

Tampa Bay

June 2026

# SPORTS

&  
Entertainment Magazine

# FIREHOUSE

Interview inside!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
AMERICA!!!

# About Our Team:



Joanne Durann CEO/Publisher



Trish Stoecker Managing Editor



Howard Durann – Sales & Marketing



Phil Stoecker Photographer

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

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Please check with all venues for exact times and dates.

# July Holidays

## July 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Clean Beaches Week

- July 2 World UFO Day
- July 4 Our Nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- July 7 National Day of Rock n' Roll
- July 11 National 7-11 Day
- July 15 National Pet Fire Safety Day
- July 18 Nelson Mandela International Day
- July 19 International Karaoke Day
- July 23 National Refreshment Day
- July 25 National Wine & Cheese Day
- July 27 Bagpipe Appreciation Day
- July 31 Uncommon Instrument Awareness Day

While we strive to ensure that all team statistics, game schedules, concert dates, venue information, ticketing details, and general reporting are accurate at the time of publication, event details in the sports and entertainment industries are subject to rapid change. The Magazine makes no representations, warranties, or guarantees, express or implied, regarding the completeness, accuracy, reliability, or timeliness of any information provided. Any reliance you place on such information is strictly at your own risk.





## Winter Garden Charming Boutique Town in Central Florida

Tampa Bay Sports and Entertainment is always looking for worthwhile day trips for readers who want to explore beyond the coast. Although Florida is known for its beautiful beaches, the center of the state offers its own appeal in small towns such as Winter Garden. Located on Lake Apopka, about 30 minutes from Orlando and Walt Disney World, Winter Garden blends historic character, boutique shopping, restaurants, and outdoor recreation into an easy Central Florida getaway.

Like many small towns in Central Florida, Winter Garden grew from an agricultural economy, especially the citrus industry that shaped Orange County through much of the 19th and 20th centuries. The arrival of the narrow-gauge Orange Belt Railway in the 1880s accelerated the town's growth, drawing stores and businesses to Plant Street, which paralleled the tracks and later became the core of today's historic downtown. When difficult years in the citrus industry weakened the local economy, town officials redirected Winter Garden toward the charming, tree-lined shopping and tourist destination it is today.

Plant Street and its cross streets, from Central Avenue to Dillard Street, form the heart of the historic downtown, with Victorian-era red-brick buildings and vintage tin-tile ceilings. Although car traffic is allowed along brick-paved Plant Street, the area is especially pedestrian-friendly near its center, west of Main Street, where Centennial Plaza offers a grassy gathering space with a clock tower, an ornate tiled fountain, and a gazebo stage for live entertainment. For history buffs, Winter Garden's historic train station on Plant Street has been converted into the Winter Garden Heritage Museum, while the Central Florida Railroad Museum sits at the corner of South Boyd and Tremaine Streets.

A good visit can be built around Plant Street: start with a walk through the historic downtown, stop at the museums or the farmers market if they fit your schedule, then leave time for lunch, shopping, and a ride or walk along the West Orange Trail.

Shoppers have plenty of opportunities to indulge themselves, including the Plant Street Market, an indoor market featuring handmade items and homemade foods, and the year-round Winter Garden Farmers Market, which brings more than 100 vendors downtown on Saturdays. The historic buildings converted into chic boutiques and restaurants are also not to be missed. Together, the preserved architecture and active storefronts give Winter Garden the feel of a historic town that still has plenty of modern energy.

Winter Garden is also a destination for visitors who enjoy nature and outdoor sports. Beyond the linear park feel of Plant Street, the town has green spaces and athletic fields, including Dr. Bradford Park and Newton Park a few blocks north on the shore of Lake Apopka. Although the immediate downtown area is easy to explore on foot, the best way to take in more of the area is by bicycle. Local communities converted the unused Orange Belt Railroad railbed into a public trail for walking, running, and bicycling. Twenty-two miles of the old rail line have been paved, beginning in nearby Oakland, passing through Winter Garden, and ending in Apopka. A bicycle shop on Plant Street, right off the trail, will rent or sell you a bicycle if you have not brought your own.



Winter Garden is a charming historic town near Orlando with more to offer than a quick stroll through its downtown. As accessible from the Tampa Bay area as Orlando or Walt Disney World, it makes a rewarding day trip for boutique shopping, restaurants, live entertainment, local history, and time outdoors.

For more information: City of Winter Garden website: <https://www.cwgdn.com/>



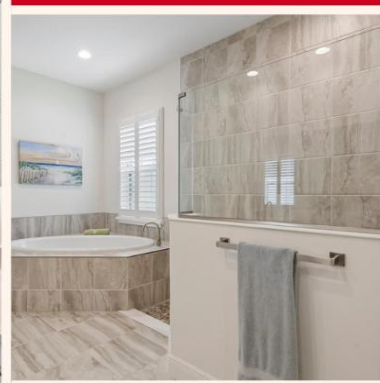


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THE SOUND

### AEW DYNAMITE BEACH BREAK



JUL 8

### MEN AT WORK

WITH  
TOAD THE WET SPROCKET  
SHONEN KNIFE



SAT, JUL 18

### THE BLACK KEYS

WITH  
EDDIE 9V



JUL 28

### DEEP PURPLE

WITH  
KANSAS



SAT,  
AUG 8

### SQUEEZE

WITH  
ADAM ANT  
HAIRCUT 100



AUG 19

### DEVO



THU,  
AUG 27

### BLUES TRAVELER & GIN BLOSSOMS

WITH  
SPIN DOCTORS



SEP 10

### 97X NEXT BIG THING LEGENDS YELLOWCARD

WITH  
WATERPARKS  
DYLAN COTRONE



FRI,  
SEP 11

### MERSIV MORFLOW FEST

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SAT, SEP 12

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## The 2026 FIFA World Cup

### Right Side of the Bracket

#### Round of 16 (July 5–7)

**Match 92 (July 5):** Winner Match 73 vs. Winner Match 74

**Match 94 (July 6):** Winner Match 77 vs. Winner Match 78

**Match 95 (July 7):** Winner Match 75 vs. Winner Match 76

**Match 96 (July 7):** Winner Match 79 vs. Winner Match 80

#### Quarterfinals (July 11–12)

**Match 99 (July 11):** Winner Match 92 vs. Winner Match 94

**Match 100 (July 12):** Winner Match 95 vs. Winner Match 96

### The Final Four (The Ultimate Bracket Destination)

**Semifinal 1 (July 14 - Dallas):** Winner Match 97 vs. Winner Match 98

**Semifinal 2 (July 15 - Atlanta):** Winner Match 99 vs. Winner Match 100

**Third-Place Play-off (July 18 - Miami):** Semifinal 1 Loser vs. Semifinal 2  
Loser

## World Cup Final

**(July 19 - New York New Jersey):**

Semifinal 1 Winner vs. Semifinal 2 Winner



### Left Side of the Bracket

Teams advancing from these July matchups will face each other as they progress toward the Semifinals.

• **Match 82 (July 1):** Winner Group E vs. 3rd Group A/B/C/D

• **Match 84 (July 1):** Belgium vs. Runner-up Group O/P

• **Match 81 (July 1):** USA vs. Bosnia and Herzegovina

• **Match 86 (July 2):** Spain vs. Runner-up Group F/G

• **Match 83 (July 2):** Winner Group B vs. 3rd Group E/F/G/H

• **Match 88 (July 2):** Switzerland vs. Runner-up Group I/J

• **Match 87 (July 3):** Australia vs. Egypt

• **Match 85 (July 3):** Argentina vs. Cabo Verde  
Round of 16 (July 4–6)

• **Match 89 (July 4):** Winner Match 81 vs. Winner Match 82

• **Match 90 (July 4):** Winner Match 83 vs. Winner Match 84

• **Match 91 (July 5):** Winner Match 85 vs. Winner Match 86

• **Match 93 (July 6):** Winner Match 87 vs. Winner Match 88

### Quarterfinals (July 9–10)

• **Match 97 (July 9):** Winner Match 89 vs. Winner Match 90

• **Match 98 (July 10):** Winner Match 91 vs. Winner Match 93

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- July 10**      Tori Amos (with special guest Barteas Strange)
- July 11**      Willy Chirino: Celebrating 50 years of music & Freedom
- July 17**      Infinity Rising: The Music Of Journey (Featuring The Florida Rock Symphony)
- July 24**      The Australian Pink Floyd Show
- July 25**      The 2nd Annual Yacht Rock Summer (Pablo Cruise, Orleans, & David Pack)



