

DECEMBER 2023

Volume 32 Issue 8

Art | Music | Dining | Recreation

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Lou Gramm is a singer and songwriter, best known as the lead vocalist of the rock band Foreigner from 1977 to 1990 and again from 1992 to 2003 during which time the band had numerous successful albums and singles.

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JERROD NIEMANN

For the past six years The Hurricane Creek Saloon has presented a free New Year's Eve Street Party in Downtown Melbourne. This year they feature Country's superstar Jerrod Niemann who has been successful with his records and songwriting.

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ROBBY KING

The Robby King Band draws inspiration from the legendary "Three Kings of Blues" - Freddie King, Albert King, and BB King; crafting a unique and electrifying sound that pays homage to these iconic influences. Pretty big shoes to fill, though he stacks his band with local heavy hitters well equipped to get the job done.

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GRAN CHARISMO

Adam Sean of the band Gran Charismo is a full time musician who left the cruise ship life to hit solid ground as a solo act. Though he still does alot of solo work, he is active with his band Gran Charismo that performs a wide variety of music.

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OUR BREVARD LIVE TEAM
Wishes You Happy Holidays
& A Happy New Year 2024

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**BREVARD
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Brevard Lately



The Legends Jam held last month at Cadillac Cove in Satellite Beach in memory of Pucci Lowery was a true Homecoming for all participants - on and off stage:
"The colors of the rainbow/ So pretty in the sky/ Are also on the faces/ Of people going by/ I see friends shaking hands/ Saying, "How do you do?"/ They're really saying/ I love you/ And I think to myself/ What a wonderful world..."

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We Need More Legends Jams!

Riding down A1A to Cadillac Cove I had no expectations. This was not a long-planned event or even heavily promoted. An article in last month's *Brevard Live*, some posts on Facebook, that was it. I pulled into the parking lot, and - OMG - it was packed! Lucky me, a car pulled out, and I got the last spot. That was the beginning to an afternoon of celebrating friendships, memories, great music and pure joy of life.

Pucci Lowery, one of the great local guitar players in the 80s and 90s, sound engineer, and "George Harrison" with Beatlemania, had passed away a few weeks earlier - quietly. But this is not how his friends wanted to let it go. Dave Kury started talking to Kenny Cohen, Bruce Marion, Michael Shain and it went on and on. At a last minute meeting we decided to make it a Legends Jam hosted by Dave Kury first, then by Kenny Cohen. Nobody had an idea who would show up. As a matter of fact, Dave didn't know if anyone else would play besides Randy Crouch on drums, Kenny Page on keys (or anything else because he can), and Mark Glisson on bass. And then they came, so many friends and great musicians who haven't seen each other in years. Now they jammed together - it was more than anyone expected, great for all our minds and souls.

Yes, we "Turned Back Time" for an afternoon, and we have to do it again - as long as we can!



Dec 24, 8am, 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. 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. Sponsorship from the city of Cocoa Beach and the participation of local businesses have come to make this a true community event. Moreover, the event benefits the Florida Surf Museum which is "Preserving Floridas Surfing History" and Grind for Life, a local charity benefiting people suffering from cancer.

This year's organizers suggested to move the event a few blocks north on A1A to Shepard Park which caused quite a stir among the locals. "All these years the Surfing Santas have put a smile on people's face," says founder and original Santa surfer George Trosset. "Controversy was not what we intended." It didn't take long until the locals got what they wanted. Cocoa Beach Mainstreet got licensed to manage this event, and Surfing Santas 2023 is officially taking place at its original beach - behind Coconuts on Minute-men Causeway. There's live music, costume contests, photo-op and more. The event starts at 7:30 am. More info at www.surfindantas.org



Jan 25, 8pm, The King Center

Lou Gramm

Lou Gramm is a singer and songwriter, best known as the lead vocalist of the rock band Foreigner from 1977 to 1990 and again from 1992 to 2003, during which time the band had numerous successful albums and singles. Foreigner's legendary songwriting partners, Mick Jones and Lou Gramm, together propelled an arsenal of ten multi-platinum albums and multiple Top 30 hits. Universally hailed as one of the most popular rock acts in the world, the band is responsible for some of the greatest rock anthems of our time, including the worldwide No. 1 hit, "I Want To Know What Love Is," which today remains one of the 25 most performed songs in the ASCAP Catalog. Other iconic songs include "Feels Like The First Time," "Cold As Ice" and "Long, Long Way From Home" from their self-titled 1977 debut album. Major songs in the Jones/Gramm catalog include "Juke Box Hero", "Hot Blooded" and "Waiting For A Girl Like You." Gramm announced his departure from Foreigner in May 1990 due to differences with Jones, and to focus on his solo career. He rejoined Foreigner in May 1992 after working out his differences with Jones. In 2003, Gramm departed from Foreigner for good. Gramm was inducted to the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2013. As of 2023, Gramm is back on tour with his band the Lou Gramm Allstars. He has new music in the works to be released in the near future.

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Sunday, Dec 31
NYE Street Party In
Downtown Melbourne

JERROD NIEMANN

There are few traditions for yearly concerts here in Brevard County. One of them has become the free New Year's Eve concert presented by Hurricane Creek Saloon in Downtown Melbourne. This is the seventh year for this street party, and it features Country music's superstar Jerrod Niemann who tours in support of his newest project, *Lost And Found*.

