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*2* Action Magazine, August 2007
Songwriter has built bridges and survived knife assault

Shake most any tree in South Texas and an assortment of singer-songwriter types are sure to come tumbling to the ground.

But none like Kelli King.

Kelli is a 39-year-old song lady who has worked construction building bridges, produced TV shows, co-produced two internet CDs with a Boston musician she has yet to meet face-to-face, and survived a knife attack in a Chili’s parking lot which required 26 stitches to close up the gashes on her head.

With a smile that could light up the Bracken Bat Cave, Kelli says, “I’ve really lived a crazy life, but now I’m finally getting to do what I have always dreamed of doing—sing and write music.”

A writer with a truly soulful Americana-type voice, King is a spontaneous story teller whose songs often pull from real life characters of both yesteryear and today, i.e., tunes like Bonnie Parker and Andrea Yates, to name only a couple.

While Kelli has more than 500 original tunes she has written since she was 7, she has only been performing on public stages since last February, and those public stages have been limited to Specht’s Store and Honey Creek in the Bulverde area, and Claude (Butch) Morgan’s jam sessions at Casbeers.

Casbeers, by the way, was where Kelli King met her husband of two years, Dr. Stephen Cody who works in pediatric intensive care at University Hospital.

“He is wonderful,” King said. “He is my biggest booster and the love my life required to get this show off and rolling.”

She’s a veritable personality bomb today, but King says shyness was the main reason she waited so long to start sharing her music in public.

“And I put my family first for a number of years,” she said. “I have lost 25 friends and family members over the past 17 years, and that’s what my song How Long is about. How long has it been since they died.”

A self-taught whiz with an Apple computer, Kelli began her internet business relationship with Boston musician Jim Bouchard a couple of years ago.

“We met on a website for internet musicians,” Kelli said. “He is my brother to Joe and Albert.”

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The Trap Blog–http://caughtinthetrap.blogspot.com/

*4* Action Magazine, August 2007
What a month July was for your humble servant here.

It rained damn near every single day; my Apple Mac devil machine curled up its toes and died the horrible death it deserved; the former Sharon Cherry Collier and I picked Marble Falls as a site for our July 7 wedding; and, despite the fact that Governor “Good Hair” had just proclaimed the area a disaster area, we accomplished the deed on a partly-cloudy but mostly-sunny morning in the garden of the interdenominational protestant Church at Horseshoe Bay.

The monkey’s dead

When associate pastor Johnny White asked the emotionally-gripping question—the one which has, throughout the ages, turned some men into mice while catapulting others into mini-kingdoms from whence they never seem to return—I said “I do” without verbalizing the thought which was encompassing my brain at the time—I’m also done. It’s all over, hoss. The monkey’s dead, the show’s over, and the organ grinder is looking for a new profession.

They got in for free

Specht’s Store boss lady Kate Mangold baked the wedding cake, and longtime musician friends Augie Meyers and Bobby Rey attended without being asked to bring either an accordion or a saxophone. Wives Sarah Meyers and Esther Rey also got in free. Ditto for Kate’s daughter Lisa Mills, and Specht’s ravishing beauty waitress Liz Banner, husband Rusty, and baby Lily, plus Collin Aldrich, the friend who gave me the late and much-ionized wonder dog Petey. Another special guest was Sherry Wiebush, the wedding photographer.

Ron Houston, the legendary “golden voice” of San Antonio radio and my old morning drive compadre on outlaw rock station KEXL, made one of his rare in-the-flesh appearances for the wedding. Between his voice work for San Antonio TV, and his duties as a Blanco city councilman, Houston has little time for many sidebar activities.

Junction witnesses

Rex Sherry and wife Bobby, school mates from the Junction school system where I learned to cuss and smoke cigarettes, were the official witnesses who signed the marriage certificate, and I would be remiss if I failed to mention the wedding present from Sam Lowrey, the Bulverde area “Indian,” and wife Christy, who were also in attendance.

Their gift was a plastic, battery-powered pig with feather wings which flap like those of a gut-shot whitewing dove trying to fly back into Mexico.

A pig with wings?

The old Indian has done some unconventional and sometimes bizarre things over the years, but a pig with wings was more than I could comprehend.

And then I was reminded of a smart-assed answer I had used too many times when Christy pestered me about getting hitched.

“When Pigs Fly,” I was fond of saying, “then I might think of getting married.”