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WTh: 10:30-6:30

SAT: 10:30-4:00

SUN: 11:00-3:00

## Local Artist Market

July 18-19

Local Vendors  
Giveaways  
Early Christmas  
Special Sales

SAT: 10:30-4:00

SUN: 11:00-3:00





TAMPA

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Venue General Info: (800) 745-3000



### Fisher Pool Party

Sunday, July 5 | 11:00AM +1 Event  
Pool Party

21+ EVENT | RAIN OR SHINE



### Summer Asian Food & Music Festival

Sunday, July 12 | 2:00PM - 10:00PM  
Hard Rock Event Center



### Chippendales

Wednesday, July 15 | 8:00PM +1 Event  
Hard Rock Event Center

21+ EVENT



### Jo Koy

Wednesday, July 22 | 8:00PM +1 Event  
Hard Rock Event Center

21+ EVENT



### Adam Ray

Sunday, July 26 | 8:00PM  
Hard Rock Event Center

The event originally scheduled for April 2, 2026 has been rescheduled to July 26, 2026.

21+ EVENT



### Zeds Dead Pool Party

Sunday, August 2 | 11:00AM +1 Event  
Pool Party

21+ EVENT | RAIN OR SHINE



- July 1** Not Fade Away Band plays Dead-Zeppelin (*Grateful Dead & Led Zeppelin Mashup*)
- July 2** Summer Fling (with Lauren Mian)
- July 3** Rumours ATL: A Fleetwood Mac Tribute (with 8TRACK Band)
- July 7 & 8** Jerry's Middle Finger
- July 10** TASCA & Color TV
- July 15 & 16** The Heavy Heavy (with MT Jones)
- July 17** Faster Things Band: An Allman Brothers Experience
- July 19** Jack White
- July 22** The Last Waltz (Presented by Stagefright)
- July 23** DeadCenter / Dead Meat (*High Octane Grateful Dead*)
- July 25** The Head And The Heart: 15th Anniversary Tour
- July 30** Snarky Puppy
- July 31** Hot Tuna Acoustic



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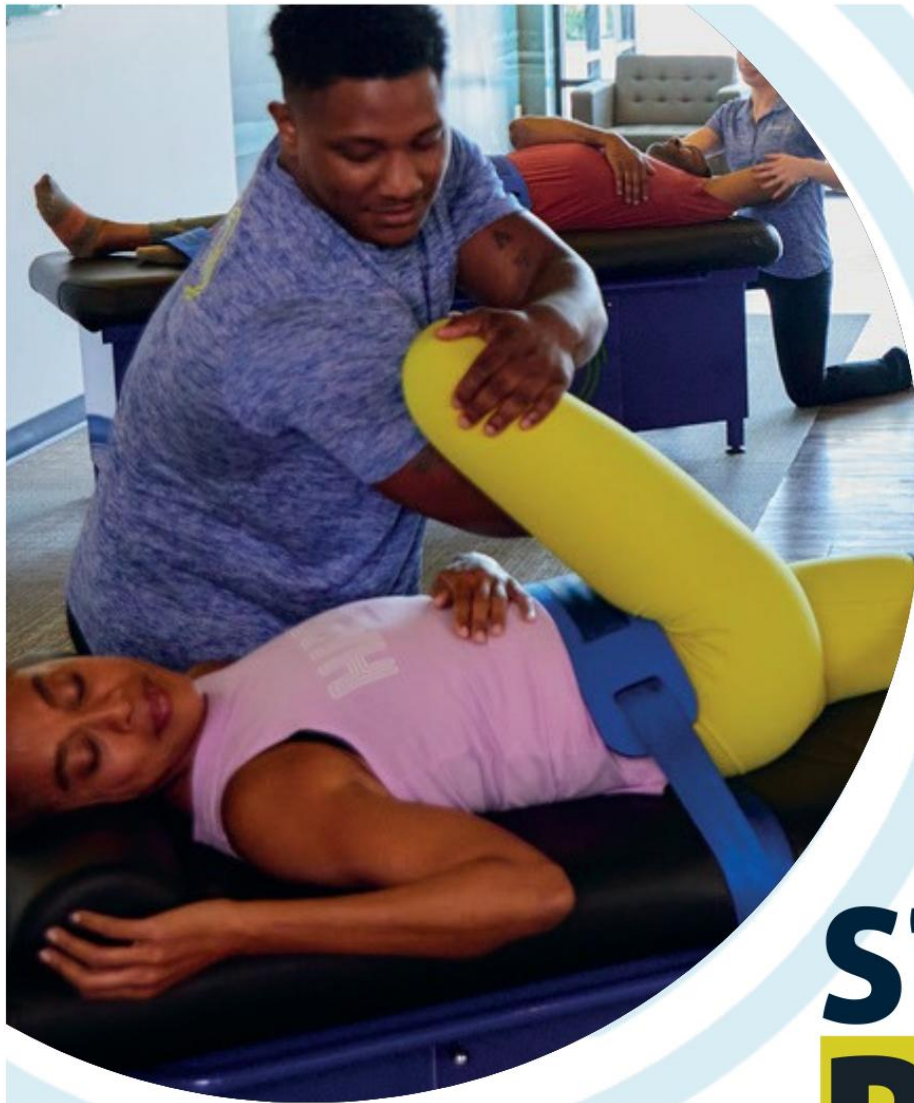


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# COACHING OVERVIEW

Assessment

Goal Setting

Action Plan

Follow-Up

Classes Start Soon!

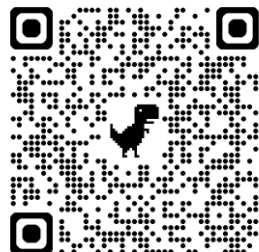
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# Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday America!!!

## The Ultimate Doubleheader: Celebrating 250 Years of American Grit, Gridirons, and Guitars

This July Fourth, America isn't just lighting sparklers; we are throwing the ultimate birthday bash for the Semi-quincentennial. **250 years old.** Two and a half centuries of an experiment that shouldn't have worked on paper, but triumphed in practice because of the sheer, unyielding grit of its people.

For those of us who live life tuned into a Friday night stadium speaker or the roaring engine of a hometown crowd, this milestone hits a little deeper. America's history isn't just written in dusty textbooks; it's pressed into vinyl records and carved into the turf of our sports fields.

From the revolutionary battlefields of 1776 to the modern arenas of today, our national identity has been shaped by two undeniable forces: **our music and our sports.** They are the twin heartbeats of the American spirit.

To understand how we got here, you have to appreciate the ultimate underdog story. In 1776, a ragtag group of colonists looked at the greatest empire on Earth and said, "*We'll take our chances.*" It was a high-stakes gamble that required teamwork, sacrifice, and a refusal to back down—the exact same traits we honor in our sporting icons today.

As the nation grew, so did our cultural landscape. We didn't just build cities; we built communities centered around the local ballpark and the town bandstand. **Baseball** became the "National Pastime" during the Civil War, serving as a rare common ground that healed a fractured country.

Simultaneously, march king **John Philip Sousa** was writing the literal soundtrack to American exceptionalism, turning brass instruments into a rallying cry for liberty. We've always been a country that works hard, plays hard, and sings loud.

## **The Great American Songbook: Freedom You Can Hear**

You can map the entire history of American freedom through its musical revolutions. America didn't just inherit folk songs; we invented entirely new genres out of the raw pursuit of expression.

- **The Blues and Jazz:** Born from pain and resilience, these uniquely American genres proved that beauty could be forged from the hardest struggles. They laid the tracks for the civil rights movement, changing hearts before laws could even catch up.
- **Rock & Roll:** When Elvis Presley shook his hips and Jimi Hendrix electrified the national anthem at Woodstock, it wasn't just music—it was the sound of a country constantly pushing boundaries and redefining personal freedom.
- **Country & Heartland Rock:** From Johnny Cash's boom-chicka-boom rhythm to Bruce Springsteen's anthems for the working man, our music tells the honest story of regular Americans putting food on the table and keeping the faith.

