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Don't Miss These Great Upcoming Games:

Thursday, August 2nd, 7:05 PM - Miracle vs. Lakeland Flying Tigers Borat Night, The Mighty Gonzalez & Thursty Thursday, featuring half priced beer! Presented by Stevie Tomato's Sports Page, Bud Light, and K-Rock 96.1 FM.

Friday, August 3rd, 7:05 PM - Miracle vs. Lakeland Flying Tigers - Cap Night! FREE Miracle Caps to the first 1,000 fans, presented by North Trail RV. Also, it's our Great Golf Giveaway featuring over 600 rounds of free golf all over SW Florida. It's also Happy Hour Friday, featuring free Hot Dogs and Chips, as well as \$1 beverages and music from 6-7 PM. Presented by Bud Select, Shoeless Joe's Sports Cafe, and B103.9 FM.



Saturday, August 4th, 7:05 PM - Miracle vs. Lakeland Flying Tigers Great All-Nighter! Bring your pop-up tents and camp out in the outfield following the game. Enjoy movies and free popcorn until sunrise!

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For more information, call 239-768-4210

Inebriated band on the road to Madison Square Garden

Drunk Monkey's a hit in Fort Myers

BY CARL-JOHN X VERAJA
Florida Weekly Correspondent

On July 26, the Drunk Monkeys played Bennigan's in Fort Myers as they do every Thursday night. The audience was the usual Bennigan's fare. There were drinking buddies sitting far from any available woman, joking loudly with each other to attract attention. There were accompanied women sitting with their less than joyous mates. Along with these were some small groups of available, heavily made-up women and exceptionally oily, ultra-groomed young men on the prowl. Some nuclear families were finishing up

After playing a few times, Carlton thought of his friend, Ryan Jennings, a bassist. Jennings agreed to join the band and the trio was in place. What was missing was a name for the band.

"The Chad at Stevie Tomato's," said Carlton, referring to the nickname of a bartender, "...starting saying we were like a bunch of drunk monkeys."

"And remember, it's not drunken monkeys," Carlton said more than once while interviewed.

The band has a Myspace page at www.myspace.com/verydrunkmonkeys.

"Drunk monkeys was already taken on



COURTESY PHOTO

Drunk Monkeys playing Bennigan's in Fort Myers as they do every Thursday night.

their meals as several tables were cleared away so the band could set up their equipment.

One of the band's fans, Leta Dietz, speaking for herself and her friends, said she was "all about these guys with a lot of talent and we come to see them."

Dietz said that the Drunk Monkeys always bring in a crowd. Some of their influences are Dave Matthews, Tom Petty and Sublime. They are a cover act but are working on original music and have done some studio work.

Like many musicians, they have to work a lot to stay afloat.

Damien Carlton, who has worked at Blue Pointe as a waiter, said of the performance at Bennigan's, "...it's a really long show."

Typically, this means a show from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. They do this five or six nights a week at different locations..

Carlton, who plays drums, discussed the origins of the band.

"I started working at the Brick Bar, bartending, and I met Bobby," Carlton said, referring to Bobby Blakely, the guitarist and lead singer. "He was playing at Stevie Tomato's and I got him a Wednesday night gig at the Brick Bar. Then, I brought my drums in."

"The Drunk Monkeys always bring in a crowd. Some of their influences are Dave Matthews, Tom Petty and Sublime."

— said Dietz

Myspace," Carlton bemoaned.

When asked what their hopes were they had somewhat contradictory answers.

Jennings said, "To survive."

Whereas, Blakely put in, "To be the first cover band to play Madison Square Garden."

Carlton said the influences of the band are singer/songwriters in the main and likes that they use an acoustic sound on guitar. Their continued popularity in the local bar circuit suggests this is a sound basis for survival and possibly the beginning of a path to bigger things.

In the meanwhile, Carlton said, "We live up to our name." ■