Rusty Martin

The road has always come to blues icon

Article page 7
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Hanging dog bodies in Michael Vick’s shadow

By Jacques E. Strap
Action sports analyst

years ago, and a new generation of Germans now seeking redemption for the sins of their Nazi forefathers are dead set on locking the bastard up for the remaining years of his miserable life.

Those responsible for deporting Demjanjuk from Cleveland for a trial in Germany are convinced that Ivan Nikolayevich Demjanjuk is the same cruel and sadistic death camp guard who became infamous as “Ivan the Terrible” during World War II.

There will be no forgiveness for a monster who helped herd little children into a gas chamber, and the same may be said for a scumbag who lynched puppies simply because they refused to show killer fighting instincts.

Surprisingly, the Philadelphia Eagles organization signed the convicted dog fighter and former Atlanta Falcons quarterback to a one-year contract. Initially, Philadelphia was among 28 NFL teams who indicated they wanted no part of Vick despite his brilliant quarterbacking talents and the fact that he was once the NFL’s highest paid player.

Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones expressed regret that Vick would even be a member of a team in the Cowboys’ division.

The former Atlanta star was convicted in August of 2007 of conspiracy and running a dogfighting ring. He served 18 months of a 23-month prison sentence, and was suspended indefinitely from the NFL.

Now commissioner Roger Goodell has conditionally lifted the suspension, allowing Vick to sign with a team and to practice in the last two pre-season games.

Donovan McNabb was the quarterback who helped Philadelphia wipe Dallas out of the playoffs last season before going on to win the NFC championship game. McNabb is back with Philadelphia this year, along with backup quarterbacks Kevin Kolb and A.J. Feeley.

Signing Vick, of course, was all about money which would follow a Super Bowl victory, a feat that Philadelphia has never achieved.

In a “60 Minutes” interview, Vick accepted blame for not stopping the illegal dogfighting operation he bankrolled, said he “feels some tremendous hurt behind what happened.”

He even used the old recovery line by saying he now wants to be a part of the solution and not the problem.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) say Vick can take his hollow sounding statements of remorse to Walgreens.

Dan Shannon, a spokesman for PETA, said, “PETA and millions of decent football fans around the world are disappointed that the Eagles decided to sign a guy who hung dogs from trees.”

Any “hurt” that Vick might be experiencing as the result of getting busted could hardly compare with the pain a pup might feel as it chokes to death on the end of a rope.

Before all is said and done, Michael Vick may prove to be the costliest mistake the Philadelphia Eagles could have made prior to the upcoming football season.
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Fire Chief Charles Hood showed his ignorance of San Antonio and surrounding areas last month when quoted by KSAT-TV on the big brush fire in north Bexar County.

Noting that the fire had spread from east of Blanco Road to the area west of Blanco Road, Hood repeatedly pronounced Blanco "Blonko," and referred to Camp Bullis as Fort Sam Houston on more than one occasion.

Hood may know how to extinguish fires, but he should be deported back to Phoenix if he doesn’t know the biggest military facility in San Antonio from a rural training area. And mispronouncing major street names like Blanco, San Pedro, Zarzamora, and Perrin Beitel is like playing with political matches.

There are many rank-and-file fire-fighters who believe San Antonio’s chief should have been promoted up from the ranks, and it wouldn’t take much for Hood to find a fire of controversy burning under his butt.

And the same goes for William (On Camera) McManus, the police chief import who never met a TV zoom lens he didn’t like. Unlike most prior San Antonio police chiefs who left the majority of media contact to their underlings, McManus has emerged as a street corner television star in a cop uniform. He utilizes every opportunity to speak in person on the scene of most any news worthy crime or life-threatening event.

Thank City Manager Cheryl (Super Woman) Sculley for newcomer San Antonians and Texans like Hood and Police Chief William McManus. These high-profile city officials have yet to display any major armor chinks, but they are viewed as “foreigners” by many and it would do them well to stay alert and in tune with everything local.

