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## LA SURF ROCK

Seattle surf rock revivalists **La Luz** are lucky to be alive. Just this past November, on the way home after a gig in Boise, the band was involved in a serious car wreck. Their van was totaled and their gear ruined. Luckily, the band members incurred relatively minor injuries. Undeterred, La Luz recouped and is now back out on the road.

"We're doin' alright," La Luz guitarist Shana Cleveland says via email. "It feels great to be back on the road. All the shows have been super fun and I'm hanging out on a curb in sunny Southern California right now wearing shorts in January so I cannot complain at all."

La Luz is touring in support of the band's 2013 release, the surf-a-delic *It's Alive* (on Hardly Art records). On the album, the thin and wiry riffs influenced by The Ventures cascade over driving percussion, melodic organ solos and the atmospheric and moody vocals a la Nancy Sinatra. "Now I kinda wanna die," Cleveland sings on the album's opening track "Sure as Spring," "It's the truest way to know that I'm alive."

"Can't really deny the surf moniker when about a fifth of our songs are straight-up surf instrumentals," Cleveland says. "I think it's as good of a box to be put in as any." Rightly or wrongly, an all-female surf rock band faces some uncharted terrain; Cleveland doesn't mind. "We were pretty into the idea of keeping it all girls," she says. "Makes it easier to share clothes and do each others nails," she jokes, "and have scantily clad pillow fights 'n' shit!"

Behavior Castle presents La Luz with Egotones and Snow White 8 pm Monday, Feb. 3, at 543 Blair Blvd.; \$5.

— William Kennedy



## BB BACK BEAT

MUSIC NEWS &  
NOTES FROM  
DOWN IN THE  
WILLAMETTE  
VALLEY

**Matt Knight Arena** has booked Grammy-winning rock group **Tool** for March 7 and pop king **Bruno Mars** for Aug. 11. We're glad to see these big names in music coming to Eugene, but besides these two concerts, a handful of UO basketball games and monster truck rumbles, Matt Knight's event calendar is glaringly empty for 2014. What happened to concerts being a crucial source of revenue? And why is one of the country's most expensive basketball arenas (\$200 million-plus) sitting empty most of the year when it could be booking bigger music acts?

**The Boreal**, the new all-ages music venue at 450 W. 3rd Ave., isn't wasting any time beginning to book shows. Local bands **Dr. Rocket**, **Bustin' Jieber** and **Hands Like Sticks** play "a night of '60s-style glam-sass pop, avant-garde funk-jamz and lush-vocaled rock and roll" 8:45 pm Jan. 31. A UO campus favorite, the experimental indie-pop **Blind The Thief**, plays 8 pm Feb. 4. Feb. 18, The Boreal is bringing in some East Coasters with Baltimore's **War On Women**, a "co-ed, feminist hardcore punk band."

Speaking of alternative venues, booker Mike Meyer brings living blues legend **Jerron "Blind Boy" Paxton** to a house show 7:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 755 River Rd.; \$15 door. *The Wall Street Journal* has said of Paxton: "He's virtually the only music-maker of his generation — playing guitar, banjo, piano and violin, among other implements — to fully assimilate the blues idiom of the 1920s and '30s, the blues of Bessie Smith and Lonnie Johnson." For event info, contact Meyer at [mmeyer@efn.org](mailto:mmeyer@efn.org).



BRUNO  
MARS