Singer-Songwriter
Shelley King takes her place with best in the music business

Article pg. 8
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Some past grand prize winners of $1,000.00 Cash

*2* Action Magazine, August 2008
Blues belter Laura Bell is in trouble, and help is on the way.

In failing health, and with more personal problems than any mortal man or woman should have to shoulder, Laura is faced with foreclosure on the beloved home she has owned for the past 10 years.

"I haven't been able to work for some time because of my health problems," Laura said. "And now I am faced with losing my home."

With drummer Urban Urbano leading the way, San Antonio's music community has been quick to respond.

The Laura Bell benefit is set for August 19 at Raffles, and the talent lineup already committed is awe-inspiring to say the least.

Blues guitar smokers Jimmy Spacek, Ruben V, Will Owen-Gage, and Jartse Tuominen represent just the early arrivals on the Laura Bell bill.

Also scheduled to work the show are Mike Ellis and the Fabulous Funtones, featuring Jackie Huddle, the San Antonio Blue Cats, Emie Garibay of Cats Don't Sleep, Will Wilson, Sauce Gonzalez of the West Side Horns, Mike Clancy, Urban Urbano, Zeai, Albert Garcia, Laura Bell herself, Urban Urbano, and many, many more.

A note from the Laura Bell benefit committee reads in part:

"You may know of vocalist Laura Bell, a longtime San Antonio blues belter, entertaining the local scene for many years. Lately she has come under some serious woes—blues of her own—that have her in a position to be faced with losing her precious home of almost 10 years. She has been ill for months and has been unable to work to support herself, as well as being faced with some other more personal troubles that have compounded the situation tremendously, leading to possible foreclosure on her home."

"Some of Laura Bell's friends are involved in organizing a fundraiser to help her out in this time of great need. We are requesting that anyone who can, please donate items for our raffle and auction which will be part of the benefit on Tuesday, August 19, from 7 p.m. until 2 a.m."

Raffles is located at 8633 Crownhill behind the Magic Time Machine. The club number is (210) 826-7118.

Door contributions for couples will be $15. Singles will be admitted for $8. And all other donations will be appreciated.

Members of the Laura Bell benefit committee extend special thanks to organizer Urban Urbano, the drummer who has worked with Laura Bell for years. And also to the owner of Raffles for making the club available for the fundraiser.

The affair will be hosted by Wild Bill Riley, while Mac the Austioneer will preside over the auction and raffle.

And there will be a number of surprise guests and artists who will probably be coming from out of the city.
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Let's hope that this piece doesn't cause any reader to vomit on a clean dress or soil a good pair of boxer shorts.

I will admit that I had to concentrate hard while writing this column. I have never puked on a computer keyboard in my entire life, and not once have I lost control of my bodily functions while toiling in my chosen profession as a free-spirit journalist. But pumping out this column was the ultimate test of my ability to stop just short of the edge.

Well, I hope I have stopped short of the edge, but how can we define the "edge" while reviewing the Express and News section front one-year wedding anniversary story on Tony Parker and wife Eva Longoria Parker?

Written by one Michael Quintanilla, and topped by three faux paper cutouts which proclaim Eva Lasting Love, the S.A. Life feature on 7-7-8 was the most disgusting outpouring of gushy-wushy posterior oscillation that one could ever imagine in a daily American newspaper.

Isn't this just too sweet?

Just for openers, Quintanilla writes: "I wanted to personally congratulate the couple, but Eva's publicist, Liz Anderson, told me they are 'unreachable,' and that the lovebirds are 'in their own little world right now.' Isn't that just too sweet?"

Alluding to an old tradition of anniversary gifts crafted from paper, Quintanilla suggested a few such presents for "the duo as they reportedly float on a love boat somewhere near the South of France--a romantic cruise no doubt filled with morning kisses, afternoon swims, and candlelit dinners."

