

APRIL 2024

Volume 33 Issue 1

Art | Music | Dining | Recreation

BREVARD LIVE FLORIDA

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STEVE VAI interviewed BoDeans **SWAN LAKE**
SONIC WAVES MUSIC FESTIVAL
MELBOURNE ART FESTIVAL

LOU'S BLUES



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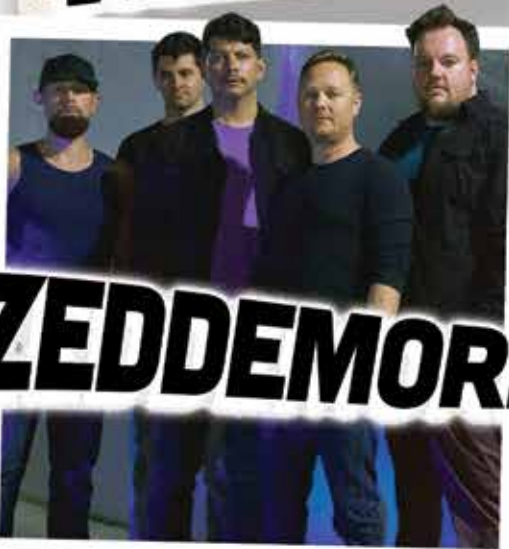
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LOCAL 518





Contents

April 2024

FEATURES

SONIC WAVES MUSIC FESTIVAL

Celebrating 49 years of public radio broadcasting in Brevard from Florida Tech, 89.5 FM WFIT presents the Sonic Waves Music Festival on Saturday, April 13th at Intracoastal Brewing.

Page 10

SWAN LAKE

This inaugural collaborative performance presented by the Brevard Ballet Youth Company and your Space Coast Symphony Orchestra brings the beauty of Swan Lake to The King Center.

Page 12

MMB CONCERT

Five past conductors of the US Army Field Band will take the stage on April 17th & 18th to celebrate one of their own as the Melbourne Municipal Band (MMB) honors local music legend COL Hal Gibson on his 100th birthday.

Page 14

MELBOURNE ART FESTIVAL

The award-winning festival, which draws tens of thousands of art and music lovers, is a vibrant family friendly event that promotes and celebrates the arts in Brevard. Free parking, free admission.

Page 14

STEVE VAI

Matt Bretz did it again! He was offered the amazing opportunity of interviewing one of the best guitarists on the planet, who is currently on a duo tour with Joe Satriani - Joe's best friend Steve Vai. And he has some big announcements.

Page 16

BREVARD COMEDY

There has been a resurgence of interest in comedy, and more and more shows popping up all over the county. One promoter, Kailyn Meek, of the aptly titled Brevard Comedy promotion, is leading the charge and carrying on a tradition that runs in her family.

Page 28

Columns

9 Brevard Lately
Photo Review of Latest Events

18 Chuck Van Riper
High Tech Talk

Calendars
21 Live Music in Brevard County & Community Events

30 Cover Bands
Deluxe Mojo by Steve LeClair

34 My Flori-duh
Reminiscences by Charles Knight

39th

Melbourne Art Festival

April 27 & 28, 2024

Wickham Park - Melbourne, FL



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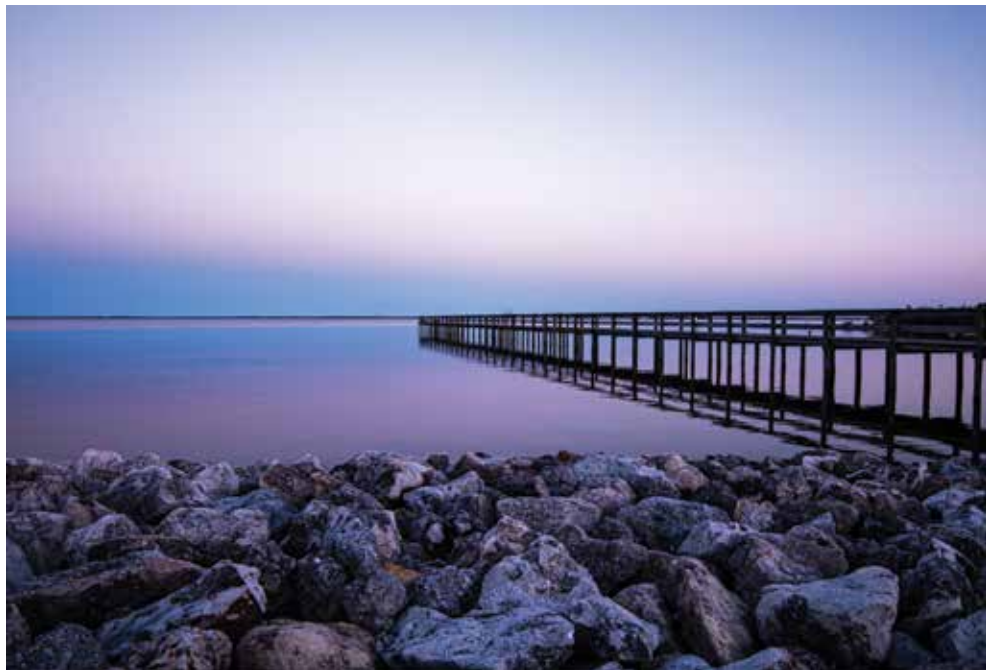
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Brevard Lately



Florida is famous for its colorful sunsets. Ed Robinson set out to capture a few: Lavender sunset overlooking Banana River Lagoon in Merritt Island.



Full Spectrum, Fire Sunset, at Lake Washington in Melbourne.

Photos by Ed Robinson

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April 13, 5-10pm
Intracoastal Brewing Company
Eau Gallie Arts District

Celebrating 49 years of public radio broadcasting in Brevard from the Florida Institute of Technology, 89.5 FM WFIT presents the Sonic Waves Music Festival on Saturday, April 13th from 5 to 10 pm at Intracoastal Brewing Company in the EGAD district of Eau Gallie. Beer and Food vendors plus local non-profit organizations will have booth displays.

Featured performers are:

Tina Eno (5-5:30pm). Tina Eno is a singer songwriter. Today her focus is on songwriting and performing original music – a cross between folk, country and an old jazz standards. Her songs are full of interesting characters, and stories of love lost and found.

The Mean Violets (6-6:45pm). They are proud to announce the 2023 release of our upcoming EP, "We Mean Well"! This five track EP comes from their hearts.

Local 518 (7:15-8pm). Local legends Dave Pastorius on bass, Al Brodeur on guitar, and Alex Petrosky on drums put out a high energy original sound.

Zeddemore (8:30-10pm). This band's music is dynamic, from crunchy rock riffs to driving epic sounding drums and bass, with articulate vocals that speak of self-empowerment, perseverance, and love. Influences range from classic rock bands like Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd to the alternative rock legends Incubus and Sound Garden as well as music from pop, funk, and punk genres.

www.wfit.org



April 13, 7:30pm
King Center, Melbourne

BoDeans

With countless tunes you know from the first note, rip-roaring gigs you can count on, and a whole lot of energy you'll take home with you, BoDeans continue to contribute to the American songbook as a tried-and-true institution. Founded and led by original frontman, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and producer Kurt Neumann, the band's catalog consists of generational anthems such as "Good Things," "You Don't Get Much," "Idaho," and "Closer To Free," just to name a few. However, they still reflect the soul and spirit of the modern American experience on their fourteenth full-length offering, *4 The Last Time*.

"The music of BoDeans has defined much of my life," muses Kurt. "I consider myself fortunate to be able to do what I enjoy. I wanted to do something positive for the world instead of just taking from it. So, this is what I've chosen to do with my life. The music was always about the blue-collar dream of a better life, and it still is."

BoDeans emerged out of Waukesha, WI in 1986 with the seminal debut, *Love & Hope & Sex & Dreams*, produced by T Bone Burnett. Following *Outside Looking In* (1987), *Home* (1989), and *Black and White* (1991), *Go Slow Down* (1993) yielded "Closer To Free," which famously served as the theme song for the smash hit television series *Party of Five*. With a sought-after discography, their music landed hundreds of television and film placements. www.kingcenter.com



April 10, 7pm
Heidi's Jazz Club, Cocoa Beach

Nick Moss Band

Award-winning traditional electric Chicago blues group The Nick Moss Band featuring Dennis Gruenling celebrate the release of their third Alligator Records album, *Get Your Back Into It!*, with a live performance at Heidi's Jazz Club in Cocoa Beach on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. With *Get Your Back Into It!*, Chicago native, guitarist and vocalist Nick Moss and New Jersey native, harmonica player and vocalist Dennis Gruenling – together with Rodrigo Mantovani on bass, Taylor Streiff on keyboards and Pierce Downer on drums – deliver a deeply rooted, timeless blue collar blues album. According to Moss, "We are a rare breed as far as how authentic we like to keep the music." That's not a surprise to longtime fans, as Moss proudly represents the city of Chicago as one of the few bluesmen working today to have learned his craft first-hand directly from many of the genre's original creators.