If music is the voice of America, sports are the proving ground. In the United States, it doesn't matter who your parents were or what zip code you grew up in. On the field, the clock doesn't lie, and the scoreboard doesn't care about your pedigree.

Think about the moments where American sports history shifted the culture of the entire world:

- **Jesse Owens (1936):** Standing on the podium in Nazi Germany, shattering Hitler's myths of supremacy with four gold medals.
- **Jackie Robinson (1947):** Walking onto Ebbets Field with the number 42 on his back, bearing the weight of a changing nation with unmatched dignity and a blistering batting average.

- **The "Miracle on Ice" (1980):** A bunch of college hockey kids taking down the Soviet Red Army machine at the height of the Cold War, reminding a weary nation exactly what happens when Americans refuse to accept defeat.

These aren't just stats in a record book; they are milestones of our collective freedom.

## **250 Years and the Play Clock is Still Running**

As we look out at the landscape of 2026, it's easy to focus on where we fumble. But America has never been about perfection—it's about the relentless drive toward a "*more perfect union*." It's a continuous overtime period where we keep lacing up our boots and stepping back onto the field.

Tonight, whether you are tailgate-frying burgers outside a stadium, strumming an acoustic guitar on a back porch, or watching the fireworks explode over a local diamond, take a second to breathe it in.

We are the sons and daughters of innovators, rebels, athletes, and rockstars. We are 250 years strong, the music is turned up to eleven, and the best innings are still ahead of us.



**Happy Birthday, America.  
Play ball!**

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**BENCHMARK**  
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**ARENA**

- July 9** **Tame Impala** (*The Deadbeat Tour with DJO*)
- July 15** **J. Cole** (*The Fall-Off Tour*)
- July 17** **Megan Moroney** (*The Cloud 9 Tour with JP Saxe & Solon Holt*)
- July 22** **Lionel Richie and Earth, Wind & Fire** (*Sing a Song All Night Long*)
- July 23** **Daniel Caesar** (*Son Of Spergy Tour with Faye Webster*)
- July 25** **2026 Bolts Brew Fest** (*Presented by Publix*)
- August 1** **Dude Perfect** (*Squad Games Tour 2026*)
- August 7** **Mumford & Sons** (*Prizefighter Tour with Medium Build*)
- August 14, 15, & 16** **Monster Jam Freestyle Mania**

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Social





# June 2026

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July 1	7 pm	USA Soccer Watch Party
July 3	8 pm	Liberty House
July 16	7 pm	Bossman Dlow
July 24	6 pm	Rocks the Cure Presents: Vertical Horizon & Tonic
Aug 7	7 pm	Elysian Space Dust Presents: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual St Pete Grungfest
Aug 9	7 pm	Sold Out: Nine Vicious
Aug 26	7 pm	Buckcherry & Black Stone Cherry
Sept 4	6 pm	Citizen
Sept 13	7 pm	Isaiah Rashad: Lil Sunny's Awful Road Trip
Sept 16	6 pm	Jutes

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## George Pennington Brings Tampa's Live-Music Spirit Into Every Performance

On any given night in Tampa Bay, George Pennington might be coaxing fire from an electric guitar, shaping a full-band arrangement with horns and keys, or pulling a room in close with a solo acoustic piece. For Pennington, every performance is a chance to make something that cannot be repeated — a one-night-only collision of craft, energy, and instinct.

When Pennington performs with his trio, he thinks in terms of the classic power-trio tradition: three musicians creating enough sound, movement, and energy to fill the room without overcrowding it. He points to the lineage of Cream, the Jimi Hendrix Experience, Motörhead, The Police, and Rush as examples of musicians who each carry a wide sonic responsibility within a tight ensemble.

For Pennington, that format brings out a fiery, active guitar style. It also gives his bandmates room to stretch. Depending on the gig, bassist Sebastian Siaka and drummers Rod Al Nord or Matt Salvador can push the music into a more open, explosive space where each player contributes heavily to the sound.

But Pennington is not limited to one setting. With his full band, George Pennington and the Odyssey, the arrangements can expand to horns, keys, and as many as seven players. That version of the music is less wild and more tied to the compositions themselves. As a solo artist, he shifts again, leaning into ballads, musical theater-inspired art songs, acoustic fingerstyle pieces, and classical guitar techniques.

Teaching came early for Pennington. The day after graduating high school, he began working at a summer camp at the same school, taking on light teaching responsibilities that grew over time. That path eventually connected with his studies at the University of South Florida, where he experienced a music education program that combined traditional training with a more progressive view of what young musicians could create.

USF gave him exposure to the familiar pillars of school music — choir, concert band, marching band, conducting, and choral direction — while also encouraging students to write songs, record themselves, and use modern technology.



Pennington recalls participating in an iPad band called Touch, where performers used digital devices in live settings to explore how technology could fit into music education.

That creative approach shaped how he thinks about musicianship. Instead of limiting players to what is printed on the page, Pennington values asking what else an instrument can do, how a player can contribute to a group, and how technology can open new possibilities without replacing the human element.

Pennington's earliest musical memories are closely tied to family. One of the moments that stayed with him was hearing Stevie Ray Vaughan's version of "Little Wing" while riding in the car with his father. The sound of that Stratocaster became a core memory and helped root his love of blues, rock, and power-trio energy.

His father, an opera singer, also exposed him to the power of the human voice. That influence widened Pennington's musical world beyond guitar-driven rock into choir, musical theater, classical voice, and local blues jams. As a middle school and high school student, he was already playing in bands around town and absorbing different styles at the same time.

While he listens broadly and notices how modern bands use promotion, production, and sound design, Pennington describes himself as an old soul. He is still drawn to recordings that feel raw, tight, and alive — the kind of performances where the energy is impossible to smooth out or manufacture.

Asked about artificial intelligence and music, Pennington sees an opportunity for skilled instrumentalists to stand out. He hopes that AI will highlight the difference between a generated texture and a musician who has spent a lifetime actively discovering, exploring, and improvising on an instrument.

To him, the value of live music is in the details: the push and pull of a performance, tone variance, unpredictability, and the fact that every show is slightly different. He calls that "one of one" quality something he continues to chase, because he never wants to play a piece exactly the same way twice. "I think that's the magic of live music," Pennington says. "Every show is a one-of-a-kind thing."

Pennington has released three albums, with the most recent still less than a year old. He also has tracks in progress for a future release, though he tends to think in terms of complete bodies of work rather than isolated singles. For him, a larger project can better capture a band's range of ideas and the intention behind the music.

His performance résumé includes memorable opening slots, including a last-minute opportunity to open for the Gipsy Kings at Ruth Eckerd Hall before a sold-out audience of about 2,200 people. He performed a classical piece he wrote called “Glimpses of Spain,” experiencing the intensity of a seated crowd focused closely on his playing.

He has also opened for Selwyn Birchwood, a fellow Tampa Bay-area musician he describes as a friend and colleague. Those pairings have helped Pennington reach new listeners and reinforced the importance of finding artists whose music fits naturally together.

May 29 at Crowbar, is one of the found remembered shows, with the Ybor City venue preparing to close at the end of July, he describes the show as his “last dance” there and a celebration of both the venue’s legacy and the community it helped build. The lineup includes Vision Crystal, bringing bluegrass, folk rock, Americana, violin, and acoustic guitar textures; Light the Wire, with a mystical folk-rock sound and Fleetwood Mac-inspired harmonies; George Pennington and the Odyssey in full-band form with horns, keys, and guests; and the Cope Fam Jam, a final jam connected to the Crowbar community and the legacy of the Orange Blossom Jamboree.

When asked what he wants people to know about him, Pennington does not only talk about his own music. He talks about collaboration, autonomy, and the desire to help bring more Tampa artists together. As a musician, composer, arranger, and connector with studio experience around town, he wants to be part of projects that highlight different people and their talents. Even as he continues to focus on his own identity as an artist, Pennington sees growth in widening the circle. He wants to bring more people into his musical orbit, contribute guitar ideas and arrangements to other artists’ work, and help facilitate creative projects across the local scene. That instinct may be the best summary of Pennington’s place in Tampa music: rooted in craft, driven by live energy, and still looking for new ways to make the scene larger than any one performer.

For show dates and more information, Pennington directs listeners to [GeorgePenningtonMusic.com](http://GeorgePenningtonMusic.com).



