

"If you can keep playing tennis when somebody is shooting a gun down the street, that's concentration." — Serena Williams

\$3,000,000

tx

citizen

VOLUME FIVE
ISSUE ONE
01.07.16

WELCOME TO THE GUN SHOW

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER FOR
TEXAS OPEN CARRY, PAGE 3

6 11 12 15

Fake News | Freeman on Sports | Ask a Mexican | Last Word

PLUS: 7 DAY NEW BRAUNFELS LIVE MUSIC GUIDE



WEEK 17
RESULTS ARE IN!

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Full Metal Newsroom, LLC

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TX Citizen. TX Citizen is published
every Thursday.

TX CITIZEN
1111 N. Walnut Avenue
New Braunfels, TX 78130
830.358.2493

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- Chef Stephanie



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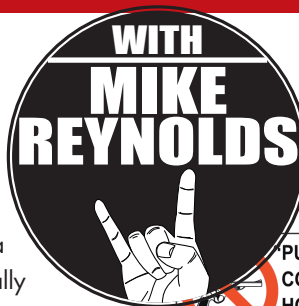


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1ST WORD

Looks Like You're Happy to See Us

Hey y'all, it's open carry time in Texas, and based on what I saw last Friday in Austin, the public at-large could use a briefing on what the law actually says. See, I was standing in a pizza place on Sixth Street when I walked a whole pack of armed men, which was fine with me – I feel better when I know Second Amendment enthusiasts are packing the heat because they're rarely the guys looking for a shoot 'em up – however it kind of stuck in my craw that they clear came in to make a political point, (they had a photographer in tow), even though the business we were in had made it equally clear that they didn't want guns inside. You know how Austin is about this stuff. Everybody's a big baby. Anyway, here's the signage that was displayed out front:



At this point half of the people reading this article have become outraged and have stopped reading, because nowhere on that business is one of these signs:

“PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY”

“DE ACUERDO CON LA SECCIÓN 30.07 DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (INGRESO SIN AUTORIZACIÓN DE UN TITULAR DE UNA LICENCIA CON UNA PISTOLA A LA VISTA), UNA PERSONA CON LICENCIA SEGÚN EL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, CÓDIGO DEL GOBIERNO (LEY SOBRE LICENCIAS PARA PORTAR PISTOLAS), NO PUEDE INGRESAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD CON UNA PISTOLA A LA VISTA”

Prohibits Open Carry

Or one of these signs:

“PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN”

“DE ACUERDO CON LA SECCIÓN 30.06 DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (INGRESO SIN AUTORIZACIÓN DE UN TITULAR DE UNA LICENCIA CON UNA PISTOLA OCULTA), UNA PERSONA CON LICENCIA SEGÚN EL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, CÓDIGO DEL GOBIERNO (LEY SOBRE LICENCIAS PARA PORTAR PISTOLAS), NO PUEDE INGRESAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD CON UNA PISTOLA OCULTA”

Prohibits Concealed Carry

The above signage is what allows a business owner to have you arrested for bringing a gun onto their premises. They are blanket legal warnings. Which leaves us to explain what exactly this is:

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NO WEAPONS ALLOWED
THE POSSESSION OF ANY AND ALL DANGEROUS WEAPONS IS PROHIBITED ON THESE PREMISES

Continued on page 5.

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It's a new year, and man oh man do I feel new! With the new year we all get a clean slate. Any regrets or bad decisions from 2015 are dead and buried, and only good things will come with 2016. That being said, all those good times and laughs we all shared are gone too, and it's time to outdo ourselves. I know what you're thinking, "How could I possibly outdo all those nights of hanging out at Longshot, drinking delicious wines, listening to live music, and enjoying the coziest atmosphere this side of anywhere?" And I'm here to answer that question. Just keep doing what you're doing. We're always looking for new and exciting ways to amp up the Longshot experience, and this year is no exception. Y'all keep checking in with us, and we'll keep doing it right. Happy New Year to all our Longshot faithful and to the many new faces we look forward to meeting this year.

