

December 2017 Volume 26 Issue 9

Art | Music | Dining

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Honkonen
Actor Ser'Darius Blain

New York Bee Gees
NYE Parties



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December Events

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE:

DEC. 2ND

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DEC. 3RD

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THE COUNTRY JINGLE JAM
FEATURING LUCAS HOGE, STEPHANIE QUAYLE
AND JOHNNY BULFORD
NOON CRUISE



**DEC. 5TH
& 17TH**

**ROCKY & THE ROLLERS
AM CRUISES**



DEC. 8TH

**MALE REVUE
LADIES NIGHT**



**\$200 FAIRVILLA
MEGASTORE RAFFLE
PM CRUISE**

DEC. 9TH

**THE ADRIAN ALBERTS
MAGIC EXPERIENCE
PM CRUISE**



DEC. 10TH

**JARED BLAKE, BIGG VINNY &
JARED WEEKS (FORMER LEAD SINGER
OF SAVING ABEL)
NOON & PM CRUISE**



**DEC. 16TH
LOVESTRUCK
ROBOT**

PM CRUISE



DEC. 23RD

**AWARD WINNING
BURLESQUE SHOW
PM CRUISE**



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ELKO CONCERTS
PRESENTS

Bettye LaVette

**SUNDAY
JANUARY 7
7:30 PM**



30



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PRESENTS**

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Bee Gees
and
Rainere Martin as Donna Summer

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16 • 8PM**



Air Supply

SUNDAY • JANUARY 28 • 7PM

THE ORIGINAL FROM LONDON'S WEST END

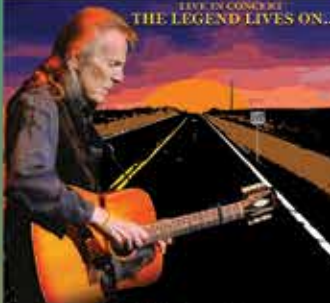
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GORDON LIGHTFOOT
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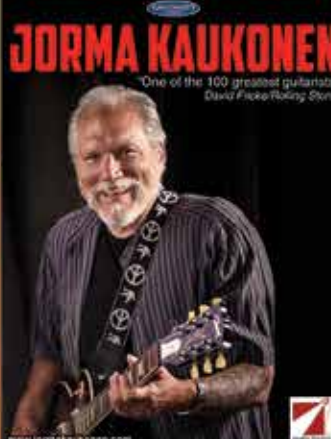
**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 17, 8 PM**



Daniel O'Donnell

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 18 • 3 PM

JORMA KAUKONEN
"One of the 100 greatest guitarists"
David Fricke/Rolling Stone



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 7:30PM

SAL VALENTINETTI



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THE AMERICAN LED ZEPPELIN



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8PM**

BRUCE COCKBURN
BONE ON BONE



**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 18
7:30 PM**

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SHAIN ALLEN HONKONEN
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SER'DARIUS BLAIN
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would like to wish our valued
customers a Merry Christmas
and Happy Holiday Season**



**Remember to Drink Responsibly
during this holiday season.**



BREVARD LIVE

The largest and most popular free entertainment magazine on the Space Coast and beyond for 26 years.

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P.O. Box 1452,
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**BREVARD
FLORIDA
LIVE**

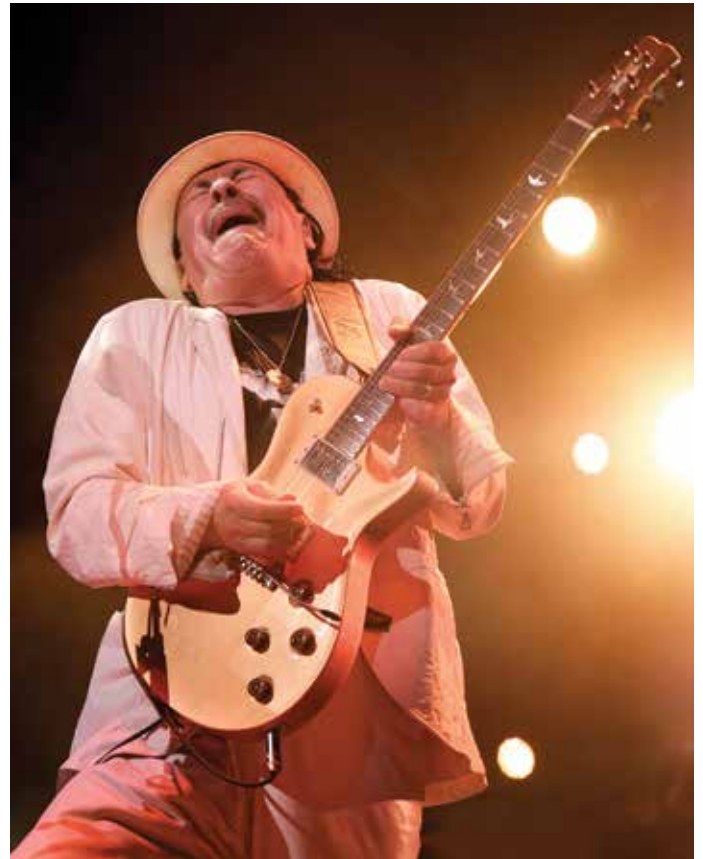
at www.brevardlive.com

BREVARD LATELY



ArtWorks

It was a beautiful day for ArtWorks, the annual festival in Eau Gallie that features artist working “en plein” air. There was every kind of art work represented: painting, clay sculptures, jewelry, stained glass, print making, tikis, and calligraphy were all included as well as food, music and even ballet.



SANTANA

Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and guitar virtuoso, Carlos Santana, extended his *Transmogrify Tour* by adding a stop at Orlando’s Amway Center, and Chuck Van Riper went to see one of his idols. “Transmogrify” means to transform in a magical or surprising way, and that certainly relates to Carlos Santana. During his 50-year career, he has transcended from being the only performer at Woodstock without an album, to a multi-platinum, Grammy-winning artist whose 1999 hit, “Smooth,” became one of the biggest songs of the decade. Photos by Chuck Van Riper

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TUESDAY - Open Mic Night is back!

WEDNESDAY - Ladies Night & SIN Night 9pm - 1 am

Ladies drink 2 for 1 Wells, Wines & Domestic Drafts

SIN workers get 10% off w/ valid paystub, \$3 Fireball shots for all

THURSDAY - Trivia Night 8pm

NFL SUNDAY TICKET & DRINK SPECIALS

MON-FRI - NEW! At 5:30 PM!

BUY ONE DRINK, GET ONE FREE!

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAY & SATURDAY

SUN & MON 1pm

POKER





Opening For the Bella Donna Project Original Rock by VIBE

The band VIBE has been together for a year and is fronted by Mikk Peace on guitar and vocals who is accompanied by David Michaels on guitar and keyboard, Ricky Cook on bass, and Brad Bates on drums. They performed their debut show at the King Center opening for Everclear where they received ovations and compliments from the audience. Mikk Peace writes the original music for the band. "I actually put this band together for the sole intention of building the original scene up," says Mikk. What differs VIBE from other original bands is the song diversity. All tunes have strong hooks and deserve the title "radio friendly." VIBE will open for the Bella Donna Project Live, and if you like their music, keep an eye out for their first releases. Mikk: "2 CDs will be released in 2018."

www.viberocksyou.com

Friday, December 29th, 7pm, Eau Gallie Civic Center

Bella Donna Project Live

The Bella Donna Project is more than a Stevie Nicks Tribute band, it's an elaborate production starting with the big sound, an involved light system, the costumes, the moves, the choreography, two big screens - and let's not forget the music that requires endless hours of rehearsals. The first time the eight musicians took the stage was at the King Center when they opened for Foghat a year ago. This year they are inviting their fans and friends to a show at the Eau Gallie Civic Center between the holidays. Opening act is the original radio rock band VIBE.

"When you have an 8-piece-band with a lot of gear and special effects, it's not easy to fit all that on a local stage," says Todd Charron. "We never intended to be a bar band, rather a show band for special occasions, festivals, concerts," adds bandmate Max Delli.

Since the Bella Donna Project consists of members of two pretty popular bands, Luna Pearl and Kattyslack, they have a lot of fans in our area but not that many gigs. "We performed at Captain Hiram's back in

March and had a fantastic attendance," says Max. The band performed in September at the 1904 Music Hall in Jacksonville and in October at Destination Daytona together with the Pat Travers Band. "Well, that was a long way to drive for the fan base in Brevard, and we were asked when we will perform in our county again."

Fans asked for it, and the Bella Donna Project will deliver. "We thought that the date between the holidays would be good timing. Families are in town and there's not much going on before the New Year's Eve parties," says Stevie Nicks leadsinger Jody Delli. Also, Kattyslack and Luna Pearl will be busy playing NYE parties.

This concert is produced by musicians, and the band members decided to donate a part of the proceeds to Brevard Music Aid Inc, a non-profit organization that helps musicians in need. Doors open at 7 pm, and tickets are available at ticketmaster.com for \$12 (plus fees) during the pre-sale, \$20 at the door. For more information about the band or to watch a video of their performance visit their website at www.BellaDonnaProject.com.



Sunday, December 3, 2pm,
Earl's Hideaway, Sebastian

VANESSA COLLIER & KENNY NEAL

Kenny Neal, born in New Orleans and raised in Baton Rouge, began playing music at a young age. Learning the basics from his father, singer and Blues harmonica master, Raful Neal, Kenny is known as a modern swamp-blues and multi-instrumentalist, that draws from the sizzling sounds of his native Louisiana.

Kenny's 2016 release, *Bloodline*, was nominated for a *Grammy* for Best Contemporary Blues Album and also won 2 BMAs (Blues Music Awards); one for Best Contemporary Blues Album and the other for Best Contemporary Male Blues Artist.

After a short hiatus Kenny Neal and his band of Brothers (Darnell Neal on Bass and Fred Neal on Keys) are back on the road and better than ever. Longtime drummer and friend, Bryan Morris has been with the band since 2005. In 2017, Kenny enhanced the band with a horn section.

Kenny Neal will take the stage at Earl's around 4 pm. Earlier master musician and multi-talented blues performer, Vanessa Collier will perform with searing saxophone solos, soulful vocals, and witty lyrics, Vanessa's songwriting takes you through an engaging blend of blues, funk, rock, and soul in an exceptionally entertaining, high-energy performance.

This is going to be a monster show for blues fans.



Saturday, Dec. 16, 8pm,
King Center, Melbourne

The New York BEE GEES

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of the iconic *Saturday Night Fever* as The New York Bee Gees offer all their namesake's classic 70s hits, while embracing their early work as well. The New York Bee Gees deliver songs from every decade of the group's catalog with a stunning production, powerful vocals and the professional stage presence to fill any club or casino. The band is comprised of some of Long Island, New York's most versatile and exceptionally talented players. The band includes present or former members of well known, world renowned acts including; The Alan Parsons Project, Happy Together Tour, Meatloaf, Queen, Blue Oyster Cult, Riot, Herman's Hermits, Enrique Iglesias, The Rippingtons, and more. B.B. King, NYC wrote, "The NY Bee Gees Tribute Show presents the most extravagant Bee Gees show a fan can experience. The band offers all of the classic 70s disco hits, from "Stayin' Alive" to "Night Fever," while embracing their early works such as, "To Love Somebody," "I've Got To Get A Message To You," and "Massachusetts." With music in her blood and songs in her heart, Rainere Martin delights audiences with her passionate performance of the 70s and the era's great headliner, Donna Summer. Her uncanny resemblance to Donna's style, grace, energy, and voice has been electrifying audiences across the country.

www.newyorkbeegees.com



Sunday, December 17, 2pm,
Earl's Hideaway, Sebastian

SEAN CHAMBERS

Florida born Sean Chambers began his career in the Blues back in 1998 when he toured with the legendary Hubert Sumlin as his guitarist and band leader until 2003. During Sean's tenure with Mr. Sumlin, Britain's own *Guitarist* magazine named Chambers as "One of the top 50 blues guitarists of the last century." Since those days Sean Chambers has released 5 albums with mostly original music.

