

April 2020 Volume 29 Issue 1

Art | Music | Dining

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## Dear Brevard Live Readers

The magazine was produced and ready to go to print when everything changed. Clubs and restaurants closed per executive order by Gouverneur Ron DeSantis within a few days. The magazine received a lot of cancelations. Restaurants whose ads were done and were willing to battle the storm with less customers completely shut down. We followed their requests not to advertise their closed venues. What was left were 32 pages of articles and few advertisement. The King Center postponed a lot of the concerts in their ad. Please check their website. Victory Casino announced to be sailing again on April 1st, that ended up being an unintentional April fools joke. You will find updates on their Facebook page. All other advertisement should be correct. In these uncertain times, please call or visit websites to get the latest updates. We do not know when we can produce another print magazine as we need the support of our advertisers. But we will be back as soon as the pandemic is over and business has picked up. Visit our website [www.BrevardLive.com](http://www.BrevardLive.com) for updates and read our digital issue. Stay well, stay healthy.

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#### TRACEY CORYELL

She has worn a number of hats: singer, songwriter, business manager, wife. Now, three years after the untimely death of her world renowned musician/husband Larry Coryell, she sets out with the release of her 2nd CD *Ravel* and a life with herself in the spotlight.

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#### LOCAL LOWDOWN

Steve Keller is trying to keep you informed about our local music scene. It might be a while until you see them perform. In the meanwhile read what they have to say.

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#### THE BALLAD OF MATT & JANET

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Did you think it would happen? Of course not! After all the volunteer work to prepare for the 36th annual event, the Coronavirus canceled the festival.

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Filipski came to Melbourne 26 years ago to escape the long winters of Buffalo, NY. He now lives in Palm Bay where he brought up his kids. Filipski is a part of the Off Center Art Center in Downtown Melbourne, the SBG Gallery and the Upside Gallery.

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## BREVARD LIVE

The largest and most popular free entertainment magazine on the Space Coast and beyond for 29 years.

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at [www.brevardlive.com](http://www.brevardlive.com)



## THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED

It was a great start of the month, March was hopping with activities, the weather was like a fairy tale. Everyone was looking forward to Spring Break. We all knew that our beaches will be packed with young people, and the bars and restaurants would have the best time of the entire year 2020. The Corona virus? That was an issue in China, Italy, and lately we had received some troubling news from Washington State, but Florida? - Nah!

By Mid-March we knew that something was up. Governor Ron DeSantis announced on March 17th that all public gatherings were suspended. Night clubs and bars had to close, concerts were postponed, the St. Patrick's Day Parades were canceled. At that time the restaurants were allowed to keep their dining rooms open at half capacity, and most establishments complied. Nobody knew for how long - the word on the street was 2 weeks. On March 20th, Governor DeSantis issued an Executive Order, directing "all restaurants and food establishments within the State of Florida to suspend on-premises food and alcohol consumption for customers. The listed establishments may, however, operate their kitchens for the purpose of providing delivery or take-out services." For a little while most places

tried to switch over to curb side service, but in many cases it was not worth the effort. People go out to eat and drink AND socialize.

The photo above was taken on Saturday evening, March 21st, a day after the complete shut down. A few restaurants still continue the allowed take-out service: Earl's Hideaway, Cantina Dos Amigos, and those that have drive thru windows like Moo's Soft Serve and Mustard's Last Stand. Florida Beer sells beverages to go.

When will it come back? All bar and restaurant owners were told that this was for 30 days, and if you don't watch any news channels, it's a hope one can hang onto. Most venues started a big Spring cleaning and tried to partially keep their staff working. The rest was unemployed, no gigs for musicians anywhere. When President Trump announced that the US will open by Easter, there was another hope. But a virus won't be dictated when to shut down, so we will find out.

To our local musicians: Please read page 3 for information about additional help that Brevard Music Group and Brevard Live Magazine are working on. It will be a drop in the bucket. But we want to help as much as possible.

Photo: Chuck Van Riper

Wednesday  
April 29, 7:30 PM

**RICKIE  
LEE  
JONES**



**This show has been postponed**

Rickie Lee Jones has spent a lifetime dancing with her muse. She is the most iconic American female singer-songwriter of her time, a woman who outlasted all her adversaries—including youth and self-destruction. A seasoned humility brings her performances an authenticity that only long-enduring musicians achieve. Her artistry is brilliantly underlined with her 2019 forthcoming album *KICKS*. The album spans two decades (50s-70s) of pop, rock and jazz, presenting her unique and sophisticated interpretations of songs that were pivotal to her musical journey.

By the time she was 19, Jones was living in Los Angeles, waiting tables and occasionally playing music in out of the way coffee houses and bars. All the while, she was developing her unique aesthetic: music that was sometimes spoken, often beautifully sung, and while emotionally accessible, she was writing lyrics as taut and complex as any by the great American poet, Elizabeth Bishop. In Jones' voice and songs, we saw smoky stocking seams, love being everything but requited. And it was during these years that Rickie Lee's song, "Easy Money," caught the attention of one musician and then the music industry. The song was recorded by Lowell George, the

founder of the band, Little Feat. He used it on his solo album, *Thanks, I'll Eat It Here*. Shortly thereafter, Warner Brothers auditioned Jones and quickly signed her to the label.

Her 1979 debut *Rickie Lee Jones* (Warner Bros) won the Grammy for "Best New Artist." She was hailed by one critic as a "highly touted new pop-jazz-singer-songwriter" and another critic as "one of the best—if not the best—artist of her generation." In addition to the album's brilliant songs including the exceptional "On Saturday Afternoons in 1963," the haunting "Last Chance Texaco," and the popular "Chuck E's in Love" - Jones was becoming a figure whose life was bearing a great deal of emulation by young women and men who found, in her deep and personal and idiosyncratic life and work, a model for the new generation of hipster.

The American culture was instantly intrigued. Rickie Lee seemed as much of a hit as her song. She was the alternative to punk/new wave, representing the revitalization of the dying art of the pop song. She liked pop and said so. Jones' work was the amalgamation of jazz and rock and pop, a percolating zygote that made itself into a brave new world called RICKIE LEE JONES. American culture was changed.

Her second release, *Pirates*, was instantly hailed as one of the great albums of all time, garnering the elusive 5-star review and a second cover in *Rolling Stone*. Rickie Lee Jones seemed to be able to do anything the boys could do, and on her own terms. Her impact would be felt long after, even when she herself became one of the long unrecognized American treasures.

Rickie Lee Jones was the IT girl of the 80's, trend setter, beautiful big smile and long blonde hair, gyrating teenager in a spandex one-piece, a temptress in lacy elbow length gloves and heels - still a popular rock costume today. She abandoned the "dress like a guy to be taken seriously" maxim and she ushered in a new epoch in singer/songwriters - the pop singer. Still, she is often associated with a musical generation 10 years her senior. And it is easy to see why: Rickie Lee was the last to be associated with the first wave of singer songwriters and the first of an amalgamation of pop/jazz/rock singer songwriter--the self-made personality-driven icon.

