

DECEMBER 2025

Volume 34 Issue 9

Art | Music | Dining | Recreation

BREVARD LIVE FLORIDA

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HOLIDAYS



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NIGHT

SURFING
SANTAS

SYD
TAYLOR

RUDY
PARRIS



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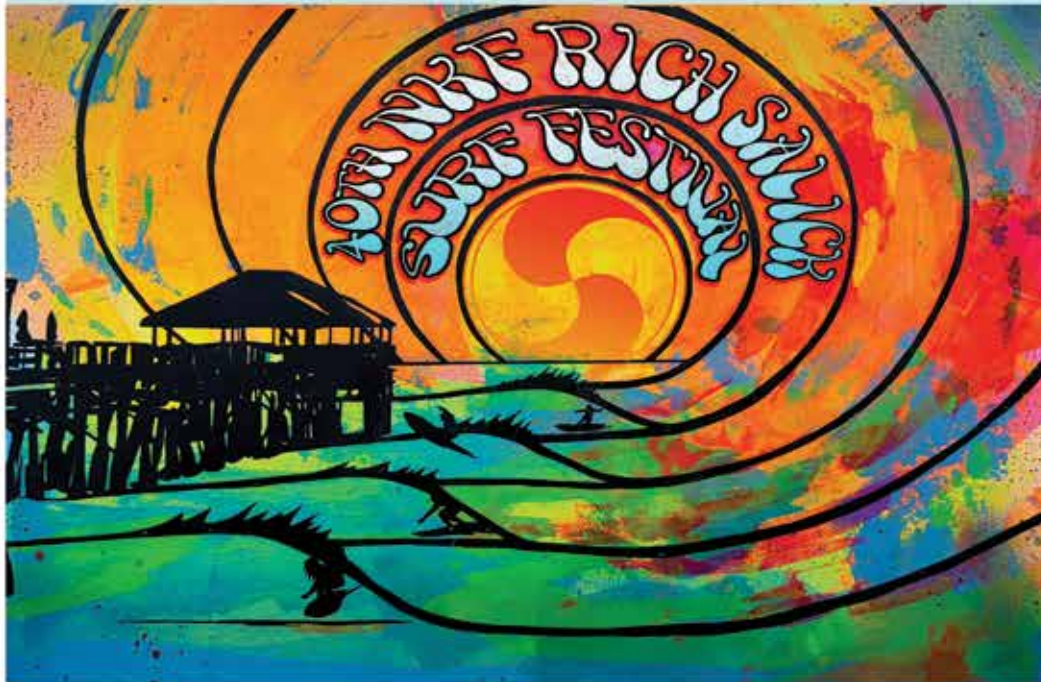
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SURF FESTIVAL



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At Law



LOVE.
Tito's



Matt Prouse



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SYD TAYLOR (ON THE COVER)

Syd Taylor's angelic voice has been belting out in Brevard for nearly 10 years. Her entry into the music world as a little girl began with the violin and piano, then progressed to the guitar. She now fronts her own band.

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PICKLEBALL

So, Matt Bretz is a self proclaimed Pickleball junkie since his high school years! Who knew? He even has an interesting theory about how this sport started that now has experienced a major comeback.

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RUDY PARRIS

Rudy Parris, a singer, guitarist, and songwriter, hails from California's San Joaquin Valley. He gained national recognition on Season 3 of NBC's *The Voice* as a member of Team Blake, performing in the live finale.

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SUNDAY, DEC 14TH
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19: Terry White Band
26: G-Man

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COMMENTS & LETTERS

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**BREVARD
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at www.brevardlive.com

Brevard Lately



Christmas began early! The City of Melbourne decided to put up the Christmas tree in downtown Melbourne days before Halloween. Photo by Ed Robinson



A walk at Lake Washington showed the first winter colors. Photo by Rob Pedrick

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December 24, 8am, Downtown Cocoa Beach
The Surfing Santas

What started as a fun family outing in 2009 has grown to become an annual event that raises tens of thousands of dollars for local charities and draws surfing and Christmas enthusiasts from all over the planet. The event has become the biggest tourist attraction since NASA's space and shuttle program.

The first, very unofficial Surfing Santas event took place in 2009, when, on Christmas Eve, Cocoa Beach resident George Trosset and his son, George Jr., and daughter-in-law Britteny thought it would be fun to go surfing in South Cocoa Beach dressed up as Santa Claus and his elves. When a photo of their antics hit the front page of a Florida newspaper, others wanted to join the fun. Since then, the number of Surfing Santas has grown almost exponentially each year.

Over the past decade, Surfing Santas has grown into one of the most unique and fun-filled charity events the world has ever seen. This congregation of costumed kahunas has grown to record-breaking numbers with over 800 Surfing Santas and nearly 10,000 spectators.

Since anyone of any age can participate as a Surfing Santa, exactly how many Santas will descend on Cocoa Beach this December 24th remains to be seen. The only requirement is to show up with your board and dressed as Santa or his helpers or any other character depicting the spirit of the season. In the past, there also have been reindeer and Christmas tree Surfing Santas, Rastafarian Surfing Santas, and even a Batman Surfing Santa. There are no rules about costumes, organizers point out, as long as one remembers this is a family oriented event. A costume contest open to the public has been added in 2017. Anyone in the crowd can participate by dressing up in a winter-themed outfit.

All this beachy holiday merriment is for a good cause.

Proceeds from donations and sales of the official Surfing Santas T-shirt commemorating this free event benefit two local nonprofit organizations, *Grind for Life* and the *Florida Surf Museum*.

The event begins at 8 am along the beach near 2 Minutemen Causeway (where the causeway intersects with N. Atlantic Avenue, also known as Florida Route A1A) and is expected to continue until early afternoon. Plenty of parking is available and numerous area restaurants will be open to serve Surfing Santas participants and spectators. The Mighty Flea Circus Band will be performing along with Hawaiian Dancers.

www.surfingsantas.org



Dec 15&16, 7:30pm, King Center, Melbourne
The Book Of Mormon

The American Theatre Guild presents the National Tour of *The Book Of Mormon*, winner of nine Tony Awards including Best Musical. This production will kick off the *25/26 Broadway Series* at the King Center's Main Stage on December 15th and 16th.

The story follows two missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as they attempt to preach the faith to the inhabitants of a remote Ugandan village. The earnest young men are challenged by the lack of interest from the locals, who are distracted by more pressing issues such as HIV/AIDS, famine, and oppression by the local warlord.

The Book of Mormon was conceived by Trey Parker, Matt Stone and Robert Lopez. Lopez was best known for co-creating the puppet musical *Avenue Q* (2003). After the success of *The Book of Mormon*, he later became known for co-writing the songs featured in the Disney animated films *Frozen*, its sequel *Frozen II*, and *Coco*, with his wife Kristen Anderson-Lopez. Parker and Stone are best-known for their animated television series *South Park* for Comedy Central.