The Nick Moss Band featuring Dennis Gruenling recently received a total of seven 2024 Blues Music Award nominations. Nominations include the coveted awards for Band Of The Year, Album Of The Year (for *Get Your Back Into It!*) and Song Of The Year (for *The Bait In The Snare*). Harmonica player Dennis Gruenling and band bassist Rodrigo Mantovani each received an individual nomination as well. The awards ceremony will be held in Memphis, Tennessee on Thursday, May 9.

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Thursday, May 4, 6pm
King Center, Melbourne

SWAN LAKE

Swan Lake returns with the biggest production cast yet! This inaugural collaborative performance presented by the **Brevard Ballet Youth Company** and your **Space Coast Symphony Orchestra** brings the matchless beauty of Swan Lake to the stage at The King Center. Staged by Artistic Director, Elena Shokhina-Ivers to Tchaikovsky's powerful score, over one hundred and fifty locally trained dancers will grace the stage, to tell the triumphant story. Swan Lake is a timeless masterpiece of classical ballet, featuring a moonlit lake, swan maidens, and true love. Accompanied by one of Tchaikovsky's most famous and memorable scores, Swan Lake tells the story of Prince Siegfried's love for Odette, a beautiful princess turned into a swan by a sorcerer's curse. Live orchestral music, elegant costumes, an unparalleled setting, and aspiring talent all come together for a Swan Lake that is sure to enchant audiences of all ages with its story, beauty, and splendor. This is an experience not to be missed!

Meet The Artistic Director:

Elena is the cofounder and Artistic Director of Brevard Ballet Youth Company, as well as the Academy Director of Brevard Ballet Academy. She is a graduate of the world-renowned Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia. Upon graduating she earned the position of principal dancer for the St. Petersburg State Academic Ballet Theatre, and later the St. Petersburg Ballet (Russia) which is comprised mostly of Vaganova gradu-



ates. She spent eight years performing all over the world at the most prestigious theatres before moving to the United States and earning the title of principal dancer with Nevada Ballet Theatre. Elena is known for her loyalty, incredible discipline, and for her



Elena Shokhina-Ivers is the cofounder and Artistic Director of Brevard Ballet Youth Company and the Academy Director of Brevard Ballet Academy.

vast repertoire including lead roles in Swan Lake, Giselle, Nutcracker, Peter Pan, Sleeping Beauty, Don Quixote, Dracula, Romeo and Juliet, La Bayadere, Paquita, and many others. During her tenure as a principal dancer, Elena had the honor of working with esteemed choreographers Val Caniparoli, Bruce Steivel, Peter Anastos, Mark Diamond, and others. Upon retirement as a professional dancer, she discovered her passion for teaching classical ballet and has been teaching since 2008 and opened Brevard Ballet Academy in 2014.

In 2015, Elena was interviewed by *Florida Today* where she laid out her vision to grow her faculty, her facilities, and her student base to support a youth company. In 2018, after growing her student enrollment to nearly 200 students, her faculty to nine professional teachers, and her facility to 5,000 square feet, her hard work paid off when she cofounded the Brevard Ballet Youth Company with her husband, Scottwood. Elena had the vision and experience to produce several magnificent full-length ballet productions, to include Cinderella, Swan Lake, the Nutcracker Ballet, and My Christmas Dream (which she wrote and choreographed). www.kingcenter.com

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April 17 & 18, Melbourne Auditorium
**MMB Concert Honors Military bandleader
 COL Hal Gibson's 100th Birthday**

Five past conductors of the US Army Field Band will take the stage on April 17th and 18th to celebrate one of their own as the Melbourne Municipal Band (MMB) honors local music legend COL Hal Gibson (USA Ret.) on his 100th birthday. The concerts are free and begin at 7 pm at the Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd. Doors open at 6 pm, with pre-show entertainment provided by the VIP Jazz Orchestra.

COL Gibson himself also will wield the baton for a new arrangement of service songs that includes the new Space Force Song. Dr. David Gregory, founder and Conductor Emeritus of the Georgia Wind Symphony, also will conduct, as will MMB Conductor Staci Rosbury.

“This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see all the past living ‘Pershing’s Own’ conductors in one concert,” said Rosbury. “We will feature stirring renditions of American Overture for Band, the George Washington Bicentennial March, Superman March, America the Beautiful, and Hymn for the Innocent, to name a few. MMB is thrilled to honor the many contributions COL Gibson has made to the music world and to our band.”

Also in the program is Concertino, by Cécile Chaminade, which will feature local flutist Nicole Scott as soloist. Scott is a member of the Brevard Symphony Orchestra. *America, The Beautiful* will be sung by Rachel Carter Murphy, soprano. Another selection, Centennial Celebration Overture, was written for this concert by composer Dwayne Milburn to honor COL Gibson.

COL Gibson is an internationally acclaimed musician and conductor with a professional background that spans more than a half a century. For over 30 years, he was a military bandleader, holding positions at the highest levels of the Army’s band program, including bandleader at the U.S.

continued page 19



April 27 & 28, Wickham Park, Melbourne
39th Annual Melbourne Art Festival

The 39th Melbourne Art Festival will once again be held around the back lake at beautiful Wickham Park in Melbourne, FL. The award-winning festival, which draws tens of thousands of art and music lovers, is a vibrant family friendly event that promotes and celebrates the arts in Brevard. This year’s festival will be held from 9 am to 5 pm on April 27 & 28, 2024.

This year’s event will host over 200 fine art and jewelry booths, sponsor displays, and diverse food and beverage options including mixed drinks. The festival features free parking, free admission, free kid friendly art activities, and free live music from 10:30 am to 5 pm both days.

Saturday 4/26: 10:30 to 11:30am Obsequious & Ubiquitous; Noon to 2:30 Penny Creek; 2:30 to 5pm Phoenix

Sunday 4/27: 10:30 to 11:30am Anna & Sam; Noon to 2:30pm Day Tripper; 2:30 to 5pm St. John’s Wood

The popular VIP Patron Program includes access to a covered VIP Patron Tent to relax and watch the live music while enjoying free beer, wine and beverages, patron parking near the festival entrance, invitation to the exclusive Saturday night Artist Reception, Patron buttons and more. The VIP Patron Program costs \$75 per person or \$125 per couple.

The Melbourne Art Festival is a juried Fine Arts Show, drawing artists from throughout Florida and the United States. Last year’s festival was selected as one of the Top 100 fine art shows in the US by ‘Sunshine Artist Magazine’. Cart rides will be offered by “The Cart Guys” to help those with large art purchases get back to their vehicle.

Originally held in Indialantic and Downtown Melbourne for its first 32 years, the festival moved to Wickham Park in 2017. Proceeds raised during the weekend, along with those raised at benefit art auctions, are used to support the arts; offer Student Scholarships to students for art classes and camps; and funding other educational art efforts and art organizations. The Melbourne Arts Festival has donated over \$100,000 to the community. The Melbourne Art Festival is one of the few 100% volunteer run non-profit organizations in Brevard County. www.MelbourneArts.org.



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STEVE VAI

Interviewed By Matt Bretz

Late last year I was offered the amazing opportunity of interviewing one of the best guitarists on the planet. I am speaking of metaphorical first contact himself - Joe Satriani. At the time I asked Joe about any upcoming G3 related tours and he mysteriously mentioned that some time soon, there would be a big announcement to watch out for. Well, it turns out the big announcement was for a couple exciting things about to happen. One of them being a duo tour Joe Satriani is on with his best friend Steve Vai (the other greatest guitarist on the planet.) The other - well, I got Steve Vai to tell me a little about it when we talked last month. Here's what happened!

So, you and Satriani are embarking on this monster tour together. It's hard to believe, but this is actually the first duo tour you have ever done outside of something like G3. How did it all come about and why now?