- Josh McFarling

133 Landa Street
(Across the street from the Landmark)
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Tues-Thurs: 12-10pm
Fri: 12-11pm Sat: 10-11pm
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Continued from page 3.

It's not a legal warning, and you won't be immediately subject to arrest if you ignore it, but that doesn't mean it shouldn't be respected. Most Second Amendment fans I know, including myself, are also big advocates of private property rights. Which means if somebody puts me on notice that they don't like guns, I'm not bringing a gun into their business. I'll either leave my weapons elsewhere, or not patronize that establishment - not because I'm legally obligated to, but because I'm, despite what City Hall thinks, what you might call an "adult". If you're not a fan of private property rights, you're forgiven for taking a position adversarial to mine, but if that's the case you really shouldn't be walking around with a gun. I mean, you're some kind of European person, and those people don't get to have firearms.

Since the open-carriers came in asking to speak with the owner, it was obvious that they were looking to confront somebody for either not permitting weapons inside, or possibly for not posting the new signage. They probably wanted to be asked to leave in order to get a martyr photo, but they settled for pizza.

The owner wasn't in, and while I could see their guns, (one of them illegally holstered, all wild-west gunslinger style) the employees couldn't, because they were all short girls standing behind a chin-high counter. Mission fail.

In light of this event, and in the interest of public edification, I made a run out to the McQueeney Gun Club, where I cornered the club's Reid Lincoln and grilled him on the finer points of Texas' Open carry rules. You're welcome.

TX Citizen: "Who is eligible to open carry under this law?"

Reid Lincoln: "Anyone obtaining a certified concealed carry license. They're rebranding that name so it will be a 'License to Carry' permit. Anybody that passes the background check and does the classwork, through any gun store or gun location that has CHL licensing."

TXC: "How much time can a permit seeker expect to spend in the classroom?"

RL: "It's eight hours mandated for the State of Texas. It's both classroom and a shooting portion, with fifty rounds fired from three different distances. After that's accomplished you get the CHL 100 certification which gets sent off to Texas DPS, they approve your paperwork, send it back to you and you can obtain a license."

TXC: "What's the lag time between the class and receipt of the permit?"

RL: "Licenses usually come back in about three weeks."

TXC: "What equipment is eligible for open carry?"

RL: "Any handgun can be open carried. It has to be manufactured as a pistol, and it can be carried either in the shoulder position or on the belt line. Those are the only two legal positions to carry in. The reason they do that is that it's visible from three points. So if a police officer or someone sees you from the front, side or back, there are three angles that they can see the firearm from."

TXC: "What are the rules for inside a vehicle?"

RL: "That falls under transportation law. You don't need a license but it has to be concealed. In a glove box or under something."

TXC: "What if you're in a business that doesn't have the 30.07 or 30.06 signage, but the owner asks you to take your gun off the premises?"

RL: "The individual kind of has to make up their mind at that point. If a business owner asks you to leave the premises, my personal opinion is to go with their wishes. You might be legally right, but at some point you're going to become a nuisance to the owner of the business, and at that point, they can file a police report saying 'This person is disrupting my business', and there could be some repercussions from going down that way."

TXC: "What are the ID rules for someone carrying in public?"

RL: "If you're open carrying police have the right to ask you for your CHL license."

The takeaway, per RL: "If you plan to open carry and to exercise your rights as an American, do it intelligently. Don't 'yahoo it' just to go have some fun. Get a retention holster - don't use a 'stick in' holster. Get something with some retention so nobody can walk up behind you and grab your gun. Respect the people that aren't for open carry, but absolutely exercise your right to do it."

We'd like to send a special thanks out to Reid Lincoln and the McQueeney Gun Club for the assistance on this article. If you'd like to get your License to Carry, or just fire off some rounds for fun, give them a call at 830-609-8891 for hours and rates, and let 'em know we sent y'all.

