

# tx citizen

VOLUME 7  
ISSUE THREE  
MAR 2018

COME &  
'QUIT!



THE WATERING HOLE'S  
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Local Judges Reprimand District Attorney Jennifer Tharp

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STALK US ON FACEBOOK

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# 1<sup>ST</sup> WORD

## Republican Judges Layeth the Smack Down on District Attorney Tharp

As the Republican intervention to discontinue the employ of Jennifer Tharp as Comal County District Attorney continues, the DA got a stern reprimand from all four of our District Judges – with every last one of them signing an order requiring Tharp to get her office in order, and quick.

**Here's something those of y'all without a lot of courtroom experience might not know:** When a criminal is sentenced, the court needs a "final judgement" from the prosecutor before the guilty party can be transferred from the county jail to state jail or to prison. In other counties, final judgements are presented to the judge within 24 hours of sentencing.

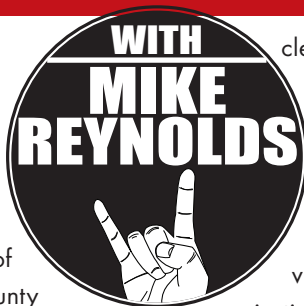
In Comal County, it takes up to a month. Prisoners are housed in our jail, eating OUR baloney sandwiches, at an annual local taxpayer expense of between \$250,000 and \$500,000. Because the DA's office is inefficient AF. And the men in black have had enough.

Now, judges have a code of conduct that prevents them from getting involved in certain elections, but the unanimous issuance of this order 11 days prior to Intervention Election Day speaks volumes. I mean really.

## Justice Delayed is Justice Denied – Plus it's Expensive

In Comal County, it can take years for simple misdemeanors to be resolved – leaving the victims of more serious crimes hanging out to dry for what to them seems like forever. Check this out:

In 2017 Guadalupe County cleared 92% of its criminal cases, while Hays County



cleared 83% of theirs. Comal County came in at 51%.

Nearly half of all criminal cases in Comal County are in limbo. Year after year passes, as the victims continue to wait for justice. The defendants wait in our local jail, at our local expense.

Oops, our bad. Our jail is at capacity, so we're renting space in other jails to house prisoners, many of whom are already convicted, and should be in state jail or prison, at state, rather than local, expense.

So if, while lying awake at night, staring at the ceiling, you found yourself wondering why we have to build a new jail at a cost of at least \$62 million, there's your answer. Thanks, Jenny. You're a peach.

## Doing Less with More

As long as we're talking tax dollars, here are some handy li'l stats to compare. Based on 2017, in 2018:

Comal County DA Jennifer Tharp will spend \$3,499,568 on 45 employees to clear 51% of her felony cases.

Guadalupe County prosecutors will lay down \$2,835,991 for 33 employees to clear 83% of their felonies.

**Bonus: Guadalupe County has 21,000 more people in it than Comal County.**

To sum up, Jennifer Tharp needs an additional \$663,577 and 12 more employees to do 32% less work than a county with 21,000 more people in it. Face it, y'all. She has ##### the #####, here. ##### us all, as a matter of fact. We have been royally ##### by a tax-and-spend incompetent. Completely #####. Bamboozled, if you will.

Continued on page 13.

## The DOWNTOWNER NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS

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# MEET THE CANDIDATES

We asked each of the candidates for Comal County District Attorney to make their final pitch prior to the election to TX Citizen readers. Here's what they had to say to y'all.



**Joe Soane (R):**

I began my legal career in 1997 by opening my own law office in San Antonio. I was recruited into the Comal County Criminal District Attorney's Office in 1999. From the Misdemeanor Division I was eventually promoted to Chief Felony Prosecutor until I left in 2007. I worked with narcotics detectives and together we drove organized criminal street gangs from our county. During my tenure, I earned my Peace Officer Certification in 2000. I'm still a Deputy Sheriff with the Comal County Sheriff's Office and serve on patrol on weekends. I'm the only candidate who has law enforcement experience.

In 2008, I worked for a law enforcement software company of which I shared ownership and helped to found. I was recruited as the First Assistant DA on the border in Val Verde County in 2010. I served there until 2011 when I was recruited into the Kerr County Attorney's Office where I've served as Senior Assistant to this day.

