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citizen

VOLUME FIVE
ISSUE 13
OCT 2016

THE COMAL
COUNTY FAIR
ROCKS NB!
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Blue Bell Passes Listeria Buck | Linecrushers Results | Surprise! Colby Backs Trump

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1ST WORD

Chocolate Listeria Crunch Back on Shelves

Blue Bell Creameries, the frozen-confection giant responsible for the deaths of three people and which left at least ten others with meningitis due to years of continuing Justice-Department investigated negligence at its Texas, Oklahoma and Alabama factories, has issued yet another recall - this time for Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough and Cookie Two Step, or "Strep", as it's known in the newsroom, that was shipped to stores outside of Texas.

The Bell blames this round of listeria contamination on the supplier of the cookie dough used in the ice cream, rather than Blue Bell's own machinery that was so contaminated it couldn't be cleaned and instead had to be permanently taken out of service. Like what happened last year.

The supplier, Aspen Hills out of Garner, Iowa, has countered the charge, saying that its product was listeria-free when it left its facility, and has no idea what Blue Bell's been doing with it over the past two months. After all, there wasn't any listeria in it until after Blue Bell made it into ice cream, and given the Bell's years of sub-standard sanitation practices - like washing machinery with cold water because they ran out of the hot stuff - along with non-compliance with state and federal food safety regulations and a massive listeria problem that took every last scoop off of store shelves for six months, it's not a huge jump to think that maybe, somehow, Blue Bell might just be responsible for this current spate of... unpleasantness.

Just a quick reminder - In the decade prior to the 2015 recall, the Bell had been finding listeria in its factories, but never tested the ice cream, or the machinery it was made in, for it. Go ahead and pause for a second so you can let that sink in.

Ready?



Part of the reason Blue Bell continues to exist is the cult-like dedication of its customers, who somehow think that the third largest ice cream producer in the country behind Nestle and Unilever is a wee, independent farm operation in rural Texas that needs and deserves their unwavering support. Texo-centric excuses made for the national operation on social media include "Good for them for catching this problem created by their supplier!", and "It was shipped out of state so it's ok", and "Give me Blue Bell or give me death", which prompts the question of why the poster bothered using the word "or", when "and" would have been much more appropriate.

Feds Call Shenanigans on Texas' Voter ID Law

The Great State's 2011 Voter ID law, which went into effect in 2013 despite being a subject of litigation since its inception, and which was declared in violation of the 1965 Voting Rights Act by the conservative Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, simply will not go down without more of a fight, as the state, according to the Federal government, is attempting to misdirect voters over the new legal reality that voter id laws are subject to. In case you forgot, it was a lot less fun to be a black person back in 1965, and actual laws had to be passed to stop state governments from constantly jerking African-Americans around.

The state's initial version of the nation's strictest voter ID law required that voters present one of seven approved IDs before casting a ballot - a Texas drivers license, a Texas ID card, a US passport, a military ID, a US Citizenship certificate with photo, or a concealed handgun license. This, ostensibly, in order to prevent an imposter from showing up at the polls and casting someone else's rightful vote. In short, to prevent voter fraud.

Continued on page 8.

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Due Process

WITH NICK ROGERS

Justin Carter Appeal Update

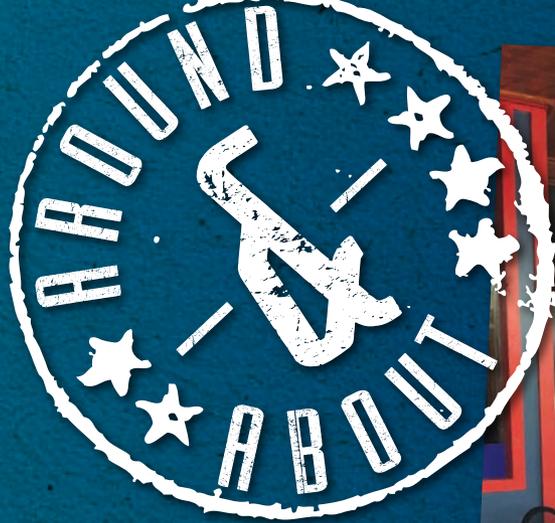
Since Justin Carter is not a government official and his case does not concern separation of powers, a ruling in favor of former Gov. Rick Perry does not apply, the State argues in a recent filing to the Third Court of Appeals. Carter was charged with making a terroristic threat after he commented on Facebook about attacking a kindergarten. Carter has argued that the comment was intended as a joke, the result of Internet trolling. Indeed, investigators found no weapons or plans to carry out such an attack. Carter has argued the law is being misused by the State to punish him for practicing his right to free speech. The State (represented by the Comal County District Attorney's office), however, has maintained that only a full trial could ascertain whether Carter had intended to actually attack a kindergarten. Both the district court and the Third Court of Appeals agreed, ruling that Carter could not bring as-applied constitutional challenges pretrial. After the Third Court of Appeals ruling, Carter took his case to the Court of Criminal Appeal, which asked the Third Court's justices to reconsider Carter's appeal in light of the Perry decision. [W]e vacate the judgment of the court of appeals and remand for that court to consider the Court's discussion in Perry and the effect of Perry, if any, on its reasoning and analysis in this case. In the Perry case, the former governor was accused by the State of abuse of power for threatening to veto funds to the Travis

County DA's office unless the district attorney stepped down. Criminal Appeals' pre-trial ruling said that, as governor, Perry had the constitutional right to veto. In the Perry ruling, Criminal Appeals noted that, as in double jeopardy claims, there are times when as-applied challenges need to be considered pretrial. Certain types of as-applied claims may be raised by pretrial habeas because the particular constitutional right at issue in the as-applied challenge is the type that would be effectively undermined if not vindicated prior to trial. Criminal Appeals ruled in the Perry

case. In a brief to the Third Court, Carter argued that the Perry ruling applies because his First Amendment right was violated by the State and that a trial would only serve to further that violation. Responding, the State argues that the parameters of the Perry case narrowly concern governmental officials and separation of powers. Perry's holding was extremely limited, covering situations involving separation of powers claims and infringing on an individual's power as a government official, the State argues. The State says that to consider Carter's claims pretrial would constitute a colossal waste of judicial time and resources. This would be because anyone charged with making a threat could then claim a First Amendment violation and force the courts into pre-trial mini trials and numerous appeals. The State continues its argument that a full trial is necessary before any ruling could be made on whether Carter's rights were violated.

