

FORT MYERS FLORIDA WEEKLY®

IN THE KNOW. IN THE NOW.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14-20, 2016

www.FloridaWeekly.com

Vol. X, No. 23 • FREE

INSIDE



Music abounds

Island Hopper Fest will fill the area with songwriter tunes. **C1 ▶**



Networking

Launch of Marcus Jansen showcase at Allure condominium sales gallery, Fort Myers. **A33 ▶**



Rotary connections

It's about helping the community, Rotarians say. **A29 ▶**



Behind the wheel

The Renegade: a crafty crossover that's fiercely loyal to the Jeep icon. **A35 ▶**

Download our FREE App today



Available on the iTunes and Android App Store.



A not at all comprehensive survey of some of the best original rock 'n' roll coming out of South Florida, where to hear it, and discover more of it.

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND down the street from the cover songs that blast from bars and beaches, legions of genre-bending musicians are creating work that fuses themes and styles of rock 'n' roll in new ways. South Florida is loaded with talented bands with fresh voices

SEE GROOVES, A10 ▶

Turtles breaking statewide nesting records

BY AMY WOODS

awoods@floridaweekly.com

They look like little crime scenes on the beach — bands of yellow police tape wrapped around wooden stakes stuck in small patches of sand where sea turtles laid their eggs.

Summer has brought a rash of nesting around the state, and with more than two

months left in the season, the year already has seen a record number of incidents. The culprits? Loggerheads.

Across the state, from the panhandle to the tip of the peninsula and into the state of Georgia, records are being shattered. Although the final tallies from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commis-

SEE TURTLES, A16 ▶



COURTESY PHOTO

A female loggerhead digs a nest, using all four flippers. After digging a chamber with her back flippers, she lays about 110 eggs.

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT MYERS, FL
PERMIT NO. 715

ROGER WILLIAMS A2
OPINION A4
HEALTHY LIVING A24
BUSINESS A29

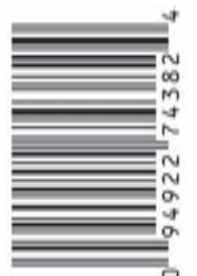
INVESTING A30
BEHIND THE WHEEL A35
REAL ESTATE B1
ARTS C1

DIVA DIARIES C2
EVENTS C6-9
PUZZLES C12
CUISINE C27

COUNT ON



KEEPING YOU CONNECTED.



GROOVES

From page 1

and wildly different musical styles who have produced albums in 2016 like The Freecoasters' impressive debut "Show Up" (reggae-soul rock, Fort Myers), Cog Nomen's "Twin Stars" EP (electro-psych pop, Miami), Peyote Coyote's eponymous EP (psychedelic garage bop, Pompano Beach), and Pleasures' "F---d Up Dreams Come True" (sex music for robots, Sarasota).

Many bands are finding their voice, working to establish a following in their hometown or juggling day jobs while scheduling weekend tours that crisscross the state at a relatively well-known but still somewhat "underground" network of venues that privilege original music over cover bands — established destinations such as the legendary Respectable Street in West Palm Beach and Rack 'em Spirits & Times (formerly Rack 'em, Billiards) in Cape Coral.

They are also hosted, if not especially well paid, by a growing number of breweries, galleries, music festivals, and up-and-coming arts districts. The vast majority of these musicians are on the Art & Love team more than the Money & Power team, as novelist Jay McInerney coined it; they



The Freecoasters perform at Nice Guys in Cape Coral in August: Saul Catacora (guitar), John Schiller (bass), Claire Liparulo (vocals, guitar), Scott Martin (drums) and Rick Lombama (keys). Not pictured: David Boyko (organ, keys).