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Friday 10-cl
DJs Spinning

Saturday 10-cl
DJs Spinning

Sunday 3-12
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December 20, 7:30pm, Sunrise Theatre, Fort Pierce

THREE DOG NIGHT

Legendary band Three Dog Night, now in its 6th decade, claims some of the most astonishing statistics in popular music. In the years 1969 through 1974, no other group achieved more top 10 hits, move more records, or sold more concert tickets than Three Dog Night.

Three Dog Night hits weave through the fabric of pop culture today, whether on the radio where they are heard day in and day out, in TV commercials or in major motion pictures; songs like “Mama Told Me (Not To Come)”, “Joy to the World”, “Black and White”, “Shambala” and “One” serve to heighten our emotions and crystallize Three Dog Night’s continuing popularity.

Boasting chart and sales records that remain virtually unmatched in popular music, Three Dog Night holds a *Billboard Magazine* record for releasing 21 consecutive Top 40 hits, including three #1 singles “Mama Told Me (Not To Come)”, “Joy to the World”, and “Liar”. The chart success drove 7 Platinum-selling singles and 12 straight RIAA Certified Gold LPs. The hits appeared on best-selling charts in all genres (pop, rock, rhythm

& blues, and country). Its records continue to sell around the world, reaching beyond the borders of the U.S. into Japan, Canada, Holland, England, Germany, Spain, and elsewhere. Tens of millions of Three Dog Night records have been sold through the years.

Created in 1968 by Danny Hutton, Three Dog Night maintains an aggressive, year-round touring schedule of over 90 dates a year, performing their hit filled concerts for multi-generational audiences. The band’s now-famous name refers to native Australian hunters in the outback who huddled with their dogs for warmth on cold nights; the coldest being a “three dog night.”

The band recorded songs of the best and largely undiscovered new songwriters of its time including Harry Nilsson, Randy Newman, Elton John, Laura Nyro, Paul Williams, and Hoyt Axton among many others. The group’s eclectic taste, combined with its ability to recognize and record hits in a unique, distinctive, and appealing style, resulted in Three Dog Night dominating the charts for years. The band’s music transcends time, bringing together both new and longtime audiences alike.

Three Dog Night demonstrates its eclectic song choices once again with the new material being recorded for an upcoming album release. One of the new tracks, “Prayer of the Children” was discovered by Hutton who created an a cappella arrangement, so that for the first time in the history of Three Dog Night, the vocals of all six members of the band are featured. The song is currently part of their live concert set and quickly becoming an audience favorite.

Marking over 50 years on the road, Three Dog Night continues to grow its fan base by keeping up a full schedule of concerts at theaters, performing arts centers, fairs, festivals, corporate events, and casinos. Since 1968, the band has performed nearly 3,000 shows including two Super Bowls.

During decades of fame the band has changed multiple members. In 1993 a young drummer named **Pat Bautz** was hired to replace Mike Keeley who drummed from 1985 to 1993. Pat was (and is) a “local” who attended Eau Gallie High School and has lived on the Space Coast most of his life. He’s known to many local musicians as a mentor helping several bands with their recordings. In 2024, after 31 years, Pat Bautz resigned as drummer of Three Dog Night and their intense touring schedule.

In a conversation with *Brevard Live* Bautz confirmed that he will attend all Florida live shows and perform - as a percussionist. “We are in constant contact,” he says about his band mates.

In his “retirement” Bautz is still performing on a local level enriching our local music scene. “It’s a trio with a couple of friends, we call it *3 Peace*. I am also still writing cues for *Warner Brothers*,” he added.

For tickets and more information

www.elkoconcerts.com

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The Column

By **Chuck Van Riper**

Holidaze XVIII (Is it over yet?)

HIPPY HOLIDAZE! (Is it over yet?) Well, I hope everybody had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I certainly did. After copious amounts of food and drink, I entered into the “more coffee” zone as the tryptophan kicked in. After the “more coffee” zone, I entered the “my eyes can’t stay open anymore” zone. After a much needed two hour nap, I entered the “any leftovers?” zone. And so, the process repeats itself until the last piece of pie is demolished, as well as my diet. As the festivities die down and everybody retreats to their own beds, I find out the worst news you can get at the end of the annual gorging event: We’re out of coffee and half and half! Panick sets in. There’s enough coffee in the pot for about a half a cup. Slyly, I put it in a cup and store it in the refrigerator, way in the back, to save it in the morning. I’ll have to drink it black.

The next morning, still stuffed from the day before, I retrieve my half cup of coffee and shove in the microwave. I ponder the next move whilst sipping the end of the java. I decided to run down to the Super Walmart to get more coffee and half and half. Boy, was that a mistake! Forgetting that it was Black Friday, I head into the store. Man! The store looked like New Years Eve in New York city. The place is packed! Shuffling my way through the crowd, I get my coffee and half and half. Ok, made through that, now comes the tough part. Attempting to pay and get out. Walking to the checkout, I manage to make my way through the throngs of people thrashing through piles of clothes, video games, apple pies, and auto supplies. I finally make it to the checkout lines. Hmmm... which one has the least amount of people with the least amount of products. I find one that looks slightly less than the lines at the DMV. It’s only winding down passed the string beans into the gouda cheese isle. Ok, this may take a while.

I decide to play a game of Angry Birds on my phone while I’m waiting, the smell of gouda wafting in the background. Have you noticed that the new versing of Angry Birds 2 has an advertisement after every click. Aaarrggggghhh!. It finally crashes my phone. About this time I notice that there’s a commotion over in the women’s

wear section. Apparently two older women are fighting over the last mauve cashmere sweater. They're throwing punches and eventually end up on the floor wrestling like little girls fighting over a boy. Clean up on aisle 4! Then there's the ubiquitous little wailing and crying to his dad because there are no more Playstations left because his dad promised him one but told him they'll get it the day after Christmas because it will be cheaper. Trying to be comforting, he tells his son, "It's ok, we'll go try best buy". Good luck with that. Ok, by now, I'm past the gouda and all the way up to the bologna. I can almost see the checkouts around the corner...almost.