\m/

Mike Reynolds
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief



HOME OF THE
TWO BUCK HAPPY HOUR!
MON-FRI 4 - 7 PM

GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD
BEER, GOOD DRINKS
GOOD GRIEF,
LET'S PARTY!



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FAKE NEWS

With Tony Rainey-Bell

Comal County had a busy year and the TX Citizen wasn't able to cover everything. Here are the top six stories that we missed in 2015:

4B Board Funds Destruction

In a grievous error due to a lack of proper vetting, the New Braunfels' 4B Board gave \$62 million to encourage angry, ancient gods to relocate here.

The 4B Board gave the money to Titan Inc., which it mistakenly thought was a technological firm headquartered in Greece. Instead, Titan Inc. is a collection of ancient Grecian gods who were overthrown by their children. With the new influx of cash, the Titans are planning to seek revenge on the gods of Olympus.

Since August, the Titans have been rampaging through the city and demanding tribute.

There was no comment from 4B or Chamber of Commerce personnel because they had all been eaten by the Titans.

Sen. Donna Campbell Visits District

State Senator Donna Campbell journeyed from her far away home to visit Comal County, which is in her district.

No one attended the speech Campbell gave in New Braunfels because she didn't notify her constituents she was in town. Campbell's office said this was because the Senator "doesn't really like people." Those who accidentally come upon Campbell were warned not to make eye contact.

In her speech, Campbell lambasted schools for teaching that Texas was once part of Mexico.

"This is just another example of the liberal historical revisionist agenda," she said.

When a reporter told her that Texas was, indeed, once part of Mexico, Campbell gnashed her teeth and pulled out her hair.

Comal Woman Injured by Exploding Ice Cream

Cassandra Clausen, of Canyon Lake, was wounded when the gallon of Blue Bell ice cream she bought exploded.

There were no explosives in the container and experts are at a loss to explain how it happened, although the general belief is that there were so many different forms of bacteria in the container that the separate colonies started a bitter war for bacterial dominance.

Marijuana Researchers Discover New Planet

The Cannabis Research Center in New Braunfels has announced that scientists there have discovered a new planet.

"I'm surprised no one has seen this one before," said lead researcher Bud Starling. "I mean, this planet's really close to Earth."

The new planet, researchers said, is extremely bright, looks whitish with bluish spots, can only be seen at night and, sometimes, "looks like a fingernail, man."

Previous discoveries by the CRC have been:

God, the Devil and Jesus are Actually Spacemen, and the Government Has Known About this For Years but Kept it Secret;

Einstein, Man, That Dude Was High;

The Human Brain is Like a Computer, Except it's Not, You Know What I Mean?;

Dude, That Burrito is Freaking Huge; and

We Could Totally Have Flying Cars but the Auto, Tire and Oil Industry Won't Let it Happen Because They Would Lose Money.

Woman Sues City for Letting People Use Her River

A New Braunfels woman who lives on the banks of the Comal River filed a lawsuit against the City for allowing people to float on the river, which she claims belongs to her.

"I pay taxes for that river," Stacey Scott said in her suit. "So, it's mine."

"The City of New Braunfels is allowing dirty, dirty people to get into the water," she contends. "How can I get into water that has touched other people's bodies?"

Scott had previously filed an unsuccessful suit against the federal government for ending slavery.

Mayor Trips, Levels Half of Downtown

New Braunfels Mayor Baron Casteel destroyed several historic buildings downtown after he tripped over a curb.

"Oopsy-daisy," the Mayor said, sheepishly. "Sorry."

Casteel is very, very tall.

The downtown buildings weren't the first the mayor has accidentally destroyed. In the summer, Casteel ruined several other buildings throughout New Braunfels while fighting with the Titans.

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

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**152 Las Brisas Blvd Seguin, TX 78155
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A gorgeous waterfront home that has NEVER flooded. Enjoy the great views of Lake Dunlap from the bedroom balcony or the amazing deck space. Improved waterfront offers easy access to any water recreation your family desires.

