE ALL
OF THE "COM-
ING AND GOING"
POSTS ONLINE

EVENTS!

06 FRANCO'S FREEDOM FLOP CINCO PARTY

We're teaming up with Mexican hotdog slingers, Cholo Dogs, and Tactical Brewing to host a pop-up Belly Flop contest in Baldwin Park with over 10 local makers, food trucks, and more. Try specialty brews and enjoy tunes powered by a Ford F-150 Lightning!

2-7 P.M. | TACTICAL BREWING, 4882 NEW BROAD STREET | BALDWIN PARK | \$25 TO FLOP | BUNGALOWER.COM

12 DINO-NIGHT AT LEU

For one night only, families and children can get dressed up in their dinosaur-related gear and grab a flashlight, to stroll the botanical gardens in search of all of the dinosaur sculptures installed across the grounds as part of the current "Dinosaurs" exhibit. Sunset is at 7:51 p.m.

6 P.M. | LEU GARDENS, 1920 N. FOREST AVENUE | AUDUBON PARK | \$17 | LEUGARDENS.ORG

16 ORLANDO FRINGE

The 32nd Orlando International Fringe Theatre Festival is celebrating the opening of this year's festival on May 16 followed by a 14-day immersive cultural experience with over 2,000 ticketed performances, spanning every genre of theater imaginable, including spoken word, musicals, comedy, weirdos in a van, and more. There's also a two-week beer garden. You're welcome.

THRU MAY 29 | LOCH HAVEN PARK | IVAN-HOE VILLAGE | VARIOUS PRICES | ORLANDOFRINGE.ORG

28 CATTOO DAY

Golden Tarot Ink Club is hosting its fifth annual Cattoo Day and you're invited. Pick from a list of pre-selected cat tattoo designs and help raise funds for Orange County Animal Services. Orange County staff will be onsite with adoptable kittens that have been thoroughly vetted, microchipped, and spayed/neutered.

9:30 A.M.-4 P.M. | GOLDEN TAROT, 3744 HOWELL BRANCH ROAD | WINTER PARK | VARIOUS PRICES | GOLDENTAROTINKCLUB.COM

1 BITE 30

Participating restaurants across Central Florida will offer multi-course dinners for a set price of \$35 from June 1-9. Diners will get the chance to try multiple dishes at new restaurants for the cost of a single entree and restaurant hop their way across the city. Restaurants include DoveCote, Ootoya Sushi, and more.

JUNE 1-9 | VARIOUS LOCATIONS | ORLANDO | \$35 | BITE30.COM

OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS:

EVERY TUESDAY - BUNGALOWER DRAG BINGO @ TACTICAL BREW
5/5 - FREEDOM FLOP @ TACTICAL BREWING
5/6 - COLLEGE PARK MAIN STREET SPRING FEST
5/11 - ECHOLAND FESTIVAL @ SUWANNEE MUSIC PARK
5/14 - ARAB FESTIVAL ORLANDO @ LAKE EOLA PARK
5/16-29 - ORLANDO FRINGE @ LOCH HAVEN PARK
5/19-21 - "BASEBALL: A LOVE LETTER" @ OPERA ORLANDO
5/20 - MARGARET CHO @ PLAZA LIVE
5/21 - ASIAN AMERICANS IN FLORIDA @ HISTORY CENTER
5/23 - STEVIE NICKS @ AMWAY
5/24 - STATE OF THE CITY @ ORLANDO BALLET
5/25 - MYSTERY SKETCH THEATER @ THE FALCON
5/25 - STEVIE NICKS @ AMWAY CENTER
5/26 - ORLANDO CRITICAL MASS @ LOCH HAVEN PARK
5/26 - LE SALON/PETTY @ SNAPI DOWNTOWN
5/27 - ANNUAL HURRICANE PARTY @ WEST END TRADING CO.
5/28 - MILK MART 7TH ANNIVERSARY @ MILK DISTRICT
5/28 - ORLANDO CARNIVAL DOWNTOWN @ LORNA DOONE
6/2 - 2023 FL PRIZE PREVIEW PARTY @ OMA
6/3 - PURPLE REIGN PRINCE VIDEO PARTY @ WILL'S PUB
6/9 - "THE BROADS WAY" @ THE ABBEY
6/10 - BROOKS AND DUNN @ AMWAY CENTER
6/10 - FORBIDDEN KINGDOM MUSIC FEST @ FAIRGROUNDS
6/10 - THE GAME OF SHROOMS @ AUDUBON PARK
6/10 - MELROSE POP FESTIVAL @ MELROSE CENTER
6/13 - PARAMORE @ AMWAY CENTER
6/14 - ORANGE COUNTY JUNETEENTH - OC ADMIN BUILDING
6/16 - HARRY POTTER IN CONCERT @ DPAC
6/24 - DRESS LIKE A DAD PUB CRAWL @ CURRY FORD WEST
6/25 - FLEET FOXES, UWAE @ HARD ROCK LIVE
6/27 - "BEETLEJUICE THE MUSICAL" @ AMWAY CENTER
6/30 - PETER FRAMPTON @ HARD ROCK LIVE