When the pigs did fly

As we enjoyed a wedding luncheon at Russo’s Italian restaurant high on a hill overlooking the Colorado River basin, a UFO out there over the still-murky waters of Lake LBJ might have been any number of things. It could have been a Poland China sow looking for a dry hump of soil to make a safe landing, or it might have just been an out-of-control feral shoot with no better sense than to go flapping around over a disaster area.

In all seriousness, it was a small but grand occasion for Sharon and me. The ladies described it as “beautiful.” And the fact that it was 7-7-7 had nothing to do with the date we chose. We asked Johnny White when he could marry us, and he picked July 7 because he had scheduled his vacation the next week. While Tony and Eva were setting Paris “on fire,” Sharon and I were returning to San Antonio and the pair of Jack Russell puppies we had confined to the kitchen.

No romantic response

As mentioned earlier, my hated computer had finally wheezed its last, and in order to continue working in the 21st Century, I have signed up for 52 one-on-one lessons at the Apple Store in the Shops at La Cantera. This was on my mind as the wedding hoopla was winding down, and I didn’t really have a romantic response when someone asked where we were going on our honeymoon.

“Back home to pick up dog shit,” I said.

And that’s exactly what we did.

Action Magazine, August 2007
The Krayolas are back with same energy level they had 30 years ago

By Sam Kindrick
Step right up, folks, and welcome an updated and re-invented 2007 version of San Antonio’s fabled Krayolas, those brash and bratty kid-rovers from the 1970s who introduced their own brand of ass-kicking music squarely in the midst of the cosmic cowboy era.

Led by lead vocalist and chief songwriter Hector Saldana, now a senior staff writer for the Express-News and the father of five sons, the returning Krayolas are a graying version of those same kids who burst out of Robert E. Lee High School 30 years ago with a 45 r.p.m. record, a grownup club gig, and an attitude which left little room for doubt.

Old fans and new converts alike are welcoming the Krayolas with open arms as the band introduces its new compilation CD with one rafter-raising club gig after another.

“We are fired-up, really excited,” says Hector, a tall, curly-haired package of unflagging energy with movie star looks. “We got some national attention back there in the 1970s, and it really never occurred to me until recently that we were actually just a teenage kid band.”

Titled The Krayolas, Best Riffs Only, the new compilation CD includes 16 tunes written by Hector Saldana between the years of 1977 and 1988, when the band broke up.

I was there in San Antonio’s old Warehouse Club when Hector and his collection of fuzzy-cheeked sprouts from Robert E. Lee High School made their professional debut. And I was at the Cove in June and at Casbeers last month as the 2007 version of the “Tex-Mex Beatles” from 30 years ago brought it all back in a package of nostalgic power and contemporary stage adaption which promises more than a blast from the past.

“We are getting ready to record a record with Augie Meyers,” Hector Saldana said. “And that is super exciting for me. Augie has always been one of my heroes, as was Doug Sahm and other members of the old Sir Douglas Quintet. We will go into the studio on August 8. The record with Meyers will be titled The Krayolas With Augie Meyers, featuring a Meyers tune called Little Fox. It’s a song that was supposed to be recorded by the Sir Douglas Quintet but never was. Augie says it’s a Mendocino kind of thing. We are really excited about the possibilities.”

The Krayolas are planning a full-blown Krayolas CD with all new original material after the Meyers project, and they will be opening August 25 for legendary rock band Blue Oyster Cult. This show will be part of the A&T concert series at the Sunken Garden Theater. On August 17, they will be at the Cove.

What might blow the minds of some is that the 2007 Krayolas are basi...
High

This article began to home one day Leon Springs 2 a.m. lllon.-Saf.

I

And Joe Sarli is on

record. Baines is still on lead gui-

tar. And Joe Sarli is on

bass.

While Barry Smith was the original Krayolas

bassist, Sarli had also been working with the Saldanas through most of the band's 13-year run.

This article began to take shape when I received a hand-written letter from Hector Saldana on April 29, along with a copy of the new compilation CD.

Hector wrote: "I wanted to drop you a quick line about the new compilation album. Really, just to offer a perspective that I've only realized about the whole thing: The Krayolas were a teenage band when we first played the old Warehouse Club in 1975. I was 17 years old and my brother was 16. We made our first 45 r.p.m. record 30 years ago when my dad came home one day and said we were going to make a record on the West Side at Zaz Studios.