And ditto for Super Woman. You could buy a black land farm for the salary San Antonio is paying Sculley to manage the city, and we must always remember that she is responsible for the presence of both McManus and Hood. Hood calling Camp Bullis Fort Sam Houston just doesn’t sit well with native Texans and San Antonians.

As old Hill Country correspondent Zeb Poopee was wont to say, “We could probably do without his ass around here!”

Property developers won again in the encroachment of Camp Bullis issue. It’s all about money, and the land rapers will overwhelm the ecologists and even the U.S. Army when it comes to the lucrative construction business.

Cramming two-story shotgun shanties on mini-lots with exotic subdivision names like Lost Creek and Brushy Top is what I call the purple martin syndrome. Like the martins in crowded bird houses which sometimes accommodate as many as 12 families, our “new country residents” occupy ugly, crowded new homes which are so close together that a stout kid could jump from one rooftop to another.

With able help from Express and News graphic artist Harry Thomas, I hope to slowly expand on the magazine’s web site, a humble presence which hasn’t contained much more than a monthly cover reproduction, advertising rates, and a brief history of the 34-year-old entertainment package.

I have started posting some of what I consider to be the better Sam Kindrick columns in recent years, and I hope to offer reader response to the web page along with other features in the near future.

Check us out at www.actionmagsa.com, and let me know what you think. The e-mail address is samaction@gvtc.com.

Have we all had ourbelly full of Dallas Cowboys training camp at the Alamodome?

It’s a hot, dry summer, I know, and there wouldn’t have been much more doing on the sports pages but baseball, steroids, and Tiger Woods if the Cowboys hadn’t brought their summer training program here.

Day after day, we were smitten with sports section front drivel about first one and then another of the Dallas Cowboys players, replete with glowing praise from coach Wade Phillips and owner Jerry Jones.

San Antonio has no NFL franchise, and the prospects of us ever getting a pro football team here are virtually nil, but sports media dreamers continue to grovel at the feet of these Dallas losers like pigeons pecking at bread crumbs on Alamo Plaza.

During the entire practice camp, the Express and News kept the Dallas hype flowing without a break, and TV misfits like KSAT’s Greg Simmons babbled and drooled in the manner of a major league journalist covering a major league football team that actually had a chance of advancing into the playoffs.

Very little reality here, football fans.

The whole show was only a practice. And not one Dallas Cowboy gives a rat shit about San Antonio.

Anyone who believes the Dallas Cowboys can win a championship using two tight ends would probably entertain the possibility of Harry Potter backing up Marion Barber in the running back position.

Tony Romo is probably a better golfer than he is a quarterback, and Dallas fans will finally realize that Jessica Simpson isn’t responsible for Romo’s choking in big game situations.

Every former Dallas veteran with a real grasp of the game—from Emmitt Smith to Troy Aikman to Michael Irving—knows that Jones made a major error in trading Terrell Owens.

Owens is a clown with blinding speed and the ability to catch more passes than all other Dallas receivers combined. And this includes former Longhorn Roy Williams, a disappointment last season who promises to be no better in the near future.

Jerry Jones deserves everything he gets, and coach Wade Phillips is just another coaching goat walking blindly into the slaughter pen.

I’m no sports pundit, but I did notice that Jones failed to give Phillips a contract extension. And it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to know what this means.

Dallas blows it again. Jones fires the coach. And the pigeons will again gather at the Alamodome to peck up what crumbs the Cowboys offer us next summer.
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Action Magazine, September 2009
Noted blues musician
Rusty Martin working out a new game plan

Rusty Martin fans will be pleased to learn that the homegrown blues man is writing new material and quietly laying down some experimental tracks in his home studio at Canyon Lake.

A fixture on the San Antonio live music scene for the better part of three decades, Martin is known far and wide by some of the best pickers in the business.

At the old Wings Club on West Avenue, “Steady Rollin” Bob Margolin became enthralled by the talented Martin, and for a time there many wondered if Rusty would leave town to join the nationally-known Margolin on the road.