in the know

Upcoming shows

- >> **What:** PureHoney Magazine 5-Year Anniversary and Bumblefest 2016
- >> **When:** Pre-party Friday, Sept. 16 at 9 p.m. and Bumblefest 2016 Saturday, Sept. 17 starting at 6 p.m.
- >> **Where:** Pre-party at Gramps at 176 NW 24th St., Miami. Bumblefest 2016 at 500 Block of Clematis, downtown West Palm Beach. Clubs include Subculture Alley, Hullabaloo Garden, O'Shea's Pub and Respectable Street.
- >> **Cost:** Mostly free, \$5 cover at Respectable Street for charity.
- >> **Details:** Bands include Stargazer Lilies, Armageddon Man, Bluebird, Celebratorrrrr, Chaucer, Cog Nomen, Ban Bonebreak, The Dewards, Fat Sun, John Ralston, Keith Welsh, Killmama, Lindsey Mills & The Lazy Lovers, Mo'Booty, Other Body, Peyote Coyote, Pocket of Lollipops, Problem Child, Rivers, Similar Prisoners, Sweet Bronco, Treeswifts, Wallace and Whisky Wasps.
- >> **More information:** purehoneymagazine.com
- >> **What:** 239-FEST: Punk, Reggae, Ska
- >> **When:** Friday, Oct. 7 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 8 at 5 p.m.
- >> **Where:** Rack'em Spirits & Times (formerly Rack'em Billiards), 1011 SE 47th Terr., Cape Coral.
- >> **Cost:** You can afford it, but at press time the cover charge hadn't been set.
- >> **Details:** Friday bands include Outside Threat, The Injurees, The Antidon'ts, Twisty Chris and the Puddin' Packs, The Young Dead, Blood Wise, Zero To the Left, The Defiant, Aboration Twins. Saturday bands include Simple Jack, The Freecoasters, Bargain Bin Heroes, Rude Squad, Abandon The Midwest, Third Society, The Sensibles, The Possibilities, Opposite States, Shakerss, Offset Era, YogoSKAvia, Octo Gatos, Sketchie and Whole Wheat Bread.
- >> **More info:** 540-7225
- >> **What:** Ill Points Music, Art & Technology Festival
- >> **When:** Friday-Sunday, Oct. 7-9
- >> **Where:** Mana Wynwood Production Village, 318 Northwest 23rd Street, Miami
- >> **Cost:** From \$70 day tickets to \$299 three-day passes.
- >> **Details:** A huge, scene-making festival that started in 2013 with dozens of nationally known and local bands from LCD Sound-system to Andy Stott to DJ Craze to M83 to Cog Nomen. Over three days, lectures, labs, tech talks, music and gallery shows and a 5-stage main ground.
- >> **More info:** iipoints.com

will be creating songs no matter what, and buying their album or paying a cover charge often just allows them to record more music and continue to tour.

Late on an August night after The Freecoasters finished a set at Nice Guys Pizza in Cape Coral, their newest member, 22-year-old Englewood resident and keyboardist Rick Lombama, said over the noise of the bar, "The music's the core of the matter. If we tried to do it for the money, I don't know what we'd be doing. It's definitely the feeling of playing live and then people reciprocating, because you can't get that anywhere else."

Still, it is possible for hardworking DIY bands to eke out a living playing original music in Florida and to a smaller extent selling albums and merchandise.

"Yes you can, but you have to be dedicated and do your homework and find the venues that cater to that," said 43-year-old Florida music veteran Michele Woofter, who has played accordion with the Americana folk band Loxahatchee Sinners Union and more recently started a new experimental metal band, Koffin Varnish, with her husband.

The Freecoasters' 32-year-old lead singer and guitarist Claire Liparulo will book shows months in advance to secure gigs at some of the band's favorite venues.

"Telling your family to schedule you three months out into your life is really tough," she said. "You can tell your job that but telling your niece or nephew that's why you're not at their birthday party, they don't get it."



Peyote Coyote performs at Propaganda in Lake Worth in early September: Cari Gee (drums) and Jake Stuart (bass). Not pictured: Ryan Huseman (guitar, vocals).



Left: Naples rocker Chris Farren of Fake Problems recently moved to L.A. Right: Koffin Varnish appears on The Infinite Channel, a music collective that features videos of South Florida rock 'n' roll bands.



