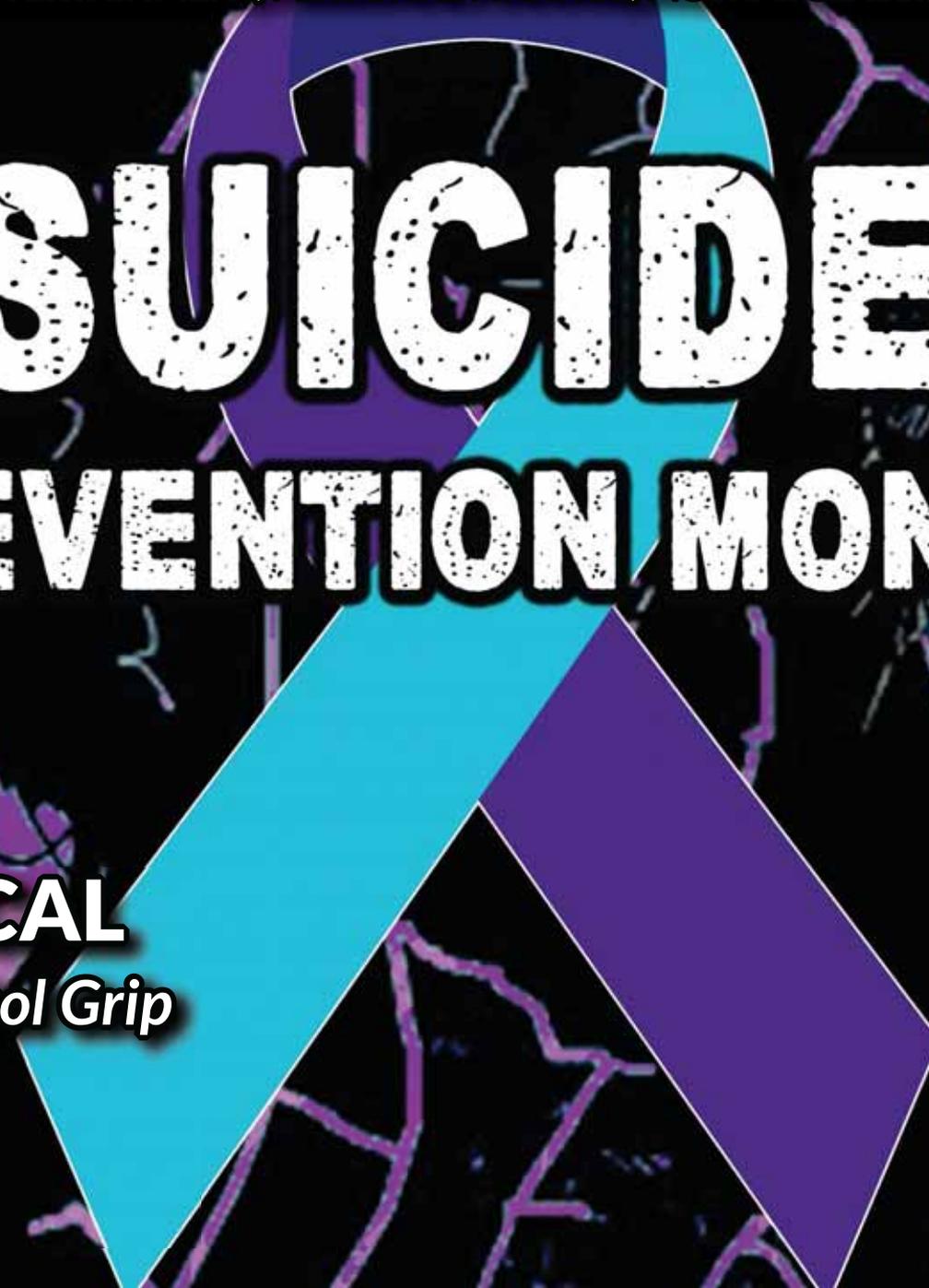


# FOCUS

A stylized graphic of a human eye with a blue iris and black pupil, integrated into the letter 'O' of the word 'FOCUS'. The eye is looking forward and has a white highlight on the pupil.

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 37 | SEPTEMBER 6 - SEPTEMBER 12 | 2017  
YOUR *FREE* ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, PERSONAL FINANCE, MUSIC & CLASSIFIEDS NEWSWEEKLY

## SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

A large graphic of a suicide prevention ribbon, which is a blue and purple ribbon. The ribbon is positioned diagonally across the center of the page, with the blue part at the top and the purple part at the bottom. The ribbon is set against a background of a black silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, with purple lightning bolt patterns overlaid on it.