FOR MORE INFO ON THESE SELECTIONS, VISIT [BUNGALOWER.COM/EVENTS](https://bungalower.com/events)

ORANGE
COUNTY
LIBRARY
SYSTEM



Summer
at your
Library

June 3 - July 29

In-person and virtual events for kids of all ages
Fun - Educational - Free



LEARN. GROW. CONNECT.

HEADLINE WORD SEARCH

F I C O T X E Y N G R I L L S F B
 R Q X C P A F V W O N F V U I R C
 I G J T N D I U A O C X V N U Q T
 N U P B U Q Y U I I J A Z A A P W
 G V A U W A U T Q I O A G P O O T
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 A D R Z V U P O L N A I T E N E V
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 H R B K T I R C N Y V H M L V K G

BASQUIAT
BELLYFLOP
BEM BOM
DEMOLITION
DRAG
FRINGE
GRILLS
MEGACON
MICHELIN
PARADE
PIGZZA
POMA
PROPER
VENETIAN

BUNGALOWER AND THE BUS

SOUNDS OF THE CITY BEAUTIFUL | REAL RADIO 104.1 FM

Tune in to Real Radio 104.1 every Friday at 8 p.m. to hear Bungalower Media's editor, Brendan O'Connor, and former Orlando Sentinel and WESH 2 reporter/Orlando lover, Jon Busdeker, talk their way through the week's hyper-local headlines, one beer at a time.

This month, the boys were lucky enough to go to a number of early previews including Proper, the new vinyl listening lounge, and High T, an immersvie bar in downtown Orlando straight out of a Lewis Carroll book.

Every episode of Bungalower and The Bus is available in podcast form on your favorite podcasting platforms, or scan the code below to get our Soundcloud page. If you'd like to host Jon and Brendan at your business, shoot us an email at sales@bungalower.com and tell us what you're thinking.



BE SURE TO SUBSCRIBE SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT ON ANY BONUS EPISODES!





STORIED ORLANDO
CHAPTER 104: MAGAZINE

By Scottie Campbell

The interview went smoothly. Trent even thought he handled the insipid ‘where do you see yourself in ten years’ question well – ‘When are you retiring, sir?’ Everyone laughed. Working on the editorial team for Orlando’s newest magazine would be a dream come true. The years of bartending, serving, and baring it all online to get through college could finally pay off. Trent stood, smoothed out his trousers, then shook hands with each of the five panelists. The big boss walked him to the door, shook his hand, then whisper into his ear, ‘I’m not your only fan, but your biggest.’

STORIED ORLANDO IS A MICRO-STORY PROJECT – EACH STORY IS 100 WORDS OR LESS. YOU CAN FIND MORE OF THIS MICRO-LITERATURE PROJECT AT THOROUGHLYUSEDUP.WORDPRESS.COM.