Before Rickie Lee Jones, the genre of singer songwriter was derived entirely from the folk singers of the 50's and 60's. She brought jazz to the rock stage, a teenaged recklessness and a flair for drama. From the get-go, it was unclear which genre she was to rule. Rickie Lee was voted best jazz singer in *Playboy* and *Rolling Stone* polls two years in a row.

***Right before Brevard Live Magazine went to print, we were informed that the show was postponed along with many other concerts in April. Please visit [www.kingcenter.com](http://www.kingcenter.com). Ticket holders for shows that are canceled will be automatically refunded to their original payment method. Ticket holders for shows that are postponed may hang onto their tickets for now until the King Center will provide further information at a later date.***





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# TRACEY CORYELL

By Steve Keller

*“Even when I’m drowning I can still see underwater. And when the clock strikes twelve I know my fairy tale’s not over.”*

So says Orlando by way of Brevard resident Tracey Coryell. The singer/songwriter has worn a number of hats; singer, songwriter, business manager, wife. Now, three years after the untimely death of her world renowned musician/husband Larry Coryell, she sets out with the release of her 2nd CD *Ravel* and a life with herself in the spotlight.

“I’ve been playing music since I was 13,” the 50 year old Coryell begins during a Sunday afternoon conversation. The New Jersey native is “self taught; started with keyboards and electric guitar, songwriting only.” She didn’t start singing until her college years when a friend suggested she sing on her own demos. “In 1989, I joined a cover band and began the singer’s journey,” she recalls. “I picked up an acoustic guitar in 1995 after I moved to Florida, and changed styles from dance to emotional rock/ pop rock. She lists her influences as Colin Hay (Men At Work) and Sarah McLachlan.

Listening to Tracey Coryell’s songs, you can hear the Sarah McLachlan influence. She shares a story; “So fast forward to I’m married and living in Orlando with my hubby Larry Coryell; managing all of his business affairs is now my full time job,” she explains. “An email comes in from Sarah’s acoustic guitar player, asking for permission to record one of Larry’s

tunes as part of a solo thing he’s doing. Of course, Lar gave permission and signed the contract and, of course, had to slip in that I was a fan and songwriter. So he says, send me a tune and I’ll forward it to her. I got a message back relayed from him that she loved the tune and good luck etc. I didn’t expect much more but it was a bit of a thrill and inspired me for a while.”

Getting a pat on the back from one of your idols all the while being married to one for so many was Coryell’s life. “I lived in Brevard, West Melbourne specifically, from 1998 to 2006. It’s where I met my husband,” she recalls. Larry Coryell was highly regarded as a pioneering fusion guitarist who explored everything from psychedelic rock to unaccompanied acoustic music to straight-ahead bebop.” “We married in 2007 and I had a lot of fun touring with Lar,” she explains. Tracey would often jam with her world famous husband. “We did many impromptu live performances and recordings with him. Coryell would eventually write and record her first solo album in 2015 called *Eleven:11*.

“I had a thing with seeing “11” everywhere at that time. I was very much struggling with a newly discovered disorder called OCD Contamination,” she recalls. The disorder Contamination OCD is a well-known subset of OCD whereby sufferers are terrified that they might become contaminated by germs or get sick. 25% of OCD sufferers in the U.S. have it, and it’s the most common subset of OCD in the world. “Making the record was my battle against it,” she explains. “It brought me back to life you could say.”

Larry Coryell plays on 5 of the tracks

on *Eleven:11*. One track in particular, ‘A Hundred Years’ was written about him. “I can’t begin to tell you how precious this is to me,” she writes about the song on her Facebook page. Social media has become an important element in getting her music out. *Traceyland.com* is her main website. Filled with links to her videos and upcoming/part tour dates, she also sells a number of different merchandise. From Soul Sacred Tea Shirts to guitar jewelry and Scent of Music; her own line of essential oils. It is quite an impressive array of items and music to introduce people to her artistry. Coryell’s latest CD *Ravel* is also available for purchase on the site.

*Ravel*, the opposite of unravel, has special meaning to Coryell. In addition to the songs on the release, the title track is a brief, spoken word poem. “Riddle me this, see if I miss. See if I run,” she recites. The words seem to dare her to try to succeed. The rest of the disc longs for a simpler time of a coffee shop songstress. Coryell’s deeper voice and phrasing brings to mind 90s singer Paula Cole. The disc also includes the song ‘My Meditation’. The song and accompanying video features guitarist Waldemar Maciag. “He’s actually a catholic priest,” Coryell explains of the Polish born Floridian transplant. “Originally, I contacted him to be part of my Cinderella music video. His nickname is Fr. V. We’ve since written a couple songs together.”

Fr. V is also friends with international band Carpe Diem. “He wrote lyrics for their song “Intense” and talked me up a little,” Coryell states. “Next thing you know he’s telling me they want to do a duet with me.” Through the magic of technology, Coryell was able to record her vocals here locally in Brevard. “Tracey has an incredible work ethic and is a vocal perfectionist,” says producer Albert Biele, producer and owner of *Trebla Studios* in Melbourne. Coryell recorded her vocals for the song



there in just a few hours. “I’m looking forward to working with her on her upcoming projects.”

On the agenda for Coryell is more shows. “I would love to play with a full band again,” she answers when asked about upcoming bucket list goals. For now she performs solo and with musician Michiko Morell. The duo played together at last year’s Space Coast Music Festival. “It was brilliant!” she exclaims when asked about the experience. “It was very special to me because it was part of my journey as a widow and getting back into the music scene. It was my first gig back!” Videos of their performance, as well as Coryell’s music videos can be found on *YouTube* and the aforementioned *Traceyland.com*.

Coryell has lived in many different worlds. After so many years behind the scenes, she is pushing forward on her own and her heartfelt songs. What may have seemed like a fairy tale, the world and potential for Coryell’s success is very much real.





By Steve Keller

## LOCAL LOWDOWN

Greetings! We continue to head down this road known as 2020. Hope all is well in these uncertain times. This month we'll be taking a look at the movers and shakers in the local music scene. Those who have gone from the basements and garages of Brevard to the clubs and your online speakers! Here are the 'April Powers' that have new releases out, as well as new projects that everyone should be aware of. As usual, the scene offers many different styles for everybody's enjoyment. Do yourself a favor and stretch your musical horizons and discover what our area has to offer. Here we go...

Very excited to report on and admittedly a little late to talk about **Higher The Mountain**. I caught up with scene vet Billy Chapman who has again ventured into the land of original music. Here's what he said about the band's origins;

"Our singer, Matt (Tuzson), was living in Nebraska a year ago and met a band that was travelling through town. He had them over and played them his music. When he asked what he should do with his songs, they said "get out of Nebraska!" So Matt moved with his daughter to Melbourne, first person he knew told him about a Mon-

day night jam. Matt goes to the jam, meets Andrew Walker running the jam, and plays his set. Andrew told him about a jam I go to on Wednesdays and he came in. I played guitar behind him and we met and really enjoyed his songs and playing together. The next night Matt and I went out and were going to play as a duo, when Andrew offered to play bass, and Shawn (King) said he would play drums. We played a set and said, "Whoa". We began practicing the next week, and are still really enjoying the ride. In reference to the beginning of the story, the band that Matt got to know was called **Audic Empire**. They are a reggae/rock outfit from Austin, TX. Six months after Matt befriended them, we opened up for them in Sanford. We opened for them again in Melbourne last month! Great guys."