**LIVE & LOCAL**

*Virgin Mary Pistol Grip*

**EVENTS**

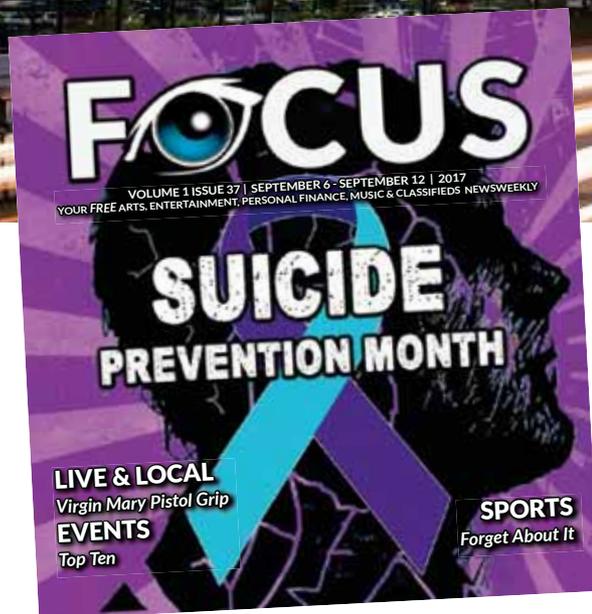
*Top Ten*

**SPORTS**

*Forget About It*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

RICKANDERSON.COM



## FOCUS ON THIS WEEK!

4 THE ARTS

6 FAMILY

8 EVENTS

10 ON TEN

13 THIS WEEKS FEATURE

16 EARTHWEEK

Diary of a Changing World *By Steve Newman*

18 HEALTH

Focus on Health- Sponsored By Jane's Health Market

20 SPORTS

Focus on Sports- Forget About It

22 LIVE & LOCAL

Virgin Mary Pistol Grip- *By Andy Roberts*

24 FINANCE

Herek Financial will be sharing financial information relating to the markets, investments, financial news and other information with regard to finance.

*By Mike Herek*

26 REAL ESTATE

Coldwell Banker will be sharing real estate information on a bi-weekly basis relating to the buying and selling of your home.

29 HAPPY HOUR

30 CLASSIFIEDS

To advertise email [focusonclassifieds@gmail.com](mailto:focusonclassifieds@gmail.com) or call today.

Focus is your *FREE* Arts, Entertainment, Personal Finance, Music & Classifieds Newsweekly. We've brought all of these elements together for the first time, all in one weekly format. Our goal is to provide you, the customer, with the best possible publication to suit all of your needs.

Focus  
7914 W Dodge Rd. # 413  
Omaha, NE 68114  
(402) 208-6545  
[focusomaha@gmail.com](mailto:focusomaha@gmail.com)  
[www.focusomaha.com](http://www.focusomaha.com)

**FOCUS**



# FOCUS ON LIVE & LOCAL

## Virgin Mary Pistol Grip – Moving Toward a Breakout

By Andy Roberts

Virgin Mary Pistol Grip – the band’s name begs the obvious question: “Where did that come from?”

Guitarist-vocalist Jales Hupke was happy to explain.

It seems Jales first name comes from his father’s movie viewing, combining the first and last names of the lead

