

# 26th Anniversary Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park



**MAY 3-6** 









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## CURRENCE ON

Special publication by

Lake City Reporter

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## Welcome

#### to the 26th Anniversary Jam!

Put on your cowboy hats and get ready to party because the 26th Annual Suwannee River Jam is right around the corner.

The four-day country music festival takes place from May 3-6 at the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park and Campground. The event will feature more than 20 performers, including some of the biggest country

music stars in the business.

Headliners for the Jam include big-name acts such as Billy Currington, Hunter Hayes, Randy Houser, Sara Evans and Montgomery Gentry.

Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park Marketing Director Teena Peavey expects almost 25,000 guests to visit the 800-acre campground on the



Suwannee River during the weekend.

"The River Jam is a staple," she said. "When you go to other cities, people know the River Jam. It's a great opportunity to get out in nature and see some great country acts."

The Suwannee River Jam has been growing in popularity over the past 26 years. In fact, Wide Open Country, an online country music website, named the Suwannee River Jam one of the 23 best country music festivals in 2017.

Other known performers that visitors can expect to see at the Suwannee River Jam include Jerrod Niemann, Neal McCoy, Sammy Kershaw, Collin Raye and Aaron Tippin, with more artists being added to the lineup every day.

"People should expect some great country music, great fellowship and making memories," Peavey said.

While people are camped out at SOSMP, there are all kinds of activities they can do, Peavey said. They can shop for exclusive merchandise, check out some arts and crafts, drive around their golf carts and eat food from all the vendors on the campground. You can even kayak, canoe or play disc gold there as well, she said.

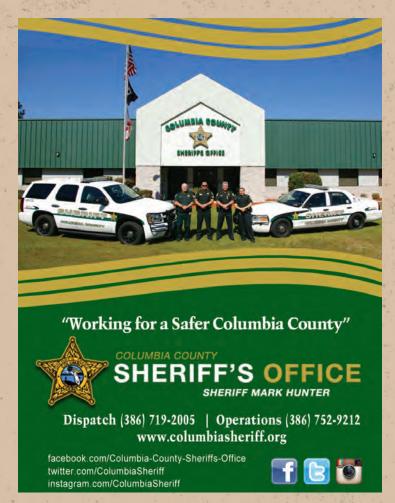
The finals of Miss Suwannee River Jam and the Ultimate Cowboy Challenge will also take place during the country music-filled weekend.

Weekend tickets are \$80 exclusively at S&S Food Stores, the lowest available price for the whole festival. Advance tickets are also available on the Suwannee River Jam website for \$90 and include four days of entertainment. Bundle packages are also available. The Gold VIP Pit Pass costs \$400 in advance and includes four days of entertainment and also features access to an exclusive VIP area, three meals during the weekend, reduced prices on beverages and free parking. The Silver VIP Pit Pass costs \$200 in advance and includes four days of entertainment, free parking and reduced beverages. Tickets for children ages 6-12 cost \$45 in advance and include four days of entertainment. Children under six are admitted free, and all children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian at all times. Military and student discounts are available with proper ID.

For a full list of ticketing and accommodation information, call the SOSMP at (386) 364-1683, or visit www.suwanneeriveriam.com.

The park is located at 3076 95th Drive, approximately 45 miles north of Live Oak.

— Taylor Gaines



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- 4 days of entertainment
- Reduced beverages
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- 3 meals (Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner)
- Free parking
- · VIP bag with festival T-shirt

- 4 days of entertainment
- Reduced alcoholic beverages
- Free non-alcoholic beverages
- Free parking
- Souvenir laminate

· 4 days of entertainment



#### DISCOUNT

#### Student Tickets:

- Must show current Student ID
- · 4 days of primitive camping
- · 4 days of entertainment

#### Military Tickets:

- Must show military ID or paperwork, 1 ticket per ID
- 4 days of primitive camping
- 4 days of entertainment





#### What Will Be There?

Portable water, restrooms & Port-O-Lets, general store, ice, information/lost & found, trash and recycling bins, campground security, bath houses.



#### What Do I Need To Bring?

Bug repellent, sunscreen, trash bags, flashlight/batteries, tent, sleeping bag, ear plugs, toiletries/prescription medications you may need.



#### What Can I NOT Bring?

Illegal drugs, weapons, fireworks. No dogs are allowed, either in the campground or the festival areas. The only exceptions are for service animals or park residents.



#### **Are Campfires Allowed?**

Campfires are permitted as long as an adult attends them. Firewood is available at the general store. Campfires must be extinguished before retiring for the night and before leaving the campsite for the day.