“People used to ask me why I never went on the road,” Martin mused. “Those were the years back in the 1960s when I worked steadily on the River Walk. I played the Bayous Oyster Bar for several years before putting in a 10-year stint for the late Hap Veltman and Bob Buchanon at the Kangaroo Court. I didn’t need to hit the road during those times. The road literally came to me.”

Rusty Martin has always had a loyal San Antonio fan base, but River Walk tourists provided changing faces with every audience, causing Martin to reflect:

“I loved it. I still love to work solo for people who want to listen. But now I am seriously thinking of putting out another record, something of a bluesey nature with some real melodic finger picking touches without sounding too busy on the guitar.”

Martin plays the third Saturday of every month at Specht’s Store in Bulverde, spending most of his time now writing new music and working in his home studio at Canyon Lake. Prior to his move into Comal County, Rusty worked steadily at Casbeers for another six years.

Martin moved to the lake home following the recent death of his brother David, who died of an apparent heart attack. And several years ago, he was the caregiver for another brother, Richard Martin, who eventually died of pancreatic cancer.

“My 81-year-old mother owns the lake home,” Martin said. “My brother David was living on the property when he died last November. Now it’s just me up here with the deer. The deer and my girlfriend Candy, I am really starting to fall in love with the Canyon Lake area.”

Martin is truly a blues icon. He has shared the stage with John Hammond, Leo Kottke, Maria Muldaur, Delbert McClinton, and Bob Margolin.

At the Wings Club, Rusty also opened for Maria Muldau, and it was at a blues festival in Guadalajara, Mexico that he teamed up with superstar-to-be Ruthie Foster.

“Working with Ruthie was a real experience,” Martin said. “She is destined to be one of the big ones.”

At the White Rabbit, Martin opened for two of his idols, Leo Kottke and John Hammond, but the most notable of all his opening acts came at the Navasota Blues Festival where he was to pave the way for Ray Wylie Hubbard.

“It was one of those magical moments,” Martin said. “I did three encores and the crowd was still screaming for more when Ray Wylie took the stage. Hubbard thanked the crowd for ‘letting me close for Rusty.’”

After meeting and bonding with Bob Margolin at the old Wings Club, Martin did some studio work with the blues man who played and recorded with the legendary Muddy Waters.

Martin’s one CD, an effort titled So Far Away, includes the song “Emma,” which Martin wrote about a waitress at the Pig Stand on Broadway.

“A bunch of good people played on the CD,” Martin said. “Monty Montgomery, the late Chris Holzhaus, and Audie Meyers were all part of it. But I have plans for something completely different on the next recording.”

Martin still finger picks with a National Guitar, the acoustic instrument with a metal resonator, and he can almost get a full band sound when he augments the distinctive guitar sound with a neck attached harmonica.

“I grew up on John Hammond’s guitar and harmonica work, and I have always been a John Prine fan,” Martin said. “My influences have been varied and really far ranging. I have been asked to be a waitress at the Pig Stand on Broadway.

“My stuff is blues,” he said. “And I want to do the songs with some melodic finger picking, stuff we don’t hear nearly enough of these days.”

Although Rusty works mostly solo, he does venture up Bandera way on occasion to play with such notables as George Briscoe, Randy Reinhardt, and Alan Chapman.

“I have played with them at the Longhorn Saloon in Bandera,” Martin said. “Rusty has a day job as well, but it isn’t a chore that takes him far from his home studio.”

“I am a travel agent,” Martin said. “I work from home with a computer.”

He still writes and sells radio and television jingles, working through Keith Harter, who produces jingles for H.E.B., Chevron, Corona Beer, and numerous other businesses.

“It’s steady mailbox money,” Martin said, “but anyone who knows me knows that my heart is in the blues.”

Rusty Martin

Photo by Bob Stevens
WHY THE CLUBS CHOOSE ACTION
Since 1975, Action Magazine has been the major voice of Texas music in San Antonio and across South Texas.

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Scatter Shots

Loss of a son

Rod Dog's Saloon owner Rod Sanders absorbed a staggering blow last month with the car accident death of his son Billy Sanders.

