

# Lifestyle

## LATE TO THE PARTY



SUN SENTINEL PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

BY JOHNNY DIAZ | Staff writer

South Florida, why are we always tardy for the party? Are we trying to be fashionably late, or are we just really laid-back? With the social season in full force, we're looking at all the ways South Floridians have been latecomers — and what may be contributing to our late state of being.



### Trader Joe's

SoFla transplants know that we were tardy to the Trader Joe's party. After years of waiting for the region to welcome its first store, Trader Joe's debuted last year in Pinecrest in Miami-Dade County. Now, they're popping up throughout Broward and Palm Beach counties, too.



### Belated BYOB

Compared with other parts of the country, it took South Florida some time to hop on the Brew Your Own Beer trend. Now the region's craft beer industry is really starting to bubble.



### Late to the cold

While the rest of the country shivers through the holidays, we don't start feeling a freeze until January or February.



### Grand opening

The long-awaited PortMiami tunnel, designed to connect the seaport and interstates 395 and 95, finally opened in August. The billion-dollar tunnel had originally been scheduled to debut in May.



STAFF PHOTOS

### Rain delay

Even the rainy season had a bit of a later start this year. The five-month season, which usually begins May 20, got underway May 26, according to the National Weather Service.

See **LATE**, 10G

## Ben Vereen goes back to his roots

BY BEN CRANDELL | Staff writer

In the much buzzed-about film "Top Five," opening in South Florida theaters this weekend, director and star Chris Rock plays a comedian who wants to become a serious actor and change public perception about his one career-defining role. Rock's star-laden ensemble cast includes one member who thinks differently.

"I care deeply about Chicken George. I wouldn't be where I am without him. I wouldn't be Ben Vereen," the accomplished song-and-dance man says of his most widely seen role.

Every so often, something happens that transforms popular culture, changes the dialogue we have about race and forces society to ask itself new questions.

See **VEREEN**, 10G



SH-K BOOM RECORDS/COURTESY

Ben Vereen will perform a show of songs and stories at Jazziz Nightlife in Boca Raton.

## Classic holiday tunes, done with a South Florida touch

BY JOHNNY DIAZ  
Staff writer

Holiday tunes are getting the South Florida treatment.

They're the focus of WPBT-Ch. 2's "The Gig Holiday Special," featuring local musicians and bands of various genres and ages as they put their own creative take on holiday favorites.

The winter program is a spinoff of the WPBT series "The Gig," which chronicles local performers and how they create their music. It's like a South Florida version of VH-1's documentary series "Behind the Music," but more upbeat.

Hosted by Monique Arenas, the holiday edition airs 7:30 p.m. Monday on

### On TV

**Program:** "The Gig Holiday Special"  
**Airs:** 7:30 p.m. Monday, WPBT-Ch. 2

WPBT and will simulcast online at [thegigshow.com/holidaysspecial](http://thegigshow.com/holidaysspecial) where people can chat with the musicians during the broadcast.

"The holidays are a special time of year and music is an important part of getting you into the spirit. We want to shine a spotlight on local artists as they perform holiday classics," said "Gig" co-producer Rob Reep.

"We have so many talented musicians right in our back yard constantly

See **TUNES**, 11G

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