

# tx citizen

VOLUME 7  
ISSUE FOUR  
APR 2018



## CRAWFEST

[crawfishfestivalnewbraunfels.com](http://crawfishfestivalnewbraunfels.com)

## CRAWFEST IS BACK!

**April 27 - 29**

**Comal County Fairgrounds**

**Discount Tickets Online at**

[crawfishfestivalnewbraunfels.com](http://crawfishfestivalnewbraunfels.com)

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**The Local Tubing Scene's Younger, Hotter Sister Wants to Meet You**

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# 1<sup>ST</sup> WORD

## Tharp Dodges Bullet; Electorate Shoots Self in Foot

Despite a reprimand delivered by all four District Judges just days before the election, the Republican intervention to replace Comal County District Attorney Jennifer Tharp with a competent docket manager failed, leaving us with four more years of prosecutorial waste and abuse.

Law enforcement personnel will continue to be assaulted by criminals who will not face charges for their violence against the badge, civilian victims will continue to wait years for justice to be served, and local taxpayers will continue to pay more for our DA's services than residents of counties with significantly larger populations do. But let's talk about the real victim here: me.

I thought for sure that the four-way race for the DA gig was going to a run-off. In both February and March, we published some great stuff on Tharp and her two top prosecutors, and we were looking forward to two more months of that. Two more months of throwing down the logic against Chief Felony Prosecutor Sammy "I Don't Care for Due Process" McCreary, Chief Misdemeanor Prosecutor Clay "If You Don't Vote for Tharp You Support Child Molesters" Hearrell, and, of course, DA Tharp herself (nickname revoked for incompetence).

We had meaty courtroom transcripts and everything. Now what do we have? A handful of dust, that's what. Months of work that will sit in the vault until the next election. Bah.

I'll be good and danged if I'm going to put another drop of sweat into an alternate column of equal import. It's softball all the way from here on out. The rest of this month's column will be an innuendo-filled feature about tubing in a river.



## Tubing - In a River

Tubing in New Braunfels is like courting a beautiful woman.

If the beginning, it seems as if all is right with the world, but over time, you discover that she's incredibly difficult to deal with.

Her exasperating parking situation. Her exacting beer container standards. Her insistence on using tiny coolers fit for no one. Her prohibition of double-tubes. The long lines of other people trying to enter her at the exact same time you'd like to while she stares at you with a look that says "Take a number and like it."

You know what I'm talking about. Rule after rule after STUPID CRAZY RULE on the Comal, insane two-lane traffic and massive crowding on River Road. It's why you don't take her out as much as you used to.

She's great, she really is. But whether you're a local or guest of our fair city, she's too much work. I mean really.

## The Hotter Sister

As it happens, New Braunfels' tubing scene has a hot, open-minded sister that lives 15 minutes away: The Lower Guadalupe.

Oh yes, to tube Lower Guadalupe is to enjoy the company of an easy-going someone that doesn't badger you with a litany of rules or demand that you share her attention with hordes of other people. Plus she's low mileage, which counts for something, believe you me.

You can bring the biggest cooler you can manage, filled with as much canned beer and ice as you want. Parking is easy, as is getting in the water. You can float all day, with unlimited shuttle service, for \$20. Lower Guadalupe is generous with her affections. You'll no longer be just another faceless suitor in a long line of difficulties to be endured. Lower Guadalupe WANTS you.

Wants **YOU**.

So this weekend, grab your friends and your cases of beer and your giant cooler and drive the quarter hour out to the PowerPlant Grill at the dam in Seguin. Snag a sweet parking spot and get your tubes and such from Seguin Tubes, which is right there on the property. Use the stairs to get in the water real easy like. Crack open a cold one. Float.

Savor the experience.

