

local news



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**Who We Are**

The Daily Sun is The Villages' oldest, largest and most connected source of local news. Ask to see our press pass so you know you're talking with the Daily Sun. We are:

**Reputable:** Our award-winning journalists are held to the highest standards of professional excellence, ethics and integrity.

**Truthful:** Our reporting is based on reliable, verified sources — not surreptitious methods for gathering information.

**Honest:** We immediately acknowledge and correct any mistakes in our reporting.

**Respectful:** We care about our community's reputation, and we don't pander to lurid curiosity.

**Courteous:** We do not provide a forum for anonymous or uncivil feedback.

**Accessible:** Story ideas, news tips and feedback are always welcome! Call the newsroom at 352-753-1119.

TALKING WITH ...

**Micky Dolenz**

Dolenz, the voice of the Monkees, has a show at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center in March.



By KRISTEN FIORE  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Micky Dolenz has made a mark on many different elements of entertainment, from acting and singing on the well-known 1960s TV sitcom "The Monkees" to working on Broadway and radio and directing television and theater.

The multi-talented performer will put on two shows at 5 and 8 p.m. March 10 at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. Tickets, which can be purchased online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location, range in price from \$30 to \$75.

Dolenz recently spoke with the Daily Sun about his upcoming show and his long career.

**What can people expect from your upcoming show?**

Essentially Monkees hits. I was blessed to be able to sing most of them, and I've always made sure that the audience gets what they expect, which is to hear those hits in their entirety. Then, depending on the venue, I'll mix up some of the album cuts. It's a little bit of a stroll through the '60s and

that era. If I do something that isn't a Monkees song, I usually have a story attached — of auditions, of being at one of the Beatles sessions. My sister and I will do a few duets and stuff from the new album, "Good Times," and we'll tell little funny stories.

**Since Neil Diamond wrote "I'm a Believer" for you, and he recently announced that he'll be stepping down from touring, what was your reaction to that news?**

I was dismayed when I heard about it. He sure helped me with my career. It's just a shame. He's such a powerhouse performer and songwriter.

**You have a lot of theater experience. Are you looking to do another play?**

I'm always looking. Sometimes I've had to actually pass on a couple of offers because I was on the road. It kind of depends on my availability and if I get offered something. I would love to do something on Broadway again. I've done it a couple times and on the West End in London, as well.

**So you have acting, directing and singing experience with TV, film and theater. How do all of these elements help make your own show unique?**

I'm not the one out there in the audience watching me, so I can't say. I guess it all adds up, but it essentially comes down to the quality of the music and keeping my voice strong, and frankly, to the quality of the material. I've been blessed to have some of the greatest writers in the world writing for me — just some really phenomenal songwriters. When you have really good material, it's actually kind of hard to mess up. I suppose the same would apply to film.

**What is your favorite part about being an entertainer?**

I like all the different disciplines. I like the acting, the singing, the directing, the writing, whatever it may be for me. It comes down to the material. I'd rather be acting in a great Broadway musical than directing a lousy show. It's the underlying material, whatever it is. I just jump on that for a while until I move onto something else.

**Last year you released a live album, "Out of Nowhere." Can you tell me a little about that album?**

It's wonderful. I was asked if I wanted to perform my songs with a 40-piece orchestra, a classical proper orchestra. I jumped at the opportunity. I thought that was so cool. I always wanted to do a whole concert like that, and we did. We went to Portland, Oregon, and we were doing all the Monkees tunes with the orchestra. Then a record company said they'd love to put it out as a proper recording, so we were able to do that.

**What's Going On In Lake County?**

Here is a rundown of what's happening this week:

**FLW Tour at Harris Chain of Lakes:** Lake County will host the Fishing League Worldwide Tour today at the Harris Chain of Lakes. Takeoff is at 7 a.m. at Venetian Gardens, 201 E. Dixie Ave., Leesburg. The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature the world's best bass fishing professionals and co-anglers casting for top awards. For the schedule and information, visit flwfishing.com.

**Music Performance:** As part of the 2017-18 Sunday afternoon concert series, Mark Steven Schmidt will perform music from Broadway shows and popular movies from 3 to 5 p.m. today at Morrison United Methodist Church, 1005 W. Main St., Leesburg. The show costs \$15 for adults and \$5 for students of all ages. Guests can purchase tickets at the door prior to the performance. For information, visit leesburgpartnership.com.

**South Beach POParazzi:** The public is invited to view "South Beach POParazzi," a colorful series of abstract celebrity portraits by Lake County artist Steven Paul Hlavac, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday at the Leesburg Center for the Arts, 429 W. Magnolia St.,

Leesburg. All pieces were created from original photos by Hlavac in South Florida during the early to mid-1990s. For information, visit leesburgarts.com or contact Maria Stefanovic at 352-365-0232 or director@leesburgcenterforthearts.com.

**Sam's Club Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony:** A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 9:15 a.m. Friday at Sam's Club, 755 N. U.S. Highway 27/441, Lady Lake. The ceremony is in celebration of the newly remodeled store.

**Black Tie Gala:** The annual Leesburg Black Heritage Festival will kick off Friday with a special Black Tie Gala at the Leesburg Community Building, 109 E. Dixie Ave., Leesburg. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the event will take place from 7 to 10 p.m. The event costs \$20. For information, visit leesburgpartnership.com.

**Black Heritage Festival:** The annual Leesburg Black Heritage Festival will take place Saturday in Downtown Leesburg, 510 W. Main St., Leesburg. A parade will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Main Street, and a festival will take place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the corner of Pine and Childs streets. For information, visit leesburgpartnership.com.

**Gator Challenge:** Sheriff Peyton Grinnell and the Lake County Sheriff's Charities will host the annual motorcycle training and skills competition from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Gator Harley-Davidson, 1745 E. Main St., Leesburg. The Gator Challenge gives motor officers an opportunity to refine their riding skills and demonstrate proficiency while competing against motor officers from surrounding law enforcement agencies. The public is invited to attend, and all donations will benefit a local charity. For information, call master deputy Randy Hon at 352-267-0180.

**Free RAM Medical Clinic:** Remote Area Medical will present a free RAM medical clinic Saturday and Sunday at the Lake County Fairgrounds, 2101 County Road 452, Eustis. The parking lot will open no later than midnight. Numbered patient admission tickets will be handed out at 3 a.m. — one ticket per patient. Clinic doors will open at 6 a.m. Patients will be admitted in numerical order by ticket number, and a ticket is required for admission. Dental, vision and medical services are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. The event is free and open to the public. For information, visit ramusa.org or call 865-579-2555.

— Rachel Stuart, Daily Sun

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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">RED LOBSTER</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3830 Wedgewood Lane The Villages, FL 32162</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Wednesday, February 28th at 11:00AM</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Wednesday, March 7th at 11:00AM</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">CODY'S ORIGINAL ROADHOUSE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Brownwood Paddock Square® 3731 Meggison Rd., The Villages, FL 32163</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Thursday, March 1st at 10:30AM</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Thursday, March 8th at 10:30AM</p>

Seating is Limited and Reservations Required!

Call or Text RSVP to Chrystell at 352-464-2980

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