I've known the band **Breathing Theory** for what seems forever, and believe me that's not a bad thing. My band used to practice next door to them when they were still called **Burn The Sky**. I, along with everyone else, am able to see them evolve into the unit that that are today. I caught up with guitarist Colin Morrison and singer Cory Britt after a special hometown show last month in Cocoa Village.

"We released *Balance* a little over 2 months ago and are super happy with the response, especially on songs like 'Escape'," says Morrison. "We feel like we have finally found ourselves and our sound as a band and are very excited as we continue to write new music to release in the coming months." Britt adds, "We went through a lot of ups and downs trying to get that album done. Despite the struggles, despite the depression, the hard times, we were able to come out on top."

"If you listen to the full tracklisting, it tells the story of what we have all been through," Morrison tells the Lowdown. "Through writing the record we went from being a road warrior band, working with producer

Malcolm Springer in Nashville on two tracks to coming home and finding our balance in life. Each song is a story of the journey for us, and it took that journey for us to find who we are at this point as artists and to figure out what exactly we are looking to be as a band," he says. "It's not just cut and dry, and it's not just cookie cutter. I love that we were able to put out something well rounded," Britt explains. Morrison sums up the band's plans now that the new record is out. "Now that *Balance* is released we are making our plans to hit the road again, we definitely miss our friends and fans out on the road and it has been a long time coming. You can find the record on any of your favorite streaming platforms. If you like it, shoot us a message and let us know. Come to our shows and hang with us, and share with your friends. This is what we live for and we don't intend on slowing down anytime soon."

Another group that played alongside Breathing Theory last month was a reunited **Vilifi**. Singer/guitarist Shain Honkonen reflected to me days after the show what it meant to be back with original members bassist Dylan Thomas and drummer Jake Hogeland. "It was an awesome, beautiful, fleeting moment that I will cherish forever," he said. The capacity crowd loved it too, even if it was only one night. I have no idea if we will ever play together again?", he questions out loud. One thing I can speak to is that musicians love feedback. If you want Vilifi back playing shows, let them know. Post on their social media, tell club owners to book them. Show some love to a truly talented band that the scene needs back.

It was announced at Fresh Fest last month, that the **Space Coast Music Festival** will be happening Saturday November 7, 2020 in EGAD. Organizer Steven 'Born' Spencer had this to say; "Thank you to everyone that made

the 2019 festival a success; and we look forward to November 7th. Keep an eye out for the website to be updated soon, for sponsors, bands, and vendor links. Huge thank you to the community for helping us raise over \$13,000 for local Brevard music programs. I can honestly say that working on the last year's reboot is the crown jewel of my accomplishments in this music scene. The sky is the limit in making this year's endeavors even bigger and better as we continue to improve music education in Brevard County."

With all the established bands currently on the scene, there are local musicians looking to start projects. Talented musician and entrepreneur **Tiffany Barry** is looking to put together a jazz combo. "Looking for an upright bassist/pianist/trumpeter interested in playing the Great American Songbook and Post-modern Jukebox. Wanting to perform once a month with gigs already lined up. Could evolve from there!" Barry notes "positive vibes only," stating she can be reached at facebook.com/tiffany.barry... If metal is more your style, former Wolves At Your Door frontman **Keith Goldsworth** wants to talk to you. "I am a metal vocalist in Melbourne. I am looking for metal musicians in the area that are interested in starting a metalcore/deathcore band. The vision I have for this band is heavily influenced by bands such as Wage War, Fit For An Autopsy, A Day To Remember, and Thy Art is Murder. My goal is to write songs about the struggles that those with mental health problems face everyday of our lives. I've seen to many kids hurt themselves or worse because they feel out of place and misunderstood. Music, and I believe, especially metal music can help exponentially with problems like depression, anxiety, loneliness, anger, and so much more. No one has to be alone in this world. I am seeking two guitars, bass, and drums. Anyone interested can reach me on facebook, or email me at Celexaofficial@gmail.

com." Good luck to all involved...

Good friend of the Lowdown, rapper **Mac Ro** has dropped a new release. "This is the continuation of my anime themed albums. *Straw Hat Mac* and *Fire Fist Mac* we're both released in December. So this is the third album I'm releasing within three months and the first one of the new decade. The tone of the album is similar to *Fire Fist Mac* with the aggression and energetic beat selection but it also has some more melodic styles that were explored in the *Straw Hat Mac* album. It's a great blend of different styles and there's something on the new album, *Samurai Mac*, that everyone can resonate with." Check him and his creative rhymes out online on Facebook and YouTube among others.

Those of you may remember great singer/bassist Australian native **Anni Piper** during her stint in Brevard some years ago. I'm happy to report that she is doing well and about to release a new album by the time you read this. "I loved Lou's Blues; incredible location, wacky decor, always a great sound engineer and such an interesting layout," she remembers. "I'll always remember the first time I arrived in Cocoa Beach in 2013. It was a dazzling summers day, the beach was packed with happy folk in swimsuits, and I was on a six week tour and had to leave the next day. I remember thinking to myself, wow, I could just stay right here!" Stay she did for three years until moving out west. Fans and friends can connect with her through her website *AnniPiper.com*.

Another blast from my past has a new album out. Fans of MTV's *Real World* way back in the 90s may remember Andre Comeau. He and his band **Reignance** were featured on the very first season set in New York City. I've stayed in touch with him ever since the band played in Buffalo while I was in college. Comeau now

lives on the West Coast with his family and has released *Wrong Within*, available on all social media platforms. My personal favorite off the new album is the song Firebird. Check it out! Fun fact: Reignance guitarist/co-vocalist Dean Fertita moved to Nashville with friend Jack White and is a member of both Queens of the Stone Age as well as The Dead Weather.

So much going on in our scene and we've just scratched the surface. I remain impressed with the volume (pun intended) of new music that continues to flow through our town. Touring shows come through and have a long list of solid opening acts available to them. Keep up the good work Brevard as we continue our musical journey together. As always, drop me a line at Keller5@hotmail.com as well as my social media. Talk more soon.



After the pandemic stopped all live entertainment and our local music scene in its tracks for a while, we know that you are waiting to get out and see them performing live again. Music fans know that nothing is as exciting as a live show - and they will be back, hopefully sooner than later.

While all bars and restaurants were ordered to close, some venues tried their best to keep the music alive. Musicians performed in some empty rooms while it was live streamed on the internet. Florida Beer was one of those places. There also were a lot of watch parties and live streamings set up by musicians on Facebook. Everyone did their best to entertain people because we all know: A world without music is a sad place to be!

We are looking forward to seeing you all again out and about enjoying yourself. Please check Facebook pages for the latest updates! Stay healthy.