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# Tampa Bay Rays

## 2026 Draft Board



The **Tampa Bay Rays** are set up beautifully for the early rounds of the 2026 MLB Draft. Thanks to a huge jump in the draft lottery and a notable offseason trade, they actually hold **three picks within the top 50 selections**.

Their current draft order for the early rounds is:

- **Round 1, Pick 2 (No. 2 overall):** The Rays had just a 3.0% chance of landing a top-six pick, but they were the biggest winners of the draft lottery, jumping all the way from the No. 7 slot up to No. 2.
- **Competitive Balance Round A, Pick 5 (No. 33 overall):** This pick was acquired from the Baltimore Orioles in the December 2025 trade involving pitcher Shane Baz.
- **Round 2, Pick 12 (No. 49 overall):** Their natural second-round selection.



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# DRAFT 26

## First Round

The Stue Jays, Dodgers, Mets, Phillies and Yankees received a 10-pick penalty on their first picks for exceeding the second surcharge threshold of the Competitive Balance Tax.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  1. Chicago White Sox      |  2. Tampa Bay Rays          |  3. Minnesota Twins         |
|  4. San Francisco Giants   |  5. Pittsburgh Pirates      |  6. Kansas City Royals      |
|  7. Baltimore Orioles     |  8. Athletics              |  9. Atlanta Braves         |
|  10. Colorado Rockies    |  11. Washington Nationals |  12. Los Angeles Angels   |
|  13. St. Louis Cardinals |  14. Miami Marlins        |  15. Arizona Diamondbacks |
|  16. Texas Rangers       |  17. Houston Astros       |  18. Cincinnati Reds      |
|  19. Cleveland Guardians |  20. Boston Red Sox       |  21. San Diego Padres     |
|  22. Detroit Tigers      |  23. Chicago Cubs         |  24. Seattle Mariners     |
|  25. Milwaukee Brewers   |  |  |

# FIREHOUSE



## Bill Leverty Talks FireHouse's Tour, New Music, and Life on the Road

Ahead of FireHouse's upcoming visit to the Tampa Bay area, I had the opportunity to sit down with guitarist Bill Leverty for a wide-ranging conversation about the band's current tour, new music, and what life on the road looks like at this stage of their career.

When asked how the tour is going, Leverty said the band is enjoying a busy run of shows with Warrant and Lita Ford, along with select headlining dates. Those longer headlining sets give FireHouse more room to work new music into the show. "We're playing a lot of shows," Leverty said. "When we have a headlining show, we usually have time to do two new songs. If we're opening, we usually have time to do one, and the one we're doing is our latest one. It's called *Midnight Gasoline*. It's going over well."

The band's latest song, *Midnight Gasoline*, has already become a favorite for its driving beat, strong riffs, powerful drums, and standout vocals. Leverty said FireHouse is building toward more new music, but the process is intentionally gradual. "We're two songs into it," he explained. "We're doing one song at a time. It takes a while because we're touring at the same time and doing other things, but we're going to work on the third song next."

Leverty said the band releases new songs on its website first so longtime supporters can hear them before they reach the major streaming platforms. It is a fan-first approach that he believes is working.

Touring looks different now than it did in the band's earlier years. Leverty joked that things changed "now that I'm over 29," but the biggest shift is logistical: FireHouse primarily plays weekend fly dates rather than long stretches on a tour bus. A typical weekend may include flying out on Thursday, playing Friday night, catching an early flight Saturday morning, performing again Saturday night, and flying home Sunday. The schedule reflects both the band's audience and the realities of weekday commitments. "Most people in our audience aren't as likely to go out to see a band on a Tuesday or Wednesday night because they have to get up and go to work in the morning," Leverty said. "So, we're doing weekend-warrior touring — a lot of late nights and early flights." While the band is not opposed to using a tour bus if the right opportunity comes along, Leverty said flying has become the practical choice. He laughed about the tradeoff: years ago, the money went to bus companies; now, it goes to airlines. The dream solution? "Just buy a plane," he joked.

Leverly also reflected on what it was like for FireHouse to play at Disney, describing the theme-park experience as “a whole different animal” from traditional venues or larger bar settings. The band performed three sets per evening, each with packed crowds and many different people coming through from set to set. Leverly said the shows gave FireHouse a chance to reach listeners who may not have seen the band before, or who only knew a song or two. The format was demanding, though. After giving everything during the first set, the band had only about 45 minutes to regroup before going back out and doing it again. “It got us in shape,” Leverly said, noting that singing three sets is very different from singing one.

The Disney shows were also meaningful for personal reasons. Leverly praised Nate for doing “a fantastic job” singing and said the band deeply missed CJ, who had long wanted to play that venue. Each set included a song dedicated to CJ, and one night became especially memorable when CJ’s daughter was in attendance. Leverly described Epcot as a beautiful, laid-back place that still knows how to rock during the Garden Rocks Festival. He said he hopes FireHouse has the chance to return and encouraged fans to experience the venue for themselves.

Reflecting on FireHouse’s longevity, Leverly noted that he and Michael Foster first started playing together in 1984, back in their White Heat days. By his count, that means they have been making music together for more than four decades. That kind of history is rare in music, especially in an industry where bands often face lineup changes, creative disagreements, and the pressures of life on the road. When asked how the band has stayed together through so many years, Leverly pointed to shared musical instincts, similar values, and mutual respect. He said the members tend to see the world in similar ways, which helps them work through disagreements. “It’s like a marriage,” he said. “You go into it thinking, ‘I’m going to try to make this work.’ You want to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem.”

Leverly said FireHouse’s writing process changes from song to song. Sometimes the band writes together in a room; other times, one member brings in an idea, and the group develops it from there. For Leverly, the best method is simply the one that gets the song finished.

When asked about his favorite song to play right now, Leverly pointed to FireHouse’s latest release, *Midnight Gasoline*. He described it as challenging in the best way — a song that requires focus, energy, and precision every time the band performs it. “You’re walking on a tightrope,” he said. “There’s a lot of singing and a lot of playing. It’s not an easy song to play, and I kind of like that. I want to be nervous when I get up there because it makes you try harder and keeps you on your toes.”

Even after decades of performing, Leverly said he still gets nervous before every show. Once he steps onstage, hits the first chord, hears what he needs to hear, and knows his guitar is in tune, he can relax. Those nerves come from wanting every show to be great. Leverly said the band wants fans to leave excited, tell their friends what they missed, and come back the next time FireHouse plays nearby. Things can go wrong onstage — a broken string, a lost voice, or a problem hearing the mix — but experience has taught the band how to adapt and keep the show moving.



Leverly named the Scorpions as his favorite band and recalled getting to play with them once at the Zoo Amphitheater in Oklahoma. He also spoke warmly about Warrant, calling them “like our brothers,” and remembered a 1992 tour with Tesla that began as a six-week run and stretched into nine months. He also praised Lita Ford and her band, noting their strong songs, musicianship, and camaraderie. Across the years, Leverly said FireHouse has been fortunate to tour with bands they genuinely got along with. One piece of advice that stayed with him came from Richie Sambora, who told him to make sure the songs he writes and releases are songs he will still want to play every night — even when he is not feeling well.

Leverly said the biggest change is that the traditional music business no longer exists in the same way. Record stores are gone, radio is more corporate, and listeners now discover music across streaming platforms, playlists, and social media. In FireHouse’s early days, a local radio station could change a band’s future. Leverly recalled how *Home Is Where the Heart Is* went to No. 1 on a Charlotte, North Carolina, rock station, helping the band build momentum toward a record deal.

Today, he said, music is less centralized. Fans have access to endless songs, apps, games, and social platforms, which makes it harder for any one song or album to reach everyone at the same time the way records once did.

Leverly also reflected on family life, saying he feels fortunate. He and his wife recently celebrated their 30-year anniversary in Florida, including a visit to Lido Beach in Sarasota, where he had proposed years earlier. He said the years have gone by quickly, but they have built a full life together. While touring often means time away from home, Leverly said his wife stays busy, and the family is proud of their daughter, who has graduated from college and is building her own path.

As for the future of FireHouse, Leverly has no plans to slow down. He said he wants to keep going “forever” because playing guitar, making music, and performing live remain the greatest job he could imagine. The travel can be difficult — late nights, short sleep, early airport runs, and security lines — but Leverly keeps it in perspective. He described it as the kind of job he dreamed about as a kid and said he cannot see himself doing anything else.