Our condolences go out to Rod. The death of a son produces a brand of pain which can be fully understood by only another father who has experienced the same kind of loss. We know the feeling.

Billy Sanders, 44, was killed in the car accident Sunday night, August 16, 2009. Many patrons of Rod Dog's and numerous members of the nightclub industry in San Antonio and around Uvalde knew and liked the younger Sanders, who managed his father's business for the first seven years that Rod Dog's Saloon was in operation.

Billy Sanders leaves behind two minor children, Billy Jr., and April. England benefit

A benefit for critically injured Texas 46 bartender Carolyn England will be held Sunday, September 20, at the popular Spring Branch bar and grill.

Wayne Martin, leader of the Lone Star Pickerz, stepped up to the plate, and the benefit ball has been rolling non-stop. The Lone Star Pickerz are hosting the show.

In addition to the Lone Star Pickerz, a regular outfit at the restaurant and saloon, music will be provided by George Chambers, The Drug Store Cowboys, 2 Way Street, Slim Roberts and TexasWeather, Mr. T's Blues Review, 800 Miles, Bobby Jordan and Ridge Creek, T. Kaye and Sweetfire, and Jimmy Cribb.

Music will go non-stop from noon until 10 p.m. There will be a fish fry with all the trimmings from 11 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at $10 per plate. Eat at Texas 46 or take the food to go.

There will be a bake sale and sausage wraps, and donation items for the silent auction will be appreciated. Door prizes will be awarded. Recipients must be present to win.

An announcement of the benefit was premature in last month's issue of Action. Planners had not lined up the bands which are now signed for this very worthy cause.

Carolyn suffered severe injuries when her car was involved in a headon collision July 1 as she drove to work. "It is a miracle that she is alive," said her...
sister, Texas 46 manager Kathy Stebbins. "She suffered so many broken bones, some of them crushed. Doctors think it will be at least a year before she has recovered sufficiently to again walk."

Kathy said there were 32 breaks in 18 bones. And there was damage to her heart and lungs.

A longtime San Antonio bartender, Carolyn England has worked the past six years for Gary Stebbins, owner of the Texas 46. Medical bills have been mounting, according to Kathy Stebbins, and donations are now being accepted at Security State Bank and Trust of Bulverde. Under Kathy Stebbins' name (for Carolyn England), the account number is 3455417, P.O. Box 85, Bulverde, Texas 78163. A popular restaurant and saloon in the Spring Branch-Bulverde area, Texas 46 is located on Highway 46 about three miles east of Highway 281.

After the crash July 1 on Texas Highway 46, both Carolyn and the man who hit her were air-lifted to San Antonio hospitals. The man's condition is unknown, but Kathy said it has been learned that he had neither a driver's license nor accident insurance.

Benefit for Paige Katherine Dawn, Ginger Pickett, Ashley Dixon, The Grey Man Group, and Jonathan Fox are all lined up to play the benefit this month for Mishaya Paige Anderson. Band manager and a former booking agent, Paige is really having a tough time, and the benefit scheduled for Sunday, September 27, 2 p.m. through 10 p.m., at Tra's Country is designed to help lighten the load of medical bills which continue to mount. Paige suffers from systemic lupus, congestive obstructive pulmonary disease, restrictive lung disease, fibromyalgia, diabetes, arachnoditis, arthritis, osteoporosis, and other ailments.

There will be a raffle, auction, live music, dinner and more, and probably more bands than those listed in this item. Benefit organizer Quinn Dixon said, "We are in need of items for the raffle, including gift cards and gift certificates. Monetary donations are also welcomed."

In and out of the hos-

Cont'd on pg. 14
Eric Taylor sporting some heavy press hype

Eric Taylor’s press hype calls him a lyrical genius and a master of the guitar. His name is bandied around with such Texas song crafters as Townes Van Zandt, Robert Earl Keen, Lyle Lovett, and Steve Earl. Lovett, who is including Taylor’s song “Whooping Crane” on his new CD, compares the 60-year-old storyteller to Bruce Springsteen and the guitar fan wouldn’t know Eric Taylor sporting some heavy press hype

Texas song crafters the 60-year-old story­
teller to Bruce Springs­

What moved us to check Eric Taylor’s gig at Casbeers last month was the press release from Blue Ruby Music and Records which landed in our in-bas­ket.