"A lot has changed in the last couple of years," Niemann says. "I went through a divorce, and I took the opportunity to re-evaluate everything, personally and professionally, through the lens of what I do best - music." That meant hunkering down in his Red Room, the writing room/studio/Fortress of Solitude in his home where life becomes art, and where he could revisit the attitudes and techniques of the creative burst that led to his storied breakthrough record.

"When I made my first album, *Judge Jerrod and the Hung Jury*, my friend Dave and I recorded without much money or resources because we didn't have much. But there was so much excitement. So this time, I went into my Red Room, which is a magical place; no matter what's going on outside these four walls, it neutralizes all that and the creativity can flow. I never



intended to play every instrument and sing every harmony, but as I tried one thing after another, it worked out that way. It was a learning experience, and I love learning, so it just felt right."

The first fruits of that work are two songs that form the cornerstone of a growing project called *Lost and Found*. The first is "Ghost Rider," a haunting song of loss with a feel that is contemporary yet pure Jerrod. The second is "Tequila Kisses," an all-vocal extravaganza with orchestral richness and a vibrantly fresh sound.

"Taken together," he says, "they're about picking up the pieces and putting them back together in a new and better way, with a fresh coat of paint and a new sign out front. 'Ghost Rider' came as I thought about all the things you share with somebody over the years, memories, inside jokes, the things you build when you're together. What a cool idea for a song, I thought, and as I started singing lines and melodies, it was almost like I'd heard it before. Then I sat down with the Warren Broth-

ers and Lance Miller, and we made sure we took a complex idea and made it straightforward and mainstream."

"Tequila Kisses" is a song he revisited and worked up a layer at a time, taking inspiration from heroes like the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson. "That's an older song I wrote with Lee Brice and Jon Stone," he says. "Lee and I each thought about cutting it over the years, and finally I knew it was time for me to do it. I wondered if I could do an a cappella version. "Lover, Lover" had all these vocal parts, and I hadn't done a whole lot of that since. I did an organ part for pitch reference, and then I sang the lead and just kept adding to it as parts came into my head. There were 25 altogether, and I sang each one twice - so there are 50 parts! I did the shaker, the drums, the bass with my voice. I don't know if I'd do it again!"

Together, they serve as the introduction to a powerful new chapter in his life and career - one that will continue to grow in the coming months. "This is my heart and soul," he says.

“Every note is me. And I plan to add to them, releasing new songs as part of the project, which is the beauty of the digital age.”

Lost and Found turns a fresh page on a career that got its start in the writing rooms of Music Row. Jerrod’s songs have been recorded by Blake Shelton, John Anderson, Jamey Johnson, and Colbie Caillat, among many others, and he was invited to write three singles for Garth Brooks, including the chart-topping “Good Ride Cowboy,” at the time the highest-debating country single since the inception of *SoundScan*.

Always willing to stretch country’s modern and elastic boundaries, Niemann hit the ground running as an artist with a sound that stood out and a compelling visual presence. It didn’t hurt that he could count on the support of and synergy with friends like Randy Houser and Jamey Johnson, who both made cameos in the video for “Lover, Lover.” There followed a string of hits including “What Do You Want,” “One More Drinkin’ Song,” the chart-topping “Drink to That All Night,” and “A Little More Love” with his friend and sometimes touring partner Lee Brice.

He remains unabashedly forward-thinking in his approach to influences and production. “Everybody is trying to be fresh,” he says. “There are ‘traditionalist’ fans who might push back, but the only reason I have the bravery to take these steps is because I know the music of country’s heroes and have deep reverence for them, and I know they were pushing the boundaries, too. Willie and Waylon combined old and very new, and yet they are regarded as the epitome of classic country. They were always about moving us forward. You’ve got to have a voice. It may as well be your own! I’m just making music that makes me feel something, and if you do that, people will feel it too.”

Lost and Found is music for a time when the world is ready to re-emerge (from Covid Lockdowns). “We’ve all been cooped up for a long time,” he says, “and everybody’d love to go on vacation. This is cabin fever music, something to let people escape for a bit.”

“I can’t wait to get back out on the road again,” he adds, “and that time will get here shortly. In the meantime, the way I connect with people is by turning life into music. I’m so glad to have this new work to share. It feels great.” Inspired by the “lost and found boxes we had at school growing up,” the project, which is a collection of ongoing music releases, serves as a representation of what the country singer-songwriter has been through in recent years and where he is now.

The street party and stage are on Vernon Street, right next to Hurricane Creek Saloon. The Last Call Band will be the opening band at 8:30 pm, followed by Jerrod Niemann at 10:45 pm. It’s a free concert.

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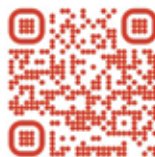
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The Column

By **Chuck Van Riper**

Holidazed XVI (A Special Tine)

Now I'm not keen on discussing the controversial history of various cutlery, but when I was eating breakfast one day, while chewing on some ham from my eggs Benedict, I sat there staring at my fork. The waitress came over concerned that something was amiss. "Is everything ok?", she asked. I replied "Yes, everything is fine. I was just wondering, could you bring me a fork that has five tines instead of four, please." She snapped "I'm sorry sir! All the forks have four tines!". Perhaps that was a rather obtuse request, but I was pondering. Why do all the forks only have four tines? Would you have to special order a fork with five tines? And who was the king of the forks that decided you only get four tines, more than that is superfluous? It seems to me that a request for a five tined fork should be accommodated. How did we end up in this cutlery hell? I need answers! Well, I found them. Here are some interesting forking facts.