\m/

Mike Reynolds  
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

*Call ahead at 830-624-3984 or logon to [seguintubes.com](http://seguintubes.com) for hours and stuff. Ice and rental coolers are available right there on the spot if you need 'em. The burgers and margaritas at PowerPlant are what we describe as "epic", so factor those into your plans and maybe make it a barn burner.*



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# APPETIZER CHAMPIONS

# DOUBLE MEAT CHAMPIONS



## THE WATERING HOLE'S FIRST ANNUAL CABIN FEVER BBQ COOK OFF!

Scott and Bo Allen's bacon wrapped shrimp and yellow bell pepper with a chuck o' ribeye took home the honors for best appetizer, while Jesse Logan's team snagged the blue ribbons for both ribs AND chicken!





# CRAWFEST 5!

BY NICK ROGERS

Germany is in a panic.

After someone likely released red crawfish into Berlin's Tiergarten Park\*, the little red beast has proliferated and is wreaking havoc. Innocent Germans are forced to remain indoors, windows and doorways bolted shut for their own safety. Children cry and women scream in the night as the eerie skittering clickety sounds of wandering crawfish in search of fresh victims permeate the darkened city streets.\*\*

The Germans can't eat the invaders (who are native to the southern U.S. and northern Mexico) because of strict poaching laws, but we can, and now, we must come together to eat crawfish. This task is crucially important and one not to be taken lightly, not only for the old country but to protect our own borders.

Fortunately, Ben and Gina Jones are doing their part by organizing the 5th annual CRAWFEST, right here in New Braunfels (a town founded by Germans, I must add). The three day festival of crawfish and music will be held April 27-29 at the Comal County Fairgrounds.

The event, which draws thousands of visitors every year, started as a party for clients of Ben and Gina's publishing company. They held the crawfish party at their house, but the exponential growth of the event outgrew their home. They eventually moved the event to the fairgrounds, where it continues to grow.

The first year at the fairgrounds, Ben was uncertain how much crawfish would be available. He settled on 3,000 lbs, which he quickly found was woefully insufficient.

"We ran out of crawfish before evening with a line of waiting people as long as a football field," Ben said. "I was the one who had to go tell the guy standing in line forever that he wasn't going to get any crawfish. It was one of the worst days of my life. It was probably the most successful unsuccessful event we've ever had."



Now, the CRAWFEST cooks up more than 10,000 pounds, as the event has grown from one day to three, and nobody goes hungry.

But, there is certainly a lot more going on than just crawfish. There are numerous events, such as a 5K run, motorcycle rally, washer toss and, of course, eating and cooking competitions, and more.

There is also a lot of great live Texas music. Friday night's headliner will be rock band Vallejo. On Saturday, country/rock band Whiskey Myers will perform. On Sunday, which is Tejano day at the festival, Siggno will hit the stage.

To get into the CRAWFEST, it is best to hurry online, where you can purchase your ticket for \$10, the same price charged for the very first CRAWFEST back in the day. The regular gate price is \$15, and \$25 after 5.p.m. Also online, \$25 will get you a Weekend Warrior wristband, good for all three days.

But gee whiz, you might say, I want to live at the CRAWFEST to protect my fellow Americans and German compatriots. Well, you can do that, too. Camping is allowed at the CRAWFEST. To park an RV at the fairgrounds, the cost is \$300 (however, the RV has to be self-contained, as there are no electric or water hook ups). For \$150, you can set up a tent. If you don't have a tent, there will be some tents available for rent on-site. Campers also receive two Weekend Warrior wristbands.



Also, there are still VIP tables available. The tables seat 10 at a price of \$750, and each table receives 10 tickets for Friday and Saturday.

Proceeds go to charity, and Ben and Gina select different local organizations to help every year. This year, the focus is on the Christian Youth Theater and to help rebuild

Port Aransas (slightly veering from local charities, but a dang worthy cause). The event raises thousands of dollars every year.

Any vendor interested in setting up a booth needs to act fast as the space is limited and going quick.

If you want to learn how you can volunteer, or enter contests and events, go to CRAWFESTNB.com. Folks are needed and a volunteer roundup will be held at Billy's Ice House on April 5. For high school students wishing to volunteer, they can do so online, and volunteer work will go toward a green cord for New Braunfels High School graduates.