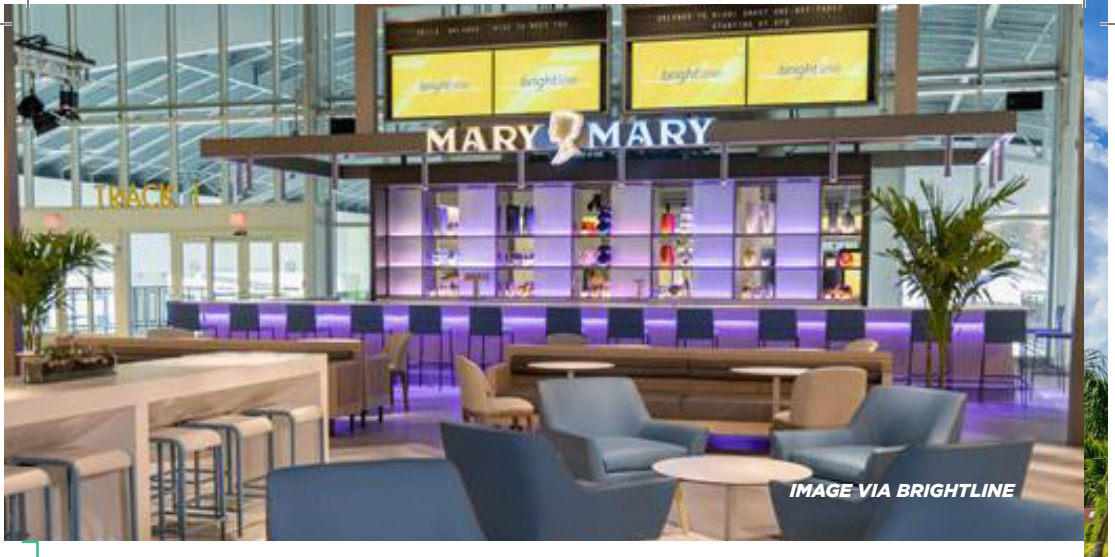


BUNGALOWER

BINGO

TUESDAYS @ 7 P.M.

TACTICAL BREWING



BRIGHTLINE'S NEW TERMINAL IS OPEN AND TICKETS ARE ON SALE THIS MONTH

Brightline, the intercity rail company connecting Central Florida to South Florida, unveiled its new Orlando station on April 20, and we were there to check it out.

The new station is located adjacent to the Orlando International Airport's new Terminal C and is connected via a fancy walkway reminiscent of a Star Trek space station. The station welcomed an estimated 300 guests and members of the media to the ribbon cutting, including Orlando Mayor John Dyer and Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings, who all took a turn on the mic while we were stealing a swag bag at the welcome table.

The 37,350 SF station connects to the airport's Parking Garage C, which will have more than 350 parking spaces designated for Brightline users and it will provide access to the other airport terminals via the automated people mover/monorail in under 5 minutes.

The terminal features a small retail hub for last-minute gifts and sundries and a bar serving hand-crafted cocktails and light bites. The Mary Mary Bar is a sit-down service area at the far end of the station with panoramic views of the train platforms. Apparently, the name is a nod to Henry Flagler and his two (non-simultaneous) wives who were both named Mary. It's delightfully homosexual though too.

Service is expected to begin in Summer 2023 with 16 daily round trips between Miami and Orlando. According to Brightline, an estimated 35 million people travel between the two cities each year and they're betting they can capture a large chunk in the first year of operations.

Non-stop train services are expected to run for two hours and 59 minutes. Regular service will include stops in West Palm Beach, Boca Raton, Fort Lauderdale, and Aventura, with a runtime of three hours and 30 minutes.

Ticket sales kick off this month on gobrightline.com, with fares starting at \$79 and \$39 for kids. Premium tickets start at \$149 and include access to amenities like a dedicated lounge, priority boarding, checked luggage, and complimentary food and beverages during the trip.

They will only be available for dates between September 1, 2023 and January 7, 2024. Summer tickets will go on sale only when the railine has secured a formal opening date.

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OUR
INSTAGRAM TOUR





GRILLS OWNER QUILTS BUD LIGHT AND SHARES OPEN LETTER

According to a story by an east coast blogger, Grills Seafood decided to join the anti-Bud Light train and to take it off of the menu last month. And allegedly, they may have gone so far as to even destroy their inventory.

The Independent media outlet, The Space Coast Rocket, shared on Saturday, April 15, that a number of patrons at the Cape Canaveral Grills location took to social media to share that Grills employees were no longer serving Bud Light. One diner shared that the announcement was made in the middle of their meal after already being served a Bud Light when they first made their order.

To compound the situation, The Rocket shared a quote from a diner who says they even overheard a manager tell bar staff, that they don't "... serve faggot beer." Though we couldn't confirm that quote with Grills Seafood.

Management at the Orlando location on Orange Blossom Trail, Grill's Lakeside, shared with Bungalow that the move to discontinue serving Bud Light had indeed been made company-wide, though there was no official statement about the motivation behind the move. Management shared that they would continue to serve all other Anheuser-Busch beer labels and they

were careful to mention that the move was not exactly in response to recent headlines saying,

"There's been no official word from our ownership about why we've gotten rid of it [Bud Light] but everyone seems to be making the connection."

