

# LIVING SUNDAY



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**Where were you during the 1974 tornadoes?**

This week marks the 40th anniversary of the outbreak of nearly 150 tornadoes that swept across Kentucky and 12 other states on April 3-4, 1974. Where were you during the storm? **Share your story with reporter Cheryl Truman at [ctruman@herald-leader.com](mailto:ctruman@herald-leader.com)** (subject: "1974 tornadoes"). Deadline is 5 p.m. Tuesday.

LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

SECTION E



ERIC SLATKIN

Syndicated cartoonist Stephan Pastis, surrounded by stuffed versions of his *Pearls Before Swine* characters

## Having fun keeps 'Pearls Before Swine' cartoonist at drawing board

COMIC STRIP CREATOR LOVES TO HIT THE ROAD, MEET FANS

By Will Scott

[wscott@herald-leader.com](mailto:wscott@herald-leader.com)

Stephan Pastis, the creator of *Pearls Before Swine*, long ago staked out his territory on the comics page: sarcasm, cynicism, extreme cartoonish violence and really bad puns.

Also: undisguised contempt for the "legacy" strips, whose creators long ago retired and/or died, and handed off the lucrative gigs to other cartoonists or, in some cases, their children.

*Pearls Before Swine* has been a syndicated comic strip for 12 years and is now in 725 newspapers nationwide, including the Herald-Leader.

Pastis, 46, is having too much fun to fall into the trap of keeping

See PASTIS, E4



PAUL PRATHER  
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

## It was a Saturday evening in 1962 when Jesus came into my heart

In 1962, my father, then roughly the age my son is now, served as pastor of an asbestos-shingle Baptist church on an unpaved side street in Berea.

He was young, energetic and a firebrand preacher. I can still see the church's small sanctuary filled to capacity, no empty spaces left in the pews. Ushers lined the center aisle and rear wall with folding chairs to accommodate the crowds.

Particularly in that early stage of his career, Dad was an evangelistic preacher in a traditional, emotional Southern Baptist style. Nearly all his sermons focused on the need of every man, woman

See PRATHER, E3

## ORATORIO 'COMES ALIVE IN NEW WAYS EVERY YEAR'



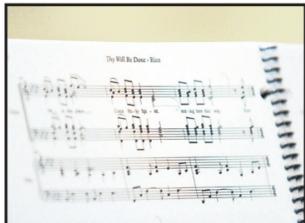
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PHOTOS BY RICH COPLEY | [rcopley@herald-leader.com](mailto:rcopley@herald-leader.com)

Josh Chai is the chorus director for *Thy Will Be Done*. Angela Rice's oratorio originated as a cantata in 2012 and has changed every year.



*Thy Will Be Done* will be presented April 3 at the Cathedral of Christ the King and April 6 at Tates Creek Presbyterian Church.



Rice has reworked the score for *Thy Will Be Done* each year as new ideas came to her.



Composer Angela Rice is working with Everett McCorvey for this year's production of her work.

## 'Thy Will Be Done' will be done, someday



RICH COPLEY  
HERALD-LEADER CULTURE COLUMNIST

When the first performances of Angela Rice's oratorio *Thy Will Be Done* were completed in 2012, the composer was far from finished with the piece.

"All of these ideas came flooding into my head after the first performance, of things that needed to be there: the temptation

LEXGO.COM

Video: Watch a rehearsal of Angela Rice and the *Thy Will Be Done* chorus.

of Jesus in the desert; Jesus saying, 'I'm the way, the truth and the light;' and I wanted to do a theme on forgiveness, because that wasn't in there: 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' There were very important themes and messages that Jesus brought into his ministry that didn't make it that first year."

So she wrote nine new pieces for the work's performance last

See COPLEY, E4

## Dancing and drinking, Viennese style

THAT MEANS THE WALTZ AND COFFEEHOUSES

By Patti Nickell

Contributing Travel Writer

VIENNA, Austria — A friend describes standing outside this city's prestigious Elmayer Dance School and watching as a young man, pierced and tattooed, wearing combat boots and sporting a multicolored Mohawk, got off a motorcycle and reached for something in his backpack.

He fished out nothing more menacing than a pair

of dancing shoes. According to my friend, his whole demeanor changed, from a hulking Easy Rider into a high stepper worthy of Fred Astaire. Welcome to Vienna, a city where music is always in the air and dancing is an advanced form of walking.