I'm the candidate with the most relevant experience to lead our DA's office.



**Deborah Linnartz Wigington (R):**

I am running for District Attorney because this is a calling to service. This is not a promotion or is a pay raise. I have a thriving law practice and have never had the desire to be a politician. I have built my life around serving my family, my church, and my community as a servant leader. This is a continuation of my work as a servant leader. My top priority will be to rebuild trust and relationships with the community and other agencies. Our county is currently underperforming due to an antagonistic relationship between the DA's office and other bodies within the justice system. We need to work with our law enforcement agencies, clerk's offices, judges, probation offices, CPS, as well as advocacy groups, defense attorneys, and victims. When the District Attorney's Office chooses to act as the entire wheel of justice, rather than as another cog working with all the cogs, the wheel stops moving. Additionally, and most importantly, I will honor the legal duty of a prosecutor not to simply seek convictions, but to ensure justice.



**Steven de Lemos (R):**

I am driven to run for Criminal District Attorney, NOT as a politician like Jennifer Tharp, but as someone who will get the job done for victims and the taxpayer. I want to focus our resources where they will be the most effective, cost efficient, and just, while being extremely tough on crime and delivering fair and honorable justice for victims and their families as quickly as possible.

I believe that the voters should choose me as their next Criminal District Attorney because I have the most broad-based experience of any candidate in the race. During my almost 20 year prosecutorial career in the Comal County Criminal District Attorney's Office, Guadalupe County District Attorney's Office, and now Guadalupe County Attorney's Office, I have worked in misdemeanor, felony, juvenile, mental health commitments and competency and insanity proceedings, family violence protective orders, and appellate work. I have a proven track record as a tough but fair, honorable, ethical, and efficient prosecutor.



**Jennifer Tharp (Incumbent):**



# PHOENIX SALOON

NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS

Our pal Ross Fortune over at the Phoenix Saloon was featured on "Frontier Tastes and Tales", as the production rambled through our fair city in early February. Get a sneak peak of the show before it hits TV, by logging onto [vimeo.com](http://vimeo.com)!



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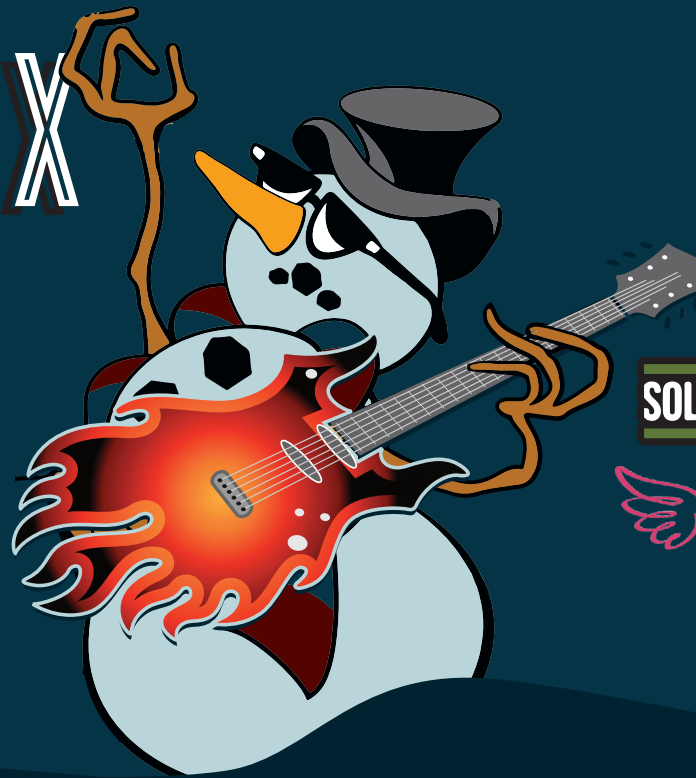




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# soundcheck

## YOUR LIVE MUSIC GUIDE

**Fri 3.2**

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

Junior Nash  
5pm  
The Selfless Lovers  
8:30pm

### Riley's TAVERN

Roy Heinrich  
6pm  
Scott H Biram, Jesse Dayton  
9pm



Band of Bandits  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
Doug & Glenn  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Jason Boland & the Stragglers  
8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

