

"They're pretty good actually, Hall & Oates. I got to give them credit. They got a lot of toe-tappers." — Frank Black

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VOLUME FIVE
ISSUE 10
APRIL



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River Fee Explained Again | Sid Miller Busted for OK Trip | LCRA vs NBU

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APRIL
22nd-24th

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1ST WORD

March was the month that everybody finally noticed that City Hall instituted a new "River Management" fee for anyone wishing to avail themselves of some chlorine-free, wet recreation this summer. Naturally, everybody lost their collective mind over it, even though we explained the issue in excruciating detail in our January 28 edition, when it was still too cold to care about such things. So we're going to break it down it again, with a slightly revised version of the January piece. Enjoy.

"I want my two dollars." — City Hall

On January 11, City Council voted to increase the river management fee from \$1.50 to \$2.00, and to start charging that fee to non-residents entering the river at Prince Solms Park and Hinman Island (the fees had already been in force for customers of outfitters). This has caused the requisite flurry of mis-information to blanket the city, so we're going to clear up the confusion right here, right now.

First of all, in order to keep the entire town from burning again, as it does every time City Hall makes "adjustments" to how the state-owned rivers are managed, the fee only applies to non-residents, even at outfitters, and only on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. A smart political move, to be sure, which will keep all but the most rabid locals placated, and prevent anyone except out-of-towners from having legal standing to bring suit against it.

Most of us know better than to venture into the rivers on a weekend or holiday to begin with, but if circumstances force a local to endure the mass of human flesh that takes to the water on those days, said local must obtain a pass at the Recreation Center or Parks Office in Landa Park in order to avoid paying the fee. Do that now, before the rush.



Ticket booths will be set up at both Prince Solms and Hinman Island, so don't think you can just sneak over to Hinman and get around The Man, because you can't. The Man is everywhere, and won't hesitate to have you ticketed for non-compliance. The Man will totally do it.

For those of you wondering how the heck the City can charge for entrance into state-owned rivers, that's a dang good question, and here's the answer: They can't. They aren't. That would be illegal.

They're charging to *exit* the rivers at public egresses. Tricky. Clever as all get out. A judge wouldn't approve of preventing people from entering the river without a wristband, but as we said before, nobody with standing is going to fight this.

We have to hand it to the City this time. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to mount a successful campaign against this one. There is language in the ordinance that could be argued, but even if the other conditions for the fees were declared void, the exit provision keeps the meat of the law intact. The only thing the courts could do is change up the ticket booth/gate configuration.

Only Rockin' R, which has it's own exits from both rivers, would have a case to make against the other provisions, and really, it's way easier to collect the two bucks from non-locals than go through what it would take to get everything changed up. We'd let it go too, and we don't let go of nothin'.

\m/

Mike Reynolds
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

You want more Mike? Check out our new "State of the State" column on page 7, and our weekly newscast, "The Texas Newsgrinder with Mike Reynolds" at txcitizen.com, Soundcloud.com, and/or the iTunes podcast store!



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Due Process WITH NICK ROGERS

LCRA vs NBU

The river of bad blood between New Braunfels Utilities and the Lower Colorado River Authority continues to rise. An appeal filed by the LCRA concerning water rights to the Comal River was immediately met with a motion by NBU, asking the Third Court to consider what amounts to an appeal of an appeal.

NBU filed a suit against LCRA officials, who it claims were making illegal title claims to Comal River water, which LCRA argued was its due according to agreements with the city's utility system, which leases Comal water from the river authority. The amount claimed by LCRA is 20 percent of what NBU currently uses. LCRA's claim was made shortly after it lost a multi-million-dollar suit by NBU over the river authority illegally overcharging for electrical generation.

In the water rights case, NBU asked for a summary judgment, while LCRA officials claimed they were immune to suit because they were acting within their legal authority. In January, District Judge Dib Waldrip ruled in favor of NBU, saying that LCRA "holds no current or future interest, vested or unvested, in and to any of the water rights."

LCRA immediately appealed Waldrip's denial of its governmental immunity but before the water authority could even file its motion, NBU filed a quick response calling foul because the appeal was made before Waldrip could enter final judgment. The appeal puts a stay on any lower court actions.

"The merits having been decided, all that remained for the trial court in this suit was to enter a final judgment in the case," NBU argues to the Third Court. "[R]ather than wait for the proposed judgment to be filed and the district court to enter a judgment, the LCRA Officials filed this ... appeal with this Court, automatically staying all proceedings in the trial court, and thereby barring the trial court from entering judgment in accordance with its January 22, 2016 Order."

The problem, NBU argues, is that the appeal by LCRA officials forces the Third Court to consider the issues that have yet to be finalized.

The utilities company asks that Appeals lift the stay so that Waldrip can enter judgment.

Naturally, the water authority officials disagree and claim that state law sides with them.

"The Texas Legislature has provided that, upon appeal of an interlocutory order denying a plea to the jurisdiction based on governmental immunity, the filing of the appeal 'stays all other proceedings in the trial court pending resolution of the appeal,'" LCRA officials argue in their response. "[T]he Legislature did not grant authority to appellate courts to lift the statutory automatic stay."

In any case, the water authority officials deny that LCRA has any intent to take water from NBU.