Because the State has not had the opportunity to develop the evidence regarding issues such as the context of the statement and Appellant's intent, pretrial resolution is inappropriate, it argues. Still, the question arises as to why the Court of Criminal Appeals would even bother to vacate the Third Court's decision if the Perry ruling concerned only governmental separation of powers issues. Why grant a petition for discretionary review and send the case back unless you want a different result? said Carter attorney Chad Van Brunt. And then the follow up question is: Why don't you just grant relief and let the kid free if that is the way you believe the case should go? The issue is not simply about which constitutional right was infringed upon: It's also about how much weight and consideration that particular right is given, the attorney said. The Third Court is in the unenviable position of deciding whether the most fundamental rights of the little guy count as much as our former Governor's right to be powerful.

Nick Rogers covers crime and courts for the TX Citizen.



The crew from Scores Sports Bar christened both its new patio and big ol' glass restoration of its entryway in the hours leading up to the second annual Texas National Wing Eating Championships (page 18). Stop by and see the new, non-smoking Scores in glorious daylight, and enjoy some wings without a stopwatch and nine other people breathing down your proverbial neck.



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OCTOBER 7
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OCTOBER 9
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OCTOBER 9
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what to eat & where to eat it



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Bosses Pizza
Sooner rather than later, you're going to need pizza. We recommend "The Herd". Six kinds of meat, two of which are bacon, and all of which are delicious. 263 Loop 337 – 830.620.6900



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Naturally Café
The raspberry-chipotle spread is just one of the 16 reasons Naturally's Undercover Club is an editor's choice obsession. The multi-grain bread accounts for eight more. We'll let you discover the other seven on your own, as we've already said too much. 494 North Seguin Avenue (Near Downtown) – 830.214.6300



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Gourmage
Gourmage is the only cheese shop between Austin and Mexico, which is reason enough to visit on the regular. The specialty mac & cheese, which changes weekly, is another. But the Gourmage sandwich – in all its toasty, French dressing-y glory, and makes all other turkey and Swiss purveyors weep with envy, is the best reason of all. 270 West San Antonio St (Downtown) – 830.214.6471

FAKE NEWS

By Tony Rainey-Bell

Political Winds Shift

As the presidential race tightens in Texas, the fortunes for the two Comal County party headquarters have seen some changes. As Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton has pulled within seven points of GOP pick Donald Trump in the state, political funds to the local headquarters from the national party have increased. Evidence of this can be seen in the improvements to the Democrat Bus, a dilapidated school bus that serves as the Comal County Democratic headquarters in an empty lot. The bus is cleaner and while there are still no wheels, it now rests on cinder blocks, where before the bus was sinking into the mud. Gone is the tinfoil on the windows and, in its place, are awnings made from trash bags and old clothing. The empty plastic bottles of water that litter the area show that the county party staff is no longer forced to drink rainwater from a bucket. Not ones to waste their meager possessions, however, staff are now using the Democrat Bucket to grow marijuana, a gift from the local Libertarian Party. Also amongst the rubbish were old tissue boxes covered in tape, which were once used for shoes, meaning that the crew has at last received real footwear. Like previous visits, however, the bus was still silent and there was no one in sight, although human-like movements and whispers of I'm with her could be heard from the bushes.

While things have improved for the Democrat Bus, the same could not be said for the nearby Republican Headquarters. The topiary in front of the building has been dug up and replaced with old toilets and bathtubs, which are being used as planters. A rusted and lopsided pickup truck dominates the parking lot. The truck obviously doesn't run because most of the parts from its engine are in its bed. Despite falling on somewhat harder times, many of the county Republican headquarters staff was still well dressed, although their clothing was beginning to show some signs of wear. Outside, an enormous man in overalls with

nothing underneath was yelling at staff members, who were working on the tub and toilet crops. The man in overalls, we have learned, is Lester Clump, who is Trump's representative for Comal County. The area behind the Republican Headquarters is strewn with empty liquor and Xanax bottles, as well as fading copies of Lester Clump's Barely Legal magazine collection. As we were looking around the building, a smartly-dressed but frazzled woman stepped out from the back door. She looked at us with some suspicion as she lit a cigarette with shaking hands. Who are you? she asked. When we told her we were journalists, she pointed a finger at us and screamed, You'll see! You'll see! We are going to Make America Great Again! We are going win so big! The woman then slumped down against the wall, put her head to her knees and began to sob. I hate my life, she said.

At this point, Lester came around the side of building. Get to work, #####! he screamed at the distraught woman. Only then did he seem to notice us. Who the hell are you? he asked while spitting. When we told him, he pulled out a gun and threatened that they knew how to take care of our kind. We fled as bullets whizzed over our heads. While we were running, we noticed feet sticking out of a dumpster. We didn't stop to investigate. The election is November 8. Early voting begins October 11. Campbell Gets to Work Sen. Dr. Donna Campbell is already planning to submit an amendment to a bill for the next legislative session that would ban people from using public bathrooms in Texas. People are going into bathrooms and touching their parts, she said. We have to protect our children. Campbell will attach her amendment to the Wiener and Lady Bits bill, which would ban transgender people from using the restrooms they feel most comfortable in.

Tony Rainey-Bell makes things up for the TX Citizen.



WEEK ONE PLAYER STANDINGS
FIRST PLACE: SEAN WERTENS (PRICKLY PEAR) - 100% PERFECT!

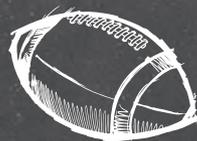
SECOND PLACE: SCOTT HARRIS (SCORES) - 80%
THIRD PLACE: TATUM DELEON (WATERING HOLE) 60%

WEEK TWO - LEAGUE-WIDE BYE WEEK

WEEK THREE PLAYER STANDINGS
FIRST PLACE: ALBERT SOTO (THE WATERING HOLE) 100% PERFECT

SECOND PLACE: JASON HARRIS (SCORES) - 80%
THIRD PLACE: SEAN WERTENS (THE PRICKLY PEAR) - 60%

LEAGUE STANDINGS ON SEASON
FIRST PLACE - SCORES @ 70%
SECOND PLACE - THE PRICKLY PEAR @ 65%
THIRD PLACE - THE WATERING HOLE @ 55%



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← Continued from page 3.

