CITAL COLUME SIX ISSUE FOUR APRIL 2017



3 4 2

Golf Course Fiasco | Ask a Mexican | Freeman on Sports

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- Queen Elizabeth II

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The golf course piece seemed like it was important two hours ago. #waylon



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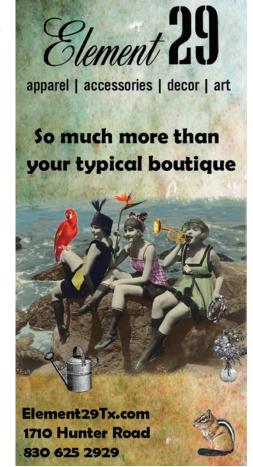
The ONLY guide of its kind for the NB/SM Metroplex!

Freeman on Sports

The Month that Was, The Month that Will Be

Last Word
Fact vs Fiction vs Opinion







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PHOENIX SALOON APRIL EVENTS

APRIL 1 DARIUS JACKSON & THE MIGHTY

TEXAS BLUES BAND

W/ JONATHAN MATTHEWS BAND @ 9

APRIL 7
THE CANVAS PEOPLE @ 9

APRIL 8
HAMILTON LEWIS BAND @ 9

APRIL 14
DEVAN JONES &
THE UPTOWN STOMP @ 8:30

APRIL 15 BIG BAD BILLYCATZ @ 9

APRIL 21
MONTY GUITAR' TYLER BAND @ 9

APKIL ZZ
BILLY KIESEL & BLACK SHEEP @ 9

APRIL 28
FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE PARTY!
BONNIE & THE BOOTLEGGERS @ 9

APRIL 29
T& THE SHINE RUNNERS @ 9

PHOENIX SALOON

1 MORD

I'm writing this column at 1:30 in the afternoon on Wednesday, March 29. We're a few hours from deadline, and up until noon, we were expecting to print a scathing editorial regarding the taxpayer burden that is the Landa Park golf course. And then we found out that Waylon Malone died at, I believe, the age of eight years.

Chances are good that by the time you read this, you will have already heard the news. Waylon's fight against "the dragon" (Stage IV Neuroblastoma) was carried out in the public eye from day one. It seemed the entire town followed Waylon, via social media, through the years of ups and downs, celebrations and setbacks, and harsh treatments that began too far back for him to even recall. Think about that. Waylon was likely too young to remember a time when he wasn't dealing with a life-threatening, and eventually fatal, disease.

His sister, Morgan, has grown up watching her twin brother fight for, and eventually lose, his life. Her whole life will be defined by this. I presume it will make her a "stronger/better person" for having endured this, but I'm not one of those people that think a silver lining beats a cloudless sky. I'd rather she'd get the life she'd have had if Waylon were to have grown up with her. Waylon's parents devoted their lives to saving his, travelling all over the country for bank-breaking, soul-crushing treatment after treatment. Most of us have no idea what that kind of pain and pressure is like, and I hope none of us ever find out.

The community came together for Waylon and his family, in particular Gary Roe and the folks out at the River Road Ice House, who put together an annual, bangup fundraiser for the family for what will be the fifth time on April 23. The town did not disappoint, and, I imagine, it will turn out in force again to support the Malones. You can find more details, right next to a pretty great, smile-inspiring photo of Waylon, on page five. We'll be there. You should come, too. I don't know what the mood will be, but grief is best endured among friends.

There are families all over going through what the Malones have, we just don't know about their situations. To them, we offer our sincere condolences. To

everyone else, we advise you to hug your kids early and often.

Far Less Important News

Sliced

Yeah, we were going to dive deep into the Landa Park golf course fiasco this month, but we're going to settle with an abbreviated version because Waylon is more important than another civic disaster.

A few years back, the people of our fair city were talked into revamping the golf course under the condition that the project would pay itself off. But, let's face it, rich guys don't pay what they have to to support anything. So the course hasn't made enough money to cover it's loan payments.

Enter the Taxpayer: The 4-B Board has stepped up with \$450,000 dollars to keep the course running. Fantastic. Thanks. We knew you'd do that. WE KNEW IT. The course is expected to be part of the City budget starting next year. Your tax dollars providing recreation for the pillars of the community. Hurray! (At least it's not going to welfare, am I right?)

Mean Old Man Gets His What-For

(Former) Dr William Henry Kloss, whose family got a \$2.5 million settlement after the City of New Braunfels and the County of Guadalupe illegally conspired to shut down NB Aero back in 2010, will be spending the next ten years under house arrest. He had to give up being a doctor, too.