"I didn't know then that all the legendary musicians were recording there. All I knew was that they had a deal—You had four hours to cut two sides and for $300 you got 300 records. We recorded All I Do Is Try and Sometime, and we managed to get my brother home in time to do his high school homework. Marrius (Bubba) Perron engineered the session."

Hector went on to say he wrote the first four songs on the new CD when he was 16 and 17 years of age, and that the tune Rymes of Tomorrow was penned in the Lee high school cafeteria. Hector went on to say: "We were a teenage continued on pg. 13
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**Action Magazine, August 2007**
Barricade headache
Turn around, don’t drown, they tell us as flood waters wash over low-water crossings and street signs which often become dangerously deep pools during heavy rains.

It’s vital that people heed street closure warnings on barricades at these danger spots. And we have no quarrel with the $200 fines meted out to anyone who dares to drive around one of these road blocks.

But how long, might we ask, should motorists be forbidden to cross a danger spot after the danger is all gone and over with?

In San Antonio and Bexar County, some street barricades were left up for days after high water had completely subsided, leaving the once-dangerous roads almost dusty dry.

Couldn’t road crews get off their asses and remove the barriers when they are no longer needed?

Deer Crossing milestone
Roy Barnett will celebrate his 10th anniversary with the Deer Crossing Saloon in Selma with a big blowout on August 4.

The popular biker hangout will feature barbeque and live music by the band Prox. Festivities, which will include a swap meet and other activities, start at 10 a.m. Live music will be from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Brenda Pickins benefit
Brenda Pickins, wife of veteran country fiddler Tony Pickins, is in trouble.

She has been in and out of the hospital for treatment for both Lupus and Crohn’s disease, and, just recently, she has been diagnosed with Addison’s Disease.

So the country music community is ready to help with a giant Brenda Pickins benefit on August 19 at Trä’s Country.

Brenda has been a tireless worker in various charitable promotions, and her devotion to live music and the musicians who make it has earned her the love and respect of thousands.

To help with the staggering and still-mounting medical bills, musicians scheduled to play the benefit show include Billy Mata, Bobby Flores, Kenny Dale, Dotty, Jeff Giffith, Centerline,

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RICHARD SMITH
World Champion Finger Picker in concert at Specht’s Monday September 17, 2007

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The Fun Place to Relax...
WELCOME TO THE HANGIN’ TREE SALOON
A Real Authentic Texas Saloon
OPEN 10 AM DAILY - NOON SUNDAY
AUGUST BAND SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 03 Fri.</td>
<td>GERONIMO</td>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 09 Sat.</td>
<td>GERONIMO</td>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 10 Fri.</td>
<td>JIMMY CRIBB</td>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 11 Sat.</td>
<td>THE WOODGITS</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 12 Sat.</td>
<td>SEAN CASTILLO &amp; THE HUNGRY</td>
<td>9-1</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 13 Sun.</td>
<td>SEAL’S</td>
<td>9-1</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<td>Aug. 14 Sat.</td>
<td>THE HUNGRY</td>
<td>9-1</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 16 Sun.</td>
<td>MESQUITE RAMBLERS</td>
<td>9-1</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<td>Aug. 18 Sat.</td>
<td>BURGUNDY</td>
<td>9-1</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<td>Aug. 23 Sun.</td>
<td>BURGUNDY</td>
<td>9-1</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<td>Aug. 23 Sat.</td>
<td>TWO WAY STREET</td>
<td>9-1</td>
<td>$5</td>
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<td>Aug. 31 Fri.</td>
<td>GERONIMO</td>
<td>8-12</td>
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<td>Sept. 01 Sat.</td>
<td>GERONIMO</td>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>$5</td>
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</tbody>
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*10* Action Magazine, August 2007
Frenchie Burke, Jim Byrom, Hobrace Comfort, Gary Swanson, Jason Allen, Kenny Gorman, and members of the Ace In The Hole Band, George Strait's old outfit.

Barbeque plates prepared by Bad to the Bone Barbeque Team will sell for $5. Lou Luther will conduct an auction.

Jerry King and Bruce Hathaway will emcee the show.

Music starts at 2 p.m.

A donation $10 cover charge will be required.

Trea's is temporarily closed as management installs a fire wall in compliance with the City of San Antonio Fire Code. The club will re-open the third week in August.

