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by Bob Rohan

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Volume 41 • Number 9

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Editorial and sales offices are located at 4825 Elm Creek Drive, Bulverde, Texas 78163. Phone (830) 980-7861

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Just back from a July 4 blowout sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Jamaica, San Antonio’s MC & the Mystyx put on another super performance last month at the Tex Pop museum on Mulberry Street. It was a super special day for Mystyx lead guitarist and vocalist Melody Ackermann, because Don Pack, her long ago mentor from Dellview Music, joined the group on steel guitar.

"He is just fabulous," Melody exulted. "Flawless, wonderful, and the greatest teacher in the world. What an honor to have him here today."

MC & the Mystyx band members include Ackermann on lead guitar and vocals, lead vocalist Cathy Ruiz, and a rhythm section comprised of bassist and vocalist Larry Grubbs, and drummer Timothy (Texas Tim) Root.

Don Pack taught the nine years that they have had this band together, and the quality of this versatile outfit has steadily improved through the years.

They can do it all—country, blues, some rock, and their own spin on Americana and Texas music from this region.

Cathy Ruiz has developed into a super versatile performer with voice control that is off the charts.

The July gig in Jamaica resulted from a Mystyx show earlier this year at Guero’s Taco Bar on South Congress Street in Austin. The bass player at the Jamaica show was John Simonick, now a former member of the band.

Cathy Ruiz said, "The following week after that show we were contacted by the U.S. Embassy in Jamaica, asking if we would be available to play for their Independence Day celebration on July 4. It so happened that Luis G. Moreno, ambassador of the United States in Kingston, Jamaica, was there in Austin visiting his daughter, a student at the University of Texas.

"The ambassador is from New York. He is a big Texas fan, and he thought our music would be perfect for the Jamaica celebration, citing our song selection which ranged from top country to other genres."

MC & the Mystyx played a pre-July 4 show on July 3 at the Hope Zoo for members of the embassy’s public affairs office, with an audience of 400.

Cathy Ruiz said the July 4 main event was before 700 guests at the historic Devon House in Kingston.

"They treated us like rock stars," Cathy said. "They promised to bring us back and we hope it happens."

Next of the Mystyx agenda is a long-awaited recording. Both women said they have been working long and diligently on material for the recording.

When they release it, you can bet it will be a good one.

Said Cathy Ruiz: “Melody and I have worked very hard to keep this band going. It hasn’t been easy. It is a love and passion for making great music that keeps us going.”
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Action Magazine, September 2016 • 5 •
County Commissioner Kevin Wolff was charged with DWI after he rearended two other vehicles last month at a Whataburger on San Pedro Avenue. It was 3 o’clock in the morning, and Commissioner Wolff was wearing only his boxer skiwies when police arrived on the scene. How embarrassing for a member of the exalted Wolff family.

Damned that blood pressure medicine again! Shit! Kevin admits that he had been drinking alcohol, but his Whataburger wreck had to be the result of his mixing blood pressure medicine with the booze.

Right? It had to be. That’s what Commissioner Wolff says his doctor says. Sure, Kevin. Pigs do fly with battery-powered motors hooked to their butts, and the San Antonio Express and News is getting ready to rehire me as a public relations consultant. Maybe I can be Jeanne Jakie’s editorial assistant in charge of gossip at The Bright Shawl.

At the Whataburger scene, police conducted a field sobriety test and determined that County Commissioner Kevin Wolff was intoxicated.

Once under arrest, police offered Wolff a breathalyzer test. The cops said Wolff refused to take the test. Wolff later said no test was even offered. Somebody is lying. I will lay odds it ain’t the cops. Call The Dude.

A blood draw was taken, and the results of this test will be interesting. Wolff posted a $1,000 bond.

It has been over 27 years since a warrant has been issued for my arrest, but old felons like Yours Truly here know by bitter experience that possession of dangerous drugs can land one in the hoosegow.

Especially if you don’t have a prescription for home-cooked methamphetamine.

Commissioner Wolff, of course, has a doctor’s order for the blood pressure meds he is trying to use as an excuse for his DWI.

As they say in AA: If you don’t drink, you won’t get drunk.

A like motto for Commissioner Wolff might read accordingly: If you are going to get drunk and rearend cars at 3 o’clock in the morning at a Whataburger while clad only in your underwear, don’t forget to take your blood pressure medicine.

In the March Republican primary, Wolff defeated Mike Koerner and Pamela Lill. The lone Republican on the five-member Bexar County Commissioners Court, Kevin Wolf now faces Democratic challenger Brandon J. Johnson in November.

A recent mention of the tune Delta Dawn took me back to my friendship with the classic song’s co-author, a super writer from Tennessee by the name of Alex Harvey.