In his own, uniquely-nauseous style, Quintanilla tenders five paper anniversary gifts for Eva and Tony. If he writes with tongue-in-cheek and with sarcasm behind his stomach-turning pulp, then I am probably sicker than the editor who let the Tony-Eva stuff in the paper to begin with, for I can't erase an image from my mind of the scribe wiggling like a female puppy and peeing his pants every time he envisions Eva and Tony on one of their "afternoon swims."

Here are the presents he proposes, complete with some bowel-loosening observations of his own which the reader can only assess for himself:

**Papel picado:** This is a Mexican art form that means pierced paper and is created to celebrate holidays and special occasions. Ours would feature a cutout of Eva and Tony on each end of their first wedding anniversary banner, holding the declaration: 'Eva Lasting Love.'

**Paperback sex writer:** We doubt that after a year of wedded bliss, study Tony and sizzling Eva need help keeping the marriage spark alive. But just in case, we recommend the boudoir book 365 nights: A Memoir of Intimacy by Charla Muller, who writes about a full year of nightly scheduled sex with her hubby Brad. Sounds exhausting, but we are sure that T. and E. are up to the task.

**Papier mâché for your thoughts:** A piñata in the shape of the NBA trophy would serve as a reminder, Tony, that you've gotta get your fourth ring next year. That would really be un-bee-leave-a-bull!!!

**Paper chase:** Eva, dah-ling, after seeing your starring flick Over Her Dead Body, we prayed that your movie career wasn't ... well... dead in the water. Honey, that script wasn't worth the paper it was written--make that doodled on. You deserve (and should demand) better scripts. Gabrielle Solis would.

**Get it on paper:** We know that the Parkers eventually will get preggers--they have talked about starting a family one day. And what gorgeous babies they will produce. Your fans (and who isn't a fan?) are desperate for a birth certificate that would satisfy everyone's desire for a baby Eva or a Tony tyke. Hey, how about two birth certificates? After all, we have heard that twins are the latest thing in Celeb-Land. Just ask J.Lo and Brangelina.

And that's about it for newspaper turkey Michael Quintanilla and his grovelling homily on "Studly Tony" and "Sizzling Eva." And we are getting near the end of this horrific observation by your humble journalistic servant here.

Why, the stable and sane-minded reader might ask, would you waste time and paper commenting on such a bucket of journalistic offal?

It's a question I can't readily answer with any degree of rationality. Nobody asked me to review the Tony-Eva horror. And the Express and News damn sure didn't commission me to produce this piece.

What possible good, some might ask, would a rehash of Quintanilla's gushing platitudes do for the average reader? The answer to this is probably no possible good, and I don't even have a reasonable excuse for writing this claptrap.

The best reason I can figure is that something snapped in my head while trying to read through something that would embarrass Adolph Hitler and Attila the Hun on the same day. I offer this column simply because I felt like writing something just for the hell of it. And, of course, because Action Magazine is my paper.

**A different perspective**

As for "Studly Tony" and "Sizzling Eva," I have a much different perspective on the subject than the Express and News adoring scribe.

I don't know how "studly" Tony Parker might be, but as a Spurs fan of many years, I have great admiration for his ability to move a basketball from one end of the court to the other. He's juggled lightning, and still young enough to get much better if he ignores such newspaper gunk as the daily's anniversary story.

And "Sizzling Eva?"

She's a sexy little snuff queen from Corpus Christi who is admired by men everywhere for her astonishing beauty and inviting torso. But there are additional Eva qualities which appeal to old cedar choppers such as myself, qualities which bring her into focus as a real kid from Texas who is as un-Hollywoodly as hominy grits and refried beans.

When she told a San Antonio bicycle patrolman to get fucked, I started seeing "Sizzling Eva" as a real girl with character defects much like the rest of us.

Then transpired an exchange which made me an Eva fan for life.

When asked by some Hollywood gossip columnist if her romance was still alive and cooking, she replied: "I know the honeymoon isn't over. I know because I haven't yet started farting in front of him."

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PAPA’S
A tribute party for Chris

By Sam Kindrick

Friends and admirers of the late Chris Holzhaus will gather at Sam’s Burger Joint on Sunday, August 3, for a last goodbye to one of the slickest guitar pickers ever to grace a San Antonio stage.