SV: Joe and I have always been attached at the hip and I'm not even sure why we have never done anything like this before, but it just seemed like a good time to do it. It's been advertised that this is like a celebration of friendship tour, which is kind of true, we have been friends a very long time. Joe and I have so much history coming up through the ranks together.

I understand you have been friends for around 50 years or something like that. Is it true that you took guitar lessons from Satriani at 13?

SV: Honestly, I think we have probably been friends even longer than that. Yeah, I actually took lessons from him when I was 12. He was a few years older than me and one of the older, cooler kids in the area. We all thought he was like guitar king, and so anyone that wanted to play guitar in my neighborhood wanted to be like him and tried to get him to teach them. That was me too.

It's wild that you two were so young when you met and somehow become equals at the top of the progressive rock world. Did you ever imagine your lives would/could turn out that way?

SV: No, there's no way to know that kind of thing. How you ever know or even imagine that. First and foremost I wanted to be good at guitar; 2nd I wanted to have fun and look cool. Those were my goals, and in the beginning I didn't really think I was going to make a living at it.

Early on you developed a very famous practice regimen requiring at least 7 hours a day. Can you talk about what inspired that kind of commitment?

SV: Practice to me has never been work. I enjoy every second of it, so long hours learning and refining technique and application has never been a hard thing to make myself do. On the contrary, I can't wait to get to work. Just like anything else; playing guitar is like weight lifting. You work at it for awhile, and then one day you go up in weight and your're like ok, I like that. Let's do more! Learning guitar has always been like that, too. When I was a kid I was going lick to lick just learning everything I could out of whatever song I was working on. When I was done, it was on to the next.

I've seen you a few times on the G3 tours and I caught you at a show called Zappa Plays Zappa at the Hardrock Live in Orlando. It was

advertised as Dweezil Zappa playing his father's music, but then out of nowhere you and Terry Bozzio suddenly appeared on stage. It was a thrill for us out in the audience. What was that experience like for you, playing that music again with your old bandmates?

SV: Wow, that was some years back, but of course I remember it. It wasn't something that was planned way in advance. I got a call one day from Dweezil telling me he was going on a tour playing Frank's stuff. You have to remember-- I played this music when I was 18 in 1978 when Frank hired me. Anyway, he asked if I could guest shot at a few of the shows. He said he was also asking Terry and Napoleon Murphy. It was a lot of fun playing with those guys again.

It was a big deal for the fans that live here. Jaco came from our area and his family is still here.

SV: That's really cool. I didn't know that, thank you for telling me.

At the top of your game you must have a bird's eye view of anyone coming up in the industry. Is there anyone out there we should be watching. Who do you respect right now?

SV: That's a tough one. I can tell you right off the bat that Jacob Collier is blowing it out of the water right now. That guy has everything needed to be a legend...and that's where it is for me. Let's talk about this for a minute. I'm primarily a guitarist and I look at things in terms of musicality and technique. There are a ton of players out there that are technically great, but they can't phrase well or find just the right melodic notes to actually say something with their music. You can get flashy and that definitely sells tickets, but in the end I'm more interested in the melody and feel of the music. In order to be a legend you have to be technically great, write songs with real musicality and know how to sell an image. I know that last part sounds shallow, but



this is a business and people want your clothes and style to reflect almost a fantasy they would like to emulate. That being said, I'm not sure if there is anyone headed for "legendary" status right now...except Collier of course.

I get it. Its kind of like the difference between playing as many notes as fast as possible or playing Whispering a Prayer.

SV: Yes, kind of like that.

Speaking of Whispering a Prayer-- it's easily one of my favorite song of yours along with For the Love of God. Do you have any favorites you like to play more then others?

SV: Well, that changes from time to time of course. I do have a story that goes along with that though. I have a guitar called the Hydra which is this big three necked monster. One neck is a 6-string, one is a 12-string, and the third is a bass.

That's ambitious!

SV: Super ambitious right? So, I play a song on this thing called Teeth of the Hydra and it is an intensely hard song to play. The first tour I brought it out on I had just had shoulder surgery and didn't get as much practice on it as I would've liked. I guess I could have just left it out of the show for awhile, but I was anxious to show people what I was doing. Anyway, the first week or so I was nervous every time I went to pick it up, but after that I was locked in and my nervousness turned into excitement. I couldn't wait until that part of the show came up.

I've always wondered how do you guys pick who is going to be the 3rd guitarist on the G3 tours?

SV: (laughs) People don't seem to ever remember this, but I've actually only played on a little over half of the G3's. I know people think the concert is Joe and myself...and then a great guitarist, but I'm a guest, too. It's always been

Joe's thing. He calls all the shots and makes all the decisions.

Speaking of G3, are there any talks of a new one soon?

SV: Funny you should ask that. There's actually something coming soon. Joe's son has become a pretty good filmmaker and asked if he could film the last tour. He did and decided to make a movie/doc about the G3. That's coming out fairly soon. Joe and I are actually finishing up a duo album to go along with this tour. So, that's all pretty exciting!

I talked to Joe a few months ago and asked him about the next G3. He was very mysterious, but said something was coming soon. This must have been what he was talking about!

SV: Yeah, I'm sure of it. Oh man, I hope it was ok that I told you! (laughs)

We'll just keep that between us-- and everyone reading this right now.

SV: Ok, deal!

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The Column

By **Chuck Van Riper**

High Tech Talk

In the world of iPhones and Samsung S24's, sometimes we forget how this all started, and it wasn't very long ago, either. What seems ubiquitous in cellphone land these days wasn't around a mere 15 years ago. We use lingo now that was never heard of a few short years past. Now we make "tweets", send DM's, take "selfies", get instant messages, and so much more. The lexicon of telephony has created a whole new strategy for Scrabble. In 2006, "Google" was added to the Oxford English dictionary as a verb, as in "go google it". Hard to believe that was 18 years ago. For those of you who remember the evolution of the cell phone, before the times where everybody had one, here's a short history.

The first phone that was able to send text messages, thanks to GSM technology, was the Nokia 2110 in 1994. This was my first cellphone. It had a tiny little screen that was green with black, pixelated text. You could make calls. That's what it was for. You could send a text, but it was a laborious endeavor. You couldn't surf the web, see pictures, or anything that is considered essential today. It was a phone. That's it. A big, heavy, clunky phone that would not fit in your pocket. Remember those belt holsters they made for these things?

The Benfon ESC came along in 1999, a short 25 years ago, was the first phone to implement GPS. A year later in 2000, the Erikson T36 saw the first implementation of Bluetooth technology. Also in 2000, the Nokia 3310 hit 125 million units sold. It was still a big clunky phone with a green screen and black, pixelated letters, but the big selling point was, it came with interchangeable covers. Ok, so we're making progress. Now you can "Text me" with a bright yellow case or determine your GPS coordinates with the push of a button.

2001 saw the first phone with 3G technology. Seems like just yesterday, doesn't it? The Matsushita 2101 was the first to implement 3G AND video, albeit, very low resolution, grainy video. This did, however, raise the bar in cell phone world. In 2003, another milestone was hit when Blackberry put out the first "smart phone". This really amped up the competition. 2004 saw the Nokia 9500. The first phone to include a connection to the internet, a

full color screen, a .03 megapixel camera, Bluetooth, an mp3 player, and a Fax! By now, Bluetooth and mp3 had become common terminologies.

The next big event in cellphone world was the introduction of the iPhone in 2007. This made interacting with the phone and internet so much easier and raised the bar again. Also, now we could take “selfies”! In 2008, the HTC Dream came out with the first Android operating system, which prompted the continuous question: “Android or Apple?”. However, in 2010, the Google Nexus One appeared, promising to be an iPhone killer, with a high def screen, 5 mp camera, once again, raising the bar. So, now you can take a selfie, and text it to your friend, or e-mail it. You can take movies, watch videos, read the news, anything you want in this always connected world. I was talking to one of my students about not seeing many of my friends on FB anymore. He replied, “Dude, you have to change your algorithm”. What? Sounds painful. Hope it doesn’t require me to get a haircut! I feel soooo old now!

MMB: COL Hal Gibson continued

Military Academy at West Point. In 1974, he was selected from the bandleaders of all services to form and conduct The Armed Forces Bicentennial Band and Chorus – the only military musical organization ever to have been comprised of members from all five U.S. uniformed services.

In 1993 COL Gibson and his wife, Marie, moved to Melbourne, and he formed the Space Coast Winds. He has been actively involved with the Melbourne Municipal Band and has frequently performed with both, the MMB Concert Band and Swingtime.

