

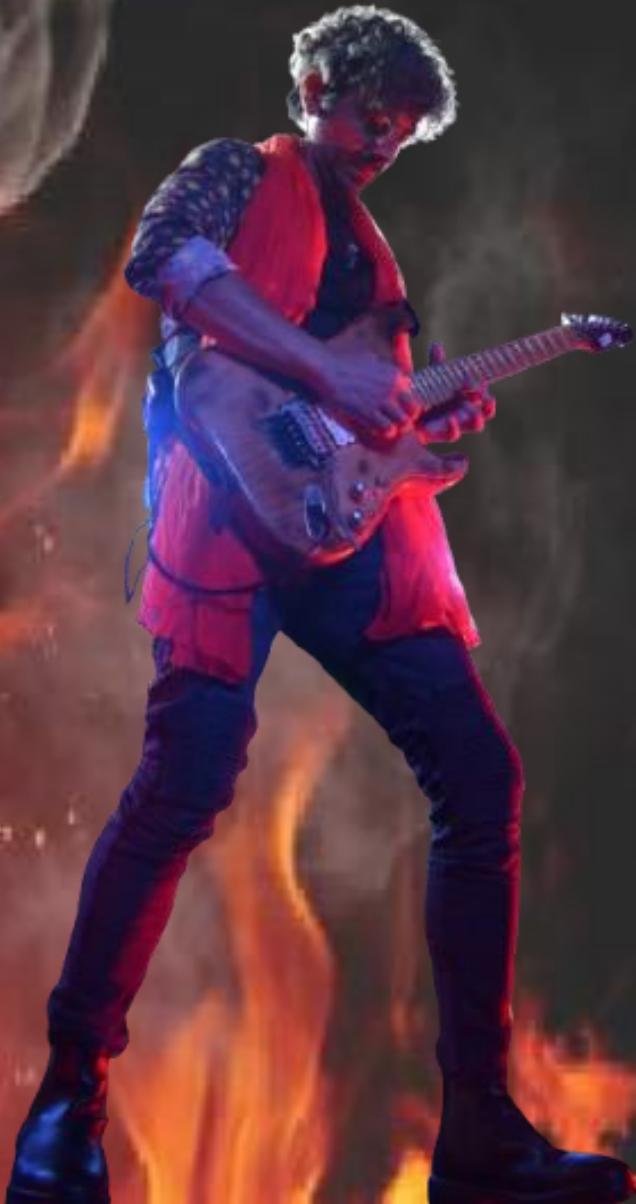
Tampa Bay

January 2026

# SPORTS

&  
Entertainment Magazine

## Hello 2026!



**Dario Parente**  
Growing up in  
Italy  
To Touring the  
World

LIC# CCC1334242



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# January Holidays

## Welcome to 2026

Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	HAPPY NEW YEAR / HAPPY 2026
Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	World Braille Day
Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>	International Choreographers Day
Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	Public Radio Broadcasting Day
Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	National Hat Day
Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>	National Penguin Day / Disc Jockey Day
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	National Handwriting Day
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>	Opposite Day
Jan 27 <sup>th</sup>	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	Yodel For Your Neighbors Day
Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>	National Hot Chocolate Day



# About Our Team:



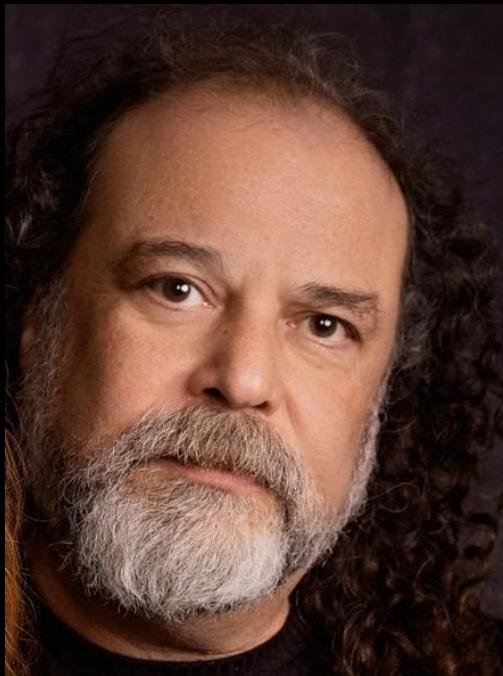
Joanne Durann has written for The Examiner, Yahoo.com, Axs, Out On The Town Magazine, and is a writing instructor. She has authored multiple books, new articles, and entertainment pieces. She has interviewed the likes of Geoff Tate, Mark Daly, and Rudy Sarzo, among others. After a successful career in education, Joanne's passion for the Florida lifestyle and the Tampa Bay area landed her in Apollo Beach. Joanne has worked in the real estate industry at Keller Williams with the Lovitch Group since her move to Florida from Pennsylvania, and she loved what she did. Joanne has a certification from the University of Michigan in Negotiations, has studied remotely with Harvard University, and is a member of The Working Women of Tampa Bay, WISE Tampa Bay, and the National Association of Professional Women.

Trish is a 32-year Army combat veteran who spent the better part of her last twelve years in uniform, stationed at The Pentagon in Washington, DC. While there, her assignments included organizing major Army infrastructure and entertainment programs, including The Army Birthday Ball, Total Army Analysis, and Organization Days for the Senior Army Leadership and Army Staff Sections. Trish is also a published author with numerous credits, including The Knoxville News Sentinel, Florida Women Magazine, and Lakeside Life



Contact us: 267-980-6427 [apollobeachpublishing@gmail.com](mailto:apollobeachpublishing@gmail.com)

## Howard Durann – Sales and Marketing



Howard Durann is a dynamic sales and marketing executive at Tampa Bay Sports and Entertainment (TBSE), where he plays a key role in driving fan engagement, sponsorship growth, and strategic brand initiatives.

With over a decade of experience, Howard specializes in blending data-driven strategy with creative execution to maximize impact in the arena and beyond. At TBSE, he has executed integrated marketing campaigns and secured high-value partnerships.

Howard brings a passion for innovation, a deep understanding of the sports and entertainment landscape, and a commitment to building lasting relationships with corporate partners, the media, and the community. His leadership continues to contribute to TBSE's success.

**Phil Stoecker** grew up the son of journalists, and youngest of eight children in a small town outside of New York City. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1979, serving as a cryptologist aboard submarines and at overseas duty stations. After his 10-year stint in the Navy, he was hired by the Department of the Navy, where he served as a civilian analyst until he retired 27 years later and moved from the Washington D.C. area to the Tampa Bay area with his wife, Trish, the Managing Editor. Phil indulges his hobbies as an amateur photographer and writer, and strumming one of his seven guitars, one of which is pictured above in Trish's arms. He hopes to make entertaining contributions to this publication.