Kloss, apparently mad with newly acquired wealth, took time out of his Scrooge McDuck bathtub to fire off a few shots with his pellet gun at members of the New Braunfels High School marching band to punish them for playing loud music, as marching bands have done for the better part of two centuries. Kloss' constant ire directed at the band over the years earned him the name "Dr Decibel", a title which, post-conviction, is purely honorary. He's 69. Or maybe 68. Doesn't matter.

 $\mbox{m}/$

Mike Reynolds Publisher/Editor-in-Chief





ourmage

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BRAZENLY PRESENTED BY



















IASK A MEXICAN!

By Gustavo Arellano

Dear Mexican: The other day, I witnessed a young gordita retrieve a bag of Fritos, open it, then walk over to the chili station and pump in two steaming piles of 7-11 chili into the bag. At that point the Frita Bandita then shook the bag and started comer those nasty, now-hot, chili-soaked Fritos. Needless to say, I was appalled. And enfermo. Why not just buy a bag of Chili Cheese Fritos? Do most Mexicans shamelessly mangle foodstuffs like this? What other foul comida are Mexicans shoving past their mustaches? Señor Roast

Dear Gabacho: You mean chili billies? The first time I had chili ladled over Fritos or tortilla chips were at Sage Park in Anaheim during my time riding the bench for the La Palma Little League Senior Minor division. Gabachos went crazy for the dish; us Mexicans shrugged, bought a bag of Fritos, and drowned it in Tapatío. 25 years later, we pour Tapatio on Tapatío-flavored Doritos—and? Spare me your mock shock: the most famous dishes buried under chili, the Coney Island dog and Cincinatti chili five way (spaghetti, chili, cheese, onions, and beans) are favorites of poor gabachos in the South and Midwest. They're great dishes, and fulfill the working-class dream of filling your gut for cheap and offending precious pendejos like yourself.

Dear Mexican: The sentiment among most U.S. citizens is that new Mexican arrivals in the US of A should immediately learn to speak English (the least that they could do). How easy would that be for the Mexicans? Would it be easier for us to learn to speak Spanish? Are there more Spanish words than English words? Is it fair to even ask that question?

Tongue Tied Gringo

Dear Gabacho: All's fair in love and etymology, son! Gabachos don't realize how pinche hard it is to learn how to speak English. The Oxford English Dictionary currently has 171,476 words in its Second Edition that it categorizes as "current use" (and this is not including tenses and obsolete words) while the Real Academia Española estimates about 100,000. That said, Mexicans do learn how to speak English, if slowly: A 2016 study by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) showed 69 percent of Mexican immigrants "reported limited

English proficiency [LEP], compared to 50 percent of all immigrants." That might seem high, but compare that to another immigrant group that came from similar poverty: Vietnamese. The MPI showed 67 percent of Vietnamese report LEP, but I don't hear people freaking out about them. Maybe because they historically voted Republican?

Dear Mexican: Years ago, in response to some political bullshit heaved by Shrubya and his ignoble Cabal of Curs, I remember seeing long lines of people outside Mexican consular offices waiting to get a Matricula Consular card. I know matricula means "enrollment" but what exactly was the purpose of the cards? And why was it so important that people would stand in line all day to get one? P.S. #fucktrump

Gringo Wants to Play Bingo

Dear Gabacho: You said it, loco. All those cards do are serve as a form of ID for undocumented folks that allow them to do everything from open bank accounts to buy alcohol at clubs to apply for a driver's license in certain states. Know Nothings, of course, take the document as further proof Mexico is trying to Reconquista the United States, which is kinda like realizing you're on fire only when the flames expose your ulna.

Dear Mexican: I need to know why do salvatruchas think they are superior to every Mexican and Guatemalan in every way? I go to a community college in the San Fernando Valley that is infested with them, and the way they portray Mexicans to other people makes me angry. Sometimes, I would like to tell them about what bad and nasty crap they have done since the urban terrorist organization, MS-13 has destroyed the Hispanic community even worse. Now some of us Mexicans are leaving places and migrating to other parts of Southern California. I know that some police at the southern border of Mexico have treated Salvadorans like shit, but that is no reason for them to chingar con los Mexicans' reputation. It's hard enough with some of the prejudices we mojados confront every day, but to have another Hispanic culture mess it up any more? Tell me what is wrong with those guys?

Mixed Mexican of Sherman Oaks



Due Process WITH NICK BOGERS

UPDATE: Facebook Terroristic Threat Case

The Third Court of Appeals has again refused to halt the trial against a New Braunfels man who is accused of making a terroristic threat.