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**8807 Meadow Springs Universal City, TX
78148 - List Price: \$158,900**

This bright, clean 3 bedroom/ 2 bath home in Springwood is within walking distance of the Elementary School. It's easy to show and features walk-in closets, game room, and a covered patio.

Call CC Gagliardi 830-620-1060

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soundcheck

YOUR LIVE MUSIC GUIDE

Thu 1.7

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

Dennis Jay

6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night

6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn

5pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Bo Brumble

9pm

Gruene Hall

Adam Johnson Band

6pm

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along

8pm

On the Rocks

Craig Van Ryswyk

7pm

The Pour Haus

Tyler Derryberry

8:30pm

Vino en Verde

Shawn Hart

6:30pm

Fri 1.8

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

Bob Cheevers

6:30pm

HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL

T-Bone and The Blue Tones

8pm

LONGSHOT
WINE BAR & TASTING ROOM

Bob Schmueckle & Derek Krueger

7pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Lesti Huff Band

6:30pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Andrew Howard

5pm

Cody Jasper Band

8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Andrea Marie & the Magnolia Band

9pm

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon

Armadillo Road

8pm

Alpine Haus Restaurant

Off the Grid Polka Band

6pm

Billy's Ice House

John D Hale Band

w/ Jordan Minor

8pm

Gruene Hall

Tom Gillam & the Kosmic Messengers

7pm

On the Rocks

TBA

7:30pm

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along

8pm

The Pour Haus

Scott Wiggins

8:30PM

Vino en Verde

Jackson Parten

8:30pm

Sat 1.9

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

Bru Erdman

6:30pm

HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL

Jackson Parten

8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Cold Snap

1pm

Mothership Connection

6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Jesse Stratton Band

9pm

Riley's TAVERN

Billy Joe Shaver

9pm



Trace Owen Jr Band

9pm

Gruene Hall

Kevin Sekhani Band

1pm

Whiskey Myers

w/ Quaker City Night Hawks

8pm, \$17

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along

8pm

NB Farmers Market

Monte Good

9am

On the Rocks

TBA

9pm

The Pour Haus

Matt Begley & Bitter Whiskey

9:30pm

Sun 1.10

OMA GRUENE'S OGSG SECRET GARTEN

Arms Length

2pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

James Pardo

2pm

Lucas Taylor

7pm

Riley's TAVERN

Texas KGB

4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456

Bob Appel

3pm

Gruene Hall

Billy Bacon & the Forbidden Pigs

12pm

Dawn & Hawkes

4pm

The Pour Haus

Jillian Beebe

8:30pm

Mon 1.11

Gruene Hall

Bret Graham

6pm

The Pour Haus

Matt Kersh

8:30pm

Tues 1.12



Kerosene Drifters

8pm

Bonzai Steak & Sushi

Smooth Jazz

w/ Sam Harriss

6pm

Gruene Hall

TBA

6pm

Wed 1.13

Gourmage

Steven Vee

Noon - 1:30pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Sam Pace

8:30pm

Riley's TAVERN

Matt Kersh

9pm

Billy's Ice House

Costello

w/ Aaron Stephens

8pm

Gruene Hall

The Georges

6pm

The Pour Haus

Kerosene Drifters

8:30pm



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Upcoming Events:

Jan 7
@ 6 Jam Night

Jan 8
@ 6:30 The Lesti Huff Band

Jan 9
@ 1 Cold Snap
@ 6 Mothership Connection

Jan 10
@ 2 Arms Length

Jan 14
@ 6 Jam Night

SOUNDHECK BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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SOUND OUT OF TOWN

San Antonio
*** YOUR LIVE MUSIC GUIDE ***

Fri 1.8

Cheatham Street Warehouse

Mark Jungers, Adam Carroll

10pm

The Continental Club

Blues Specialists

6:30pm

Ramsay Midwood, Li'l Cap'n Travis

10pm, \$10

Robert Kraft Trio, 8:30pm

The Lost Counts, 10:30pm, \$5

Floore's Country Store

CLOSED

Luckenbach Dance Hall

Hayden Whittington

1pm

Brennen Leigh

8pm

Luna

PM Soul

8pm, \$10

Sam's Burger Joint

Skyrocket!