In the beginning, there were no forks. People ate with their hands and that was fine, and they saw that it was good, and so it was. Then, somewhere in the pre-Byzantine time, somebody invented the fork. This was an outrage! Some considered it a tool of the devil! I know many new things that come into society are considered "tools of the devil" by those who do not embrace change, but a fork? Yes, a fork. So it came to be that during the Byzantine era, (think about the year 1000 A.D.), Maria Argyropoulina, who was from the Middle East, married an Italian guy. For her wedding, she brought with her a case containing a couple of gold, two-pronged forks. At the wedding feast in Venice, she used the golden utensils to eat her food after having her eunuchs cut it up into small pieces. The Venetians were shocked. Such insolence! Well, she got her comeuppance two years later when she died from the plague. This caused St. Peter Damian to proclaim, "Nor did she deign to touch her food with her fingers, but would command her eunuchs to cut it up into small pieces, which she would impale on a certain golden instrument with two prongs and thus carry to her mouth . . . this woman's van-

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ity was hateful to Almighty God; and so, unmistakably, did He take his revenge.” And so it was. The vanity of using a fork was relegated to the dust bin of history... or was it? Well, obviously not, but it took a while.

Now we travel to Europe in the 15th century. Up until this time, amongst the Italian nobility, spoons were commonly used to eat soups and stews knives were used for stabbing meat. During the Renaissance, Italy had expanded trade with Arabia and Northern Africa. This led to the use of sugar, which at the time was quite rare, but increased with this increased trade. With this abundance of sugar, now the Italians had to figure out what to do with it. And so it was that one of the most common usages of sugar was to candy fruit. Candied fruit became a gastronomic hit amongst the aristocracy. The only problem was how to ingest them. They were very sticky, so utensils were called for. The fruit would slide off spoons and poking them with a knife was too unwieldy. So begins the revival of the fork. Since at the time, sugar was more abundant than forks, the custom was for a guest to use the fork, wipe it off, then pass it on to the next guest. By the late 15th century, forks were considered a mark of good manners. Catherine De’Medici arrived in France to marry Henry II, bringing with her, among many other things, a fork. Queen Elizabeth I did not like fork and preferred to eat with her fingers as she considered “spearing is an uncouth action”. It wasn’t until 1633 that Charles I finally declared that forks were ok.

During the 17th century, forks became more common but were expensive, There were all kinds of forks. Forks for meat, forks for dipping fruit, forks for vegetables, forks for lobster, etc. Eating with forks, however, was still awkward, so a third, then finally a fourth tine was added, and the ends were curved to facilitate bringing food to the mouth. Ok, so there’s 1000 years of forking history. Notice, however, that there was never, in 1000 years, the mention of a fifth tine. Four is the ultimate forking design. Well I want five! I mean, with everything going on in the world right now, is a fifth tine too much to ask for? Apparently so, as in all my culinary adventures throughout the county, I have never found a five-tiner. So this holiday season, let’s advocate for a fifth tine, after all it’s X-mas tine, it’s a special tine of the year, it’s a tine for giving. As always, don’t get too forking HOLIDAZED!



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1 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Shawn Pfaffman
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Not Just Candi
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Anja
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm Murphy's Law
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Erica Falls & Vintage Soul
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Shelley Songer Band
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Ruckus
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm Ricky T
SANDBAR: 4pm Jeff Marquis; 9pm Natty's Common Roots
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm Buck Barefoot
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Andy Harrington
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Mid Life Crisis; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm Whiskey Tango

2 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: closed
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Just Us
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Alex Hayes Band
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm LUVU
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Electric Frogs; 8pm Love Valley
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 5pm Steve Kirsner & Friends; 7pm Hella Ayelet Gal & Ron Teixeira Trio
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Justin Vreeland
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm John Nugent; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Switch
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm Corey Kipps

SANDBAR: 9pm Short Circuit Band
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Shelley Songer Band; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm Drew Halverson
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 1pm Island Breeze; 6pm Umbrella Thieves

3 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2pm Sheep Dawgs Duo
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Rockstead
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Dave Scott; 4pm Rick Estrin & The Night Cats
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: TBA
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Highway 1; 7pm Jeff Bynum
SANDBAR: 9pm DJ Spanky
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm John McDonald & Mango Men
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 12pm Floridave; 4pm Kome Back Kid

4 - MONDAY

COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo
SANDBAR: 8pm Jam Band
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 5:30pm Joshua Keels

5 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 5pm Tommy Tuesdays; 6:30pm Rock Star Bingo
FOO BAR: 7pm Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm Trivia
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 5:30pm Buck Barefoot

6 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Mark Hummel & James Cotton Tribute Band
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Rock-Star Karaoke

KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Syd Taylor
SANDBAR: 5:30pm Trivia w/ DJ Josh; 8pm The Project Orcon Revival
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm TBA
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 5:30pm Royal Ink

7 - THURSDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 6pm Thom Parks Group
FOO BAR: 8pm Latin DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm TBA
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Smooth Play
SANDBAR: 8pm Karaoke
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm Matt Riley
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Karalyn Woulas
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm John Q Jam

8 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Tony Wynn & Cameron Brown
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm SuperFreak
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Mud Rooster
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm Love Valley
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7 & 9pm Selwyn Birchwood
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Heatstroke
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Short Circuit
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm Mr Martini
SANDBAR: 4pm Bullet Dodgers; 9pm The Syndicate
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm Sydney Taylor
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Tim England
SOCIAL DISTANCE:

8:30pm Floriduh; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm Absolute Blue

9 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Smokin Tornadoes
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Kome Back Kid
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Not Just Candi
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Pink Spice
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm The Dawn Patrol; 8pm Big Daddy Band
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 6pm Aolani & The Ron Teixeira Trio
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: NFL
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Denise Turner; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Kings County
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm Vince Love
SANDBAR: 9pm Retroactive Dayz
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Absolute Blue; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm Cash Colley
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 1pm Galaxy Duo; 6pm Meat Spoon

10 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2-6pm Karalyn & The Dawn Patrol
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Aquinas
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Wayne Baker Brooks
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Jam w/ Ron Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Coolers; 7pm Sydd Taylor
SANDBAR: 9m DJ Spanky
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm Joshua Keels
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 12:30pm Forte solo; 4pm Day Tripper

11 - MONDAY

COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: closing 2pm
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Love Valley
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo

Entertainment Calendar

SANDBAR: closed at 3pm
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 5:30pm
Travis Daigle

12 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 4pm
Tommy Tuesday; 6:30pm
Rock Star Bingo
FOO BAR: 7pm Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm
Trivia
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Jam w/ Russ Kellum
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 5:30pm
Corey Kippis

13 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Gabe Stillman
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Tina & Joe
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm TBA
SANDBAR: 5:30pm Trivia w/ DJ Josh; 8pm The Syndicate Duo
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
TBA
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 5:30pm
Highway 1 Duo

14 - THURSDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 6pm
Riff Johnson
FOO BAR: 8pm Latin Night
DJ HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Sybil Gage
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Shelley Songer Band
SANDBAR: 8pm Karaoke
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm
Matt Riley
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
HUNKS - Male Revue
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm John Q Jam

15 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Robby King Trio
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm
Ruckus
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm T.A. Williams
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm
Blue Moon Rising
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Simone Kopmajer
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Billy Chapman Band
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm
Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm
Cheg
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5:30pm Alexander James
SANDBAR: 4pm Jeff Marquis; 9pm Alex Marley
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm
Adam Sean
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Redfish Rich
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Short Circuit Band; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm AK 40 Band

16 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Josh Miller
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm
Luna Pearl
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Country Party
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Liz & The Inviz
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
A Very Merry Shovelhed Christmas; 8pm Justified
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Hella Ayelet Gal w/ Ron Teixeira
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: NFL
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm John McDonald; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Rezen8
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm Justin Vreeland
SANDBAR: 9pm Vintage
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Radar Red; 1:30am DJ

SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm
Campbell & Cross
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 1pm
Joshua Keels; 6pm Picture Show

17 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2pm
Tidal Theory
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm
Krystal Clarke
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
Oatis Cadillac
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: TBA
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm
Heatstroke; 6pm closed for Staff Party
SANDBAR: 9pm DJ Spanky
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm
Shelley & Dave
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 12pm Rick Ferrin; 4pm SoulTime

18 - MONDAY

COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
Love Valley
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo
SANDBAR: 8pm Jam Band
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 5:30pm
Mondo Tikis

19 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 4pm
Tommy Tuesday; 6:30pm
Rock Star Bingo
FOO BAR: 7pm Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm
Trivia
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Jam w/ Russ Kellum
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 5:30pm
James Gang

20 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Mike Zito
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Billy Chapman
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Rock-Star Karaoke
SANDBAR: 5:30pm Trivia w/ DJ Josh; 8pm The Project

Orcon Survival
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Serious Animal Band
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 5:30pm
Johnny Mac Duo

21 - THURSDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 7:30pm Rusty & Laurie Wright
FOO BAR: 8pm Latin Night
DJ
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: TBA
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Skyclub
SANDBAR: 8pm Karaoke
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm
Matt Riley
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
TBA
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm John Q Jam

22 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Tony Wynn & Cameron Brown
CADILLAC COVE: 6pm
Jules Rio
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm TBS
CROWNE PLAZA: 6pm
SoulTime
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm
Luna Pearl
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
TBA
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Pinch
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm
Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm
TruPhonic
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm John McDonald
SANDBAR: 4pm 506 Crew
Duo: 9pm Bullet Dodgers
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm
Pompano Pete
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Wes Hufnagel
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Big Daddy Band; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm Kings

Entertainment Calendar

County

23 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm TW6
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Phoenix
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Debra's Beach Katz
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Island Breeze; 6pm Syd Taylor Band
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm TruPhonic; 8pm Rezen8
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm TBA
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: NFL
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Kash Erickson; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Murohy's Law
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm Karalyn Woulas
SANDBAR: 9pm Bullet Dodgers
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Rockfish; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm Floridave
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 1pm Heatstroke; 6pm Angel City Band