Justin Carter was charged after he posted comments on Facebook about attacking a kindergarten. Carter has maintained that the post was response to an insult and was entirely sarcastic hyperbole.

During pretrial hearings in New Braunfels, Carter filed a motion that the statute used against him was being applied unconstitutionally and was a violation of his right to free speech. Comal County District Judge Jack Robison ruled against Carter, saying that pretrial habeas corpus was not allowed because a full trial would be required for the accused to prove claims that his comments did not construe a "true threat."

The Third Court of Appeals initially agreed with Robison's ruling, forcing Carter to appeal to Court of Criminal Appeals.

Criminal Appeals said that its ruling in a case involving then Gov. Rick Perry listed situations in which pretrial "as applied" challenges could be allowed, particularly if a trial itself would undermine the accused's constitutional rights. The higher court sent the case back to the Third Court for reconsideration.

The Third Court reaffirmed its initial rulina.

In its reconsideration, the Third Court again maintained that Carter's claims do not merit pretrial relief because only a full trial could substantiate his claims, particularly his "as applied" claims. An "as applied" challenge claims that while a law is constitutional, it is applied to a defendant "in an unconstitutional manner." The Third Court ruled that Carter misapplied the rule

as a "veiled" challenge of the evidence against him.

"The crux of appellant's argument is that he did not threaten to commit an act of unlawful violence because he was making sarcastic hyperbolic comments, and thus he lacked the requisite intent under the statute," the Third Court wrote. "An 'as applied' constitutional challenge would argue that making the statements at issue did violate the statute... but he was constitutionally entitled to make these threats. Appellant makes no such argument."

The Third Court said that Carter's argument "does not challenge the constitutionality of the statute as applied to his conduct; it challenges the application of the statute to his conduct."

Thus, the Court ruled, Carter's case does not meet the criteria set out in the Perry ruling that some pretrial as applied challenges are allowed. The Third Court ruled that a trial would not violate Carter's right to free speech since he could always appeal the verdict.

"Appellant cites to no authority, and we have found none, indicating that the constitutional right to free speech includes the right to avoid trial," the Third Court wrote. "While the right to free speech is a valuable and important right, we cannot discern how it is a right that is undermined if not vindicated before trial as there is adequate recourse after trial (via appeal) to remedy the violation of the right . . . [A]ppellant fails to show that the 'disruptive effects' of undergoing a criminal prosecution here interfere with appellant's exercise of his right to free speech such that pretrial intervention is warranted to safeguard the right and his ability to further exercise it."

Nick Rogers covers crime and courts for the TX Citizen.