8pm, \$12-\$70

Stubb's BBQ

Blue Healer

w/ Mamahawk, Grizzly Adams Family,

Mighty Brother

9pm, Inside

Sat 1.9

Cheatham Street Warehouse

Rock Bottom String Band

9pm

The Continental Club

Redd Volkaert, 3:30pm

Barfield

10pm, \$10

Hillary York, 8:30pm

The Lost Counts, 10:30pm, \$5

Floore's Country Store

CLOSED

Luckenbach Dance Hall

Emily Herring

1pm

Jimmy Lee Jones

5pm

Luna

Soul Track Mind

9pm, \$10

Sam's Burger Joint

Nightbird

8pm, \$10-\$45

Stubb's BBQ

Tequila Rock Revolution

9pm, Inside



THE WATERING HOLE

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FREEMAN ON SPORTS

WITH BRANT FREEMAN

As you've probably heard by now, Cleveland Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel may or may not have been in Las Vegas last weekend the night before the Browns played their season finale and mere hours before Manziel was supposed to go through a concussion protocol. The story being reported is that Manziel was spotted wearing a blonde wig, glasses and a fake mustache (!) to avoid being noticed, gambled at the blackjack tables where taking pictures is prohibited and sat in the VIP section of a night club all in an effort to keep from making his 38th appearance on TMZ. ON TOP OF ALL THAT, he provided an alibi, posting a picture of himself chilling with his dog on Instagram, supposedly from a location in Ohio at the time he was reported to have been seen in Vegas.

That's... impressive! If Manziel put as much work into his job as an NFL quarterback, he would, as he put it on the day he was drafted, WRECK this league. Perhaps this is all a way for Manziel to stay relevant as well. He hasn't, um, "wrecked the league" so far and his mediocre-at-best play was putting him down the path of A) earning him the dreaded moniker of career backup and B) keeping him out of the spotlight that he so craves. Has anyone thought that maybe he's doing all of this bats#### crazy stuff because he enjoys it and it keeps him famous?

Quick fun Manziel story to share before I get to the rest of the NFL: I once broadcast a game of his when he was quarterbacking at Kerrville Tivy High School. At some point in the game I had a slip of the tongue and called him Manziere (thanks Seinfeld). And the irony is that he's a total BRO. I feel like this is relevant somehow. On to the rest of the Week In Review, which is more like a preview this week of the NFL Playoffs.

I wrote last week that New England was still the odds on favorite to win the AFC since their QB-Coach combo was vastly superior to the rest of the field but now I'm not so sure. For starters, it looked like the Jets and their playoff-unproven combo of Ryan Fitzpatrick-Todd Bowles would get the AFC's final playoff spot

but then Fitzpatrick turned into, well, himself AT THE WORST POSSIBLE TIME, throwing three fourth quarter INTs in a loss at Buffalo. That ultimately opened the door for the Steelers who have a quarterback in Ben Roethlisberger who has been to three Super Bowls (winning two) and a coach in Mike Tomlin who has been to two (winning one). Peyton Manning also appears to be healthy enough to play now so Brady and Belichick have company. With that said, the AFC playoff field looks like a bunch of hot garbage.

The last time Manning started a game, he completed five of 20 pass attempts and threw four interceptions (despite its stellar defense, Denver is one of the more underwhelming #1 seeds in recent memory). Brady and the Patriots lost four of their last six games, three of those coming against teams who didn't qualify for the postseason. The Bengals' playoff hopes rest on the health of Andy Dalton, he of the 0-4 postseason record with one career touchdown pass in the playoffs compared to six interceptions. The Kansas City Chiefs throw the ball downfield about as frequently as the CW wins ratings. Houston won the AFC South, going 5-1 against its division and 4-6 against everybody else (spoiler: they won't get to play the Colts, Jaguars or Titans in the playoffs). Pittsburgh has the best set of receivers in the league but its defense can't get stops. Hell, even Ryan "The Alarm Clock" Mallett beat them two weeks ago in Baltimore.