When asked what he hopes fans understand about the band and what legacy they wish to leave, Leverly said FireHouse has always tried to be open and honest in interviews. At their core, he described the band members as normal, easygoing people who know they have been lucky to do what they love. Even though the travel can be grueling, Leverly said the fans provide the adrenaline that keeps the band going. Their continued support means everything to FireHouse. “We really, really owe it all to our fans,” he said.

Note from Joanne: Bill was wonderful to speak with—kind, humble, and genuinely enjoyable in conversation. You could tell he truly loves his fans and what he is doing, along with his bandmates.

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## Vets' Corner July 2026

The world of veterans' benefits is constantly evolving, with changes to VA programs, TRICARE, military retirement, legislation, and other issues that can directly affect veterans and their families. Each month, Vets' Corner brings you the latest news, benefit updates, and resources that matter most, helping you stay informed and make the most of the benefits you've earned through your service.

### A Capitol Fourth: 250th weekend celebration

Kicking off the historic Independence Day weekend's festivities for the nation's Semi quincentennial, "A Capitol Fourth: 250th weekend celebration" will be broadcast live and streamed nationwide from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol on Friday, July 3, from 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. ET. Scan the code below to see how you can watch the festivities.



**VA updates home loan appraisal requirements to help Veterans compete in today's housing market:** VA updated its appraisal process regarding Minimum Property Requirements (MPRs)—the standards a property must meet to be eligible for a VA-guaranteed home loan—to reduce delays, cut outdated rules and help Veteran homebuyers move faster in a competitive housing market. Scan the code below for more information.



### **Veterans may be eligible for TSA Precheck at no cost**

Eligible Veterans for the TSA Precheck enrollment fee waiver are those who VA has determined have a service-connected disability requiring the use of a VA-issued wheelchair or prosthetic limb, due to loss or loss of use of an extremity, full or partial paralysis, or permanent blindness. Eligible Veterans must also be enrolled in VA healthcare. Scan the code below to find out how you can get TSA Precheck at no cost.



## VA launches Partial Claim Program to help Veterans avoid home foreclosure



The Department of Veterans Affairs today formally launched the VA Partial Claim Program, a new effort to help Veterans facing financial struggles avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes. Scan the code below to find out what tips you can take to help avoid home foreclosure.

## VA loans: Steps to stop the spam



Veterans and service members often experience an unexpected surge in VA home loan spam messages when interest rates drop or after inquiring about a home refinance. The good news is that there are ways to avoid spam. If you get a spam message via email or text, don't click on any links in the message. Scan the code below to find out what tips you can take to help stop the spam.

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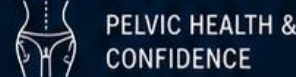
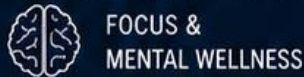
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<b>Sun, Oct 4</b>	2:00 PM	<b>Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture</b>	Mahaffey Theater (St. Pete)
<b>Wed, Oct 7</b>	11:00 AM	<b>Once Upon a Time in Paris</b> ( <i>Morning Matinee – Debussy, Moulin Rouge &amp; more</i> )	Ruth Eckerd Hall (Clearwater)
<b>Thu, Oct 8</b>	11:00 AM	<b>Once Upon a Time in Paris</b> ( <i>Morning Matinee</i> )	Mahaffey Theater (St. Pete)
<b>Fri, Oct 9</b>	7:30 PM	<b>Revolution: The Music of The Beatles</b> (	Ferguson Hall / Straz Center (Tampa)
<b>Sat, Oct 10</b>	7:30 PM	<b>Revolution: The Music of The Beatles</b>	Mahaffey Theater (St. Pete)

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<b>Fri, July 17</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Warrant (with special guest Firehouse)</b>
<b>Wed, Aug 12</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Totally Tubular Festival (Thomas Dolby, A Flock of Seagulls, The Motels, The Producers, Animotion, The Escape Club, &amp; Tommy Tutone)</b>
<b>Sat, Aug 22</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Dokken + Lynch Mob (with special guest Deep)</b>
<b>Fri, Sept 11</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>I Love the 90's Tour (Vanilla Ice, Montell Jordan, Tone Loc, 2 Live Crew, and more)</b>
<b>Fri, Dec 4</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Lou Gramm All-Stars</b>
<b>Fri, Dec 11</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Twisted Sister featuring Sebastian Bach special guests Rockett Mafia featuring Rikki Rocket</b>

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Please check with all venues as things change

# Top Events in the Tampa Area

## July 4th

Tampa is going exceptionally big for the Fourth of July, largely driven by the city's massive "**Liberty by the Bay**" celebration marking America's 250th anniversary. From massive waterfront festivals to late-night clubbing and bars, the top parties and celebrations across the area include:

### **The Main Event: Liberty by the Bay & The Riverwalk**

The City of Tampa is hosting its largest July 4th celebration ever, taking over **Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park** and stretching down the entire downtown waterfront.

**The Vibe:** Massive crowds, DJs, live music, a beer garden, food trucks, a water ski show, and a patriotic boat parade.

**The Finale:** At 9:00 PM, a massive **250-drone light show** begins, immediately followed by a huge fireworks display over the Hillsborough River.

**Time:** 4:00 PM – 9:30 PM (Free admission).

### **High-Energy Waterfront Watch Parties**

If you want to view the massive downtown fireworks and drones with an active party, drinks, and a club-like atmosphere, these hubs are throwing dedicated bashes:

**Armature Works:** The Heights District waterfront is hosting its own massive view party with food, pop-up bars, and live music right on the lawn.

**Jackson's Bistro & Bar (Harbour Island):** Known for hosting one of the premier waterfront nightlife parties, Jackson's offers front-row waterfront fireworks viewing, multiple rooms of DJs, and outdoor dance floors.

### **The Official Tampa 4th of July Bar Crawl**

For those looking to hop from venue to venue with a large crowd rather than staying in one spot.


**The Vibe:** High-energy, patriotic-themed, and packed with drink specials. It routes partygoers through several of the top nightlife spots in downtown/South Tampa.

**Time:** Runs throughout the late afternoon and into the night.

### **Pier 60 Independence Day Celebration (Clearwater Beach)**

If you want to head across the bridge for a beach party vibe, Clearwater Beach is throwing a massive celebration.

**The Vibe:** Live music, street performers, crafts, and a massive fireworks display over the Gulf of Mexico. The beach bars like Shephard's Beach Resort will be packed with DJs and pool/beach party crowds all day and night.

 **Pro-Tip:** If you are staying downtown, use the **TECO Line Streetcar** (which is free) to navigate between Sparkman Wharf, Channel District, and Ybor City to avoid the absolute chaos of July 4th parking.

## **Brandon: The Big Local Tradition (With a Major Twist!)**

The biggest news for Brandon this year is that its legendary, decades-old parade has moved to a brand-new home to celebrate America's 250th anniversary.

• **The Greater Brandon 4th of July Parade & Festival:** \* **When:** Saturday, July 4th at 10:00 AM (Arrive by 9:00 AM).

- **Where: Hillsborough County Fairgrounds** (215 Sydney Washer Rd, Dover).
- **What's New:** To handle the massive crowds and avoid neighborhood street closures, the historic parade has moved just a few minutes east to the fairgrounds.
- **The Perks:** Parking and admission are completely free. Even better, the morning parade transitions directly into a massive afternoon **Community Festival** on-site featuring a chili cook-off, a watermelon-eating contest, live music, food trucks, and carnival rides. You can park once and stay all day!


## **Apollo Beach, Ruskin & Riverview: The Waterfront Hubs**

Down on the South Shore, the vibe is much more nautical and relaxed. There isn't a massive city-sponsored fireworks show right in these towns, but the community comes alive on the water:

- **Apollo Beach (Circles Waterfront & Marinas):** The docks and channels around **Circles Waterfront Restaurant** and the Apollo Beach Nature Park are the places to be. Locals gather on their boats or along the canals. From the beach or a boat, you can see neighborhood firework displays lighting up the sky and catch glimpses of the major downtown shows across the bay.
- **Ruskin & Riverview Tiki Bars:** Spots like *The Fish House* or local riverside tiki bars along the Alafia and Little Manatee Rivers will be hosting all-day backyard BBQs, cold drinks, and live local music all weekend long.