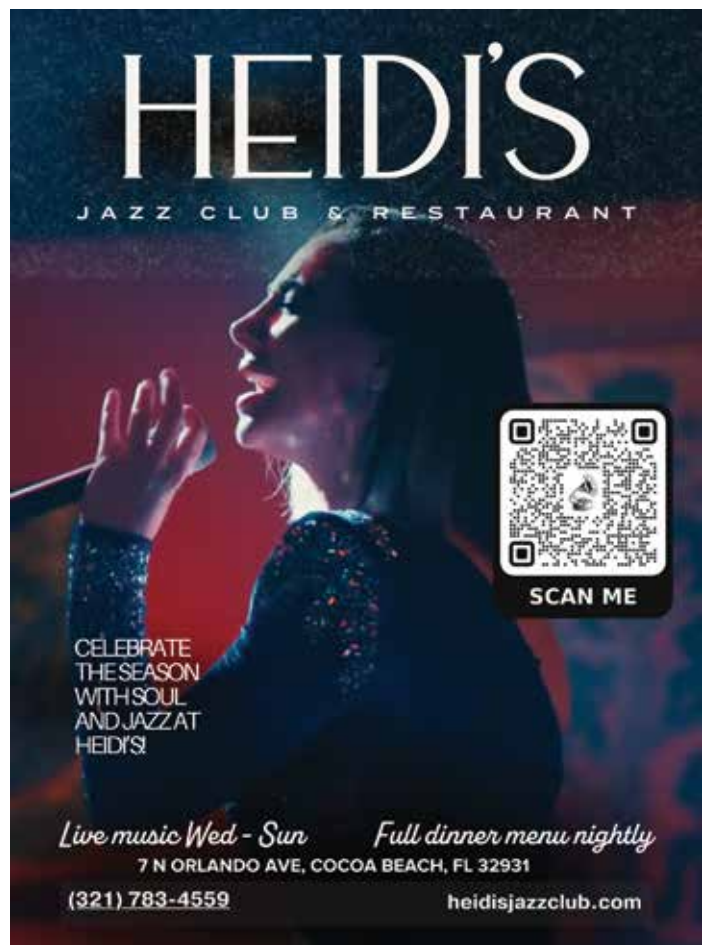
Maybe I'll read some of the labels to waste some time. I always wanted to know what exactly is in bologna. Hmm... I wonder what sodium ascorbate is? Actually, most of the additives begin with the word sodium. Sodium nitrate, sodium phosphate, sodium lactate, etc. I'm researching on my phone what these things are while the line starts moving. I instinctively move along. Looking up I see that I'm way past the bologna and almost up to the pastries. Well, I guess I'm getting a pack of bologna, too. It only took an hour and ten minutes to check out my three items, coffee, half and half, and bologna. I finally make it to my car. I light a cig, put on my seat belt, and put my car in reverse. It sounds like a traffic jam on 46th street in Manhattan behind me. A car is waiting for my parking spot and eight or nine cars behind it are getting impatient. Boy, do I need a cup of joe!

See, my favorite holidays are National Handwriting Day (January 23rd), National Calligraphy Day (the 2nd Wednesday of August), and Pienstein day (March 14th or 3.14. It's also Einstein's birthday. So I put them together). These holidays are nice and calm. You never hear about people beating each other up over a Gilliots #3 nib. You never hear anybody complaining about not being able to by a calligraphy set. I must say, though real calligraphy paper is hard to come by. You never hear anybody passing out because they ate too much on Pieinstein Day. But most of all, you never hear anybody say, "Is it over yet?"

Space Coast Renaissance Fair

The Space Coast Renaissance Fair is set for Space Coast Daily Park in Viera for two weekends in January 2026, promising an immersive journey into a world of knights, nobles, and adventure. Festival-goers can mark their calendars for January 10th-11th and January 17th-18th for a celebration full of tournaments, feasting, music, and laughter. The Space Coast Renaissance Fair will be produced in cooperation with the Orlando Renaissance Fair production and management team.

www.SpaceCoastRenaissanceFair.com



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Entertainment Calendar

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Swampfox Jam
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm
Karaoke
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty
Bingo
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jam
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan
Jam

2 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6pm
Jazz Night
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Frankly Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm
Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Matt
Simpson
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Jam w/ Russ Kellum
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm
Family Game

3 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe
Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Day Tripper
KEY WEST BAR: 7:30pm
Syd Taylor
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Castoffs
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Serious
Animal
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Frank OG Jam
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Music
Bingo

4 - THURSDAY

BLIND LION: 7:30pm
Comedy
CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 7pm
Hairpeace
FOO BAR: 8pm Throwback
DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Krystal Clarke
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Highway 1
SANDBAR CB: 8pm
Karaoke

SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6pm The
Jam
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 5pm
Ray Fredell
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Char
Good & Friends

5 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Chief
Cherry Quartet
CADILLAC COVE:
6pm Andrew Walker; 8pm
Charmadillos
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Micro Wrestling
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm
Checkmate
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Kid Royal
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm
Heatstroke
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm
Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm
Rezen8
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Adam
Sean; 9pm RokSlyde
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm
Andy Harrington
SLOW & LOW Viera:
5:30pm Mike Steele
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
8:30pm Love Valley; 1:30am
DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6:30pm
Deep Cover
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 6pm
Kome Back Kid
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 7pm
Godmother & Her Hitmen

6 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Don't
Tell Me Comedy
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm
Phoenix Band
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm
Love Valley; 5pm Sarah Morr
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
St John's Wood; 8pm Human
Clay (Creed Tribute); 10pm
Collective Shine (Collective
Soul Tribute)
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter

HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Debbie Rider & The Ron
Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Anja;
5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy;
9pm Switch
SANDBAR CB: 9pm Dakota
& The Hired Gunz
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
8:30pm Kome Back Kid;
1:30am DJ
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Stay
Tuned
SQUID LIPS Mel: 1pm
Melinda Realino; 6:30pm
Kelley B Collective
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm
Matt Simpson; 6pm Vintage
Radio
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm
Derious Animal

7 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2-6pm
Aquinas (deck)
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm
Sheepdaws
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
Hippies & Cowboys
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 6:30
& 8:30pm Rudy Parris
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Coolers;
7pm Will Purdy
SANDBAR CB: 9pm DJ Salt
Shacker
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm John
McDonald
SQUID LIPS Mel: 12pm
TBA; 5pm Pink Spice Band
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 2pm
East Harbor Duo
TIDE & TONIC: 1pm Car
Show & DJ

8 - MONDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Swampfox Jam
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty
Bingo
SANDBAR CB: closed for
staff Christmas Party
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan
Jam

9 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6pm
Jazz Night
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Frankly Trivia

LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm
Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Adam
Sean
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Jam w/ Russ Kellum
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Family
Games

10 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe
Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Kevin McLoughlin
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm
Queen Kelley B
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Karaoke w/ Cindy
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jake
Salter
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Frank OG Jam
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 5:30pm
Rock Star Trivia

11 - THURSDAY

BLIND LION: 7:30pm
Comedy
CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 7pm
Kurt Stevens (Country)
FOO BAR: 8pm Throwback
DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Ron Helman Quintet
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Different Strings
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Karaoke
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6pm The
Jam
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 5pm
Thomas Wesley Bowman
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm NCR
Duo