Because of the lack of a true alpha dog, you could make the case for just about anyone winning the AFC and that each team is also capable of being one and done. In the NFC, half of the field has ZERO chance of reaching the Super Bowl while the other half features arguably the three best teams in football, regardless of conference. The next four weeks will make for some good television, that's for sure. Your move CW.

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.



TOP PLAYERS - WEEK 17

FIRST PLACE: JAY MOELLER @ THE WATERING HOLE - 80%

SECOND PLACE: JOHN PERRY @ THE HAPPY COW - 80%

THIRD PLACE: EMILY COLEMAN @ THE PRICKLY PEAR - 40%

FOURTH PLACE: MANDY WRIGHT @ SCORES - 40%

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¡ASK A MEXICAN!

By Gustavo Arellano

SPECIAL HOLLYWOOD-CHOLO EDICIÓN

Dear Mexican: I've been following a show called *You're The Worst* since it started showing on FX last year. Among other things, it features a character named Edgar Quintana, an awkward and troubled Iraq War veteran who happens to be Mexican-American. I think this must be the only such character regularly featured in series television these days. My only issue with the character is that, though he is well handled, the actor who plays him is obviously from back East. Non-Mexican-American actors have been playing Mexican-American characters, sometimes quite well, for decades. In this case, Desmin Borges has a Puerto Rican background, and I don't consider that a problem in and of itself. But I have a big problem if they talk like they are from New York or Chicago. The language of those of us out west, Latino and otherwise, is different, and we rarely see this acknowledged on television or in movies. Nonetheless, I love the show and he is certainly my favorite character. At any rate, I wanted to know if you had an opinion about this character and his portrayal.

Television Reconquista

Dear Gabacho: You gotta get your Borges background right. He's part Puerto Rican, born in Chicago, raised in Houston, lives in NYC and works on a show based in LA—as jumbled a cultural history as that of any Mexican. *You're the Worst* is funny, and Borges' character is great in that he's just a guy—not a Mexican, not a Puerto Rico playing a Mexican, but a guy who happens to be Mexican. I can't state how revolutionary

that is, in an industry that still writes Mexican men as little better than cholos and narcos. And while it'd be cool if a Chicano from City Terrace played Edgar Quintana and made him talk like a Chicano from City Terrace, it sure is better than Douglas Fairbanks playing Zorro—or, hell, Hillary Clinton pretending to be an abuela.

Dear Mexican: Why can't second and third-generation Mexicans just chill? The reason I ask is because lately, there's been more cholos infiltrating the Colorado River, and although there's plenty of room for them, they always get all stabby or start fights. I've been going there for years and love it because everyone's pretty much drunk and happy... except for the cholos. What's up with that? Could it be that the Indian in them gets crazy with hard liquor? Or is that just with American Indians?

La Coconut

Dear Pocha: Cholos fight because they're cholos, just like bros fight at Lake Havasu because they're bros. You can no more hate a cholo or bro for fighting than you can hate Donald Trump for being dumb—it's who they are. The problem, of course, is when said cholos or bros or Trump #### it up for everyone else. The solution? Place them all on a houseboat and let them sort it out—someone greenlight THAT show!