*Nick Rogers covers courts and features for the TX Citizen.*

*\*This is true. No, really, look it up.*

*\*\*This is a lie. Maybe.*



*Joker Run  
and  
Crawfish*

**APRIL 28**

**BENEFITTING PORT A HURRICANE VICTIMS**

**STARTS AT GRUENE HARLEY-DAVIDSON - 10AM**  
**ENDS AT CRAWFEST - 2PM (AT THE FAIRGOUNDS)**

**Register Online at**  
**crawfishfestivalnewbraunfels.com**





# soundcheck

## YOUR LIVE MUSIC GUIDE

**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



TBA  
9pm

Gruene Hall  
Billy Bacon & the Forbidden Pigs  
1pm  
Dirty River Boys  
8pm

**Sat 3.31**

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

Kori Free & the Groove Hounds  
9pm

### Riley's TAVERN

Dr G & the Mudcats  
9pm



TBA  
9pm

Gruene Hall  
Flat Top Jones  
1pm  
Blue Water Highway  
9pm

**Sun 4.1**

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn  
3pm  
Lucas Taylor  
7pm

### Riley's TAVERN

Courtney Patton  
4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
Easter  
3pm

Gruene Hall  
Peterson Brothers  
12pm  
Barbara Nesbitt  
5pm

**Mon 4.2**

Gruene Hall  
Rusty Martin  
6pm

**Tues 4.3**

### Riley's TAVERN

Open Mic  
8pm

Billy's Ice House  
Reed Brothers  
8pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
Dottie Jack, Jade Jack Stone  
7pm

Gruene Hall  
Tommy Elskes, Stephen Doster  
8pm

**Wed 4.4**

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 4.5**

THE PHOENIX SALOON  
Garrett Douglas  
5pm

### POWERPLANT

Buddy Vargas  
6pm

### Riley's TAVERN

Paul Nipper  
8pm



Rick Reyna Band  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Aaron Einhouse  
6pm

Vino en Verde  
Brett Cline  
8pm

**Fri 4.6**

### THE PHOENIX SALOON

Larry Dial  
6pm  
Brian Christopher & the Wild Oats  
9pm



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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**

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**THAT KARAOKE CHICK at 8pm**

**\$4 WHISKEY WEDNESDAYS**  
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**LIVE MUSIC 8pm-MID**

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

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**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**

The Johnnathans  
6pm  
Big John Mills  
9pm



Drew Moreland  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Wynonna  
8pm

Happy Cow  
Broken DuckFeet  
8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

River Road Ice House  
Adam Hood  
w/ Roadside Libby  
8pm

**Sat 4.7**

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**  
Folk Family Revival  
w/ Con Crema  
9pm

**POWERPLANT**

Hard Cover  
7pm

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**

Dallas Moore  
9pm



Roadside Libby  
9pm

Billy's Ice House  
Mark Sebby  
8pm

Happy Cow  
Armadillo Road  
8pm

River Road Ice House  
Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers  
w/ Fastball  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Tomar & the FC's  
1pm  
Shinyribs  
8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

**Sun 4.8**

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

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**  
Matt Harlan  
4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
Jimmie Balado & Country  
Sounds  
3pm

Gruene Hall  
Bret Graham  
12pm  
South Austin Moonlighters  
5pm

**Mon 4.9**

Gruene Hall  
Mark Jungers Band  
6pm

**Tue 4.10**

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

Billy's Ice House  
Austin Gilliam  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Tom Gillam & the Kosmic  
Messengers  
6pm

**Wed 4.11**

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

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**  
TBA  
8pm

Billy's Ice House  
Aaron Stephens  
8pm

**Thu 4.12**

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**  
Shawn Hart  
5pm

**POWERPLANT**

Colton's Kin  
6pm

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**  
Jake Pyeatt  
8pm



Jeremy Egg Band  
8pm

Billy's Ice House  
Austin English  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros  
6pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Live Band Karaoke  
8pm