12 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm ince Love
CADILLAC COVE: 5pm
David Southwood Smith; 8pm
Mixtape Kids

CB FISH CAMP: 4pm TBA
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm
 Branford Highway
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
 Backtrack Blues Band
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Lil
 Lin Band
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm
 Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm
 Kings County
SANDBAR CB: 4pm 506
 Crew; 9pm Karalyn & The
 Dawn Patro;
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm
 Dave Myers
SLOW & LOW Viera:
 5:30pm Tim England
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
 8:30pm Short Circuit; 1:30am
 DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6:30pm
 Nothins Easy
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 6pm
 Soul Shot
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
 Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
 Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 7pm
 Godmother & Her Hitmen

13 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Omilasa
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm
 Shotgun Wedding
**COCOA BEACH FISH
 CAMP:** 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm
 Pink Spice; 5pm Damion
 Suomi
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
 Kris Olson; 8pm Element 7
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
 Ultimate Rush Tribute
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Denise
 Turner; 5:30pm Karaoke w/
 Cindy; 9pm Floriduh
SANDBAR CB: 9pm
 Syndicate
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
 8:30pm Rios Rock Band;
 1:30am DJ
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Bob
 Hughes
SQUID LIPS Mel: 1pm
 Queen Kelley B; 6:30pm AK
 40 Band
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm
 Kris Olsen; 6pm Soulttime
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
 Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
 Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Kex

14 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2pm The
 Fog Band (deck)
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm
 Absolute Blue
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
 Tas Cru
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
 Jam w/The Ron Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm
 Heatstroke; 5pm closed for
 Staff Pary
SANDBAR CB: 9pm DJ Salt
 Shacker
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm
 Campbell & Cross
SQUID LIPS Mel:
 12pm Joshua Keels; 5pm
 Kulchavation
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 2pm
 Bob Hughes
TIDE & TONIC: 11am-3pm
 Andrew Rickman

15 - MONDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
 Swampfox Jam
**COCOA BEACH FISH
 CAMP:** 7pm Karaoke
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty
 Bingo
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jam
 Band & Christmas Party
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan
 Jam

16 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6pm
 Jazz Night
**COCOA BEACH
 FISH CAMP:** 6pm Frankly
 Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm
 Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Adam
 Sean
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
 Jam w/ Russ Kellum
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Adam
 Azar

17 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
 Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe
 Calautti
**COCOA BEACH FISH
 CAMP:** 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
 Day Tripper
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Dave
 Thrift
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
 Karaoke w/ Cindy
SANDBAR: 8pm Syndicate
 Duo

SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
 Frank OG Jam
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
 Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
 Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Char
 Good

18 - THURSDAY

BLIND LION: 7:30pm
 Comedy
CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
 Trivia
**COCOA BEACH FISH
 CAMP:** 7pm Line Dancing
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 7pm
 Dave Scott & Rusty Strings
FOO BAR: 8pm Throwback
 DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
 The Shaelyn Band
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm The
 Fog
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Karaoke
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
 DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6pm The
 Jam
SQUID LIPS Sebastian:
 5:30pm James Holler
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
 Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
 Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Ben
 Corson

19 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Robby
 King Trio
CADILLAC COVE: 5pm
 Uncle Marky Duo; 8pm Billy
 Chapman Band
CB FISH CAMP: 4pm TBA
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm
 Luna Pearl
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
 Doc Fu & The Soul Surgeon
 Debut
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Terry
 White Band
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm
 Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm
 Off The Record
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Mondo
 Tikis; 9pm Bullet Dodgers
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm
 Tim England
SLOW & LOW Viera:
 5:30pm Joshua Keels
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
 8:30pm 8pm Which Doctors;
 1:30am DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6:30pm

John Crossfield
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 6pm
 Kings County
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
 Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
 Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 7pm
 Godmother & Her Hitmen

20 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Z-Tones
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm
 Switch
**COCOA BEACH FISH
 CAMP:** 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm
 KulchaVation; 5pm David
 Southwood Smith
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
 Reckless Shots; 8pm Kings
 County
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
 Alex Ivanov Tribute to Jeff
 Beck
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Will
 Burkhalter; 5:30pm Karaoke
 w/ Cindy; 9pm Short Circuit
SANDBAR CB: 9pm Hot
 Pink
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
 8:30pm Radar Red; 1:30am DJ
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Tropic
 Pulse
SQUID LIPS Mel: 1pm
 Ashley Breau; 6:30pm Call
 The Wolf
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm
 Josh Keels; 6pm Joules Rio
 Band
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free
 Dance Lessons; 9pm Line
 Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm
 Serious Animal

21 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2-6pm
 Lil Lin Band (deck)
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm
 Harbor City Trio
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
 Otis Cadillac
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
 Wayne Baker Brooks
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Galaxy;
 7pm Keano B
SANDBAR CB: 9pm DJ Salt
 Shacker
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Bill
 Cockrell
SQUID LIPS Mel: 12pm
 Trace of Suspense; 5pm Unit 5
SQUIDLIPS Sebastian: 6pm

Tidal Theory
TIDE & TONIC: 11am-3pm
Wilcor

22 - MONDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Swampfox Jam
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Triple Shot
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jam Band
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan Jam

23 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6pm Jazz Night
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Frankly Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Matt Simpson
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Family Games

CHRISTMAS EVE

24 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: open
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Silver Springs (Fleetwood Mac Tribute)
KEY WEST BAR: open
LOU'S BLUES: 6pm closed
SANDBAR: 8pm Terrell on keys
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 9pm DJ Jonny
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: Christmas Eve w/ Beach Smooth Jazz

CHRISTMAS DAY

25 - THURSDAY

BLIND LION: closed
CADILLAC COVE: Open
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: open
CROWNE PLAZA: 11:30am-4:30pm Kenny Cohen (inside); Saylor & The Captains (outside)

EARL'S HIDEAWAY: open
FOO BAR: 8pm Throwback DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm TBA
LOU'S BLUES: closed
SANDBAR CB: OPEN! open
SOCIAL DISTANCE: open
SQUID LIPS Mel: closed
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: closed
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: TBA

26 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 9pm Mud Rooster
CADILLAC COVE: 5pm Joe Kirschen; 8pm Tom Jules Rios Band
CB FISH CAMP: Happy New Year
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm Redline
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm EarthTones Music Collective
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm G-Man
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Occasional Astronauts
SANDBAR CB: 4pm Leah Orchid; 9pm Over/Under
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Wilbur
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Midlife Crisis; 1:30am DJ
SQUID LIPS Mel: 6:30pm TBA
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 6pm Nothins Easy
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 7pm Godmother & Her Hitmen