The court didn't buy the voter fraud argument, for three reasons. First of all, the demographic data that showed that minorities are less likely than whites to possess those forms of ID. Second, there is hardly any of that fraud going on - despite claims to the contrary, it's not a perfect crime. If someone shows up to vote under a name and a vote has already been checked off the list, it's immediately clear that somebody broke the law, or is intending to. Third, and most damning of all, the voter-impersonation fraud going on in Texas, and the country-at-large, is occurring with mail-in ballots, and yet the state has not concerned itself with that risk with any degree of enthusiasm. Naturally, that makes it look like the people screaming about voter ID don't care about fraud as much as they might voter suppression, something which, unfortunately, the Great State has a long history of.

In any case, after being ordered to revise the law, Texas got together with the civil rights groups that were suing it, and drafted a solution that was later ratified by the court. The settlement rolled back the requirements to the status quo in place in 2010, allowing voters who do not have one of the formerly required IDs to use a government document with their name and address on it, a voter registration certificate, a utility bill or a bank statement. A new provision would also require people using one of those forms of ID to sign an affidavit affirming their identity. Ok, good enough. Everybody's happy right?

Not so fast. It seems the state, while agreeing to settle, isn't quite so keen on that information trickling down to voters. The court ordered Texas to explain the new rules to the public, and, much to the frustration of the federal government, the state has only gone as far as to say that those who cannot obtain one of the seven IDs, quote, "have additional options at the polls", endquote. Sure, that sounds both fine and dandy, but have a second look. It doesn't say if you *don't* have one of those IDs, it says if you *can't* get one. The message is this: The "additional options" are for people who cannot get one of the seven forms of ID, not for people who might

have difficulty obtaining one, or who do not currently have one. That's a big difference, and one the feds are fairly miffed about, especially given Texas' civil rights record.

And let's ice this cake - suppose you're a voter without one of the seven IDs. Texas won't tell you what to bring to the polls until you wait in line at the polls, after which you'd have to go home and get whatever that other thing is, then wait in line at the polls again. Cry as Paxton might, that sure looks like somebody's doing their best to suppress the vote. Judges don't like people playing games with their orders, so expect Texas to lose one more time, and count on at least one judge taking our thrice-indicted-for-fraud Attorney General out to the whipping post.

While the fix is out for the November election, Paxton has sent his case to the SCOTUS, in hopes of getting the Fifth Circuit overturned in time for the mid-term elections. We probably won't know for several months if the Justices will agree to hear it. In the meantime, nobody is checking into the "perfect crime" of voter fraud committed through absentee ballots, probably because it involves a demographic that Paxton doesn't dare to inconvenience.

Sid Miller Gets Away with It

Medical Voodoo enthusiast, Agriculture Commissioner and prolific liar Sid Miller, has, like so many Texas officials before him, dodged an ethics bullet despite being caught dead-to-rights committing fraud against the taxpayers of the Great State.

You might remember that Sid booked a trip to Oklahoma at taxpayer expense which he said was for two hours of meetings with several Sooner lawmakers, a tour of the stockyards, and some face time with Oklahoma's Commissioner of Ag. As it turned out, every one of those legislators that he said he spent two-hours with said they didn't meet with him for more than a few minutes, that he just showed up for a photo to post to Facebook and then left, without discussing any government business. He didn't tour the stockyards, and stood up the OK Ag Commissioner.

What he did done do, was visit Dr John Longergan, (who had his license revoked in Ohio and spent a year in jail for fraud and

quackery,) in order to get hisself something called a "Jesus Shot", which Longergan claims cures all pain for life. Miller, being a compulsive liar and cheat himself, is a prime target for a con man like Longergan, as people on the grift have a knack for finding one another.

Miller lied about the trip, and about emails about the trip, but he paid back the \$1,100 he took from public coffers for the trip to get a scam remedy - after he got caught. He also lied about a trip he took to Mississippi so he could compete in a rodeo, presumably not as a clown, and he paid that money back too, but only after the Austin American-Statesman caught him dead to rights.

In any case, he got away with it, Hillary Clinton style, with the Travis County DA's office declaring that despite all the lying and the paper trail and getting called out by Oklahoma lawmakers, prosecutors would have a "hard time proving criminal intent". It's almost like nobody can prove obvious criminal intent by politicians anymore, in which case perhaps the FBI and Travis County DA staffers should go into another, more productive line of work. (One wonders if other people get out of doing their jobs because they might have a "hard time" carrying out their job description.)

If, by chance, you think we're overstating just what kind of liar ~~Mrs. Clinton~~ Sid Miller is, here's what he said just last week to the Texas Tribune. Keep in mind that this is after emails were published that proved that the Oklahoma trip was scheduled specifically around his Jesus Shot, and after the Ag Commissioner up there stated publicly that Miller never showed up to their appointment:

"The trip wasn't about that at all. I actually had a meeting with the Agriculture secretary in Oklahoma and went up there."

Yeah. He had a meeting with Ag Commissioner scheduled, and got the Jesus Shot instead of attending the meeting. Even though the trip wasn't about the shot.

At all.
\\m/
Mike Reynolds
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

soundcheck

YOUR LIVE MUSIC GUIDE

Fri 10.7

ADOBE VERDE
Historic Gruene, Texas

Traveling Trees
6:30pm

LONGSHOT
WINE BAR & TASTING ROOM

Bob Schmueckle & Derek Krueger
7pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN**

Chris Duarte Group
7pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Junior Nash
5pm
The Canvas People
w/ Tahoma
9pm

**Riley's
TAVERN**

Red Shahan
9pm

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon

Made in Texas
8pm

**WINE BAR
WOLFGANGS
& JAZZ CLUB**

Kenneth Davison Trio
8pm

Billy's Ice House

Jamie Talbert & the Band of Demons
8pm

Gruene Hall

Jack Ingram, Bruce Robison,
Charlie Robison
9pm

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Pour Haus

Matt Kersh
8:30pm

Sat 10.8

ADOBE VERDE
Historic Gruene, Texas

3 Man Front
6:30pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN**

Dirty Unkul
1pm
3 Man Front
6pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Paul Nipper Band
9pm

