



COURTESY PHOTO

Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band.

Rockabillaque Florida comes to Seminole Casino Hotel

BY SANDRA YEYATI

Special to Florida Weekly

Rockabillaque Florida, a free, two-day music festival presented by Florida Weekly at the Seminole Casino Hotel, is jam-packed with fun for all ages from 10 a.m. to well past midnight, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 19 and 20. Organizers expect a robust turnout of 15,000 to 20,000 for this celebration of 1950s Americana and rockabilly music, featuring more than 20 live concerts, classic cars, vintage motorcycles, pinups and more.

"In the 1950s, rockabilly was the traditional rock and roll music of Little Richard, Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis, which then transitioned to become the rock and roll of today," says event organizer Simon Cantlon of Vive Le Rock Productions. "There are lots of variations to this music, and we have a broad mix — from traditional rockabilly to psychobilly (a harder-edged version) to jazzy swing and honky-tonk—so you're not going to be watching bands that all sound the same."

On the main stage outdoors, the music kicks off at 10 a.m. both days and ends at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday and 8:30 on Sunday. The casino's Zig Zag Lounge will host a series of concerts from 1:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., allowing guests to enjoy a drink or gamble while listening to indoor entertainment.

Saturday's headliners are The Delta Bombers, from Las Vegas, and Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band, a three-piece country blues band from Indiana. Sunday's highlights include Slim Jim Phantom, the longtime drummer for the Stray Cats who has enjoyed a two-decade solo career, and Texas-based psychobilly trio The Reverend Horton Heat, on a return visit to Southwest Florida by popular demand.



The weekend car and motorcycle show will feature hundreds of vehicles. "The car and bike show is a big part of the event. We like to keep it interesting and diverse, so we welcome anything from rat rods to hot rods to vintage trucks to classic cars and chopper bikes," says Mr. Cantlon. "It's a visually stimulating show that's great for selfies and photo ops."

Adding to the fun is a series of competitions. Saturday's pinup contest hosted by Miss Pinup Miami, a popular celebrity of the genre, features dolled-up women competing for the crown. "They dress to the hilt in mid-century

clothes — a lot of it is handmade. Their hair and makeup is done up. It's amazing to see, and people love it," Mr. Cantlon says. Also on tap are competitions for best tattoos on Saturday and best beards and mustaches on Sunday. Monies raised from contest registration fees benefit Valiant Animal Rescue and Just 1 Outreach, which assists disabled veterans.

Vendors will offer vintage clothing, arts and crafts, jewelry and items related to the car and motorcycle show. Food trucks will serve barbecue, Italian favorites, hot dogs, sandwiches and vegetarian options, while the casino will sell beer, wine and liquor. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets. Outside food or drinks are not permitted. Only service dogs will be allowed.

In the KNOW

Rockabillaque Florida

- » **When:** Feb. 19 and 20
- » **Where:** Seminole Casino Hotel, 506 S. 1st St., Immokalee
- » **Information:** www.rockabillaqueflorida.com and www.seminoleimmokaleecasino.com/event-calendar/rockabillaque-florida

All concerts and parking are free. The Seminole Casino Hotel is located at 506 South 1st Street, in Immokalee. For detailed schedules, contest registration, parking directions and more, visit www.rockabillaqueflorida.com and www.seminoleimmokaleecasino.com/event-calendar/rockabillaque-florida. ■