Attendees can purchase food and beverages from City Bistro at the auditorium, enabling patrons to have a dinner and show experience. Call 321-724-0555 or visit www.MelbourneMunicipalBand.org for more information.

ABOUT THE MELBOURNE MUNICIPAL BAND

The Melbourne Municipal Band (MMB) provides free, quality concerts to the community and helps nurture the next generation of musicians through youth education and performance initiatives. Founded in 1965, the MMB is an integral part of the Space Coast cultural community, serving more than 21,000 attendees each year through concerts, dances and other ensemble performances. The band’s 80-plus members and auxiliary volunteer 30,000 hours of their time each year in the form of rehearsals and performance time.

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Entertainment Calendar

1 - MONDAY

COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Love Valley
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo
SANDBAR: 8pm Jam Band

2 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6:30pm Music Bingo
FOO BAR: 7pm Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm Trivia
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum

3 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Billy D & Friends
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Syd Taylor
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm TBA
SANDBAR: 8pm Jake Salter
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Serious Animal

4 - THURSDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Trivia
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 6pm Jake Salter
FOO BAR: 8pm Latin Night
DJ HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Irina Freckle & Ron Teixeira Trio
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Latin Night w/ DJ Oscar P
SANDBAR: 8pm Karaoke
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm Matt Riley
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm John Q Jam

5 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Hillbilly Hellcats
CADILLAC COVE: 6pm Just Us (deck); 7:30pm Brevard Comedy
CROWNE PLAZA: 6pm Harbor City Trio
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm Sheep Dawgs
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 4:30pm Steve Kirsner & Friends; 7pm Hella Ayelet & Ron Teixeira Trio
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Wooden Nickel
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Kings County
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm Vince Love
SANDBAR: 4pm Jeff Marquis; 9pm Bullet Dodgers
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Andy Harrington
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Wes Hufnagel
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Floriduh; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm AK 40 Band

6 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Chief Cherry Quintet
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Kings County
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Adam Azar; 6pm Liz & The Inviz
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Finland Joe & Friends; 8pm Shovelhed
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 6 & 8pm Bywater Call
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Rockfish
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm John McDonald; 5:30pm Karaoke

w/ Cindy; 9pm Switch
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm Justin McLeod
SANDBAR: 4pm Sky Club; 9pm Short Circuit
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Dave Myers
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Andy Harrington
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Murphy's Law; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm Ashley Breaux
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 1pm TBA; 6pm Panama

7 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2-6pm Aquinas (deck); 6pm Bobby Kelley
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Hella - Timeless
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Nigel Mack's Blues Attack
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Jam w/ Ron Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Heatstroke; 7pm Paul Beach
SANDBAR: 4pm Saltwater Hippie Band; 9pm DJ Spanky
SLOW & LOW CB: 4pm Pompano Pete
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm John McDonald & Mango Men
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 12pm Floridave; 4pm Angel City Band

8 - MONDAY

COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Love Valley
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo
SANDBAR: 8pm Jam Band

9 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6:30pm Music Bingo
FOO BAR: 7pm Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm Trivia
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum

10 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe Calautti

COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Nick Moss Band
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Joey Ferris
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Karaoke with Cindy
SANDBAR: 8pm Adam & Sean Duo
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Karalyn Woulas

11 - THURSDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Trivia
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 6pm Rusty & Laurie Wright
FOO BAR: 8pm Latin Night
DJ HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Krystal Clarke & Ron Teixeira Trio
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Galaxy
SANDBAR: 8pm Karaoke
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm Matt Riley
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm John Q Jam

12 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Tony Wynn & Cameron Brown
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Rios Rock Band
CROWNE PLAZA: 6pm Krystal Clarke Band
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm Joules Rio
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 6 & 8pm Selwyn Birchwood
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Lil Lin Band
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Murphy's Law
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5:30pm John McDonald

Entertainment Calendar

SANDBAR: 4pm 506 Duo;
9pm Love Valley
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm
Redfish Rich
SLOW & LOW Viera:
5:30pm Tim England
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
8:30pm Mid Life Crisis;
1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm The
Kore Band

13 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Big Ron
Betts Trio
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm
Dreamer
COCOA BEACH FISH
CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 12pm
Sky Club
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
Hi Mileage; 8pm Good Fellas
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB:
4:30pm Steve Kirner &
Friends; 6:30pm Robby King
Band
HURRICANE CREEK
SALOON: 7-9pm Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Country
Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm
Dave Thrift Band
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Denise
Turner; 5:30pm Karaoke w/
Cindy; 9pm Picture Show
PUB AMERICANA MELB:
5pm TBA
SANDBAR: 4pm Vintage;
9pm Syndicate
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm
Andy Harrington
SLOW & LOW Viera:
5:30pm Redfish Rich
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
8:30pm Ehich Doctors;
1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm
Campbell & Cross
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 1pm
Frank Rios; 6pm Phoenix

14 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2pm
Galaxy (deck); 5:30pm Rev
Billy C. Wirtz
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm
Cheetah Coalition
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 4pm

Lil Ed & The Blues Imperials;
2pm Dave Scott opens
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Jam w/ Ron Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm
Highway 1; 7pm Keano B
SANDBAR: 4pm Radar Red;
9pm DJ Spanky
SLOW & LOW CB: 4pm
Sydney Taylor
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm
Shelley & Dave
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 12pm
Joshua Keels; 4pm RokSlyde

15 - MONDAY

COCOA BEACH FISH
CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
Love Valley
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty
Bingo
SANDBAR: 8pm Jam Band

16 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6:30pm
Music Bingo
FOO BAR: 7pm Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 6:30pm
Trivia
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Jam w/ Russ Kellum

17 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm
Rock Star Karaoke w/ Joe
Calautti
COCOA BEACH FISH
CAMP: 6pm Dueling Pianos
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Curtis Salgado
HURRICANE CREEK
SALOON: 7-9pm Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Country
Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Joe
& Tina
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Super Freak Duo
SANDBAR: 8pm Vince &
Cory Trio
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm
Alexander James

18 - THURSDAY

BLIND LION: 7:30pm
Dylon Doyle Trio
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
Lil Lin Band
HURRICANE CREEK
SALOON: 7-9pm Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Country
Music DJ
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm
Latin Night w/ DJ Oscar P
SANDBAR: 8pm Karaoke
SLOW & LOW CB: 7pm
Matt Riley
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm John
Q Jam

19 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Robby
King Trio
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm
Off The Record
CROWNE PLAZA: 6pm
Combobulators
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 8pm
Love Valley
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB:
4:30pm Steve Kirsber &
Friends; 6:30pm Hella Ayelet
w/ Ron Teixeira Trio
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
Super Freak
PUB AMERICANA MELB:
5pm Ricky T
SANDBAR: 4pm Jeff
Marquis; 9pm Joules Rio
Band
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm
TBA
SLOW & LOW Viera:
5:30pm Joshua Keels
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
8:30pm Rockfish; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm
Kings County

20 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Josh
Miller
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm
Soultime
COCOA BEACH FISH

CAMP: 9pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm
Damion Suomi; 6pm Pink
Spice
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
Last Call; 8pm Miles Road
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Dana and Sharon
HURRICANE CREEK
SALOON: 7-9pm Free
Dance Lessons; 9pm Country
Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm
Pinch
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Joey
Ferris; 5:30pm Karaoke
w/ Cindy; 9pm Occational
Astronauts
PUB AMERICANA MELB:
5pm Justin McLeod
SANDBAR: 420 Bash with
DJ Spanky all day
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm
Tim England
SLOW & LOW Viera:
5:30pm Bonnie Harrington
SOCIAL DISTANCE:
8:30pm Karalyn & Dawn
Patrol; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm Angie
Parks
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 1pm
Johnny Danger Live; 6pm
Deserted Will

21 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2pm
Heatstroke (deck); 6pm
Bobby Kelley
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm
Jeff White (Soul Taxi)
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm
Rusty & Laurie Wright
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm
Jam w/ Ron Teixeira Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Radar
Red; 7pm Alexander James
SANDBAR: 4pm Cheetah
Coalition; 9pm DJ Spanky
SLOW & LOW CB: 4pm
Buck Barefoot
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm T.A.
Williams
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 12pm
Kelley B; 4pm Tree Frogs