River Road Ice House  
Kree Harrison  
8pm

**Sat 3.3**

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

Jesse Stratton Band  
w/ Southtown  
9pm

### Riley's TAVERN

Tessy Lou & Shotgun Stars  
9pm



3 Chord Rodeo  
9pm

Adobe Verde  
Little Duo  
6:30pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
Justin Trevino  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Bo Phillips Band  
1pm  
Parker McCollum  
9pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

River Road Ice House  
Josh Weathers  
w/ The Powell Brothers  
8pm

**Sun 3.4**

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn  
3pm  
Lucas Taylor  
7pm

Riley's TAVERN  
Jaryd Lane  
4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
Bimbo  
3pm

Gruene Hall  
Peterson Brothers  
12pm  
Garrett LeBeau  
4pm

**Mon 3.5**

Gruene Hall  
Bret Graham  
6pm

**Tues 3.6**

Riley's TAVERN  
Dallas Moore  
8pm

Billy's Ice House  
Reed Brothers  
8pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
Tommy Reed, Matt Reed, Daryl  
Seabrook, Bimbo Castleman  
7pm

Gruene Hall  
Nathan Bonnes, Jake Ward,  
Max Flinn  
8pm

**Wed 3.7**

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

Open Mic w/ Billy Roy  
8:30pm

### Riley's TAVERN

Manzy Lowry  
9pm

Billy's Ice House  
Aaron Stephens  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
The Georges  
6pm

**Thu 3.8**

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

Frank Painter  
5pm



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Now Non-Smoking**



**Our 1st BBQ Cook Off  
Sat, March 24th**

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**BCA POOL TOURNAMENT**  
**Games Start at 5pm**  
**Sign In Begins at 4:30pm**

**MONDAYS**  
**TEXAS HOLD'EM NIGHT**  
**Game Starts at 7pm**  
**Sign In Begins at 6:30pm**  
**5 Player Minimum**

**\$4 TEQUILA TUESDAY**  
**THAT KARAOKE CHICK at 8pm**

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**LIVE MUSIC 8pm-MID**

**SATURDAYS**  
**LIVE MUSIC 9pm-1am**

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Watering Hole Saloon & Dancehall on FB

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Audry Oliver  
8pm



Jeremy Egg Band  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
Tony Taylor  
6:30pm

Billy's Ice House  
Austin English  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Austin Meade  
6pm

Vino en Verde  
Brett Cline  
8pm

**Fri 3.9**



Larry Dial  
6pm  
Uptown  
9pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Mark Jungers  
6pm  
Mike & the Moonpies  
9pm



Whiskey 2 Step  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
Traveling Trees  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Shooter Jennings  
8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

River Road Ice House  
Junior Gordon Band  
8pm

**Sat 3.10**



Highway Hypnosis  
9pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Jeremy Steading  
9pm



The Craze  
9pm

Adobe Verde  
Bru Erdman  
6:30pm

Billy's Ice House  
Clever Name Band  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Murali Coryell, Ernie Durawa  
1pm  
Charlie Robison  
8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

**Sun 3.11**



Chad Boyd  
3pm  
Lucas Taylor  
7pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Chris Wall, Mark Stuart  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
Tony Taylor  
6:30pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
The Countrymen  
3pm

Gruene Hall  
Los Lonely Boys, Los Lobos  
7pm

**Mon 3.12**

Gruene Hall  
Bret Graham  
6pm

**Tue 3.13**

**Riley's  
TAVERN**  
Troy Stone Band  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Adam Johnson  
1pm  
Two Tons of Steel  
8pm

Billy's Ice House  
Austin Gilliam  
8pm

**Wed 3.14**

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**  
Open Mic w/ Billy Roy  
8:30pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**  
Daniel Thomas Phipps  
8pm

Billy's Ice House  
Aaron Stephens  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Mitch Webb & the Swindles  
6pm

**Thu 3.15**

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**  
Frank Painter  
5pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Court Nance  
8pm



County Line Band  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
Josh Holden  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Grouchy Like Riley  
6pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Live Band Karaoke  
8pm