CHRISTMAS EVE 24 - SUNDAY

CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Joules Rio
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Southern Rock's Finest
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 6pm Aolani & Ron Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Castoffs; 6pm closed
SANDBAR: 9pm DJ Spanky
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 12pm Corey Kipps

CHRISTMAS DAY 25 - MONDAY

COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Southern Rock's Finest
LOU'S BLUES: closed
SANDBAR: Open regular hours; 8pm Jam Band

26 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 5pm Tommy Tuesdays; 6:30pm

Rock Star Bingo
FOO BAR: 7pm Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 8pm Trivia
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 5:30pm Johnny Danger Live

27 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Day Tripper
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Kelley Bolduc
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm TBA
SANDBAR: 5:30pm Trivia w/ DJ Josh; 8pm The Syndicate Duo
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Alexander James
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 5:30pm Frank Rios

28 - THURSDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Trivia
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Line Dancing
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 6pm Nasty Habits
FOO BAR: 8pm Latin Night
DJ HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Sybil Gage
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Juiced
SANDBAR: 8pm Karaoke
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm Matt Riley
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm TBA
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm John Q Jam

29 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Joe Breidenstein Trio
CADILLAC COVE: 6pm Rockfish
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Vintage
CROWNE PLAZA: 6pm Harbor City Trio

EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm Reckless Shots
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm TBA
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Shelley Songer Band
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Occasional Astronauts
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm Corey Kipps
SANDBAR: 4pm Jeff Marquis; 9pm Dub Masters
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm Andy Harrington
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm 2 Rock
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Radar Red; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm Forte Band

30 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Chief Cherry Quintet
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Vince Love & The Soul Cats
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 8pm Shelley Songer Band
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Taco Toasters; 6pm Cheetah Coalition
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Relentless; 8pm Checkmate
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm TBA
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Jeff Bynum
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Drew Halverson; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Groove Infusion
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm Alexander James
SANDBAR: 9pm Left Behind
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Kome Back Kid; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm Syndicate Duo
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 1pm Highway 1; 6pm Tidal Theory

NEW YEAR'S EVE 31 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 8pm NYE w/Not Just Candi
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Mondo Tikis
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Frank Bang Band
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 6pm Robby King Band; 8:30pm NYE w/ Ron Teixeira Trio
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: NYE Street Party; 8:30pm Last Call Band; 10:45pm Jerrod Niemann
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm The Fog Band; 9pm NYE w/Luna Pearl
SANDBAR: 9pm NYE Party w/ Hot Pink
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Karalyn & Dawn Patrol; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm Shelley & Dave Songer
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 12pm Corey Kipps; 4pm Tree Frogs

All calendar listings are subject to change without notice. Please confirm with the venue.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Dec 1: Holiday Craft Show: Jingle All the Way Reception, Fifth Avenue Art Gallery, Eau Gallie Arts District, 321-259-8261

Dec 1: First Friday Reception, Eau Gallery, Eau Gallie Arts District, 321-253-5553

Dec 1-3: Christmas Open House, Green Gables, Melbourne, 321-794-8901

Dec 1-3: Finding Nemo: Youth Players, Surfside Players, Cocoa Beach, 321-783-3127

Dec 2: The Nutcracker, King Center, Melb, 321-242-2219

Dec 2: Improv Showcase: Naughty or Nice?, Surfside Players, Cocoa Beach, 321-783-3127

Dec 2: Light Up Viera Holiday Parade, USSSA Space Coast Complex

Dec 2: Pictures with Santa,

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SUN 3RD ROCKSTEAD 1-4PM

SAT 9TH PINK SPICE 1-4PM
SUN 10TH AQUINAS 1-4PM

SAT 16TH LIZ & THE INVIZ 1-4PM
SUN 17TH KRystal CLARKE 1-4PM

FRI 22ND SOULTIME 6-9PM
SAT 23RD ISLAND BREEZE 1-4PM
SYD TAYLOR BAND 6-9PM
SUN 24TH JOULES RIO 1-4PM

FRI 29TH HARBOR CITY TRIO 6-9PM
SAT 30TH TACO TOASTERS 1-4PM
CHEETAH COALITION 6-9PM
SUN 31ST MONDO TIKIS 1-4PM

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Dec 2: WinterFest, Downtown Cocoa Beach

Dec 2: Holiday Bazaar, Sebastian River Art Club Gallery, 772-321-9477

Dec 2: Brevard Chorale: A Change of Seasons Concert, Simpkins Fine Arts Auditorium, Eastern Florida State College, 321-501-0833

Dec 2, 9 & 16: Downtown Melbourne Candlelight Shopping, 321-724-1741

Dec 2 & 3: Art & Craft Holiday Bazaar in Cocoa Village, 321-631-9075

Dec 3: A Holiday Concert, Community Band of Brevard, Merritt Island High Auditorium, 321-338-6210

Dec 3: An Old Fashioned Christmas with the Brevard Youth Chorus, Indialantic Chamber Singers, Riverside Presbyterian Church, Cocoa Beach, 321-426-0360