*Heike Clarke/Brevard Live*



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## The Column

By **Chuck Van Riper**

### My Second House

My brother Bill and I, despite being identical twins, were very different in many ways. The best way I can describe it is that when we were in school, for example, I took all the art and music classes. My brother was taking Latin and Calculus. Interestingly, I took years of music theory and studied all the brass, woodwind, and string instruments (never play the flute!). Billy stayed pretty much to the guitar. One thing that surprised me later on in life, is how much he was into astrology. I never really got into that, although I admired those who did. I never understood all the terminology methodology involved. Billy had it down though. On one occasion, he wanted to do my chart. I asked him why it would be any different than his chart, being that we were born mere minutes apart and had the same DNA? He said those minutes made a difference. So I thought, OK, let's have some fun. Our conversation would go something like this:

Billy (B): Well it looks like Venus is moving into your second house. Me (C): Cool! Tell her to do the dishes and pay the mortgage for me. Does she do windows? B: No, that's not what it means! C: You mean she's moving in for free? B: No, not that kind of house! C: What do you mean? B: Your chart is divided into 12 sections called "houses". Each house represents a different experience or energy. The planets alignment to each house in a birth chart reflects the influences on a person's life. C: So if Mars moved into my second house that would mean something different? B: Exactly! C: Maybe he would do the dishes. B: Shut up and pay attention! Now each house is a different aspect of your life. C: Do any of them have to do with getting the dishes done? B: Stop it! No! Each house deals with a different aspect of your life. For example, the first house deals with the self, new beginnings and independence. Your second house deals with money, material possessions and day-to-day tasks. C: Aha! So it does deal with doing the dishes! B: No, well maybe very indirectly.. now shut up and listen! Your third house deals with communication, ideas and short distance travel. C: How short a distance? B: I don't know, it really doesn't specify C: So this isn't very specific, is it? B: Yes it is..but.. C: Well, what are we talking about more than a mile, less than a mile, less than 50,000 miles what? B: It just means a short

distance.. C: Like 3 miles? B: Ok, 3 miles.. C: Oh good then I can get to Best Buy and get a dish washer... B: Shut up and listen! None of this has to do with doing your dishes! C: Oh, how about paying the mortgage on my second house? B: No! I told you it's not that kind of house. Now pay attention! Your fourth house deals with home, family and emotions. C: When does Venus move into my fourth house? B: Uhhh..not until September C: Damn! I have to wait until September to get my dishes done? B: What the hell are you talking about? C: Well, that's the house that deals with home, right? Guess you could say that that's the house that deals with house!...lol B: No, no, no, now shut up and listen! Now your fifth hose deals with creativity, fun and romance, your sixth house deals with health, organization and routines, the seventh house deals with relationships, contracts and marriage, your eighth house deals with sex, mystery, and other people's money, the ninth house deals with learning and spirituality... C: Wait, I have a question! When is my seventh house here? B: What do you mean? All of them are always there. C: So what's in my sixth house? Should I buy a dishwasher now or wait? B: No, it doesn't work like that! Now shut up and listen!! The tenth house is for achievement and authority C: (mumbling) I sure wish I could achieve getting my dishes done B: The eleventh house is about friendship and humanitarianism, and finally..the twelfth house deals with intuition arts and endings. C: So there are 12 houses, like there are twelve months, or twelve colors, or twelve notes, or twelve hours on a clock. B: Yes. C: So do the houses correlate with the months? So, then do we get a leap house every 4 years? B: No! It's not like that. Houses change due to the movement of the planets. They change every day! C: Well, that can't be true. My dishes have been sitting there for at least a week. B: Will you stop with the dishes! You just don't get it! When a planet moves into one of your houses, things change! That's about as simple as I can make it! C: Ok, ok, I kinda get it. What does it mean when a planet goes retro grade? B: Good question. Now we're getting somewhere. A planet goes into retrograde when it appears to start moving in the opposite direction. This is due to the planet's revolution in relation to Earth. C: So it's not real? Just an illusion? B: Uhhh.... yea. C: So, unlike my dishes, astrology is an illusion? B: No! just retrograde! What's wrong with you? Forget it! I give up. Go practice the flute, you need work on that!

So, I never really did figure the whole astrology thing out. I'll leave that to people with more knowledge than I. Notice though, I made it through this whole article without mentioning the ubiquitous Uranus reference as used in too many punchlines. So if there are any of my astrology friends out there who can explain this to me, come on over to my second house. Maybe you can help me with the dishes, too.



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### THE BALLAD OF MATT AND JANET

By Matthew Bretz

As a monthly writer, who seems to utilize his by line as a therapeutic outlet, I will occasionally receive feedback from readers as well as gentle recommendations (some not so gentle) on what they would like me to write about. I always appreciate constructive return and love hearing from readers in general. If you weren't reading me, I wouldn't have a job so never discount any connection I can make. That being said, I have received requests to explain what happened between me and my former partner Janet and how our relationship came to a sorrowful end. I wasn't originally going to write about it, but I guess it makes sense to bring that chapter to a close for anyone who followed our adventures over the last 8 years...and maybe me too. So, here you go - the Ballad of Matt and Janet.

I've only had a few serious relationships in my life. I dated around a lot, but I was never big on commitment, so anytime something starting smelling serious I would politely bow out. I was still in that mode when I miss Janet...a thin blonde breeze blown into my life on a cloud of laughter. From the very start she hit all the marks and our connection was instant and undeniable. We

did everything together, and within a few months were cohabitating. She adopted a little dog (Emmy), and shortly after I got Daisy. One day we found a kitten at a gas station, and a few years later we rescued Ellie. (stories about all of this are archived in the annals of this magazine) Before long, our little family was complete and we just lived life together. And 8 years went by in a heartbeat.

I will spare you the details of how it all fell apart except to say it was no different than what happens to many couples. We began to grow apart and have separate lives and all the little things we never fixed or talked about began to pile up and build a wall between us. A lot of people may think relationships end because of something big and sudden, but most of the time it's the little things that build up and slowly corrode everything from the inside out until one day it just doesn't make sense anymore. Even after it was over, I still thought we could be repaired, but she was done and I had to respect her feelings. We still loved each other, but we just weren't Matt and Janet anymore... not like we used to be. In any case, the decision was made and a date was set for her to move to Tampa with family. I have a house so I kept two dogs and the cat and she took Emmy. In the weeks leading up to her departure it was hard to accept as real. We still did things together, shared meals and slept in the same bed. We still used affectionate names for each other. By all accounts it still felt like we were together and although it made that time easier for both of us, in the end it made everything much more difficult. The day she left I woke up to her scurrying around the house to finish packing before her friend arrived to take her away forever. I was nearly having a panic attack. I was terrified, sad, and confused about what to feel or how to act. The plan was for me to say goodbye and take to dogs with me to a friends while she left. When the time came we tearfully

kissed one last time and said "I love you." And it was done.

Days before she left we talked about how things would be separated. We decided to stay in each other's lives and leave the door open to maybe reunite someday when we had both grown on our own. I never for a second thought I wouldn't see her or my dog again. But that morning was the last time I set eyes on her or Emmy, and, except for a short innocuous text every once in a blue moon, she won't talk to me. Even when Daisy suddenly died she wouldn't pick up the phone - only text. After eight years of hearing her voice and sleeping next to her she all but disappeared from my life.

I was completely devastated.