Vino en Verde  
Brett Cline  
8pm

**Fri 4.13**

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

Junior Nash  
5pm  
The Selfless Lovers  
9pm

**POWERPLANT**

Howlin' Waters  
7pm

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**

Mark Jungers  
6pm  
TBA  
9pm



Josh Grider  
8pm

Billy's Ice House  
Dalton Domino  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Jamey Johnson  
8pm

Happy Cow  
Wyzer  
8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

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

**Sat 4.14**

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

Highway Hypnosis  
9pm

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**

James Hand  
9pm





Jeff Jacobs Band  
9pm

Gruene Hall  
Josh Ward  
9pm

Happy Cow  
Matt & the Herdsmen  
9pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

**Sun 4.15**

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn  
3pm  
Lucas Taylor  
7pm

**Riley's TAVERN**

Emily Herring  
4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
Golden Roses  
3pm

Gruene Hall  
Joey McGee  
12pm  
Guy Forsyth  
5pm

**Mon 4.16**

Gruene Hall  
TBA  
7pm

**Tue 4.17**

**Riley's TAVERN**

Open Mic  
8pm

Billy's Ice House  
JJ Garrett Band  
8pm

Comal Country Music Show  
KC Hall  
Monte Good, Terry Lyne  
Moore, Denny Ivey  
7:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Patterson Barrett, Julieann  
Banks, Tom Gillam  
6pm

**Wed 4.18**

**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 4.19**

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

Garrett Douglas  
5pm

**Riley's TAVERN**

Calamity Janes Band  
8pm



Whiskey 2 Step  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Bo Porter  
6pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Live Band Karaoke  
8pm

River Road Ice House  
Chris Knight  
w/ Travis Meadows, Whiskey  
Jack  
8pm

Vino en Verde  
Brett Cline  
8pm

**Fri 4.20**

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

Larry Dial  
5pm  
The Southsiders  
8:30pm

**POWERPLANT**

Hard Cover  
7pm

**Riley's TAVERN**

Pepper's Blues  
6pm  
The Rewinders  
9pm



Wyzer  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Lee Ann Womack  
8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

River Road Ice House  
Dave Fenley  
8pm

Whitewater Amphitheater  
Willie Nelson  
w/ Robert Earl Keen  
8pm

**Sat 4.21**

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

Ozz  
9pm

**POWERPLANT**

Bobby G & Le Duece  
7pm

**Riley's TAVERN**

Heybale  
9pm



Brandon Michael & True Country  
9pm

Gruene Hall  
The Eastside Kings  
1pm  
Charley Crockett  
9pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

Whitewater Amphitheater  
Willie Nelson  
w/ Robert Earl Keen  
8pm

**Sun 4.22**

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

Jorge Gallegos  
3pm  
Lucas Taylor  
7pm

**Riley's TAVERN**

Eric Middleton  
4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
Glen Collins & Alibi  
3pm