It read, “I hope you’ll help us get the word out about what promises to be an un­forgettable evening of music theater.”

Blue Ruby Music is Taylor’s operation and website. The “unforgettable evening of music” attracted a grand total of 18 listeners to the Casbeer’s敦煌 sanctuary, and the sparse turnout gave cause to some thought on our part about highlytouted singers and songwriters who don’t draw more than handfuls to their live shows.

The few who attend a Taylor performance are there to hang on his every word. He sings, but he whispers a lot as well, and much of Taylor’s performance is a poetic narrative with a thumb pick style of guitar playing which was reportedly influenced by the likes of Mance Lipscomb and Lightnin’ Hopkins.

But give Taylor credit. He did come up through the 1970s mu­

sic scene in Houston with Van Zandt, Earle, Guy Clark and others of that time, and his current CD, “Hollywood Pockknife,” reached number three on the Euro American chart, and number five on the Freeform American Roots chart.

Cont’d on pg. 14

Where To Find Action

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Charlie Brown’s
Cooper’s Lounge
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The Trap
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LIVE OAK
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SELMA
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UNIVERSAL CITY
Billy D’s

* 12 * Action Magazine, September 2009
Folk man Michael Martin back on the scene

Michael Martin is back on the San Antonio scene, writing music and performing both solo and with his group The Infidels, and occasionally with female fireball Patri-Ann Vonne.

We found Martin last month with Vonne at the cafe at Casbeers at the Church, and the two dished out some of their individual musical pourings, as well as a song or two that they have co-written or are co-writing.

“I really enjoy working with Patri-Ann,” Martin said. “We have not recorded anything together, but it is a definite possibility.”

Martin is famous for keeping his fans experience. “I leanings with such ability.” Martin has not recorded anything together, but also go back with him at another time. My time with Russell has really been a great experience.”

A native San Antonian and a graduate of Edison High School, Martin is an immensely popular folk rocker who can hardly be expected to work as a side man for any musician over any great length of time.

He has already recorded one solo album and three CDs with The Infidels which include Blood Red Roses, and Fatal Flower Garden.

Influenced by Dylan, The Waterboys, Leonard Cohen, Willie Nile, Richard Thompson, Mike Scott, The Rolling Stones, Hank Williams, Marc Bolan, Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead, Michael Martin shows his Leonard Cohen leanings with such haunting tunes as Blood Red Roses, and admits that most of his covers are by Willie Nile.”

I guess about threefourths of the songs I do from a stage are my original works,” Martin said. “But most of the covers are by Nile. Nile is a song-writer and singer from Buffalo, New York, and one of my biggest influences.”

His Fatal Flower Garden CD was produced by Leonard Cohen producer Lee-Anne Unger, and includes work by past and present Cohen alumni.

Martin plays with fire and a frenetic level of energy, but when asked to roughly describe his music, he calls it folk.

“I guess folk is about as good as any label I could use.”

Cont’d on pg. 14
“Scatter Shots”  
Cont’d from pg. 11

Pitfall for many months since 2007, Paige says, “I fell and broke my pelvis, hip, two ribs, and knee. Then I wrecked my car because I passed out due to my blood pressure falling so low. I’ve also passed out in the shower and in the bathroom.”

Medical bills are overwhelming.

Paige has managed such bands as Southern Reign, Mr. Outlaw, Iron Horse, Broken Down, the Rattlers, and several others.

Quinn Dixon said, “Paige has done so much for the music community as a promoter, manager, music columnist, and as a sponsor of many charitable events. We are asking the community to return some of the love Paige has so freely given.”

Door admission for the benefit is $10. Barbeque prepared and served by the Adkins PM Crew will be sold for $5 a plate.