Vino en Verde  
Brett Cline  
8pm

**Fri 3.16**



Junior Nash  
5pm  
Brother & the Hayes  
w/ Ryan Quiet  
9pm

**POWERPLANT**

Colton's Kin  
7pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Pepper's Blues  
6pm  
Jake Hooker  
9pm



3 Man Front  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
JJ Garrett Band  
6:30pm



Billy's Ice House  
Copper Chief  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Billy Bacon & the Forbidden  
Pigs  
12pm  
Roger Creager  
8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

**Sat 3.17**

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**  
The Mismatch  
9pm

**POWERPLANT**

April Hall  
7pm

**Riley's TAVERN**

David Touchton &  
the Nowhere Band  
9pm



Rick Reyna Band  
9pm

Adobe Verde  
Traveling Trees  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Aaron Stephens  
1pm  
Roger Creager  
9pm

River Road Ice House  
Jon Wolfe  
8pm

**Sun 3.18**

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**  
Nate Guthrie  
3pm  
Lucas Taylor  
7pm

**Riley's TAVERN**  
Frank Martin Gilligan  
4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
Tom Teboe & the River Center  
Ramblers  
3pm

Gruene Hall  
Danny Brooks  
12pm  
Bill Kirchen  
5pm

**Mon 3.19**

Gruene Hall  
Bret Graham  
7pm

**Tue 3.20**

**Riley's TAVERN**  
Open Mic  
8pm

Billy's Ice House  
JJ Garrett Band  
8pm

Comal Country Music Show  
KC Hall  
Sophia Johnson, McKenzie  
Jones, Glen Muenchow  
7:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Josh Grider, Drew Kennedy  
6pm

**Wed 3.21**

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**  
Open Mic w/ Billy Roy  
8:30pm

**Riley's TAVERN**  
Mike Ethan Messick  
8pm

Billy's Ice House  
Aaron Stephens  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
The Georges  
6pm

**Thu 3.22**

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**  
Garrett Douglas  
5pm

**POWERPLANT**

Jeff Wood  
7pm

**Riley's TAVERN**

Jackie Darlene  
8pm



Meyer Anderson Band  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
Tony Taylor  
6:30pm

Billy's Ice House  
Shaun Michael  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Uncle Lucius  
8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Live Band Karaoke  
8pm

Vino en Verde  
Brett Cline  
8pm

**Fri 3.23**

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**  
Larry Dial  
5pm  
Richie Allbright  
8:30pm

**POWERPLANT**

Ben Farius  
7pm

**Riley's TAVERN**  
Joel Hofmann Band  
9pm



Jesse Stratton  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
Doug & Glenn  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Uncle Lucius  
8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

**Sat 3.24**

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**  
Digital Hair  
9pm

**POWERPLANT**

Broken Arrowz  
7pm

**Riley's TAVERN**  
Mayuaex & Broussard  
9pm



Knotty Grove  
9pm

Adobe Verde  
Bru Erdman  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Beat Root Revival  
1pm  
Asleep at the Wheel  
9pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm



**PHOENIX SALOON & DAYGARDEN MAR EVENTS**

**Friday 3/2**  
The Selfless Lovers 8:30pm

**Saturday 3/3**  
Jesse Stratton Band  
w/Southtown 9pm

**Friday 3/9**  
Uptown 9pm

**Saturday 3/10**  
Highway Hypnosis 9pm

**Friday 3/16**  
Lucas Taylor 7pm

**Saturday 3/17**  
The Mismatch 9pm

**Friday 3/23**  
Richie Allbright 8:30pm

**Saturday 3/24**  
Digital Hair 9pm

**Friday 3/30**  
Donovan Keith  
& The Funky Feat 9pm

**Saturday 3/31**  
Kori Free  
& The Groove Hounds 9pm

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**THE PHOENIX SALOON**



**FRIDAY 3/2**  
SCOTT H BIRAM, JESSE DAYTON 9PM

**SATURDAY 3/3**  
TESSY LOU & SHOTGUN STARS 9PM

**FRIDAY 3/9**  
MIKE & THE MOONPIES 9PM

**SATURDAY 3/10**  
JEREMY STEADING 9PM

**FRIDAY 3/16**  
JAKE HOOKER 9PM

**SATURDAY 3/17**  
DAVID TOUCHTON & THE NOWHERE BAND 9PM

**FRIDAY 3/23**  
JOEL HOFMANN BAND 9PM

**SATURDAY 3/24**  
MAYUAEX & BROUSSARD 9PM

**FRIDAY 3/30**  
BASTARD SONS OF JOHNNY CASH 9PM

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## Sun 3.25

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

All Mixed Up  
3pm  
Lucas Taylor  
7pm

### Riley's TAVERN

Blues Jam & Gear Swap  
w/ Ace Pepper  
4pm

### Adobe Verde

Tony Taylor  
6:30pm

### Geronimo VFW #8456

Charles & the Fabulous Four  
3pm

### Gruene Hall

Slim Bawb  
12pm  
Jerry Jeff Walker  
7pm

## Mon 3.26

### Gruene Hall

Bret Graham  
6pm

## Tue 3.27

### Riley's TAVERN

Troy Stone Band  
8pm

## Wed 3.28

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

Open Mic w/ Billy Roy  
8:30pm

### Riley's TAVERN

TBA  
9pm

### Gruene Hall

The Powell Brothers  
6pm

## Thu 3.29

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

Shawn Hart  
5pm

### POWERPLANT

Trick Question  
6:30pm

### Riley's TAVERN

Nate Rodriguez  
8pm



Two Way Street  
8pm

### Adobe Verde

Josh Holden  
6:30pm

### Billy's Ice House

Aaron Stephens  
8pm

### Gruene Hall

Chubby Knuckle Choir  
6pm

### Vino en Verde

Brett Cline  
8pm

## Fri 3.30

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

Junior Nash  
5pm  
Donovan Keith & the Funky Feat  
9pm

### POWERPLANT

Traveling Trees  
7pm

### Riley's TAVERN

Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash  
9pm

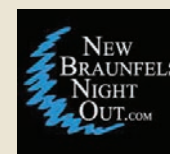


River City Kings  
9pm

Adobe Verde  
Code 2 & the Extinguishers  
6:30pm

### Gruene Hall

Billy Bacon & the Forbidden Pigs  
8pm



### 3rd Annual Chuck Wagon Extravaganza

March 29th, 6 to 9,  
at Gruene Outpost River Lodge

### The DOWNTOWNER

Trivia  
Wednesday Nights



DJ  
Friday Nights

### OLD ICE HOUSE

Karaoke  
Thursdays, Sundays

DJ  
Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

Karaoke  
Thursday Nights



Karaoke  
Tuesday with  
That Karaoke Chick

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**OLD ICE HOUSE**  
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**Karaoke**  
**Thursday & Sunday**  
**DJs**  
**Wednesday,**  
**Friday, Saturday**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Blanche Gotthardt, Deceased, were issued on February 22, 2018, in Cause No. 2018PCB0020, pending in the County Court at Law of Comal County, Texas, to: Donelda Thormeyer.  
 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 22nd day of February, 2018.  
**Frank B. Suhr**  
 State Bar No.: 19466300  
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This month we're keeping the review to one sport and one franchise, and don't worry, it's not the NHL and the Ottawa Senators - that's next month. On to the month of February in review...

**NBA:** For Christmas this year, I bought tickets to a Spurs game for my family as my 6-year-old daughter hadn't been to a game before. Yes, she has seen me on numerous occasions watch the team play on TV while inhaling guacamole but now she could experience that with a Jumbotron and a t-shirt cannon. On the way to the game, I informed my wife, who herself hadn't attended a game in 8-10 years, that this isn't a championship-caliber team like the one she likely last saw play in person. At least not with all of the injuries the Spurs had been dealing with at the time (and still are), so be prepared.

Lo and behold, the Spurs lost that night to a middle-of-the-road Eastern Conference Indiana Pacer team. The Spurs were without Kawhi Leonard, Rudy Gay and Manu Ginobili that night and it was a fairly forgettable game other than the fact it was my daughter's first NBA event. Afterwards she couldn't stop commenting how unfair it was that the "other team won" all the way to the parking lot. I couldn't have been more proud.

With the loss to the Pacers that night, the Spurs were 30-18 and as of this writing, their record is 36-25 which, for Spurs fans who have been spoiled with title-contending teams over the past 20 years, is a letdown. Usually this time of year, fans are daydreaming about Riverwalk parades in June but as of now, the franchise's NBA record streak of 18 straight seasons of at least 50 wins is in serious jeopardy and the playoffs aren't a given either.

