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Reckless show brings gumbo of music to local dancehall

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The name is Reckless Kelly. The music is anything but reckless. It's a pure gumbo of country, blues, bluegrass and rock influences that create an atypical sound sure to astound and fire up Acadiana boot scooters.

Local country fans may be ahead of the game, since Reckless Kelly have made Grant Street Dancehall and the Blue Moon Saloon regular stops as they swing through the region. This week, the boys have a scheduled stop Thursday at Grant Street in support of their summer 2006 release.

The two-disc, one DVD venture Reckless Kelly Was Here is a conglomeration of the songs Reckless fans have come to know and love over the past decade, including Sixgun, Seven Nights In Eire, Nobody's Girl and Vancouver.

"We're about due for a new one," said Cody Braun, who holds down duties on vocals, fiddle, mandolin and harmonica. "We head into the studio in January or February to throw down some new songs we've started to work up."

New material has the same vibe as classic Reckless numbers, but lean a little more toward the rock side. Bands who toured with the group, favorite CDs and other influences sparked the slight diversion, Braun said.

"It's a combination of things," he said. "We all enjoy playing the rock stuff, but still do a lot of country, a little bluegrass here and there."

Was Here marked the first time Braun and fellow band member, David Abeyta (electric guitar, vocals), slipped into the producer's seat for a Reckless record. The two previously worked on other projects for various bands, honing their skills.

The challenge was not an easy one, Braun admitted, but proved inspiring enough to encourage both to learn what they could for future endeavors. However, he said, the producer's chair on future Reckless records more than likely will be filled by someone other than a band member.

"It's a lot of work. We had to remix the record three times and be involved with editing video, besides our responsibilities in the band," Braun said. "I probably won't be doing that again."

Those who head out to Grant Street on Thursday will get a classic Reckless show for their money. The boys intend to deliver another high-energy, fun fête that dabbles on the rock side but nestles in to honky-tonk country, blues and bluegrass.

"We're going to have a good time," Braun said. "Come out, have a cocktail and forget about your worries for a couple of hours."