Anheuser-Busch is facing an estimated \$5 billion loss in market value following backlash from conservatives who disapproved of a marketing campaign that featured transgender activist, Dylan Mulvaney. Mulvaney posted on April 1 about a \$15,000 giveaway that the company had sponsored during March Madness, mentioning that she had been given a special tallboy can with her face on it to celebrate a full year of her "Days of Girlhood" series documenting her transition online. She has more than 1.8 million followers on Instagram.

The last time we wrote about Grills Restaurants in 2021 when the owner, Joe Penovich, made a public statement sharing that he would not be requiring his staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19 because God told him not to.

Penovich shared an open letter with Anheuser-Busch you shouldn't miss.

**SCAN THIS CODE
TO READ PENOVICH'S
LETTER**





NATURE IN THE CITY: WE HAVE WILD ROOMMATES AND NEED TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH THEM

When a reader spotted a young black bear trotting down the street in Audubon Park last month, we almost thought it was a deep fake. It's not something you see very often in an urban neighborhood just a handful of miles out of downtown.

Throughout the day, readers tagged us in their own videos of the high-tailing bear as it was seen climbing fences and galloping away from all of the activity of an awakening Orlando. By the end of that same day, tens of thousands of people were asking us for more and more updates on its path westward, and we started to worry that the story may not have a happy ending after all.

Black bears are native to Florida and a natural part of living here, though they could be highly stressed if they accidentally wander into urban neighborhoods. The best way to stay safe when watching any wildlife, including bears, is to give them space.

FWC biologists observed the bear for a few days, all the while hoping it would make its way out of town on its own, on its own time, which is the standard operating procedure for the state agency. A number of traps were put out each day but the bear managed to evade them as it continued on its way through town.

On Monday, April 24, we got an email that the bear had died. Struck by a car at the intersection of Fairbanks Avenue and Edgewater Drive - an incredibly busy intersection with no real safe way to cross, even for humans. Should we have seen this coming?

Animals and humans are having increasing interactions as more and more people move into Central Florida and more land is developed. Bears are known for covering large distances in search of food and safe territories and young black bears go off on their own in the spring when they've grown large enough to leave their mothers. We need to plan ways to give animals safe routes through our urban areas with enough space that they don't need to interact with us.

Designing our landscapes now, is really the only way we can ensure we even have large animals to admire in the future. We're smart enough and definitely care enough to make sure we look after our wild, furry roommates by giving them room to be.

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OUR
INSTAGRAM POSTS





IT'S PATIO WEATHER

It's not quite summer and not quite spring, which means we can rejoice in the inbetween-ness of the season and still rock it out on a patio with our friends without melting into a puddle. Here's some of our favorite local patios to chill on in the bungalow neighborhoods.

- **A LA CART** - This trendy food truck/beer garden is located in the Milk District and regularly features outdoor movie nights and themed beer events.
- **EAST END MARKET** - The Audubon Park-based food hall and business incubator recently redid their outdoor courtyard space in the front of the building. It's a great spot to grab a drink and some food from one (or all) of the vendors inside. Have a #mukbang.
- **EOLA WINE CO.** - This spot is a downtown favorite with some great wine, excellent people watching, and they have a menu for your dog too if you're out on a walk.
- **THE GREEK CORNER** - Sometimes, if you squint your eyes, you can pretend you're actually in Greece in this local staple. They're right on the shores of Lake Ivanhoe too so you'll get a nice cool breeze to go along with a plate of gyros and fries.
- **RAVENOUS PIG BREWING** - While it may be tough to get a seat at this popular beer garden, it's worth the wait.
- **SIDEWARD BREWING** - This Milk District hotspot has a kitchen and serves up some of the best sandwiches in town alongside some great beers.
- **THE WELLBORN** - The historic Wellborn Hotel has a beautiful and eclectic courtyard in one of the oldest houses in Orlando, the I.W. Philips House. They serve great craft cocktails and they have a new menu that you need to try.