# The "Happy Accident" That Started It All

In the heart of Apollo Beach, Florida, there is a place where industrial engineering and Mother Nature have formed an unlikely—and adorable—partnership. The **Tampa Electric (TECO) Manatee Viewing Center** isn't just a sanctuary for Florida's favorite "sea cows"; it's a free, world-class environmental education hub that proves humans and wildlife can coexist in amazing ways.

You might find it strange to see hundreds of manatees huddling in the shadow of the Big Bend Power Station's giant smokestacks. However, this isn't a coincidence—it's a survival strategy.

Manatees are warm-blooded but have very little body fat. When the waters of Tampa Bay drop below **68°F (20°C)**, they can suffer from "cold stress," which is life-threatening. The power station uses water from the bay to cool its machinery, then returns it to a discharge canal. This water is clean, safe, and—most importantly—toasty warm. In 1986, after noticing manatees flocking to this "heated pool" by the thousands, TECO officially designated the area a state and federal sanctuary and opened it to the public.

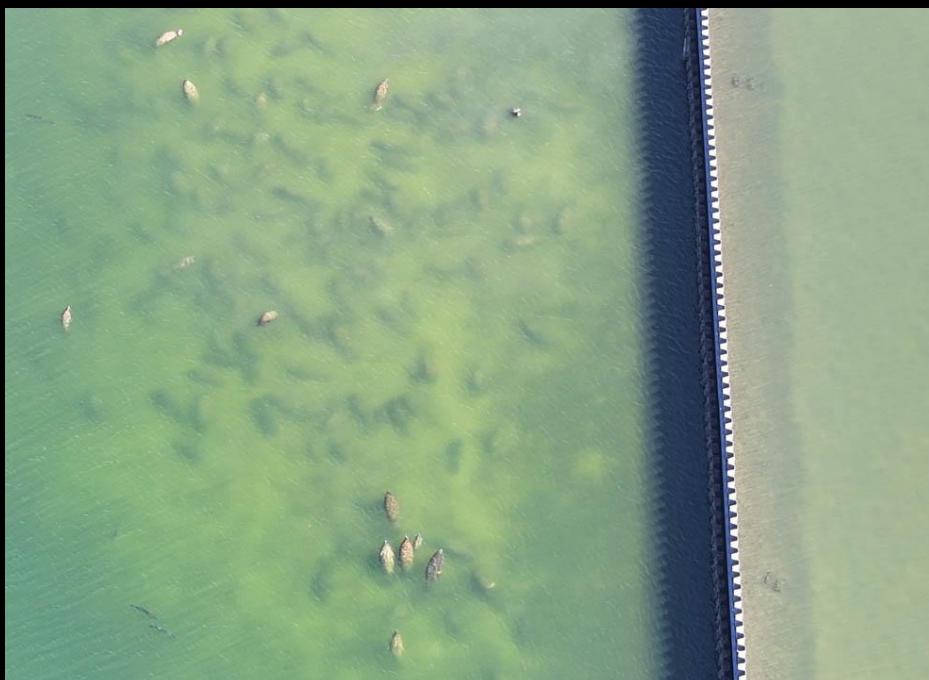
<b>Season</b>	November 1 – April 15
<b>Hours</b>	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Trails close at 4:00 PM)
<b>Cost</b>	<b>Free</b> (Parking and Admission)
<b>Record Count</b>	Over <b>1,100 manatees</b> seen at once!

Photo Credit:  
Cole Price



While the manatees are the stars of the show, there is plenty more to explore on this 500-acre campus.

- The Tidal Walk: A 900 ft boardwalk that runs through the mangroves where you may see spinner sharks, herons, and so much more!
- The Stingray Touch Tank: In a partnership with the Florida Aquarium, this tank allows you to gently pet cownose rays.
- 50ft Observation Tower, which offers a 360-degree view!
- The Education Center, which has recently been renovated, where you can learn all kinds of things about the Manatee!



Watch the weather; the colder the air temperature, the more manatees you are likely to see.

You can also check the live cameras online before you drive out there!

Photo Credit:  
Cole Price





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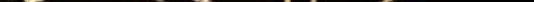
Happy New Years



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## In home mobile



313-418-0651



January 09	8:00 pm	The Beatles – Abbey Road
January 14	8:00 pm	Leo Kottke
January 16	8:00 pm	Jesse Cook
January 17	8:00 pm	Al Di Meola
January 18	7:00 pm	Judy Collons
January 21	8:00 pm	Stop Making Sence: Live Event
January 22	8:00 pm	Gaelic Storm
January 23	8:00 pm	The Weight Band
January 24	8:00 pm	Rumours ATL
January 30	8:00 pm	John Waite
February 01	7:00 pm	Los Lonely Boys

# From Italy to the World Stage

## My Interview with Dario Parente

I sat down with Dario Parente and had this amazing conversation about how he started and how he went from being a huge Fan of Geoff Tate, to working in a cover band, to being one of Geoff's top guitarists.

I started working with Geoff around 2018, and at the beginning, I was mainly a touring musician for him, especially in Europe, and then at some point, he decided to give me a prominent position in the band, so I'm blessed because I'm with a fan boy, lol

My family, I mean my parents, are music lovers, but none of them could play an instrument. My mother was a professor of ancient Greek literature, and my father had a doctorate in engineering. He tried to play piano when he was very young, but eventually it wasn't his cup of tea, so he quit. I was very fascinated by music at a very early age. I remember that I was invited to have lunch with an uncle of mine, who had three kids, my cousins. I was so fascinated that day after the meal when they could sit down and play tunes and strum guitar chords, so I became very interested in it. At some point, I remember being very young and asking my father about the meaning of music with no lyrics. After that, I asked to be classically trained, which was long before I discovered rock music through an older cousin.

Around 1985, I started listening to Dire Straits and Duran Duran, then it was Pink Floyd and the Who. I still love the music of the 70s. Then I thought I would play the drums; however, I heard "Killers" by Iron Maiden, and I fell in love with the guitar. I like to take a guitar player approach and work on getting it note-for-note, so I can grow as a musician.



Geoff was one of my favorite musicians; it was more than the music and the voice; it was the lyrics, too. I am much younger than Geoff, and he was already a grown man when I started to listen to him; he had kids. It is weird being a fan and being in his band.

I used to be in a band that was heavily influenced by his music, and we toured Europe. We were playing at a festival, and Geoff got a last-minute invitation to play, but he didn't have time to fly the band over. After he heard the final product, Geoff just started smiling.

Maybe in the future, if I have time, and probably with the help of Geoff and Susan Tate, I would like to write a book about my adventure. It would be great because it is an incredible experience, you know, having a guy hanging on the wall of your room in posters when you're 10 years old, and then being raised in a place that is very far from the capital of music business, and then later in your life, you find yourself playing New York and then all over the world with him. You think this could be a cool legacy because my life story is very peculiar and interesting.