27 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Russ Kellum Trio
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Vince Love & The Soulcats
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Skyclub; 5pm Miranda Realino
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm 3 O'Clock Storm; 8pm Crashrocket

FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Hella Ayelet Gal w/ Ron Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Denise Turner; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Super Freak
SANDBAR CB: 9pm Cheetah Coalition
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Roughhouse; 1:30am DJ
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Floridave
SQUID LIPS Mel: 1pm Will Purdy; 6:30pm Innuendo
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 1pm Kyle Kraft; 6pm Forte Band
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: 6pm Mary Buck & The Frax

28 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2-6pm Buck Barefoot Band (deck)
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Switch
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Albert Castiglia
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Open Mic w/The Ron Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Coolers; 7pm Alexander James
SANDBAR CB: 9pm DJ Salt Shacker
SQUID LIPS CB: 2pm Shelly & Dave
SQUID LIPS Mel: 12pm Kevin Chancellor; 5pm Glenn Roberts
SQUID LIPS Sebastian: 2pm Tropic Pulse
TIDE & TONIC: 11am-3pm Miranda Realino

29 - MONDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Swampfox Jam
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Triple Shot
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo
ROSIE'S BOTTOM UP: 5pm Curtis Remington
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Jam Band
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Dan Jam

30 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6pm Jazz Night
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Frankly Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm Trivia
SANDBAR CB: 8pm Catgut Stitches
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum
TIDE & TONIC: 5pm Family Games

NEW YEAR'S EVE

31 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 8:30pm NYE Party w/ Mixtape Kids
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: TBA
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm NYE Party w/ American Highway
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 6pm Robby King; 8:30pm NYW Party w/ Ron Teixeira Trio featuring Crystal Clarke
KEY WEST BAR: NYE Party
LOU'S BLUES: 5pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 8:30pm Short Circuit; NYE Party
SANDBAR: 9pm Love Valley; NYE Party
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 6pm NYE Party w/ Karalyn & The Dawn Patrol
THE CREEK: 7-9 Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Line Dancing
TIDE & TONIC: New Years Eve w/ Beach Smooth Jazz

All calendar listings are subject to change without notice.

**Merry
Christmas
and A
Happy
New New
Year 2026**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Dec 1 – 28: Holiday Craft Show, Fifth Ave Art Gallery, Melbourne, 321-259-8261

Dec 1 – 29: Drawing Class, CBAA Office & Studio, Rockledge, cbaaartists.com

Dec 1 – Jan 4: Therefore, I Create IX, Studios of Cocoa Beach, 321-613-3840

Dec 1 – Jan 4: Shapes Exhibit, Strawbridge Art League, Melbourne, 321-952-3070

Dec 2: Wine Glass/Candle/Ornament Making, Studios of Cocoa Beach, 321-613-3840

Dec 2: Tower of Power, King Center, 321-242-2219

Dec 2, 4, 12: Glass Tree Workshop, 321-499-3127

Dec 3: Reverse Christmas Parade, Downtown Melbourne

Dec 4 – 21: Frozen – The Broadway Musical, Titusville Playhouse, Titusville, 321-268-1125

Dec 5: Friday Fest, City of Cape Canaveral, 321-868-1220

Dec 5: Messiah – Holiday Singalong, Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Community, Indialantic, spacecoastsymphony.org, 855-252-7276

Dec 5: Benjamin Grosvenor, St. Mark's Methodist Church, Indialantic, melbournechambermusicsociety.org, 321-213-5100

Dec 5: Moonlight Music on the Promenade, Cocoa Riverfront Park, Historic Cocoa Village

Dec 5: Tree Lighting Ceremony, Palm Bay, 321-952-3443

Dec 5 – 7: Matilda Jr., Surfside Playhouse, Cocoa Beach, 321-783-3127

Dec 5 – 14: A Christmas Carol, Titusville Playhouse, Titusville, 321-268-1125

Dec 5 – Jan 3: Pioneer Christmas, Field Manor, Merritt Island, 321-848-0365

Dec 6: Winter Fest, Cocoa Beach Mainstreet

Dec 6: Palm Bay Holiday Light Parade, Malabar Road, Palm Bay

Dec 6: Merry Beachmas, Surfside Playhouse, Cocoa Beach, 321-783-3127

Dec 6: Christmas Market, Sendala's, Downtown Melbourne, 321-951-2110

Dec 6: Plant Market and More, Riverview Park, Melbourne

Dec 6 & 7: Art and Craft Holiday Bazaar, Historic Cocoa Village

Dec 6: Merry Paint Night, My MakerScape, Indialantic, 321-499-3127

Dec 6: Christmas Paws, Intracoastal Brewing Company, Melbourne, egadlife.com, 321-872-7395

Dec 6 – 7: Nutcracker- Space Coast Ballet Company, King Center, 321-242-2219

Dec 6, 13, 20, 27: Saturday Farmers Market, Riverview Park, Melbourne

Dec 6, 13, 20, 27: Green Gables Open House, Green Gables at Historic Riverview Village, Melbourne, 321-306-8635

Dec 6, 13, 20, 27: Space Coast Farmer's Market, Eau Gallie Square Park, Melbourne

Dec 6, 13, 20, 27: Candlelight Shopping, Downtown Melbourne

Dec 7: Pictures with Santa, Green Gables at Historic Riverview Village, Melbourne, 321-306-8635

Dec 7: BSYO Holiday Concert, Eau Gallie High School Performing Arts Center, Melbourne, 321-216-7804

Dec 7: CBOB Holiday Concert, Merritt Island High School, Merritt Island, 321-338-6210

Dec 7 & 21: Free Ranger Led Tour, Turkey Creek Sanctuary, Palm Bay, 321-952-3400

Dec 7, 14, 21, 28: Artist Meetup, Derek Gores Gallery, Melbourne, 321-468-3251

Dec 8: Wine Glass/Candle Painting, The Village Art Gallery, Historic Cocoa Village, 321-338-3368

Dec 9: Masters Series, Studios of Cocoa Beach, 321-613-3840

Dec 9 & 10: Stars of Tomorrow Holiday Showcase, Cocoa Village Playhouse, Historic Cocoa

Village, 321-724-0555

Dec 10: Elmo and Friends, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Dec 10 & 11: Holly Jolly Concert, Melbourne Auditorium, Melbourne, 321-724-0555

Dec 11: The Fab Four, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Dec 12: The Cool Side of Christmas, Melbourne Auditorium, Melbourne, 321-724-0555

Dec 12: Holiday Boat Parade, Cocoa Riverfront Park, Historic Cocoa Village

Dec 12: Michael Law and Friends – Making Spirits Bright, Cocoa Village Playhouse, 321-724-0555

