



COURTESY PHOTOS

John Paris

“Kickin’ the Blues Music Festival” set for Nov. 19 in Bonita Springs

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Three former musicians of the rock band Chicago and one current Earth Wind & Fire musician will headline a music festival in Bonita Springs that organizers plan to take statewide to benefit mental health and suicide prevention.

“Kickin’ the Blues Music Festival” is planned for Sat., Nov. 19, from 4 to 9 p.m. at Riverside Park, 10450 Reynolds St., Bonita Springs.

Headlining the music festival will be Bill Champlin, Keith Howland and Jeff Coffey, formerly of the hit band Chicago, and John Paris, current member of Earth, Wind & Fire. They will be performing the music that made the groups famous in the 1970s and 1980s with hits such as 25 or 6 to 4, Beginnings, Saturday in the Park, Searchin’, Hard Habit to Break, Boogie Wonderland and Fantasy.

Music will be continuous throughout the event with other guest performers slated to appear as well.

The inaugural event is being organized by Grounding Wire, a new non-profit organization, founded by Frances and Bret Borshell, a husband and wife team who want to help those struggling with anxiety and mental health disorders.

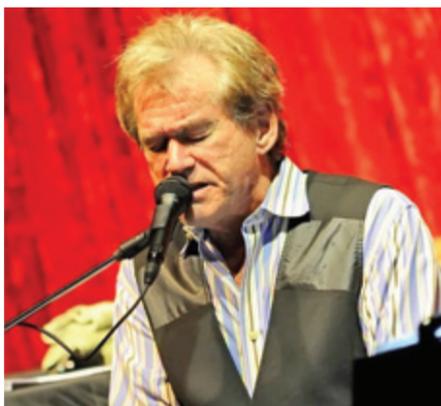
“Mental health issues are impacting the majority of Americans, with 70 percent reporting that they have debilitating stress. Suicide is increasing at an alarming rate along with gun violence,” said Frances Borshell. “There aren’t enough resources to help those in need, especially in Southwest Florida.”

Florida has long maintained one of the lowest per capita mental health expenditures in the nation. According to the most recent data from Florida State University, Florida has a per capita mental health services expenditure of \$37.28, giving it a rank of 49th for mental health funding in the U.S.

Mental Health of America recently ranked Florida 48th nationwide on access to mental health care. It specifically noted that 633,000 Florida adults with mental illness and 116,000 youth with depression had unmet treatment needs.

Funds raised from the concert will be used to provide mental health toolkits to schools and individuals in need. The kits include guidance for active breathing, present mind awareness, and meditation, along with access to resources such as interactive content, videos, educational information, and other helpful digital content provided by mental health experts.

Borshell said music is a wonderful coping mechanism for individuals with mental health concerns, so a concert was a logical way to provide resources while listening to great artists.



Bill Champlin



Jeff Coffey



Keith Howland

In addition to music, the festival will include mental health providers who can provide information about mental health resources available. Food trucks, beer, wine and healthy beverages also will be available for sale. A meditation station also will be provided.

Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$65 for VIP admission. Tickets can be purchased at www.groundingwire.org

Sponsorships also are available from \$500 to \$45,000. For more information about sponsorships, email info@groundingwire.org.



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