This is what I like to leave you know, probably one of the main things in the book would be the discipline that I had in my life, that I practiced a lot, and transcribed a lot of music. Only to realize, one day, I found out that that's my forte, that's what made the difference, probably for me.

In my final question, I asked Dario, “If you could do any, if you couldn't do this anymore, but you could do anything else in the world, did money not matter, nothing mattered, what would that be for you?”

He smiled as he answered, “Maybe spending more time with the family. especially now, yes, this is true, what I'm not just talking about my daughters and my wife, but also my parents, because they're, you know, 82 years old and I'm 47. Or maybe turning back time a bit, a little bit, you know, go back. It would be great. Yeah. Just to enjoy, you know, relationships and family life.”



*Allie*  *Serrano*  
PORTRAITS



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Professional Headshots  
Women Empowerment  
Boudoir Photoshoot  
Lifestyle Branding  
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# 2025 SCHEDULE



PRESEASON 1  <b>AUG 9</b> 7:30PM WFLA	PRESEASON 2  <b>AUG 16</b> 7:00PM INFLA	PRESEASON 3  <b>AUG 23</b> 7:30PM WFLA	WEEK 1  <b>SEP 7</b> 1:00PM FOX	WEEK 2  <b>SEP 15</b> 7:00PM ABC	WEEK 3  <b>SEP 21</b> 1:00PM FOX	WEEK 4  <b>SEP 28</b> 1:00PM FOX
WEEK 5  <b>OCT 5</b> 4:05PM CBS	WEEK 6  <b>OCT 12</b> 1:00PM CBS	WEEK 7  <b>OCT 20</b> 7:00PM ESPN/ABC	WEEK 8  <b>OCT 26</b> 4:05PM FOX	WEEK 9  <b>BYE</b>	WEEK 10  <b>NOV 9</b> 1:00PM CBS	WEEK 11  <b>NOV 16</b> 1:00PM CBS
WEEK 12  <b>NOV 23</b> 8:20PM NBC	WEEK 13  <b>NOV 30</b> 1:00PM FOX	WEEK 14  <b>DEC 7</b> 1:00PM CBS	WEEK 15  <b>DEC 11</b> 8:15PM PRIME VIDEO	WEEK 16  <b>DEC 21</b> 1:00PM FOX	WEEK 17  <b>DEC 28</b> 1:00PM FOX	WEEK 18  <b>JAN 4</b> TBA

HOME AWAY





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from the area!!

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## Busch Gardens Tampa Bay Turns Up the Volume with the Return of Its Iconic Real Music Series

Get ready to rock through the decades with music's fan-favorite hits! Now through February 20, 2026, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay brings back its longest-running concert series—Real Music—packed with all-new music performances and unforgettable sounds six days a week, Monday through Saturday. Guests can experience an electrifying lineup of acclaimed performers delivering timeless hits from the '70s, '80s, and '90s.

Best of all, every show is included with park admission, making it the perfect opportunity to sing along, dance in your seat, and create lasting memories with family and friends.

This year's Real Music Series features a dynamic mix of genres, ranging from classic rock and soul to pop and R&B, all performed by celebrated artists who capture the magic of legendary icons. Whether visitors are reliving their favorite tunes or discovering timeless hits for the first time, these concerts promise an incredible entertainment experience for guests of all ages at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay.

New this year, **select Saturdays** will feature special performances by iconic rock bands **Blue Öyster Cult (January 10)** and **Village People (January 17)**, adding an extra jolt of high-energy classic rock to the series.

### The 2026 All-New Lineup Also Includes:

- Jan. 5–9: Martha Reeves and The Vandellas
- Jan. 12–16: Blood, Sweat & Tears
- Jan. 19–23: Pablo Cruise and Their Hit Songs
- Jan. 26–30: Artimus Pyle Band honoring Ronnie Van Zant's Lynyrd Skynyrd
- Feb. 2–6: The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra
- Feb. 9–13: Revisiting Creedence
- Feb. 16–20: Magic Moments, including original singers Theo Peoples, Joe Coleman, and Jerome Jackson performing The Temptations, The Four Tops, The Platters, and The Drifters

The best way to experience the Real Music Series is with a Busch Gardens Fun Card or Annual Pass. For a limited time, visitors can buy a Busch Gardens Fun Card and get Adventure Island free. Visitors who choose a 2026 Busch Gardens Fun Card can enjoy award-winning attractions and seasonal events year-round, or elevate every visit with an Annual Pass, featuring free parking, exclusive events, added benefits, and no blackout dates.

In 2026, Busch Gardens Annual Pass Members will be among the first to experience the all-new Lion and Hyena Ridge, one of the world's most immersive animal habitats, before it opens to the public in the spring.

For more information, park hours, and to view showtimes, guests can visit [BuschGardensTampa.com](http://BuschGardensTampa.com). Guests can follow Busch Gardens Tampa Bay on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest park details and information.

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**JAN 27 & 28**

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**JAN 29**

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TOUR '26



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**FEB 1**

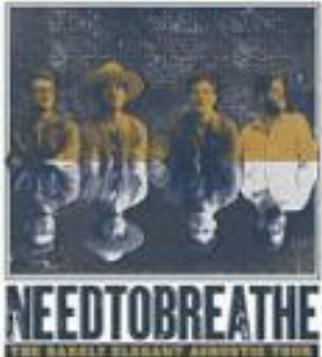
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BILLY JOEL LEGENDS  
THE LORDS OF  
52ND STREET



FRI,  
MAR 6

## STYX

WITH  
CHEAP TRICK



FRI, FEB 27

## JOE BONAMASSA



SAT,  
MAR 21

## FOREIGNER

WITH NIGHT RANGER

4

## FOREIGNER

LOU  
GRAMM



SAT, APR 18

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MAY 21

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# Shaun Cassidy: The Road To Us