Dec 13: Cookie Crawl, Downtown Melbourne

Dec 13: Breakfast with Santa, Ted Whitlock Community Center, Palm Bay

Dec 13: Brevard Community Chorus, King Center, 321-242-2219

Dec 13: Hot Cocoa Crawl, Myrt Tharpe Square, Historic Cocoa Village

Dec 13: Holiday Wine Glass Painting, Breaker's Art Gallery, Cocoa Beach, 321-613-2652

Dec 13: Hooray for Hollywood, Riverside Presbyterian Church, Cocoa Beach, 855-252-7276

Dec 13: Michelle Mailhot and Friends, Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island, spacecoastjazzsociety.org

Dec 13: Santa Stumble Pub Crawl, George and Dragon English Tavern, Historic Cocoa Village, madhatterpromotions.com, 321-543-1346

Dec 13: Bilingual STEAM Workshop – Robots in Space, American Space Museum, Titusville, 321-264-0434

Dec 13 & 14: The Nutcracker, Satellite High School Performing Arts Center, Satellite Beach, 321-622-4713

Dec 13 & 27: Reading Rainbow at the CAPE, The CAPE Center, Cape Canaveral, 321-868-1224

Dec 14: Reader's Theatre, Surfside Playhouse, Cocoa Beach,

321-783-3127

Dec 14: Carols in the Park, The Avenue, Viera, 321-724-0555

Dec 15 & 16: The Book of Mormon, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Dec 16: Beginner Watercolor Class, Studios of Cocoa Beach, Cocoa Beach, 321-613-3840

Dec 18: Sip & Shop, Twin Rivers Local Vintage, Melbourne, 321-499-3050

Dec 18 – 21: Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol, Melbourne, mymct.org, 321-723-6935

Dec 19: Holiday Bike Parade, Village Cycle Shop, Historic Cocoa Village, 321-806-3917

Dec 19: Grinchmas Tree Ornament Class, Studios of Cocoa Beach, 321-613-3840

Dec 19: Classic Albums Live – Bob Marley, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Dec 19 – 20: Motown Christmas, Titusville Playhouse, Titusville, 321-268-1125

Dec 19 – 21: Galmont Ballet's the Nutcracker, Cocoa Village Playhouse, Historic Cocoa Village, 321-724-0555

Dec 20: Gatehouse Market, Field Manor, Merritt Island, 321-848-0365

Dec 20: Dirque Musica Holiday Wonderland, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Dec 20: Family Christmas Extravaganza, Fred Poppe Regional Park, Palm Bay

Dec 21: Justin Willman – One for the Ages Tour, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Dec 21 – 30: Holidays in Space, Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Merritt Island, kennedyspacecenter.com, 1-855-433-4210

Dec 22: It's a Wonderful Life – Film Screening, Cocoa Village Playhouse, 321-724-0555

Dec 24: Surfing Santas, Cocoa Beach Mainstreet

Dec 28: The Sleeping Beauty, King Center, 321-242-2219

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DECEMBER

LIVE MUSIC

SAT. 6	LOVE VALLEY 1-4 PM
	SARAH MORR 5-8 PM
SUN. 7	SHEEPDAGS 1-4 PM
SAT. 13	PINK SPICE 1-4 PM
	DAMION SUOMI 5-8 PM
SUN. 14	ABSOLUTE BLUE 1-4 PM
SAT. 20	KULCHAVATION 1-4 PM
	DAVID SOUTHWOOD 5-8 PM
SUN. 21	HARBOR CITY TRIO 1-4 PM
SAT. 27	SKYCLUB 1-4 PM
	MIRANDA REALINO 5-8 PM
SUN. 28	SWITCH 1-4 PM
WED. 31	THE EARLY NEW YEAR'S PARTY LIVE MUSIC 6-9 PM



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BY IHG
Melbourne Downtown

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DECEMBER 25
2-8 PM

THE EARLY NEW YEARS PARTY

DECEMBER 31
6-9 PM

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Band Leader

By Pamela Guccione

Syd Taylor's angelic voice has been belting out in Brevard for nearly 10 years. Her entry into the music world as a little girl began with the violin and piano, then progressed to the guitar. Singing into a hairbrush as a little girl, Syd could be found belting out the lyrics to "I Try to Think About Elvis" by Patty Loveless, and "I Like It, I Love It" by Tim McGraw. Today, she can be found on stage with her guitar, keyboard, and unmistakable vocals, presenting unique twists on covers and her own originals — three words to describe Syd's style: blues, reggae, and jam. Syd inspires fans to take charge of their lives. "It's your life! Reign over it!", and then she'll transition fans to outer space with one of her originals, "Space Boots." Syd enjoys playing her originals as they come from the heart, her life, and her friends. A lot of the songs she's created were written to help her overcome tough times, but now, she thinks she's ready to write a love song.

Syd recently graced the stage of the Cocoa Beach Playhouse with Tru Phonic for the "Funky Horror Picture Show." She opened the show as Magenta, singing "Science Fiction/Double Feature," and then joined Jake Salter as a singing duo, charming the audience as Brad and Janet from the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

Syd has come a long way from the teenage girl who would panic over a broken string or some other minor obstacle during a performance. She's now calm, cool, and collected, stating, "One of the greatest lessons I've learned as a musician is not to panic; problem-solving is a big part of musicianship, and it never ends. Anything can take an unexpected turn, and if you panic rather than problem-solve, you won't have a successful night. Musicians must be flexible and remember that the issue is usually small and easy to fix. If it's a bigger problem, simply reach out to your community of fellow musicians. This brought her to another important lesson learned: Always remember that the other musicians in your community are your co-workers and friends, not your competition. Local musicians are not rivals but rather family.



Photos by George Guccione

As we glide through the holiday season, I asked Syd what she wants from Santa. She said, "I'd really love a solid guitar, a Fender Stratocaster, not a Squier Stratocaster, not a Telecaster, but a Fender Stratocaster." Santa, I hope you hear her! She's been good this year.

Syd's got her heart set on recording an EP and premiering on Spotify and other music outlets. She's also setting her sights on traveling more to perform her music, expanding her sound to Daytona, Sanford, and beyond.

Sydney now has her own merchandise available for fans. The Syd Taylor Band, which consists of Syd Taylor, Mike Giordano, and Cody Levi Austin, have merch for sale. This beautiful handmade art, designed by Meghan Frisco is sold at flomazin.com, under the "merch partners" section.

Syd Taylor can be found at many venues, from Rusty's in the Port to the Crowne Plaza to Ryan's Pizza, Oasis, Grills, etc. Be sure to check out *Syd Taylor Music* on TikTok, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram for dates and times. Brevard looks forward to her EP release on Spotify. We appreciate Syd's hustle, floating around Brevard, sharing her exceptional talent; like her "Space Boots," she can't be kept on the ground; she's meant for the stars.