There will be no funeral dirge for this one. No black veils or lines of mourning. Holzhaus was cremated, and weeping and wailing was the last thing he wanted. As Chris lay dying at his Mico home near Medina Lake last month, his last wish was for a pickin’ party with nothing but smiles and happy faces for those who might show up to play and listen.

“It’s how he wanted it,” said his wife Suzanne. “He wanted no tears and no black suits. Chris had a lot of love in his heart for a lot of his old friends and fellow musicians, and he asked for any tribute in his honor to be in the form of a show.”

And show it will be, for musicians were queuing up for the Chris Holzhaus last blast at this writing, and many of the pickers included some of those who participated in a Delbert McClinton headlined benefit fund-raiser for Holzhaus last November at Sam’s Burger Joint.

The Chris Holzhaus tribute show will be from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m. on Sunday, August 3, with the following musicians already confirmed at this writing: Ruben V, Nick Connolly, Tommy Taylor, Jon Blondell, Andy Salmon, Jack Barber, Jimmy Spacek, Debbie Walton, Donnie Price, Claude (Butch) Morgan, and Urban Urbano.

And it was drummer and percussion master Urbano himself who summed up the moment so well when he said, “I’ve worked with many a guitar player, but nobody played like the ‘Holz’. He was simply one of the greatest in the business.”

Holzhaus played lead guitar for Delbert McClinton for a number of years, and before that he was with Augie Meyers and the Texas Head Band. Chris has fronted his own band, recorded several CDs, and written his own songs.

Guitar smoker Ruben V credits Holzhaus for a number of the hot licks he wrings out of an electric guitar to this day, and Ruben remembers the tough love of a harsh-speaking mentor who verbally “kicked his ass” into becoming the celebrated guitarist he is today.

“I’ll never forget my first meeting with Holzhaus,” Ruben said. “He told me to go home and learn my chords.”

Basically, Holzhaus verbally roughed-up the kid from the Rio Grande Valley, suggesting without mincing of words that the youngster was a piss-poor excuse for a guitar player. “I was humiliated and fighting mad,” Ruben said.

“I wanted so much to please this guy, and all he did was ridicule me. And that sent me back to the woodshed. I practiced, and I learned my chords, and I also learned to love Chris Holzhaus. He knew what he was doing, and he knew what it would take to make me a better guitar player. We had something special between us, me and him, and you can count on me playing on the Sam’s show.”

Holzhaus, as many in the local music community know, was a bombastic sort who ruffled some feathers and stepped on some toes as he wrestled with personal demons along with a bunch of us. But the benefit show last fall was a day of redemp­tion, reunion, and hatchet burying for Chris and members of the local music community who ral­lied around the ailing guitar master.

And it was to Augie Meyers’ credit that he showed up to play the show. The falling out Chris had with Augie was probably the most bitter dustup with any fellow musician, but when Meyers learned that Holzhaus had been diagnosed with stage-four colon cancer, he said it all: “Of course I will play the benefit. I could not possibly refuse.”

Augie played it, okay, and there were a few tears shed by those close to that scene when Meyers hugged his former guitar player on the stage, saying: “Chris Holzhaus has been my friend, and he is one of the finest guitar players I have ever known.”

The quality of the talent on that benefit show said it all for the professional respect afforded Holzhaus.

Delbert McClinton flew in from Nashville to join Meyers, Van Wilks, Debbie Walton, and Eric Johnson on the benefit stage.

Johnson is the hottest phenom since Hendrix, and he lived up to the billing Chris Holzhaus gave him in advance.

“Eric Johnson hits cont’d on page 14
Official Texas musician King is a special lady

By Sam Kindrick

It was 1996, and Arkansas-born Shelley King had just released her self-titled EP which later became the base tracks for her 1998 debut CD Call of My Heart.

Times were double-tough for Shelley during those days, and the Austin-based mama with the powerful singing pipes and special songwriting skills was demonstrating the professional fiber and driving focus which characterizes her career today.