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BILLYS

4/1: Chandler and the Bings

4/9: Humane Society Spring Fling

4/12: Aaron Stephens

4/21: Copper Chief

4/28: Texas Renegade

4/1: Jonny Burke and Vandoliers

4/7: Uptown Hoedown benefitting CASA

4/15: Flatland Calvary 4/21: The Powell Brothers

and Folk Family Revival 4/23: Waylon Cinco

Waylon Gruene Malone Benefit



Fri 3.31

ADOBE VERDE

Right on Red 6:30pm



The Strayhearts 8pm

OMA GRUENE'S

SECRET GARTEN

Brad Stivers 6:30pm

PHOENIX

Bandreu 5pm Dr G & the Mudcats 9pm

POWERPLANT

Carol Cochran & Two Way Street 7pm



Libby Koch



Josh Weathers w/ Seth James 8pm



Steel Penny 8pm

Gruene Hall

Zane Williams w/ Hunter Hutchinson 8pm

Longshot Wine Bar

Bob Schmueckle & Derek Krueger 7pm

Sat 4.1

ADOBE VERDE

Morning Rose 6:30pm



Chandler & the Bings 8pm

OMA GRUENE'S

OGSG SECRET GARTEN

Melissa Ludwig Band 1 pm

Kim & Her Bad Habits

PHOENIX

Darius Jackson & the Mighty Texas Blues Band w/ Jonathan Matthews Band

Riley's TAVERN

James Hand



Jonny Burke & Vandoliers 9pm



3 Man Front 9pm



Fools of the Trade 9pm

Geronimo VFW #8456

Justin Trevino 8pm

Gruene Hall

Mark Jungers Band 1pm Stoney LaRue w/ Aaron Einhouse 8pm

Sun 4.2

ADOBE VERDE

JJ Garrett Band 6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S

SECRET GARTEN

The Hot Attacks 2pm

PHOENIX

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn 3pm Lucas Taylor 7pm

Riley S TAVERN

Gruene Hall

4pm

Hot Club of Cowtown 12pm South Austin Moonlighters 5pm

Mon 4.3

Gruene Hall

Marshall Hood & Friends 6pm

Tues 4.4



Reed Brothers 8pm



Jam Night 7pm

Gruene Hall

Michael O'Connor, Susan Gibson 6pm

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@ 6 KIM AND HER BAD HABITS

APR 2 @ 2 THE HOT ATTACKS

APR 6 @ 6 JAM NIGHT APR 7 @ 6:30 SUNDAY 5

APR 8 @ 1 GREG IZOR

@ 6 STRAY DAWG & THE WOLVES

APR 9 @ 2 SLIM BAWB &

THE FABULOUS STUMPGRINDERS

APR 13 @ 6 JAM NIGHT

APR 14 @ 6:30 3 MAN FRONT

APR 15 @ 1 CHRIS TAYLOR & THE SETTING

SONS @ 6 BAREFAX BAND

APR 16 @ 2 EMPTY HAMDED VAGABONDS

APR 20 @ 6 JAM NIGHT

APR 21 @ 6:30 RUBEN V

APR 22 @ 1 HIGHWAY HYPNOSIS

@ 6 PEPPERS BLUES

APR 23 @ 2 JAMES PARDO

APR 27 @ 6 JAM NIGHT APR 28 @ 6 THE KINFOLK

APR 29 @ 1 BLUES OF THE NIGHT

@ 6 THE HOT ATTACKS

APR 30 @ 2 CHRIS RUEST

Wed 4.5



Aaron Stephens 8pm

PHOENIX ^ESALOON

Shady Rest Band 8:30pm



Manzy Lowry 8pm

Thu 4.6



Tony Taylor 6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S OGSG

SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night 6pm

PHOENIX "SALOON

Ryan Quiet 5pm Jay Wimberley 8pm

POWERPLANT

Josh Holden 6pm

TAVERN

TBA 8pm

8pm

Gruene Hall

Hot Club of Cowtown 6pm

Vino en Verde Brett Cline

Fri 4.7

Adobe Verde

Trace Owen Jr 6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S 8)GC

SECRET GARTEN

Sunday 5 6:30pm

PHOENIX SALOON

Junior Nash 5pm Canvas People

POWERPLANT

Derek Vera 7pm

TAVERN

Big John Mills



The Georges 6:30pm



Painted Pony 8pm

Gruene Hall

Bob Schneider 8pm

Longshot Wine Bar

Bob Schmueckle & Derek Krueger

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along 8pm

Sat 4.8

ADOBE VERDE

Don Riley 6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S 8XG SKG

SECRET GARTEN Greg Izor 1 pm

Stray Dawg & the Wolves 6pm

PHOENIX SALOON

Hamilton Lewis Band 9pm

POWERPLANT

Ryan Baker 7pm



Solid Senders 9pm



Rivers & Rust, Kyle Cook, Sheila Marshall, No Refund Band 5:30pm



Sonny Wolf 9pm



Garrett Simon 9pm

Gruene Hall

Wade Bowen w/ Kaitlin Butts 8pm

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along 8pm

Sun 4.9

Adobe Verde

JJ Garrett Band 6:30pm



Spring Fling 2pm

OMA GRUENE'S SECRET GARTEN

Slim Bawb & the Fabulous Stumpgrinders 2pm

PHOENIX ^ESALOON

All Mixed Up 3pm Lucas Taylor 7pm

James Pardo 4pm

Gruene Hall

Bret Graham

12pm

Hearne

Shake

Russell, Michael

6pm

Mon 4.10

Gruene Hall

Marshall Hood & Friends 6pm

Tue 4.11



Austin Gilliam 8pm



Jam Night 7pm

Gruene Hall

Josh Grider, Michael O'Connor

Wed 4.12



Aaron Stephens 8pm

PHOENIX

Michael Martin 8:30pm



8pm

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Gruene Hall The Georges 6pm

Thu 4.13



Josh Holden 6:30pm



Jamie Krueger 8pm

OMA GRUENE'S OGSG

SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night 6pm

PHOENIX SALOON

Ryan Kennedy 5pm Jay Wimberley

POWERPLANT

John Boyd 6pm

TAVERN

8pm

Gruene Hall

Garrett LeBeau 6pm

Vino en Verde

Brett Cline 8pm

Fri 4.14



Right on Red 6:30pm



SECRET GARTEN

3 Man Front 6:30pm

PHOENIX SALOON

Bandreu 5pm

Devan Jones & the Uptown Stomp

