



Jerrott Zoch and OSR Band

Your Life: Kings & Queens by PennyLynn Webb community@palestineherald.com Palestineherald.com

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An East Texas band, with a local fan base, is getting ready to ring in the new year with a new album, Kings & Queens. Jerrett Zoch and the OSR Band, named after the Old San Antonio Road, has made Palestine and the surrounding areas their favorite stomping grounds in recent years, playing often at venues like the Shelton Gin and the Rusty Cactus in Oakwood, creating a large local fan base.

For those who haven't heard of them, Jerrett Zoch and the OSR Band, who makes their band base in Huntsville, is a country-rock-based band influenced by old country, new Nashville and a touch of Southern Rock.

The band was started by Jerrett Zoch, lead vocalist and acoustic guitar, and Daniel Huggins on lead guitar and backup vocals, of Centerville, who have been friends since first grade. The two started the band under the name East Texas Sky. They were joined by drummer Berny Herrera in May 2010.

The band was playing a variety of venues and looking for a bass player when they met Logan Mehringer of Teague at a party when someone threw a flip-flop and a misunderstanding ensued. The argument was settled and a fast friendship was formed. Mehringer later joined the band, learning to play bass on the fly.

After playing venues and festivals across the state, they debuted their self-titled album in March of 2014, featuring their self-penned songs of "Whiskey Brown," "Stay," "Full Throttle," as well as their longtime fan faves "Firefly," "Pleasure," and "Don't Come Around." The album was a solid first effort and garnered the band attention from bigger acts, helping them to get opening gigs for big names like Roger Creager, Kevin Fowler, Josh Ward, Jody Booth, JB and the Moonshine Band, Cody Johnson, Granger Smith, Kyle Park and Craig Wayne Boyd at this year's Hot Pepper Festival concert, held at the Palestine Civic Center due to heavy rains.

While the band waits for the right time to go on the road full-time, Huggins attends Sam Houston State University, Herrera works part-time and goes to school in College Station, Mehringer teaches social studies and Zoch focuses on the music. In fact, Zoch was recently invited to a special writing session with Kevin Fowler and Jason Allen at Fowler's ranch in Wimberly and hopes to possibly see writing credits on an upcoming album for one or both of the artists.

Zoch and the OSR Band have recently completed their second album, featuring all band-written tunes. According to Zoch, "Our first album was a great stepping stone. We had some great songs and it helped to broaden our fan base. However, the quality of everything in this album is better. We've grown as writers, as musicians and as a band, and I think that shows. I'm very proud of this album and where we are right now and I'm excited about where we are going. We've got big plans."

The group plans to digitally release the album, *Kings & Queens*, in early January and have a CD release later in the month. Band manager, Anthony Wells reports that the new album's sound is like a mix of Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Eagles." They plan to release the single "I'm Done."

They will open for Wade Bowen in April at the Leon County Expo Center and will play alongside Jason Cassidy, Josh Ward and Scooter Brown in a festival in June.

This group is truly in their element on stage, giving an electrified performance for their fans. To see them live, you can check them out on New Year's Eve at The Keg in Jewett, Jan. 6 at Humphrey's in Huntsville and at the Shelton Gin in Palestine on Jan. 30. They will return to the Rusty Cactus in Oakwood on March 5. Catch them while you can; the band has started a new venue rotation, playing gigs throughout Texas and Louisiana.

"We noticed that we had gotten kind of complacent about playing the same places and not really expanding our horizons, and getting out there to play new places and find new fans. Don't get me wrong. We love all our fans and we have favorite places to play, but to get our name out there we know we are going to have to keep looking for new places to get bookings.