Gruene Hall  
Los Fabulocos  
5pm

**Mon 4.23**

Gruene Hall  
Grouchy Like Riley  
6pm



**PHOENIX SALOON APR EVENTS**

**Friday 3/30**

Donovan Keith  
& The Funky Feat 9pm

**Saturday 3/31**

Kori Free  
& The Groove Hounds 9pm

**Friday 4/6**

Brian Christopher  
& The Wild Oats 9pm

**Saturday 4/7**

Folk Family Revival  
w/Con Crema 9pm

**Friday 4/13**

The Selfless Lovers 9pm

**Saturday 4/14**

Highway Hypnosis 9pm

**Friday 4/20**

The Southsiders 8:30pm

**Saturday 4/21**

Ozz 9pm

**Friday 4/27**

Haydn Vitera, Jorge Gallegos,  
Dave Perez 9pm

**Saturday 4/28**

Sonny Wolf 9pm

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**



**SATURDAY 3/31**  
DR G & THE MUDCATS 9PM

**FRIDAY 4/6**  
BIG JOHN MILLS 9PM

**SATURDAY 4/7**  
DALLAS MOORE 9PM

**FRIDAY 4/13**  
TBA 9PM

**SATURDAY 4/14**  
JAMES HAND 9PM

**FRIDAY 4/20**  
THE REWINDERS 9PM

**SATURDAY 4/21**  
HEYBALE 9PM

**FRIDAY 4/27**  
THE BEAUMONTS 9PM

**SATURDAY 4/28**  
JOHNNY BUSH 9PM

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**Tue 4.24**

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**

Troy Stone Band  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Josh Grider, Drew Kennedy  
6pm

**Wed 4.25**

**THE PHOENIX**  
**SALOON**

Open Mic w/ Billy Roy  
8:30pm

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**

TBA  
9pm

Billy's Ice House  
Aaron Stephens  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
The Reed Brothers  
6pm

**Thu 4.26**

**THE PHOENIX**  
**SALOON**

Shawn Hart  
5pm

**POWERPLANT**

Jeff Wood  
6pm

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**

Logan Timberlake  
8pm



Meyer Anderson Band  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Jesse Stratton Band  
6pm

Vino en Verde  
Brett Cline  
8pm

**Fri 4.27**

**THE PHOENIX**  
**SALOON**

Junior Nash  
5pm  
Haydn Vitera, Jorge Gallegos,  
Dave Perez  
9pm

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**

Roy Heinrich  
6pm  
The Beaumonts  
9pm



Knotty Grove  
9pm

Happy Cow  
Mark Odom Band  
8pm

**Sat 4.28**

**THE PHOENIX**  
**SALOON**

Sonny Wolf  
9pm

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**

Johnny Bush  
9pm



Jeremy Egg Band  
9pm

Gruene Hall  
Flat Top Jones  
1pm  
Delbert McClinton  
9pm

**Sun 4.29**

**THE PHOENIX**  
**SALOON**

All Mixed Up  
3pm  
Lucas Taylor  
7pm

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**

Blues Jam & Gear Swap  
w/ Ace Pepper  
4pm



Knotty Grove  
8pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
Lone Star Pickerz  
3pm

Gruene Hall  
Slim Bawb  
12pm  
Linda Gail Lewis  
5pm

Happy Cow  
South Texas  
5pm

**Tue 5.1**

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**

Open Mic  
8pm

Billy's Ice House  
Reed Brothers  
8pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
Tony Booth, Lorraine Chavana,  
Ed Gary  
7pm

**Wed 5.2**

**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 5.3**

**THE PHOENIX**  
**SALOON**

TBA  
5pm

**Riley's**  
**TAVERN**

TBA  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros  
6pm



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# FREEMAN ON SPORTS

WITH BRANT FREEMAN

Maybe it's because February was so short, but it really feels like March lasted forever this year. Whether that was because daylight saving kicked in last month, my birthday was last month (where was my present, reader?) or because it was another month I had to wait for the release of Infinity War to come out, March just DRAGGED.

But it was a fun drag! This was mainly because of how awesome the NCAA Tournament has been which I'll spend the bulk of this month's review on, but before that, a few other delicious nuggets from March:

- Depending on when you're reading this, the MLB season is now underway! On paper, the Houston Astros look even better than they were last season which is a scary thought. They could win 120+ this year.

- Speaking of Houston, the Rockets just keep rolling and with Steph Curry dealing with injury issues, the Rockets have to be the favorites to win the Finals this summer. I questioned the fit of James Harden and Chris Paul together before the season which proves how clueless I truly am.

- I spent last month's column giving my .02 on the Kawhi Leonard situation. It remains weird.

- The Houston Texans signed Tyrann Mathieu (solid) and Brandon Weeden (hilarious).

On to the month in review, and the NCAA Tournament...

