The inaugural Southwest Orlando Idol judges are (l. to r.) Karen Whitham of Bay Hill, Michael Cochran a

K elly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, David Cook, Scotty Mc

However, few may know that these chart-topping singers have something else in common. Prior to being

Every aspiring singer must start somewhere. And for 30 Southwest Orlando residents, their Idol journeys

Before contestants could be selected, a panel of judges had to be established. Through a fortuitous strin

Stoneybrook West resident Diana Mainieri is the hostess of Southwest Orlando Idol.

Stoneybrook West resident Diana Mainieri, assistant editor of the Southwest Orlando Bulletin and coord

“I was amazed at how comfortable Diana was onstage,” Kearney said. “It was obvious to me and the au

During the finale, Mainieri surprised the standing-room-only crowd by singing the duet *Does He Love You* with gues

Each week, 14-year-old Spencer wowed the packed venue with her phenomenal voice, singing hit songs *I'll Always Love You*, *Best Thing I Never Had*,

Southwest Orlando Idol guest performer Shyandra Spencer is recording her first album.

For the contestants, the first stage of the competition involved video and MP3 auditions that were submi

The contestants were narrowed down to the top 30 singers, who were then divided into three groups, an

By week four, the 30 contestants had been pared down to the top 12, who faced off for the win.

At the conclusion of the two-hour show, and after a lengthy and difficult deliberation session between the

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