King was named the 2008 Official State of Texas Musician by the Texas House and Senate, but our first meeting with her back there in the late 1990s was inglorious but typical of the kind of pro she has always been.

On that particular evening, King was working in a chill early spring wind on the outdoor stage at Specht's Store in Bulverde, and with even more distractions than the weather had to offer.

Kids were literally crawling across the stage as King and her band competed with the howling wind and nipping chill, and one of the little urchins but tangled himself with Shelley's feet as she struggled to finish her set.

Parents who allow their kids to run hog-crazy wild in such settings deserve little or no encouragement from those who are inconvenienced by their nasty little urchins, but Shelley King was understanding as only a future mother could be.

Of the kids crawling across the stage on that blustery spring day, she laughed: "Oh, well, I got through the gig without stopping on any of them. And besides, I really do love kids.

Now she has her own little one on the stage with her, and 3-year-old Clark Drake is an integral part of the Shelley King show.

Drake often slides over to give son Clark more than a few whacks at the skins, and Shelley even has the youngster strumming a tiny guitar and occasionally playing the harmonica.

"Clark has his own My Space page," Shelley smiles. "We couldn't do without him.

The kid was all born on the stage, and that's really not an exaggeration.

Said Clark's dad Perry, who was hammering the drums as Shelley worked a gospel gig at Maria's Taco Xpress in Austin with the Golden Crown Harmonizers:

"Shelley started having contractions on stage that day, and Clark made his arrival soon after. Then, when Clark was just five days old, Shelley did a festival gig with her all girl southern rock band Sis Deville."

After a recent Casbeers appearance, King made note of her recent recognition by both the Texas House and Senate.

"It is the greatest honor of my career," she said. "I am following some really great musicians."

As the official 2008 State of Texas Musician, Shelley follows in the footsteps of Johnny Gimble, Ray Benson, Billy Joe Shaver, and Dale Watson, to name only a few. And she has the unique honor of being not only the youngest but also the first woman to be so honored.

King had to eventually start hitting it big. She is the complete package--songwriter, self-producer, business owner, and a vocalist with a full-blown woman voice.

She's done everything but get rich, and since traveling from Arkansas to Houston and finally to her current home in Austin, Shelley said, "I haven't made a bunch of money, but who has? I'm where I am supposed to be, and I'm loving every minute of it."

With a rocking country blues style, Shelley won the Austin music community with her debut CD Call of My Heart. Her next CD, The Highway, was recorded at Fame Studios in, Alabama where greats such as Aretha Franklin and the Allman Brothers have recorded.

The current album she is pushing is Rockin' the Dance Hall a live effort recorded at Gruene Hall near New Braunfels.

Without the squeaks and chirps which characterize the "little girl" voices of so many female vocalists of the day, King writes and sings with an authority which is paying dividends.

Other artists who have recorded her original works include Toni Price, Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazlewood, Heather Moon, Deb Reimer, Nicole Gilbert, Karen Mal and Chris Irwin, Sara Hickman, Floramay Holiday, and Jessica Shepherd.

Personal honors began with Shelley's "Song of the Year" in the AMAs for Toni Price's version of Call of My Heart. Shelley's big notes that Toni loved the song so much that she opened her 2001 performance on Austin City Limits with it.

Without the squeaks and chirps which characterize the "little girl" voices of so many female vocalists of the day, King writes and sings with an authority which is paying dividends.

Other artists who have

Three-year-old Clark King is a big part of mom's life and musical road show.

Raised in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains, King grew up singing gospel music in a one-room church and listening to her uncles play Neil Young and Bob Dylan on acoustic guitars.

Since the hills of Arkansas offered little opportunity for a budding musician, Shelley picked up her guitar and moved to Houston, a location which didn't suit her "rootsy" music nature.