Thanks for blues
After the S.A. Blue Cats released a first CD last month with a Sam’s Burger Joint party, San Antonio Blues Society board member Scott Mayo e-mailed a gigantic “thank you” to the bands, musicians, and venues who have hosted the best in blues over the past year.

The Blue Cats were included in a list which named After Midnight Blues Band, Benny Harp Blues Band, Britt Butler, Bob Bass Band, Frank Macias Band, Granvil Poynter, Guitar Shorty, Hodge Podge Blues Band, Jeff Strahan Band, Jimmy Spacek, John Gaar and the Hopeful Souls, Johnny Nicholas, Mike Zito, Shawn Pittman, and many more.

Wrote Mayo: “This group of truly great and gifted musicians have lifted the level of blues currently being offered in San Antonio to a level that other blues societies in other locations envy and desire. Over the past 12 months the San Antonio Blues Society has undergone fundamental growth and change at all levels. I am proud and jazzed to see this kind of development.”

Hanging’ Tree golf
Hanging’ Tree impresario Big John Oaks is beating the drum for the Fourth Annual Hanging’ Tree Saloon Golf Tournament which is set for Sunday, September 27.

Oaks wants all participants to be paid up by the Saturday morning of September 26 so that all names can be turned over to the Northcliffe Golf Course on that day.

Hanging’ Tree golf has been a big fun blow-out which is enjoyed by all, and the upcoming tournament promises to be the best and biggest yet.

Entry fee is $55 per player. The tournament starts at 7 a.m. After completion of each round, participants will repair to the Hanging’ Tree in Bracken for two free drinks and a brisket and sausage dinner.

For more details, call (210) 651-5812.

“Michael Martin”  
Cont’d from pg. 12

on him available via the internet.

“Right now, I am just trying to get The Infidels back together and ready for another run,” Martin said. “I know there is a need for more information on me and the band, and that is something I intend to do.”

More and more of late, Martin has started working as a two-some with San Antonio native and now Austin-based Patricia Vonne.

A tall and willowy looker who has worked as an actress and a model before setting down to seriously write songs and perform on stage, Vonne’s self-titled debut album in 2002 got her all sorts of media attention around Austin.

With help from her guitarist and songwriting husband Robert LaRocque, she has followed up with CDs which include Guitars and Castanets, and her current release titled Firebird.

With Martin at the Casbeers show, she employed both guitars and castanets with her music, and performed material from her Firebird album which included both Spanish and English.

If she does record with Martin, the ensuing record would stand a big chance of at least registering as a regional hit.
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I drank a six pack of light beer every day for a month and didn’t lose a pound - That Shit Don’t Work!
Did you know that not one Olympic Event involves a Gerbil? - No I’m Serious!
If you ask your Lady to roll over on her stomach and she says – “No, it will hurt” – Ask her if she thinks being in labor is painless!!

NO SHIT!

-Frank

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FRIDAYS 7:30-11:30 p.m.
4...............................Emmerson Biggins
11..........................Slim Roberts & Texas Weather
18..........................Lone Star Pickerz
25..........................Bobby Jordan & Ridgecreek

SATURDAYS 8:00-12:30 p.m.
5.............................2-Stage Street
12.............................Rusty Nails
19..............................Comp. CD Music
26..............................T. Kaye & Sweet Fire

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Thursdays, Free CaW Dance Lessons
Sundays, 6 p.m., Pool tournaments

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Action Magazine, September 2009 • 15 •
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has begun. To enter today Go to

www.myspace.com/youbethestar for

locations and Times!”

“If you can sing it Bring It!!”

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Contest</th>
<th>Bar</th>
<th>Age</th>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Practice</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Joes Crab Shack</td>
<td>All Ages</td>
<td>1245 I-10 West</td>
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<td>Los Cocos</td>
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<td>226 W BITTERS SUITE 126-816</td>
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<td>The Place</td>
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<td>7920 Bandera Rd @ Eakin Rd</td>
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<td>6023 Cranes Dr. Behind El Taco Tete</td>
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