I was in Vienna to attend the annual Coffee-house Owners' Ball at the Hofburg Palace, one of about 450

such balls that are sprinkled

See VIENNA, E6



RAINER FEHRINGER

Vienna's Hofburg Palace hosts the Coffee-house Owners' Ball, one of 450 each season.

Living Editor Sally Scherer » Phone (859) 231-3303 » Email [sscherer1@herald-leader.com](mailto:sscherer1@herald-leader.com)

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# VIENNA

From Page E1

throughout the season. In preparation, a dancing class had been arranged for me at the Thomas Kraml dance school, where I would bone up on my Viennese waltz and learn the intricate steps of the quadrille, a staple at every ball.

I quickly realized that my cotillion days were far behind me, a fact that was underscored the night of the ball. Arriving at the palace in a horse-drawn carriage and walking the red carpet to the Grand Ballroom, I watched the opening ceremony in fascination — a coterie of young debs in white gowns gliding with their partners to the strains of *The Blue Danube Waltz*. It was beautiful.

It was less lovely when the guests took the floor. It was easy to tell the Viennese from the visitors, especially during the quadrille. Viennese couples moved gracefully down the line like Prince Charming and Cinderella; most visitors, including me, resembled Granny Clampett waltzing with Mr. Bean.

No matter. It was all in fun, and at the conclusion of the midnight and 2 a.m. quadrilles, Viennese and visitors alike collapsed in laughter.

## A city of music

Few cities in the world are defined as much by their music as Vienna. Think Haydn, the “father of string quartets”; Schubert and his piano sonatas; and of course, Johann Strauss Jr., the “Waltz King.”

One of the most thrilling and expensive evenings (tickets can be as much as \$300) for any visitor to Vienna is a night at the opera. Dating to the mid-19th century, the imposing opera house was commissioned as the Vienna Court Opera, and its gilded ceilings and marble staircase were palatial enough for any royal court.

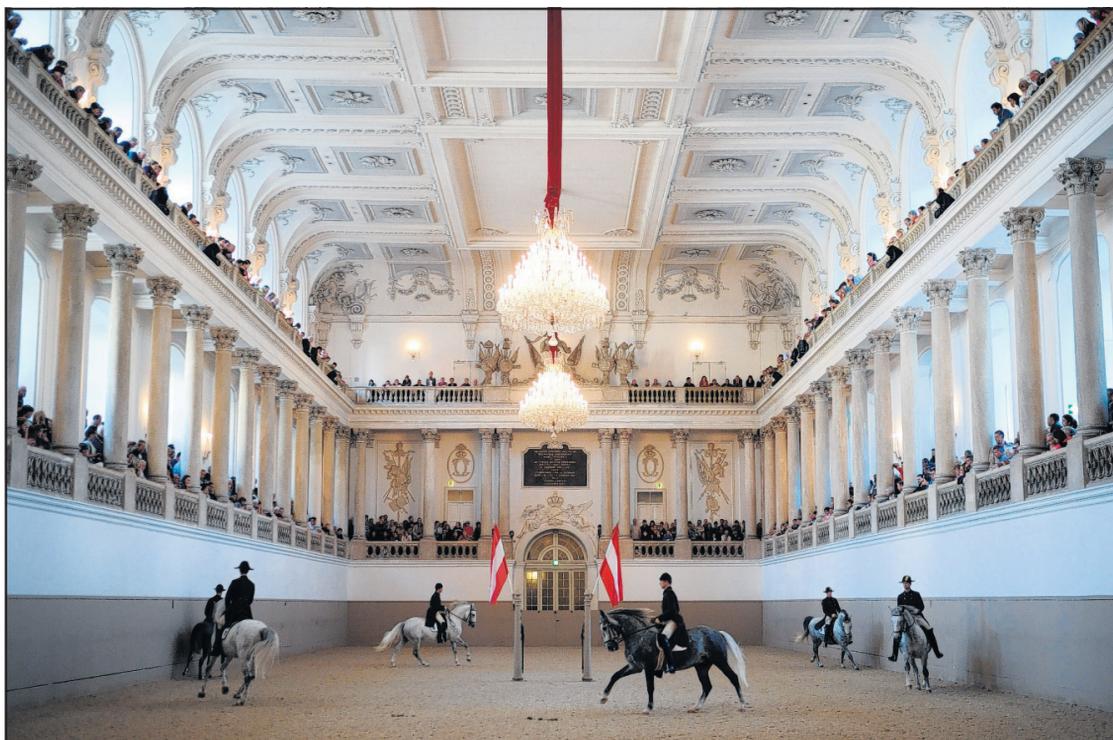
With the collapse of the Habsburg monarchy after World War I and its replacement by Austria's First Republic, or Republik Österreich, the name changed to Vienna State Opera, or Wiener Staatsoper, but the lavish trappings remained. Before taking your seat, check out the colorful murals depicting Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*; at intermission, join locals for champagne on the sweeping terrace.