COURTESY PHOTOS

THE WORK THESE MUSICIANS ARE DOING is good news for people who hunger for fresh perspectives and voices in rock, but where do you find what speaks to you personally among the masses of music, find the sound that your ears long for?

"Heck, I was sneaking in the bars to play, I wasn't drinking or nothing, I wanted to be around the rock 'n' roll," said Eric DeMayo, a hardworking 34-year-old stalwart of the Southwest Florida music scene, recalling when he was 16. "I wanted to see a punk band play in front of me, or a heavy metal band. It was definitely important to get started young, you know?"

Mr. DeMayo is now guitarist and lead vocalist for his latest band, the ska-punk group Bargain Bin Heroes, and co-founder of 239-FEST, with some two dozen bands (including his band and The Freecoasters) coming to Rack'em's in the Cape on Oct. 7-8.

Spotify, iTunes and other music services' algorithms work surprisingly well to make suggestions based on your tastes, but they won't necessarily connect you to most of the bands mentioned in this article.

Neighborhood record stores such as Beach Records and Joe's Record Exchange, both in Fort Myers, sell music from local bands and offer a

wealth of knowledge about them. Owner Joe Honeycutt has followed the punk and alt-rock scene in Fort Myers (and for a while in Boston) for decades.

"There's always been a little group of artsy bohemian types," he said of Fort Myers. "Always has been."

And the growth of schools such as Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida SouthWestern State College has helped supply the area with talent and a wider audience.

"I think now there's a younger presence than ever before, which is a good thing. This is the most happening I can remember downtown (Fort Myers) ever being."

On the southeast coast, three Florida Atlantic University music students and friends formed Peyote Coyote about a year ago (sort of like a cross between Tame Impala, The Flaming Lips and The Beatles). The trio is made up of Jake Stuart, 22, on bass; Cari Gee, 24, drums; and Ryan Huseman, 23, guitar and lead vocals.

The band also formed a music collective called The Infinite Channel. Each week it posts new live videos of some of their favorite South Florida bands playing in one of their living rooms (at theinfinitechannel.com and on YouTube).



ANZINES ARE FUN AND A PLACE TO find out what's on the audio menu, and PureHoney Magazine is one of the best. It's free online and in print at locations from West Palm Beach to Miami (purehoneymagazine.com).

Each edition opens up to the size of a big Sunday paper with gorgeous full-color

graphics. It's fairly short, but chock full of music reviews by talented writers, news about shows and — its best feature — the free mixed Soundcloud playlist, more or less all songs from Florida bands or ones coming to play at a show in town, curated by publisher Steev Rullman. His lists are given as if from a trusted friend who has dedicated much of his life to finding, playing and promoting rock 'n' roll in South Florida. He digs up the work you just don't have the time to seek out during your busy life, like Cog Nomen, for instance, and his favorite songs of the moment, from the West Palm musician Chaucer.

You know that even if you don't like everything he recommends, there is a level of knowledge, genuineness and authenticity about it that you can respond to, and once every so often there's the possibility he could introduce you to something that could blow your mind.

"My mission is to get more people to hear the bands," said Mr. Rullman, a soft-spoken 49-year-old who could almost pass for an FAU music student or a hip professor.

PureHoney is celebrating its fifth anniversary with Bumblefest, basically an extended live version of one of Mr. Rullman's playlists, with 25 bands on five stages in downtown West Palm Beach on Saturday, Sept. 17. Bands include the headliner, Stargazer Lilies, Cog Nomen and Peyote Coyote. The show is mostly free. There's a \$5 cover, which will go to charity, at Respectable Street.

Two other good sources for information on local music are

North Fort Myers-based Seven Inches To Freedom, an insider's guide and a passionate, knowledgeable fan's appreciation of punk and DIY hardcore, full of album reviews, interviews, books reviews, occasional obits and a wicked sensibility. (sitfine.storenvy.com).