My life changed for the worse immediately. The whole world was suddenly covered with a gray filter deleting all the color and beauty. The birds she used to lovingly feed in the backyard stopped coming around. The dogs stopped eating and became depressed. Even the bees that used to attend her flowers seemed to disappear and be replaced by angry wasps. Home, in all its emptiness, was nowhere I wanted to be but I couldn't muster the energy to leave it either. All the magic was gone from my life, and I settled into a routine of work, school, sleep, repeat. Early on, friends and family tried to be supportive, but after a couple of months people get tired of being around Mr. Misery, but it takes a lot longer to get over almost of decade of love so I receded into myself. And there I stayed, silently grieving, for the last year. I tried dating a couple of times but it was never right and I still felt attached to Janet. I even made a surprise connection once but it turned out she was being haunted by ghosts of her own. Life just became a bowl of flavorless oatmeal I had to force feed myself to continue on.

continued page 18



# SUPER SPECIALS

## MONDAY

EL CHEAPO MENU  
ALL DAY ALL NIGHT  
\$3.25 SAUZA MARGARITAS  
\$6.00 KICK ASS MARGARITAS

## FAT TUESDAY

\$2.99 TACOS \$ 2.99 ENCHILADAS  
\$7.99 ESPOLOM MILLIONAIRE  
\$2.99 GOLD MARGARITAS  
\$2.50 BUD LIGHT PINTS

## WEDNESDAY

\$0.99 GOLD MARGARITAS  
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\$2.50 BUD LIGHT PINTS  
\$8.99 PATRON MILLIONAIRE  
\$10.99 ANY STREET TACO DINNER  
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(3) TACOS W/ BLACK BEANS  
RICE GUAC AND CHURRO  
\$10.99 1 LB. PEEL & EAT SHRIMP

## THURSDAY

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\$4.99 32 OZ. BUD LIGHT  
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## THE BALLAD OF MATT & JANET continued

And then Daisy died.

To say I lost my shit is an understatement. All the sadness and anxiety I was enduring became amplified. I couldn't sleep, but I didn't want to get out of bed. I tried not to think about my lost puppy but then felt guilty when I wasn't. I was recently contacted and asked why I was writing about the loss of Daisy and not Janet. In truth, writing about Daisy was the only way I could deal with her death while I was still mourning my relationship. And yes, I realize that the loss of a relationship and a dog cannot compare to what some others have gone through, but that doesn't make my experience any less sad or depressing, and this is my story not theirs.

Someone told me early on that it takes about a year to really get over the end of an important relationship. Six months to get over the loss, and six months to be okay alone. That last bit is the most important. Until your other half is gone you don't realize how much of yourself was tied up in the relationship. You aren't just losing that person and their companionship; you also lose some friends and their family adding to the loneliness. You have to learn how to eat alone, and browse bookstores alone, and see funny things on TV but not be able to share it. You have to relearn how to live by yourself and be okay with. It's a true culture shock on a very personal level. I still hate it.

Last month hit the year anniversary of what I refer to as "end of the world day," and it's now time for me to step back and take stock of where and who I am. Does time heal all wounds? I have no clue. I'm still sad all the time. I still miss her. I still feel lost and as if I'll be alone forever. Some days I feel like I'm feeling better, but it doesn't last forever. Does time heal all wounds? It helps at least, because lately I've started thinking about the future again... this time without her in it, and I've started writing songs again for the first time in a long time. And...I was able to write this entire column without crying. So, there's some progress as least. I feel my emotions very strongly, always have. And because of that I suffer greatly in the face of heartache. But, I have hope that one day soon that same emotional curse will be a good thing and let me enjoy happiness again. It's coming...I'm sure of it.



## Canceled For This Year **The 36th Annual Melbourne Art Festival**

Among the many event cancellations due to COVID-19 concerns is the 2020 Melbourne Art Festival. Originally scheduled for the end of April, the event was canceled when Brevard County announced the closure of parks and other facilities to public events until at least May.

The festival, which is run completely by volunteers, was to feature over 220 artists along with live music, a 5K race, sponsor displays, and diverse food and beverage options. The 36th annual festival will now be April 24 & 25, 2021. Melbourne Art Festival Committee meetings, which were being held weekly at the American Legion Post 81 in Melbourne, have also been canceled.

Melbourne Art Festival Committee members, who work tirelessly to book artists, sponsors, advertisers, patrons, bands and services to support the annual event will now focus on next

year's Festival as well as an Art Auction to be held later this year.

Proceeds raised at the festival and art auction, are used to encourage and support the arts and art education in Brevard County. The Melbourne Art Festival offers student scholarships to junior high and high school students for art classes and camps as well as funding for other educational art efforts and local art organizations. The Melbourne Art Festival has donated over \$100,000 to the community.

The Melbourne Art Festival is a juried Fine Arts Show, drawing artists from throughout Florida and the United States. Originally held in Downtown Melbourne, the Festival moved to Wickham Park in 2017 due to limited parking, downtown congestion, and space limitations for artists, sponsors, and food vendors. The MAF will be back bigger and better on the fourth weekend in April 2021.

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AM cruise



**APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>**

The Incredible Hypnotist Richard Barker

PM cruise



**APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>**

Peter Alden's After Taxes Rock 'n' Roll Celebration Show

AM cruise



**APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>**

SWITCH MIXTAPE

PM cruise



**APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>**

Scooter The DJ

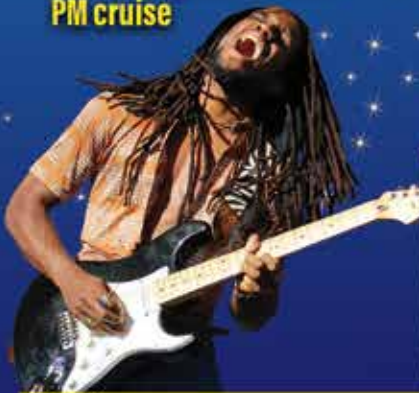
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**APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>**

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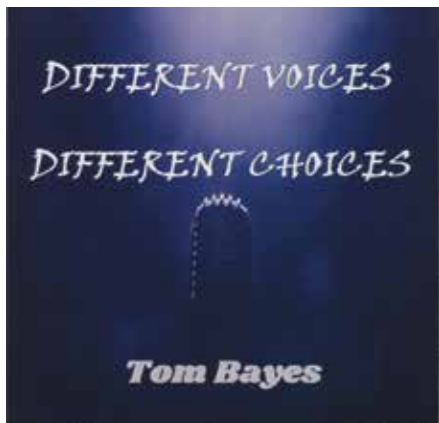
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## CD REVIEW

By Rob Pedrick



Tom Bayes  
*Different Voices*  
*Different Choices*

Let's go back a couple of decades or so. There was a time where Blues/Blues rock ruled. You could go out to any club, pub, dive, bar and grill, you name it, and there was a blues band playing various versions of tunes from their favorite artists. It wouldn't surprise me if somebody told me there were more blues bands than classic rock bands during that era. On any given night there was a blues jam being held in any of the aforementioned venues. We probably had about a dozen bands competing for gigs in the area. Mine was even one of them.

In the midst of all this blues resurgence was a gentleman named Tom Bayes. I remember him as a drummer mostly. At first I wasn't very impressed with his abilities. My drummer at the time, a very accomplished jazz player, sat me down and had me actually listen to what was going on. It was then I realized what a purist Tom Bayes was.