POWERPLANT

Buddy Boy Vargas



w/ Roy Heinrich 9pm



Made in Texas 8pm

Gruene Hall

Max Baca & Los Texmaniacs w/ Flaco Jimenez 8pm

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along

Sat 4.15

ADOBE VERDE

Morning Rose 6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S BXCLXC

SECRET GARTEN

Chris Taylor & the Setting Sons 1pm Barefax Band 6pm

PHOENIX ESALOON

Big Bad Billycatz 9pm

POWERPLANT

Tin Roof Band 7pm



Tessy Lou & the Shotgun Stars 9pm



9pm



J Abram 9pm

Gruene Hall

Powell Brothers Granger Smith 8pm

Sun 4.16



CLOSED FOR EASTER

OMA GRUENE'S



SECRET GARTEN

Empty Handed Vagabonds

PHOENIX SALOON

Ken Raba 3pm Lucas Taylor 7_{pm}



Nate Rodriguez 9pm

Gruene Hall

Tish Hinojosa 12pm Susan Gibson 5pm

Mon 4.17

Gruene Hall

Marshall Hood & Friends

Tue 4.18



Jam Night 7pm

Gruene Hall

Adam Carroll, Beaver Nelson, Scrappy Judd Newcomb

Wed 4.19



Aaron Stephens 8pm

PHOENIX SALOOI Code 2 Band

8:30pm



Mike Ethan Messick 8pm

Gruene Hall

Hot Texas Swing Band 6pm

Thu 4.20

ADOBE VERDE

Doug & Glenn 6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S

SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night 6pm

PHOENIX ESALOON

Lucas Taylor 5pm Jay Wimberley 8pm

POWERPLANT

Josh Holden 6pm



Gruene Hall

8pm

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Fri 4.21

ADOBE VERDE

Dean's List 6:30pm



Copper Chief 8pm

OMA GRUENE'S

SECRET GARTEN

Ruben V 6:30pm

PHOENIX SALOON

Junior Nash 5pm Monty 'Guitar' Tyler Band 8:30pm

POWERPLANT

Traveling Trees
7pm



6pm
Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun



Powell Brothers, Folk Family Revival 8pm



Jesse Stratton 8pm

Gruene Hall

Jason Boland & the Stragglers 8pm

Longshot Wine Bar

Bob Schmueckle & Derek Krueger 7pm

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along 8pm

Sat 4.22

ADOBE VERDE

Christian Sparks & the Beatnik Bandits 6:30pm



FILE 13 8pm

OMA GRUENE'S



SECRET GARTEN

Highway Hypnosis 1pm Pepper's Blues 6pm

PHOENIX

Billy Kiesel & Black Sheep 9pm

POWERPLANT

Jamal Amar 6:30pm

Riley's TAVERN

Jason James 9pm



River City Kings 9pm

Gruene Hall

Sarah Pierce Band 1pm Delbert McClinton w/ Kree Harrison 9pm

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along 8pm

Sun 4.23



Corey Allen 6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S OGGGG SECRET GARTEN

James Pardo 2pm

PHOENIX

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn 3pm Lucas Taylor 7pm





Reed Brothers 12pm

Gruene Hall

Bob Livingston 12pm Linda Gail Lewis 5pm

Mon 4.24

Gruene Hall

Marshall Hood & Friends 6pm

Tue 4.25



Jam Night 7pm

Gruene Hall

Adam Carroll, Chris Buhalis, Jaimee Harris 6pm

Wed 4.26



Aaron Stephens 8pm

PHOENIX

Ryan Kennedy 8:30pm



TBA 9pm

Gruene Hall

The Georges 6pm





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PHOENIX

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Karaoke Mondays & Thursdays





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OMA GRUENE'S
OGS G
SECRET GARTEN
LIVE MUSIC

Continued from page 4.

Dear Pocho: Do you realize you just wrote for me a Mad Libs of assimilation that people can apply to any successful immigrant group in America ever? I'm ever-grateful! Here, lemme show you:

I need to know why do (newest immigrant group) think they are superior to every (assimilated ethnic group) and (another assimilated ethnic group) in every way? I go to a (workplace or business) in the (old municipal stronghold of assimilated ethnic group) that is infested with (newest immigrant group), and the way they portray (assimilated ethnic group) to other people makes me angry. Sometimes I would like to tell them about what bad and nasty crap they have done since the (gang or national movement associated with newest immigrant group) has destroyed the (assimilated ethnic group) community even worse. Now some of us (assimilated ethnic group) are leaving places and migrating to other parts of (suburbs of old municipal stronghold of assimilated ethnic group). I know that (some situation involving assimilated ethnic group) have treated (newest immigrant group) like shit, but that is no reason for them to chingar con los (assimilated ethnic group) reputation. It's hard enough with some of the prejudices we (former derogatory nickname for assimilated ethnic group that they appropriated and now use as a term of endearment for each other-but woe to anyone else who uses it) confront every day, but to have another (newest immigrant group) mess it up any more? Tell me what is wrong with those guys?