22 - MONDAY

COCOA BEACH FISH
CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty

Entertainment Calendar

Bingo
SANDBAR: 8pm Jam Band

23 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE:
6:30pm Music Bingo
FOO BAR: 7pm Trivia
KEY WEST BAR: 7pm Joey Ferris
LOU'S BLUES: 8pm Trivia
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum

24 - WEDNESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Music Bingo
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 T.A. Williams
LOU'S BLUES: 7:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy
SANDBAR: 8pm The Syndicate Duo
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jeff Bazemore

25 - THURSDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 7pm Trivia
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 6pm Beautiful Bobby Blackmon
FOO BAR: 8pm Latin Night
DJ HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Skyla Burrell
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
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm John Q Jam

26 - FRIDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm Tony Wynn & Cameron Brown
CADILLAC COVE: 6pm Forte (deck); 7:30pm Brevard Comedy Show (Fundraiser)
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Rezen8

FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Ducati
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 4:30pm Steve Kirsner & Friends; 6:30pm Irena Freckle & Ron Teixeira Trio
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm 106 South
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Bob Neal; 9pm Smashin Pixies
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm Vince Love
SANDBAR: 4pm Dun Shine & Whiskey; 9pm Heatstroke
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm 2 Rock
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Dave Myers
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Radar Red; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 6pm Picture Show

27 - SATURDAY

BLIND LION: 8pm TW6
CADILLAC COVE: 8pm Switch
COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 8pm Line Dancing
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Harbor City Trio
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Ezy Ryderz; 8pm Short Circuit
FOO BAR: 10pm DJ Dexter
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 6:30pm Chief Cherry
HURRICANE CREEK SALOON: 7-9pm Free Dance Lessons; 9pm Country Music DJ
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm The Fog Band
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Denise Turner; 5:30pm Karaoke w/ Cindy; 9pm Luna Pearl
PUB AMERICANA MELB: 5pm TBA
SANDBAR: 4pm Sonic Rendition; 9pm Finding Panacea
SLOW & LOW CB: 6pm Wes Hufnagel
SLOW & LOW Viera: 5:30pm Oscar Alvarado
SOCIAL DISTANCE:

8:30pm Swerve; 1:30am DJ
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm FloriDave
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 1pm Heatstroke; 6pm Buck Barefoot

28 - SUNDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 2pm Lil Lin Band (deck); 5:30pm Rev Billy C. Wirtz
CROWNE PLAZA: 1pm Switch
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Brothers After All (Allman Bros Tribute)
HEIDI'S JAZZ CLUB: 7pm Jam w/ Ron Teixeira
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Coolers; 7pm Corey Kipps
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8:30pm Karalyn & Dawn Patrol; 1:30am DJ
SANDBAR: 4pm Phoenix Light; 9pm DJ Spanky
SLOW & LOW CB: 4pm Tim England
SQUIDLIPS CB: 2pm Bill Cockroll
SQUIDLIPS Mel: 12pm Forte solo; 4pm AK40 Band

29 - MONDAY

COCOA BEACH FISH CAMP: 7pm Karaoke
EARL'S HIDEAWAY: 2pm Southern Rock's Finest
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo
SANDBAR: 8pm Jam Band

30 - TUESDAY

CADILLAC COVE: 6:30pm Music Bingo
FOO BAR: 7pm Trivia
LOU'S BLUES: 8pm Trivia
SOCIAL DISTANCE: 8pm Jam w/ Russ Kellum



April 14, 2pm
Earl's Hideaway
Sebastian
Lil Ed & The
Blues Imperials

In Chicago, a city overflowing with unrivaled blues talent, world-renowned Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials have been standing tall for over 30 years, an extraordinary feat for any group. The band's big sound, fueled by Lil' Ed's gloriously rollicking slide work and deep blues string bending, along with his rough-edged, soulful vocals, is as real and hard-hitting as Chicago blues gets.



April 21, 2pm
Earl's Hideaway
Sebastian

Rusty Wright

Wright was only thirteen when he joined his mother's touring gospel group as a guitarist. Wright's guitar skills quickly became so impressive that when his newly formed band opened for Lynyrd Skynyrd, they received a standing ovation.



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

Community Calendar



April 6, 12pm
to April 7, 1:30am
Jonathan's Pub
Cocoa Beach

"What started as a benefit to help me get through some very difficult times by friends at the Beach Shack Beach in Cocoa Beach turns out to be the inspiration to pay it forward and start a foundation to help others in similar situations, I knew I couldn't do this alone so and tried surrounding myself with some of the best people in the community," says Joey Nugent. Now in its 6th year the 501 c 3 non profit foundation has its yearly event with 20 bands on Jonathan's stage, the NugeFest VI.

www.Nugefund.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Apr 1 – Apr 7: May We All, Titusville Playhouse, 321-268-1125

Apr 1 – 28: Florida Flora & Fauna with Pete Steenland, Studios of Cocoa Beach, Downtown Cocoa Beach, 321-613-3480

Apr 1- 28: The Sunshine Boys, Melbourne Civic Theatre, downtown Melbourne, 321-723-6935

Apr 1 – 27: Between Worlds with Erika Masterson, Fifth Avenue Gallery, Eau Gallie, 321-259-8261

Apr 5: First Friday Reception, Eau Gallie, Eau Gallie Arts District, 321-253-5553

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

Apr 5: An Evening with the Stars, Florida Star Fiction Writers, Holiday Inn Melbourne-Viera Conference Center

Apr 6: Celebrate, King Center, Brevard Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Apr 6: Surfside Movie Night, Surfside Players, Cocoa Beach, 321-783-3127

Apr 7: Martha Seymour: The Golden Steppers, Cocoa Village Playhouse, 321-636-5050

Apr 10 - 28: It Takes a Village Historic Cruise, Indian River

Queen, Cocoa Village Marina, 321-305-4753

Apr 12: Helen's Dinner Cruise with Jena, Indian River Queen, Cocoa Village Marina, 321-305-4753

Apr 12: An Evening with Tab Benoit, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Apr 12: Theresa Caputo Live: The Experience, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Apr 13: Fly In Breakfast, Warbird Air Museum, Titusville, 321-268-1941

Apr 13: Field Manor Founder's Day Fundraiser with Hot Pink, Field Manor, Merritt Island, 321- 848-0365

Apr 13: An Evening with the Bodeans, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Apr 13: Botanical Fest, Downtown Melbourne, 321-724-1741

Apr 14: Derek Hough, Symphony of Dance, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Apr 17 – 18: Honoring Col. Hal Gibson, Melbourne Auditorium, Melbourne Municipal Band, 321-724-0555

Apr 18 – 28: 8 Track in Concert, Henegar Center, Downtown Melbourne, 321-723-8698

Apr 19 – 21: Grant BBQ Festival, 4580 1st Street, Grant

Apr 20 – 21: Disney Royals, Space Coast Symphony

Orchestra, Satellite HS, 855-252-7276

Apr 24: Live Jazz by the Ron Teixeira Trio & Scholarship Winners, Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island, space-coastjazzsociety.org

Apr 25 – 28: Spring Art Show & Sale, Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library, Cocoa, Central Brevard Art Association, 321-806-8065

Apr 25: The Price is Right Live, King Center, Melbourne, 321-242-2219

Apr 26: Cryderman's BBQ Dinner with Joe, Indian River Queen, Cocoa Village Marina, 321-305-4753

Apr 26 – May 12: The Odd Couple, Surfside Players, Cocoa Beach, 321-783-3127

Apr 27-28: Melbourne Art Festival, Wickham Park, Melbourne, melbournearts.org, 321-722-1964

Apr 27: First City Market, Rockledge Civic Hub, 321-221-7540

Apr 29: Taylor Swift Trivia Night, Playalinda Brewing Company, Titusville, 321-567-5974



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Gasparilla Music Festival 2024

By Matt Bretz

The GMF has become one of my favorite festivals of the year. Unlike camping festivals that go all night and wear you down to the bone, the GMF is right in the middle of the greater metro area. It starts in the afternoon and usually ends each night around 11 pm. I love my camping festivals, but I also love sleep and hot showers, so this festival is a relaxing treat compared to some the trials of endurance I put myself through in the summertime.

There was a lot going on this year. A new location, more stages, an epic line-up, frigid weather and non-stop rain. Luckily there were some dry spots in the beer garden, no pun intended. In years past this event has been at Curtis Hixon park in downtown Tampa. This year they moved it across the bridge to an even bigger Julian B. Lane park. Parking wasn't too far, and they ran a free trolley back and forth. All-in-all I was impressed by the infrastructure and thoughtfulness they put into the details.