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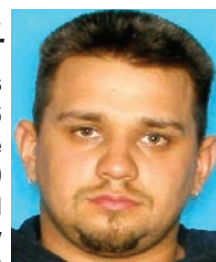


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COMAL COUNTY'S MOST WANTED



BENJAMIN, NATASHER TANIA
Female • 5'07" • 140 lbs
DOB: 07/14/1983
CHARGE: Tamper/fabricate physical evidence and two counts of possession of a controlled substance



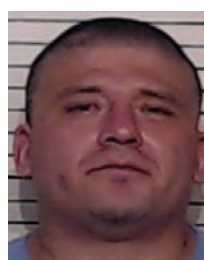
MONTAYA, DEVIN SCOTT
Male • 5'07" • 215 lbs
DOB: 10/23/1986
CHARGE: Insurance fraud over \$1500 under \$20,000 and fraud obtain deny benefits over \$1500



GARZA, ARNULFO ELI II
Male • 5'11" • 205 lbs
DOB: 11/26/1973
CHARGE: Failure to appear/ theft property over \$1500 under \$20,000



MORGAN, JAMES WALTER
Male • 6'01" • 220 lbs
DOB: 10/27/1981
CHARGE: Affidavit of surety to surrender for: aggravated kidnapping, aggravated robbery and assault bodily injury family/ household member



GONZALES, ADAM JR
Male • 5'08" • 204 lbs
DOB: 07/29/1977
CHARGE: Two charges of failure to appear unauthorized use of vehicle



MULKEY, FREDDIE RAY
Male • 5'10" • 198 lbs
DOB: 03/31/1952
CHARGE: Manufacture delivery of a controlled substance PG 1 in a drug free zone



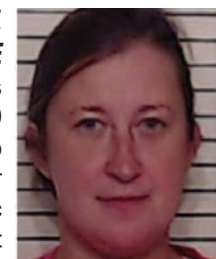
HARRISON, MATTHEW JAMES
Male • 5'11" • 170 lbs
DOB: 05/31/1989
CHARGE: Theft of property over \$1500 under \$20,000



RUNGE, KOBYS
Male • 6'00" • 240 lbs
DOB: 05/17/1987
CHARGE: Violation of conditions of bond for driving while intoxicated 3rd or more



KERLICK, MELISSA EMILY
Female • 5'06" • 150 lbs
DOB: 01/29/1970
CHARGE: Possession with intent to deliver controlled substance



WRIGHT, TONI LYNNE
Female • 5'05" • 178 lbs
DOB: 11/17/1979
CHARGE: Motion to revoke probation for harassment of public servant

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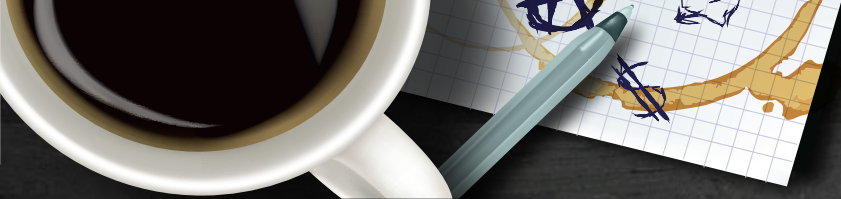
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Last Word

With Kelly Colby

One Man's Terrorist is Another's Freedom Fighter

Last week, I used this column to talk about basic libertarian thought and the non-aggression principle. This week, I'd like to take things a step further, perhaps far enough to make people feel a little uncomfortable. Currently, in the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, a number of armed protestors, including Ammon Bundy who has some previous experience in this type of protest, have taken over an empty federal building and much of the surrounding area. They've done so to protest the treatment of the Hammond family in a dispute with the Bureau of Land Management, who controls the refuge.

I'm ok with this.

Initial reports that they had threatened violence if attempts were made to remove them seem to have been backed away from, but even if they hadn't been, I would be ok with this. I'm ok with this protest even if they promise to begin shooting any authority figure that attempts to enter the property. Can you say the same? Well let me explain.

I've already seen calls for violence against these protestors. These calls have mostly been coupled with an appellation of "terrorist" for the protestors. If these men are terrorists, then I shudder to think of what our founders might have been called. After all, they believed that "when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security." That's the Declaration of Independence, folks. I suppose George would have considered them terrorists as well. The truth is that they were just men who were making perfectly clear how far they were prepared to go to secure their rights.