#### Where Are The Restrooms?

Restrooms are located at the Music Hall and the John Condo Unit at the Jam Field. Additional Port-O-Lets will be located throughout the campgrounds.





Those attending the Suwannee River Jam will have another opportunity to pay tribute to the men and women serving our country overseas by participating in the 4th Annual Soap for Soldiers fundraiser.

The Jam Team believes in supporting America's military, and will once again hold its annual donations drive at the event. The Jam Team will be sending care packages to troops overseas. The packages will include toothpaste, mosquito spray, lotions, sun screen, wipes and small-packaged personal items to help the United States Military troops who put their lives on the line every day to serve our country.

Help these brave men and women by bringing these items to the Marine Corps-manned Soap for Soldiers tent when you come to the Jam. The goal is to fill an entire Honda Fit with donated items.

Also, please sign the big card at the Soap for Soldiers tent wishing our troops safe travels home. The Jam Team will send this card with inspirational messages to the soldiers thanking them for their service to the USA.





#### **THURSDAY**

**Devin Burris • Cypress Springs** 



Colt Ford



**Montgomery Gentry** 

**BONUS 2ND SET: Colt Ford • Midnight Show** 

#### **FRIDAY**



Sara Evans



Jerrod Niemann



Randy Houser

#### SATURDAY



Neal McCoy



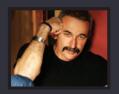
Collin Raye



Hunter Hayes



Sammy Kershaw



Aaron Tippin



Billy Currington

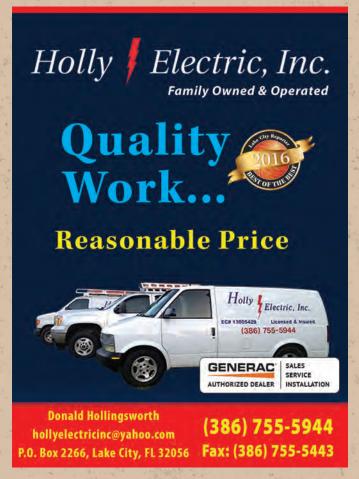


#### **ALSO PERFORMING**

- Jamey Michael King
  - Sondra Hunt Band
    - Exit 78
- Bryan Wainwright Band
  - Middle Ground Band
  - Danny Dawson Band
  - Jonathan Lee Band
    - Stephen Quinn
      - Darrell Rae
    - Jimmie Coleman
      - Josh Edwards
    - Brittanie Powell
    - Cole Tomlinson
      - Callie Johns
    - Zakk Kolberg
  - Andy Purcell Band
    - Colby Allen
  - Karley Scott Collins & Alex Sandlin
- Southern Sass (Cassidy Kinsman & Kelby Shea)
  - Trey Tucker Band
    - Treble Hook
  - Ben Carter Band

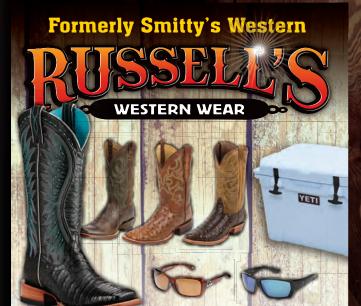
Check with the front gate for show times and stage locations.





Miss Seagram's
LIVER
Daisy Duke Style

Winner announced Saturday at 7:30 p.m.



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contests in the area earlier this spring, winners from Miss Seagram's Suwannee River Jam Daisy Duke Competition will compete at the 2017 Jam on May 6 to crown the 2017 Grand Prize Winner. The Grand Prize Winner will receive \$1,000 cash and a pair of tickets to each of the following: Magnolia Fest 2017, Aura Music Festival 2018, Spring Fest 2018, Wanee 2018 & Suwannee River Jam 2018.

After five fantastic

2016 Miss Suwannee River Jam **Daisy Duke Competition winner** Katelyn Bush poses for this year's promotional flyers.



In junior high, Currington auditioned at Opryland USA, later moving to Nashville to pursue a music career. He soon left Nashville, returned to his grandmother's and joined a local country band but returned to Music City where he worked 16 hours a day, six days a week — playing clubs on the side with no time to dream.

who introduced Currington to country music before he died.

He quit his job and became a part-time personal trainer where he met Gary Voorhies, who worked for a music publishing company. After Gary invited Currington to sing for him, Currington was soon signed to Mercury Records Nashville in 2003. His debut single, "Walk A Little Straighter," tells the story of a child watching his drunk father stumbling through the door and vowing not to make that same mistake when he becomes a father. (Currington wrote the chorus at age 12!) His self-titled album was released in 2003, and Currington has been dazzling country music lovers ever since.