Every year since I began covering this festival, it has gotten better and better. To me there are a few things that really make this event unique and a standout from others. First and foremost the entire weekend is for charity. Every ticket sold, every amazing craft beer you drink from Copertail Brewing Co., every band you jam to is all a part of buying musical instruments for kids and teaching them how to play. It's even become tradition now for the local youth orchestra to play a set on the main stage. The next standout feature for this music festival is just that - the music. GMF never fails to deliver a stellar line-up mixed with up-and-comers, current big hitters and beloved legends from yesterday. This year was no disappointment. As a matter of fact, the schedule hosted some of my personal favorites.

Friday night kicked the festival off boasting mild weather and a dry sky. The stages were lit and busy, the vendors were selling everything from amazing food to hand made jewelry. Silent discos have become a staple for festivals and one of the most popular experiences at the GMF. If you haven't seen one before - silent discos are where everyone has headphones and the djs are transmitting wirelessly to the headphones - but not out to speakers. So, unless you have headphones on you can't hear the music. You can, however, see everyone dancing to silence and the spectacle is a huge part of the appeal and fun. This particular festival lets you check out headphones and keep them with anywhere inside the festival grounds, so if you're not into what's on stage at the moment, you can have your own party where you're standing.

The bigger acts on Friday night were mostly of the electronic music realm. Big Gigantic was sent to close and



killed it EDM style until it was time for headliner duo Louis the Child. This is the first time I've seen Gasparilla go so heavy electronic and dj complete with lasers, screens and big time light shows. The crowd loved it and for a little while there was a rave in the middle of downtown Tampa to compete with late night Bonnaroo. Speaking of Bonnaroo - two years back I interviewed an up and coming band there by the name of ParrotFish. It was a nice surprise to see them on the bill in the afternoon.

Saturday we all woke up to pouring rain and cold cold weather. Again, I was happy we weren't camping but I was concerned about how the day would go. Midway through daylight time the rain was a steady drizzle and not too bad, but soon enough it started coming down and we ducked into the beer tent to wait for whatever came next. Saturday was a big day for me; three of my favorite groups were scheduled. Luckily, although we were about to put on scuba gear, lightning never appeared and so the show went on. Coin, a new discovery of mine, took the stage in the late afternoon and blew it out of the..well, water. If you haven't heard of these guys check them out. They've been around a minute and carry the same torch as Foster the People and Passion Pit, that whole indie dance sound. I love it!

Early evening was the classically cool Dignable Planets. I know you know them, and if you don't know, it's time to learn. Jazz and hip-hop from the 90's and it's cool as hell.



Photos By Tim Bretz

On the main stage Good Mob with Cee Lo brought some more 90' rythm. Good Mob was added just before the festival and as soon as I saw the email, I screamed outloud. Once I calmed the people around me and explained to the officer that I was just excited, I sat smiling for a long time.

Shortly after the amazing-- love them so much-- Young the Giant took us to church to close the night. Suddenly it wasn't cold anymore and the rain felt like a massage. Young the Giant has a way of inspiring everyone that hears them to be both expressive, introspective and introverted, all at the same time. I've been trying to see them live for years so to hear Crystalized performed right in front of me was insane and ethereal.

Sunday started out the same as Saturday had, rain, rain, rain. I sent a text to the promoter to make sure everything was still going. Confirmation came and we were out the door and on our way to the festival grounds. One thing I love about this festival is how they organize the concerts loosely matching the same genres on each day. This year Friday was very electronic, Saturday was pop, hip hop and modern indie bands, and Sunday is traditionally jam bands, country, folks, blues, organic artists. Highlights for me on Sunday were Steeln Peaches first off. I love these guys. They wrap all the genres I just listed into one uniquely familiar sound-- even though I had never heard them before. Vison Crystal created the most beautiful surrounding

environment with their string laden sound. Yonder Mountain String Band - are you kidding me? Everytime I see this group I get so happy. They are happy, I'm happy, everyone is so friggin' happy!

The headliner for the entire fest was scheduled to be Lake Street Dive. A phenomenal band with huge hits. Everyone was excited. Then I got an alert from the promoter that there was a sickness in the band, and they had to pull out. I was dissapointed. And then another alert came in, they found a replacement. Big Boi from multi-Grammy award winning group Outkast and multi-Grammy award winning rapper producer and political activist Killer Mike from the group Run the Jewels agreed to step in and rock a double show. What?!

When time came for the show the die hards who had braved the rain crowded the front of the stage. Suddenly the rain stopped just in time for the first beat to drop. For the next two hours Big Boi ran through my personal playlist of Outkast hits, Killer Mike brought out an award winning choir and ran through some of his genius before they came out together and collaborated. It was a wonderful night and the best cap to a great festival. Regardless of the weather, the people behind the GMF really put their hearts into pulling it all off year after year, and it shows. I don't know how they will top this year's line-up, but I can't wait to find out. Til next year...cheers GMF!



Kailyn Meek of Brevard Comedy

By Steve Keller

Knock, knock...who's there? If you've paid attention to the Brevard comedy scene over the last 12 months or so, the answer is "A Lot Of Comedy." There has been a resurgence of interest, and more and more shows popping up all over the county. Local, regional and national comics have performed in bars, restaurants, vape shops, record stores. One promoter, Kailyn Meek, of the aptly titled Brevard Comedy promotion, is leading the charge and carrying on a tradition that runs in her family.

"My father (comedian) Shannon Hall and I launched Brevard Comedy about 10 years ago," explains Meek. "We wanted to create something that worked for both, the comic and the crowd. We wanted to bring professional touring comics to the area because the population boomed and at the time the comedy scene hadn't boomed with it, so there was a major need for it."

Brevard Comedy and their website and social media presence have staked their claim as one of the best in

the area. One selling point is the many different rooms and locations throughout the county they perform at. "The bookers can be a little competitive," she continues. "Some have even used terms like "territory", but our priorities have never been money and territory. We aren't interested in monopolizing the local comedy scene. We want to provide quality comedy at a variety of venues."

Another successful aspect is their combination of local and non-local comics on any given Brevard Comedy show. "The comics all know each other really well, having toured and worked together for decades in some cases, says Meek. "Really comparable comics often take turns featuring and headlining for each other. Some even work together as a set and travel together. The open mic scene has really boomed which is helpful because it keeps our pool of emcees and guest spots fresh. Open mics are very different from professional comedy shows. The comics are working on new material, polishing it, so it may or may not be funny. The audience gets to enjoy a free show, and definitely some chuckles. As time goes on, the open mic comics do polish their material and begin touring and performing paid gigs, with us and other booking agencies or clubs. Then a new crop of open mic comics comes up and the circle of life continues."

Audiences have started to increase after some very trying times. "We took a brief hiatus right around pandemic, which also conveniently coincided with my wedding and back-to-back pregnancies," says Meek. "Once my second child was sleeping properly and allowing me to sleep properly, it seemed like the perfect time to pick things back up. The hiatus gave us time to discuss what we wanted for the future of Brevard Comedy. That's when we decided to transfer everything into my name and let my father step back. Telling jokes has always been his passion, and I had the event planning background from my *Melbourne Zombie Walk* days."

Some comics are almost like family. Local comedian Frankie Paul has been a fixture in the scene for decades. "Shannon and I started together back around 1988 doing comedy," he says. "When he decided to start booking comedy 20 years ago, he would always bring me in first. He wasn't much on being a road comic but wanted to be involved with comedy because he loves it so much. That's when he decided to just bring good comedy to Brevard. Since he became a booker, he has tried to bring the best comics he could find."

Meek remembers those early days as someone who grew up in the business. "Being in the back room of comedy clubs was fun. I'd sip my Shirley Temple and laugh at the jokes I understood. Frankie is one of my favorite comics. As I got older, I personally tried to emcee and the tummy butterflies were too much for me. I guess I didn't get the gene, but I needed to know for sure and the only way to know was to try."

These days comics can perform not only in a live setting, but also online such as YouTube and TikTok. "Social media has been incredibly helpful, but there was a learning curve," says Meek. "Facebook has spam preventative features many group admins utilize, which is great, but a flyer for a comedy show that gets shared a little too fast and frequently without enough information gets an automatic denial. Scam bots have given us bad reviews only stating our page violates terms and we need to click their link to remedy the issue. It's obviously a fake review. We are proud of the fact that we have over 30 legitimate 5-star reviews making us exclusively 5-star rated."