On March 17th 2017 Sean Chambers released his newest album entitled *Trouble & Whiskey* on the American Showplace Music label. *Trouble & Whiskey* hit #11 on Billboard, reached #7 on the Living Blues Charts during the first week of its release, and was nominated for a Blues Blast Music Award for "Best Blues Rock Album of the Year". The album is produced by Ben Elliott who has recorded classic artists such as Eric Clapton, Keith Richards, Billy Gibbons and Leslie West among others. *Trouble & Whiskey* features 10 tracks which include 7 new original Sean Chambers compositions, and 3 well chosen covers including "Bullfrog Blues" by Rory Gallagher, "Cut Off My Right Arm" by Johnny Copeland and "Be Careful With A Fool" by Riley B. King/Joe Bihari.

Sean Chambers currently resides in Southwest Florida.

www.seanchambers.com



DECEMBER

31

Matt's WINTER WHITE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

with **The Rios Rock Band** 7pm to 1am
Complimentary Champagne Toast at Midnight
for Guests Dressed in White

Balloon Drop with Prizes & Confetti Blaster at Midnight
Dinner & Drink Specials



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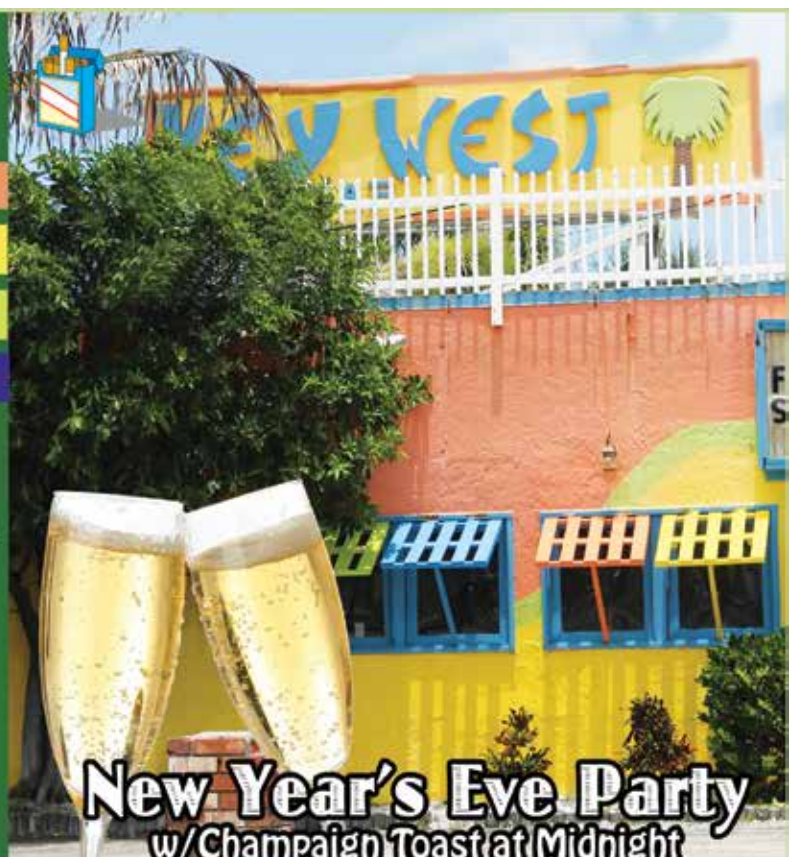
LIVE BANDS Friday & Saturday 9 pm

DECEMBER 2017

Mondays:	1: Rockfish
S.I.N. Night	2: Danny Morris Band
Tuesdays 7pm:	8: Jack Starr's BluesDeville
Trivia	9: Space Coast Playboys
HAPPY HOUR	15: John Quinlivan Band
11AM-7PM	16: Russ Kellum Band
	22: Live Band
	23: Rockfish
	29/30: TBA

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Sunday, Dec. 3rd

SEAN CHAMBERS
Sunday, Dec. 17th

JOE "SURVIVAL" CARUSO
Sunday, Dec. 24th

RAY FULLER & The Blues Rockers
Sunday, Dec. 10th

Sunday, Dec. 31st
BISCUIT MILLER & THE MIX 2pm
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
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Sunday
Jan. 7, 7:30 pm
King Center
Studio Theatre
Melbourne
**Betty
LaVette**

Photo: Mark Seliger



Betty LaVette is no mere singer. She is an interpreter of the highest order. Whether the song originated as country, rock, pop, or blues, when she gets through with it, it is pure R&B. She gets inside a song and shapes and twists it to convey all of the emotion that can be wrought from the lyric.

Her career began in 1962, at the age of 16, in Detroit, Michigan. Her first single “My Man - He’s a Loving Man”, was released on Atlantic Records. She recorded for numerous labels, including Atco, Epic, and Motown, over the course of the 1960s through the 1980s. She also worked alongside Charles “Honi” Coles, and Cab Calloway in the Toni Award winning Broadway musical, *Bubbling Brown Sugar*, in the role of Sweet Georgia Brown.

The 2000’s started what she calls her “Fifth Career”. Her CD, *A Woman Like Me* won the W.C. Handy Award in 2004 for “Comeback Blues Album of the Year”. She was also given a prestigious Pioneer Award by The Rhythm & Blues Foundation.

She recorded 4 CDs for hipster indie label ANTI-Records over the course of 8 years, 2 of which received Grammy nominations.

She has received the Blues Music Award for Best Contemporary Female Blues Singer, and performed a critically acclaimed version of “Love Reign O’er Me” at The Kennedy Center Honors in a tribute to The Who. She

then performed “A Change Is Gonna Come” as a duet with Jon Bon Jovi for President elect Barack Obama on HBO’s telecast of the kick-off Inaugural Celebratory concert, *We Are One*.

2012 marked her 50th year in show business and she also released her no-holds-barred autobiography, *A Woman Like Me*, co-written with David Ritz. In 2016, her most recent CD, *Worthy*, garnered her a third Grammy nomination. She also received the Blues Music Award for Best Soul Blues Female Artist.

Although still not a household name, fans, critics and artists have nothing but high praise for her live show and her interpretive vocal skill. She is one of very few of her contemporaries who were recording during the birth of soul music in the 1960s and is still creating vital recordings today.

These intimate shows allow her voice to be the complete center of attention. They feature Betty performing songs from throughout her 55 year career, including songs that she used to perform in small Detroit clubs before her 21st Century resurgence began. Many of these songs she does not perform with her full band. Betty has always said that just a voice and one instrument is all you need to sell a song. Hearing Betty in this intimate setting, stripped down to just her voice and a piano, is a very intense and moving experience.



December 7 thru 10, 10pm/8pm
Henegar Center/Upstairs, Melb.

Santaland Diaries

Looking for a little more snark with your holiday cheer? The Santaland Diaries are the sure cure for the common Christmas show. Catch this hilarious show at the Henegar Center this season. Here is the story line:

When a down-on-his luck wannabe actor arrives in New York City at the end of the year, the only employment he can find is at Macy’s department store working in Santaland for the holiday season, as a reluctant, but relentlessly cheerful elf. Newly christened “Crumpet”, our clever anti-hero shares his observations of the mayhem in front of and behind the scenes during one chaotic December, from aggressive parents and drunken Santas, to flirtatious actors, poor hygiene, and the racially charged hazards of being a “Pointer Elf.” Will Crumpet find a moment of pure Christmas spirit? Will he escape with his life on Christmas Eve before being torn apart by enraged customers? Based on his humorous and autobiographical essays, David Sedaris’ *The Santaland Diaries*, adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello, is a witty look at the combination of retail hell and theatrical spectacle that is the holiday season, a sharp, narrowly observed dark comedy.

The perfect Christmas treat for grownups, this show has been an annual tradition at theaters for the past twenty years. You can catch this hilarious show at the Henegar Center, four nights only. www.henegar.org



SHAIN ALLEN Honkonen

A Rocking Christmas Carol
By Heike Clarke

About decade ago there was a buzz around town about a new young band that took over Brevard's stages. They were under-aged, talented, full of positive aspiration, and played classic rock as they did back in the 60s and 70s. Shortly after, they were nominated by their fans for the 5th annual Brevard Live Music Awards - and won the title "Entertainer of The Year 2008". Four years later, in 2012, the quiet and good looking guitar player had broken away from Vintage to pursue his original music with a three-piece power band called ViLiFi. The band entered *Brevard Live's* first *Original Music Series* - and WON! By that time Shain was already a featured artist with *Classic Album Live* performing at The King Center and Hard Rock Live on a regular bases. *Brevard Live* met up with Shain Allen to visit three spirits: the ***Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet To Come.***

It's Tuesday, actually Halloween afternoon, and the meeting place is Pub Americana in Historic Cocoa Village. Shain is punctual and the courteous young gentleman that makes you think that "his parents raised him right." Reflecting back over the past ten years, he has always been a great team player no matter if it was for a performance at the Brevard Live Music Awards or just last year when Brevard Live and Siggys American Bar had a fundraiser to benefit Brevard Music Aid Inc. No matter how busy this young musician is, he has always made himself available to help a good cause, even if it means driving from North Brevard all the way to Palm Bay for a benefit concert.

The *Ghost of Christmas Past* is sitting at our table: "Vintage was a fun band. We knew each other from Edgewood High School; I went to elementary with the twins, Sean and AJ Cummings." Shain picked up the guitar at age 13 and never put it down since. "I have to play all the time," he says, "and I need to write my music too." It was actually his drive to write original music that made him leave Vintage and start his own band. First the group was called ONE "but that name was already taken," and after a few legal warnings Shain changed it to Vilify. "Then we had to change the spelling to ViLiFi, it seems that most good band names are taken."

After playing for the established and well-structured *Classic Album Live*

since he was 17 years old, Shain was now ready to take his original music to the next level with ViLiFi. In 2011 they recorded a CD called *Common Eyes* featuring 13 songs written by Shain Honkonen and recorded by Mark Brasel at *Zone Productions*. It was time to take his music on the road.

The effort lasted about five years and included four road tours that took ViLiFi along the East Coast, all the way to Canada, and back down the West Coast through Texas. Shain's memories of these times are mixed: "Lots of cool and not so cool stuff," he says. "Like the times we changed tires during horrible weather; living and sleeping with eight band members in a van. That was when we traveled together with Breathing Theory. There were freezing cold nights when we could not afford a hotel room. We went without showers for some days and ate a lot of junk food." But in hinesight he says that "this was the most fun time in my life."

At the end of all travels, Shain understood that this wasn't getting him anywhere. "We played some great stages, and a lot of bad ones, sometimes to a few hundred, and other times to a handfull of people," he says. "We needed a good agent to book better gigs. Maybe better management."

Upon the return of their last tour ViLiFi went back into the studio (with Brandon Shattuck of Orlando's Parafonic studios) to record their self-titled second release, eleven original songs

by Shain Honkonen. "Recording time cost money. We got a good deal, worked many hours, I even slept on the couch in the studio to get it done. And we were broke."

Along comes "the manager with money" who wants to take the band to the next level. The band members had discussions about signing contracts, and it was Shain who finally decided to do so. It didn't take long until "we found out that our ideas of taking the band to the next level was different from the manager's. It was a money game. ViLiFi had become about contracts, rights, and not about music." Shain feels uncomfortable with this memory but it's part of his career and a life lesson. ViLiFi disbanded - at least until the contract runs out in spring of 2018.

The *Ghost of Christmas Present* has appeared: "I can't complain," says Shain. "I'm a hired gun, playing my guitar, solo or with a band, about 4 to 5 gigs a week which allows me to have a comfortable life. It lets me do what I love. I never had to go find a regular day job."

Indeed, Shain has a lot going on, for the most part he fills in with bands that want him as a featured guitar player. One of Brevard's favorite classic hard rock band, Funpipe, hires him "whenever he's available," according to Funpipe vocalist Paul Bender. Of course, there is still the Classic Album Live series, a job he's held for eleven years now.

He occasionally plays with Vintage, "we will always be great friends." Shain's agent is his smart phone. "I'll never know when I get the call or text for a gig, and if I have time I will do it."