**Riley's
TAVERN**

The Merles
9pm

Scores
Sports Bar & Grill
NEW BRAUNFELS TEXAS

Cody Wood
8pm

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon

Kim & Her Bad Habits
9pm

Billy's Ice House

FILE 13
8pm

Geronimo VFW #8456

Ca Va Bien Cajun Band
7:30pm

Gruene Hall

The Georges
1pm
Marshall Tucker Band
w/ Tom Gillam
8pm

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Pour Haus

Justin Bravo & the Kind
9:30pm

Sun 10.9

ADOBE VERDE
Historic Gruene, Texas

Fallon Franklin
6:30pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN**

Brother Wives
2pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Gruene Hall

Texas-Style Music Fest
1pm

Pour Haus

Grant Ewing
8:30pm

Mon 10.10

Gruene Hall

Bret Graham
6pm

Pour Haus

Dennis Jay
8:30pm

Tues 10.11

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon

Monte Good
7pm

Billy's Ice House

Austin Gilliam
8pm

Gruene Hall

Bo Porter, Dallas Moore
6pm

Wed 10.12

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Sam Pace
8:30pm

**Riley's
TAVERN**

Shad Blair
9pm

**WINE BAR
WOLFGANGS
& JAZZ CLUB**

Kenneth Davison
8pm

Billy's Ice House

Aaron Stephens
8pm

Pour Haus

Bernardus
8:30pm

Thu 10.13

ADOBE VERDE
Historic Gruene, Texas

Josh Holden
6:30pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN**

Jam Night
6pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

The Shady Rest Band
5pm

Gruene Hall

Taj Mahal Trio
8pm

Moonshine & Ale

Live Band Karaoke
8pm

Pour Haus

Jay Russell Wimberley
8:30pm

Fri 10.14

ADOBE VERDE
Historic Gruene, Texas

Beau Daniels Band
6:30pm

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6pm

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Bandrev
5pm
Ranch/House
w/ DT Buffkin
9pm

Riley's TAVERN
Big John Mills
9pm

THE WATERING HOLE Saloon
Texas Tone Rangers
8pm

WINE BAR WOLFGANGS & JAZZ CLUB
Kenneth Davison Trio
8pm

Billy's Ice House
John Evans Band
8pm

Gruene Hall
JD McPherson
w/ The Bellfuries
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Pour Haus
Steel Penny
8:30pm

Sat 10.15



JAM
6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
Melissa Ludwig Band
1pm
De France
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON
Blackbird Sing
w/ Those Nights
9pm

Riley's TAVERN
James Hand
9pm

Scores Sports Bar & Grill
NEW BRAUNFELS TEXAS
3 Man Front
8pm

THE WATERING HOLE Saloon
J Abram Band
9pm

WINE BAR WOLFGANGS & JAZZ CLUB
Christin Foley Trio
9pm

Billy's Ice House
Josh Meurin Benefit
6pm

Gruene Hall
Ted Russell Kamp
1pm
Kyle Park
w/ Troy Cartwright
9pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Pour Haus
The Strayhearts
9:30pm

Sun 10.16



JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
Lucas Jack
3pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON
Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
Sam Bentley
3pm

Gruene Hall
Tish Hinojosa
12:30pm
Seth Walker
5pm

Pour Haus
The Vagabonds
8:30pm

Mon 10.17

Gruene Hall
Bret Graham
6pm

Pour Haus
Larry Martin Sweeney
8:30pm

Tue 10.18



Josh & Gabe
8pm



TBA
7pm

Billy's Ice House
Ted Russell Kamp
8pm

Gruene Hall
Noel McKay
6pm

Wed 10.19



The Traveling Ones
8:30pm

Riley's TAVERN
Mike Ethan Messick
9pm

WINE BAR WOLFGANGS & JAZZ CLUB
Kenneth Davison
8pm

Billy's Ice House
Aaron Stephens
8pm

Gruene Hall
The Georges
6pm

Pour Haus
Brent Michael Wood
8:30pm

Thu 10.20



Beau Daniels Band
6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
Jam Night
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON
Jay Russell Wimberly
5pm

Riley's TAVERN
Cody Canada
9pm

Billy's Ice House
Matt Kersh Band
8pm

Gruene Hall
The McKay Brothers
6pm

Moonshine & Ale
Live Band Karaoke
8pm

Pour Haus
David Selbo, Aaron Stephens
8:30pm

Fri 10.21

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

Traveling Trees
6:30pm

LONGSHOT
WINE BAR & TASTING ROOM

Bob Schmueckle & Derek Krueger
7pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN**

The Numinous
6:30pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Junior Nash
5pm
The Night Owls
8:30pm

**Riley's
TAVERN**

Joel Hofmann Band
9pm

**THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon**

3 Man Front
8pm

**WINE BAR
WOLFGANGS
& JAZZ CLUB**

Kenneth Davison Trio
8pm

Billy's Ice House
Zach Coffey
8pm

Gruene Hall
Zane Williams
w/ Randall King
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Pour Haus
Scott Wiggins
8:30pm

Sat 10.22

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

Bru's Tunes
6:30pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG**

SECRET GARTEN
Chris Taylor & the Setting Sons
1pm
The Wide Open
6pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Def Legend
Saints & Sinners
9pm

**Riley's
TAVERN**

Billy Dee
9pm

**THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon**

Roadside Libby
9pm

Billy's Ice House
LC Rocks
8pm

Gruene Hall
Bill Hearne Trio
1pm
Radney Foster
w/ Kyle Hutton
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Pour Haus
Kerosene Drifters
9:30pm

Sun 10.23

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG**

SECRET GARTEN
The Mighty Orq
2pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
Almost Patsy Cline
3pm

Gruene Hall
Romi Mayes
12:30pm
South Austin Moonlighters
5pm

Pour Haus
JJ Villareal
8:30pm

Mon 10.24

Gruene Hall
Bret Graham
6pm

Pour Haus
Chuck Shaw
8:30pm

Tue 10.25

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TEXAS**

Grant Ewing
8pm

**THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon**

The Vagabonds
7pm

Gruene Hall
Nathan Bonnes, Jake Ward,
Judson Cole
6pm

Wed 10.26

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Shady Rest Band
8:30pm

**Riley's
TAVERN**

TBA
9pm

**WINE BAR
WOLFGANGS
& JAZZ CLUB**

Kenneth Davison
8pm

Billy's Ice House
Aaron Stephens
8pm

Pour Haus
Ian McFeron
8:30pm

Thu 10.27

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

Josh Holden
6:30pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG**

SECRET GARTEN
Jam Night
6pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Scott Boddicker
5pm