Dec 3: The Fab Four, King Center, 321-242-2219

December 5-6: Michael Law & Friends: The Holidays are Here!, Historic Cocoa Village Playhouse, 321-636-5050

Dec 6 & 7: Jingle Bells Forever Concert, Melbourne Municipal Band, Melbourne Auditorium, 321-724-0555

Dec 7: Three Dog Night, King Center, 321-242-2219

Dec 8: Winter Wonderland Dance, Melbourne Municipal Band, Melbourne Auditorium, 321-724-0555

Dec 8: Holiday Boat Parade in Historic Cocoa Village, 321-631-9075

Dec 8-17: The Candy Cane Caper: The Reindeer Who Knew Too Much, Surfside Players, Cocoa Beach, 321-783-3127

Dec 8-24: Holly Jolly Holiday, Melbourne Civic Theatre, 321-723-6935

Dec 9: 16th Annual Messiah Sing Along, Space Coast

Symphony, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Indialantic, 855-252-7276

Dec 9: Brevard Community Chorus: Making Spirits Bright, King Center, 321-242-2219

Dec 10: Jazz Concert: Vocalist Maddy Winer, Space Coast Jazz Society, Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island

Dec 10: We Need A Little Christmas Concert, Indialantic Chamber Singers, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Indialantic, 321-426-0360

Dec 10: Adagio Sax Quartet: The Beauty of Christmas Concert, Harbor City Baptist Church, Melbourne, 321-724-0555

Dec 10: Suntree Community Christmas Concert, Suntree United Methodist Church, 321-242-2585

Dec 14-17: Holiday Spectacular: Glad Tidings, Henegar Center, Downtown Melbourne, 321-723-8698

Dec 15: We Need A Little Christmas Concert, Indialantic Chamber Singers, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Palm Bay, 321-426-0360

December 15-17: Galmont Ballet: The Nutcracker, Historic Cocoa Village Playhouse, 321-636-5050

Dec 17: Holiday Concert at The Avenue, Melbourne Municipal Band, 321-724-0555

December 19-20: STARS Holiday Spectacular, Historic Cocoa Village Playhouse, 321-636-5050

Dec 20 & 21: Pajammin' Holidays Concert, Melbourne Community Orchestra, Melbourne Auditorium, 321-285-6724

Dec 24: Surfing Santas, Behind Coconuts, Cocoa Beach

Dec 30: State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

*Cultural events provided by
 Brevard Cultural Alliance.
 ArtsBrevard.org/events*

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New On The Blues Scene

Robby King

By Steve Keller



There's no faking good blues music. Passion and heartfelt struggle have to bleed out of the notes. Musician Robby King knows this, both professionally and personally. And he's just getting started.

"I've been playing since I was 8 years old," King explains after a day's delay of 'getting wrapped around a gin bottle' the night before. "My cousin gave me a shitty guitar and taught me 'Smoke on the Water'. I always liked classic rock as a kid. I'm very inspired by Black Sabbath and AC/DC." King's candor about his past is as genuine as his chosen musical style. "Music for me was less about fun and more about escape. Like drugs, before drugs were available. Rough childhood blah, blah. I discovered blues and soul music early in high school and it just made sense. Came naturally to me. I felt I could play those licks without even having to think about it. I've never enjoyed pop or dance music. I'm only interested in music that conveys strong emotion. Music is my only avenue to express these emotions safely without consequence."

For many working blues musicians, carrying out those emotions means playing the local club circuit and marketing yourself. King has done this by stating in his bio that "The Robby King Band draws inspiration from the legendary "Three Kings of Blues" - Freddie King, Albert King, and BB King; crafting a unique and electrifying sound that pays homage to these iconic influences."

Pretty big shoes to fill, though he stacks his band with local heavy hitters well equipped to get the job done. "My band consists of as few or as many members depending on the budget of the show and availability of said members," he continues. "I've worked with several different people while building my name around town; Evan Wagner, Derrick Eldridge, Mike Tolnay, Ryan Perez, Issac Williams, Jim Pacelet and more. I've been working on securing a permanent line up. Right now, my main band consists of Steve Romine on bass, Dan Plikunas on drums, and Jeff Stanton on Keys. Sometimes when a gig can support a horn section, I call on Chief Cherry and his Red Beans and Rice."

A memorable show recently took place last month at Heidi's Jazz Club in Cocoa Beach. Filmed and uploaded by photographer/musician Brad Martin, the clips really capture King and company's version of blues classics. "We're playing mostly covers right now," he admits. I play one original song and it's an instrumental. I typically do my own renditions of blues standards. I'm hoping to write more and release an EP in the future."

In the meantime, The Robby King Band will continue playing great venues like Heidi's and The Blind Lion in Cocoa Village. King has aspirations of bringing his band to bigger audiences. "I'd like to get the attention of an experienced booking agent to help me acquire some higher profile gigs and begin touring the East Coast."

King concludes this year with a very high profile show to ring in 2024. "I'm playing a show on New Year's Eve at Heidi's Jazz Club December 31st from 6 to 7:30 pm opening for The Ron Teixeira Trio." It's a ticketed show. King also has the distinction of appearing on Brevard Music Group's inaugural Ballroom Blues Fest, set to take place in Cocoa this upcoming July. "One of my long time customers invited me to go see Robby at the Blind Lion," remembers BMG founder Roland Guilarte. "I rarely go out to see local music, but Robby blew me away! We were already conceptualizing festival and there was no doubt that he had to be part of it. He's going places!"