In his private life Shain is more of a home body. He owns a dozen guitars, 2 or 3 of them he's very fond of, but he wouldn't sell any. He listens to an array of music on his phone, some hip hop, R&B, he likes blues guitarist John Mayer and the band Nothing More. The music he listens to is more aggressive, more alternative than what he plays on stage.

In spite of a successful career Shain's take on today's music world is disillusioned. "It's harder to get discovered despite of so many outlets - or maybe because of that," he says. He sees the new technology as good and bad: "Anyone can sing with Auto-Tune, and the computer tracks turn musicians into karaoke players or disc-jockeys." Shain makes it clear that this is not what he wants to do. It's obvious - Shain is "Mister In-Between," content but not happy, free to play but not to be ViLiFied. It feels like meeting Shain on the platform of a train station, waiting for the next train while talking about life lessons learned and more to come. After all, this young 28 year old musician has a lot more tracks to travel.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come has joined our conversation: Are there any intentions of a reunion for ViLiFi? There seems

a sparkle in his eyes and a lighter smile on his face. "We'll see," Shain says. "The bass player lives in Vero, the drummer in Orlando. I probably have to offer them something pretty cool to come together again." There is no doubt, the talk about original music is getting a rise out of Shain. "You know, I have to play guitar and write songs. It's not a choice. It's a drive." He's re-

corded an original album as Shain Allen named "Hope" which includes 7 songs and is available online on i-tunes and spotify. "I haven't promoted it yet," says Shain.

It will be a few more months until the next train will arrive, and Shain Allen will board it together with the *Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come* who is already sitting next to him, giving him "HOPE."



In 2008 Vintage became "Entertainer of the Year" at the 5th annual Brevard Live Music Awards.



In 2012 the band ViLiFi won \$2,000 at *Brevard Live's* 1st Original Music Series. (Photos: BL Archives)

You can contact Shain Allen via Facebook, visit his website at www.ShainAllen.com or email him: shainhonkonen@gmail.com



Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle Released December 20th

Actor Ser'Darius Blain

Interviewed By Charles Knight

As mentioned in this publication in the past, there are many celebrated personalities that have moved to Brevard and its surrounding areas for a variety of reasons. It should also be noted that there are many (and we do mean many) celebrities that are from the Space Coast now residing in New York, Los Angeles, and beyond in order to further their careers in film, music, and other art forms. One such actor is Ser'Darius Blain. Born in North Miami Beach and raised in Melbourne Beach, the young Mr. Blain has a starring role in the new film version of *Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle* (Release date is December 20, 2017) along with such notables as Kevin Hart, Jack Black, and Dwayne the Rock Johnson. He has also co-starred in *The Game Stands Tall*, *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *Footloose*, and several other major films and television shows.

How are you?

SB: Great, busy and you know "Busy's good!"

You were born in North Miami Beach and raised in Brevard. We knew each other when we both worked at a popular BBQ restaurant here in the early 2000s. Were you acting at that point?

SB: I was really focusing on a career as a medical doctor at that time.

So when exactly did you get the acting bug?

SB: Well, my girlfriend was into acting and dancing and I would take her to rehearsals and whatever. At one point an actor was late and the director asked me to stand opposite her so they could set the lighting and then to read a line or two, well that happened a few times and soon enough the directors and producers were saying "You're good at this. Maybe you should consider a career as a thespian." Before that I was a pretty shy person. Acting has helped come out of that shell.

Once you became aware of your acting ability did you do any theater work locally?

SB: I did, I did some work at The Melbourne Community Theater on 192 and at my church. I also began to take more of an interest in my mother's work. She taught drama at South West Middle school. I acted there a little and I helped her write a play called *Cinderfella* 2000. I ended up acting in the play because one of the guys got sick and I knew all the lines.

Well you know that Jerry Lewis acted in Cinderfella in the 60s right?

SB: Really? I didn't know that.

Okay so you left Melbourne for New York. When was that?

SB: I moved to the Big Apple in 2007 when I received a scholarship to the New York Conservatory of Dramatic Arts.

Did you do any plays or film work while there?

SB: I was in one play while there but not until I graduated. As students we were not allowed to act while attending because of collegiate rules.

So, when did you relocate to Los Angeles?

SB: I finished school and remained in NY for a year while working in the Birdland Ballroom and restaurants, saving money to get to L.A.

We know that many actors spend years and even decades awaiting the 'big break'. How long did it take you to get your first principle role?

SB: My manager of five years hooked me up with an agent and I got an audition for *Footloose*. I got the part and that pretty much set things in motion. I had been here for a year I guess, I've been very blessed. In this business it's almost impossible to get a gig if you haven't already had a gig you know? The old "Which came first? The chicken or the egg?"

Yep, we do know actually. One seems to always hear the story of how the major star spent a decade or two as a laborer or bartender before getting a break.

Real quick, who were your main influences? Who really lit the acting fire for you?

SB: Well, once again it was my girlfriend Selina Diaz at the time and then I also had a friend out West that was really into the whole show biz thing and, there was my mother. As far as major stars there was Will Smith, Denzel Washington, Josh Hartnett and James Earl Jones. I always dreamed that I could reach certain heights but never really imagined that I could actually make a living doing this. I've been quite fortunate to have this as a viable source of income. The rest of the list is comprised of a virtually endless list of talents that I admire. Too many to speak of in truth.

Are there any plays or roles that you would love to do?

SB: Well, of course there are plays like Westside Story and a lot of really classic roles that would be like a dream come true but right now I'm happy with the parts I have been getting. Things are definitely looking up.

We spoke a few months ago while hanging out in Orlando before you flew back to L.A. You had mentioned that you were going to interview for a part as a Samuel Jackson's younger self in a war film. How did that go?

SB: It went well, at first they turned me down and then called a day later saying I got the part. We have been shooting in Asia and in the movie Sam is a vet recalling his days in Vietnam. I play his younger character in the war. It's a true story about a medic that was the first man to ever get the Medal of Honor posthumously. It's a great script and hopefully a greater film.

Tell us a bit about Jumanji...

SB: Well, it's not the same movie that was done by Robin Williams. It's almost a sequel but not. Difficult to explain really but a fun film nonetheless. The cinematography is phenomenal and I got to work with a lot of real pros. The thing about acting is I get to learn from different great talents on each job. It's really very fulfilling.

You play Kevin Hart's alter ego in the film and from what we have seen there aren't any scenes that you play together in. Did you get to hang out with him and the Rock and Jack Black at all?

SB: No, we are one in the same on screen so that didn't happen but we did all do several press junkets and sit downs together. We were also on set when they shot their scenes and vice versa, so as far as chilling together. Yeah, we hung out some. All nice people and total pros.

Well we are looking forward to seeing it.

SB: Glad to hear that, a lot of love went into filming it.

Is there anything you would like to say to your friends in Melbourne?

SB: Sure, thanks for your support, I love my Florida family and friends. See the movies, and support the arts!

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.. and to be interviewed... here with Paulette King,



... to be honored ... here with Brian O'Halloran



and a lot of awards.

This Was The MIFF 2017: Independent Film Presented Its Stars

By Ian Bertel

The Melbourne Independent Filmmakers Festival, also known as The MIFF, ran through October 20th and 21st, 2017 for the 19th year at its home at Premiere Theaters Oaks 10 in Melbourne. Every year, Dr. Terry Cronin hosts the event for independent filmmakers, and makes sure that guests are treated special, and as if they were Hollywood's own. The theme for this year's MIFF was a New York style setting, which was definitely evident from the beautiful and delicious spread presented by the Italian restaurant located next to the theater, Pane E Vino during the VIP Party.

The MIFF had a few different subjects this year. Dr. Terry Cronin explained that the MIFF was on the path of a "more serious tone". Depression, suicide, and mental illness, which are all very relevant topics in our society these days, were exploited heavily in several short films shown. In particular, the film "Fractured", which was about a teen who suffered bullying, depression, and misinterpretation from a leader. To the boy, the only way to solve these problems was to rain terror on his high school. These depicted events have been seen much too often in our society today. The MIFF has taken action to shine light on these joyless topics. The more we are aware of them, more can be done about them. Friday's event was not only about sadness. The event mingled into the Fright Night Friday Horror & Sci-Fi portion. Fun horror shorts were screened. The duo, Full Sail University instructor's director Kevin O'Neill, and ASC member, James Neihouse, cinematographer on the short, took home the award for "Best Cinematography".

Every year at the MIFF, there is a big feature presentation. This year it was "Shooting Clerks", which included celebrity guest, Brian O'Halloran. "Shooting Clerks" is a biopic in the life of Kevin Smith who made the film "Clerks" and "Clerks II". "Shooting Clerks" showed the not so glamorous life of filmmakers starting off, trying to get their foot into the industry. "Shooting Clerks" was a truly inspirational experience. Even more inspiration flowed in during a Q&A with the Florida director and UCF graduate Christopher Downie, and celebrity guest Brian O'Halloran, describing the long hours of tedious, but love soaked, work it takes to make a film. "Shooting Clerks" is going to air on TV this year. Having a film like this directed by a Florida native really hits home. It shows you that if you work hard, your dreams can premier on the big screen, and millions of television screens across the world.

During Saturday's sprawl of matinee short films, one stood out to the crowd in particular. "Bizarre Encounters", a film by Paulette King, starring Brevard's rock-stars Charles and Lissa Knight, won the "People's Choice Award for Best Film". The winners of the award must have predicted a success judging by the crowd's reaction to the film. The "Bizarre Encounters" cast and crew showed up to the Red Carpet reception in a grand jumbo sized limousine, doing it Hollywood style. This is a fun factor that plays into the MIFF every year. You get to stampede down the red carpet like a big time movie mogul, and take pride in the art you created or contributed to.

It's Saturday night at the MIFF. Time for directors, actors, and all around independent film supporters to browse around the VIP party upstairs of the Premier Oaks and party like rock stars. The MIFF VIP party is part of movie making magic every year. Creators collide into each other and morph all sorts of ideas, with the help of alcohol concoctions, firing creative spark. The Robin and Eddy Band fuel the night with beautiful tunes that sound in the vein of Jefferson Airplane. Awards are given out, happiness and laughter spout, and cheers are set off into the night that celebrate sweet accomplishment. Something I have noticed is that the MIFF welcomes new filmmakers with open arms. The MIFF is a Central Florida family all brought together by the hard working, positive energy flowing, and great Dr. Terry Cronin and his band of volunteers.

After the party simmered down, towards the end of a wonderful evening, I had the chance to have a few words with Dr. Cronin (photo right) and he said, with a big smile, "This is the greatest year the MIFF has ever had."

For a detailed listing of all MIFF awards winners visit their website: www.Melbournefilmfest.com.

The Melbourne Independent Filmmakers Festival (MIFF), continuing its tradition of donating all of its proceeds to a nonprofit organization, gave a total of \$11,407.50 this year to *No Limits Academy*.



All Photos By
Alex Inglis

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The Column

By **Chuck Van Riper**

Holidazed XI

As you know, many of the modern day Christmas traditions we find commonplace today actually stem from traditions from centuries ago. Mithra, for example was celebrated 3000 years ago by the Persians, as was Saturnalia, which was celebrated by the Romans, and Kronia, which was celebrated by the Greeks. Saturnalia celebrated Saturn, the god of agriculture. During the week long celebration, they celebrated the bounty of the Earth and usually held from December 17th - 23rd. During this week, all social norms were disregarded. This was reflecting their reverence to the "Golden Age", in which the Earth provided amply and supported all human life. Because nobody really had to work, there was no need for slaves, there was no social hierarchy, everybody was equal. In reflecting this in their celebration, everybody was an equal. During the feasts in the villages, masters served food to slaves, who in turn were permitted to do anything they wanted to. Gambling and drinking were rampant. Again, all social norms were thrown out. A "pilleus" was a conical felt hat which was worn to symbolize a freed man. Role playing and status reversals were an integral part of the celebration. Each village would elect a "king" for the celebration, and, regardless of their station in life, everybody had to do what they said. So there was a lot of naked singing and jumping in lakes and that sort of thing going on. It sounds kind of like Mardi Gras, doesn't it? Anyway, wreathes of leaves were put on doors, candles were put in the windows, and children were given toys. There was also a day of gift giving. Because expensive gifts were a sign of stature, more menial gift were considered, often times a candle, or pottery or a wax figurine which was made for the celebration. It was thought that the low intrinsic value of a gift was a measure of the high quality of a friendship.