Keep in mind that Leonard has played NINE games this season. The rest of the roster, with the exception of LaMarcus Aldridge who has been \*fantastic\*, is made up of role players. On paper, the Spurs as currently constructed should have a losing record and San Antonio should already be thinking about the draft lottery. The last time the Spurs didn't make the playoffs, the '96-'97 season, that team dealt with its own injury problems as David Robinson played just six games and Sean Elliott played only 39. That team was DREADFUL as the Spurs finished 20-62 but everything turned out okay (Google: "Tim Duncan").

Now, that Spurs team didn't have an Aldridge to turn to once Robinson went down, but the fact that this year's team has overcome Leonard's injury and is contending for a playoff spot (and possibly the third best record in the West) is remarkable. It truly speaks to the culture of the franchise put in place by Gregg Popovich and the front office and a renaissance season for Aldridge who appeared to be playing his way out of San Antonio less than a year ago.

But what if Leonard were healthy? Would he play again this season? If he doesn't, the nice story of the Spurs keeping their heads above water would give way fairly quickly to either a quick exit in the playoffs or no postseason at all. More importantly, Leonard not playing the rest of this season would heighten the anxiety of Spurs fans about the future of Leonard in San Antonio.

There's been a lot of speculation over the last month or so amid reports of a rift in the relationship between the Spurs' cornerstone player and the franchise. Team officials have shot down those rumors but Leonard himself hasn't said a thing about it (although it's not in his DNA to say much of anything). It's the not knowing that's excruciating for all of those involved.

Have you ever texted someone or left a voicemail after a first date and asked to go out on a second one? The time you spend waiting for a response is BRUTAL. After an hour you don't even care if the answer is no, you just want an answer. Maybe the analogy of my pathetic dating life isn't the best, but right now everyone is just waiting on Leonard to either play or speak and until he does, imaginations will run wild.

Personally, I think all will work out in the end. The Spurs are frustrated that Leonard hasn't returned yet as their doctors have reportedly cleared him and Leonard is likely frustrated that he still doesn't feel right. If and when he returns this season, I venture that everything will smooth out and we'll all wonder why we made such a big deal out of it in the first place.

For the sake of my daughter's next NBA game, I hope I'm right.

*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.*



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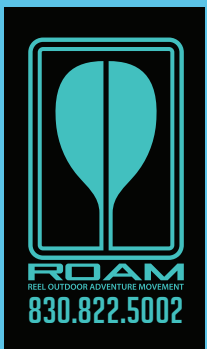


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## - The - DOWNTOWNER



Continued from page 3.

## Campaign of Desperation

In the February issue of the TX Citizen, we deconstructed the abusive ad hominem that Tharp's two top prosecutors put forth regarding their contempt for due process, the American justice system in general and the Republican opponents specifically. If you haven't read it yet, I highly recommend you give it a tumble. It's in the "Back Issues" section of txcitizen.com. The cover looks like this:



This time, we're going to look at Tharp's attempt to trick the electorate into thinking she was endorsed by Governor Abbott. Here's the campaign material:

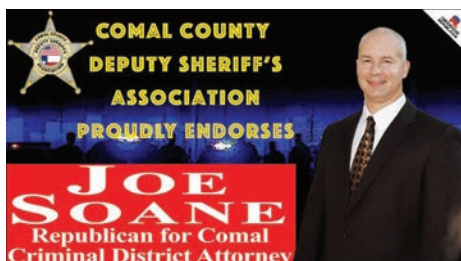


Look closely. This isn't an endorsement. According to the text that accompanied this on her campaign page, she's bragging about a compliment from him for something she did a way's back. Hooray.

She used to work for Abbott - she knows the guy personally - *and still can't manage to wrangle his endorsement*. But hey, why be honest about who supports you? At least, why start now? After all, she's doing her best to hitch her wagon to law enforcement as well. Check this out:



Now look at this:



Oops. Tharp says she supports law enforcement, yet law enforcement supports one of her Republican opponents. Oh, dear. That's... that's got to sting.