Joanne Durann

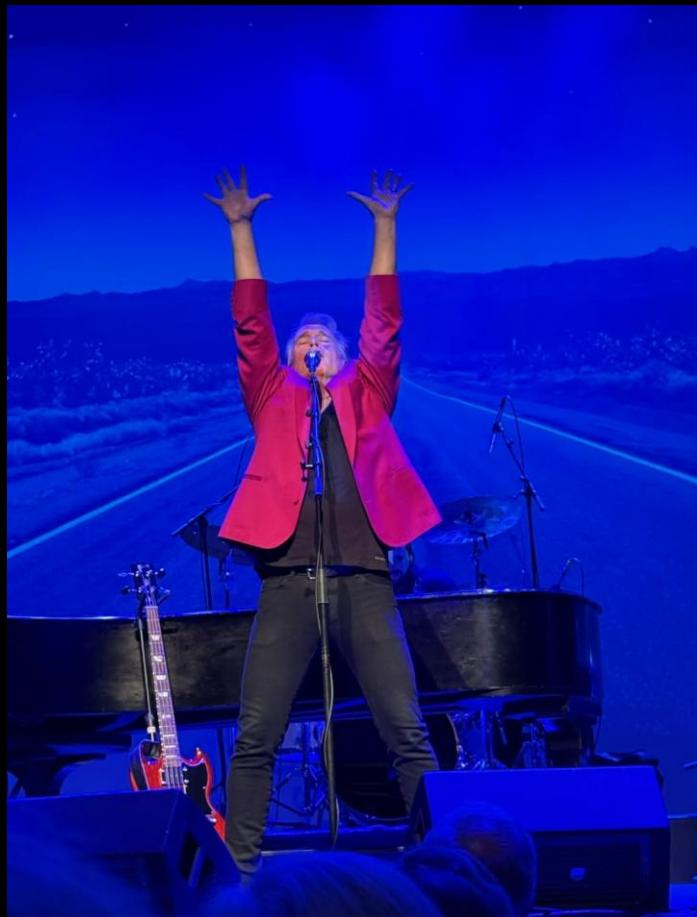
Shaun Cassidy, a legendary heartthrob for millions of teen girls in the '70s and early '80s, is back on the road and touring after almost 40 years. His new tour, "The Road to Us," is touring the US and made its stop in the Tampa Bay area at the Nancy and Bill Bilheimer Capitol Theater in Clearwater, on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.

Shaun did a full Q&A with VIP fans an hour before the show. Allowing a select group of fans the chance to speak and ask their most desired questions. He spoke candidly about his life, his marriages, his current wife, his career, and where he was now and where he has been. After the Q&A, he had groups of eight go up to the stage and have their picture taken with him. He gave all the VIPs swag bags and greeted almost everyone with a handshake and a smile.

When asked what was different about his fans than other artists' fans, he said, "I don't know, I'm different because maybe I've stepped away for so long, and I'm more of a writer and a storyteller, as you'll see in the show tonight." He also stated that the word 'fan' didn't feel right to him; it created a distance between those who came to see him and himself.

When asked about social media, he said that he really didn't want to be on it; he's more of an introvert. However, he liked that it brought him closer to his followers and allowed him to interact with them on a personal level. He also stated that he didn't have someone else running his social media. He said it makes him happier that he can look at the lives of the people who grew up hearing him sing at shows and now see that they have also grown up, have kids, spouses, and are still around enjoying his music.

When asked about the Partridge family and whether he was jealous that he was not on it with his family, he said he was; however, his mom's rule was to make them go to school and finish, and it was the same rule for all of them. He also said he loved doing Broadway with his late brother David, missed him very much, and would do something like that again if he could. Shaun also stated that he was considering streaming or recording his concert for his fans who could not attend. He also joked about never doing Dancing with the Stars, even though he could still shake his butt on stage. And when asked about a Vegas residency, he said he was approached but didn't feel it was a good fit for him at this time in his life.



When one person asked about the difference in crowds and how it affected him going from thousands of people listening to him at a show, more of a sea of people, to the smaller, intimate settings of this concert, he said that he loved the smaller concerts much better because he could see people's faces and watch how they reacted to a show.

He also said he was surprised to find he loved doing the show this way. You never know how people are going to take it, or even if they're going to come, and he was shocked by how many people showed up and how overwhelmingly impressive the feedback was.

Shaun mentioned loving being home for the holidays and spending a lot of time with his wife and seven children. He is currently touring with his nephew on lead guitar and speaks with his mother almost every night, 20 minutes before he goes on stage. He truly is a family-oriented man.



In a review of his show, it was beautifully performed. He has a phenomenal band with him, drummer Aaron Carty, keyboardist Lon Hoyt, and guitarist Cole Cassidy, who also sings with him in place of his late brother, David Cassidy. It was beyond words to watch the emotion on Shaun's face during the duo. Shaun explained to the audience that the tour was called "The Road to Us, not the Road to Me" for a reason. He knows that without all his followers over the years, he would not be where he is today. It was wonderful to see such a kind, humble, and caring man performing for his audience. It was a whole night of storytelling that ended with the song his mother always used to close her shows, "Until There Was You."



Photo Credit Trish Stoecker





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# Funny Bone

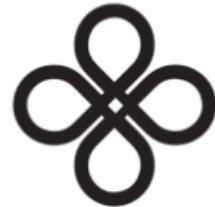
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Jan 2-4	Times Vary	DL Hughley
Jan 8	7:00 pm	Mike James
Jan 9-10	Times Vary	Mark Viera
Jan 11	6:30 pm	Alexander Nezlobin (in Russian)
Jan 14	7:00 pm	Gigi LeFlair
Jan 15	7:00 pm	New York Take Over(Variest Artists)
Jan 16-17	Times Vary	Russell Peters
Jan 18	6:00 pm	Jesus Abelardo:Baba (Espanol)
Jan 22	7:00 pm	Tony Dabas
Jan 23-25	Times Vary	Bruce Bruce:Cool Since Day 1
Jan 29	7:00 pm	Rayna Greenberg
Jan 30 -31	Times Vary	Jiaoying Summers



# BENCHMARK INTERNATIONAL ARENA

## Current Events at the Arena:

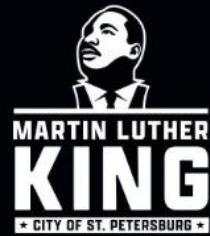
January 2 – 4	Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus
January 10	Winter Jam 2026 5:00 pm \$15 Donation at the Door. Some of the Biggest Names in Christian Music: Chris Tomlin, Matthew West, Katy Nichole, Hulvey, Disciple, Emerson Day, Newsong, and speaker Zane Black, with a Pre-Jam Party featuring Jeremy Rosado, Heath Brothers, and Cliff Preston.
January 23 – 24	PBR Tampa
January 30	Bert Kreischer
January 31	Kings Of Leon

Monday,  
January 19th  
11am-2pm



# Parade Route

## 2026 St. Pete MLK Parade



# St. Petersburg: The "Dream Big" Heritage

St. Petersburg is home to one of the nation's longest-running MLK parades. The city's celebration is more than just a single day; it's a weekend-long immersion in culture.

**MLK Dream Big Parade (Jan 19, 11:00 AM):** This massive event winds through Downtown St. Pete. Expect high-stepping marching bands from across the Southeast, elaborate floats, and local civic groups. The energy is electric, with "battle of the bands" moments breaking out right in the middle of 1st Avenue South.

**The Band Showcase:** Usually held on the Sunday before the parade (Jan 18) at Gibbs High School, this event features premier HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) marching bands. It is a loud, proud, and rhythmic tribute to African American musical excellence.

**Family Fun Day:** After the parade, thousands head to **Tropicana Field** (Lot 4) for a festival featuring local food vendors, carnival rides, and community resource booths.

True to Dr. King's message of "What are you doing for others?", Tampa Bay residents show up in force for the **MLK Day of Service**.