Although many of these things like giving gifts, wreathes on doors, and candles in windows are traditions that live on today, but much has been lost since those ancient times. Of course, they didn't have credit cards, traffic jams, crowded shopping malls and bell ringing Salvation Army people to deal with, but we can still learn something from them. Wouldn't it be nice if, for even just a week out of the year, everybody treated each other with love and respect? After all, we'd all be wasted anyway. We could

party in the streets like the good old days and pick a homeless person to be king. Everyone would be fed a feast. Everybody would be equal, like it's supposed to be.

So this year remember, it's not the expense of a gift that defines a friendship. So guys... go get her that box of toothpicks she's been eyeing at the dollar store, or maybe a wax figurine Saturn. And ladies.. you know all guys love candles, or maybe that extra fork and spoon he's been yearning for. Let's see if we can get through this season without making it such a materialistic nightmare. It's supposed to be about love and kindness and thankfulness that we made it this far under this administration and we haven't been blown up yet.

Now, about this serving food thing. Hmmm... I want to have my dinner served by our illustrious criminal governor. Yea, now we're getting into the spirit of things. Maybe we could get congress to go feed all those DACA families that are waiting to be deported (even though they grew up here). Maybe we could get Mitch McConnell to go feed the LGTB community. Let's get the whole GOP to go feed all the sick and infirmed so they can see the look in their eyes before they take their healthcare away. And maybe we can get the president to go feed all our Muslim-American brothers and sisters. And maybe for a week, just one, we the people can take over congress. I bet you we could get more done than the past 20 years. Man, I could really get into this Saturnia thing. So let's do it, even if just for a week, nobody is better than or worse than you. We are all equal. And remember, whatever you're celebrating, try not to get too....HOLIDAZED!

Sunday, December 10, 2 pm,
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**International Pianist JD Daniel
Performs for SC Jazz Society**

Celebrate the holidays with "Dancing, Jazz and Holiday Music" by multi-talented pianist, composer, producer, arranger, conductor and vocalist JD Daniel on Sunday, December 10th, 2 pm at the Rockledge Country Club. Charlie DeChant, founding member of the band, Hall & Oates, will be backing JD on the saxophone. Artist-in-residence of Jazz Studies at Rollins College, Chuck Archard will be on bass along with professional drummer and music teacher Richie Mola. Concerts are open to the public and no reservations are needed. Admission is paid at the door, \$10 for members of the Jazz Society and the Rockledge Country Club, \$15 for guests, and students are free. For more information, call (321) 960-4897, email Jazz@SpaceCoastJazzSociety.org or go to www.SpaceCoastJazzSociety.org.

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Entertainment Calendar

1 - FRIDAY

BEACHSIDE FUSION
at **KIWI TENNIS CLUB:**
6:30pm Live Music
BONEFISH WILLY'S
RIVERFRONT GRILLE:
7pm Matt Adkins
COCONUTS: 8pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 8:30pm Distopia
FLORIDA BEER: 7pm Simone & The Supercats
HALF NOTE JAZZ CLUB:
7:30pm JD Daniel Quartet
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Rockfish
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke; 9:30pm Guilty Pleasure
MATT'S CASBAH: 6pm Carl Lewis & Intensity
OASIS: 9pm Reggae Dave
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Mondo Tikis
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 6:30pm Frankie Lessard; 10pm David Southwood Smith
SANDBAR: 9pm London Ink
SIGGY'S: 7pm DJ Chris; 9pm 21 to Burn
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa
Beach: 7pm Dave Myers
SPACE COAST HARLEY DAVIDSON: 5pm SCMA Christmas Festival Music w/ Bad Clowns & Others
STEAGLES: 8:30pm Open Mic
THIRSTY OYSTER:
Karaoke
VICTORY CASINO
CRUISE: 7pm Comedy show with Gene Merola and Ted Holum
WHISKEY BEACH: 8pm Andrew Rickman

2 - SATURDAY

BONEFISH WILLY'S
RIVERFRONT GRILLE:
7pm Stay Tuned
COCONUTS: 8pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 2pm Daddy Wags; 8:30pm Joe Reid Band
FLORIDA BEER: 7pm Acoustic Ramblers
HALF NOTE JAZZ CLUB:
7:30pm Mike T Quartet
JAKE'S CRAB SHACK:
7:30pm Karaoke
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Danny Morris Band
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Chris James; 5:30pm Karaoke;

9:30pm The Divas
MATT'S CASBAH: 6pm Umbrella Thieves
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Sydney Rae
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 6:30pm Devin Lupis; 10pm Al Swagger
SANDBAR: 8pm Galaxy
SIGGY'S: 8pm DJ Chris; 9pm Spanks
SLINGER'S: Steak Shoot
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa
Beach: 7pm Dave Myers
SPACE COAST HARLEY DAVIDSON: 11am SCMA Christmas Festival w/ 12 Live Bands including Days to Come, Domino Effect, Adawak, Whiskey Tango & More
STEAGLES: 8:30pm Denise Turner
VICTORY CASINO
CRUISE: 2pm Jason Domulot; 7pm Country Jingle Jam with Lucas Hoge, Stephanie Quayle and Johnny Bulford

3 - SUNDAY

BONEFISH WILLY'S
RIVERFRONT GRILLE:
4pm TBA
COCONUTS: 2pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 2pm Vanessa Collier w/ Kenny Neal
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm GT Express; 7pm Jeff B
MATT'S CASBAH: 1:30pm Carl Lewis
SANDBAR: 9pm DJ Cerino & Guest DJ
SPACE COAST HARLEY DAVIDSON: 11am SCMA Toy Run w/ Multiple Bands

4 - MONDAY

COCONUTS: 7pm Micah Read
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo; 9pm John McDonald
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 9pm Live Acoustic
STEAGLES: 8:30pm Comedy Show

5 - TUESDAY

LOU'S BLUES: 8pm Invite Jam
MATT'S CASBAH: 6:30pm Joe Calautti
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 7pm Frankie Lessard
SANDBAR: 9pm DJ Colione
VICTORY CASINO
CRUISE: 11am Rocky and the Rollers

6 - WEDNESDAY

FLORIDA BEER: 6pm Steve Hodak
LOU'S BLUES: 6pm Dueling Pianos; 9pm Rockstar w/ Joe Calautti
JAKE'S CRAB SHACK:
7:30pm Karaoke
MATT'S CASBAH: 6:30pm Sam Simms
OASIS: 9pm Jam Night
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Frank Posser
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 7pm Devin Lupis
SANDBAR: 8pm Jam Session
SIGGY'S: 7pm Adam Van Der Broek
SLINGER'S: 8pm Night People
VICTORY CASINO
CRUISE: 7pm Jonnie Morgan

7 - THURSDAY

COCONUTS: 7pm Joshua Pearson
EARLS: 7:30pm Brad Sayre
LOU'S BLUES: 8:30pm Syndicate
MATT'S CASBAH: 6:30pm Frank Rios
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Devin Lupis
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 7pm David Southwood Smith
SANDBAR: 8pm Big Daddy Karaoke
SIGGY'S: 7pm Joe Barrera
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa
Beach: 7pm Matt Riley

8 - FRIDAY

BEACHSIDE FUSION
at **KIWI TENNIS CLUB:**
6:30pm Live Music
BONEFISH WILLY'S
RIVERFRONT GRILLE:
7pm Matt Adkins
COCONUTS: 8pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 8:30pm Luna Pearl
FLORIDA BEER: 7pm Tru Phonic, Love Valley w/ Anja & The Dreamers
HALF NOTE JAZZ CLUB:
7:30pm JD Daniel Quartet
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Jack Starr's Blues DeVille
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke; 9:30pm Funpipe
MATT'S CASBAH: 6pm The Kore
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Chuck Van Ripper
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 6:30pm



Sat. February 17, 6pm
SC Seafood Festival, Viera

WILLIE NELSON

Don't know what to get someone special for Christmas? Instead of more stuff, consider building memories with unforgettable concerts and shows. There is something for every music taste. Just announced last month: Country music icon Willie Nelson will headline the four-day 2018 Space Coast Seafood & Music Festival when he performs on the evening of Saturday, February 17th at Space Coast Daily Park, located in Viera. He has earned every conceivable award as a musician and amassed reputable credentials as an author, actor, and activist. He continues to thrive as a relevant and progressive musical and cultural force. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster locations. Other concerts during the Space Coast Seafood & Music Festival include the Space Coast Symphony, Don McLean and Los Lonely Boys. For information updates go to space-coastdaily.com

All listings may be subject to change during the month. Please confirm with venue.

Entertainment Calendar

Frankie Lessard; 10pm David Southwood Smith
SANDBAR: 9pm Dub Masters
SIGGY'S: 7pm DJ Chris; 9pm Adawak
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa Beach: 7pm John Burr
SPACE COAST HARLEY DAVIDSON: 5pm 'Victory 4 Warriors' Cruise In
STEAGLES: 8:30pm Open Mic
THIRSTY OYSTER: Karaoke
VICTORY CASINO CRUISE: 7pm Ladies Night Male Revue
WHISKEY BEACH: 8pm Marvin Parish

9 - SATURDAY

BONEFISH WILLY'S RIVERFRONT GRILLE: 7pm Big Jim Adams
COCONUTS: 8pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 2pm Nasy Habits 8:30pm Love Valley
FLORIDA BEER: 7pm Josh Keels
HALF NOTE JAZZ CLUB: 7:30pm Chris Clarke Quartet
JAKE'S CRAB SHACK: 7:30pm Karaoke
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Space Coast Playboys
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Jeff B; 5:30pm Karaoke; 9:30pm Kattyshack
MATT'S CASBAH: 7pm Vintage
OASIS: 9pm Barryoke
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Sydney Rae
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 6:30pm Devin Lupis; 10pm Al Swagger
SANDBAR: 9pm Red Tide
SIGGY'S: 8pm DJ Chris; 9pm Buckshot
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa Beach: 7pm Andy Harrington
SPACE COAST HARLEY DAVIDSON: 11am A Taste of Upcoming "We Rock4Warriors" Festival
STEAGLES: 8:30pm Comedy Show
THIRSTY OYSTER: 8pm Jack Starr Band
VICTORY CASINO CRUISE: 11pm Rocket City; 7pm The Adrian Alberts Magic Experience
WHISKEY BEACH: 8pm Lights Out Acoustic

10 - SUNDAY

BONEFISH WILLY'S RIVERFRONT GRILLE: 4pm Big Jim Adams
COCONUTS: 2pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 2pm Ray Fuller & The Blues Rockers
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm JW Gilmore; 7pm TBA
MATT'S CASBAH: 1:30pm Carl Lewis
SANDBAR: 9pm DJ Cerino & Guest DJ
SPACE COAST HARLEY DAVIDSON: 11am Car & Truck Show w/ Twinkle Soul Radio Band
VICTORY CASINO CRUISE: Noon Bigg Vinny, Jared Blake and Jared Weeks- The former lead singer of Saving Abel

11 - MONDAY

COCONUTS: 7pm Aaron Rhoades
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo; 9pm Clinton Engel
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 9pm Live Acoustic
STEAGLES: 8:30pm Comedy Show
VICTORY CASINO CRUISE: 7pm Blues Cruise w/ Derek Trull

12 - TUESDAY

LOU'S BLUES: 8pm Invite Jam
MATT'S CASBAH: 6:30pm Ana Kirby
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 7pm Frankie Lessard
SANDBAR: 9pm DJ Colione
VICTORY CASINO CRUISE: 11am & 7pm The Music Factory Christmas Show Featuring Josh Leggett & Rick Silanskas

HAPPY HANUKKAH

13 - WEDNESDAY

FLORIDA BEER: 6pm Jeff Marquis
JAKE'S CRAB SHACK: 7:30pm Karaoke
LOU'S BLUES: 6pm Rev. Billy; 9pm Rockstar w/ Joe Calautti
MATT'S CASBAH: 6:30pm Josh Keels
OASIS: 9pm Jam Night
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Devin Lupis
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 7pm Devin Lupis