THUMBS UP/ THUMBS DOWN



VISIT ORLANDO AND THE ORLANDO ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP UNVEILED A FANCY NEW MURAL IN DOWNTOWN ORLANDO ON 407 DAY. THEY CHOSE A VACANT LOT IN THE HEART OF THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TO SHOWCASE A MURAL THAT WAS DESIGNED FOR THE "UNBELIEVABLE BY REAL" BRAND INITIATIVE THE TWO GROUPS SPENT BIG BUCKS ON THIS YEAR TO LURE IN TOURISTS. A SIMILAR MURAL WAS PAINTED IN BROOKLYN



AN EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PUSH NOTIFICATION WENT OUT EARLY MORNING THURSDAY, APRIL 20, AT 4:45 A.M., STARTLING PEOPLE AWAKE ACROSS THE STATE. THE ALERT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE MESSAGE, "TEST - THIS IS A TEST OF THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED." THE GOVERNOR SUBSEQUENTLY FIRED THE COMPANY BEHIND THE ACCIDENT THEN REALIZED THEY COULDN'T FIND SOMEONE TO REPLACE THEM WITH, SO THEY HIRED THEM AGAIN. LAME.



LINCOLN PROPERTY COMPANY BEGAN THE SECOND PHASE OF ITS CHURCH STREET PROJECT LAST MONTH AND STARTED THE DEMOLITION OF THE FORMER BALLROOM AT CHURCH STREET. THE 23,000 SF BALLROOM AT CHURCH STREET WAS BUILT IN 1994 ON GARLAND AVENUE AND IS TUCKED AWAY BEHIND THE CHEYENNE SALOON. THE BUILDING, WHICH HAS PRIMARILY BEEN USED FOR WEDDINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS, CLOSED IN 2019 AND HAS SAT VACANT EVER SINCE.



A BUFFALO NAMED BARNEY DIED ON ORANGE AVENUE IN 1912 AND HE DESERVES A STATUE

106 years ago a massive buffalo named Barney died in Downtown Orlando while attempting an epic escape. We need a statue.

In October 1912, Buffalo Bill's circus visited Orlando.

Bill's oldest, and subsequently largest, buffalo took it upon himself to run away from the circus and meander his way along Orange Avenue. Because #BuffaloLife.

A group of "punchers," or cattle prodders that were in charge of ushering the buffalo from place to place, were trying to direct Barney over to his train car after performing his stunts for onlooking Orlandoans. But this day was different.

Barney was supposedly suffering from an acute case of "Texas Fever," an illness caused by parasitic protozoa carried by ticks that causes emaciation, anemia, and inevitably death. So at about the point, Big Barney reached Central Avenue, he started

to make a fuss. His handlers removed his ropes and restraints in an effort to calm him but he took off on his own and even headed into a series of shops; Kanner's followed by Duckworth's Department Store, where he braced himself against a massive window but managed not to shatter it. The punchers managed to rope Barney again and haul him further down the street, where he laid down at the intersection of Church and Orange and breathed his last breath. Just outside of the recently closed Walgreens.

We think we should commemorate the passing of this noble beast, that died in the City Beautiful while trying to escape a circus, probably shouting "Freedom" at the sky like a blue-painted Scotsman, albeit in Buffalo, with a statue.

If you agree with us, shoot us an email at news@bungalower.com and we'll put you in a database of possible donors.



TOP TEN THINGS TO KNOW

- 1) "Grills owner shares open letter to Anheuser-Busch."
- 2) "Grills dumps Bud Light."
- 3) "Sunset Bodga now open in South Eola."
- 4) "Michelin adds eight more Orlando restaurants."
- 5) "Maitland-based meal kit business opening restaurant."

ICYMI

(IN CASE YOU MISSED IT)



BASQUIAT BANDITS BUSTED

In April, The California Department of Justice announced they had charged Michael Barzman with making false statements about the provenance of paintings attributed to artist Jean-Michel Basquiat that were seized from the Orlando Museum of Art last year. Barzman's team also filed a plea agreement that included pleading guilty to the felony offense of art fraud and shared admissions of the fake paintings that included the name of the forger, known only as "J.F." in court documents. The crime of making false statements to a government agency carries a statutory maximum penalty of five years in federal prison. The investigation is still underway.

PUBLIX LOVES THEIR CHICKEN

Lakeland-based grocer, Publix, has just launched a new Nashville hot chicken sandwich this month at its delis across Central Florida. The sandwich features chicken tenders that were breaded and fried, and glazed in a spicy sauce before "sandwiching" it between two slices of King's Hawaiian bread with a pickle on the side. The new sandwich will be available through June 30, but they still won't write "trans" on your cake.