Harvey was playing clubs around here in the 1980s, the Cheatham Street Warehouse in San Marcos being one of them. While Tanya Tucker had the hit recording of Delta Dawn, it was Alex who wrote the hit. And it was also Alex who wrote the classic Ruben James, which became a million-seller for Kenny Rogers.

Alex Harvey’s mother took her own life when he was 15. The song Delta Dawn was about her. And with this sad fact in mind, the song’s lyrics take on a haunting poignancy which defines the soulful spirit of Alex. It goes like this:

Delta Dawn’s 41st reunion blast at Texas Pride Barbecue on October 2.

*6* Action Magazine, September 2016
Hit the juice and cut the damn thing loose

By Sam Kindrick

Get the kids, the dogs, the hogs, and the inlaws into the trucks, cars, and wagons...

We are all headed for Texas Pride Barbecue for the greatest show on the planet.

Mark the calendar. It's Sunday, October 2.

Action Magazine's 41st Anniversary and Music Extravaganza will kick off at high noon under Texas Pride's big covered patio and semi-outdoor pavilion with some of the greatest musicians who ever lived.

The energy is building, a palpable force which snaps, crackles and pops across the South Texas prairie like an electric snake.

The daylong concert will run until the cows come home with appearances by legends like Johnny Bush, Darrell McCall, grammy winner Augie Meyers, and special guest star Alex Harvey, the songwriter giant who has penned million-selling hits like Delta Dawn and Ruben James.

Texas favorite Johnny Rodriguez is also expected to play the gigantic concert, although no definite word had been received at this writing.

Texas Pride owner Tony Talanco hosted Action's 40th Anniversary and Music Extravaganza last year, a bell-ringing success which saw approximately 1,000 music lovers show up despite torrential downpours which hit before the show and again as Johnny Bush and Johnny Rodriguez were closing it out.

"Last year's 40th Anniversary was the largest turnout by far that we had ever seen at Texas Pride," said Tony Talanco, owner of the big venue on South East Hwy. 1604. "From all we are hearing, we think this year's turnout will be much greater. We are getting the Texas Pride staff organized to serve and accommodate a large number of people. Our kitchen staff will be in full force, and there will be plenty of ice cold beer available."

Texas Pride ran out of beer at the 40th anniversary blowout before Rodriguez had finished closing out the show, a condition which owner Talanco promises won't happen again.

"No," Talanco laughs, "it won't happen again. We just weren't expecting the turnout we got last year."

In years past, Texas Pride has featured individual shows by Bush, McCall, Rodriguez, David Alan Coe, Moe Bandy, and many others. But never before has the concentration of star power been so great as the Action Magazine shows have presented.

In addition to Alex Harvey, new arrivals for the 41st anniversary who were not on the 40th last year, include the enormously popular Dale Watson, whose Big T Roadhouse is but a long golf shot from Texas Pride; award winning Billy Mata and his Texas Tradition western swing band; Rebeca Drury, female lead singer of the San Antonio Rose Live country stage show which occupied the Aztec Theatre for the better part of three years; versatile guitarist and vocalist

Continued on pg. 12

Johnny Bush

Augie Meyers

Alex Harvey

Darrell McCall

Action Magazine, September 2016 • 7 •
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Talk About Texas

Roy Holley’s Talk About Texas show on KKYX 680 AM is going all out to promote Action Magazine’s 41st Anniversary show October 2 at Texas Pride Barbecue.

Talk About Texas

Talk About Texas show on KKYX 680 AM is going all out to promote Action Magazine’s 41st Anniversary show October 2 at Texas Pride Barbecue.

Roy Holley

Holley will play some of Augie’s new music, and we will all talk about the pending Action Magazine anniversary blockbuster.

Texas Pride Barbecue owner Tony Talanco will also be on the September 10 show as he was on a Holley show in late August which also featured Kindrick and two musicians who will appear on the upcoming Action show, Jim Chesnut and Drug Store Cowboys leader Dub Robinson.

Roy puts it this way: “I want to help Sam Kindrick and Action Magazine in any way I can. Also Tony Talanco and Texas Pride. I believe Action has served a vital purpose in the San Antonio and South Texas music world, and want to see the tradition go on.”

Holley is a big part of what we are doing, and he will be one of the emcees at our 41st anniversary show.

Tex Pop rocks

The little South Texas Culture Center, aka Tex Pop, is steadily growing in popularity and size.

Highlight last month was a rollicking rock and Texas music blowout, compliments of The Toman Brothers.

Russell and Randy Toman were joined on the Tex Pop stage by old guitar slinger friend Galen Niles and Randy Toman’s son Randy Toman, Jr., who can smoke an electric guitar right along with uncle Russ.

Adding to the crowd color was the mischief of Royle Showalter, last living founding member of the San Antonio Chapter of the Bandidos Motorcycle Club.