SANDBAR: 8pm Jam Session
SIGGY'S: 7pm DJ Chris; 9pm Scurvy Dogs Christmas Party
SLINGER'S: 8pm Night People
VICTORY CASINO CRUISE: 7pm Jonnie Morgan

14 - THURSDAY

COCONUTS: 7pm Micah Read
EARLS: 7:30pm Randy Skirvin
LOU'S BLUES: 8:30pm Spice Boys
MATT'S CASBAH: 6:30pm Lupis & Kerr
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Devin Lupis
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 7pm David Southwood Smith
SANDBAR: 8pm Big Daddy Karaoke
SIGGY'S: 7pm The Hitmen
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa Beach: 7pm Matt Riley

15 - FRIDAY

BEACHSIDE FUSION at KIWI TENNIS CLUB: 6:30pm Live Music
BONEFISH WILLY'S RIVERFRONT GRILLE: 7pm Matt Adkins
COCONUTS: 8pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 8:30pm Perfect Tuesday
FLORIDA BEER: 7pm Mental Notes
HALF NOTE JAZZ CLUB: 7:30pm JD Daniel Quartet
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm John Quinlivan Band
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke; 9:30pm Picture Show
MATT'S CASBAH: 6pm Rios Rock Band
OASIS: 9pm Oasis Christmas Party
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Chuck Van Riper
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 6:30pm Frankie Lessard; 10pm David Southwood Smith
SANDBAR: 4pm London Ink; 9pm 506 Crew
SIGGY'S: 9pm 506 Crew
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa Beach: 7pm Buck Barefoot
STEAGLES: 8:30pm Open Mic
THIRSTY OYSTER: Karaoke
VICTORY CASINO CRUISE: 7pm Them Seeds
WHISKEY BEACH: 8pm

Devin Lupis

16 - SATURDAY

BONEFISH WILLY'S RIVERFRONT GRILLE: 7pm Sam Sims
COCONUTS: 8pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 2pm Brad Sayre; 8:30pm Umbrella Thieves
FLORIDA BEER: 7pm Mondo Tikis
HALF NOTE JAZZ CLUB: 7:30pm Chris Clarke Quartet
JAKE'S CRAB SHACK: 7:30pm Karaoke
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Russ Kellum Band
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Jay D 5:30pm Karaoke; 9:30pm Luna Pearl
MATT'S CASBAH: 7pm Tru Phonic
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Sydney Rae
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 6:30pm Devin Lupis; 10pm Al Swagger
SANDBAR: 9pm DJ Sirius
SIGGY'S: 8pm DJ Chris; 9pm Funpipe
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa Beach: 7pm Andy Harrington
SPACE COAST HARLEY DAVIDSON: 11am Talent Show w/ Gong!
STEAGLES: 8:30pm Comedy Show
THIRSTY OYSTER: One Year Anniversary Party w/ Andrew Rickman w/ No Pressure Band at 2pm and Love Valley at 8pm
VICTORY CASINO CRUISE: 7pm Lovestruck Robot
WHISKEY BEACH: 8pm Unit 5

17 - SUNDAY

BONEFISH WILLY'S RIVERFRONT GRILLE: 7pm Stay Tuned
COCONUTS: 2pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 2pm Sean Chambers
FLORIDA BEER: 2pm Hot Pink
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm The Coolers 8pm Alex
MATT'S CASBAH: 1:30pm Carl Lewis
SANDBAR: 9pm DJ Cerino & Guest DJ
SPACE COAST HARLEY DAVIDSON: 11am Dave Grooms & Jack Starr Acoustic Jam
VICTORY CASINO

Entertainment Calendar

CRUISE: Noon Rocky & The Rollers

18 - MONDAY

COCONUTS: 7pm Micah Read
LOU'S BLUES: 7pm Dirty Bingo; 9pm John McDonald
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 9pm Live Acoustic
STEAGLES: 8:30pm Comedy Show
VICTORY CASINO
CRUISE: 7pm Blues Cruise with Derek Trull

19 - TUESDAY

LOU'S BLUES: 8pm Invite Jam
MATT'S CASBAH: 6:30pm Stay Tuned
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 7pm Frankie Lessard
SANDBAR: 9pm DJ Colione
VICTORY CASINO
CRUISE: 11am Highway 1

20 - WEDNESDAY

FLORIDA BEER: 6pm Jake Salter
JAKE'S CRAB SHACK: 7:30pm Karaoke
LOU'S BLUES: 6pm Dueling Pianos; 9pm Rockstar w/ Joe Calautti
MATT'S CASBAH: 6:30pm Untamed Duo
OASIS: 9pm Jam Night
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Frank Posser
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 7pm Devin Lupis
SANDBAR: 8pm Jam Session
SLINGER'S: 8pm Night People
VICTORY CASINO
CRUISE: December Birthdays Sail Free; 7pm Jonnie Morgan

21 - THURSDAY

COCONUTS: 7pm Aaron Rhoades
EARLS: 7:30pm Radio Days
LOU'S BLUES: 8:30pm The Witch Doctors
MATT'S CASBAH: 6:30pm The Hitman
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Devin Lupis
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 7pm David Southwood Smith
SANDBAR: 8pm Big Daddy Karaoke
SIGGY'S: 7pm The Beardos
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa

Beach: 7pm Matt Riley

22 - FRIDAY

BEACHSIDE FUSION
at KIWI TENNIS CLUB:
6:30pm Live Music
BONEFISH WILLY'S
RIVERFRONT GRILLE:
7pm Matt Adkins
COCONUTS: 8pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 8:30pm Kore
FLORIDA BEER: 7pm Beach Bums
HALF NOTE JAZZ CLUB:
7:30pm Mike T Quartet
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke; 9:30pm Ladies of Soul
MATT'S CASBAH: 7pm Spearfish
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Chuck Van Riper
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 6:30pm Frankie Lessard; 10pm David Southwood Smith
SANDBAR: 4pm Sax on the Beach; 9pm Musical Seduction
SIGGY'S: 7pm DJ Chris; 9pm Sam Hill & Friends
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa
Beach: 7pm John Burr
STEAGLES: 8:30pm Open Mic
THIRSTY OYSTER:
Karaoke
VICTORY CASINO
CRUISE: 11am & 7pm The Music Factory Christmas Show Featuring Josh Leggett & Rick Silanskas
WHISKEY BEACH: 8pm The Wallvines

23 - SATURDAY

BONEFISH WILLY'S
RIVERFRONT GRILLE:
7pm Stay Tuned
COCONUTS: 8pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 2pm Bobby Owen Band; 8:30pm Raisin Cane
FLORIDA BEER: 7pm Big Blues Machine
HALF NOTE JAZZ CLUB:
7:30pm Kristin Warren
JAKE'S CRAB SHACK:
7:30pm Karaoke
KEY WEST BAR: 9pm Rockfish
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Jeff B; 5:30pm Karaoke; 9:30pm Wicked Garden Gnomes
MATT'S CASBAH: 7pm Usual Suspects

OASIS: 9pm Barryoke
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Acoustic Showcase
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 6:30pm Devin Lupis; 10pm Al Swagger
SANDBAR: 9pm Love Valley
SIGGY'S: 8pm DJ Chris
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa
Beach: 7pm John Burr
SPACE COAST HARLEY
DAVIDSON: 11am Vince Love
'Call Me Love' Blues Band
VICTORY CASINO
CRUISE: 7pm Burlesque Show

24 - SUNDAY

BONEFISH WILLY'S
RIVERFRONT GRILLE:
4pm TBA
COCONUTS: 2pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 2pm Joe "Survival" Caruso
FLORIDA BEER: 2pm Gypsy Elise & The Royal Blues
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm Matt Sams
MATT'S CASBAH: 1:30pm Carl Lewis
SANDBAR: 9pm DJ Cerino & Guest DJ
SPACE COAST HARLEY
DAVIDSON: 11am A Jon Parrot Christmas Special

MERRY CHRISTMAS

25 - MONDAY

SANDBAR: We Are Open All Day!

26 - TUESDAY

LOU'S BLUES: 8pm Invite Jam
MATT'S CASBAH: 6:30pm Big Blues Machine
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 7pm Frankie Lessard
SANDBAR: 9pm DJ Colione
VICTORY CASINO
CRUISE: 11am Highway 1

27 - WEDNESDAY

FLORIDA BEER: 6pm Jake Salter
JAKE'S CRAB SHACK:
7:30pm Karaoke
LOU'S BLUES: 6pm Rev. Billy; 9pm Rockstar w/ Joe Calautti
OASIS: 9pm Jam Night
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Frank Posser
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 7pm Devin Lupis
SANDBAR: 8pm Jam Session
SIGGY'S: 7pm Greg

Vadimsky
SLINGER'S: 8pm Night People
VICTORY CASINO
CRUISE: 7pm Jonnie Morgan

28 - THURSDAY

COCONUTS: 7pm Joshua Pearson
EARLS: 7:30pm Special Bike Night Event w/ Jason Ricci
LOU'S BLUES: 8:30pm TBA
MATT'S CASBAH: 6:30pm Kore's Lite
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Devin Lupis
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 7pm David Southwood Smith
SANDBAR: 8pm Big Daddy Karaoke
SIGGY'S: 7pm The Beardos
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa
Beach: 7pm Matt Riley

29 - FRIDAY

BEACHSIDE FUSION
at KIWI TENNIS CLUB:
6:30pm Live Music
BONEFISH WILLY'S
RIVERFRONT GRILLE:
7pm Matt Adkins
COCONUTS: 8pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 8:30pm Crash Rockets
FLORIDA BEER: 7pm Love Valley
HALF NOTE JAZZ CLUB:
7:30pm Chris Clarke Trio
LOU'S BLUES: 5:30pm Karaoke; 9:30pm Rios Rock Band
MATT'S CASBAH: 7pm Galaxy
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Mondo Tikis
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 6:30pm Frankie Lessard; 10pm David Southwood Smith
SANDBAR: 4pm Jeff Marquis
SIGGY'S: 7pm DJ Chris; 9pm Rockfish
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa
Beach: 7pm Dave Myers
STEAGLES: 8:30pm Open Mic
THIRSTY OYSTER: Karaoke
VICTORY CASINO
CRUISE: 7pm Janna Ivey Trio
WHISKEY BEACH: 8pm Frankie Lessard

30 - SATURDAY

BONEFISH WILLY'S
RIVERFRONT GRILLE:
7pm Reggae Juice

Community Calendar

COCONUTS: 8pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 2pm Slickwood; 8:30pm Ladies of Soul
FLORIDA BEER: 7pm Jason Domulot
HALF NOTE JAZZ CLUB: 7:30pm Mike T Trio
JAKE'S CRAB SHACK: 7:30pm Tom Jones Tribute Dinner Show
LOU'S BLUES: 1pm Jay D; 5:30pm Karaoke; 9:30pm Umbrella Thieves
MATT'S CASBAH: 6pm Buckshot
OFF THE TRAXX: 6pm Sydney Rae
OLE' FIRE GRILL: 6:30pm Devin Lupis; 10pm Al Swagger
SANDBAR: 9pm Bailey Calahann
SIGGY'S: 8pm DJ Chris; 9pm The Day After
SLOW & LOW/Cocoa Beach: 7pm Buck Barefoot
SPACE COAST HARLEY DAVIDSON: 11am 3 Day New Year's Party 'Celebration Space Coast'
WHISKEY BEACH: 8pm Last Call

NEW YEAR'S EVE 31 - SUNDAY

BONEFISH WILLY'S RIVERFRONT GRILLE: 4pm TBA
COCONUTS: 2pm Goin' Nutz
EARLS: 2pm Biscuit Miller w/ Dr. Love and New Year's Eve Party w/ Roughouse at 8:30pm
HILTON RIALTO: Midnight in Melbourne w/ DJ John Leach.
LOU'S BLUES: 2pm JW Gilmore; 9pm New Year's Eve Bash w/ Luna Pearl
MATT'S CASBAH: 8pm Winter White NYE Party with The Rios Rock Band
OASIS: 9pm New Year's Eve Party w/ No Tomfoolery
ROONEY'S: New Year's Eve Party w/ County Road 2
SANDBAR: 9pm NYE Party w/ DJ Cerino & Guest DJ
SIGGY'S: New Year's Eve Party w/ DJ Chris @ 7pm and Buckshot @ 7pm
SPACE COAST HARLEY DAVIDSON: 11am Rockin' in the New Year