I would like to point out that I am not calling the protestors in Oregon patriots. I'm not even suggesting that they should not be prosecuted. I'm certainly not suggesting that Ammon Bundy is a good spokesperson for limiting government overreach (he could use a Toastmasters course). What I am suggesting is that our government, its agencies and bureaucracies have long ago far exceeded their constitutional authorities and dangerously tread on the citizenry almost daily. If there is any question of this in your mind, I invite you to research the situation that the Hammond family currently faces.

It is a long story that I can't do complete justice to in such a short column, but the basic structure is all too familiar. The Hammond's have fallen afoul of several government agencies after long battles with those agencies over their property rights. Even a charitable reading of the details of the conflict leads one to believe that the government has, for years, been trying to drive the Hammond's from their land in order to acquire it. The Hammond's have steadfastly refused to budge. Even after the government has limited their use of the land and tried to compromise their water rights, the Hammond's have refused to sell. Ultimately, a terrorism statute was used against the Hammond's to prosecute them for starting a fire on their property on two separate occasions. Both father and son were sentenced to jail time for arson, and now, after that time has been served, the government has appealed the sentence in order to increase the penalty and send both back to jail. That this is happening to American citizens offends me.

If there is no other benefit from these armed protestors than that more people are aware of the Hammond's story, that's enough for me. I suspect that this is the actual goal of most in the group, though it is hard to be sure as they are very loosely organized. However, I see an additional benefit to

armed protestors that is often not considered.

Many of the unarmed protests (sometimes less than peaceful) that we've seen recently have revolved around a misuse of force by the authorities. Often, that's the application of lethal force against unarmed citizens or citizens of questionable threat. These sorts of situations are not limited to local authorities or police. State and federal authorities may be even more likely to use excessive force, breaking down doors, issuing threats and orders, and generally terrorizing frequently innocent citizens.

My point is that government agents are ready, willing and able to use force against you. Even the most simple of infractions could end in the use of deadly force if you refuse to comply long enough. Just this situation occurred in the case of Eric Gardner. His crime was selling loose cigarettes on the sidewalk, but the penalty for that crime end up being death. No one intended that things would turn out this way, but Gardner refused to comply, and the police continued to escalate force until a tragedy occurred. Never question that the authorities are prepared to take your life in the performance of their duty.

Armed protestors add a new element to the equation: the question of whether the authorities are willing to give their lives in the performance of that same duty.

Let's use the current situation in Oregon as an example. Armed protestors have taken over a parcel of federal property, including a building, to bring attention to something they suggest is a miscarriage of justice. There is no question in my mind that the government is prepared to use force to remove Bundy and the others. If the group were unarmed, they almost certainly would already have been rounded up and lugged off to jail. And had the group resisted arrest, even while unarmed, they would have been putting their very lives in danger. Being armed has stopped that

from happening and lifted the issue to national prominence.

The fact that these protestors are armed has actually slowed the process down and created a situation where both sides are being more careful. This isn't because the authorities are concerned for the lives of the protestors, I assure you. This slowdown is part of an attempt to ensure that law enforcement is safe from harm, that it protects the protestors too is a by-product. It may be that this is the best of all possible situations.

None of this is to say that the actions of the protestors don't bring with them their own danger. Immediately, a simple situation has been turned into a potentially deadly one. Either side might make some mistake and escalate the situation to violence. The protestors must be very careful to control themselves because if they don't, they can be certain that things will end badly, but they do have the ability to perhaps match the possibility of violence and thereby keep a dialog going.

I should make one last thing clear. The protestors will at least be spending some time in jail for this. That is a foregone conclusion at this point. The alternative is a battle with authorities that they will not win, and even though I support their right to be armed in their protest, I fervently hope things won't end violently. I don't think this issue is worth killing or dying over, and I hope that cooler heads prevail. I also think that this particular protest has already achieved its goal: shining a light on government usurpation of property rights. The other message to the government is no less important in my mind, though, and is only made possible by the possession of arms: that we are citizens, not subjects.

Kelly Colby can be reached via the electronic mail at kellycolby@txcizen.com

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