**NCAA:** The tournament remains the best event in sports due to its unpredictability and the way some random team from the

Missouri Valley Conference and a nun can capture the heart of America. The run to the Final Four for Loyola-Chicago has been a joy to watch and now that the Ramblers have gotten this far, it feels as if we've all been Rambler die-hards for years (again, this month felt \*really\* long).

Typically, after the first weekend, the upsets come to a halt with college basketball's blue bloods essentially telling the underdogs "we'll take it from here", and as a result, we usually end up with a star-studded Final Four featuring teams loaded with future first round picks. I remember covering the last Final Four in San Antonio in 2008, the first Final Four ever with four #1 seeds in the 64-team era: Memphis, UCLA, North Carolina and Kansas. Derrick Rose, Russell Westbrook, Kevin Love, Tyler Hansbrough, Mario Chalmers and Darrell Arthur were all a part of that year's Final Four, a memorable event that had one of the best title games ever with Kansas topping Memphis in overtime.

As great as that Final Four was, a lot of Final Fours wind up becoming forgettable... unless a tiny mid-major (like Loyola-Chicago) sneaks in. Who could forget George Mason's Final Four run in 2006? What about Butler's back-to-back title game appearances in 2010 and 2011? It's as if the excitement from the opening weekend, where upsets are what make the first two days so damn fun, carry over two weeks later except with the actual National Championship at stake. As someone who covers a mid-major at Texas

State, it makes me daydream about what a feeling that would be to be a part of something like that.

Look at what tournament runs have done for these smaller schools. No one knew of Gonzaga until the late 90s and early 2000s when the Bulldogs made their runs, and now they're a perennial Top 25 team that made the title game just last year. After Butler's back-to-back runs, Head Coach Brad Stevens, turned that success into one of the best jobs in the NBA: Head Coach of the Boston Celtics. VCU made the Final Four (along with Butler) in 2011 and four years later, their head coach, Shaka Smart, took over at the University of Texas.

While there are still some of college basketball's mainstays in the Final Four again this year, Kansas and Villanova, along with Michigan, you better believe that San Antonio is about to become Loyola-Chicago's city this weekend, with the non-Jayhawk, Wildcat and Wolverine fans crammed inside the Alamodome cheering for history.

I haven't even got to UMBC's upset as a 16-seed over Virginia yet. I honestly thought that was something I would never see in my lifetime. I finally got to witness my sports unicorn and it was as beautiful as I thought it would be.

Until next month...

*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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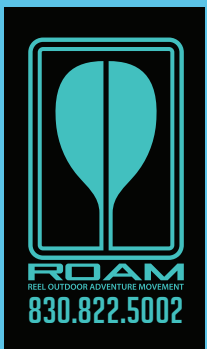


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# RED

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WRITING FOR THE RED STATES  
**KELLY COLBY**

## The March for Insults

REPRESENTING BLUE AMERICA  
**DAVID HIMMEL**

### March for Their Lives

It's rare that a left-wing protest can move me to any sort of political concession, even more so when the matter to be conceded is gun rights. I must say, however, that this weekend's march in Washington D.C. and elsewhere has actually done the trick. I'm finally willing to support "commonsense gun control."

It's hard to top what the typical ambulance chasing leftists do when trying to move legislation, but this time, when the Democratic operatives handed grieving, ill-informed teens their talking points and hoisted them on top of the rapidly cooling bodies of their Parkland brethren, I was touched. It was also a stretch in the ethically challenged behavior of our propagandist media to root them on and plaster their faces far and wide – "You've sunk a long way, Baby." I can't say their actual arguments changed my mind (mostly because they don't seem to have any). What was more effective was calling everyone who disagreed a murderer and suggesting the NRA, its members, and any politician who doesn't toe the liberal line have blood on their hands. To do this while holding hands with Planned Parenthood was a wholly unexpected touch of unintentional irony. I loved it.

It was also a good idea to invite people from the entertainment community to join them, and I was glad that they could take time out

of their very busy sexual harassing schedule to drop by. When I think moral authority, I know Hollywood's the first place I look. Miley Cyrus really should be the face of the movement. While she hasn't been accused of raping anyone, I can't think of anyone else that might offer the intellectual heft required to match these kids.