The Austin music community proved to be the nurturing scene she craved, and Shelley has used Austin as a springboard into the world music scene.

cont'd on page 14
EVERYBODY'S SOMEBODY IN ACTION MAGAZINE
Liberto benefit

A benefit for the family of the late Wildman Ray Liberto will be held Sunday, August 10, at Tra’s Country on O’Connor Road.

Liberto, a piano player supreme and part-time movie actor, died of kidney failure in June.

Scheduled to play the benefit are Augie Meyers, movie actor, died of kidney failure in June.

Geronimo Trevino, Bailey Sunday, August 10, at Tra’s Country on O’Connor Road.

Huddle, Rick Dorrough, Liberto, Mike Ellis, Jackie Liberto will be held

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Geronimo Trevino, Bailey Sunday, August 10, at Tra’s Country on O’Connor Road.

Huddle, Rick Dorrough, Liberto, Mike Ellis, Jackie Liberto will be held

Opening bands will be Vince Vance and the Valiants and the Drugstore Cowboys.

Sir Winston’s Pub owner George Todt, a regular at the Hill Country blowout for 25 years, is serving on this year’s board of directors, and he promises another true spectacular.

“If you attend only one party this summer, then this has got to be the one,” said Todt. “The entertainment has always been fantastic. We have had Willie Nelson, Ray Price, Jerry Jeff Walker, the Dixie Chicks, George Jones, and the list goes on and on. There isn’t another party to compare with it.”

The YO is located near Mountain Home, some 30 miles from Kerrville. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the party lasts all night.

Tickets may be purchased at Sir Winston’s Pub. Prices are $175 for a single, $285 for a couple. Call the club at (210) 829-5933.

The party will be catered by Don Strange, who will present a variety of Hill Country entrees and desserts. Todt, who is

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Now that you’ve found Luckenbach, where the heck is Brocken!
chairman of the liquor committee, said there will be a sangria bar and a margarita bar, and that nothing but top-shelf hooch will be served.

Luke’s new CD label, the disc is titled Red River Blue, with the album’s hot cut being a Luke Olson song titled Searching for a Heart.

Rolling Oaks Sports Bar, incidentally, is now under the new management of Janet Allen, longtime manager of Tiffany Billiards when the late Tiffany owner Danny Levinson was holding forth at the big complex overlooking San Pedro.

Unexpected help
Chelsie Cawthon, former hostess at Buck and Ozzie’s Last Chance on Texas 46, got some unexpected assistance from her co-workers at the restaurant and live music venue last month.

Forced to leave the restaurant to care for her ailing father, Chelsie was the recipient of an unexpected windfall of $1,500, compliments of the Buck and Ozzie’s waitresses and restaurant owner Todd Page.

The wait staff contributed their tips from an entire Friday, a grand total of $750, and, Page matched the amount with another $750.

Class of ’53 dance
Ernie Garibay and Cats Don’t Sleep will furnish music for the Tech High School Class of ’53 Oldies but Goodies Dance on August 22 at the Blanco Ballroom.

There will be food, door prizes, and setups and beer available. For dance tickets call Yolanda Domingues at (210) 320-6525.

Garibay and his “Cats” played last month at Orphan Annie’s on West Avenue for the dual birthday party for saxophone great Bobby Rey and Margie Yanez, the world’s greatest organizer of benefit parties.

It was number 70 for Bobby and 75 for Margie.

Casbeers at the Church
With a full liquor bar in operation along with a full-sized kitchen, Casbeers at the Church promises to be a real going operation down on South Alamo Street.

Steve Silbas, who owns and operates the popular restaurant-bar and music venue along with his wife Barbara Wolfe, said, “We are getting new people all the time, and our new full bar seems to be well received.”

Ronnie Narmour, a management figure at the original Jus’ Country, is helping with the Casbeers bar operation, while the kitchen is now offering lunch specials along with the staple of truck stop enchiladas and killer burgers.

And the old church sanctuary where a lot of the larger acts perform offers a recording studio-quality sound room second to none in the city.

cont’d on page 14
The world famous painting “Dos Amigos” created in the mid 70’s, by renowned western artist Clinton Baermann is available once again in limited color lithographs. After being lost for more than 30 years these prints are in remarkable shape. $50 per print plus $10 shipping and handling. Credit cards accepted.