Love Your Rebellion is a Fort Myers zine with a riot grrrl ethos and an emphasis on the arts, filled with sharp editorials, poetry, short stories and more. It released a CD compilation of local bands this year, LYR's Babefest. (loveyourrebellion.org).



FLORIDA HAS A DISJOINTED PATCHWORK of rock bands, venues and fans that sprawl like suburbia, ebbing and flowing with the years and styles and the state's transient population and pooling at places like Howl Gallery & Tattoo in Fort Myers, its own intersection of art, beer and music.

"There's an energy that changes every three to five years," observed Mr. Rullman.

They pool at Beach Records near Fort Myers Beach where people crowded on a Saturday night in August, trying to figure out where to stand while the folk guitarist and singer Kyle Anne Duggan presented a new song with the lyric "your music holds me closer than his arms ever could," a ref-



PureHoney Magazine publisher Steev Rullman and Bohemia AG owner Paul Klov



EVAN WILLIAMS / FLORIDA WEEKLY
Singer-songwriter Kyle Anne Duggan.



Cog Nomen's Buffalo Brown and Ulysses Perez.

erence to A.A. Bondy, one of her favorite musicians.

Ms. Duggan was followed by the Exploding Pages, an immensely likeable blast of jangly country-tinged rock that recalled R.E.M., and Plural Being, a hardcore punk trio in which the drummer played so hard it seemed the set would disintegrate, and the vocalist screamed lyrics to a song about some people who "start shit on the internet."

They pool in downtown Lake Worth on a hot Friday near the end of summer at Propaganda, where Peyote Coyote played two instead of one thoroughly rocking sets when the other band didn't show up and a kid who looked like he was overdosing was carried outside by staff but was later OK.

"It's really spread out, is the thing," said bassist Mr. Stuart about the music scene, between sets. "We play shows from West Palm all the way down to Miami."

They pool at urban arts districts such as Wynwood, the Miami neighborhood where the massive III Points music festival will be held Oct. 7-9, and in up-and-coming Northwood Village in West Palm Beach at an art gallery and gelato shop, Bohemia AG, that is another cultural intersection all its own.

Owner Paul Klov creates gelato with flavors like pink peppercorn with mascarpone cheese, and goat cheese-tomato-and-strawberry swirl that are as eclectic as the bands and performers he booked to play there on a slow, rainy Saturday afternoon at the beginning of September. A sexy aerial yogi put on a show outside as the rain began and then later a few people took their pictures under a perfect rainbow that formed over the street and soon a sparse crowd inside listened to space-age techno rock duo Cog Nomen jamming for a while, until they took a break to secure an input with duct tape.

"Rock 'n' roll is built on duct tape, coffee, nicotine and a lot of other crazy shit," said Buffalo Brown, Cog's charismatic 44-year-old guitarist. His counterpart Ulysses Perez, 50, plays electronic drums. Both share vocals. The duo have been together since 2011, said Mr. Perez, who was born in Miami. Their latest album, the EP "Twin Stars," explores themes of technology and connect-edness — although that's just something Mr. Brown noticed as they made it, not necessarily something they planned.

"I guess that's just the times we're in," he said. ■

RECOMMENDED ALBUMS BY SOUTH FLORIDA BANDS

■ The Freecoasters, "Show Up" (2016)

This Fort Myers six-piece band surges with a big soulful sound and beats as lazy as swaying palm trees with well-written lyrics, making "Show Up" a cohesive, satisfying listen from start to finish. Lead singer Claire Liparulo has a powerful voice but doesn't overplay her hand, bringing a wide range of emotions to 12 songs that gel into a story about escaping small towns, a roadtrip through Arizona, hard work, friendship, love and desire.

Although Ms. Liparulo wrote much of the lyrics, the album was recorded as a fully collaborative process in a relatively short period of time.

"Because we wrote the album so fast, I think that had a hand in creating the cohesive feel of (the songs)," she explained. "Because when you write them all within four months of each other they're all going to be related to the feelings and experiences you're having at that time in your life, I think. I could be wrong but I sometimes think it's a mistake when people go into the studio and they write an album over the course of a year, it can feel very disjointed."