Currington has released six albums which have produced 17 singles on the Billboard Hot County Songs and Country Airplay charts, including ten number one hits. Some of his most well-noted songs include "Must Be Doin' Something' Right," "Good Directions," "People Are Crazy" and "That's How Country Boys Roll." His most recent single is "Do I Make You Wanna" from his Summer Forever album.

Currington is currently traveling the country for his Stay Up 'Til The Sun Tour. For more information on Currington, go to www.billycurrington.com.





## Main Stage Entertainment



Hailed as a "country-rock-blues guitar hero in the making" by the Los Angeles Times, five-time Grammy nominee **HUNTER HAYES** will take the stage at the 2017 Suwannee River Jam on Saturday, May 6.

Hunter Hayes is a singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who roared onto the music scene with his double-Platinum-selling #1, self-titled debut album and chart-topping sophomore album, *Storyline*, on Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville. With three #1 singles already under his belt (including the multi-Platinum smash "Wanted," double-Platinum "I Want Crazy" and "Somebody's Heartbreak"), Hayes delved into unprecedented territory with the innovative rollout of new music via streaming and digital platforms in 2015, culminating in the release of a special, three-disc collection dubbed "The 21 Project."

While recording for his forthcoming third full-length studio album, Hayes surprised fans by releasing three new songs via social media single.



Multi-platinum selling country singer and songwriter, **SARA EVANS** has been called "one of the most compelling vocalists of her generation." This Top 40 recording artist will bring her talents to the 2017 Suwannee River Jam, performing on Friday, May 5.

In 1997, Evans released her debut album for RCA, *Three Chords and the Truth*. Although none of its three singles ("True Lies," the title track, and "Shame About That") reached the Top 40 of the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart, the album received critical praise for its neo-traditional country sound. In 1998, Evans released her second album, *No Place That Far*. The title track gave Evans her first #1 hit on the Hot Country Songs chart in March 1999. The album was eventually certified Gold by the RIAA, and produced one additional Top 40 country hit in "Fool, I'm A Woman."

Evans has released seven total studio albums, with *Born To Fly*, released in 2000, remaining her best selling with a double-platinum certification from the RIAA for shipments of two million copies.



**RANDY HOUSER** burst onto the country music scene four years ago with a smash album that included country songs that are popular to this day. Now, he will make an appearance at the Suwannee River Jam, performing on Friday, May 5.

With an inimitable voice the New York Times describes as "wholly different, thicker and more throbbing, a caldron bubbling over," Randy Houser has racked up three consecutive #1 hits and more than four million in singles' sales to date with his Stoney Creek Records album How Country Feels. He topped the charts with the title track, "Runnin' Outta Moonlight" and "Goodnight Kiss" (also his first #1 as a songwriter) and earned critical acclaim for his powerful delivery of the Top-5 smash hit and CMA Song of the Year-nominated "Like a Cowboy."

Houser's past contains no shortage of achievement, as it includes multiple nominations for ACM and CMA Awards, a No. 2 single in the form of "Boots On," and songwriting credits for major names such as Trace Adkins, Justin Moore and Chris Young.



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A hard-driving country duo unlike any other, **MONTGOMERY GENTRY** will perform some of their top hits at the 2017 Suwannee River Jam on Thursday, May 4.

When the two Kentucky boys — Eddie Montgomery from Lancaster and Troy Gentry from Lexington — first burst onto the national scene in 1999 with the defiant "Hillbilly Shoes," notice was served.

Despite the millions of albums sold, the sold-out shows and scores of awards, Montgomery Gentry remains in touch with its working class roots.

"We are blue collar workers, and we lived the songs we sing," Troy said on their website. "Because of that, our fans are able to make the connection."



Nashville hitmaker **JERROD NIEMANN** is one of country music's most original and talented innovators, and he will perform at the 2017 Suwannee River Jam on Friday, May 5.

Niemann's new single is a duet with his good friend and label mate Lee Brice and is called "A Little More Love" produced by Niemann, Brice and Jimmie Sloas. Niemann is also adding the finishing touches to his forthcoming album on Curb Records which will follow his RIAA Platinum-certified, multi-week #1 smash hit "Drink To That All Night."

Niemann has quickly become a fan and industry favorite, earning award nominations from ACM, CMA and CMT.



**COLLIN RAYE** is nothing if not passionate. His soulful delivery has set country standards in such searing ballads as "Love, Me," "In This Life," "Not That Different" and "If I Were You."