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

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Saturday, Aug. 2...Luke Olson
(GP release party)
Thursday, Aug. 7...Jackson Taylor
Friday, Aug. 8...TBA
Saturday, Aug. 9...TBA
Thursday, Aug. 14...TBA
Friday, Aug. 15...Jolie Lavelle
Saturday, Aug. 16...TBA
Thursday, Aug. 21...Whiskey Meyers
Friday, Aug. 22...Melford Milligan
Saturday, Aug. 23...TBA
Thursday, Aug. 28...BO Proof
Friday, Aug. 29...TBA
Saturday, Aug. 30...August Fest, band TBA

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Live Music in August
Every Wednesday Jam w/Claude Morgan

Friday 8/7 First Friday w/Karen Wells on the patio 7-10pm
Saturday 8/2 Jesse Dayton and Brennan Leigh in the church
Tuesday 8/5 Landis Armstrong and His Guilty Pleasures in the cafe
Thursday 8/7 Ich Gatos in the cafe
Friday 8/8 Bobbi Hernandez y Los Super Yates in the church
Saturday 8/9 Porter Davis in the church
Tuesday 8/12 Rusty Martin in the cafe
Thursday 8/14 Aaron Einhouse in the cafe
Friday 8/15 Ruben V in the church
Saturday 8/16 TBA in the church
Tuesday 8/19 Open Mic w/Glen Allen and
Kim Mackenzie in the cafe
Thursday 8/21 Butterscotch w/Love Math in the church
Friday 8/22 Will Taylor and Strings Attached present the Beatles Rubber Soul in the church
Saturday 8/23 TBA
Sunday 8/24 Gospel Brunch w/The Ear-food
Gospel Orchestra Noon-3pm
Tuesday 8/26 Ruben V in the cafe
Thursday 8/28 Clepper George
Friday 8/29 Dirk Hamilton
Saturday 8/30 TBA

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Seth Walker on ‘Blues Cruise’

Competing with threatening thunder clouds and a Willie Nelson July 4 picnic just over the hill and a couple of mesquite flats away, Austin blues puritan Seth Walker gave a sparse crowd at Rolling Oaks Sports Bar and Grill more than their money’s worth.

“Week” he said upon taking the partially-outdoor stage at Rolling Oaks, “I can see that this one is going to be up close and personal.”

It was just that, one hell of a show, and Walker more than lived up to the raves he has been getting from such veteran musicians as Marcia Ball, Delbert McClinton, Johnny Winter, and Dale Watson.

He has opened a bunch of shows for Marcia, and the tall lady piano pounder from Louisiana by way of Austin has nothing but praise for the guitar smoker, singer, and songwriter who arrived in Austin some 10 years ago from a North Carolina hippie commune.

Ball says, “Seth Walker swings, rocks, boogies, and plays lowdown blues all in one set, all on one record. He’s a great singer, and authentic performer of real American music, and he’s writing new classics. Don’t miss a chance to hear Seth, in person or on record. He’s the real deal.”

The Austin American Statesman said, “This young man is pure talent, a masterful blues guitarist, a singer with swing in his voice and a writer whose originals such as Gone Before I Know It and 2 Feet Left From the Ceiling sound less composed than unleashed.”

Unlike many of his Austin contemporaries, Walker dresses more like Bobby Bland than Willie or Jerry Jeff, and his signature porkpie hat stays on until the last blues lick has been hit.

“My influences are mostly black blues players, with Delbert McClinton included in the mix,” Walker said. “My heroes are B.B. King, T-Bone Walker, Snooks Eaglin, and so many more of the great black players. Along with Delbert, of course.”

Walker says he will be a part of McClinton’s upcoming “Blues Cruise,” a boat journey which will carry the blues to varied ports. And he is excited about a new CD which is being produced in Nashville by Gary Nicholson, the mastermind behind many of Delbert’s recordings.