Organization	Activity
Feeding Tampa Bay	Over 1,000 volunteers gather to sort food at the Causeway Center and Trinity Cafes to fight food insecurity.
United Way Suncoast	A "Week of Service" including school beautification projects and kit-building for families in need.
Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful	Community clean-ups in parks across the city, honoring Dr. King through environmental stewardship.

# 2025-26



# SCHEDULE

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DATE	TIME [ET]	OPPONENT	DATE	TIME [ET]	OPPONENT
Thu. Oct 9	7:00 PM	Ottawa	Tue. Jan 6	7:00 PM	Colorado
Sat. Oct 11	7:00 PM	New Jersey	Sat. Jan 10	7:00 PM	@ Philadelphia
Mon. Oct 13	1:00 PM	@ Boston	Mon. Jan 12	7:00 PM	@ Philadelphia
Tue. Oct 14	7:00 PM	@ Washington	Tue. Jan 13	7:00 PM	@ Pittsburgh
Fri. Oct 17	7:00 PM	@ Detroit	Fri. Jan 16	7:00 PM	@ St. Louis
Sat. Oct 18	7:00 PM	@ Columbus	Sun. Jan 18	1:00 PM	@ Dallas
Thu. Oct 23	7:00 PM	Chicago	Tue. Jan 20	7:00 PM	San Jose
Sat. Oct 25	5:00 PM	Anaheim	Fri. Jan 23	6:00 PM	@ Chicago
Sun. Oct 26	5:00 PM	Vegas	Sat. Jan 24	7:00 PM	@ Columbus
Tue. Oct 28	6:45 PM	@ Nashville	Mon. Jan 26	7:00 PM	Utah
Thu. Oct 30	7:00 PM	Dallas	Thu. Jan 29	7:00 PM	Winnipeg
Sun. Nov 2	1:30 PM	@ Utah	Sun. Feb 1	T.B.A	Boston
Tue. Nov 4	7:30 PM	@ Colorado	Tue. Feb 3	7:00 PM	Buffalo
Thu. Nov 6	7:00 PM	@ Vegas	Thu. Feb 5	7:00 PM	Florida
Sat. Nov 8	7:00 PM	Washington	Wed. Feb 25	7:30 PM	Toronto
Wed. Nov 12	7:00 PM	N.Y. Rangers	Thu. Feb 26	7:00 PM	@ Carolina
Sat. Nov 15	6:00 PM	@ Florida	Sat. Feb 28	7:00 PM	Buffalo
Sun. Nov 16	5:00 PM	Vancouver	Tue. Mar 3	8:30 PM	@ Minnesota
Tue. Nov 18	7:00 PM	New Jersey	Thu. Mar 5	7:00 PM	@ Winnipeg
Thu. Nov 20	7:00 PM	Edmonton	Sat. Mar 7	7:00 PM	@ Toronto
Sat. Nov 22	7:00 PM	@ Washington	Sun. Mar 8	6:00 PM	@ Buffalo
Mon. Nov 24	7:00 PM	Philadelphia	Tue. Mar 10	7:00 PM	Columbus
Wed. Nov 26	7:00 PM	Calgary	Thu. Mar 12	7:00 PM	Detroit
Fri. Nov 28	1:00 PM	@ Detroit	Sat. Mar 14	7:00 PM	Carolina
Sat. Nov 29	2:00 PM	@ N.Y. Rangers	Tue. Mar 17	7:00 PM	@ Seattle
Tue. Dec 2	7:00 PM	@ N.Y. Islanders	Thu. Mar 19	7:00 PM	@ Vancouver
Thu. Dec 4	7:00 PM	Pittsburgh	Sat. Mar 21	8:00 PM	@ Edmonton
Sat. Dec 6	7:00 PM	N.Y. Islanders	Sun. Mar 22	6:00 PM	@ Calgary
Mon. Dec 8	7:30 PM	@ Toronto	Tue. Mar 24	7:30 PM	Minnesota
Tue. Dec 9	7:00 PM	@ Montreal	Thu. Mar 26	7:00 PM	Seattle
Thu. Dec 11	7:00 PM	@ New Jersey	Sat. Mar 28	1:00 PM	Ottawa
Sat. Dec 13	3:30 PM	@ N.Y. Islanders	Sun. Mar 29	5:00 PM	Nashville
Mon. Dec 15	7:00 PM	Florida	Tue. Mar 31	7:00 PM	Montreal
Thu. Dec 18	7:00 PM	Los Angeles	Thu. Apr 2	7:00 PM	Pittsburgh
Sat. Dec 20	7:00 PM	Carolina	Sat. Apr 4	5:00 PM	Boston
Mon. Dec 22	7:00 PM	St. Louis	Mon. Apr 6	7:00 PM	@ Buffalo
Sat. Dec 27	7:00 PM	@ Florida	Tue. Apr 7	7:00 PM	@ Ottawa
Sun. Dec 28	5:00 PM	Montreal	Thu. Apr 9	7:00 PM	@ Montreal
Wed. Dec 31	1:00 PM	@ Anaheim	Sat. Apr 11	12:30 PM	@ Boston
Thu. Jan 1	7:30 PM	@ Los Angeles	Mon. Apr 13	7:00 PM	Detroit
Sat. Jan 3	1:00 PM	@ San Jose	Wed. Apr 15	7:00 PM	N.Y. Rangers



# VETERANS CORNER

## TRISH STOECKER

### Vet's Corner January 2026

Happy New Year! The VA has a new downloadable app for both Apple and Android. With the official VA: Health & Benefits app, you can manage your VA health care, benefits, and payments from your mobile phone or tablet.

[https://mobile.va.gov/app/va-health-and-benefits?utm\\_source=feature&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VetResources&utm\\_id=28SEP2022](https://mobile.va.gov/app/va-health-and-benefits?utm_source=feature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=28SEP2022)

Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins sent out his annual message: A message from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

On behalf of all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) staff, thank you for choosing VA. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you.

VA has made significant progress over the last year in implementing our Veteran First strategy – easing access to care when and where you need it most. Patient safety, delivering high-quality health outcomes, and providing best-in-class customer experience for all Veterans and beneficiaries remain our top priorities. That includes maintaining the safety and well-being of Veterans, their families, caregivers, survivors, visitors, and our dedicated staff. As a requirement of Public Law 116-315, this message serves as an annual reminder of VA's continued commitment to ensure our medical facilities, staff offices, regional benefits offices, and the sacred grounds of our cemeteries are places where all are welcome and treated with dignity and respect.

Though VA continues its long-standing adherence to anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault policies, laws, and programs, it takes all of us working together to maintain safe and welcoming environments for all. One way you can help is to practice the Bystander Intervention Techniques described in this brochure. These are practical techniques to enable you to feel confident in your ability to identify harassment or sexual assault, seek help, and prevent the situation from escalating.

Chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.va.gov/STOP-HARASSMENT/docs/VA-AnnualDistributionReport-2025.pdf

We understand that reporting harassment or sexual assault may feel uncomfortable. But I assure you, our trained staff stands ready to support and assist you throughout the process. If you or someone you know has been harassed or sexually assaulted at a VA facility, we ask that you tell a VA staff member you trust. There is no wrong door for reporting harassment or sexual assault. You may also submit a report by following the guidance found at [www.va.gov/report-harassment](http://www.va.gov/report-harassment). Reporting not only helps VA better support victims, it enables us to more effectively prevent future incidents.

Thank you for choosing VA as the place to receive your benefits and services. You are our mission, a responsibility we do not take lightly. You can view the Veterans Health Administration's sexual assault and harassment prevention policy here.

<https://www.va.gov/ORM/HPP.asp>



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Jan 04	1:00 pm	Elvis' Birthday Bash
Jan 11	1:00 pm	Mutts Gone Nuts!
Jan 13	7:30 pm	Herb Alpert & The Tijuana Brass
Jan 14	11:00 am	H2Orchestra
Jan 16	7:00 pm	Kevin James : Eat the Frog
Jan 18	1:00 pm	Invincible Michael Jackson Celebration
Jan 23	8:00 pm	Diana Krall
Jan 24	8:00 pm	Yacht Rock Revue
Jan 25	1:00 pm	Barricade Boys
Jan 25	7:30 pm	Ravel's Daphnis and Chloe
Jan 30	8:00 pm	Geoff Tate - Operation: Mindcrime
Feb 01	1:00 pm	A1A Jimmy Buffett Tribute
Feb 3-4	Times Vary	Riverdance 30 The New Generation

## Tampa Bay Festivals & Flavor: 2026 Highlights

The spring of 2026 brings a heavy-hitting lineup of cultural and culinary events that take advantage of the mild **75°F to 85°F** weather.

### **The Gasparilla Music Festival (April 10–12, 2026)**

Moving to a new venue at **Meridian Fields** (near Water Street) this year, GMF remains the city's premier musical event. The 2026 lineup features a mix of indie rock, soul, and local legends, all set against the backdrop of Tampa's growing urban skyline.

### **Tampa Bay Wine & Food Festival (April 7–11, 2026)**

This five-day "gastronomic marathon" spans both sides of the bay.

**Chef Showdown:** Watch local culinary titans compete at Curtis Hixon Park.

**Grand Tasting:** The week culminates in a massive tasting event on Saturday, featuring the best of Tampa's burgeoning Michelin-recognized food scene.

### **Busch Gardens Food & Wine Festival (March – May 2026)**

Every weekend, the theme park transforms into a global kitchen. In 2026, look for the "**All-New Culinary Creations**" influenced by bold spices and the park's new **Lion & Hyena Ridge** attraction.



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# Getting Ready for Spring!!!

In 2026, spring in Tampa Bay is less of a season and more of a grand reopening. As the rest of the country shakes off the final frost, the Bay Area enters its "Goldilocks" period: the humidity hasn't yet reached its summer peak, the sun is out, and the calendar is packed.

From the crack of the bat at Spring Training to the bloom of wildflowers in the suburbs, here is your guide to experiencing Tampa Bay in the spring.

## **The Grapefruit League: Baseball's Backyard**

Spring in Tampa is synonymous with the smell of fresh-cut grass and the pop of leather mitts. The region serves as a major hub for **MLB Spring Training**, offering fans an intimate look at their favorite players.

**The New York Yankees:** For over 30 years, George M. Steinbrenner Field has been the spring home of the Pinstripes.

**The Toronto Blue Jays:** Head across the bridge to **Dunedin**, where the recently renovated TD Ballpark offers a cozy, community vibe that makes you feel like you're part of the team.

**The Philadelphia Phillies:** BayCare Ballpark in **Clearwater** is famous for its tiki bar in left field—arguably the best seat in the house for a sunny afternoon game.

## **Nature in Bloom: Beyond the Concrete**

Spring is the best time to see Florida's wild side before the summer heat sends animals into hiding.

**Blueberry Picking (April – May):** Central Florida's "Blueberry Belt" comes alive.<sup>8</sup> Visit **Keel Farms** in Plant City or **Starkey Farms** in Trinity to fill a bucket with fresh berries.

**Sunflower Mazes:** In May, the **Sweet Fields Farm Sunflower Maze** in Brooksville (just north of Tampa) offers a literal "living labyrinth" of sunflowers that grow up to 10 feet tall.<sup>9</sup>

**Manatee Transitions:** While the Manatee Viewing Center in Apollo Beach officially closes for the season on **April 15**, early spring is the best time to see the "sea cows" before they migrate back into the open bay.

### **The "Secret" Spring Beaches**

While Clearwater Beach and St. Pete Beach are world-famous, they can get crowded during Spring Break. Locals in the know head to these spots:

Beach	Why Go?
Fort De Soto Park	Spread out across five islands with incredible biking trails and a historic fort.
Pass-a-Grille	The quiet, southern tip of St. Pete Beach with boutique shops and a "no-high-rise" feel.
Cypress Point Park	A hidden gem right near the Tampa airport—perfect for watching planes land over the water at sunset.

### **Quick Spring Travel Tips**

**Hydrate & Protect:** The Florida sun in April is deceptively strong. Even if it feels breezy, 30 minutes without sunscreen can leave you with a "lobster" look you'll regret.

**Book the Water Taxi:** Parking in Downtown Tampa or Sparkman Wharf can be a headache. Use the **Pirate Water Taxi** to hop between the Riverwalk attractions.

**Morning is Magic:** Plan your outdoor hikes (like the **Hillsborough River State Park** trails) for before 11:00 AM to catch the best wildlife activity and the coolest temperatures.