Look for "Show Up" on vinyl soon, as well.

"(V)inyl's really important to us because of the way we recorded the album," Ms. Liparulo said. "We did it on tape. We wanted a really warm classic old school sound like you would have gotten at Studio One in Jamaica."

Listen: thefreecoasters.bandcamp.com



■ Cog Nomen, "Twin Stars" EP (2016)

These Miami rock 'n' roll veterans are exponentially larger than the sum of their two parts, unleashing a chill, spacy sound awash in expertly manipulated electronics that will hopefully be among the first sounds aliens hear from Earth. Their third album "Twin Stars" should thrill fans and gain them new ones.

Listen: cognomenmusic.com

■ Peyote Coyote, "Peyote Coyote" EP (2016)

Writes Tom Moffatt in PureHoney Magazine, the trio of FAU music students falls under the category of shoegaze but "skews more towards the psychedelia rather than jazzy folk ... more washed out beach day than late nights spent writing poetry in your bedroom while tripping." Exactly.

Listen: thepeyotecoyote.bandcamp.com

■ Exploding Pages, "Alabama Chrome" (2015)

The Lee County five-piece band's easy harmonies, unassuming eclectic creativity and no-big-deal delivery of lead singer Mike Cosden deliver a jangly yet polished country-tinged indie rock record with campfire appeal.

Listen: explodingpages.bandcamp.com

■ Pleasures, "F----d Up Dreams Come True" (2016)

Sarasota singer Katherine Kelly's cool-spooky vocals are entrancing and the bluntly poetic lyrics and the bands' heavy but melodic psych-rock atmospherics make for one of the most interesting records of the year.

Listen: pleasuresbandcamp.bandcamp.com

■ Chaucer, "Diamond Dogs – A Fanciful Romp Into the Civil War Themed Wine Cellar of Chaucer's A-Material" (2016)

"According to records, punk died in 1978," reads a review in PureHoney magazine. "Turns out it was cryogenically frozen and resuscitated in the West Palm Beach studio of Joshua Simkowitz." Aka, Chaucer. The resuscitated version is better: funnier, smarter, not as loud or mean but even noisier than its '70s self.

Listen: mynameischaucer.bandcamp.com



■ Bargain Bin Heroes, "Bargain Bin Heroes" (2015)

This stripped down Fort Myers punk-ska outfit can rip through a set like a dirty old T-shirt; the band is fun to see live. Fortunately, its latest self-titled offering of six songs captures a lot of that energy on disc. Turn it up loud and stick your head right up your speaker.

Listen: bargainbinheroes.bandcamp.com

■ Kyle Anne Duggan, "The Florida EP" (2016)

The title track, "Florida," is an autobiographical examination of a character's conflicted feelings about returning home from New England to Southwest Florida, and the beauty and pitfalls of both areas, with searingly honest lyrics and lovely blue-grass inflected guitar: "New England broke my heart, so I decided to depart/ To where a drinking habit's cheap, and all the liars and the creeps/Are the company I keep."

Listen: kyleanne.bandcamp.com

■ Koffin Varnish

This four-piece experimental psychedelic metal band includes South Music industry veterans and husband and wife musicians Marvin Ray Hawkins (guitar and vocals) and Michele Woofter (keys). Watch for a new album coming near the beginning of next year and for live shows. Playing Sept. 16 at Rack'ems in Cape Coral and Sept. 17 at Propaganda in Lake Worth.

Listen: reverbnation.com/koffinvarnish



■ Chris Farren, "Can't Die." (2016)

Chris Farren grew up in Naples and gained a following with his emo-pop-punk band Fake Problems. Three months ago, after touring, he moved to Los Angeles where he lives with his wife and continues to pursue a music career with his just released new album under his own name, "Can't Die." Think of The Promise Ring or Sunny Day Real Estate.

Listen: chrisfarren.bandcamp.com