One of the highlights of his career, Walker notes, was opening a show for Ruthie Foster in the Granada Theater in Dallas.

He said Ruthie later invited him up to jam with her.

Of Foster he said, “That woman can flat sing. And she is such a joyful performer. I had to dust off my reggae chops, but we ended up swinging it pretty damn good.”

Walker records on the independent Hyena Records label, a fact brought to light in Seth’s official bio which notes:

“Seth Walker is a different point of blue in American music. His songwriting draws from the entire spectrum of the roots canon and infuses it with a wellspring of authentic Southern soul. It would feel just right hearing Walker between B.B. King and T-Bone Walker, streaming it with a wellspring of authentic Southern soul. It would feel just right hearing Walker between B.B. King and T-Bone Walker, streaming it with a wellspring of authentic Southern soul. It would feel just right hearing Walker between B.B. King and T-Bone Walker, streaming it with a wellspring of authentic Southern soul.”

That’s an over-blown assessment of the Austin music scene where only the real thing stand a chance to thrive. It’s fitting then that Walker has signed with Hyena Records, the independent label which has built a genre-eclectic roster in which superlative artistry, first and foremost, serves as the unifying thread.

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Scatter Shots cont’d
Armadillo Specialties
Scott Reagan, a long-time fixture in the local bar
and nightclub industry, is
opening a custom embroi-
dery shop adjacent to Rod
Dog’s Saloon on Wagon
Wheel. With partners James
Sturges and Mark Garza,
Reagan will offer commer-
cial embroidery, screen
printing, caps, shirts, and
digitizing.
The company name is
Armadillo Specialties.

Councilman Houston

Ron Houston has start-
ed his ninth year as a
Blanco city councilman,
and his fifth straight year
as the mayor pro-tem.
The veteran San
Antonio disc jockey now
does voice work on many
local television commer-
cials when not rattling
around his home stomp-
ing grounds of Blanco.

Ron worked air shifts at
the old KTSA, KBUC, and
KEXL to name only a few,
and many veterans of the
broadcasting industry will
tell you that Houston pos-
sesses a natural voice res-
onance which cannot be
imitated.

As for radio music and
programming today, Houston
says he can’t really offer an
intelligent critique of what is
coming over the air waves.
“I don’t listen to the
radio anymore,” he laugh.
“l guess there’s just not
much of anything out there
that interests me.”

St. John Memorial

Ron Houston was just
one of many ex-KEXL air
personalities and friends
who attended memorial
services last month for
Nick St. John.

Nick, a longtime DJ on
San Antonio radio, was also
known as Aubrey
Cook, and people from all
walks of life were at his life
celebration last month at
San Antonio Botanical
Gardens.

Nick’s son Sean was at
the gathering, along with
St. John’s ex-wives, and
former radio cohorts like
Houston, Bruce Hathaway,
Don White, Bobby Reyes,
and Action editor-publisher
Sam Kindrick. Old music-
cian friend Tom Devine
was at the tribute, along
with many others too
terseous to name, includ-
ing Nick’s longtime live-in
girlfriend Carol Mann.

And it is significant to
note that Carol and her
husband took Nick in and
nursed him through the
final days of his losing fight
with cancer.

Jay Pennington and his
wife were at the gathering,
taking photos and gather-
ing quotes. Pennington is
the longtime KEXL fan
who operates the current
KEXL Radio web site.

Also on hand was
David Doerr, the “young”
airman who taped the last
hours of KEXL Radio.

Barbara (Legs) Marullo,
who now lives in Dallas,
and Martha Martinez,
a resident of Houston, were
the foxy female DJs who
rode it out during KEXL’s
last days.

Barbara e-mailed the
day after the service that
she and Martha were both
upset because they were
unable to attend.

Chris Holzhaus cont’d

Chris Holzhaus licks that will make you
want to throw away your
guitar. He’s that good.”

There was a mutual
respect between Johnson
and Holzhaus, and
Johnson’s current drum-
mer, Tommy Taylor, said he
would drive halfway across
Texas to play with Chris.

