

Reckless Kelly at Legends Nov. 16 Austin band a rising star in the Americana movement

By Jeff Eason

One of the new bands that definitely made a splash at MerleFest 2004 was the Austin quintet Reckless Kelly. With its energetic mixture of country and western and rock and roll, Reckless Kelly turned into one of the true fan favorites by the end of the MerleFest weekend.

Reckless Kelly will make its Boone debut with a concert at Legends on the campus of Appalachian State University on Friday, November 16th. The doors open at 9 p.m. and the band will perform at 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 in advance for students and \$9 for guests and on the day of the performance.

The band is currently on tour to promote its latest Sugar Hill Records release, the double live album *Reckless Kelly Was Here*.

The band features Willy Braun on guitar and vocals, his brother Cody Braun on fiddle, mandolin, harmonica and vocals, David Abeyta on lead guitar, Jimmy McFeeley on bass and Jay Nazz on drums.



The Austin Americana quintet Reckless Kelly will shake Legends next week with some good old fiddle-driven rock and roll.

The Braun Brothers arrived in Austin in 1996 from the Northwest, where they grew up playing and touring in their father's band, Muzzie Braun and the Boys. The boys formed their own band, Prairie Mutts in Bend, Oregon during the twilight years of the grunge era, but found their sound a poor fit for the local scene.

The move to Austin not only gave the band a new audience but introduced them to dozens of local musicians who liked to mix country with rock and other genres. Before long, the Reckless Kelly lineup was set.

"We always call it 'hick rock' or rock and roll with a fiddle," said Cody Braun. "But as we grow as a band, the more it evolves into our own sound. We're currently playing a mix of older stuff and newer stuff at our live shows," said Cody Braun. "Mostly it's the songs from *Reckless Kelly Was Here* plus some brand new songs that we've written in the past few months."

Reckless Kelly's stop in Boone will be part of a ten-day tour that will find them in the eastern half of the United States, an area that has yet to fully embrace the band compared to the West.

"It's been great since we moved down from the Northwest to Austin," said Cody. "We've gone from playing little dive bars to playing some nice 5,000-seat venues. We toured the Northwest and California this year along with places closer to home like Texas and Louisiana."

Cody stated that the close-knit Austin band scene has spread to other places in Texas. Acts such as Alejandro Escovedo, the Stragglers, Cross Canadian Ragweed and John D. Graham regularly support each other on tours, sharing the limelight.

"We've found a good place in Austin," said Cody. "We play the type of music that's not going to be played on your typical Nashville country radio station, such as the ones owned by Clear Channel. Those stations are locked into what they play—the top twenty songs and not much else. But we've had great support from college radio and the more eclectic Americana stations."

The band has recently added a "Reckless Soldiers" page to its website. On it, any U.S. soldier can

send a photo and message back to his family and friends from wherever he or she is stationed.

All Legends guests 21 and over with proper ID are allowed to bring up to a six-pack of their favorite beer or wine cooler beverage with them into Legends. Advance tickets are available at the Plemmons Student Union. For more information, please call (828) 262-3030.