VICTORY CASINO CRUISE: 7:30pm All Inclusive New Years Eve Party

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dec 1: First Friday by the Bay at Celebration Square in Palm Bay. 321-952-3443
Dec 1: Cape Canaveral Friday Fest at the Port
Dec 1: Movie Night in Eau Gallie Square The Secret Life of Pets at 7pm. 321-608-7400
Dec 1: Christmas in the Park & Tree Lighting in Downtown Melbourne 321-608-7450
Dec 2: "Light up the Night in Palm Bay Holiday Spirit" Parade. 6:30pm Malabar Rd.
Dec 2-3: Historic Cocoa Village Winter Art & Craft Holiday Bazaar. 321-631-9075
Dec 9: Melbourne Christmas Parade and Food & Toy Drive. 6pm Nasa Blvd.
Dec 9: VAC Warbird Fly-in Breakfast at the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum in Titusville. 321-268-1941
Dec 15: Movie in the Park at Riverfront Park in Cocoa Village. 321-639-3500
Dec 15: Movie in the Park at Canaveral City Park. 321-868-1226
Dec 16: Breakfast with Santa at the Wickham Park Community Center. 321-608-7490
Dec 22: Movie in the Park at Wickham Pavillion
Dec 22: Movie in the Park at Knecht Park in Palm Bay. 321-953-8912
Dec 22: Cocoa Village Friday Fest. 321-749-6100

EXHIBITS & ART

Until Dec 4 Trashtastic Art Show. Eau Gallie Arts District
Until Dec 16: Cloth as Community: Hmong Textiles in America at Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts at FIT in Melbourne. 321-674-8313
Until Jan 6: The History of Space Photography at the Foosaner Art Museum in the

Eau Gallie Arts District. 321-674-8916
Until Jan 6: 35th Annual Tropical Designer Holiday Craft Show in EGAD.

MUSIC & DANCE

Dec 1: Jazz Friday at Foosaner Art Museum in Eau Gallie Arts District. 321-952-3443
Dec 1: The Sing Along Messiah w/ the Space Coast Symphony at Scott Center Auditorium at Holy Trinity in Suntree. 855-252-7276
Dec 1: London Handel Players w/ Melbourne Chamber Music Society at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Indialantic. 321-213-5100
Dec 1: Dance with Swingtime Jazz Band w/ Melbourne Municipal Band at the Melbourne Auditorium. 321-724-0555
Dec 2: Space Coast Ballet's The Nutcracker at the King Center in Melbourne. 321-242-2219
Dec 2: Christmas Concert w/ the Indialantic Chamber Singers at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Indialantic. 321-426-0360
Dec 3: Christmas Concert: An Old Fashioned Christmas w/ the Indialantic Chamber Singers at Riverside Presbyterian Church in Cocoa Beach. 321-426-0360
Until Dec 3: A Christmas Carol The Musical at Cocoa Village Playhouse. 321-636-5050
Dec 6-7: I'll Be Home For Christmas w/ the Melbourne Community Orchestra at the Melbourne Auditorium. 321-285-6724
Dec 9: Brevard Community Chorus at the King Center in Melbourne. 321-242-2219
Dec 13-14: Jingle All the Way Concert w/ the Melbourne Municipal Band at the Melbourne Auditorium. 321-724-0555
Dec 15: Steve Earle at the King Center in Melbourne. 321-242-2219
Dec 15-17: Galmont Ballet's Nutcracker at the Cocoa Vil-

lage Playhouse. 321-636-5050
Dec 16: Christmas at The Avenue with Space Coast Symphony at The Avenue Viera. 855-252-7276
Dec 16: 40th Anniversary of Saturday Night Fever with The New York Bee Gees at the King Center in Melbourne. 321-242-2219
Dec 17: Space Coast Flute Orchestra Christmas Concert at Suntree United Methodist Church. 321-385-7236
Dec 19: The Ten Tenors - Home for the Holidays at the King Center in Melbourne. 321-242-2219
Until Dec 24: Alfie Silva's Christmas with Dino at the Melbourne Civic Theatre in Downtown Melbourne. 321-723-6935
Dec 29: The Bella Donna Project Stevie Nicks Tribute at the Eau Gallie Civic Center

THEATRE

Until Dec 3: The Music Man at Titusville Playhouse. 321-268-1125
Dec 5: Michael Carbonaro Live! at the King Center in Melbourne. 321-242-2219
Dec 7-10: The Santaland Diaries at the Henegar Center in Downtown Melbourne. 321-723-8698
Dec 8-17: A Tuna Christmas at the Titusville Playhouse. 321-268-1125
Dec 10-11: A Garfield Christmas at the King Center in Melbourne. 321-242-2219
Dec 10-12: A Charlie Brown Christmas and Holiday Showcase at the Cocoa Village Playhouse. 321-636-5050
Until Dec 17: Annie at the Henegar Center in Downtown Melbourne. 321-723-8698
Dec 19: The Holidays Re-Gifted at Cocoa Village Playhouse. 321-636-5050
Dec 23: A Christmas Carol at the King Center in Melbourne. 321-242-2219

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VEGAS: The Sequel

By Matthew Bretz

Vegas is an absolute trip these days...no really it's a trip, I had to fly there. I remember back when I was a mobster in the 50's Vegas was a totally different world than it is now. It used to be a handful of casinos bunched together in the desert, far away from everything. Now it's a thriving city split down the middle between Disney-like sites and glittery depravity, far away from everything. The last time I wrote about going to Vegas was ten years ago. It was my birthday and I flew to the desert to celebrate the turning of a decade. In true cliché form I nearly married a stranger that trip, and I definitely did drunkly pass out into a craps table sometime around "I was an idiot" O'clock in the morning. But that was a long time ago, and things have changed in my world, so I thought I would give Vegas another go.

It was coming up on Janet's birthday and she had been hoping to see Miss Britney Spears in concert before she ended her residency at Planet Hollywood so everything just kinda came together and we went. There were four

of us, she brought a friend to go to the concert with, and I brought a friend to not go to the concert with. Airfare was crazy cheap but we had to fly over night, no biggie, there are no clocks in Vegas, sort of.

When we walked out of the airport we jumped into the first cab that called us over. Wow! Don't ever do that, it was the worst idea. A cab ride that should have cost us about 12 bucks and taken 15 minutes ended up being a tour of the highway all the way around the city to the tune of 50 smackers, ouch! That was the only cab we took out there, everything else was Uber and Lyft.

Janet read a biography of Judy Garland a short time ago, and she became obsessed. Needless to say I have heard every recording, watched every movie, and heard every story about Dorothy's life. Well, before we left town she found out there was a Judy Garland and Liza Minelli tribute show we could see while we were out there, so we did. The show was actually pretty great, especially my part. Yeah that's right, I was IN the show. There is a bit in the show where they choose a man from the audience to play a dancing baker - don't ask for details - and I happened to be the only man in the audience under 70 so guess who got to be a baker...

Vegas is set up in two basic halves. New Vegas or the "strip" has all the

shiny new hotels and casinos. All the biggest names are playing the strip. All the celebrity chefs have their own restaurants, and all the celebrities are eating at them on the strip. Then there is old Vegas, also called the "old strip", for most commonly known as Fremont Street. Fremont is where it's at, man, that part of town is crazy and nuts, and not for families. In one night on Fremont I sang at a piano bar, watched two concerts, roamed the caverns of a dark club, played 3 dollar craps, zip lined down the street, and got chased through the crowd by topless women brandishing whips.

The night before we left we spent most of our evening at XS. Touted at the currently top ranked club in Vegas, XS sits poolside at the Wynn Hotel and Casino. The cover is around 30 bucks, and the drinks aren't any cheaper but I'm gonna float you a little tip here. Before you go to Vegas decide what clubs you want to go to and on what nights. Then google promoters for those clubs and you will find numbers to text or call. This little trick got us on the guest list for free, as well as a free drink. Superstar DJ Duke Dumont was spinning that night and it was well worth going. Hell, the bathroom experience alone was enough to be worth it. There were 6 sinks and each one had an attendant that dried your hands, brushed your clothes, gave you a shot of mouth

continued page 35

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What started out as a small, family day in Cocoa Beach has turned into a global phenomenon. People from all over congregate on Christmas Eve in Cocoa Beach to celebrate the holidays with the **Surfing Santas**, friends and family. Whether you surf or you're looking to join in the holiday spirit, there's no other beach having this much fun on Christmas Eve!

On December 24, 2009, George Trosset went surfing dressed as Santa with his son and daughter-in-law dressed as Elves. *Florida Today* newspaper published a picture on the front page of the Christmas Day newspaper. George's friends saw the photo and inquired about joining him the following year. On December 24, 2010, 19 Surfing Santas participated. On December 24, 2011, 84 Surfing Santas joined George in the water with a few hundred spectators watching from the shore. More media coverage including Fox News, Channel 13 News, ABC and NBC. On December 24, 2016, 600 Surfing Santas and 8,000 plus spectators made their way to Cocoa Beach.

Once again the **Surfing Santas** can be seen on December 24th from 8 am to 12 pm at Minutemen Causeway Beach, right outside of Coconuts on the Beach. The admission is free and there's a costume contest that starts at 9 am followed by "Santa surfs out" at 10 am. This is a family friendly event.

Local musicians and songwriters **Anna Lusk** and **Marvin Parish** have record-

ed some groovy Surfing Santa tunes, year after year! And this year, they created another hit that will be released in December. On November 11th the surf community called for a video filming for the new song. Many gathered at Coconuts to participate in one of Cocoa Beach's grassroots events. For more information go to www.surfing-santas.org or catch a wave with them on *Facebook*.



Photos from Facebook

Talking about **Anna Lusk** and **Marvin Parish**, both musicians are members of **Honey Miller**, the original band that's garnering quite some attention for their newest release *Amongst The Boxes*, especially for the song "One Face, One Human Race." According to band leader **Dave Miller** the band's showcase to be held February 24th at Open Mike's in Melbourne already sold out in November. "It was supposed to be our only local showcase in 2018," says Miller. Let's hope the Honey Miller Band is considering another concert in our neck in the woods. Soon.



The **Thirsty Oyster** will be celebrating their one year anniversary December 16th. There will be live music from

the No Pressure Band at 2 pm and from Love Valley at 8 pm as well as free appetizers while they last! The Thirsty Oyster is located on the corner of Minutemen Causeway and is already well known for fresh oysters on the half shell and more. For more information call 321-613-3048.

At the end of this year we also say good-bye to **Red Tide**, a band that has been on the music scene for many years. Band leader Amdam Sikora put the news on his Facebook page:

"Well it's been a long drunken, fucked up, great time with Red Tide through these last 10 years. But unfortunately it is coming to an end in January of 2018. I wanna thank everyone who's supported us, from our days at Maui's bike night when we were 15, to winning Favorite Cover Band in 2011, to our trips to the Keys in recent years. I wanna thank every person who's been a part of Red Tide through the years, musicians, patrons, parents, girlfriends, bar owners, and everyone who made it such a fun time. Red Tide has been a blast for Adam, Corbin, Brandon, and whatever bass player we had at the time (now Dylan Thomas)." - If you want to catch them at one of their last shows in December go to [facebook.com/RedTide](https://www.facebook.com/RedTide) for gig info.



Photo: BL Archives

The staff of **Brevard Live Magazine** wants to wish all our readers Happy Holidays and a blessed New Year 2018. Thank you for your interest in our ever changing music scene, and we promise to bring you the entertainment news every month next year.

Rootfire

Festival Review By Matthew Bretz



A rare performance of the New School Dropouts which was a big deal for our local music scene (top photo). Citizen Cope (left photo) and Shaggy (right photo), and Hippocampus (bottom photo) performed at Rootfire along with many other great bands.