A show set for April 27th at Monkey Bar, headlined by Frankie Paul, is selling well. "I'd like to remind everyone how important laughter is," Meek says in closing. "How healing laughing can be, and how fun a night out laughing with friends is. I just want to see people laugh more."

BrevardComedy.com



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DELUXE MOJO BAND

By Steve LeClair

Muddy Waters has influenced millions with his brand of blues and in some respects can be credited with as the father of modern Blues Rock and the explosion of rock'n'roll that we now call Classic Rock. The Stones used one of his songs to name their band... naming themselves the Rolling Stones after Muddy's song Rollin' Stone. Although not really named in the same fashion, Deluxe Mojo does bring that spirit of Muddy's *Got My Mojo Working*, rocking hard and making you groove.

The group has been around over 15 years and plays one great classic rock song after another at their shows. You'll hear songs by the Who, Cream, the Stones, Beatles, Hendrix, Bad Co, Bowie and more. Performing mostly electric, they do many songs acoustically also. The band members are all

friends and have similar tastes and musical interests. You can tell they love what they do and have a great time playing for their audiences (hoping to make each person a fan!). They told me, "Of special joy is watching people smiling and singing along us." The band has always been a 3-piece with Steve Cohen and Tom McPartland having formed the band. They have had several bass players over the years before getting Dan Dennis to join the group almost 4 years ago. Let's get to know all three better.

Steve Cohen is the guitarist and vocalist. He started playing guitar at the age of 12. Originally from Massachusetts, he moved to Brevard County in the late 1970's. He's been in numerous other Florida bands prior to Deluxe Mojo including Tracer, Dully Hayes, Main Squeeze and the Matrix. As goes for a lot of musicians, once he saw the Beatles on Ed Sullivan (at the young age of 6), he was hooked. He knew he had to play music. Originally he wanted to play a violin bass like Paul, but 6 string guitars were less expensive so his mom bought his first electric at JM Fields for \$16. (a single pickup Teisco

Del Rey; musicians never forget their first real instrument). His musical influences are many including Clapton, Hendrix, Blackmore, Betts, Allman, Beck, Gilmore, Knopfler, Guy, Moore, and many others. Fun Fact: his first club that he played in was Frenchman's Tavern in Cocoa. Steve shared some insight regarding his first guitar, "I had no amp, so I figured out a way to hook the guitar up to our old console stereo (when my parents weren't home, of course). Since then, I've been undeniably dedicated to the ongoing pursuit of the perfect guitar tone."

Steve's been married to an amazing wife Michelle for 26 years and has two wonderful kids, an adult son and daughter who both are in college. His son plays drums in a local band, The Mean Violets. Though retired as a supervisor of the VA Physical Therapy Department, he still provides outpatient physical therapy services on a part time basis. Outside of performing he enjoys riding his Triumph Bonneville motorcycle and likes working on guitars and musical equipment.

Tom McPartland is the drummer and also is a vocalist. Like Steve, that first Beatles performance was life changing. He was only 4 years old but thus it began his fascination with the drums. He told me, "I loved watching drummers thrash around on those drums and cymbals." He bought his first kit in 1973 (although my mother kept trying to get me to play the harmonica instead!) and taught himself to play by wearing headphones and listening to 8-track tapes. He was in several bands in high school and his first gig was at his sister's wedding in 1975. His major influences are Ringo Starr, Neil Peart, Mitch Mitchell, Ginger Baker, Charlie Watts, John Bonham, Ian Paice, Keith Moon and others. He met Steve in 1978 and jammed with him off and on, watched his band and built a friendship. He met Dan as he was his son's

continued page 32

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DELUXE MOJO continued

Little League coach. Little did he know Dan played bass. Along with Dan they form the powerhouse rhythm section that lets Steve do whatever he feels on guitar. Retired from the US Postal Service as a letter carrier for 35 years, Tom grew up in Brooklyn and moved to Merritt Island in Junior High and graduated from Merritt Island High in '77. He's been married for 40 years to Sandy and has 3 great kids and an amazing grandson. His hobbies include playing drums, hanging out with friends and family and traveling. He shared some great rock'n'roll stories, "I loved dressing up with my buddies as KISS in high school! Not only that, but I'd have huge parties at my house when my mother was out of town. Three to four hundred people would show up. There were so many streets full of cars that the cops couldn't tell where the party was. Then the clean-up crew the next day LOL – including painting the interior. My mother never found out until we told her years later."

Dan Dennis is the bassist and handles vocals also. He started playing bass in high school in Rockledge around 1975. He told me: "I was watching Dave Fiester and the Tight Shoes band back then and I knew that is what I wanted to do." He moved to Columbus Georgia in 1979 where he continued playing bass in bands in the area. It was there he met his wife Charlotte at a show that they were playing at Fort Benning. They married in 1983. They moved to Atlanta, Georgia, and he kept playing in bands there until they had their first child in 1987. They have three boys, all born in Georgia. Having moved back to Rockledge in '99, he got involved in baseball and starting coaching the boys which he did until high school. They won the first ever state championship for the Rockledge Little League. Dan started playing bass again around 2010 and joined the Lionheart band in New Smyrna Beach. He continues to routinely play with Marko Pocta, Alex Adams and Jim Flautt when available. Influences include Lynryd Skynyrd, Led Zeppelin, Allman Brothers, Govt Mule... so many more.

The band enjoys playing all types of gigs, from significant events to clubs to private parties. They support when they are available fundraising causes and have played in the past several *Relay for Life* events and poker runs, Brevard Hurricane Relief, Bikers in Need (BIN), Space Coast Music Fest, and Dragonstock (an event effort to raise money to rebuild the south Merritt Island Dragon). Get your Mojo working.... go out and catch this fine classic rock band. Deluxe Mojo rocks!





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My Flori-duh

By Charles Knight

Over the last few decades I have been approached by some pretty interesting people that wanted to know more about the Everglades, the Big Cypress swamp, Gator Hook Lodge, my family, and folks that inhabited and visited our home in the swamps. I know also that there are some shady characters that just want to profit from things that really have no meaning or personal value. They are not good humans.

When I first started the Facebook page about my home and its history, it was merely to preserve some memories that would otherwise go the way of so many forgotten and lost places that have stories worth learning about.

The first Gator Hook page (there are two and both were hacked and stolen) had a few photographs and some written history of the beginnings of Gator Hook and some of the folks that drank and partied there on weekends. There was also mention of Ervin Rouse. Ervin wrote the song *The Orange Blossom Special* which was re recorded and made quite famous by Johnny Cash, and Charlie Daniels to name a

couple, many more have recorded his songs over the years as well. Ervin was a well-known fiddle player and song writer that is still known today in several important circles as the Godfather of Bluegrass music. My first gig ever as a musician was as his drummer. I was quite young and a not very good drummer, but that was okay as he was drunk almost all of the time. Ervin is the subject of many books and articles and is still asked about often.

Admittedly I was a bit suspicious as to the motive of a few inquiries as the location of Gator Hook is a secret that I want to keep. There have been relic and souvenir hunters that have taken remnants of my home and sold them, or just kept them. There is a photo of a couple of men holding a Gator Hook sign that they found at the site. I'd give almost anything to have the sign as it is one of the rarities that cannot be replicated. They won't return it to its rightful owners. But I digress.

I have been contacted by some pretty famous journalists, authors, and novelists about our history. Some have visited Lissa and myself at our home in Melbourne. Jeff Klinkenberg was a writer for the *Tampa Tribune* and the *Saint Petersburg Times* that came by and chatted for a bit. There are also several books he wrote about Florida and the many interesting well known and not so well known inhabitants of the state. Myself and Lissa are the subjects of a chapter in one of his books on Florida called *Alligators in B flat*.

Tim Dorsey recently passed away and I was not aware of his death until someone mentioned it to me a few weeks ago. A prolific story teller, Tim was also a writer for the Tampa paper with a couple dozen New York Times best selling novels under his belt. I still possess a couple of snail mail letters he wrote to me inquiring about the Glades, home, and whether or not he could use my name and Gator Hook in an upcoming novel. Of course, I agreed. The book is called *Electric Barracuda* and

can be found in pretty much any book store or *Amazon*. Over the years we became friends, and I introduced him to my wife and a few select friends. As an amateur writer myself I have come to admire his work immensely.