So, to recap: Salvadorans hate Mexicans because we hated Salvadorans, just like Irish hate Italians because Italians hated the Irish. How about we break that cycle? This Mexican did!

Dear Mexican: I went to a Mexican birthday party at my neighbor's house a few weeks ago for their daughter who just turned six years old. I was surprised when I was the only guest who bought her a toy. All she got was a bunch of clothes. I don't know any white six-year-olds that would WANT clothes for their birthday. What's up with that?

Confused in Texas

Dear Gabacho: No kids of any culture want clothes as a regalo, period. But Mexican adults know niños grow super-fast, so they give ropa as presents to help others with the cost of living. This custom ends with adolescence, when people start giving Mexican teens condoms—or rather, they should...

Dear Mexican: A Mexican man recently broke up with me. We had great sex, but a somewhat distant relationship. Anyways, the reason he left me: his immigration status. He says he can't "be with me mentally" because he's somewhere else mentally-that's to say, not knowing where he might be living in the next days and months is really bothering him. Aside from the fact that he can't find work now because of Efile. I'm trying to find closure. It's only been a few days since he left me but I'm struggling with finding peace in myself. My friends say things like, "You're better off without him" and "Things happen for a reason." I miss him, miss the great sex and most of all, I miss the idea of him. He's liberal politically, helps his family here and in Mexico, he's a good person, helps others and he's very organic. I forgot to mention he has beautiful long hair and is "como un tren," which means he's solid like a football player and made me melt when I touched his "guns." Please help me deal.

La Heina No More

Dear Ya No The Chick: Man, you know Trump is destroying lives when Mexicans can't even have sex with gabachas anymore without deportation on their mind (quick thought, gents: Think of 45's blobbish physique to hold out just a bit more). It seems like the two of you had a great relationship outside of el sexo, and he's obviously concerned about the livelihood of him and his fellow undocumented friends and family, so don't take it personal. The most important thing right now is for you to be there for him, even if he's unavailable physically. Protest whenever the inevitable migra raids inflict terror on the barrios in your city. Bombard your congressman and senators demanding they oppose Trump's wall of shame. Donate to nonprofits designed to help out people like your hombre. Remember: The most important body part of his to have right now is his back. Oh, and #fucktrump



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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March is always a fun sports month, between the NCAA Tournament, playoff & MVP races picking up steam in the NBA and the anticipation of the start of the Major League Baseball season... but leave it to the NFL to bring everyone down. Earlier this week, the news came out that the Oakland Raiders are relocating to Las Vegas in two years, marking the third relocation in the last

For the sake of comparison, I've been following the NBA for the last 24 years and there have been a grand total of four instances of teams packing up and leaving and really only one of those was a gut punch to the city that lost its team: Seattle. No one cared when the NBA left Vancouver, Charlotte got its team back nearly as quickly as it lost it and going from New Jersey to Brooklyn was an upgrade. People living in New Jersey would tell you the same.

Major League Baseball during that time? Exactly one team has told its city it wants to see other people: The Washington Nationals, formerly known as the Montreal Expos. Approximately 15 people in Montreal were LIVID.

So how have the NBA and MLB been able to establish stability with their franchises and cities while the NFL model looks like Tinder by comparison? It starts from the top: NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell who is running the damn league backwards. He doesn't listen to the players or the fans. Instead, "Rogah" panders to the league's owners while trying to invoke his GINGER HAMMER JUSTICE with the wherewithal of a 10-year-old class president. The freaking commissioner of the NFL should've taken a step back and realized that the NFL didn't need Los Angeles and Los Angeles didn't need it. Instead, he let Stan Kroenke and Dean Spanos twist his arm, listen to their cries about money (from men worth BILLIONS) and now three cities are P***ed: St. Louis, San Diego and LA.

Just a month later he lets the same happen to Las Vegas. Why on earth does Vegas need pro sports? There are about 2,206 casinos in that town that tell you it doesn't. Why do you let a flagship franchise like the Raiders,

which had left Oakland before in a FAILED experiment in (guess where) Los Angeles, leave town again? At this point, it's truly best if you're a fan of the NFL not to tie your team allegiance regionally. As a (drinks) Titans fan living in Texas, take it from me. When the Oilers left Houston for Nashville, 16-year-old me said that's weird and resumed playing The Legend of Zelda. I suggest you do the same. It's less heartache and a great game.