As it was when he attended Action Magazine’s 40th Anniversary and Music Extravaganza last year at Texas Pride Barbecue, Royce was the center of attraction in the crowd, having his photo taken more than even the entertainers.

“I really enjoy this music,” Showalter said. “And I hope to attend Action’s 41st show that is coming up.”

The ever gracious Tex Pop manager Michael Ann Coker was profuse in her applause of the Tomans.

“They were wonderful,” she said. “Tex Pop’s doors will forever be open for these great musicians.”

The Tex Pop arts and music museum wouldn’t be happening without Planet K, nextdoor neighbor and donor of the music room space.

Zeppelin style

Mothership is a San Antonio Led Zeppelin tribute band that employs all of the stage dramatics that was associated with the 1970s rock giant.

Albert Steves, the Mothership guitarist and spokesman for the group, defined Mothership as a local Led Zeppelin feature band that brings to life the classic Zeppelin shows of the 1970s, including lasers, lights, and fog.

Mothership makes its debut October 7 at Sam’s Burger Joint. Doors open at 8 p.m. with the show starting at 9 p.m. The next night, October 8, Mothership plays the Pigpen, 106 Pershing, with an 8 p.m. starting time.

In addition to Steves, Mothership band members include Mary Bolner, drums; Sean Finch, vocals; Brent Ferguson, bass; and Nicole Medrano on keyboards.

Steel Guitar Fest

The San Antonio Steel Guitar Association will hold its annual Family Fest September 18 at the China Grove Trading Post.

All money collected through this event will go to the Wounded Warrior Support Center at Fort Sam Houston.

Live entertainment at the event will include the SA Steel Guitar Band, The Ledbetters, Allen Torans and Mist Blue, Los Torones, and Made In Texas.

Music will run from noon until 7 p.m.

Raffle tickets for an autographed Fender guitar will be sold for $10 each. Autographs on the guitar include those of George Strait and many more.

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g of call Kenny Piper at (210) 240-5381.

Specht’s open

Scott Gruendler, new owner of historic Specht’s Store Restaurant and Saloon, has got the Bulverde landmark open and doing business.

Taking over from former owner Kate Mangold a year ago, Gruendler has taken the time and spent the money necessary to put the onetime post office and general store back into full-blown operation as a Texas food restaurant with a steady fare of live music.

What delights and amazes old customers and longtime admirers of the rustic watering hole is the careful and attentive restoration job that Gruendler and his staff have accomplished with Specht’s.

Kate Mangold’s famed chickenfried steaks and fried catfish dinners are offered as always, but Gruendler’s people have worked near-miracles that are subtle but startlingly impressive.

They literally gilled and gutted the place, restoring old wiring, a depleted septum, all restroom facilities, and a kitchen that had seen better days. And they did all of this without losing any of the country atmosphere that has made the place unique.

With Mark Mulroy booking live music which appears Wednesdays through Sundays, and restoration of Specht’s Wednesday bike nights, the ownership and management has Specht’s again humming with energy and excitement.

Welcome back

Much to the delight and relief of KSAT night time viewers, late night weatherman Steve Browne is back on the job.

Channel 12 has not been the same without him.

Browne told his loyal viewers that he had cancer cells removed from his vocal cords, a process that left him with a deeper and more hoarse quality in his voice.

KSAT fans could care less.

If Browne’s voice improves, as he says it will, everyone will benefit; if it stays the way it is, not a single viewer will desert him.
Concert continued from pg 7
Wayne Harper, the most under-rated musician in San Antonio history; Amy Heller and her Heller High Water Band; onetime Nashville singer and songwriter Jim Chesnut; and possibly the Bret Mullin Band. Also returning from the 40th anniversary show are Al Gomez and the West Band.

Billy Mata

Rex Allen McNiel

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Concert
continued from pg 12
Side Horns, Geronimo

Trevino, Jimmy Spacek, Ron Knuth, Mona McCall, Patsy and Bubba Brown, George Chambers and The Country Gentlemen, Claude Morgan, Dub Robinson and the Drug Store Cowboys, Jimmy Spacek, The Toman Brothers, Sylvia Kirk, Ruben V, and Hector Saldana's Krayolas. And there will be too many vital sidemen to name, including drummer Urban Urbano, bassist and super vocalist Justin Trevino, who will work with Johnny Bush's band, steel guitar players like Jerry Blanton and possibly Randy Reinhardt, guitarist Kenny Penny who was a

Continued on pg. 14

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Shirts will be available at Action Magazine's 41st Anniversary and Music Extravaganza October 2, at Texas Pride Barbecue.
I always called Johnny Bush and the late Gary Stewart followers of the drinking song. Gary would be here I feel sure if he were still alive. Johnny penned Whiskey River, which became Willie Nelson's signature song. He also wrote Jim, Jack, and Rose, another of my favorites and many more. I was there when Bush lost his majestic voice but a rare malady later diagnosed as spasmodic dysphonia. And I was there when botox injections restored the soaring tenor. Bush and Mona McColl now live near Brady, but I recall hanging out at their house in San Antonio when daughter Guyanne and son Kody were knee-high to a duck. The kids are both active performers today and Guyanne is one hell of a songwriter.