## **Need Big Fireworks? Heading South to Bradenton/Palmetto:**

The **Palmetto Fourth Fest** and Bradenton Riverwalk celebrations kick off at 5:00 PM. At 9:15 PM, they launch a massive joint fireworks display right over the Manatee River from the Green Bridge, which is a straight shot down US-41 or I-75 from Ruskin/Apollo Beach.

 **Pro-Tip for the Weekend:** If you are heading to the Brandon Parade at the Fairgrounds, pack plenty of water and sunscreen—July in Florida is intense, and the fairgrounds have a lot of open spaces!

## **The Main Event: "The Fourth" at the St. Pete Pier**

The absolute epicenter of the celebration is downtown at the **St. Pete Pier, Spa Beach Park, and Family Park**.

**When:** Saturday, July 4th, from **4:00 PM to 10:00 PM** (Fireworks at **9:00 PM**).

**The Festival:** This is a massive, free-admission community party. It features live music on the main stage, a craft beer garden, a giant food truck rally, "Uncle Sam's Market" for local vendors, a Family Fun Zone, and roaming entertainers.

**The St. Pete Pier Run:** For the early birds, the annual Pier Run kicks off earlier in the day if you want to burn off those holiday calories ahead of time.

**The Fireworks (9:00 PM):** Launched right over the water, the city has **doubled the scale** of the fireworks show this year to celebrate the semi-quincentennial.

**Pro-Tip:** While the event is entirely free and visible all along the downtown waterfront parks, they are selling VIP "Reserved Area" tickets at Spa Beach Park if you want a fenced-off, unobstructed view, private bars, and restrooms.

## **Holiday Baseball: The Tampa Bay Rays**


If you want a classic American afternoon before the fireworks, the Rays are in town at **Tropicana Field** playing over the holiday weekend. Catching an afternoon game in the AC is a perfect way to escape the brutal midday July heat before heading out to the waterfront for the evening festivities.

## **The Beach Vibe: St. Pete Beach & Pass-a-Grille**

If you prefer your 4th of July with sand between your toes rather than downtown crowds:

**Daytime:** Expect the beaches and legendary spots like the *Don CeSar* or *Caddy's* to be absolutely packed.

**Nighttime:** While the massive official show is downtown, the beach communities traditionally see plenty of regional and resort-coordinated fireworks over the Gulf.

 **Survival Tip for Downtown St. Pete:** Parking near the Pier will be a challenge. The Pelican and Dolphin lots on the Pier will fill up fast. Your best bet is to park in one of the downtown garages (like the Sundial or South Core garages) and walk over, or use the free downtown Looper trolley and Pier trams to get around

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SERIES

**Nik  
Macik**



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Sat - Aug 1st 8:30pm

## CLEARWATER COMEDY CLUB

HEADLINER  
SERIES

**Lance  
Weiss**



Fri - Aug 7th 8:30pm  
Sat - Aug 8th 8:30pm


## CLEARWATER COMEDY CLUB

HEADLINER  
SERIES

**Ginger  
Kelly**



Fri - Aug 14th 8:30pm  
Sat - Aug 15th 8:30pm



# Caminero Leads Rays' Charge Toward Philadelphia

All Photos from the Rays

The Tampa Bay Rays have spent the first half of the season proving they belong among the American League's elite. With one of baseball's best records and contributions coming from every part of the roster, it should come as no surprise that several Rays could soon be packing their bags for Philadelphia for the 2026 Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

Leading the way is third baseman Junior Caminero, who has quickly developed into one of the game's brightest young stars. At just 22 years old, Caminero has become the face of Tampa Bay's offense and has earned a place among the finalists for the American League's starting third base job through fan voting. As of June 28, he was batting .285 with 20 home runs, 56 RBIs and an OPS near .900, placing him among the American League's most productive power hitters while ranking with the best offensive third basemen in all of baseball. His combination of power, run production and defensive improvement has made him one of the easiest choices for All-Star consideration.

Caminero may be the headliner, but he certainly isn't the Rays' only deserving candidate. Veteran Yandy Díaz continues to do what he has done throughout his career—consistently put together quality at-bats. Entering the final week of June, Díaz was among the American League leaders in batting average and hits while once again serving as one of the club's most dependable offensive players. Whether at first base or designated hitter, his steady production should keep him firmly in the conversation for a reserve spot.

Jonathan Aranda has enjoyed a breakout season of his own. His combination of average, power and timely hitting has made him one of the American League's top offensive first basemen, giving the Rays yet another legitimate All-Star candidate in the middle of their lineup.

On the pitching side, Drew Rasmussen has made perhaps the strongest case of anyone on the staff. Following last year's All-Star selection, Rasmussen has once again established himself as one of the league's most consistent starters, combining outstanding command with one of the American League's lowest earned run averages. If the pitchers are selected strictly on performance, it would be difficult to leave him off the roster.

Shane McClellan has also worked his way back into the conversation after returning from injury. While missing time early in the season may affect his chances, his recent performances have reminded everyone why he has already been a two-time All-Star.

The Rays could also receive consideration for reliever Bryan Baker and veteran right-hander Nick Martinez, both of whom have played important roles during Tampa Bay's outstanding first half.



Photos Courtesy of the Tampa Bay Rays



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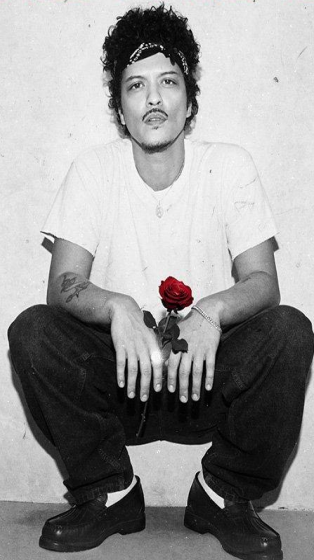


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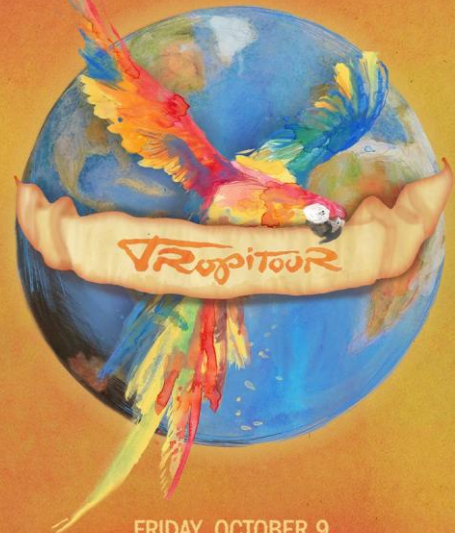


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*American Idiot* Jaeb Theater Jobsite Theater's high-energy production of Green Day's Tony Award-winning rock musical.

**Aug 19 – Sept 6**

*Penelope* Shimberg Playhouse The Southern U.S. premiere of this funny, aching, and explosive one-woman folk-pop musical based on *The Odyssey*.

**Sept 26 - (7:00 PM)**

Chucho Valdés Royal Quartet Ferguson Hall An evening of legendary Afro-Cuban jazz led by the multi-Grammy-winning pianist and composer.

**Sept 30 - (7:30 PM)**

Vitamin String Quartet Ferguson Hall The famous string ensemble performs classical, genre-bending reimagining of modern pop and rock hits (famously featured in *Bridgerton*).