Don't you start with me Texans fans. My conscience is clean since Houston got a team back anyway. I'm free to cheer on my precious Titans while poking fun at the Brock Osweiler debacle at will. On to the rest of the month that was March...

NBA: It's been a fairly uneventful regular season in the Western Conference where just about everything has gone according to plan: the Warriors are in first place, the Spurs are right behind them and the rest of the conference is jockeying for position. I don't know if before the season we knew that Houston would be *this* good but the Rockets are solidly in third place and a legitimate Finals threat while the rest of the playoff field looks like filler.

That said, while the regular season has been relatively uneventful, the Western Conference playoffs will be anything but. Looking at the potential first round series: Warriors-Blazers would end in four or five games but watching Steph, KD and company play Lillard, McCollum and the Blazers in a handful of 125-118 games will make for some entertaining basketball.

The Spurs are looking at the real possibility of facing Memphis in the first round and unlike like last year, this will not be a D-League team in the Grizzlies masquerading as an NBA playoff team. Memphis has already beaten San Antonio twice and could push the Spurs to six or seven games.

Houston vs OKC would pit two of the top contenders for MVP against one another in James Harden against Russell Westbrook while the other potential first round match-up of Utah vs the LA Clippers has some appeal to it as well: Utah's crowds are great and the Clippers, for all of their flaws, have the talent

in place to make a run. While either team will get ginger-hammered by Golden State in the second round, Spurs-Rockets, which we haven't seen since 1995, would be a blast.

WITH BRANT FREEMAN

That series from 22 years ago still haunts me. The Spurs won 60 games while Houston, a five-seed, won 47. I swore the Spurs were going to the Finals but then Hakeem Olajuwon basically ripped my heart out and showed it to me as the Rockets took the series in six games. Not even my precious Nintendo could save me man, I was CRUSHED. I thought that would be the best chance the Spurs would ever have of going to the Finals and the world sucks and I said leave me alone MOM. This is why teenagers are the worst: just like I did then, they think they know everything while we know nothing. I fully expect to give my daughter the Hakeem Olajuwon 1995 speech when she comes of age.

NCAA Tournament: Normally the most enjoyable two days in sports are the first two days of the tournament but they were honestly kind of a bummer this time around. However, the Sweet 16 and Elite Eight made up for it and as a result, we have a fun Final Four featuring just one traditional power in North Carolina against three (relative) newcomers in Oregon, South Carolina and Gonzaga.

These kind of Final Fours are the BEST. A Final Four of Kansas, Duke, UCLA and Kentucky? PASS. We may have picked our brackets that way but who the hell cares. It's not like the field is garbage, the lowest seed is South Carolina at as even-seed and three of the four team are from the power conferences while the other, Gonzaga, is a basketball factory anyway.

So the NFL aside, March was pretty good and the basketball coming up next month, both college and pro, should make for a good April. Looking forward to recapping it while squeezing in more Titans and NES references. Until then...

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.

ECÎTIZEN E RESTAURANT GUIDE

what to eat & where to eat it



The Phoenix Saloon

There are other places to get your hands on a chili dog, but the Phoenix Saloon invented chili as we know it (Google it!). So, really, there's only one place to get a chili dog, if you're going to be serious about it. 193 West San Antonio St (Downtown) – 830.643.1400

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





Oma Gruene's Secret Garten

Oma's Gruene's chicken salad sandwich is the finest of all chicken salad sandwiches, because it's made with three times the love your grandma's chicken salad sandwiches were (or are). This is no joke. 1263 Gruene Rd (Gruene) – 830.625.1045



There's a reason the Texas National Wing-Eating Championships are held at Scores, and that reason is their wings set the standard for all bar food in the NB Wurstplex, and, as far as we're concerned, the state. Don't settle for lesser-wings. Life is short, after all. 223 West San Antonio Street (Downtown) – 830.620.9091





Gourmage

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

Lone Star Lounge

Venture out the back door of the Lone Star Lounge, belly up to the food truck, and savor the finest late night snack a body could want bacon-wrapped shrimp. You can get them a la carte, but, as with most everything, they're best enjoyed on a hot bed of fries. 283 W San Antonio St (Downtown)





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News Truth vs News Fiction

Since about the middle of election season, we've been plagued with the invented term "fake news" (the TX Citizen even has an occasional column and weekly podcast dedicated to it). It had a meaning for about a minute and a half, but after that, it came to mean any information that has a partisan slant. In other words, everything we ever hear anywhere. Unfortunately, as absurd as it is for mainstream media sources to suggest that someone else is slanting the news and not telling the whole story, there is a real problem for consumers of news in determining what they can and can't trust. In addition to pointing out that you can always trust me (wink), let me offer a few tips for getting informed and not manipulated.