VEGAN MARKET IN LIMBO ...

Longtime vegetarian stronghold Market on South is closing up shop. The space, which opened back in 2015 at 2603 E. South Street, was originally home to both Dixie Dharma and Valhalla Bakery, but Dharma ended up vacating the premises during the pandemic to prep a new space in East Orlando while Valhalla Bakery continued on in the Milk District until everything was ready for the move to the historic Fort Pitt building on Old Cheney Highway. The project, when open, will be home to Valhalla Bakery and Dharma Southern Chick'n (a new fried vegan chicken concept), as well as a third retail business called Moon River Boutique.



WHAT WE SAW AT MECACON 2023

MegaCon Orlando returned for four days of nerdtastic programming and Bungalow was there to watch it all. MegaCon is Southeast's most popular comic, sci-fi, horror, anime, and gaming event and features four days of celebrity encounters, fan-favorite cosplayers, and after-hours programming in the Orange County Convention Center. This year, the convention peeps invited us to come check out, so we did, and we have an adorable video for you to watch and some awesome photos. Just follow the QR code to see for yourself.

SCAN CODE
TO WATCH VIDEO
AND SEE PHOTOS



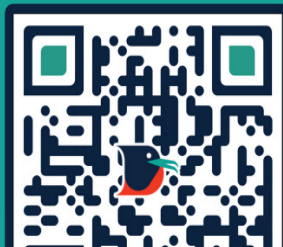
NEVER MISS A STORY AGAIN AND SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-NEWSLETTER.
WE'LL SEND YOU THREE ROUNDUPS A WEEK OF HYPER-LOCAL NEWS!

- 6) "Bear Watch 2023 is over."
- 7) "Video: Brightline unveils new train station."
- 8) "Harry Buffalo to close on Church Street."
- 9) "Black Bear spotted near Leu Gardens."
- 10) "Market on South cooking up something new."

**MOST-READ
BUNGALOWER
HEADLINES OF
APRIL 2023**

Double O's

COFFEE





COWP QUESTIONS FUTURE OF ORLANDO'S PRIDE PARADE

A bill passed in April by state legislature could allow the state to fine and revoke food and beverage licenses for any business that allows children to attend any “adult live performance” that “appeals to a prurient, shameful, or morbid interest,” including shows that use “prosthetic or imitation genitals or breasts.” Read: drag shows.

The “Protection of Children Act” states that any person or individual that “knowingly [admits] a child to an adult live performance,” could face a first-degree misdemeanor with up to one year of imprisonment and a hefty fine.

While the bill doesn’t specifically say “drag” anywhere, everyone knows what it means because the GOP will certainly not be targeting your local Hooters restaurant or belly dancer show.

The bill isn’t just limited to live productions either, it also targets cities and counties that issue permits for public performances that include the above where children may be present, leading to at least one organization canceling a planned gay pride event in Port St. Lucie.

We spoke with Tatiana Quiroga, the executive director of Come Out With Pride, the organization behind Orlando’s annual Pride Parade, about

what they think of the bill and what it could mean for their annual event, which attracted more than 200,000 people in 2022. More specifically, we asked if drag would be allowed at the event, Quiroga seemed unsure.

“I obviously want to say, yes, drag will be allowed at the parade. But we’re still waiting to hear what the rules of the game are. This is a volunteer-led event that’s meant to be a gift for the Orlando community and we have had the privilege to operate Pride as a party for the past few years. But the roots of Pride have always been in protest and upheaval. It’s been a privilege to host that party all these years, but we’ll have to wait and see what the footprint of this bill will be, and how much we’re willing to have at stake. We’re going to be walking the line for the community but we have to wait and see how the bill is passed to even know what the line is before we can walk it.” - TATIANA QUIROGA

Quiroga reiterated that the City of Orlando has been a staunch supporter and ally for years and that they were working together to find their next steps, though city officials were unable to provide a comment at the time of this issue going to print.

90.7
WMFE

89.5
WMFV

**CENTRAL
FLORIDA**

TINY DESK

LOCAL SHOWCASE

JUNE 1, 2023

thesocial

ORLANDO, FL

**Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Performances begin at 7 p.m.**

wmfe.org/tinydesk

**The Social Orlando
54 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando, FL**