He had the genre down perfect! He played the blues!

This month's review is for Tom's CD "Different Voices, Different Choices". Produced and arranged by Tom Bayes. Executive Producer is Chip Myles. The CD is dedicated to Jack "Sandman" Garrison and Gary "Mr.Z" Zajack. The best way for this reviewer to convey what's going on with this CD is quote from the CD liner. These are Tom Bayes own words.

"After being in the "business" for over 50 years, I have experimented with several styles of music. As a musician I like doing other avenues of sounds. Music is a form of art...a media exposing one's thoughts and ideas. This compilation has been in the works for several years. I have always said that the music you listen to is the soundtrack of your life.

"My thanks go out to everyone who has supported me throughout the years. I love and cherish you all. Peace." Tom Bayes.

One could say "Different Voices, Different Choices" is a legacy of Tom's life. It's a 17 song compilation. You can hear Delta blues, Boogie-woogie, Chicago blues and even some Country blues. There are other art forms present here as well. I believe some of the song writing here is pure genius.

Tom Bayes has been playing since the early 60's. He has toured and recorded with Lonnie Mack, Big Bill Morganfield, and Billy Wirtz to name a few. In the year 2000 he was awarded the "Hometown Legend award" during the Brevard Live Music Awards and was a contributing writer in the very early years of Brevard Live Magazine.

' Different Voices, Different Choices' is a collection of tracks that Tom has recorded over the past 4 years, with Tom playing all the instruments and vocals. After being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, Tom had to give up the instrument he is well known for, the drums. He penned all but two of the

17 tracks offered on this release.

Tom Bayes is a pioneer of the blues in our area. A true purist of the genre. I would recommend this CD for anyone. It's almost historic. He's also a military Veteran who served in the Vietnam War. The third song "Cold World" deals with the feelings of a former soldier. It's a heart-felt song that hits home.

You can reach Tom Bayes at tom-bayes415@gmail.com



*If you like to get your CD reviewed by Rob Pedrick, please mail a respectable copy to Brevard Live Magazine P.O.Box 1452, Melbourne, FL 32902.*

## Isolation Station Studio

The music did not die - because musicians have to play. Many of them sat in their studios not just practicing but also writing new songs and recording them in home studios and such. Local musician and recording engineer Todd Charron set up a *Isolation Station Studio* for a Facebook group where musicians performed live regularly. Todd video taped these sessions and if you missed one, you could listen to them later. In a short time this group had about 2,000 members. And if you want to leave a tip for the artist, you could do that via cash apps like Venmo and Zelle.

Facebook became a venue for music, not just to promote a gig but it became *the only gig*. Almost all musicians recorded a few songs with their smart phones and posted them on their page, in groups or as watch parties. Well, it was not the same as on the stages in our temporary closed establishments, but it was an innovative way to stay in touch with fans. They made sure that the music did not die in Brevard County. Thank you to our entertainers!



## What's In Your Playlist?

How music  
shapes  
our life

By Bill Stanley

I believe the lyrics to many hit songs are tied to the very same things we struggle with. A list of my favorite songs will show they are about searching, mental health, tragedy and memories of friends who have died. These subjects are not exclusive to my playlist. I'm sure you are listening to artists telling stories just like these. This is why I'm so happy for my column to be in this magazine. I get to use the platform of music and entertainment to tell my stories and share my message.

### My Playlist for Life

My playlist is entirely too long to include them all but I have chosen a few of the most meaningful songs that have shaped my life for one reason or another. Many of them are songs that have gotten me through tough times in life. Other songs listed have inspired me to think of things bigger than me.

**Sunday Bloody Sunday - U2.** In 1972, in Northern Ireland, 14 unarmed civil rights protesters were killed by a British Army Regiment during a civil rights march. I'll never forget seeing U2 in Las Vegas with my wife and seeing the video screen with the pictures of the victims of this dreadful day in history. This song has inspired me to stand for what I believe in and to stand for the rights of those who can't stand for themselves.

**Hurt - Johnny Cash.** The song is actually written by Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails, but Cash really brought it back into popularity around 2002. For me the song speaks of regret later in

life. I believe the cover by Cash brings this to reality looking back on the totality of his own life.

**R.E.M. – Everybody Hurts.** Frontman, Michael Stipe wrote this after his sister, a teacher, knew a kid who tried to kill himself. "He wanted that particular song to reach teenagers and not be misunderstood. As someone who has spent the greater part of my adult life working with kids this song and its reason for existence has always meant a lot to me.

**Fell On Black Days. - Soundgarden.** The late and great Chris Cornell wrote this song during a battle with depression he had in his teenage years, revealing during an interview: it was "about waking up and realizing you're in a dark period of your life." I listen to this song remembering to not ignore the lives of those I care about the most.

### Don't Waste Another Day

What are the messages in your favorite songs? What are they encouraging you to do with your life? Some of them might be messages to you directly. Almost as if the singer/songwriter had you in mind when they wrote it. This is the beauty of subjective art. It can mean something totally different to one person but speak volumes to people who gain something else from the lyrics. Don't waste another day. Don't just listen to music and enjoy it. Do something with what it is telling you to do. Especially if it is asking you to get help. Many times our favorite songs remind us, we don't have to be ashamed to hurt. We don't need to be embarrassed about our own self-image or the feelings that drag us down. Rather these songs are giving us permission to seek help when we need it the most.

Asking for help is not a sign of weakness. It is actually the sign of courage. Have the courage to say, "I need help!" It doesn't have to be a professional, although, there is nothing wrong with that. Seek help from those

who love you the most. Seek help from your friends, church members, co-workers and neighbors. Find people who have overcome similar issues as you and reach out for their help. I assure you, they already see it in you, because more than likely they've been there before. They are just waiting for you to ask.

### We Know How You Feel

Every musician has had at least one fan tell them how their music has touched their lives. Eddie Vedder while introducing NASCAR legend Tony Stewart before his retirement speech, mentioned that Tony once said how much the music of Pearl Jam had gotten him through some tough times. Eddie replied by saying, "I know exactly what you mean." It doesn't matter whether you are a professional musician, music lover or someone who has heard only one song in your life; music inspires.

As I listen to some of my favorite songs, I wish Chris Cornell, Amy Winehouse, Curt Cobain, Robin Williams, Heath Ledger, and my absolute favorite Michael Hutchence were still here today offering the world their art. They had more stories to tell, but won't ever get the chance to share them. These are not just a select few who had problems no one else could understand. Famous names such as Elton John, Carly Simon, Alanis Morissette, Halle Berry, Harrison Ford, Henry Winkler, Howie Mandel, Herschel Walker, and James Taylor, to name a few, suffer from similar disorders. Thankfully these great artists are still with us, and we want them to stay with us.

I wish the same for you. I wish for you to not waste another day. I wish for you to rise above whatever life has dealt you. I wish for you to take your amazing gifts and talent and change the world. I want you to stay with us! Don't waste another day hurting. Stop what you're doing and ask for help. Trust me, you'll be glad you did.