- Learn the difference between news and punditry: It seems simple, but it's really quite important. In a recent interview, Ted Koppel took Sean Hannity to task for being "bad for America" (Hannity's words not Koppel's). Koppel suggested that pundits like Hannity draw people more interested in ideology than truth. Whether that's accurate or not, it's true that people often forget that Hannity isn't a news source. His show often looks at the news, but it does so though the lens of Hannity's opinion. This type of show rose to popularity with 24-hour cable news, where it was difficult to fill the long day with something that would keep people watching. That doesn't make his or any other show a bad thing. It just means that any information you get from the show will include bias, and that's exactly what's intended. More problematic is Koppel's and other newscasters' tendency to let their bias creep into what should be actual news programming.
- Learn the difference between fact and opinion: Similar to the advice above, it sounds easier than it is to differentiate between fact and opinion. In theory, news should have facts, and it does. Unfortunately, it's also filled

with opinion. Likewise, the punditry you see will also have a good mix of fact to go with its opinion. It's your job as the consumer to sort it all out. A perfect example of this can be seen in how climate change is presented. It's a fact that the earth has been warming since the Industrial Age. It's an opinion that this is a cause for concern. The first is clear and verifiable empirically by a variety of methods; the second isn't. There are any number of reasons why facts and opinions might be presented together like this, but it doesn't change the importance of being able to see the difference. If you want to be properly informed use facts to develop your own opinion.

 Recognize bias and adjust for it: Kellyanne Conway was given a hard time recently over use of the term "alternative facts," but she was right, and her detractors were wrong. She said that Sean Spicer was using alternative facts when he said that the audience for the inauguration was the largest in history. He was, and it was. When including all methods of viewing the inauguration, there is no question that Trump's election was the most watched. The traditional media was fixated on the idea of attendance (because they hoped to embarrass Trump), so they reported that Obama's first inauguration seemed to have more people in attendance. Both of these views are true, and both rely on facts, and each promotes a different view because of bias. In fact, this is by far the most common way that bias influences what we see and hear, not by telling us things that are untrue or even offering opinions instead of facts. The most common media bias comes from the decision of what facts to present and what facts to ignore.

You cannot avoid bias. If you think you have a source of news that's unbiased, think again - you're deluding yourself. What you can do is recognize what that bias is and adjust for it accordingly. Get

your information from multiple sources. Remember that facts are facts, so it really doesn't matter where they come from. A good mix of traditional news sources and opinion pieces is probably healthier than attempting to stick only to news. Sort, sift, and compare as needed, and try to get the whole story.

 Trust but verify (all right, trust no one). Ask yourself where these "facts" came from. Alternate or not, facts that aren't sourced should make you nervous. "Homicide is up from last year." Really? According to whom? Where is homicide up? By how much? Where are the charts and statistics that go with this data? It isn't fair to expect your source to do all the legwork for you, but you should be able to find out how they came across this information. Under the best of circumstances, you will be given a source. Even then, don't trust it. Who is this source? What's their bias? (of course, they have one) What assumptions are being made when these numbers are generated? Again, once the facts are determined, generate your own conclusions about what those facts mean. Don't even allow academics to spoon-feed you your opinions.

Is that enough to be sure you have it all right? Nope. It's a good start, though. More often than not, people don't take the time to be sure that they're actually informed. Is that "bad for America"? Maybe, but most people have actual lives to live and can't be expected to take the time to sort through all the trash that we're inundated with daily. Even these few tips I've offered are more trouble than it's worth to most. Perhaps the best advice is to be skeptical. Be skeptical about everything. Or better yet, turn off the news and go to a ballgame.

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



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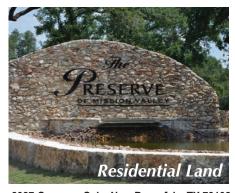
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120 Deer Ridge Drive La Vernia, TX 78121 List Price: \$310,000

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2327 Geneseo Oaks New Braunfels, TX 78132 List Price: \$130,000

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2607 Glenn Drive Canyon Lake, TX 78133 List Price: \$468,888

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1461 Primrose Path Canyon Lake, TX 78133 List Price: \$12,800

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