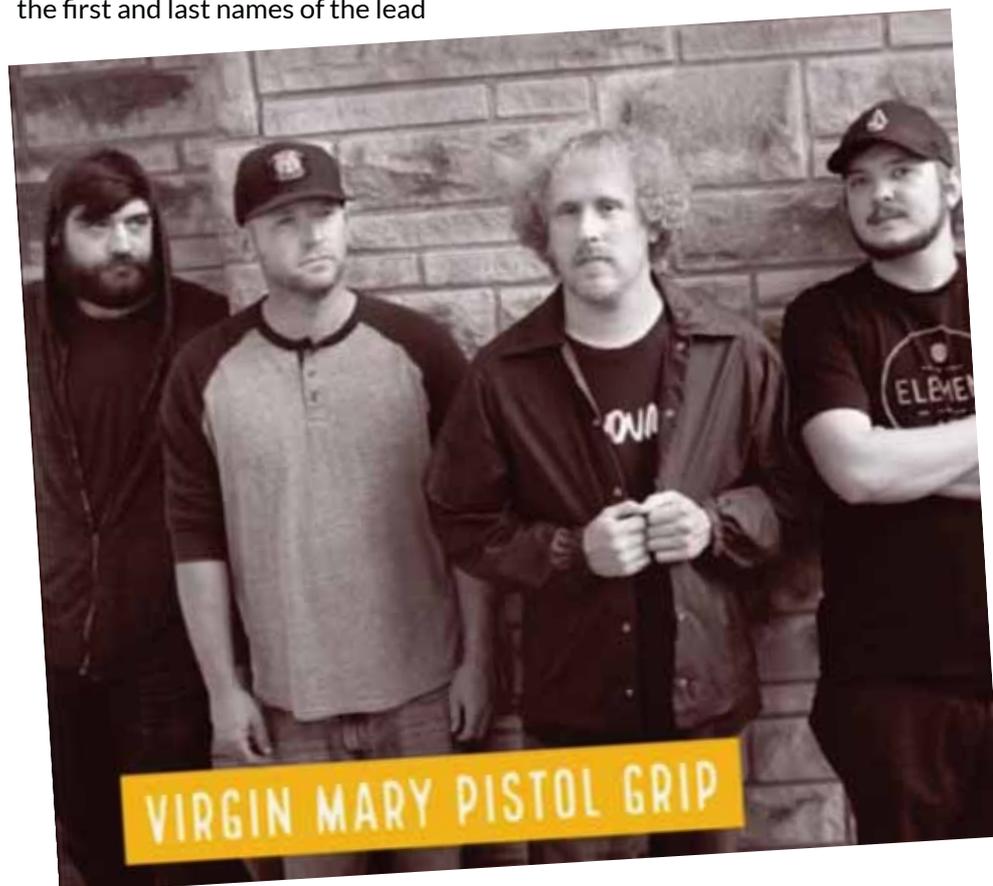
character in Clint Eastwood’s *Outlaw Josey Wales*.

Taking a cue from that, Hupke was watching a movie in which there were lots of guys with guns featuring the Virgin Mary on the pistol grip.

“To give them some sense of security,” he speculated. Google the idea and you’ll learn it is far more common than might be expected, and seems popular with some particularly unsavory characters.

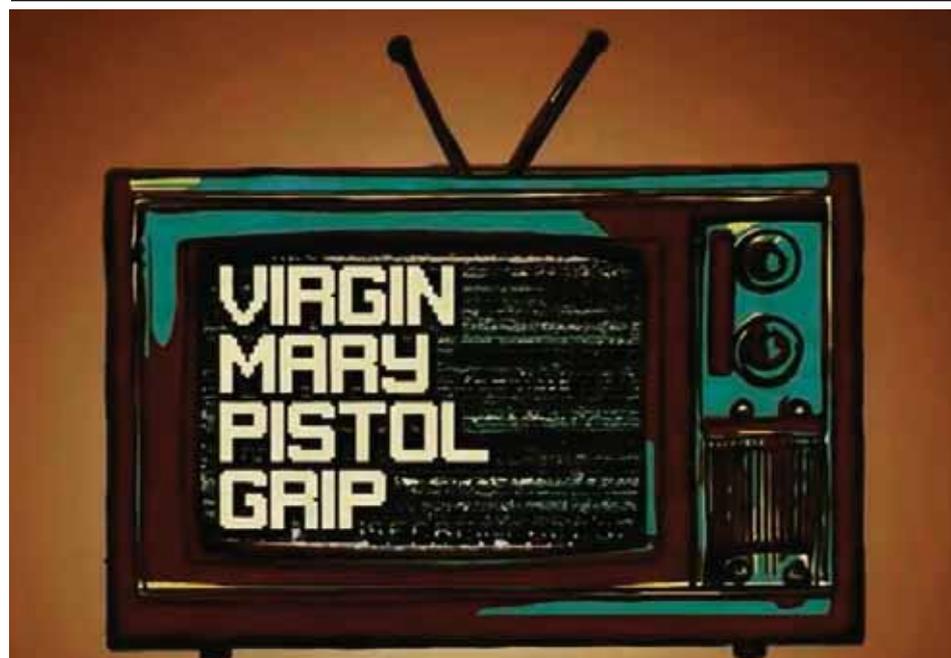
From that, taking a cue from his father, Virgin Mary Pistol Grip (VMPG) was born.

Virgin Mary Pistol Grip is set to release a five-track EP, *Secret Codes*, on Friday, September 22, during a three-band show at the Harney Street Tavern.