**Riley's
TAVERN**

TBA
8pm

Billy's Ice House
Skylar Hamilton
8pm

Gruene Hall
Houston Marchman
6pm

Moonshine & Ale
Live Band Karaoke
8pm

Pour Haus
Jade Marie Patek
8:30pm

Fri 10.28

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm

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OCT 7

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OCT 8

PAUL NIPPER BAND @ 9

OCT 14

RANCH/HOUSE + DT BUFFKIN @ 9

OCT 15

**BLACKBIRD SING
+ THOSE NIGHTS @ 9**

OCT 21

THE NIGHTOWLS @ 9

OCT 22

**DEF LEGGEND
+ SAINTS & SINNERS @ 9**

OCT 28

NATALIE ROSE BAND @ 9

OCT 29

**BROTHERWIVES
DO HALLOWEEN @ 9**

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**



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- OCT 6 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
- OCT 7 @ 7 CHRIS DUARTE GROUP
- OCT 8 @ 1 DIRTY UNKUL @ 6 3 MAN FRONT
- OCT 9 @ 2 BROTHER WIVES
- OCT 13 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
- OCT 14 @ 6 KIM & HER BAD HABITS
- OCT 15 @ 1 THE MELISSA LUDWIG BAND @ 6 DE FRANCE
- OCT 16 @ 3 LUCAS JACK
- OCT 20 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
- OCT 21 @ 6:30 THE NUMINOUS
- OCT 22 @ 1 CHRIS TAYLOR & THE SETTING SONS @ 6 THE WIDE OPEN
- OCT 23 @ 2 THE MIGHTY ORQ
- OCT 27 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
- OCT 28 @ 6:30 GEORGE DAVORE
- OCT 29 @ 1 CHRIS RUEST @ 6 HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA WITH THE BARE FAX BAND
- OCT 30 @ 2 THE JACKS

LONGSHOT WINE BAR & TASTING ROOM

Bob Schmueckle & Derek Krueger
7pm

OMA GRUENE'S OGSG SECRET GARTEN

George Davore
6:30pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Bandreu
5pm
Natalie Rose Band
8:30pm

Riley's TAVERN

Silo Road
9pm



Tunnel Vision
8pm



Trace Owen Jr
8pm



Kenneth Davison Trio
8pm

Billy's Ice House
Midnight River Choir
8pm

Gruene Hall
Johnny Nicholas
w/ Kelley Mickwee
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Pour Haus
Ryan Reid
8:30pm

Sat 10.29



JAM
6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S OGSG SECRET GARTEN

Chris Ruest
1pm
Bare Fax Band
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Brother Wives
w/ Foxmoor Express, Ryan
Quiet, Dingo Mas
9pm

Riley's TAVERN

Railhouse Swing Band
9pm



Aaron Stephens
8pm



Painted Pony
9pm



The Christin Foley Trio
8:30pm

Billy's Ice House
FM 1863
8pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
Glenn Collins & Alibi
7:30pm

Gruene Hall
Flat Top Jones
1pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Pour Haus
Dirty White Horse
8:30pm

Sun 10.30



JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S OGSG SECRET GARTEN

The Jacks
2pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Gruene Hall
Slim Bawb
12pm
Bill Kirchen
5:30pm

Pour Haus
Steel Betty
8:30pm

Mon 10.31

Gruene Hall
Bret Graham
6pm

Pour Haus
Brent Michael Wood, Myles
Smith
8:30pm

Tue 11.1



TBA
7pm

Billy's Ice House
Reed Brothers
8pm

Gruene Hall
Adam Carroll
6pm

Wed 11.2

THE PHOENIX SALOON

TBA
8:30pm

Riley's TAVERN

Manzy Lowry
9pm



Kenneth Davison
8pm

Billy's Ice House
Aaron Stephens
8pm

Pour Haus
65 at Night
8:30pm



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Karaoke

Thursday Nights



Karaoke

Thursdays, Saturdays

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Karaoke

Mondays & Thursdays

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The Texas Newsgrinder with Mike Reynolds
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ASK A MEXICAN!

By Gustavo Arellano

Dear Mexican: Why is it that every time I pull up next to a Mexican in traffic, they're bumping one of two things; either some polka-sounding stuff or Tupac? I like Tupac but it seems like Mexicans are single-handedly keeping his music alive. Why do Mexicans love Pac so much? Confused by Colored Folk

Dear Gabacho: Tupac Shakur forever endeared himself to Mexicans thanks to his 1996 jam, "To Live and Die in L.A." In this ode to the City of Angels, he sang, "Cause would it be L.A. without Mexicans?/Black love, brown pride and the sets again/Pete Wilson trying to see us all broke." Wait, that wasn't Pac; that was Makaveli, since Tupac is ALIVE. Besides, game recognize juego, and Mexicans see Tupac as the moreno version of Chalino Sanchez, the legendary narcocorrido singer who was also assassinated before his time, and whose ballads made gangsta rap seem as imposing as the Mills Brothers.

Dear Mexican: History has shown that given time, all immigrants to a new country, eventually assume the new language. That being said, it is also important for Americans to help the immigrants cross the language barrier. Because of this, I do not understand why there are not more Spanish-language programs on television, not just for the Spanish speaker, but for everyone. Spanish Sesame Street would be great. I have studied Spanish and Japanese in school, and it has helped me understand my surroundings better. What are Americans afraid of? We flock to Mexican Restaurants. It would also be nice to see other foreign language programs on the television from time to time.

Bring Back Esteban Colberto

Dear Gabacho: That's a problem exacerbated by Hollywood, which would rather greenlight shows about gangs and narcos than anything remotely dealing with the modern-day Mexican American experience. And by

the way, there is a Mexican version of Sesame Street (well, besides the actual Spanish-language version of the show, called Plaza Sésamo); it's called Dora the Explorer. Donald Trump has already announced she's the first Mexican to get deported, since Dora taught millennials that Mexicans are actual humans and not baby-making cockroaches—a first on network television.

Dear Mexican: I seen black homeless people and white people being homeless. How come I never seen a Mexican and a Chinese person being homeless?

Get a Pinche Job, Bum

Dear Pocho: I can't answer for chinitos, because the most Celestial thing about me is my love for an orange chicken-chow mein-brown rice lunch combo. But you're falling into the same trap that many Mexicans fall into on Facebook: namely, that Mexicans never go homeless because they'd rather sell oranges and flowers on street corners than hold up a sign begging for food like a lazy gabacho. The answer is more complex than a pinche meme. Percentage-wise, Latinos are over-represented on a national level: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report found about 20 percent of the homeless are Latino, just a tick above the 17 percent of Latinos that make up the American population. But the survey doesn't break down the Latino homeless—whether the population is more immigrant or assimilated, Salvadoran or Mexican. A better indicator of whether Mexican immigrants are less averse to homelessness is in a 2015 study by the Institute for the Study of Homelessness and Poverty at the Weingart Center examining the homeless community in Los Angeles County. It found that Latinos (who make up 47 percent of LA County's population) accounted for only 33 percent of homeless. More tellingly, "about 14 to 18 percent of homeless adults in Los Angeles County are not U.S. citizens compared with 29% of adults overall," suggesting undocumented Mexicans would rather hustle than live outside. But there's nothing to brag about here—don't be a heartless pendejo, and help out the homeless, regardless of raza.