Check out Robby King Band online on *Facebook, Instagram* and *YouTube*.



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Gran Charismo

By Steve LeClair

Been to the port lately? Maybe for your own cruise vacation or just to watch the ships leave but either way, people are expecting a good time with relaxation, food, drinks, excursions and MUSIC to party to. The ships all have top notch entertainment on board whether it's djs, stage shows, comedians, a solo musician or band. What becomes of these entertainers after cruise life you may ask?

Well, Adam Sean of the band Gran Charismo was one of those providing that MUSIC. He's a full time musician and left the cruise life to hit solid ground as a solo act. Though he still does alot of solo work, he is active with his band Gran Charismo that performs a wide variety of music ranging from classic to modern rock, country, alternative, pop, hip-hop, and beyond and no two shows are the same. You'll

hear country to Zeppelin and everything in between. Adam started Gran Charismo in 2021 after performing some trio shows with freelance bassist, Christian Sciolla (who would end up naming the band) and drummer Ryan Perez, and it just sort of fell together. The aim was to create a band that could perform the wide variety of music and actively take requests as he did in his solo shows. Adam performed with a fully revolving cast of rhythm section players until Evan Bernard joined the band as the full time bassist in 2022. Adam has been the constant in the band with Evan Bernard on bass for about 99% of the shows. They carry a roster of drummers who complete the trio. When asked how that works, Adam explained that it normally comes down to who is available to play gets to play.

Adam is the lead vocalist and guitarist, Originally from Gerrardstown, West Virginia, Adam comes from a music loving family that instilled a love for all kinds of music in him at an early age. His journey as a musician began at the age of 13 when watching a classmate play the drum set in band class. This inspired him to want to play the drums. After receiving his first drum set for Christmas that year, Adam dove

into playing fully knowing it was what he wanted to devote his life to. Adam played drums in multiple bands, high school/college ensembles, and musical theatre performances around his home town through his teens and early 20s. Along the way in an attempt to improve his singing ability, Adam began to learning to play guitar. In 2016 through a live music production internship, Adam would get the opportunity to join a band that worked for Carnival Cruise Lines. After that contract was completed, Adam made the choice to pursue a change and became an acoustic soloist for the company from 2017-2020. He has been performing solo in Central Florida since late 2020 doing now over 20 shows per month.

Bassist and vocalist Evan has been performing professionally around Brevard County for 15 years. Evan got into music performing in the high school orchestra around the age of 14. Son of Derek Bernard (of Derek and the Slammers), Evan has performed alongside his dad as well as in many other acts over the years. Those acts include Natty's Common Roots, The Bullet Dodgers, Part One Tribe, The Syndicate, and General Eyes. Evan

continued page 26



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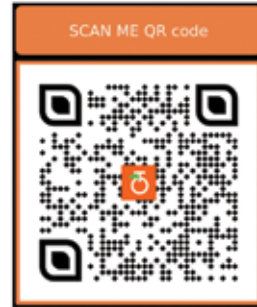
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GRAN CHARISMO continued

has started his own original reggae band, Kevan Bernard Band, in which he fronts on guitar and vocals. In 2023, the band released an EP and multiple singles of original music that are available on all streaming platforms.

As mentioned above, Gran Charismo operates with a revolving cast of talented, professional drummers from Brevard County. These drummers primarily include Travis Smith, Ryan Perez, TA Williams, and Reid Siljeström. Each have helped to build the band from its beginnings and complement the band with their individual styles. Travis Smith is formerly of the Scott Baker Band among other acts and has also performed for many years as a guitar soloist as well. He now has moved into a full time career as a physical therapist, but still loves to get out and perform when work and family time allows. Ryan Perez has been a full-time freelance drummer in Brevard for years, playing with tons of different acts when they've been in need. If you frequently see live music in the area, chances are you've seen Ryan perform somewhere along the way. TA Williams has been a professional musician all of his life, traveling the world with the cruise industry and performing in tons of acts or as a soloist. TA is also a highly accomplished keyboard/synth player, performing solo around the area as well as in the band, Panama. Reid Siljeström is a teacher by day, talented drummer by night. He performs with the RAN Project as well.

If you're looking for live music with a deep well of repertoire, Gran Charismo is the band who actively takes and encourages requests and strives to deliver a fun filled show for any audience. With this approach, no two performances are the same, and there is always something for everyone to enjoy at a Gran Charismo show.

We'll Miss Jimbo!

Singer/songwriter/band leader James "Jimbo" Garris passed away November 16th, 2023. Garris led the Space Coast bands Jimbo & The No Shows and Honest Havoc and was a founding member of The Blue Diamond Band. The Celebration of Life Service for James Garris will be **Saturday, December 9th at 11am at Venue 1824** (formerly His Place) located at 1824 S Harbor City Blvd, Melbourne. Foods and refreshments will be provided after the service. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, for people to donate to Brevard Music Aid. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Caitlin and family. Caitlin writes: "Please consider donating to Brevard Music Aid, this organization was important to James



Jimbo (here with his band The No Shows) was a staple in our original music scene - talented and kind.

and I as they assisted us after one of his medical crisis." You can mail your donation made out to Brevard Music Aid, P.O. Box 1452, Melbourne, FL 32902.