It's like she's going full Hillary Clinton/Debbie Wasserman Shultz and hoping no one notices.

We notice everything.

Election Day is March 6.

\m/

Mike Reynolds  
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief



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# BLUE VS RED

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**DAVID HIMMEL**

## Kindergarten Cops

WRITING FOR THE RED STATES  
**KELLY COLBY**

I don't know what President Donald Trump's, or NRA President Pete Brownell's or Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre's favorite movies are, but I imagine they must all be fans of the film *Kindergarten Cop*.

The way these guys talk about firearms in the hands of anyone who knows how to use a firearm can only come from them thinking that the beloved Arnold Schwarzenegger movie where Arnie, a badass police detective goes undercover as a kindergarten teacher to flush out a dangerous criminal, was a documentary.

The idea of giving teachers guns as a way to prevent another school shooting like the most recent one in Parkland, FL, is not a crazy one. The logic aligns that if someone comes shooting at you and you have a weapon of your own, you'll be able to shoot back. Just like that final scene in *Kindergarten Cop*. But the idea is foolish.

Even with training, teachers are not the right people to be given the heavy responsibility of having to be a gunman hero like in that other documentary from the 1980s, *Die Hard*. When gun shots ring out, most people do not spring into fearless action. Even the Broward County Sheriff's deputies who had years of experience as law enforcement professionals and were trained and paid to run toward gunfire

failed. Asking a teacher whose disposition is one of nurturing, not violence, to kill is to completely misunderstand the role of a teacher.

There are plenty of ways to attempt protecting our children from lunatics with access to weapons of war. Put an armed security professional on campus. Their job is to ensure general school safety through compliance and procedures. We can only then hope that if a shooter comes in guns blazing, that they don't freeze like those Florida cops. We can invest in teacher professional development. A teacher armed with the ability to reach their students and understand them and make them feel understood is ultimately the best weapon against having one of those students or parents come through the doors looking to kill anything that moves.

Teachers have enough responsibility on their plate already and they've long been ill-equipped to best handle it. Teachers get into the education game because they are traditionally of gentler nature. Arming teachers and expecting them to save us from the bad guys is training a rat terrier to be a prison guard dog. They ain't the killin' breed. And any teacher who jumps at the chance to fire off a few rounds on campus surrounded by hundreds of innocent children may not be the person you want spending eight hours a day with your child.

For understanding the logic behind the idea of teachers having guns, David does a poor job of following that logic. I suppose that's not too surprising. Gun control is a topic fraught with emotion at the best of times. Let me see if I can cut through the Blue emotionalism.

First and foremost, Himmel seems to be creating a broad policy out of a few extemporaneous comments from the president. All President Trump has called for is having people within schools, teachers and others, be armed if they want to be. There is no suggestion that teachers will be forced to be armed, that these people will be untrained, or that they will be expected to be heroes like John McClane, swinging on a firehose from one floor to another, bloodied and barefoot, to hunt down a marauding shooter. What the president has suggested is already in place in a number of schools around the country. Usually, it involves having several people choosing to be both trained and armed. The school then advertises that people are armed at the school without advertising who. Would-be gunmen are thereby notified that since the school is not a gun-free zone, it's not open season on sitting ducks.

The fact that these schools are not in the news is the best indication that the program is working appropriately. Having

responsible people armed at a school is safe, safer than driving, walking, or biking to school in the morning, and safer than enticing bad-actors with a gun-free zone. Add to these specific cases, the states that allow for open or concealed carry without any plan at all, and you have a good example of how this idea works. It's designed to be a preventative measure; only in the most extreme circumstances will anyone have to use a gun – say when terrorists crash the Christmas party.

I'll do my best to forgive the implication of David's second point, that teachers are somehow likely to react with cowardice when faced with a crisis situation. My guess is that both teachers and law enforcement professionals will tell him that the Broward county deputies involved in the Parkland shooting were a very special breed of their own and shouldn't be compared to anyone else.

More important is that, regardless of a teacher's demeanor, he or she is in a far better position with a gun available than without one when faced with an active shooter. Perhaps teachers are more nurturing than most people, but the best and most loving mothers often protect their children with the most tenacity. Allowing people the tools needed to do that will never be a "foolish" idea.



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