Continued on page 14.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Edmund A. Blume, Deceased, were issued on September 7, 2016, in Cause No. 2016PCA0284, pending in the County Court at Law of Comal County, Texas, to: Alice Blume Webb and James Darren Gray.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 7th day of September, 2016.

Frank B. Suhr, Attorney at Law,
473 S. Seguin Ave, Ste 100, New Braunfels, TX 78130
State Bar No.: 19466300,
Tel: (830) 625-4345, Fax: (830) 606-4511,
Attorney for Attorney for Alice Blume Webb and
James Darren Gray

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Bruce Bradley Shipman, Deceased, were issued on September 7, 2016, in Cause No. 2016PCA0278, pending in the County Court at Law of Comal County, Texas, to: Zachary Shipman.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 7th day of September, 2016.

Frank B. Suhr, Attorney at Law,
473 S. Seguin Ave, Ste 100, New Braunfels, TX 78130
State Bar No.: 19466300,
Tel: (830) 625-4345, Fax: (830) 606-4511,
Attorney for Attorney for Zachary Shipman

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William D. Dubois, Jr., Deceased, were issued on September 7, 2016, in Cause No. 2016PCA0280, pending in the County Court at Law of Comal County, Texas, to: Patrick Lee DuBois.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 7th day of September, 2016.

Frank B. Suhr, Attorney at Law,
473 S. Seguin Ave, Ste 100, New Braunfels, TX 78130
State Bar No.: 19466300,
Tel: (830) 625-4345, Fax: (830) 606-4511,
Attorney for Attorney for Patrick Lee DuBois

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ralph Arthur Koch, Jr., Deceased, were issued on September 7, 2016, in Cause No. 2016PCB0279, pending in the County Court at Law of Comal County, Texas, to: Sabrina Koch Tucker.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 7th day of September, 2016.

Frank B. Suhr, Attorney at Law,
473 S. Seguin Ave, Ste 100, New Braunfels, TX 78130
State Bar No.: 19466300,
Tel: (830) 625-4345, Fax: (830) 606-4511,
Attorney for Attorney for Sabrina Koch Tucker

FRIDAY 10/7
RED SHAHAN 9PM

SATURDAY 10/8
THE MERLES 9PM

FRIDAY 10/14
BIG JOHN MILLS 9PM

SATURDAY 10/15
JAMES HAND 9PM

FRIDAY 10/21
JOEL HOFMANN BAND 9PM

SATURDAY 10/22
BILLY DEE 9PM

FRIDAY 10/28
SILO ROAD 9PM

SATURDAY 10/29
RAILHOUSE SWING BAND 9PM

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Deborah Arlene Moore, Deceased, were issued on September 15, 2016, in Cause No. 2016PCB0299, pending in the County Court at Law of Comal County, Texas, to: Jimmie Jerome Moore.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 15th day of September, 2016.

Frank B. Suhr, Attorney at Law,
473 S. Seguin Ave, Ste 100, New Braunfels, TX 78130
State Bar No.: 19466300,
Tel: (830) 625-4345, Fax: (830) 606-4511,
Attorney for Attorney for Jimmie Jerome Moore

Continued from page 13.

Dear Mexican: Why aren't there more Mexicans in outdoor-type jobs? I'm referring to camp guides, naturalists, river rafting guides, etc My theory is that the outdoors haven't always been a safe space for us, and most times that is where we were working, not relaxing.

Tomás but Not a Tío

Dear Tom but not an Uncle: A 2009 survey by the University of Wyoming and the National Park Service (NPS) found that Latinos (read: Mexicans) actually made up the largest percentage of minorities who visited national parks—a whole nine percent! And pochos like you are even rarer: only five percent of NPS workers were Latinos (read: Mexicans). This aversion to the gran outdoors is logical, actually. Gabachos have the luxury of enjoying backpacking for weeks at a time and rafting down the Withlacoochee (quick aside: since this Florida river sounds like huitlacoche, is this further proof for armchair Aztecs that the Nahuatl empire went all the way to the Sunshine State the way it extended to Michigan aka Michoacán?). Mexicans, meanwhile, view nature much the way Manifest Destiny did: something to tame, not to revel in. The Mexican has many fond memories of spending days with his Papa Je in the beautiful cerros of Zacatecas—but that's to find logs to chop down for his campesino life. Once he came to el Norte, no way would my grandpa—or I, or most non-assimilated Mexicans who knows rural life—want to camp on purpose.



Ask the Mexican at
themexican@askamexican.net,
be his fan on Facebook, follow
him on Twitter @gustavoarellano
or follow him on Instagram @
gustavo_arellano!

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That Karaoke Chick

FRIDAYS @ 8
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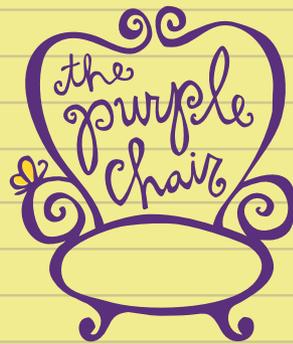
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KARAOKE W/ JOHNNY V

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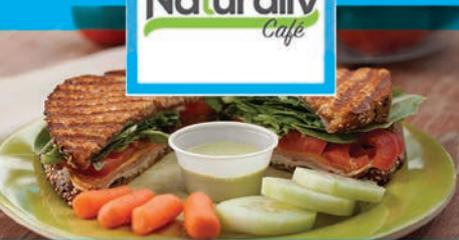


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FREEMAN ON SPORTS WITH BRANT FREEMAN

September was going great until this past weekend. The sports world lost an icon in Arnold Palmer, and another in the making in Jose Fernandez. While Palmer's death was surprising, he was 87 years old and had long been removed from the spotlight. It was sad to hear of his passing and made me reminisce of his days as one of the world's top golfers. Fernandez' death was gut-wrenching. Just 24-years-old and one of the best young pitchers in the majors, it was simply heart-breaking to wake up to the news on Sunday morning. Do yourself a favor and read about him, and then watch Dee Gordon's at-bat in the Marlins' game against the Mets on Monday. It will give you chills. Now on to the lighter stories from the month of September.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL: That was an entertaining WurstBowl! It appeared that the Unicorns were on their way to a routine victory but Canyon came roaring back from being down 42-17, scoring 18 points in a span of less than five minutes late in the fourth quarter to pull within seven. The Cougars had one last chance to tie the game with the ball at midfield but the Unicorns got the stop to win the game 42-35 and now both teams are 1-1 in the brutal 27-6A District.