“He was one of the
greatest musicians I ever
knew,” Taylor said of Holzhaus.

Chris was preceded in death by his
mother, the late Wanda and father,
the late Glode Thompson, and
partner Scott Rader.

Chris is survived by his
wife of 20 years, Suzanne,
and daughter Kamela
West of Austin.

Suzanne said Chris
taught herself Jimmy
Reed licks when he was 13.

“The guitar was his
calling and he knew it,” she
said.

Suzanne recalls she
first saw Chris at the old
Cactus Beer Garden on St.
Mary’s Street.

“He walked in, and I
knew it then. He would be
the love of my life.”

Chris and I became
friends when he was record-
ing a live album with Augie
Meyers at the old Longneck
Club. And we remained
friends until the end.

I was driving my truck
on Highway 281 between
Bulverde and San Antonio
when my cell phone
beeped.

It was Suzanne.

“Chris passed just 20
minutes ago,” she said.

“He really loved you,”
I wasn’t ready for that.

But I understood why
Delbert McClinton kissed
Holzhaus on stage at the
benefit show last fall.

“He died at home,”
Suzanne said. “I didn’t want
him to go in a hospice. He
died in his own bed, holding
my hand, and with his
favorite cat curled up at his
side. He was my guy, and I
will always love him.”

Shelley King cont’d

She now tours all over
the U.S., Canada, and
Europe, and plans call for
tours of Japan and
Australia in the near future.

She has made live appear-
ces on radio and tele-
vision all over the world,
including recording a live
concert for XM Satellite
Radio and the internation-
ally syndicated radio pro-
gram WoodSongs.

In addition to husband
drummer Perry Drake and
son Clark, other members
of Shelley’s band are
Bonnie Whitmore on bass,
Kris Brown on lead electric
guitar, and Kyle Judd on
lead electric guitar and
acoustic guitar and vox.
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Sunday, August 31st
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Red Sauce Rules • Sat, Aug. 2nd
Iris • Fri, Aug. 8th
The Remedy • Sat, Aug. 9th
Mish Mash • Fri, Aug. 15th
Dead Ringer • Sat, Aug. 16th
Wilbert Beasley-Body & Soul Band • Fri, Aug. 22nd
Mark Chandler Band • Sat, Aug. 23rd
3-Man Front • Fri, Aug. 29th
Evolution • Sat, Aug. 30th

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**Live Music in August**
(All August shows are free)

**Sam's Swings on Mondays!**
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**All Ages! Doors at 7, $5 cover**
Dance Lessons at 7 provided by The San Antonio Swing Dance Society (www.sassorgan.org)
Dance kick off around 8:30
DJ Java Jive spins killer vintage dancin' tunes throughout the evening!

Cut A Rug To The Sounds Of: Lil' B'n & The Custonatories, Spook Sinatra, The Texas Pianoman, Two Tone Of Steel, Chadd Thomas & The Crazy Kings, Johnny P & The Wignuts, Sean Castillo & The Hubcaps, King Pelican, The Mission City Hot Rhythm Cats and many more local & touring acts!

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**Pool**
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**Texas 46**

**AUGUST 2008**

**Fridays - 7:30-11:30 p.m.**
1....................... Emmerson Biggins
8...................... Slim Roberts & Texas Weather
15...................... Lone Star Pickerz
22...................... Jimmy Cribb Band
29...................... Bobby Jordan & Ridgecreek

**Saturdays - 8:00-12:30 p.m.**
2.. Split Second
9........................ Good Ole' Boys
16........................ Texas Scratch
23........................ 2 Way Street
30........................ Ken Reba & Broken Rope

**Wednesdays - 7:30-11:30 p.m.**
6...................... Mesquite Ramblers
13...................... Homefire
20...................... N/C & The Mishy
27...................... Homefire

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Sundays • Noon - 9 p.m.

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Our rewards for more than 30 years of continuous publication in the rugged nightclub and live music business have been the advertising dollars to keep on keeping on.

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