Last month Cocoa Village’s Riverfront Park was host to the second annual Rootfire Festival. After the success of last years run with only a handful of bands, Rootfire expanded into three days and brought in a wider range of artists including the folky Citizen Cope, and indie rockers Hippocampus. The festival boasted a VIP package with free drinks all weekend, yoga in the mornings, a ton of vendors, two stages, and a discount on your ticket if you rode a bicycle to the event. This year Rootfire also advertised a donation to this year’s hurricane victims that included 100 percent of the ticket proceeds.

Just like last year the festival really to focus on reggae and the like, but they did add a few other bands to the line-up to even things out a bit. Big hitters like Shaggy, Michael Franti, and Stephen Marley were among the biggest draw, but others like the Ries Brothers, Jesse Royal, and the Hip Abduction made some pretty fierce appearances. One of the most impressive bands of the weekend was also one of the first...Lawrence. Lawrence is a huge band with like a million people in it, but they are so tight and clean I was amazed. All the players in Lawrence have chops for days, and I’m pretty sure they are all around 13 years old...at least that’s what it looks like. On Friday night I was super excited to see Hippocampus. I was first introduced to this band at Bonnaroo this last year where they drew a few thousand fans. As surprised as I was to see them on the bill, I couldn’t wait for their show...especially since I know their songs and can sing along now. They did not disappoint. If you don’t know Hippocampus yet...find out.

With two stages going there was a nice bounce back and forth between the two. One stage would light up while the other was changing bands over...it worked well, you just to constantly walk from one end of the park to the other and back again. The smaller River Stage was hosted by Michelle Beebs of Beebs, Beebs and Her Money Makers, and now even Beebs Clothing. Beebs got introduce and talk a bit about everyone that played the River Stage and even jumped in for a tune with local favs the New School Dropouts. This was actually a pretty big deal. The very popular NSDropouts used to rule the live music scene before “dropping out” some years ago after the sudden death of one of their members, so to have them back on stage was really nice to see.

Another band from the River Stage that really blew me away was the Ries Brothers. To be honest I'm not quite sure how to describe this band. They are definitely reggae tinged, but there is something else going on. Let me explain how they ran down a song, and maybe that will clue you in a bit more. First off they are only two guys. There was a trombone players every once in a while, but for the most part just the two. Charlie Ries started the song by playing a beat on drum pads and looping it. After that his brother Kevin looped a bassline, and guitar track before picking up a ukulele and playing a distorted solo with a wah pedal. It was pretty cool.

Can we talk about Michael Franti for a minute? Wow! That guy is a giant. And yeah, he's tall, but that's not what I'm talking about. I don't know that anyone got the crowd revved more than hi. Franti has always been one of my favorite live artists to see, and when he plays with Spearhead it just gets even better. Churning out his hits like The Sound of Sunshine, Anybody Seen My Mind, and the fiercely popular Say Hey Franti and Spearhead were my top pick for Saturday.

Sunday looked like it might rain but it held off, and eventually even cleared up leaving a beautiful night to enjoy our last hurrah of the festival. Among the line-up on Sunday was the amazing Citizen Cope. A little bit of folk and Americana mixed in with some reggae? This guy is hard to describe too! Citizen Cope—just one guy by the way—is known to play equally with bands and just acoustically by himself. This show he chose the acoustic route, and it was a really nice change up from the loud bands that had been going on all day.

Not long after Citizen Cope was finished Shaggy took the stage to finish out the night and the festival. His set was energetic to say the least. Rolling through his hits medley style was my only complaint...he never played one full song. Other than that he and his crew of hype men kept the party going strong and the crowd ate it up. It was a great, explosive way to end the festival on a high note, and expend the last bit of energy anyone had left.

Rootfire was great, I had a blast. It was also exceptionally clean. There were free water stations, zero trash on the ground, plenty of room for kids to play, and everyone was polite and respectful. Everything you could want from a small festival really. I can't wait to see what they come up with for next year.



VEGAS! continued



wash, and spritzed you with 200 dollar a bottle cologne. You could also indulge of any number of candies, gum, condoms, cigars, or cigarettes as well. It's true, I really enjoyed using the restroom. After the club we found an all-night diner/bar, and that's what it is in every sense of the wording. The waitresses wear evening gowns, and bring you gin and tonics with your eggs and bacon. Vegas!

All in all it was an amazing trip, and it made me realize something about that whacky town. From the outset Vegas is really just a clump of buildings in the middle of a big pile of sand. Nature threatens daily to take it over again, and maybe one day it will. But until then Sin City will be something different for me every time I go. And that's the genius of that place really; it's got something for everyone. Look for my next installment in another ten years.





It's A Wild Wild Life

By Charles Knight

Growing up in South Florida and the Everglades in the fifties through the eighties, I've been witness to hundreds if not thousands of wildlife and animals in action. I used to hunt every season. Deer season, turkey season, duck season, you get the gist. I've changed a bit and am more of a conservationist these days, I no longer hunt, at least not to kill. As a youth I was taught to only kill what you need unless you are in danger or under attack. Remember, life was very different back then, we ate more wild game than store bought food. I recall the first time that I ate wild hog meat. It was at a Boy Scout jamboree. To this day I recall it as being one of the most delicious things I had ever tasted.

That's right, I was a Boy Scout but at the time I was still a Cub Scout and the Jamboree was taking place very close to where I lived so we were invited to eat a meal with the troops. A lot of folks don't realize it but wild hogs are not indigenous to Florida. They are invasive and one of the most destructive creatures out there. They are capable of destroying acres of farmland in

short order. Imagine what they can do to a quarter acre yard. A true wild hog has the ability to maim and even kill a man or his pets. Should you encounter one in the wild I suggest you get the hell out of its way.

As luck would have it there is a large hog trap set up in our back yard here in Melbourne as I type this. About a week ago a neighbor told me that he had seen two piglets rooting in his yard and in a vacant property across the street. Where there are piglets there is a sow (mother) nearby. Now we do NOT live in the woods. We are very close to one of Melbourne's busiest thoroughfares and there are literally hundreds of homes and businesses surrounding us. Hell, the Oaks Mall is a leisurely five minute walk from us! Naturally I took his statement with a grain of salt (I thought he might have been mistaken). Well, Lissa and I went to do our show as usual last night and returned home at a little after 2 am. After entering the house the babysitter immediately asked if we knew there were some wild pigs in the neighborhood. I asked "Why?" Evidently she had been sitting in the back screened patio smoking a cigarette. Our cat was on the porch as well when a pig must have sensed its presence and rammed the kick plate of the patio. The cat went into defensive mode when he and the sitter both made a beeline into the house. I immediately posted that I needed to get my hands on a trap. A close friend made a call and lo and behold I was awakened early this morning and helped unload the large and heavy trap into our back yard. After scouring the fence line we found where the hogs had torn through it and rooted for grubs or whatever. It's the same type of steel fencing seen in millions of yards all over America and beyond. They tore through it as though it were made of paper.

A hog trap is made of very heavy gauge steel and baited with dried corn. It's ready to go and I am hoping to catch them while we are at tonight's

show. If we are fortunate enough to capture them all or at least two of them I want to dig a pit and slow cook them underground. That's the best way to do it and well...Yum! If you are not familiar with wildlife or the handling of it, I would suggest that you call a professional trapper or the FWC as there is danger involved. Sometimes a lot of danger. Remember, in Florida there are a LOT of things that will kill you if given the opportunity, and I am not just talking about murderous humans here.

On another note I want to mention a guy in the Everglades that is probably doing more to eradicate the invasive python population than anyone else. Dustin Crum has an eye for snakes. You and I may walk right beside a well hidden non indigenous python that is so well camouflaged that only the best eye can see it from a few feet away. That's not Dustin, he can be driving down one of the hundreds of gravel roads in the Big Cypress swamp and see a glint in the brush. He will stop the truck, jump out and run into the brush and wrestle the culprit into captivity as nonchalantly as you might walk into a fast food restaurant.

He presently holds the record for captures in the Glades and frequently catches snakes in excess of sixteen feet on a regular basis. With his bare hands. You can see him mentioned on the news pretty often these days and he was recently visited by Jack and Ozzy Osbourne along with their film crew. I for one certainly appreciate his efforts to curtail the spread of this seemingly uncontrollable animal. With no natural predators these snakes can very well be the end of wildlife as we know it in Florida. That's correct, all of Florida and possibly even north of us. These snakes can and will be here soon enough. They can even kill and eat the meanest of wild hogs. That's my Flori-Duh!





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Investing in Real Estate in 2018

Over the long haul, investing in real estate has proven to be a very rewarding step in increasing income and in building wealth. Even with a conservative investment practice, the rewards are often very positive.

There is huge appeal right now in investing in real estate. Why is that a true statement? And why is that true in Brevard? Let's examine the factors that shape residential real estate investing in Brevard.

- Interest rates are at historically low levels. With 20 percent down payment, an investor with good credit can obtain a rate in the neighborhood of 4.75 percent. Many properties today will provide a return on investment in the 7-8 percent range, while a much smaller percentage of properties will yield 10-12 percent.
- Rental rates have risen greatly in the past 5 to 10 years. A shortage of housing in Brevard has led to increased rental prices throughout the county. Houses that leased for \$800-\$1000 prior to 2007 are now leasing at rates from \$1200-\$1600 monthly. Sale prices have increased also, but it is still possible to exact a decent return due to the need for housing for the influx of people coming to Florida.
- The unemployment rate is now around 3.6 percent. That is essentially full employment. With almost all employable people working, they can pay the rent on time. That keeps a landlord happy and he usually will take good care of the property if he is getting his rent on time. And many of the jobs here are higher paying jobs with expectations of long lasting employment. Many of the higher wage earners buy homes instead of renting, however some job transferees do rent for a period of time, 6 months to a year before purchasing.
- Baby boomers up north are retiring and moving to Florida in record numbers. Many purchase a home, but it is not unusual for those folks to rent before purchasing, especially if they are not familiar with the area. Renting for 7-12 months will give them time to explore locations where they may wish to purchase.
- Our local economy is booming!! Both residential and commercial construction are breaking new ground each

month. Tourism and hospitality businesses are doing well, and they employ many workers who don't have a down payment needed to purchase, so they rent.

• The national economy has recovered from the Great Recession of 2007-2011. Donald Trump has led the call for "America first" and many companies have decided to stay in USA and invest in their properties and factories here instead of moving overseas. States often give large tax incentives to companies for major expansions or relocation. This results in higher wages, lower unemployment, and more spending on the part of the workers. Thus, the overall outlook for our economy is positive and encouraging. With our economy going great, businesses will invest and spend more, pay higher wages, and keep people working. When people have a steady income, they can pay their rent on time and keep money flowing through the pipeline.

• Housing sale prices in Brevard have risen an average of 15-1 percent since 2011. The booming economy, influx of people to Florida, and the shortage of housing here will continue to lead to increasing prices. So by purchasing an investment property in this market, one can build equity each year as the economy continues to prosper and result in higher property values. This makes for a very appealing avenue of investment to realize a steady income stream and build wealth.

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Going Green

"It's a plant that is all natural and is used as medicine in other countries"- anonymous post

The truth hides within division. We hear voices from opposing sides, but is anyone listening? It appears to be more important to shout louder and ignore the facts if they do not support your viewpoint. We call that concrete thinking, idiotic, wrong, and stubborn. Again, unless we agree.

Turn on any news station or talk show lately and you'll see it more now than ever. You may get wrapped up and sucked in to debates about the presidency, what lives matter, taking a knee, and sexual misconduct allegations. Issues that the mere voicing of opinion are causing strains on friendships, have led to social media unfriending and unfollowing, and even breakups.

As important and vital as individual opinion is, in the case of substances, addiction, and treatment, it can be life threatening. Your opinion and what works for you may lead another person into a continuing spiral of destruction and self harm. So lets tread lightly when someones life may be at stake.