Fellow area team Smithson Valley is also 1-1 after a 65-6(!) trashing of East Central in the Rangers' most recent game. We've already hit the halfway point of the 2016 high school football season and by the time I write my next column, the playoff picture will just about be complete, and it's going to be pretty damn tough for two, let alone three local teams to get in.

Consider the fact that the district has two Top 25 6-A teams in Steele and Judson, which already have wins over Smithson Valley and New Braunfels respectively. If you're to assume two of the four playoff spots go to the Knights and Rockets, that leaves just two more and we haven't even gotten to Clemens yet, a team that's 2-0 in district already and has 27-6A's top quarterback in Frank Harris. The Buffaloes have a leg up on one of those other playoff spots so... yeah.

The games that the area teams play against each other this season are going to be intense, and of course one of those games is now out of the way with last week's WurstBowl. New Braunfels, of course, won that game, so if things go according to script this next month, the final day of the regular season could very well decide who gets the fourth and final playoff spot when Smithson Valley plays New Braunfels at Unicorn Stadium on November 5.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: The first month of the season is in the books and when looking at the landscape in Texas there have been some great moments so far. Texas opened the season with a thrilling overtime win over Notre Dame (a win that looks less impressive as the weeks go by, sorry Longhorn fans). Texas A&M is off to a roaring start, already 4-0 with two conference wins and with a Top 10 ranking. Baylor looks good as well I guess, but at some point the Bears need to make a concerted effort to change their culture and not, you know, let former players accused of sexual assault into their locker room after games.

However, the best story and the best team from Texas so far has been Houston. Anyone who thought the Cougars' 13-1 last season was a fluke has been proven wrong so far, as Houston has stormed out of the gates with a 4-0 record, including a season-opening drubbing of #3 Oklahoma. The Cougars are ranked sixth now, their highest ranking in 36 years, and have a legitimate shot at running the table. The only true test Houston has is Louisville on November 17, which could be one of the best college football games we get to see this year, period. If the Cougars win that and the AAC title game and finish the regular season 13-0, they've got a shot at making the playoffs. If they do, they would not only be the first G5 school to do it, but the first Texas team to do it. Tom Herman is a wizard.

NFL: So, Dak Prescott isn't that bad! There were some (myself included) that brushed off his pre-season play as being nothing more than, well, pre-season play, but he's looked

poised and confident so far in his first three starts for the Cowboys. You could tell the coaches kept his training wheels on in the opener against the Giants by building a super-conservative game plan, but the playbook has opened a lot more since then and he's won back-to-back games over Washington and Chicago. By seasons' end those two wins may not look "that" impressive (the Bears in particular look like wet garbage) and I'm still not sure Dallas is a playoff team this year, but the Cowboys could very well find themselves in the hunt deep into the season. If nothing else, Cowboys fans should be encouraged about the future with Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott (it is impossible to spell his name without Googling it).

On to the Texans (rubs hands together)... what in the holy hell was THAT? Houston gets to play something called Jacoby Brissett on Thursday Night Football and he THOROUGHLY outplays Matt Schaub 2.0, aka: Brock Osweiler. A 27-0 loss on national television and Osweiler looked (cue up Charles Barkley) turrrible. Osweiler had 196 yards on 41 pass attempts for a Brian Hoyer-esque 4.7 yards per attempt. Christ. For the life of me I can't understand why the Texans sent a dump truck carrying \$72-million to sign this guy but as a Titans fan, I loved it. (Disclaimer: As a Titans fan, I have absolutely no business trashing anyone else's team ever). I suppose when Hoyer does the equivalent of setting NRG Stadium on fire with the way he played in Houston's playoff loss to Kansas City last year, any quarterback looks like Dan Marino in comparison.

MLB: The two teams I dislike the most are the Chicago Cubs and the Texas Rangers, and I just know they're going to play each other in the World Series. I will not enjoy writing about baseball in next month's column. I will be cheering for Steve Bartman to hit a fly ball to Nelson Cruz. Dammit.

Brant Freeman is a seasoned local sportscaster, delivering the goods as a reporter for major pro and collegiate sporting events in the greater San Antonio area for over a decade.

COMAL COUNTY FAIR & RODEO

NEW BRAUNFELS AND ITS SURROUNDS PUT ANOTHER COMAL COUNTY FAIR WEEK IN THE BOOKS, AND, AS USUAL, IT WAS A GOOD TIME FOR ALL. YOUNG AND OLD CAME OUT FOR THE PARADE, THE RIDES, THE FIERCE COMPETITION BOTH IN THE RODEO AND ARTS AND CRAFTS ARENAS, AND CORN DOG AND FUNNEL CAKE ENTHUSIASTS SATISFIED THEIR JONES FOR ANOTHER YEAR.



COMAL COUNTY'S MOST WANTED



**BARLEY,
JASON LEE**
Male - 5'08" - 140 lbs
DOB: 08/13/1988
CHARGE: Possession
of a controlled
substance

FLORES, ROCKY
Male - 5'05" - 150 lbs
DOB: 05/03/1978
CHARGE: Violation of
conditions of bond
assault family
household member
with previous
convictions



**BOOKER,
CHRISTOPHER
DEWAYNE**
Male - 6'02" - 191 lbs
DOB: 05/15/1970
CHARGE: Two
charges of motion to
revoke possession of
a controlled substance

**FLORES-ROGEL,
RAYMUNDO**
Male - 5'04" - 150 lbs
DOB: 10/29/1967
CHARGE: 3 charges of
driving while
intoxicated with child
under 15 years of age



**CASIANO,
MICHAEL RAY**
Male - 5'08" - 180 lbs
DOB: 07/28/1973
CHARGE: Criminal
mischief over \$2,500
under \$50,000



**COOKE,
ARACELI NICOLE**
Male - 5'04" - 128 lbs
DOB: 07/20/1968
CHARGE: Possession
of a controlled
substance

**MCDONALD,
TERRI SUZANNE**
Female - 5'02" - 130 lbs
DOB: 12/05/1969
CHARGE: Possession
of a controlled
substance



**CUNNINGHAM,
JARROD SCOTT**
Male - 6'00" - 185 lbs
DOB: 04/14/1989
CHARGE: Theft
property over \$50,000
under \$150,000

**VALLEJO,
AMBER MARIE**
Female - 5'04" - 160 lbs
DOB: 04/25/1989
CHARGE: Motion to
adjudicate possession
of a controlled
substance



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830.620.3400 - 24-Hour
830.620.3411 - Mon-Fri 8am to 5pm

The names listed have been released in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act. This is an accurate account as of Monday, August 28, 2018 at 9:50 am and may not be correct by the time it is read. Do not try to apprehend anyone. These are listings of criminal warrants with the Comal County Sheriff's Office and are not indicative of guilt or innocence. Officers are to verify the status of each warrant prior to making an arrest. Any person is innocent of everything unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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It was another showdown for the ages, as Scores and the TX Citizen sponsored the second annual Texas National Wing Eating Championships in between games on the season's first edition of Monday Night Football.