Since you've already dented the credit card for opera tickets, you might as well go all the way. Across the street, between the Opera House and Albertina Museum, the Hotel Sacher is the grande dame of Vienna hotels.

Run by three generations of the Sacher family, the hotel has hosted illustrious guests ranging from President John F. Kennedy to Queen Elizabeth II. Enjoy a post-opera drink in the atmospheric Blue Bar, or order the confection created in the hotel café: Sacher torte, a dark chocolate cake drizzled with whipped cream.

If you're on a more modest budget, join locals in what has become a pre-opera tradition: a quick bite at the Bitzinger sausage stand, just outside the Opera House.

In Vienna, even the horses dance to classical music, as witness the famous Lipizzaner stallions. These magnificent horses, bred from Spanish, Arab and Italian lines, date to the 16th century when the Habsburgs imported them for use in the Spanish Riding School.



MATHIAS LAURINGER

The Spanish Riding School in Vienna showcases its world-famous Lipizzaner stallions in performances at the Winter Riding School.



MICHAEL POEHN | WIENER STAATSOPER



ALAN BEHR | MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Above: A chef at the Hotel Sacher in Vienna made omelets to order for guests. Left: The ornate Vienna State Opera

If you can't get to a performance, watch the stallions in a morning workout at the Winter Riding School, part of the Imperial Palace complex. Under gleaming chandeliers and to the strains of Mozart, they perform their famous dressage movements, known as “airs above the ground,” making them appear as if they are indeed dancing.

## A city of coffee

Vienna is also the coffeehouse capital of the world, and I don't mean Starbucks. The first

coffeehouse opened in 1685, and today, some 850 are spread throughout the city. About 150 retain the classic tradition: black-clad waiters, marble-topped tables and wood floors. There is even an official day dedicated to the noble coffee bean: Oct. 1.

The coffeehouse is to Vienna what the pub is to Britain and the sidewalk café to France: a place for idling away large chunks of time philosophizing, gossiping, reading the newspaper or playing chess. There are coffeehouses patronized by various city constituencies:

city workers congregate at the Café Ministerium; artists and students prefer Café Prückel, while politicians opt for the legendary Café Landtmann, Sigmund Freud's favorite hangout.

I had a chance to communicate with the ghost

## IF YOU GO

### Vienna, Austria

**Where to stay:** Befitting its regal status, Vienna has a number of regal hotels, from the Hotel Sacher to the Kempinski Vienna. But if you're looking for something less grand (in style and price), try Hotel Harmonie. Don't let the Best Western branding deter you. This newly renovated boutique hotel has an artsy feel, best demonstrated in the unusual paintings of Peruvian artist Luis Casanova Sorolla, which can be found throughout the public spaces. In addition to the art, the hotel has 66 cozy rooms and a friendly staff. It's a bit removed from the city center, but only a block away from the tram stop. Harmonie-vienna.at.

### Where to eat:

■ **Palmenhaus.** Built in the early 20th century by the Habsburg court architect, it overlooks the formal terraces of what was once the emperor's garden and is now a public park. The restaurant was once the greenhouse, and with its glass-domed ceiling and towering palms, makes a lovely spot for a leisurely lunch.

■ A meal at Trzesniewski is anything but leisurely. There's always a line (especially at lunch), and it is so small that you might have to eat standing up, but the array of open-faced sandwiches (tantalizingly displayed in a glass case) is mind-boggling.

■ **Die Kuche** (German for *kitchen*) was a great choice for our pre-ball supper. A beautiful restaurant at the Hotel Palais Hansen-Kempinski, it offers traditional cooking with a contemporary presentation.

**Learn more:** Vienna.info

eminently livable.

Every year the firm rates 223 cities worldwide in categories ranging from political climate to public transportation, and for the past two years, Vienna has come out on top.

I don't think they need to do all that work. How can a city so besotted with dancing and coffee come out anywhere but on top?

Patti Nickell is a Lexington-based travel writer. Reach her at pnickell13@bellsouth.net.

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