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## July:

- **July 1 (3:30 PM):** The Princess Concert
- **July 2 (7:00 PM):** Celtic Throne II – *Psalter Of Ireland*
- **July 4 (6:00 PM):** 4th of July Pops Spectacular (*Featuring the St. Pete Opera*)

## August:

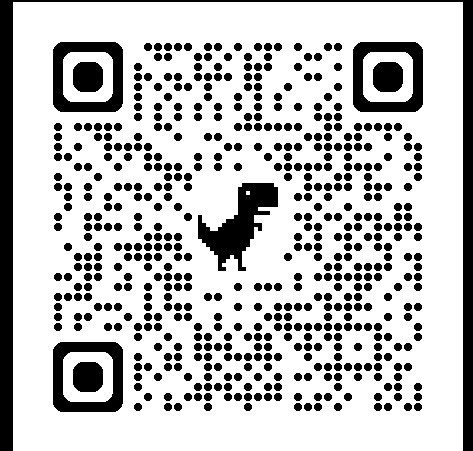
- **August 2 (7:30 PM):** WOODZ (*2026 World Tour 'Archive. 1' in US*)
- **August 5 (8:00 PM):** Mon Laferte (*Femme Fatale Tour*)
- **August 16 (7:00 PM):** Gipsy Kings featuring Tonino Baliardo (*Historia Tour*)

## September:

- **September 24 (7:30 PM):** Little Big Town (*For The Art Of It Tour*)
- **September 26 (7:00 PM):** Don Lemon & DL Hughley (*DL + DL "Anything Goes"*)

**Note:** Schedules can sometimes shift or add new community events. It's always a good idea to double-check the official Mahaffey Theater box office before finalizing your plans!

# MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Amphitheatre



FRI, JUL 10

**TRAIN - DROPS OF JUPITER: 25 YEARS IN THE ATMOSPHERE**



TUE, JUL 14

**NE-YO & AKON: NIGHTS LIKE THIS TOUR 2026**



WED, JUL 15

**CHICAGO & STYX: THE WINDY CITIES TOUR**



SAT, JUL 18

**LYNYRD SKYNYRD WITH LOVERBOY**



SAT, AUG 1

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# 2026 SCHEDULE



## MARCH - APRIL

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

## JULY

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

## MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 SF 7:10	2 SF 6:10
3 SF 1:40	4 TOR 6:40	5 TOR 8:40	6 TOR 1:10	7 BOS	8 BOS	9 BOS
10 BOS	11 TOR	12 TOR	13 TOR	14	15 MIA 7:10	16 MIA 4:10
17 MIA 1:40	18 BAL 6:40	19 BAL 8:40	20 BAL 1:10	21	22 NYY	23 NYY
24 NYY	25 BAL	26 BAL	27 BAL	28	29 LAA 7:10	30 LAA 4:10
31 LAA 1:40						

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 CWS 4:10
2 CWS 1:40	3 COL	4 COL	5 COL	6	7 SEA	8 SEA
9 SEA	10 ATH	11 ATH	12 ATH	13	14 BAL 7:10	15 BAL 6:10
16 BAL 1:40	17 BAL 6:40	18 TOR 6:40	19 TOR 8:40	20 TOR 1:10	21 BAL	22 BAL
23 BAL	24 DET	25 DET	26 DET	27	28 SD 7:10	29 SD 4:10
30 SD 1:40	31 NYM 6:40					

## JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 DET 6:40	2 DET 6:40	3 DET 1:10	4	5 MIA	6 MIA
7 MIA	8 BOS 6:40	9 BOS 6:40	10 BOS 1:10	11	12 LAA	13 LAA
14 LAA	15 LAD	16 LAD	17 LAD	18	19 WSH 7:10	20 WSH 4:10
21 WSH 1:40	22 KC 6:40	23 KC 6:40	24 KC 6:40	25 KC 12:10	26 AZ 7:10	27 AZ 6:10
28 AZ 1:40	29	30 KC				

## SEPTEMBER

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

HOME GAME AWAY GAME

(Schedule subject to change)

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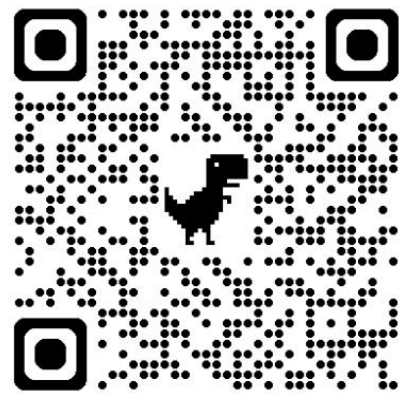


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## ALL ELITE WRESTLING

AEW Dynamite: Beach Break  
presented by Visit St. Pete-Clearwater

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Date

JULY 8, 2026

Venue

The BayCare Sound

City

Clearwater, FL

Time

7:30pm ET

<https://www.rutheckerdhall.com/events/detail/aew-dynamite-beach-break>



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**VS**



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★★ TAMPA BAY  
**ROWDIES**  
**2026  
SCHEDULE**

**HOME GAMES  
AT AL LANG STADIUM**

\*USL CUP MATCH

**MAR 7** at BIRMINGHAM LEGION FC

**MAR 21** vs. PITTSBURGH

**MAR 28** vs. LOUDOUN UNITED FC

**APR 4** at SPORTING CLUB JAX

**APR 11** vs. OAKLAND ROOTS SC

**APR 18** at CHARLESTON BATTERY

**APR 25** vs. SARASOTA PARADISE\*

**MAY 2** vs. INDY ELEVEN

**MAY 9** at RHODE ISLAND FC

**MAY 16** at MIAMI FC\*

**MAY 20** at NEW MEXICO UNITED

**MAY 23** vs. PHOENIX RISING FC

**MAY 30** at LOUISVILLE CITY FC

**JUNE 6** at SPORTING CLUB JAX\*

**JUNE 10** vs. CHARLESTON BATTERY

**JUNE 13** vs. HARTFORD ATHLETIC

**JUNE 20** at BROOKLYN FC

**JULY 4** vs. LEXINGTON SC

**JULY 11** vs. FC NAPLES\*

**JULY 25** at MIAMI FC

**AUG 1** vs. LOUISVILLE CITY FC

**AUG 8** at ORANGE COUNTY SC

**AUG 15** vs. RHODE ISLAND FC

**AUG 22** at DETROIT CITY FC

**AUG 29** at PITTSBURGH

**SEPT 5** vs. BROOKLYN FC

**SEPT 12** at HARTFORD ATHLETIC

**SEPT 16** at LOUDOUN UNITED FC

**SEPT 19** vs. BIRMINGHAM LEGION FC

**SEPT 26** at SAN ANTONIO FC

**OCT 3** vs. MIAMI FC

**OCT 10** at INDY ELEVEN

**OCT 17** vs. DETROIT CITY FC

**OCT 24** vs. SPORTING CLUB JAX





## Iron Sharpens Iron: Heat, Hits, and Heavy Expectations at Bucs Training Camp

The Florida sun is already baking the practice fields at the AdventHealth Training Center, but the real heat isn't coming from the climate. It's radiating from a Tampa Bay Buccaneers roster that is no longer content with just winning the NFC South. As the whistles blow and the pads finally pop, the message from Head Coach Todd Bowles is clear: **The underdog grace period is officially over.** With a reloaded roster, a foundational core locked into long-term deals, and a fierce rookie class eager to crack the starting lineup, this year's training camp is set to be the most competitive battleground in the division. Here are the burning storylines keeping Bucs fans up at night as the march to the regular season begins.

Last year, Baker Mayfield was fighting for his NFL life. This year? He's the undisputed general of the offense, armed with a contract that proves the front office believes in his gritty, fiery brand of leadership. But with absolute security comes absolute expectation. The main focus of camp is Baker's mastery of the offensive scheme. Fans watching from the bleachers will want to track the chemistry between Mayfield and his young weapons. We know what he can do with legendary target Chris Godwin. The real magic in camp will be watching how quickly he syncs up with sophomore receiver Jalen McMillan and rookie speedster Emeka Egbuka. If Baker can turn those young wideouts into reliable third-down threats early in camp, this offense will be impossible to scheme against.

If you love old-school, violent football, the middle of the field during 11-on-11 drills is where you need to point your binoculars.

**The Sophomores:** On defense, the terrifying duo of Vita Vea and Calijah Kancey are looking to wreck game plans. Kancey's lightning-fast first step has somehow gotten quicker over the offseason.

**The New Blood:** Trying to stop them is rookie center Graham Barton. The first-round pick out of Duke has been praised for his "mean streak" and technical prowess.

Watching Barton anchor against the sheer power of Veal and the slippery finesse of Kancey during padded practices is the ultimate litmus test. If Barton can hold his own in the blistering July heat against Tampa's elite defensive interior, the Bucs' running game—led by Bucky Irving—is going to explode this fall.