Shade Tree marks 5th Young guitar wizard Will Owen-Gage and Ed Wills will headline the 5th anniversary party August 25 for the Shade Tree Saloon and Grill in Spring Branch.

Music will go from 8 to 12, and there will be a $5 cover.

Owen-Gage, an Action Magazine cover subject not too long ago, is building a solid following at the big Spring Branch club.

Bobby Rey & Margie Belly Rey and Margie Yantis celebrated their birthdays last month with a spirited party at Moose's Tavern on West Avenue.

Rey is the saxophone great whose Hollywood Argyles band of the 1960s released such hits as Cherry Pie and Alley Oop.

Margie Yantis is the tireless organizer of many a benefit for many a local musician.

Bobby turned 69 last month, while Margie marked her 74th year.
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**AUGUST BANDS**

Fri. 3rd-Jesus
Sat. 4th-Last Call
Fri. 10th-Evolution
Sat. 11th-Spitfire

Fri. 17th-Offering
Sat. 18th-Crawling Amy
Fri. 24th-Madwagon

Sat. 25th-Spitfire
Fri. 31st-Willpak
Sat. Sept. 1st-Grooveline
Sun. Sept. 2nd-The Lazy’s

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"HERI" & MORE

LIL JESSE / BIG PHIL

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*4 COUNT *4 LAYZ AMIGOS *RICK DORROUGH *MIKE CLANCEY * PUBLIO
*CARLOS & EMMIT

LINDA MOUNTAIN (CALL FOR DATES 661-8082)

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**Live Music In August**

Every Wednesday Jam w/ Claude Morgan and the Happy Campers

Thurday 8/2 Jane Bond
Friday 8/3 Matt the Electrician
Sunday 8/4 Houston Marchman w/Aaron Einhaus

Tuesday 8/7 Landle Armstrong and The Guilty Pleasures
Wednesday 8/8 Jerry Giannini/Gaucho Gil w/True Stories / acoustic
Thursday 8/9 Mary Catrofello Band
Friday 8/10 Daryl Lee Rush
Saturday 8/11 Gospel Brunch, w/The Earfood Gospel Orchestra

Tuesday 8/14 Rusty Martin
Thursday 8/16 Byrd and Street
Friday 8/17 Smith and Warwick
Saturday 8/18 Dale Peterson
Sunday 8/19 Gospel Brunch w/The Earfood Gospel Orchestra

Tuesday 8/21 Open Mic w/Glenn and Kim
Thursday 8/23 Teri Hendrix
Friday 8/24 TBA
Saturday 8/25 Nels Andrews
Sunday 8/26 Marty Bevill and The Lazy’s

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**LIVE MUSIC IN AUGUST - NO COVER**

Fri. 3rd ........................................... Kelli King
Fri. 10th ............................................ Lone Star Pickerz
Fri. 17th ............................................ Huff & Bard
Fri. 24th ............................................ TBA
Fri. 31st ............................................ Sylvia

**Enjoy, Relax...**

Keep an eye on your bike from your seat on the Big Screen Surveillance.

**New Group!**

Wednesday music at Snoop’s for the month of August will be by 40 UT. This new band has already got people talking.

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*SOUTHEAST SIDE’S POPULAR HOTSPOT*
Krayolas (Continued)

bar band that threw in our own teenage songs as we did sets which included songs by the Beatles, The Who, The Byrds, Chuck Berry and my favorite band The Kinks—which is where the 'K' in our name came from. I think you'll get a kick out of the collection of singles which I produced way back when as a complete amateur.

Hell, the Krayolas were 'indie' and 'low-fi' before they even invented those terms. Ron Morales did a good job re-mastering the songs, and Augie Meyers turned us on to a manufacturer.

"You've been there since the very beginning, and you know, the Krayolas were often horrible; but there were times, too, when we were vibrating just right and nobody could touch us when we were that viciously tight. It's funny all these years later that the most marketable aspect of the whole thing is that it's so damn old. That's an easy story to understand. It's fresh!"

This, I believe, is a fairly accurate assessment of the re-created Krayolas, although Hector might be going a little light on the band's potential today.

The Krayolas are still "viciously tight," and I would venture to say that they can now more than hold their own with some of the top rock/pop/variety outfits working area stages today.

The name Krayolas stuck from the '70s and '80s, and we were amazed at the number of music lovers who recall hearing or hearing about the band.