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## ROCK YOUR HEALTH

### Brain Farming

by Richard Hendry

I want to talk about Neuro Genesis, I know, it sounds like a Genesis tribute act but it's not. It's about growing brain cells (neurons). And the good news is that you do it everyday of your life – if your lucky. Even after we have fully developed into the adults we are – we keep on growing them. And the main place we do this is in a part of the brain called the Hippocampus (which sounds like a collage for large semi-aquatic mammals). We grow about 700 neurons a day. Hippocampus, forms part of the limbic system, which is particularly important in regulating emotional responses and is associated primarily with memory. The Hippocampus is principally involved in storing long-term memories and in making those memories resistant to forgetting. It also plays an important role in spatial processing and navigation. A reduction in neurogenesis is one of the main causes in memory loss and plays a very important role in mood, impulse control and other things that are troubling in our society. We know this from research into certain types of diseases related depression that comes from drug treatments that block these little fellas from growing. And in the recent studies of neurogenesis decline in Alzheimer's sufferers. These and other studies show that a reduced production or a stop of neurogenesis has dramatic effects on a person's mood, temperament, short and long term memory. Most people think we do not grow any more neurons after childhood. Like a computer that can not be upgraded or its RAM increased. But, that really never made any sense. It would be like saying that you were only meant to have a limited amount of learning and recall. Given the size of the brain, that would have been such a waste of space.

However, many of us engage in activities every hour of everyday that reduce our farm's crop. Some of which are a byproduct of the lifestyle we have. Desk jobs with little activity, lack of human face to face interactions, poor diets, excessive bad fats, drugs, alcohol, less sunlight, sleep disorders and stress. All of these things have been found to negatively effect your crop of fresh neurons. And specific vitamin deficiencies like B-12 and antioxidants like vitamin C, D and E. Exposure to heavy metals, aluminum, chemicals and other environmental factors play a strong roll in keeping the crop low as well. They have



even found that soft food, things you do not have to chew, have a negative effect on production of neurons. As does not challenging your brain, as in learning new things. In our current world model, we are fed so much input that we tend to think of it as “learning” but it is not. Learning requires a set of functions that we do not employ when we are watching cat videos or reading about our friends’ troubles on the way to work. We need no critical thinking to enjoy entertainment. It makes us laugh or cry or get mad. These things are stimulating the primitive - limbic part of the brain, and that is not the part of the brain that we need to keep working in order to keep growing neurons or as people in general. We need to be thinking and learning and active and engaged our whole lives in order to be healthy and good brain farmers.

So much of what I talk about is how it seems that people do not understand things. I am fond of saying that most people are running on 30 years old software as to how things work, our economic situation and the Geo-political issues. They all seem to want the easiest solutions and long for a time when they think things were simpler. They seem to not recall that we always had troubles, inequality, political unrest and hard times. They seem mad about everything and have a real sense of being overwhelmed by the world today. Is this really all about the times we live in? Or does it have more to do with the inability to observe, retain, recall and process due to a lack of operating space in our on-board computer known as the brain? The research is pointing at it being about 90% of the RAM space and 10% of the times we live in.

How many times do you explain something to someone and they say “Well...I don’t know!” and then go on their way? Often it feels like you have given them something that they simply can not or do not want to process. After all it is a short post, snap-chat, 145 character world. It is no secret that a lot of our problems come from not being able to understand things and each other. So much so, that we are all mad about something and ready to fight. We see it in those with Dementia and Alzheimers, they lash out because they do not recall things and do understand what’s going on.

Our rage and anger come from a lack of perspective and empathy. Feeling that we are not understood or valued has lead us to division. To blame and finger pointing because we all just want it to be like it was. This rigidity is a by-product of our system not being able to adapt and assimilate, recall and process. We need to exercise, be engaged, learn more and feed our bodies and brains right. It’s not a simple world, it never was. And there are no easy solutions to our problems. How will we ever be able to deal with it and accept it, if we can not upgrade our brains? We all need to be better brain farmers.



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## Coping

Learning how to effectively deal with life issues as they apply to you is one of the most important, if not the most important, lessons you can personally master. Unfortunately we tend to learn them during struggles and adversity. This puts us at a greater risk to give credit to a behavior or action that may only be effective temporarily and not effective long term. Even worse it may actually create more problems.

We look to parents to be the main source of effective coping strategies. That seems to be ideal and make the most sense. However, many parents didn't learn them either. So now we have the blind leading the blind. A parent may think that smoking a cigarette or having a glass of wine, is how they "deal" with stress. What is the equivalent of that cigarette or glass of wine, to a child? What skill or strategy are they learning? See we tend to talk and preach more than we actually do and leading by example is the best method of teaching.

Most so-called coping skills are actually better identified as avoidance. My co-host, The Dharma Guy, calls them distractions. Since coping means that you are dealing with the situation doesn't that mean that you have accepted it to be what it is and processed emotionally on how to navigate out of it? Therefore wouldn't that mean that the same situation would be easier to manage since you have processed it out? Practice makes perfect right? However, that's not always the case is it?

Instead we often see a heavy reliance on the so-called skills because the person shows an increased sensitivity to discomfort. Of course, it may give a false sense of effectiveness because of that avoidance or distraction, but once the effects wear off, has the problem gone away?

Let's see how this plays out in an actual example.

A young guy in college is stressed out about upcoming exams. In order to study he takes stimulants like caffeine and Adderall (a medication prescribed for those suffering from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder & Narcolepsy). This student then crams for the exam and gets thru it. To reward himself he goes out and drinks alcohol and

takes some Molly (MDMA). He has a great night, doesn't have any significant negative reactions, so no harm no foul, right? However, the likelihood of repeat behavior because of not suffering any negative effects is very high. Then math comes into play. Statistically it can't always go smooth. Sometimes bad shit happens. Unfortunately with these cases, the "bad" may include legal cases and funerals. So what happened? How is this relevant?

The student couldn't cope with the stress of school. So instead of methodically studying throughout the semester he had to cram the night before the exam. His stress level increased and he felt unprepared and insecure about passing. Instead of using strategies to increase his level of confidence and calm, he used stimulants. This set him up to be a college guy cliché. Study hard, play hard. This scenario is played out quite often on college campuses and young men and women not meeting the criteria for addiction still risking the consequences like many addicts face daily. In time, successful use promotes continued use. Continued use can easily become situational abuse. Situational abuse can linger and eventually lead to dependence. Once dependent the desire to control it like you used to be able to becomes the goal and obsession. How were you supposed to know that this would become impossible?

One other quick scenario.

A woman loses her mom who she was extremely close to. Her sadness led to social isolation. She is not coping with the loss very well. Her well meaning friends invited her out for drinks. One of her friends also offered her a little pill that she sometimes uses when feeling sad. The pill is a Xanax (benzodiazepine). The woman takes the pill, drinks, and laughs for the first time in a long time. As fun as the night was, the next day she realizes that she can't call her mom to talk about the night. She experiences guilt for having fun when she thinks she should still be in mourning. She becomes so uncomfortable with it all again she doesn't know how to deal with it. What worked yesterday? Oh yes, maybe a little drink and that little pill can help. Maybe, just maybe, it seems to work again. See the risk? Is she coping, or is she practicing avoidance and distraction? Again, these type of scenarios play out daily all around us.