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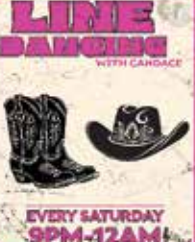
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Pickleball!

By Matthew Bretz

Let's talk about Pickleball, folks. When I was in highschool my gym coach brought out pickleball, and I jumped at it. I loved tennis, I loved ping pong, and suddenly here was a hybrid between the two. I loved it. There was a tournament and I won. I had a bumper sticker, I had an actual pickle hanging from my rear view... like I was into it.

Then highschool ended and I went on with my life. I thought it was done. I honestly thought it was just something my gym coach invented and I left it in my past along with dressing out and skipping gym to smoke behind the bleachers.

Turns out I was wrong. Pickle Ball has recently made a huge resurgence. It's everywhere. Kids from 10 to 90 are playing this game now and it's a national, possibly international phenomenon. It has the allure of physical activity with the luxury of not moving all that much. I love that I can play hard with a single player or go strategic with a couple of retirees. It's bridging a gap and I'm always a fan of that. I feel like we can't go further without looking at the history of where this teen actually started.

Pickleball was invented in 1934 by the Vlastic family .. seriously. They knew sports was the way to move a product, and so they brought in a mar-

keting company that could move a sport in their name to a bigger level. The youngest son of the Vlastic family, Thomas Vlastic, was an a big tennis player and wanted nothing to do with his inheritance in the pickle company. His father Genovenese ask Thomas to invent a game that incorporated tennis and pickles as an attempt to bring his son into the fold of the business.

The result started badly. Thomas thought of using pickles instead of balls in a tennis situation. It was not received well. Over time, with Thomas at the helm, the sport evolved into one that used actual balls of cucumber. This didn't work well either.

Fast forward a few years and others started using hollow potatoes with holes drilled into them as the main instrument. Still not gaining popularity Thomas turned to a friend who was experimenting with plastic balls. Suddenly the sport took off, and players who didn't want to run as far as tennis players clung to the sports, and it thrived.

Now, years later, we have a sports that has taken wings and appeals to every generation.

If you have made it this far, please know I made all of this up. I actually have no idea where pickleball came from, but I will tell you, I enjoy it to the utmost and people of all ages do as well. What used to be tennis courts are now crowded nightly with players of the fastest growing sport in the country. 15 year olds are playing with 80 year olds and every one is having a great time.

It's the multigenerational sport of the future and, what's more, it's promoting cardio and competitive playing across generations. If you haven't tried you need to. And if you don't have anyone to play with, call me. I will happily play with you. So get up off your couch, and I'll see you out there!



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Rudy Parris

Grab your tickets for Rudy - Season 3 of NBC's *The Voice* as a member of Team Blake, with David Pastorius on bass!

Rudy Parris, a singer, guitarist, and songwriter hails from California's San Joaquin Valley. Influenced by the Bakersfield sound of Merle Haggard and Buck Owens, he served as lead vocalist for the legendary Buckaroos at the Crystal Palace in Bakersfield, CA. Rudy recorded his latest album, *Makin' My Way*, at *Capitol Records* in Hollywood where both Owens and Haggard recorded many of their hits. The album features collaborations with Hank Williams II, Grammy winner Little Joe, actor Michael Madsen, Chad Smith, and Pete Anderson. He gained national recognition on Season 3 of NBC's *The Voice* as a member of Team Blake, performing in the live finale. His soulful voice has earned praise for icons like Steven Tyler, who called Parris "A soulful spirit with an authentic country voice." Renowned as a versatile multi-genre artist, Rudy has performed with legends such as James Brown, Bo Diddley, and Jerry Lee Lewis. As a versatile guitarist, he performed at the Jason Becker Not Dead Yet concert sharing the stage with Jon Uli Roth, Gus G, Richie Kotzen, and Steve Morse. Rudy has also played guitar for country royalty Hank Williams III. For tickets visit

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Ashley's of Rockledge with Karen & Eric 6-10pm

SATURDAY

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My Flori-duh *Sweetwater Memories*

By Charles Knight

I write quite frequently of Sweetwater. As I should because it no longer exists. Oh, the ground it was on is still there but its physical existence is gone. Its history is falling into oblivion as well. Where once stood sweeping vistas of strawberry, sugarcane, and tomato fields now stand vast clusters of cookie cutter homes and strip malls filled with bodegas, Latin cafes and various other small Latin businesses.

The spaces where Jimmy's Bar and The Bilmar Lounge stood directly across the dusty road from each other are now occupied by two massive high rise dormitories for students of the Florida International University. The residents will never know of the seemingly never ending fights, knife fights, and shootings that occurred on Friday and Saturday nights in what was once a frontier town on the very edge of the Everglades.

A few yards south of the bars were several homes built by Sweetwater's earliest settlers, The Royal Russian Midgets (as they were called back then). The homes were small in scale as were their occupants. In nineteen forty the Royal Russian troupe (they were internationally renowned acrobats) were directed to the site by their manager Joe Sanderlin who later became the town's first mayor. My

siblings along with myself were sometimes kept in the care of Aunt May, as she was known in her home. Its ceilings were much lower than those that we are accustomed to. And yes...She was a little person and a daughter of one of some of the original settlers, as well as a truly wonderful and interesting woman. It should be known that her son Frankie stood over six feet in height and was later killed in action during the conflict in Vietnam. He isn't remembered by many either, yet, deserves recognition in my opinion.

All of the street signs, parks, and buildings that were named after and dedicated to original founders and benefactors of the small town have since been changed to the names of the new politicians and residents of Nicaraguan and other Latin descent. The empty fields and lots that we played in as kids are crammed shoulder to shoulder with walled homes bearing bars on the windows to deter crime in what was once a quiet little village of friends and neighbors.

When I referred to the two bars that no longer exist and the almost nightly altercations it should be known that the majority of the civil issues and unrest were the result of folks coming from the larger burgh of Miami looking to raise a bit of hell in an out of the way place.



My wife Lissa and I went to Sweetwater a few years back to visit our friend, the sitting chief of police, and afterwards I drove around my old hometown looking for landmarks and places that I haunted as a youth...I got lost. I only recognized a few old buildings that still remained; other than that I couldn't really find my way around. The town has become a city with expanded boundaries and is now the most densely populated place in Florida. Look it up.

History gets lost and sometimes completely erased. Metro Dade County is notorious for changing and destroying its history without a second thought in the name of progress, and let's face it, cash. There are uncountable bits and pieces of important and interesting history all over our nation that fall into oblivion but it seems as though South Florida leads them all in its race for relevance. I miss the old days as most of us boomers do, and some of the changes that have come to pass in my old stomping grounds leave a bitter taste in my mouth.