Unfortunately, there are no current plans to call forward any legislation in Congress. However, there is a bill proposed by Manchin and Toomey in the Senate, and I encourage everyone to back it, and ask for it to be addressed immediately. It's modest. It expands background checks to cover internet and gun show sales, while maintaining an exemption for transfers to family members. It also rewards states that keep up to date with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and punishes those that don't. It also adds money for the creation of a research committee that will investigate possible causes of gun violence. I would suggest junking this in favor of a national gun ownership age of 21 or more.

Will the Manchin-Toomey Bill work? Of course not. It won't save a single life or stop a single crime, but perhaps it will get this particular groups of malcontents to shut up. (Maybe the next school shooting will yield a smarter group.) Besides, if 2nd Amendment rights can be restricted by age, perhaps we can do the same for the 1st and 26th.

### Enough is Enough with the Insults

To brush aside the efforts of the teenagers organizing and taking part in the March for Our Lives and the Enough is Enough movement as pithy and write them off as pawns of Democratic operatives is to play the fool.

To accuse these teenagers of attacking the 2nd Amendment while calling for the 1st and 26th amendments to apply only to those at least 21 years old is to admit your great fear of aging out of relevance. It's admitting how desperately you require a false sense of power to feel any sort of validation.

To call the teenagers "ill-informed" is to show that you didn't listen to anything anyone said since the protests began. These teenagers are as informed on the issue of public mass shootings as anyone can be. They were there. They lived through it. And they'll be living with its horrors for the rest of their lives.

The teenagers leading the Enough is Enough cause have not once suggested repealing the 2nd Amendment. They are asking for the one thing that appears to be harder to get than a constitutional amendment: a rational discussion that can lead to potential ways to better prevent or reduce public mass shootings.

The marches last week and the larger movement is about gun control, not so anyone's rights can

be restricted, but rather that everyone has better access to the right to life and the ongoing Pursuit of Happiness.

To attempt to belittle the idea of a safer America by making the celebrities who joined in on the rally cries is to throw a shoddy smoke bomb down like some hack magician. It's an obvious and futile attempt to distract from the real issue. It doesn't matter that Hollywood is undergoing its own reckoning with sexual harassment. That reckoning is a good thing. It shows that Hollywood is finally owning up and making change for the greater good. And yes, for shame on Hollywood, but you can learn something from these celebrities - they have recognized when enough is enough. (Let's hope they don't screw the pooch on the Time's Up movement and continue to progressively advocate for safe and fair working environments.)

To accuse Miley Cyrus of not having intellectual heft is a fair accusation. However, the notion of wanting schools and churches and malls and streets safer from hailstorms of bullets does not require intellectual heft. It merely requires a few ounces of care for your fellow man and a desire to better protect and respect our children.

To passively-aggressively liken these protesters to murderers—as they have aggressively done to the NRA and any elected officials who accept money from the NRA—because

they're holding hands with Planned Parenthood is to expose your lack of deductive reasoning. There is an immeasurable difference between terminating a pregnancy and the murder of multiple people in less time than it takes to book an appointment and have the abortion procedure.

These are sadder and weaker attempts to distract from the real issue—the real question: What do you have against a safer America and a generation you created expressing its thoughts and concerns for the future of this country? It appears that these teenagers—and yes, Miley Cyrus—are the ones who are truly trying to make America great (again?) while the GOP remains set on insulting kids and accepting money from an organization whose only interest is in the selling of products with one purpose: to kill. And before you start in on Planned Parenthood again, take note that it offers far more services than abortion. What does the NRA do?

It's nice that whatever the teenagers did helped you recognize the need for some decent legislation. We could have done without the pithy insults.

These teenagers are charged. They will not forget. Many will be voting in November. The rest will be voting in 2020. Tread lightly and be considerate because your future is in their hands. Best not to poke the bear.



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