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## MONTHLY MARKET SCHEDULE

10/4/25  
11/1/25  
12/6/25  
1/3/26  
2/7/26  
3/7/26  
4/4/26  
5/2/26

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### Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21

Fri, Jan 9, 8 pm, Straz Center, Morsani  
Sat, Jan 10, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater  
Sun, Jan 11, 2 pm, Mahaffey  
Theater *Matinee*



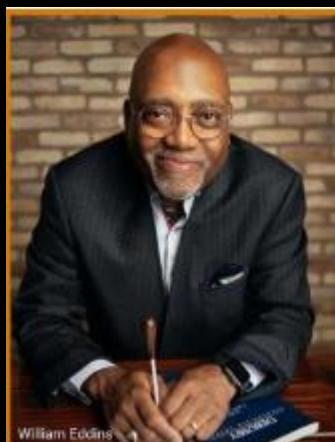
### The Billy Joel Songbook

Fri, Jan 16, 8 pm, Straz Center, Ferguson  
Sat, Jan 17, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater



### Ravel's Daphnis and Chloe

Fri, Jan 23, 8 pm, Straz Center, Morsani  
Sat, Jan 24, 8 pm, Mahaffey Theater  
Sun, Jan 25, 7:30 pm, Ruth Eckerd Hall



### RAVEL'S DAPHNIS AND CHLOE

### El Amor Brujo

Fri, Jan 30, 7:30 pm, Church of the Ascension  
Sat, Jan 31, 7:30 pm, Peter and Cynthia Zinober  
Concert Hall at USF, Tampa  
Sun, Feb 1, 2 pm, USF St. Pete Student Center  
Ballroom



# RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM™

February 1, 2026



Feb  
28th

Mar  
1st





### MARCH • APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				STL		STL
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
STL	MIL	MIL	MIL		MIN	MIN
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
MIN	CHC	CHC	CHC		NYY	NYY
	4:10	6:40	6:40		7:10	6:10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
NYY		CWS	CWS	CWS	PIT	PIT
1:40						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
PIT	CIN	CIN	CIN		MIN	MIN
	6:40	6:40	1:10		7:10	4:10
26	27	28	29	30		
MIN	CLE	CLE	CLE	CLE		
	1:40					

### MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					SF	SF
					7:10	6:10
3	4	5	6	7	BOS	BOS
SP	TOR	TOR	TOR	TOR		BOS
1:40	8:40	8:40	1:10			
10	11	12	13	14		
BOS	TOR	TOR	TOR	TOR		
15	16	17	18	19		
MIA	BAL	BAL	BAL	BAL		
1:40	8:40	8:40	1:10			
22	23	24	25	26		
NYY	BAL	BAL	BAL	BAL		
29	30	31	32	33		
LAA						
1:40						

### JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	
		DET	DET	DET	DET	
		8:40	8:40	1:10		
7	8	9	10	11	12	
MIA	BOS	BOS	BOS	BOS		
8:40	8:40	1:10				
14	15	16	17	18	19	
LAA	LAD	LAD	LAD	LAD		
21	22	23	24	25	26	
WSH	KC	KC	KC	KC	AZ	AZ
7:10	8:40	8:40	12:10	7:10	8:10	8:10
28	29	30	31			

### JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
		KC	KC	HOU	HOU	HOU
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
HOU	NYY	NYY	NYY	SEA	SEA	SEA
8:40	8:40	8:40	8:40	7:10	7:10	6:10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
SEA	ALL-STAR BREAK	PHILADELPHIA, PA		BOS	BOS	
1:40						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
BOS	TOR	TOR	TOR	CLE	CLE	CLE
				7:10	7:10	6:10
27	28	29	30	31		
CLE		TEX	TEX	TEX	CWS	
1:40		6:40	6:40	12:10	7:10	

### AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	
				CWS	CWS	
				4:10		
3	4	5	6	7	8	
CWS	COL	COL	COL	COL		
1:40						
15	16	17	18	19	20	
SEA	ATH	ATH	ATH	ATH		
21	22	23	24	25	26	
BAL	BAL	TOR	TOR	TOR		
1:40	8:40	8:40	8:40	1:10		
27	28	29	30	31		
BAL	DET	DET	DET	DET		
30	31					
SD	NYM					
1:40	8:40					

### SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
		NYM	NYM	NYM	NYM	NYM
		8:40	8:40	8:40	8:40	8:40
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
TEX	ATL	ATL	ATL	ATL		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
HOU	ATH	ATH	ATH	ATH		
1:40	8:40	8:40	8:40	1:10		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
BOS						
1:40						
27	28	29	30	31		
NYY	NYY	NYY	NYY	PHI	PHI	PHI

■ HOME GAME □ AWAY GAME

(Schedule subject to change)

SEASON  
PREVIEW | ORLANDO HEALTH

# Rays Enter a New Season With Familiar Ground, Fresh Faces, and Renewed Focus

The Tampa Bay Rays head into the new season balancing continuity with change — a theme familiar to fans across the Tampa Bay area. After a year away from their longtime home, the Rays are preparing to return to Tropicana Field, following repairs stemming from storm-related damage that forced the team to temporarily relocate during the 2025 season.

Last year, the club played its home schedule at George M. Steinbrenner Field, an unusual but serviceable solution that kept baseball in the region while Tropicana Field underwent roof repairs and infrastructure updates. The Rays are expected to be back under the Trop's dome in time for Opening Day, with team officials confirming that work remains on schedule.

On the baseball side, the Rays continue to reshape their roster in true Tampa Bay fashion — with an emphasis on flexibility, development, and opportunity. Several familiar faces have moved on during the offseason, creating space for younger players to compete for roles both in the everyday lineup and the bullpen. The coaching staff has also seen adjustments, adding experience and a fresh perspective to a group long respected for its ability to maximize talent.

Spring Training gets underway in Port Charlotte, where the Rays will once again call Charlotte Sports Park home for the Grapefruit League schedule. Camp opens Saturday, February 21, giving fans an early look at roster battles and new combinations before the regular season begins.

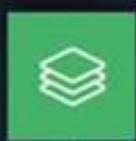
The Rays' regular season opens on the road before returning home for their first game back at Tropicana Field. That home opener, scheduled for Monday, April 6 against the Chicago Cubs, will mark more than just the start of another season — it will be a symbolic homecoming for a franchise that prides itself on resilience. As the Rays move forward, the focus remains the same: compete, adapt, and find ways to win — no matter the challenges, and no matter the venue.

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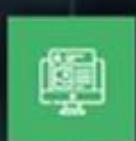
## PROCESS

# WHAT TO EXPECT. WORK WITH US.



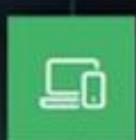
### DOMAIN SEARCH AND AUDIT

ESTABLISH THE FACTS AND WORK ON THE GROUND GAME FOR AN SEO OPTIMIZED DOMAIN AND MARKETING STRATEGY



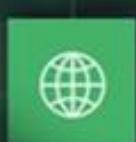
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# January 2026

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January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Rise of Decades

7:00 pm

January 08	7:00 pm	California HoneyDrops
January 15	8:00 pm	Runaway Gin – A Tribute to Phish
January 18	7:00 pm	BI – 2
January 20	5:30 pm	Nothing More w/ Catch Your Breath, Archers and Dobbie
January 29	7:00 pm	The Wombats
January 31	7:00 pm	Jump – America's Van Halen Experience



## THE OUTSIDERS

**DEC 27, 2025 - JAN 4, 2026**



## BLUE MAN GROUP

**Jan 16, 2026 - JAN 18, 2026**



## & JULIET

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## CLEARWATER COMEDY CLUB

HEADLINER  
SERIES

### Gene Harding



[No Title]



