

## album review

### Bend will welcome Austin Meade, Kody West

Texas has had no trouble turning out top-shelf songwriters over the years: Willie, of course. Guy Clark. Beyoncé. Townes Van Zandt. Flaco Jiménez. Waylon Jennings. Rhett Miller. And that's just the tip of the song-berg.

It's too early to add Kody West and Austin Meade to that list, but the two Texans are touring together behind a combined collection of solid tunes. West is from Denton, Texas, Meade is from Austin (yes, Austin from Austin), and both guys make music that's best described as heavy, catchy pop-rock 'n' roll.

Now, rock 'n' roll is an increasingly rare thing these days. The generation from which West and Meade come is mostly interested in pop, hip-hop, R&B and electronic beats, which means these two dudes — with their crunchy guitars and their arena-ready melodies — sound like throwbacks to the classic rock era.

If you're going to throw back, might as well do it with gusto. To hear them at their swaggering best, check out West's 2020 album, "Overgrown,"



Submitted photo

### Kody West performs Friday in Bend.

and Meade's addicting latest single, "Loser Mentality."

**Kody West and Austin Meade:** \$18; 7 p.m. Friday; Domino Room, 51 NW Greenwood Ave., Bend; 1988entertainment.com.

### Spunj to warm up downtown Bend

Remember that band Sponge? They had a few big MTV hits during the post-Nirvana alt-rock era: "Molly (16 Candles)" in 1995 and "Wax Ecstatic (To Sell Angelina)" in 1996. They must've loved parentheticals!

Sponge isn't playing Central Oregon anytime soon — though it'd be no surprise if they headline Oregon WinterFest someday — but Spunj is. Heads up: Spunj isn't Sponge. Spunj is a four-piece band from Eugene that mixes written songs and improvisation into a sound that a fair number of Bendites will find eminently danceable. Think cosmic grooves, organ choogle, squiddly-diddly-diddly guitars, reggae skank and meandering jams and you're in the right sweet-smelling universe.

Spunj has opened for big names like Dubtronic Kru and Twiddle, and on Friday night, they'll play the second installment of this year's Apres Ski Bash concert series at The Commons, right where downtown Bend meets Drake Park and Mirror Pond. Dress warm, and be ready to boogie!

**Spunj:** Free; 6:30 p.m. Friday; The Commons, 875 NW Brooks Street, Bend; parallel44presents.com.

### The Motet return to Domino Room

This story was going to be about how The Motet is one of the funkier bands in the West, and how the long-running Denver group's funk is particularly distinctive because it's tighter than span-dex and has a lot of electronic elements to it, and yet it also feels like a living, breathing being — a testament to superhuman skill of the players involved. Basically, The Motet makes high-powered, ultra-precise robot funk with heart.

But then I found out that Motet drummer Dave Watts and his family lost their home, their vehicles, their pets and everything else when high winds whipped a wildland fire through their neighborhood in Superior, Colorado, on Dec. 30. So, since you know The Motet is funky (either through experience or because I just told you), I'm going to use this space to encourage you to go online, find the GoFundMe fundraiser for Watts' family and donate.

Then go see 'em Wednesday night at the Domino Room and be a part of the healing power of music.

**The Motet, with Collin Miller + Magic Beans:** \$25; 7 p.m. Wednesday; Domino Room, 51 NW Greenwood Ave., Bend; 1988entertainment.com.

—Ben Salmon, *The Bulletin*

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- 20 "To What Remains" Project Recover
- 22 Jesse Cook
- 23 Keola Beamer & Henry Kapono
- 29 The Fab Four - Ultimate Beatles Tribute

### FEBRUARY

- 4 - 6 Wizard Of Oz
- 16 Mandy Harvey
- 22 Brian Regan
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