Last Minute Gift Ideas Original & Affordable

Over the past years Downtown Melbourne has blossomed into a hip shopping paradise offering specialty items you won't find at Walmart. Add a candle light shopping experience every Saturday, and you can catch the Christmas spirit along with some original gifts.

Make sure you step into **The Happy Turtle**. One item that stands out is the Capim Dourado craftwork, beautiful accessories made out of "golden grass" which is the stem of a white flower from the family of evergreens, scientifically known as Syngonanthus. More than 50 products are made with

golden grass amongst them purses, necklace, bracelets, earrings, hats and much more. The golden shine is fascinating, and it makes an affordable (under \$100) accessory for any fashionista. Owner Siara McKee is from Brazil and she makes trips to her homeland to pick up some unique merchandise.

If you want the gift to be customized and personal, check out **Giftique**. You get your custom-made T-shirts, hats, mugs, glass, aprons, right in the store. They also offer unique gift items like Trollbeads, Elfbeads, Willow Tree figurines. Giftique is an authorized Patience Brewster location, From larger pieces to all the amazing ornaments by Mackenzie-Childs, they have a HUGE selection! Happy Shopping Season!



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My Flori-duh

By Charles Knight

In the last issue I mentioned that I wanted to look back in time and try to remember some of the old roadside attractions that were a tourism staple before Disney and Universal.

It's nineteen-sixty-five and the family is en route to the town of Clewiston. On the east side of US 27 heading north you see the signs telling you about the best BarBQ in the South, long before reaching The Old South BBQ, the signs themselves are a humorous distraction with witty and oftentimes cheesy quips and puns on a long and otherwise boring stretch of highway. When you arrived at The Old South you knew it. With lifesized statues and dummies portraying cowboys (both the good and bad versions) almost everywhere on the large property, there were also conestoga wagons with similar effigies of settler women, children, and fathers in what appeared to be a trek to someplace in the far west. There were Tee Peees and native Americans on Horesback, women and children performing their daily tasks around simulated fire pits and a small creek that had been

built for the display. I've really only described a small amount of what was there, and that was merely the outside of the building.

Once inside one of the large dining rooms the amount of collected memorabilia seemed almost overwhelming, nearly every square inch of wall space was covered with sepia toned photos depicting settlers, miners, cowboys (and women) and so much more. Without a single person smiling in any of them! There were old guns and hats, holsters and boots, saddles and horse shoes, and I have only touched on the amount of paraphernalia displayed in massive structure. If I remember correctly the food was great too!

Keep in mind that our major arteries such as I-95 did not exist yet, so US 27 was a busier route than it is today. Periodically dotted with roadside orange stands like Harvey's and more. The orange groves were seemingly everywhere once you reached the center of the state. There were and still are the Citrus tower and Bock tower in the hills of the state. Unfortunately the Citrus tower is now in the middle of the city of Clermont where at one time endless groves of the sweet fruit covered the hills but is now a run-down area where one can ride the elevator to the top and view other parts of the area that aren't as seedy as the tower's location.

The Bock Tower is another story altogether. It's surrounded by acres of gorgeous and enchanting gardens featuring a variety of plants and trees native to our state. With what seems like miles of brick and paved pathways and rest areas the gardens are well worth the small admission price.

Travelling north up US 41 AKA the Tamiami trail from Miami one could stop at any of a few dozen Indian villages inhabited by either families of Seminoles or Miccosukees. In the forties until the late sixties there were actually some large villages inside the city limits of Miami. The largest and possibly most remembered in publica-

tions and whatnot was called Musa Isle. It was the most beautiful village I can recall. Located directly on the Miami river it featured caves on the riverbank where rituals were practiced in earlier times. In later times when we were kids we played in the caves. Anyway, heading north on Tamiami one encountered villages where men would wrestle alligators, women sewed intricate coats and skirt of incredible colors and detail for sale to tourists. One could purchase hand carved wooden tomahawks, daggers, and alligators among other items. While continuing the drive you passed by my home in the Everglades where you could and still can ride an airboat and view the sea of grass and its wildlife. Once you passed the Glades and hit Naples there were shell shops that held literally millions of the sea's crustaceans homes that washed up on the pristine white beaches. There were small privately owned roadside zoos where a female tour guide would feed chunks of fish meat to otters and chickens to gators while smoking a cigarette and chewing gum (this is a vivid memory lol) while explaining the animals life in the wild. And then you came to Fort Myers where the world famous Shell Factory was situated. A massive building with gargantuan statues of conch shells, crabs and Florida lobsters in the front, it was truly a wondrous place to a small me. I often wonder if it is still there. There are dozens of roadside attractions that are no longer with us and some that are. There were some right here in Brevard. Remember... US 1 was and still is a major artery. I hope to learn more about the local ones through some of you! That's OUR 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. You can reach him at charlesknight563@yahoo.com.

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- Friday: Hook & Eagle Tavern 6-10pm
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- Saturday: Ashley's of Rockledge 8-Midnight
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