THE SIDE ROOM  
AT RALSTON ARENA

402.934.6225 | zsalem@ralstonarena.com  
for event schedule visit RalstonArena.com



It’s a follow-up to their self-titled debut that is nearly sold out, with the few remaining copies being sold at shows. The band was nominated for the 2015 OEAA New Artist of the Year award after the first record came out.

Joining VMPG on the 22nd will be Born On Leap Year and The Ramparts. It’s a free show for those 21 years of age and older.

Joining Hupke in Virgin Mary Pistol Grip are his brother, Jas Hupke on drums; Wyatt Mason on lead guitar; and Coleton Narduzzo on bass.

The Hupke brothers had been together in bands prior to Virgin Mary Pistol Grip, and were joined by Mason after the band he was in, Naked Sunday, broke up, also making Narduzzo available.

“Actually, we got billed together maybe three, there-and-a-half years ago,” Hupke said.

“We had a . . . pretty cool guy who was our bass player,” Hupke recalled, but he got married and couldn’t make the commitment to VMPG about the

time Naked Sunday disbanded.

The new release was recorded at Omaha’s Make Believe Studios and at Blue Room Studios in Los Angeles with L.A. producer, and Nebraska native, Bob Marlette at the controls. His track record includes work with artists such as Tracy Chapman and Rob Zombie.

A news release from VMPG states *Secret Codes* showcases the band’s authenticity and depth of emotion. That agrees with Hupke’s assessment of the group’s strengths.

“Emotion,” he replied when asked. “Whether it’s through an instrument or vocals or lyrics.”

Hupke stated that: “All of us, pretty much all of us” are involved in the songwriting for the all original outfit. He will take the lead on lyrics and Mason on the instrumental element but all contribute,

“I can’t sing about something I’m not into or passionate about,” Hupke said.

“That’s why it was really tough even to do covers . . . It’s not my thing.”



That's not to say Virgin Mary Pistol Grip doesn't have its influences. Pearl Jam, Hupke said, is probably the biggest one, especially for the Brothers Hupke. Mason is an Oasis fan and Narduzzo has a fondness for Omaha natives 311.

"Probably Led Zeppelin is big with all of us," Hupke added.

A Led Zeppelin-sized show is not in the works for VMPG at this point, and Hupke said, "We just like intimate ... where the people are into it."

That said, they are building toward a time when they will play to a larger audience, and they have been putting in the work to polish their stage craft."

"We've played all over Omaha," he said. "Pretty much any of the venues in town we've played at least once."

Virgin Mary Pistol Grip also has performed in Vermillion, Sioux Falls, Sioux City, and Des Moines. They are looking to get into Chicago and Denver to become a "more regional act."

The band is looking to reach out to as many places as possible but extended tour plans are on hold for the moment

as there is work to do. Marlette came to Omaha, saw them and did the album. He wants to hear them live again and start shopping the EP or he may give them more things to work on.

"It'll probably be in the spring," Hupke said of the tour.

They also would like to get a manager: "We'll see how that works."

It has been a busy stretch for this rising Omaha band, and the job is far from finished. There is the premier party on the 22nd with the EP available that day online at iTunes, Amazon, CD Baby, and at music stores in Omaha. VMPG's music also can be streamed on Spotify, iHeartRadio and Apple Music.

"Basically, we've just been waiting to release the album," Hupke said. "Now we have to really do it."

For more on Virgin Mary Pistol Grip: [www.virginmarypistolgrip.com](http://www.virginmarypistolgrip.com) or check out the band's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/virginmarypistolgrip/>

Hear VMPG on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrNux-HBKogM>

## VIRGIN MARY PISTOL GRIP SECRET CODES ALBUM RELEASE

SPECIAL GUESTS: BORN ON LEAP YEAR & THE RAMPARTS

HARNEY ST. TAVERN

1215 HARNEY STREET | OLD MARKET

FRIDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 22  
9:00P.M. | 21+

NO COVER FREE!



# THE SIDE ROOM AT RALSTON ARENA

Calling All Local Artists!  
Are you looking for a  
hot new venue to play?

WE GOT YOU COVERED

For Booking Info Contact Zack Salem  
402.934.6225 | [zsalem@ralstonarena.com](mailto:zsalem@ralstonarena.com)

# THE SIDE ROOM AT RALSTON ARENA

for event schedule visit [RalstonArena.com](http://RalstonArena.com)