Your personal story and experience does not make something factual. It's irresponsible and potentially dangerous when you make claims based on anecdotal information. This is when a person says something like; "I smoke Kratom and it has helped me tremendously with my pain and heroin addiction. Everyone should use it. It's completely safe." Well, how many people have smoked cigarettes for over 20 years and didn't get Cancer? Does that make cigarettes safe? How many people have used opiates after surgery then stopped taking them shortly after? Does that make them a smarter or stronger person? Does that make opiates safe?

Every substance, including those so deeply rooted in our diets like sugar and caffiene can be harmful. So why do we argue about marijuana or Kratom? The short answer is; because those that argue about it want to use it. Many of us want to drink or smoke what we want without consequence. So much so that we ignore science or distrust those that study it because they are not reporting the results we want.

Instead we trust those that claim the same as we do because they are saying exactly what we want to hear.

There are so many people addicted to opiates. They are suffering and want so desperately to loosen the grip that opiates have on their mind & body. This makes them vulnerable to false claims and promises. Especially when those claims involve the ability to keep using something that can mimic the desired effects. Ignoring the risk involved. Not having to hurt. Not having troubling thoughts and memories that may have led to more use to begin with. Not having to process difficult emotions or deal with them. No need for group sessions, therapy, or meetings of any kind. The predators circle around and sometimes we call them friends. The same friends who steal our dope and help us look for it.

The business of keeping you sick and avoiding real recovery is big. Everyday thousands of orders flood thru the internet to bring more synthetic & so-called "natural" substances into the U.S. Our mail system delivers like mules. The same individuals who distrust our legal system and our government, place their lives in the hands of invisible entrepreneurs hidden away from the grasp of accountability.

Others have used substances they find in local 'head shops' to find relief. How can you blame them? Withdrawals from opiates are not fun and continued use is even worse. Also, not everyone wants to be drug free. Some want the positive effects of substances without the legal problems or loved ones nagging at them. This opened the doors for all of the synthetics, Kratom and so many other 'legal' alternatives we can't keep up with.

I don't want to fight anyone about things like marijuana or Kratom. Street propaganda says one thing and government propaganda says another. However, any claims to something being natural and therefore safe, is ridiculous. Naturally grown does not equal safe. Poison Ivy is natural, but is it used in skin creams? We can name many other plants that have proven to be poisonous or harmful if ingested. So natural or it being a plant of any family, does not make the argument a victory. Poppy plant, Coca plant, Tobacco, and Angel Trumpets come to mind.

I don't even wish to touch on the synthetics in this article because you can't even claim natural with them. Those using them know they are man made chemicals and are being targeted because of their desire to fly under the radar. Blind trust given simply because those businesses know how to manipulate and tap into a very vulnerable population. While protecting a substance you choose to use we ignore what may really be going on with each individual person and what is hidden within the outward use and behaviors. I am not against anything that may be helpful to the clients I treat. However, it is a great responsibility and I like science. Let's fight for proof; let's get the research done. Until then, let's keep our eyes wide open and avoid the trickery.

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Kelsey's in Cape Canaveral The Best of Italian Cuisine, Mediterranean Fare & More

By Charlene Hemmle

For twelve years, Kelsey's in Cape Canaveral has been serving tourists, locals and even astronauts hearty, scratch cooked meals. One visit and it's clear why they happily return time and time again. Located adjacent to the Preacher Bar, and with the same owners, Kelsey's is a worldly eatery adorned with a quirky nautical decor.

The menu is a bountiful combination of fresh seafood, hearty pizzas, decadent pasta and other specialties. Dough for pizza and calzones is house made twice daily and the fresh (never canned) topping varieties make possibilities endless. Hawaiian, Gourmet, BBQ and Cuban are a few of their Specialty Pizzas that

should certainly be tried.

Soups and salads are also popular at Kelsey's. The Greek and Chef salads come in three sizes making them easy to enjoy as a small side, snack or full meal. They have a delicious Caesar and fruit lovers will delight in the Wildberry Salad with a mango poppy seed dressing. Pasta is also perfectly pre-

pared at Kelsey's in many forms such as cheesy Lasagna, Manicotti and Alfredo or their House Pasta with meatballs, grilled chicken strips and meat sauce over spaghetti.

Doggie bag the leftovers and save room for dessert because there are 13 sweet options all under \$5.50 like Key Lime Pie, Tiramisu, various Cheesecake flavors, Lemoncello Cake, Baklava and Chocolate Bourbon cake. Yeah, just try to resist any of those.

During lunch, single slices of pizza are available along with other lunch portioned entrees like Penne Gorgonzola, Spanakopita, Ahi or Shrimp Tacos and sandwiches like Mahi Mahi or their slow roasted and juicy Prime Rib Sub. They

have plenty of parking or conveniently offer take out, catering and will even deliver to anywhere in Cocoa Beach.

Share a Margarita or Sangria Pitcher with friends or choose from a fully stocked bar, over 30 bottled beers, 24 draft beers and a size-able wine list. Happy Hour is 3 to 6 pm daily and Kelsey's in Cape Canaveral happily treats you to \$1.00 off any drink.

There are four other Kelsey's locations, each having a different ambiance, personality and owner. But overall, Kelsey's are warm, welcoming restaurants with superior service and fantastic food choices - places guaranteed to maximize your happiness.

Photos by Michal Janicek



CHRISTMAS WINDOWS BY MIKE MCCLOSKEY

By Heike Clarke

Every year when the holidays are approaching downtown Eau Gallie turns into a Christmas Wonderland with beautiful window murals decorating the individual shops. This tradition has been going back for at least a decade, even before the area became an official art district. *Brevard Live Magazine* met the artist behind this seasonal decoration and - lo and behold - it's Mike McCloskey who's known for his gigantic murals that cover entire buildings.

For McCloskey this is an annual routine: "I've been painting windows for over 40 years and every year I do holiday window painting in whatever city I've lived in. I owned a company called *Nationwide Window Advertising* that did promotional window painting for Wen-

dy's, McDonald's excetera. We painted most of the major Market areas in the country for Wendy's International all throughout the late 80s and 90s. Every year around the holiday season business would die off completely so I started doing holiday window painting to make up for





Beautiful Christmas Decoration in Eau Gallie

the loss of income.” When he moved from Virginia Beach to Brevard County in 2004 to be closer to his elderly parents, he brought this idea with him. The first time Mike printed up flyers and went to the individual shops to offer his services. The merchants were interested and Mike had a busy holiday season.

Depending on the design and size a painting can take from an hour to a couple of days. “I usually confer with my client before I begin, and it really depends on what kind of budget they have available.” He creates elves, santas, christmas trees, and entire holiday landscapes that have to be finished by December 1st so it can enchant the shoppers until it will be washed off when the holidays are over.

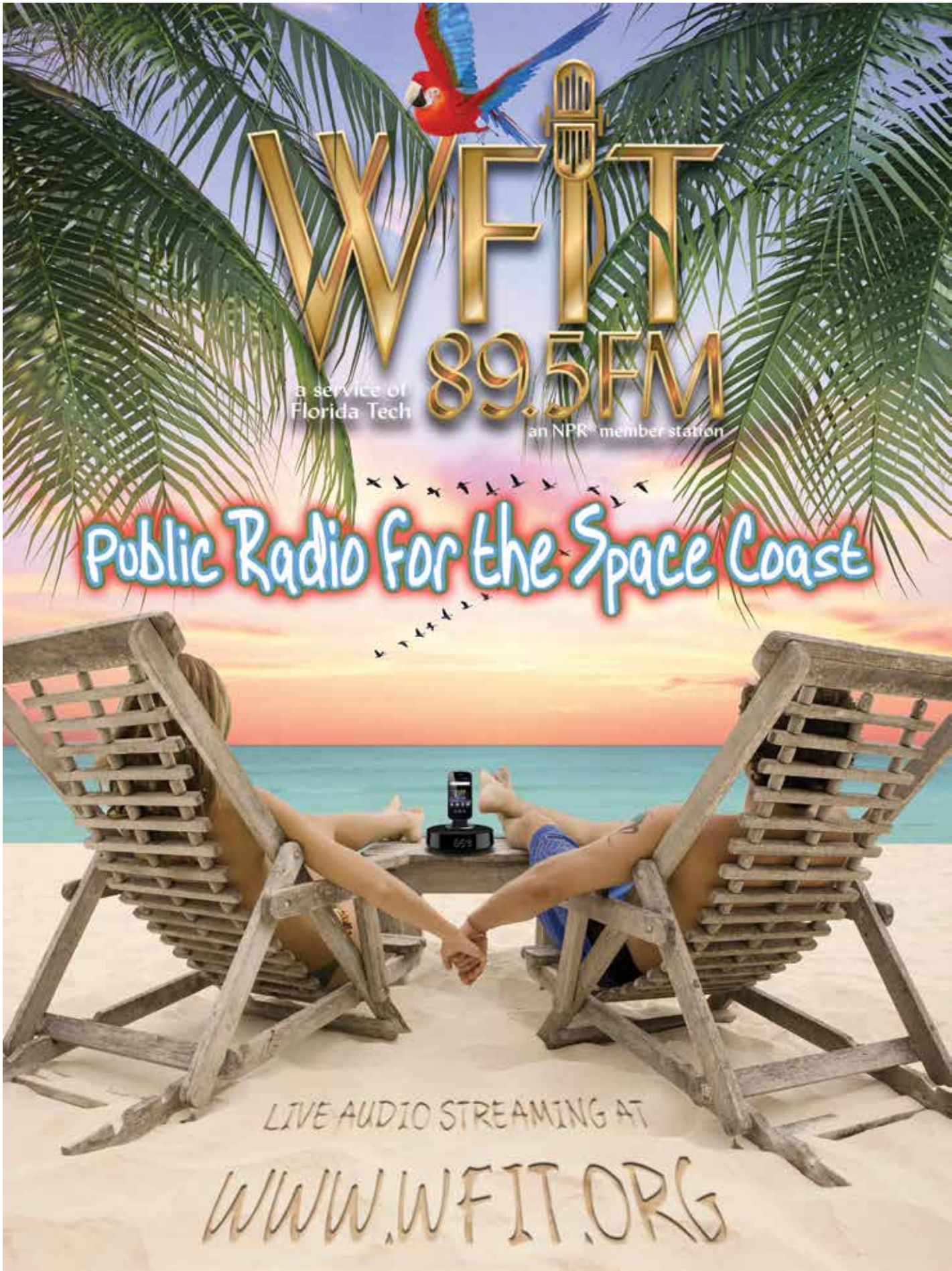
McCloskey’s work speaks for itself. You’ll see it every time you cross the Melbourne Causeway westbound - the giant snook with a tarpon on the wall of Harry Goode’s Outdoor Shop. Mike is one of the few artists that have the experience to do work

that big and that’s why he’s been working with Mainstreet’s mural programs in Eau Gallie as well as Downtown Melbourne.

“I am an artist for hire,” says Mike who lives from his art work. To our knowledge he’s the only artist who offers these artistic window decorations on a large scale. Some of his clients include Mobility Medical, Long Doggers, Ace Hardware in Eau Gallie as well as many other businesses in the arts district. And if you visited ArtWorks last month you might have seen McCloskey at work along Highland Avenue.

Besides painting Mike has another talent and hobby he offers as a service. He likes to sing and play guitar. While he enjoys occasional jam sessions, he also gets some gigs and plays with local bands.

You can email him at miketheartist1@gmail.com, or connect with him via Facebook and if you need a mural, a window painting or a guitarist you can call him at 321-872-5341.



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DEC 30: GREG VADIMSKY

THURSDAY 7PM

DEC 7: JOE BARRERA

DEC 14: THE HITMEN

DEC 21: THE BEARDOS

DEC 28: THE BEARDOS

FRIDAY

DJ CHRIS 7PM, BANDS 9PM

DEC 1: 21 TO BURN

DEC 8: ADAWAK

DEC 15: GREG & BRIAN

DEC 22: SAM HILL & FRIENDS

DEC 29: ROCKFISH

SATURDAY

DJ CHRIS 8PM,

BANDS 9:30PM

DEC 2: SPANKS

DEC 9: BUCKSHOT

DEC 16: FUNPIPE

DEC 23: DJ CHRIS

DEC 30: THE DAY AFTER

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