My friendship with Augie Meyers goes all the way back to that old farm house in Bulverde when Action was born in 1975. I met Doug Sahm there, the late guitar master Chris Brady, and a stand-up soldier who I would crawl into a foxhole with. The friendship is strong. He is also a Christian who isn't ashamed to say so. Darrell and Mona Spacek now live near Brady, but I recall hanging out at their house in San Antonio when daughter Guyanne and son Kody were knee-high to a duck. The kids are both active performers today and Guyanne is one hell of a songwriter.

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The late entry of Alex Harvey was a special surprise for me, and details of my association with Alex may be read in the Sam Kindrick column in this issue of Action Magazine. Alex is a giant of a songwriter, having penned Delta Dawn, Ruby James, Sweet Smell of Memphis, Roll Them Dice, and many more. I hope the people with a $10,000 check after the show. This year, the charity funds will go to restoring the 1947 Tour Bus tour which, in turn, will be used to promote a benevolent fund for down-and-out San Antonio musicians in need of medical or burial expense money.

**Where to find Action Magazine**

Northeast
- Adrenaline Tattoos
- Boozehounds
- Bracken Saloon
- Century Music
- Charlie Brown's
- Coop's Lounge
- Coyle's
- Country Nights
- Crazy 8's
- Cross-Eyed Seagull
- Dazzlers
- Easy Street
- Eisenheimer Flea Mkt
- Evil Olive
- Fiasco
- Finnegans
- Fitzgerald's
- 502 Bar
- Guitar Center
- Halftime Lounge
- Hangin' Tree
- Jack's
- Jack-N-Arund
- Jeff Ryder Drums
- Krystal's Cocktails
- Lefty's Draft House
- Lone Star Bar & Grill
- Nuage Sports Bar
- Main Street Bar & Grill

Make My Day
- Martins
- Marty's
- Me and CA
- Midnight Rodeo
- Minds Eye Tattoo
- Our Glass Cocktails
- Perfect 10
- Phantom Tattoo
- Planet K
- Rebar
- Recovery Room
- Saddle Club
- Rod Dog's Saloon
- Rolling Oaks
- Rookies Too
- Schooner's
- Sherlock's
- Spanky's
- Sunnys Club (2 locations)
- The Crazy Ace
- The Falls
- Thirsty Turtle
- Turning Point
- Winston's
- Zona

Northwest
- Alamo Music
- Baker Street Pub
- Big Bob's Burgers
- Band Beach
- Bone Headz
- Burn House
- Cooter Brown's
- Fats' House
- Harp's
- Honey Bucket Tattoo
- Highlander
- Hills and Dales
- Ice House Bar
- Joe's Ice
- Kennedy's
- Knuckleheads
- Mitchell's
- Nick's
- Planet K
- Stacy's Sports Bar
- Thirsty Horse
- Whiskey City Limits
- Whiskey's
- Who's Who

Central & Downtown
- Alamo Music
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- Amp Room
- Augies BBQ
- Big Bob's Burgers
- Bombay Bicycle Club
- Casbeer's
- Cove
- Goodtime Charlie's
- Joe's Blues
- Joey's
- Limelight
- Linemans Lumber
- The Mix
- Olmos Pharmacy
- Pigstand
- Planet K
- Stacy's Sports Bar
- Thirsty House
- Whiskey City Limits
- Whiskey's
- Who's Who

Southside
- Big T's
- Brooks Pub
- Flipside Record Parlor
- Horse's Hat Shop
- Leon's

Texas Pride owner Tony Talanco, Roy Holley, and current Texas Top Hands band leader Ray Sczepanik have formed a charitable committee to see this through.

Sczepanik holds title to the old bus, and it was through his sanction that the bus was retrieved from the Broken Spoke property in Austin where it had sat for years, rotting and rusting into the ground.

The San Antonio Blues Society will have a display table at this year's event, as will a dog rescue operation from Pipe Creek which will have some puppies ready for adoption. And the T-shirt concession will again be open and operated by my wife Sharon and friends. Shirts from the previous concert will be offered at a significantly reduced price. So buy a piece of Texas music history.

Admission is $15 at the gate. There will be no advance ticket sales.

Texas Pride Barbecue is on South Loop 604 near Adkins. The phone number is (210) 649-3730.

The George Chambers band will kick things off at high noon. A completed lineup for musician appearances will be available soon. I will post the lineup on Facebook when we have it, and it will be available at Texas Pride as well.
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