A true coping strategy is one that teaches you how to DEAL with the problem and discomfort. It is vital that we all seek such strategies so that we can avoid the unintended consequences of relying on ineffective, non sustaining substitutions. We don't need to kick ourselves when we are down. "Thank you Sir, may I have another" is a sickness so many suffer from and you don't need it. Google, research, implement, and practice. You will find the coping strategies that best fit your needs. Avoid the shortcuts.

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## Jeff Filipski

By Steve Keller

**B**revard is a melting pot of experience and creativity. The local arts scene is in full bloom all over the county. For Brevard by way of Buffalo resident Jeff Filipski, art is life.

“I came to Melbourne 26 years ago because I need to escape the long win-

ters of Buffalo, NY,” Filipski explains. “My wife and I had just had a baby, and my mother lived in Palm Bay. It seemed as good a place as any to take the leap. It was a great place to bring up the kids.” He was ready to lay down stakes and tackle the local art scene. The question begged; was the art scene ready for him?

The answer throughout all these years is yes. Filipski is a part of the Off Center Art Center in Downtown Melbourne. “The local scene holds great

potential for creativity,” he begins. “There have been two new galleries opening in the last year; Susan Giblin’s SBG Gallery in the Alley and Claudia Pastorius’ Upside Gallery on the strip next to Meg’s. The Strawbridge Art League is cruising along in the Alley as well. There are others of honorable mention but I’m personally involved with these three. I think ten years down the road if I’m fortunate enough to still be a part of this growing community, we’ll all have the pleasure of witnessing a new renaissance of art and culture in Brevard.”

Filipski has become a mentor of sorts to local artist Kyle Heinly. In an interview with *Brevard Live Magazine* last year, Heinly spoke about his initial meetings with Filipski. “I used to perform spoken word in Melbourne, Orlando, and Daytona Beach,” he explained. “I met Jeff and was invited to come hang out at The EGAD Art Lab. He told me to paint something, which came out good. After that he told me if I did 80 paintings in a month I’d be considered a beginning artist.” Heinly went out and bought art supplies, did the 80 “to Filipski’s surprise”, and he’s been advising me ever since.” Filipski reciprocates the professional and personal admiration. “Kyle and his mom are a couple of good souls,” he proclaims.

After so many years in one place, Filipski comes across as a simple man with simple needs. “The kids have moved. The dogs are dead,” he quips. “The art scene though strong and beautiful for many appears to have slowed some for my particular stylings. I do well in the bigger cities; Miami, New York, Chicago as there is a greater appreciation for artistic diversity. I love it here but it’s become increasingly clear to that I may need stretch my visibility”.

Technology has bridged the gap in arts in allowing access to one’s craft to the world. Filipski somewhat agrees but is

quick to support face to face interactions. “The internet has been great for a certain measure of international visibility, but I’ve never fully realized it as a sales tool to date,” he explains. “I hear of others having reasonable rates of success. I think staying as active as possible is key. This area is growing fast. (Brevard) has great potential as a cultural hub between the bigger cities. It’s still quaint and beautiful yet burgeoning with fresh musical and artistic talent, but there’s something to be said for face to face connections. I’m sure through persistence and the proper channels that the internet is killer. It works superbly for a few people I know. It’s instantaneous visibility. You can’t beat that.”

Filipski’s creations on canvas are amazing. Never dull, the color compositions alone draw you in. “I like to think that my art instigates or provokes thoughts and emotions otherwise avoided by most viewers,” he explains. “I prefer the unsettling nature of art. It’s deliberation. And poetry. I use an unorthodox method of application that’s a cross between a direct roadmap and complete serendipity. If I’m not having fun with it, I’ll stop and begin another composition. I’ll use a particular phrasing in its communication usually instigated by progressive jazz or something completely primal to paint with its tempo and emotion. Politics and religion anger me. That’s usually a good start.”

Much like his designs, Filipowski’s musical appreciations can be all over the place. “I really dig Scofield, Medeski, Martin, and Wood. Herbie Hancock, (Frank) Zappa, or (Captain) Beefheart,” he lists off. “John Cage, Harry Partch. I workout to dubstep or Jesus Lizard or any of that monorhythmic, hardcore stuff. As far as art is concerned I watch, look and admire but try really hard to not be influenced by the living. I have the highest respect for those who hold the talent in their hands and hearts.”

Filipski offers some advice for up and coming artists as well as those who have kept to themselves and maybe are afraid to show their creations. “Brevard’s growing over the top,” he says. “The shrinking violet syndrome is always questionable. I’m sure there are varying opinions on the topic, but my thoughts are as such that if you are a creator, if you want to show your passion through the various forms of self expression, you need to own it. Be real. Be strong. Be fearless. And don’t worry about public opinion. If you continue to produce, your longevity cannot be denied. Perfection is elusive if not unattainable. Don’t worry about it. Be comfortable in your own skin. And above all, do not place limits on your abilities. If you’re an imposter it will be painfully obvious”.

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## Rigg's Outpost FISHING REPORT FOR APRIL

by Pompano Rich



April in Brevard would best be described as “Prolific”! The migratory schools of popular species originated from North Carolina are moving back north from the Treasure Coast. The water’s warm and and pompano, bluefish, Spanish mackerel, redfish and whiting return to their summer homes. Literally miles of hard fighting and tasty species will flood Brevard. The main actor in this Piscean play is The Fish Moon! As a pro surf guide I find it difficult to choose which fish I want to catch. Since I favor catching savory fish I hunt pompano and whiting. This timed event will attract returning tourists and locals to the jetties and the beaches. In lieu of the fact that Brevard has 20 miles of fishable beaches a new angler will certainly find space.

So to learn the “How, When and Where” Rigg’s Outpost owner Anthony Marks and staff do an incredible job. The shops exceptional locale dually provides access to the most abundant Brevard fishing grounds. This includes the beaches and the picturesque estuary. This vacation spot is noteworthy for harboring huge circulating pools of live bait, both fish, shrimp and crabs.

Historically Native Americans named each moon to describe that month’s activity. The Fish Moon has always been the migratory moon. Whether it be salmon going up stream to spawn or coastal fish returning to water temps suit them best, this phase is highly accurate.

First on the lineup are bluefish. They will chomp any bait but why bother, it’s lure month. Top water bombers and large spoons will drive them nuts. The incessant head shaking and rattling jumps will make for a great time. The yellow dotted silvery Spanish Mackerel will be profoundly abundant. A great tasting mild fish; grill the fillet fresh for some party fare. Whiting (from the ling cod family) will cruise the shoreline. They will hookup on fresh shrimp and brined clams. The number one attraction will be Pompano. April is the month to fish for these silvery tourists. For forty years every inshore fishing guide will exchange tales about the “The Fish Moon.” All year it’s a challenge to cast long enough or you missed the bite cause it was only at dim light. In April they’re only 50 to 100 feet out and bite all day. Gourmet chefs serve one side of a pompano in the Palm Beaches for thirty bucks. They’re flashy, beautiful, hard fighting and delicious. Principle baits are sand fleas and salted clams. For the best clams you must try Native Salted Clams. For the finest pompano rig try mine. Both are stocked at Riggs Outpost.



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