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ceive our various identities as people — you are a very dangerous community member. If you think that you can simply write a check to donate some funds, if you think you can go to a soup kitchen one time, if you think you can give somebody five bucks, if you think that you can simply put up some Facebook posts, if you think that you can simply join a cause or buy something from a nonprofit or whatever — as a finite action, as an all-in good action, you are entirely missing the point around this deeper ethical investigation. If you are truly an ethical person, you are constantly questioning and unsure of whether or not you are doing enough to be clear about what your ethical stance is.

“YOU GONE BE OK,” J MEAST

J Meast has been a fixture of Bend's hip-hop scene for nearly a decade, splitting his time between the city and California. He recently released “4 the Mob 4,” the concluding installment of the “4 the Mob” EP series, and is working on a sequel to his 2016 EP, “Sip on This.” Look for a new single with Philthy Rich coming soon.

“You Gone Be OK” is from “4 the Mob 3.”

Q: What are your feelings on Black History Month in general, and the tokenism aspects that come up with it?

A: I guess you could say as a Black person I'm appreciative that they would set aside a whole month for us. I guess it does kind of bother me a little bit that we get the shortest month of the year, but it is what it is I guess. At least it's appreciated and it's talked about and honored. That's the good and that's the beauty of it. As far as Black History Month, I mean, it's Black History Day for me every day. But to have a month that just honors Black people, that's appreciated because I feel like we deserve that.

As far as the Black Lives Matter movement, I'm also appreciative of that as well. It's something that's needed and it's something that needs to continue. I wish that people would understand that it doesn't necessarily mean that we're just trying to push everybody out and say, “Oh, it's only about Black lives.” At the end of the day, I feel that it's more or less Black people trying to be heard and trying to get a valid point across and just be respected and be treated equal. ... It's more or less to let people know that we want the violence to stop towards Black people.



Submitted photo

Singer Maria Jackson recently moved to Bend and started a collaboration with guitarist Maya Hendrix.

It's not needed. If you want to make an arrest, make an arrest, but killing somebody in the process of making an arrest is just not OK, and it happens a lot to Black people.

Q: Do things feel different now with Black Lives Matter coming to the forefront last year?

A: I'm a Black man in America, so it's just the same with me every day. I have a son. When he gets old enough, I have to install that in him and let him know how to carry himself as a Black man in America. He'll have to do the same when he has kids. ... I'm not saying that every day I'm singled out or I'm experiencing racism every day. I have definitely experienced racism, and I've experienced a lot of those things. But I still have to carry myself properly every day and be safe and make sure that my family is safe.

MARIA JACKSON

A newcomer to the Central Oregon music scene, singer Maria Jackson is originally from Baltimore, Maryland. She works as a traveling nursing assistant, including in Oregon for the past couple of years. In the last few months, she has made Bend her home base.

After diving into the local karaoke scene, she teamed up with her best friend, guitarist Maya Hendrix, to form a duo and work on original music. They have no recordings yet, which is why this playlist is missing their track, but you can check out live

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