David Saldana, Hector's younger brother, recalls when the kids were trying to come up with a name.

"We had considered the crayon colored kid markers which, I believe, sold under the trade name Crayola," David said. "We considered ourselves colorful, and we wanted to present a variety of colors in our music and on our stage shows."

Hector Saldana said the "K" in Krayolas was inspired by The Kinks.

"We were really cont'd on page 14..."
Kelli King cont'd

Bouchard, founding members of Blue Oyster Cult. We started collaborating together from our home studios and before we knew it we had a CD full of songs.

King and Bouchard call themselves The Fitters, and that's the self title of their first CD on their Bucket O' Songs label.

"We both work on Apple computers," Kelli said, "so we named ourselves The Fitters. We have a second CD almost finished. Our self-titled debut recording is available on iTunes, Emusic, and with the texasmusic-store.com.

King's greatest professional singing experience came last month as she performed at the Honey Creek restaurant benefit for Bulverde car wreck victim Patsy Edmonson.

In a benefit auction, a Kelli King special single session," said, Edmonson. "But I met Mike Specht's Open Restaurant Bo-

"Jim Bouchard, the other "Fitter" in Kelli's recording world, sings, writes, produces all the music, and plays real guitars, banjo, bass, keyboards, harmonica, and percussion.

Kelli said she "sings, whistles, and plays guitar" on the recording sessions which use Apple's Garageband software.

Kelli has yet to meet Bouchard in person, so giggling as The Fitters has been an impossibility. "But I met Mike Phelan at a Specht's open mic session," Kelli said. "We have been working some together, and while Mike and I have a very different sound from my recorded material, we are having a lot of fun."

Born in San Antonio, Kelli says her family's blood and sweat are part of this city.

"My grandmother shelled pecans, my father works at Pioneer, and while working my way through college, I helped build the bridge over Union Stock Yard," King said. "I also have produced the Bradford Home Show that aired for almost 10 years."

All has not been peaches and cream for Kelli King, however. She's had heart-breaking experiences with family members hooked on heroin and other drugs, and she almost lost her life in a Chili's parking lot when a yuppie-looking young squirel started knelling her with no warning or apparent reason for the attack.

"He looked like a young, blond business type," King recalled. "I was walking to my car when he started mumbling something to me. I couldn't understand him, and I realized too late that the mumbling was only a ruse to get closer for me the attack. I had never seen him before in my life, and he was slashing me across the head and face before a really knew what was happening. I left my purse on the car seat and the engine running, and I literally ran for my life. I managed to escape, but not before getting cuts that required 26 stitches. They never caught the guy."

Today, though, King dwells on the positives, and she feels her budding music career can only lead her to better things.

"Jim Bouchard and I combine folk, rock and country for a kind of Americana blend," King said. "And I have written two spiritual songs—My Rock Is Divine and God Is Love."

She laughs: "My grandfather was a Pentecostal preacher, and I was saved three times before I was 13 in three different churches, but now I'm a believer who is sort of interdenominational. I can see how all the churches are right."

Kelli plans to attend a songwriter workshop in Port Aransas in October, which will be conducted by legendary producer Lloyd Maines and Terri Hendrix.

"I don't know very much," King said. "But I'm willing to learn all I can."

The Krayolas cont'd

young," Hector recalls. "Kinda brash. I guess you might call us bratty. But we were pretty good, and we did manage to get some national attention back during those early years."

When I asked Hector Saldana why the band broke up in 1988, he responded with a gleam in his eye:

"I don't really know why we disbanded the band. I guess we had run our course for that particular time. Maybe we were like most bands. I figure most of them need to disband at one time or another."

Then he added: "But we are back now...all fired up and ready to go. The Krayolas are really back!"
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FRIDAYS - 7:30-11:30 p.m.
3 Mark Stewart and Crossfire
10 Slim Roberts and Texas Weather
17 2 Way Street
24 Deep Water
31 Bobby Jordan & Ridge creek

SATURDAYS - 8:30-12:30 p.m.
4 Larry M. Sweeney
11 Mesquite Ramblers
18 Lone Star Pickers
25 Ken Raba Band

WEDNESDAYS - 7:30-11:30 p.m.
1 Homefire
8 Mad Dog Wolfe
15 Homefire
22 Mesquite Ramblers
29 Deep Water

Hill Country Fun
Well Worth
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