With Carlton Davis III gone, the cornerback room is undergoing a massive shift. Zion McCollum is stepping into the spotlight as a full-time boundary starter, and his progress under Bowles' watchful eye is a major focal point of camp. McCollum has the raw athletic traits, but training camp is where he must prove he can mentally handle elite receivers day in and day out. Fortunately for the corners, they have the ultimate safety net. Fresh off becoming the highest-paid defensive back in NFL history, All-Pro safety Antoine Winfield Jr. is flying around the field like he still has something to prove. Keep an eye on rookie defensive backs Benjamin Morrison and Tykee Smith as well; Bowles loves to deploy versatile safeties and nickels in hybrid blitz packages, and camp is where those complex coverages are forged.

This camp is a straight-up audition. Chris Braswell brings SEC pedigree and brutal power, while late-round gem Mohamed Kamara arrives with a chip on his shoulder and an elite motor. The player who shows the best ability to bend the edge and finish plays against starting tackles Tristan Wirfs and Luke Goedeke will walk away with the keys to the kingdom.

For the past few seasons, national pundits treated the Bucs like a team managing a post-Brady hangover. This year, the vibe in the locker room is entirely different. The defense is younger and hungrier, the offensive line has a nasty demeanor, and Baker Mayfield has a full stable of weapons.

Training camp isn't just about surviving the Tampa humidity—it's about building the muscle memory required to make a deep January run. Dust off your creamsicle gear, fire up the cannons, and get ready. Football is finally back in the Bay.





Date(s)	Comedian / Headliner	Showtimes
Wed, July 1	Kevin Eudy	7:30 PM
Thu, July 2	Rob Little	7:30 PM
Fri, July 3 – Sat, July 4	Joe DeVito	Fri: 7:00 PM & 9:30 PM Sat: 7:00 PM & 9:30 PM
Sun, July 5	Carl Rimi	7:00 PM
Thu, July 9 – Sat, July 11	Rachel Feinstein	Thu: 7:30 PM Fri: 7:30 PM & 10:00 PM Sat: 8:00 PM & 10:30 PM
Thu, July 16 – Sat, July 18	Greg Warren	Thu: 7:30 PM Fri: 7:00 PM Sat: 6:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Fri, July 17	D'Lai ( <i>Late Night</i> )	10:00 PM
Sun, July 19	Kel Perez	6:00 PM
Thu, July 23 – Sat, July 25	Mark Normand	Thu: 7:00 PM & 9:30 PM Fri: 7:30 PM & 10:00 PM Sat: 8:00 PM & 10:30 PM
Wed, July 29	Francisco Ramos	7:00 PM



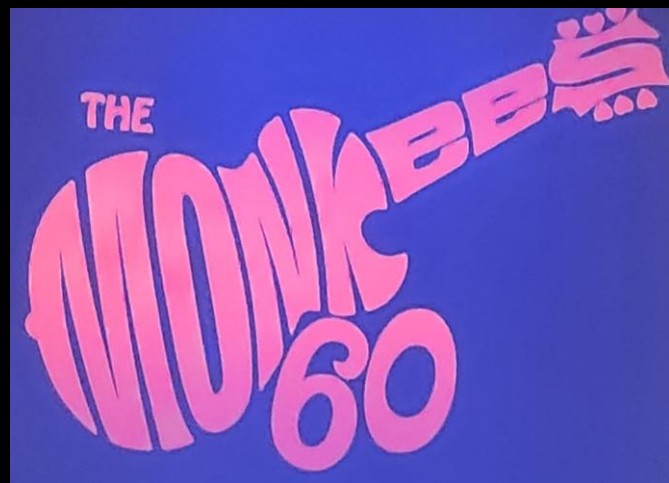
# 60 Years later: Mickey Dolenz Still Monkeying Around



On June 28, Micky Dolenz brought his celebration of 60 years of the Monkees to the Capitol Theatre in Clearwater. The result was a magnificent show—warm, nostalgic, and full of energy. As the last surviving member of the original group, Dolenz remains a vibrant performer, carrying the Monkees’ legacy with humor, gratitude, and impressive stamina.

From Classic songs and Personal stories Mickey hit them all. The concert featured classic Monkees hits drawn from five different albums, including:

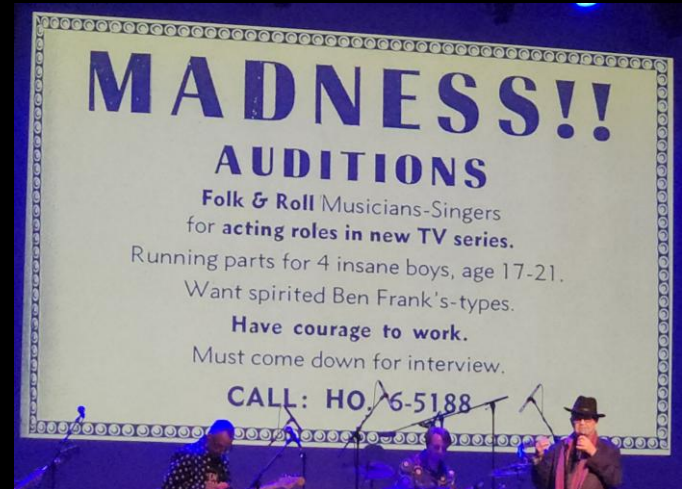
- The Monkees
- More of the Monkees
- Headquarters
- Head
- Other fan favorites from across the catalog



Between songs, Dolenz shared memories from the band’s journey and took time to thank the writers, musicians, and others who helped shape the Monkees’ sound and success.

One of the most memorable parts of the evening was seeing Dolenz perform alongside his sister and the rest of the band while original Monkees videos played behind them. The combination of live music and archival footage created a moving connection between past and present, as Dolenz reflected on the people, places, and moments that defined the group's history.

Dolenz also traced the Monkees' unlikely beginnings, starting with a newspaper ad seeking actors for a new television series. He spoke about how the group gradually understood the scale of what they had joined, from early disagreements with the studio to the push for greater creative control.



He described how each member contributed to the music, bringing his own style and personality to the recordings. That spirit of collaboration helped give the band its distinctive charm and lasting appeal.

Whether you grew up watching the Monkees, discovered them through reruns, or have seen them in concert before, this show is a heartfelt tribute that should not be missed. It celebrates the music, memories, and enduring joy of a band that continues to connect with audiences six decades later.

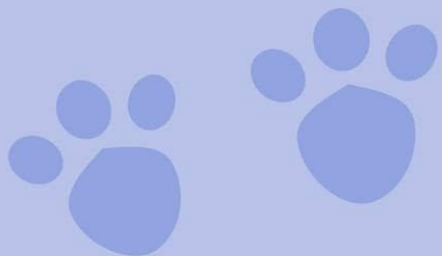


# Yuengling CENTER

## Yuengling Center 2026 Schedule

<b>Sat, Aug 1</b>	<b>Freestyle Explosion Tampa</b> <i>(Featuring Stevie B, Lisa Lisa, TKA, The Original Cover Girls, Lisette Melendez, George Lamond, Judy Torres, 69 Boyz, and J.J. Fad)</i>	7:30 PM	The ultimate 80s/90s old-school dance and freestyle music festival.
<b>Fri, Sept 11</b>	<b>Grupo Frontera</b> <i>(Triste Pero Bien Cbrón Tour)*</i>	8:00 PM	Regional Mexican hitmakers bringing their major stadium- level production to the arena.
<b>Tue, Sept 15</b>	<b>Ricardo Montaner</b> <i>(El Último Regreso Tour)</i>	8:00 PM	The legendary Argentine-Venezuelan romantic balladeer on his highly anticipated farewell tour.
<b>Sat, Sept 19</b>	<b>Ryan Castro</b> <i>(Sende - The Last Dance Tour)</i>	8:30 PM	One of Colombia's biggest rising urban/reggae artists.
<b>Thu, Oct 8</b>	<b>Dermot Kennedy</b> <i>(The Weight of the Woods Tour)</i>	8:00 PM	Contemporary Irish singer-songwriter bringing his powerful alt-pop vocals to Tampa.
<b>Thu, Oct 29</b>	<b>CeCe Winans</b> <i>(COME WORSHIP! Tour)</i>	7:00 PM	The most awarded female gospel artist of all-time live-in concert.
<b>Fri, Dec 18</b>	<b>Underoath</b>	6:00 PM	A massive hometown celebration for the iconic Tampa-born metalcore band's historic album.

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