I saw it coming, that's one of the reasons I moved to Brevard in the late nineteen seventies. Melbourne reminded me a little of Miami in the sixties. And now...It's racing to catch up. Look around your county. There are countless plots of natural Florida being cleared for huge housing projects in almost every corridor. Why? Because people want to live in a better place, but watch out because years from now the same thing will happen here. As Brevard's population grows (and folks, it is!) Our natural beauty and landscape will become much like my beloved South Florida: A thing of the past in the name of progress and cash. That's my take on my Flori-Duh!

Charles Knight is from Sweetwater, Flori-duh, and lives in Melbourne. With his wife Lissa they own Rockstar Entertainment, an entertaining production and karaoke company. Irockstarentertainment@gmail.com.



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Movie Review

By Shelly Kelly

Bruce Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere

On the cusp of global superstardom, New Jersey rocker Bruce Springsteen struggles to reconcile the pressures of success with the ghosts of his past as he records the album "Nebraska" in the early 1980s.

Springsteen (The Boss, as he was being called by then) is played by Jeremy Allen White. Manager/friend Jon Landau played by Jeremy Strong. And a cameo by Jimmy Iovine playing himself. I was Impressed with Jeremy Allen White's portrayal. He did a good job playing the Boss and sang in the movie, no lip synching, I personally don't think Springsteen has a sensational voice, He's more of a "package", a very good songwriter, story teller, a great stage performer and consistently puts on a physically demanding live show. If you're a huge fan or someone who has a handful of songs they like, his singing isn't the "catch", it's the whole package that makes Springsteen. Springsteen has had 21 studio albums starting with "Greetings from Asbury Park N.J" in '1973. Coming off his fifth album "The River" with his first top five hit on the Billboard hot 100 with the hit "Hungry Heart", he returned to his home in Colts Neck, N.J to start writing songs for his sixth album. Upon returning (without giving to much away) to the place he grew up, Springsteen becomes very retrospective and is struggling with the fame he is starting to acquire.

This film deals mainly with that sixth album, "Nebraska". In the bedroom of his home he recorded seventeen songs unaccompanied on a 4-track recorder. They were supposed to have been re-recorded with the E Street Band. But Springsteen decided to release them exactly as they were. Which turned out to be a problem in a modern recording studio. They released the album on 9/30/1980 with no press, no tour and his face not on the cover, with ten of the songs. The other seven songs were full band renditions on the follow up album "Born in the USA" (1984) or as B-Sides. It also delved into the troubled past with his father. And the toll mental illness and depression takes on a family. And how it can manifest through your entire life or a fraction of time in it. The movie lagged here and there, and I got bored. I did enjoy the performances of the actors and the parts at the famous "Stone Pony"(live music venue in Jersey).

If you're not a fan of Bruce Springsteen (his music or him personally) going to see this movie will not convert you into becoming a fan. The movie really is for fans (or music buffs). If you are a fan, the movie will give you some interesting insights as to why he decided to write an introspective, dark acoustic album as he was on the cusp of superstardom. Please keep going to the theater

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CD Review

John McDonald I Find Hope

By Rob Pedrick

I hope everyone is having a great Holiday season! This month I have the pleasure of reviewing John McDonald's latest "I Find Hope". A great compilation of Floribbean Tropical Rock. All tunes feature the genre with a Christmas vibe. John is one of the few, if not only, song writer musicians who can pull this off. An analogy I frequently use, Knocks It Out Of The Park, is in use here. On a scale of one to ten, I have to give this album an eleven. It will truly uplift your Holidays giving this effort a listen.... over and over. This review actually started back in July when John and his Mango Men performed his Christmas in July show. I was honored to get an invite representing Brevard Live. The show was a CD release gig. So, I gathered my beautiful neighbor (now my girlfriend!) and headed there to give a listen. When John McDonald does a show like this, he does it right. Nobody does it better. A VIP section is provided with a meet and greet area with many tables of merchandise. Even a cash bar! John and members of his band come by and make sure they visit every table and carry on conversation with all. Members of the band were Drums – Kevin Kornicki, Lead Guitar – Fred Derwitsch. Keys and Bass – Jay Yerkes, Trumpet – Anthony Agatiello, Steel Drum – Ken Schrader and of course John on Lead Vocals and acoustic guitar. The dynamics were perfect. Every instrument meshed well in the mix. It was a fun time had by all who came. John even added a few of his non-Holiday tunes to round out the performance.

John came over to the "Robin's Nest", my humble abode to deliver me his CD. We talked at great length about music. The state of the industry both local and nationwide. He even listened to one of my tunes! I found that John is just a regular every day guy. He works at his trade very hard. Constantly performing and traveling all over the country. I asked him if he ever found time to sleep!

"I Find Hope" starts out with an upbeat Caribbean Christmas Holiday. Totally sets up the mood for the rest of the Album. Next is Oh What Fun It Is To Ride A Wave with a cool little vocal intro. Secret Santa exposes some great songwriting with a perfect timed bridge at the 2:30 mark. Which segues into a nice guitar solo. You're My Joy To The World is a nice love ballad for the Holidays. May be my favorite tune on the album along with the title track "I Find

Hope" which is one of the better written local original tunes I've heard ever. There are a couple of traditional Christmas tunes on the CD that John puts his Trop Rock spin on with great success. The album ends with Surfing Santas. A tribute to the Surfing Santa event that Cocoa Beach puts on every year. There is not a bad song on this album. I highly recommend "I Find Hope" to all this Holiday season. As I mentioned above. It will definitely uplift your Holidays as it has mine. The Christmas spirit is alive and well! Thanks John McDonald!

You can contact John at johnmcdonaldmusic.com. Here you will find links to most everything pertaining to John McDonald and the Mango Men. Merchandise, CD's, USB flash drives of all his music and all kinds of cool info. He also has a nice FaceBook page you should check out. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!



Songwriters Showcase

Marcy Brenner, Steve Hodak, and Central Florida Folk are proud to announce a Songwriters Showcase concert on Saturday, December 13, at 1:30pm at the Merritt Island Public Library in the Clayton-Taylor Auditorium. The featured songwriters are Ron Collins, Jay Leavitt and Bear and Robert (Cindy Bear and Franc Robert "row-bear") in the first round. The second round features Sarah Rogo, Beaux Patrick, and Jenna Reid. Each will play three songs and field questions about the songs, the craft of songwriting, and anything of interest.

The Songwriter Showcase concert is the second Saturday of each month. Presented by Sharon Osuna, Steve Hodak with Central Florida Folk, the showcase celebrates holidays with some cake after the concert. Each month six songwriters from Brevard County and beyond are featured. This event is free. For more information, please contact Marcy Brenner at tribe.showcase2@gmail.com.

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