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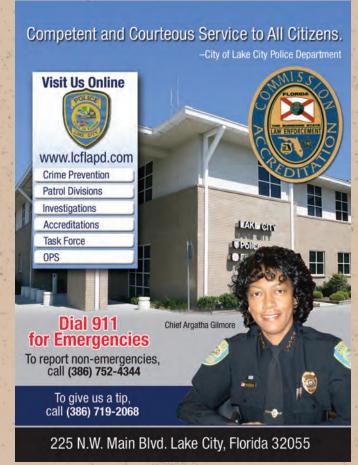
Raye will bring that passion when he takes the stage at the 2017 Suwannee River Jam on Saturday, May 6.

Born Floyd Elliot Wray, he was one of the true hit makers of the 1990s. Raye still continues to crank out soulful, heartfelt material with the honesty and richness that is his signature — and successfully so, with 24 top ten records, 16 #1 hits, and having been a 10 time male vocalist of the year nominee (5 CMA and 5 ACM).





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## Main Stage Entertainment



In a world where every single is a hit, every song the best ever, **NEAL MCCOY** has had his share of feel good radio records, a few meaningful ballads, the BMI Song of the Year with "Wink" and "The Shake" and a whole lot of fun. And though he's spent almost two decades chasing "that song," his quest may be over with "A-OK," found by co-producer Blake Shelton. With its bouncing beat, bright melody and Andy Griffith whistle, the song about seeing the glass as half-full and the smile upside down in a frown, along with the Barry Dean/Luke Laird/Brett Eldridge mid-tempo, is the perfect distillation of McCoy's always effervescent show.

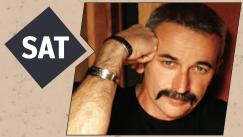
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McCoy will perform at the Suwannee River Jam on Saturday, May 6.



AARON TIPPIN has crusaded for the working man and woman since he ripped country music wide open with his uncompromising single "You've Got To Stand For Something." His voice continued to ring loud and clear with such hits as "I Wouldn't Have It Any Other Way," "There Ain't Nothin' Wrong With The Radio," "That's As Close As I'll Get To Loving You," "My Blue Angel" and "Kiss This."

Now, he will take the stage at the 2017 Suwannee River Jam, performing some of his biggest hits on Saturday, May 6.

Five of his albums are certified "Gold" and a sixth CD, *Read Between The Lines*, stands at the Platinum level.



In the course of breaking into the ranks of stardom in country music, **SAMMY KERSHAW** has made contributions to more than just the charts. His Platinum albums were propelled into the records books by hits such as "She Don't Know She's Beautiful," "I Can't Reach Her Anymore," "National Working Woman's Holiday," "Love Of My Life," "Cadillac Style," "Don't Go Near The Water," "Haunted Heart,"...and many other milestones.

At the 2017 Suwannee River Jam, he will perform those milestones on Saturday, May 6.

Kershaw got his first guitar when he was 11 and met George Jones, his lifelong idol, at 14. Subsequently, he opened shows for big names while barely in his teens.





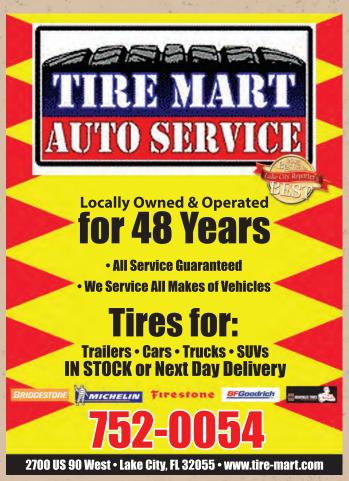
### HOPE NOTES AUCTION boosts school music programs

The Hope Notes Silent Auction is returning for this year's Suwannee River Iam. The silent auction continues to benefit band students in Suwannee. Hamilton and Columbia counties in North Florida where funds for bands are always needed. It also helps the Suwannee Spirit Kids Music Camp, a free camp held four times each year at the music park. In this auction 100 percent of the proceeds are used for the programs.

Hope Notes helps teach the universal language of music through the generosity of those who love music. It is sponsored by the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park and Campground, Suwannee River Jam, 1st Street Music & Sound Company and the Suwannee Music Foundation.

During each day of the Jam band parents from the included schools run a silent auction. The auction site is in the festival field with all individual and company-donated items prominently displayed. Also displayed is a donor sign at the entrance to the auction tent highlighting the names of the donors.

Please help Hope Notes by donating items for the silent auction and/or bidding on these items. For more information or to make arrangements to have donations picked up, please contact Teena Peavey at 386-365-3315 or email teena@musicliveshere.com.



The Hope Notes 5th Annual Silent Auction will benefit

Sound Marching Band (above).

and the Columbia High School Marching Band (above).

from Five Points Elementary

school music programs such as the bucket

"Sound Machine"





<sup>†</sup>Based on Statistical Surveys 2014. See dealer for complete details.



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