Nine men and one woman dug into mounds of the Best Wings in Town™, with one of those guys walking away with \$150 and the glory of being an anonymous winner. All contestants left the stage with new appreciation for the virtue of moderation and the definition of "hot".



**TX citizen
EVENTS**



Last Word

With Kelly Colby

At the risk of taking myself far too seriously, I have decided to finally come out and endorse Donald Trump for President of the United States. I'm not sure if this will be surprising to people or not. It is a little surprising to me, but I do have reasons for doing so.

The first was provided by President Obama when he said that he believed Hillary Clinton was the most qualified person to have ever run for the presidency. Really, that was all I needed to hear. I know what I think of President Obama, and I have seen what he thinks the job of president is about.

I take him at his word and agree that Hillary Clinton probably is as qualified or more qualified than anyone who has run before. This is particularly true in that she appears willing to lie about anything to anyone at any time. I can't think of a candidate that has ever been so brazen in their attempts to mislead, well, everyone.

Hillary has been in politics for her entire life, and during that time has become adept at pulling the levers of power in a fashion that enriches her and her friends. The amount of wealth and power that Hillary has amassed this way far exceeds anything Trump could claim.

Likewise, Hillary has learned enough about the way Washington works to use the presidency in ways many other presidents couldn't have even imagined. Like Obama, I expect that she will thrust executive power into areas previously unheard of, and do her best to ignore any checks and balances placed upon her by the Constitution. She will certainly know how to deal with any legal issues this behavior brings up.

So, that certainly takes Hillary Clinton out for me. I've had quite enough of Obama in the last eight years. I see no particular reason to choose someone even less principled to replace him. But, that alone, does not mean I have to vote for Trump, and nothing says I have to openly support him. Trump has one quality, though, that is so needed this year that I will vote for him and encourage you to do so even though I think he is wrong on most of the issues.

Donald Trump is the only candidate to

offer any hope of true change in Washington in my lifetime. Trump has the potential to be a true wrecking ball, a Cheeto-colored monkey wrench to be thrown into the gears of the Washington machine. I'm not certain that he will change anything. He might be just like everyone else, or he might end up getting crushed into a fine power by that aforementioned machine, but he's the only candidate with a realistic chance of changing even the smallest thing in Washington.

So, I can't be certain that I will see change in Washington, but there is that possibility if enough people vote for Trump, and at the very least, the show should be entertaining.

Don't assume that by endorsing Trump, I am in anyway deluding myself that I have any actual influence over the election or even my readers. Nothing could be further from the truth. I live in Vermont, my readers mostly in Texas, and none of us will have the least effect on this national election. This year has seen more states enter the contested category than in recent memory, but I doubt that Vermont or Texas will be in any real doubt. Furthermore, I would hope that my readers are smart enough to recognize that my reasons for doing something may have no particular connection to yours - nor should they. I hope that if you agree with me that you do so for your own reasons and not because of who I am, but because of what I said.

This does bring me to a final point I have been hoping to make, but haven't found the time to.

Colin Kaepernick seems to have created quite a stir with his decision to take a knee during the playing of the national anthem. This is probably overblown. There can be no question that Kaepernick has every right to indicate his displeasure with our system by openly mocking the norm for patriotism during the anthem. People are likewise welcome to disagree and to do so with gusto if they so desire. I do hope that people will remember, though, that Kaepernick is a small cog in the machine that is the NFL and there is no particular reason why anyone should care what he thinks or does. It's also worth noting that Kaepernick's silent protest has the benefit of being silent, and if everyone just ignored him, we

could avoid actually having to hear his dumb opinion on racial relations in America.

An example where I am not so lucky is the recent get-out-the-vote ad using The Avengers. I assume this sort of ad is designed to appeal to geeks like myself, but in this case, the decision to nakedly support Clinton and denigrate Trump added to the inflated sense of self-importance, both in the vote itself and the people delivering the message, turns me off.

I do appreciate that there was an attempt to be self-deprecating within the script, but the idea is belied by the assumption that the only way to convince people to vote (and vote the way they want you to) is for actors and other famous people to speak out. Let me disabuse them of that notion completely with the following open letter to The Avengers:

Dear Sirs,

There is probably no bigger fan of the Avengers franchise than I am, and I have an astonishing amount of respect for the time and effort that goes into the crafting of a good movie. That said, I have no particular interest in taking my political advice from a group of people whose primary skill is in playing make-believe. It seems, well, a bit foolish.

This really covers a wide variety of things I don't care to hear about from movie and rock stars. Please don't tell me what you think about politics, morality, or climate change. I don't care what you've learned about hunger from your trips to Africa or how just one cup of coffee a day could make the difference for the speckled tree frog.

Robert, I love you. I respect you, and I'm happy you've turned your life around, but it wasn't too long ago that you were a mess. Is it too much to ask that you focus your attention on not being involved in another situation where some little girl says, "Mommy, why's Iron Man sleeping in my bed?"

Thanks, Kelly

You can reach Kelly for fan mail by email at kellycolby@txcitizen.com. Hate mail still goes to Mike.

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**2327 Geneseo Oaks New Braunfels, TX 78132
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**2078 Castleberry Ridge New Braunfels, TX
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This very spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath home features an open floor plan, large covered patio, very well maintained, beautiful yard, and move-in ready!

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**623 Ferryboat Lane New Braunfels, TX 78130
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Beautiful country home on 2.5 secluded acres in New Braunfels ISD. 3 bedroom, 2 bath with native stone siding and a metal roof, with a large front porch that is perfect for watching the abundant wildlife.

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