Randy Wayne Write is another Florida writer with several books containing references of the Loop road, Gator Hook, Ervin and my family. There are literally dozens more books and novels referring to and featuring Gator Hook, The Loop Road and its cast of many. I recommend Peter Mathiesson's Florida books as well as Carl Hiaasen's, James Hammond, James Hall and even Dave Barry, I heartily recommend reading all of the aforementioned authors and any or all of their books, they all pretty much contain a lot of forgotten and memorable history of our state, its residents and their stories. Some are quite humorous as well as informative.

We all have heroes. I have some, my parents and siblings along with my wife and kids. And any author that writes about Florida, its history (because it's worth retaining), and a colorful cast of suntanned and weathered folks that made it what it is today. Rest in Peace Tim. May your wonderful books and their cast of interesting characters live on for those of us that still enjoy a good read.

That's just a part of 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. You can reach him at Irockstarentertainment@gmail.com.

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Fri/Sat: Only Place Open Till 6 AM
Latin Music • House • Dance Party
w/ South Florida DJ Aaron

13 BEERS ON TAP

Bloody Mary starting at \$3

HAPPY HOUR DAILY 11am to 7pm

25 TVs • POOL TABLES • DARTS

75-inch Golden TEE

LIVE MUSIC Tuesday Jam
Thur | Fri | Sat

Monthly Music Schedule in calendar section

DRINK & FOOD SPECIALS DAILY

THURSDAY NIGHT LADIES NIGHT

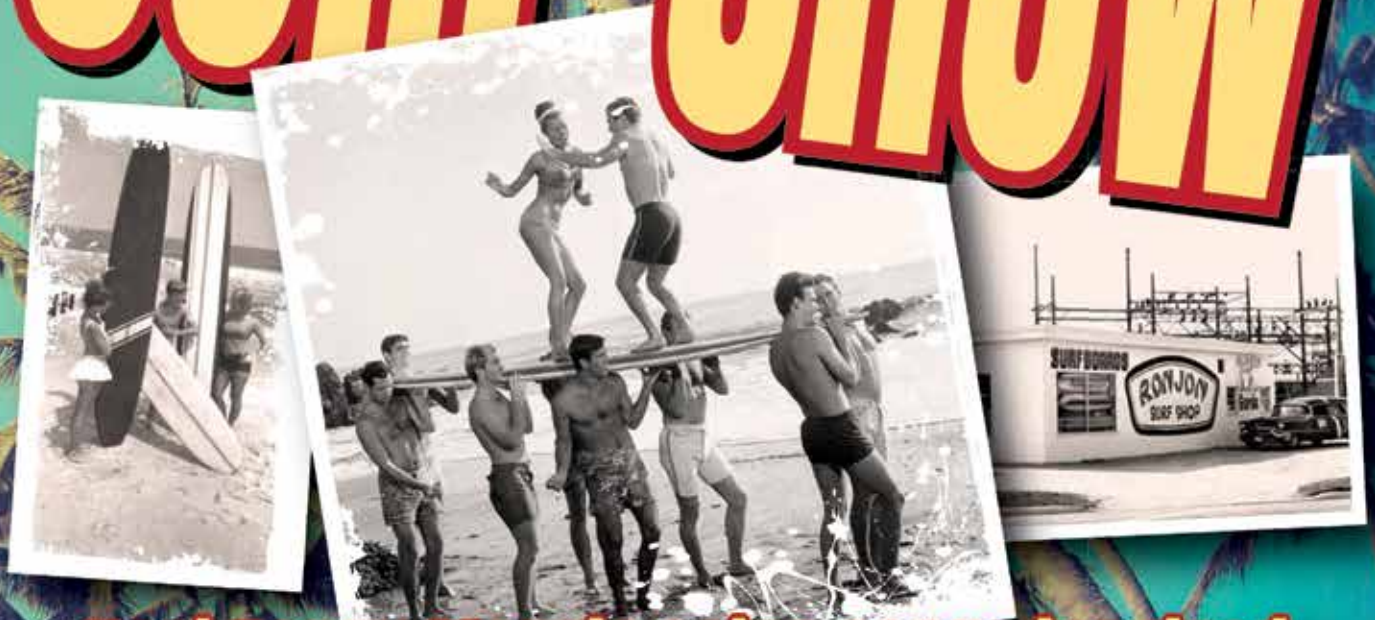
2 FOR 1 WELL DRINKS FOR LADIES ALL NIGHT

Kitchen Featuring **Bully's Roast Beef**

220 Highway A1A (Former Sports Page/ next to Red Leopard) • Satellite Beach, FL
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Host Danny Morris spins songs inspired by the sun, sand and the surf.

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www.wfit.org

MK-093-217



MARCH 29 -APRIL 7

at **SPACE COAST HARLEY-DAVIDSON**
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Survivor Family Game Show
Milk a Cow
FARMily Feud Show
Comedy Magic Show
Live Musical Groups
& MUCH MORE!



\$2 TUESDAYS
\$2 Per Ride
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\$2 Pizza
Must present paper coupon.

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\$2 Per Ride
\$2 Fries, \$2 Soda
\$2 Pizza
Must present paper coupon.

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11 am on Fri & Sat

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EAT • DRINK • DANCE • BILLIARDS
DARTS • 16 TVS • FULL LIQUOR

Melbourne's BEST COUNTRY BAR



WHISKEY WEDNESDAY & Ladies Night

Drink Specials For The Ladies All Night

\$9.75 Pitchers Thursday Nights

on ALL DRAFT BEERS

COLDEST FROZEN DAIQUIRIS in Town



COUNTRY DANCE MUSIC

w/ DJ Jimmy Mixx
Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays 9pm-2am

FREE DANCE LESSONS

Wednesdays, Thursday, Fridays, Saturdays 7-9pm

OPEN Wed/Thur 5pm-1am • Fri/Sat 11am-2am
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LIVE MUSIC
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5-8:30PM
in DT Melbourne



HAPPY HOUR

Mon-Fri
3-6pm & 9pm -close
Sat/Sun 9pm-close
\$3 select drafts
\$5 mixed drinks
\$5 house wines

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WING WEDNESDAYS

\$7 wing orders • \$7 Bud Light pitcher
\$5 Tito's and Jack Daniels
4pm-close at both locations



THURSDAY SPECIAL

1/2 price pizza & bottles of wine
5pm-close

MELBOURNE LOCATION :
We have the
NHL Center Ice highlighting
NY Hockey teams

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JAZZ & BLUES CLUB

NO COVER FRI & SAT

2 Drink Minimum before 10pm

APRIL 2024

FRIDAYS at 8pm

5th Hillbilly Hellcats Rockabilly/Surf/Elvis
12th & 26th Tony Wynn & Cameron Brown's Jazz Therapy
19th Robby King Chicago Blues Trio

SATURDAYS at 8pm

6th Chief Cherry Quintet Jazz & Blues
13th Bif Ron Betts Rocking Blues
20th Josh Miller's Blues Revue
27th TW6 Funkified Jazz

Featuring
our

FULL MENU

STAND UP COMEDY
Showcase

Thurs, 7:30pm
STAND UP COMEDY
SHOWCASE
by Eugene Singleton

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420 BASH

SATURDAY APRIL 20TH



**DJ SPANKY
ALL DAY LONG**

**RAFFLE TICKET FOR
EVERY PURCHASE OF
\$3 RED STRIPE
OR
\$5 KRAKEN**

Red Stripe



**OREGANO ROLLING CONTEST
STARTS @ 10PM**

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SPECIALS

SPECIALS MONDAY-FRIDAY START @ 4PM
SUNDAY @ 8PM

MEXICAN MONDAY

1/2 PRICED NACHOS W/ 1ST PITCHER
\$3.25 JACK, JIM, JOSE

TACO TUESDAY

1/2 OFF TACOS & DOMESTIC DRAFTS

WING WEDNESDAY

8 WINGS 50% OFF W/ EVERY PITCHER
\$3 WHITE CLAWS & FIREBALL
\$2.50 BUSCH LIGHT CANS

PIZZA PARTY THURSDAY

LARGE PIZZA @ SMALL PIZZA PRICE
\$4 THREE OLIVES VODKA

CRABBY FRIDAY

\$10 OFF 1LB OF CRAB LEGS
\$3.25 LANDSHARK

SANDBAR SUNDAY

\$2 DRAFTS
\$3 TEQUILA & FIREBALL
\$2.50 BUSCH LIGHT CANS

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