Fri - Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 8:30pm

Sat - Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 8:30pm

## CLEARWATER COMEDY CLUB

HEADLINER  
SERIES



### Paul Farahvar



Fri - Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 8:30pm

Sat - Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30pm

## CLEARWATER COMEDY CLUB

HEADLINER  
SERIES



### Erik Lewin



Fri - Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:30pm

Sat - Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 8:30pm

## CLEARWATER COMEDY CLUB

[No Title] LINER  
SERIES



### Kerry McNally

Fri - Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 8:30pm

Sat - Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 8:30pm





Dec 31 – Jan 3	Dale Jones
Jan 4	Martin Moreno
Jan 7	Mick Foley
Jan 8 – 10	Lucas Zelnick
Jan 10	Rio Paris
Jan 11	Trish Suhr
Jan 11	Dale Elliott Jr
Jan 14	Joe Matarese
Jan 15 – 17	Harland Williams
Jan 18	Jack Tenney
Jan 21	Masood Boomgaard
Jan 22 – 24	Josh Sneed
Jan 25	Joselito
Jan 25	Joe Avati
Jan 30-31	David Nihill: Taking Tangents
Jan 31	Kerryn Feehan





The Tampa Bay Rowdies announced the signing of defender Yanis Leerman ahead of the 2026 USL Championship season, pending league and federation approval.

The 27-year-old defender comes to Tampa Bay following three seasons as a regular contributor for Loudoun United FC, where he appeared in 86 matches across all competitions.

“Yanis has proven himself to be a top center back at this level, so we are excited about what he can bring to the Rowdies,” said Rowdies Head Coach Dominic Casciato. “He is somebody with a lot of quality that understands that to be successful you need to put the team first, always. He likes to defend and is very good in possession too. He has a competitive edge that I am looking forward to seeing every day in training and when he steps onto the field in the green and gold.”

Born in France, Leerman developed as an academy player for Troyes during his youth. In 2018, he moved to the United States to play college soccer at the University of Central Florida, where he made 60 appearances over four seasons for the Golden Knights. The Chicago Fire selected Leerman in the 2022 MLS SuperDraft, but the Frenchman chose to continue his college career for one more year as a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh.

Leerman signed his first professional contract with Loudoun United FC ahead of the 2023 USL Championship season. In his first season in the professional ranks, Leerman led the club in clearances, interceptions, and aerial duels won with an 85.7% passing accuracy rate over 28 league appearances.

“I’m proud and honored to be joining this legendary club,” said Leerman. “I look forward to giving my all to this organization and to the great Rowdies fans so we can achieve our goals in the new season.”

Fans can lock in their seats for every match at Al Lang Stadium in 2026 by becoming a season ticket member today. Season ticket members enjoy the best savings on tickets and exclusive discounts on merchandise and concessions, as well as other benefits.

### Roaster as of December 23, 2025

Goalkeepers: Austin Pack, Jahmali Waite

Defenders: Leland Archer, Robert Castellanos, Nathan Dossantos, Yanis Leerman, Laurence Wyke

Midfielders: Luis Alvarez, Sebastian Cruz, Pedro Dolabella, Lewis Hilton, Alex Mendez, Marco

Micaletto, Louis Perez, Max Schneider

Forwards: Russell Cicerone, Evan Conway, Karsen Henderlong, Endri Mustali, MD Myers



A graphic for the 2026 Schedule. It features a dark background with green smoke or fire effects. The Tampa Bay Rowdies logo is in the top left. The word 'SCHEDULE' is written in large, bold, green letters. To the right is a table of home games at Al Lang Stadium, including an USL Cup Match. The table lists dates, opponents, and locations for each game from March 7 to July 25.

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JUL 10, 2026

TRAIN - DROPS OF JUPITER: 25 YEARS IN  
THE ATMOSPHERE



JUL 15, 2026

CHICAGO & STYX: THE WINDY CITIES TOUR



JUL 18, 2026

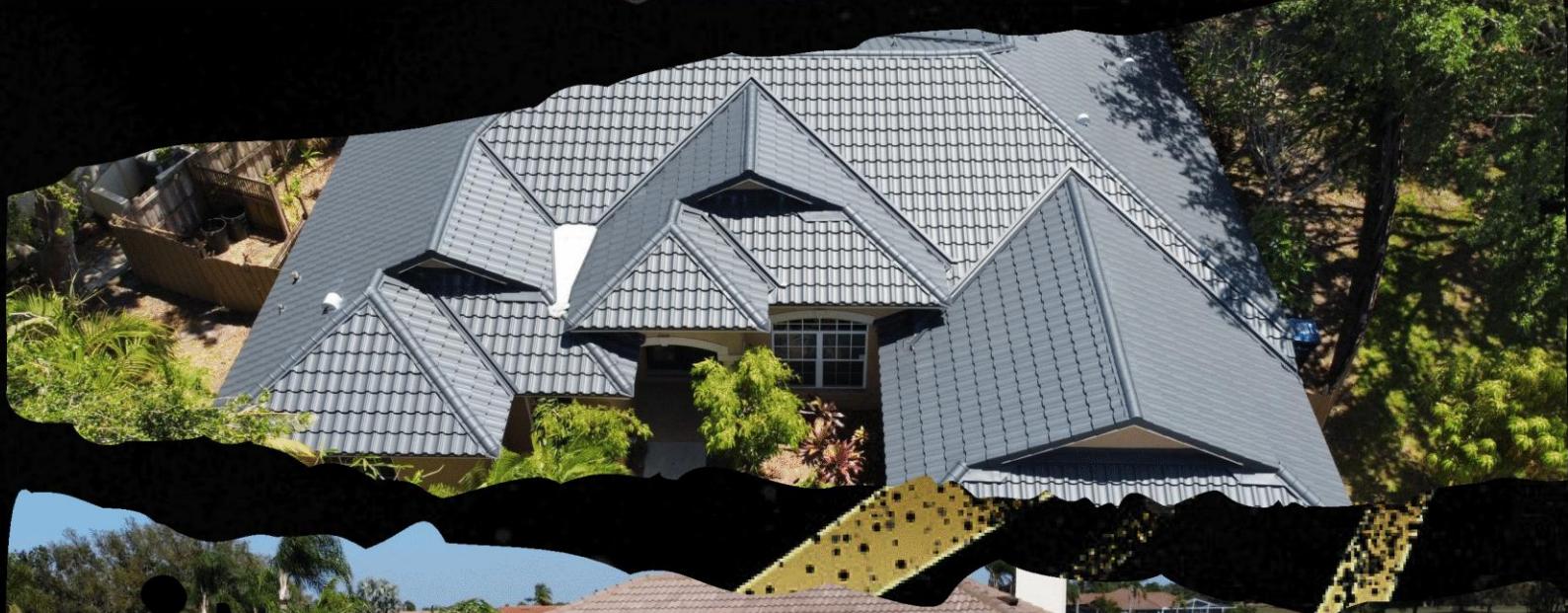
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