"There is no dispute that NBU currently holds title to those water rights under agreements and a long-term lease with LCRA," the officials say. "LCRA has only claimed that, when the lease expires (in or after 2037), the lease provides LCRA the option to reclaim the water rights, pursuant to NBU's agreement. There is no present title dispute to be litigated."

"LCRA does not assert possession of or title to the disputed water rights; it claims only that it has the option to reclaim those rights at the termination of NBU's lease," the water authority argues.

NBU, however, fiercely deny LCRA's proclamation of innocence.

"The LCRA Officials counter that there is 'no present title dispute,'" NBU says in a response. "On the contrary, the basis for NBU's lawsuit is that the LCRA Officials are – presently – claiming the LCRA has an option to assert a reversionary interest in NBU's water rights under the terms of an existing lease between the parties. ... This is a present title dispute over an interest in real property being asserted by the LCRA Officials, regardless of when in the future the LCRA Officials claim title would actually pass. The interest being asserted is a present interest such that it is presently clouding NBU's rightful title and ownership."

Nick Rogers covers courts & crime for the TX Citizen.

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STATE OF THE STATE

WITH MIKE REYNOLDS

Sid Miller Can't Keep His Story Straight

When AG Commissioner Sid Miller billed a trip to Oklahoma during his first month in office to Texas taxpayers, he told them that he had been invited to meet with Oklahoma legislators and had spent two hours with them, that he had an appointment with his Oklahoman counterpart, and that he was given a tour of the stockyards.

As it turns out, every one of those lawmakers Miller met with for two hours is a filthy, filthy liar, because to a man, they say they didn't invite Miller, they weren't expecting Miller, and that they spent maybe fifteen minutes speaking with him after he just showed up unannounced to get his photo taken with them. How dare they.

Oklahoma AG Commissioner Jim Reese said that Miller made an appointment with him but then didn't show up, and then the guy that runs the stockyards said nobody gave Miller a tour. Why these Sooners have conspired to lie about Miller's trip is beyond our comprehension. After all, why would Sid just make all that stuff up?

THIS JUST IN: It seems Miller has a doctor he sees for pain treatments up there. Oops.

Editor's Note: We apologize to the people of Oklahoma for impugning the credibility of their lawmakers, AG Commissioner and the guy that runs the stockyards – it seems Sid prefers to color outside the lines, as it were, and has since been forced by circumstances to reimburse the taxpayers of the Great State of Texas for his trip, but only after the Houston Chronicle busted him for it.

Miller has freely embraced expediency at the cost of ethics before – Sid awarded over 400-thousand dollars in bonuses to his employees during his first year in office – which exceeds the amount paid out by his predecessor over the first two and a half years of his time at the post, and more than the offices of the Governor, AG and Comptroller combined. That, of course, isn't the breach of ethics – the ethical breach is from violating the State's policy that bonuses only be paid to

employees after they have been evaluated and deemed worthy – in other words, *after they've worked there for a while*. Miller went ahead and gave 52 of the 144 bonuses to people who had just started in his office, even if they were already earning six-figure incomes.

Miller also awarded jobs with individual salaries of nearly \$200,000 annually to four of his friends and campaign workers without giving the public a chance to apply – as one does when following the law.

But when, like Miller, you host weekly meetings with an anti-Muslim Chaplin in a government facility who leads your state employees in Christian prayer and Bible study, ethics appropriately become a matter of secondary concern – after all, Miller doesn't claim to be perfect, just forgiven, and it would be the very height of arrogance to even think of holding him to account for irrelevant distractions like lying and lawbreaking and financial shenanigans. How dare we.

More Waco Shootout Indictments

The McLennan County grand jury has just indicted 48 more bikers in connection with last May's shootout at what had been the Waco Twin Peaks franchise, bringing the total amount of motorcycle enthusiasts on charges to 154.

Nine bikers died during that gunfight with police and possibly each other, although it's still unknown who exactly shot at whom and for what reason. I mean, we do know that police fired because they were in Fear for Their Lives™, but that's about it. Of the nine bodies rendered cold at the scene, four of them contained bullets shot from the same model rifle that Waco police used, but there's no telling so far if police were the only ones in possession of that particular variety of gun at the time of the melee – there's a gag order on the case that the Associated Press has been fighting as overly broad and unconstitutional for some time, but has yet to be pulled.

Continued on next page.

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BEST
MARGARITA!
THE DOS RITA!

Continued from previous page.

No bikers have yet been charged with murder – rather the DA is going for “organized criminal activity” charges, which would mean that anyone who was a member of the same club as a shooter could be held responsible for any injuries or deaths that resulted from that shooter’s fire. Under these prosecutorial conditions, unarmed bikers that were hiding under tables, openly weeping and clutching a blanket during the shootout can still end up in prison, even if all nine deaths are proven to have been the result of police fire, if authorities can prove that police were responding to an already violent situation already.

Nearly 500 weapons of all varieties were confiscated after the brawl – over 150 guns, plus padlocks wrapped in bandanas and some knives and hammers and stuff, which is going to leave the bikers with some explaining to do.

Fifteen indictees are taking John Law to court, alleging wrongful prosecution.

Voter ID

The Great State’s voter ID law is on the docket, figuratively anyhow, for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to review, *en banc*, a previous ruling that declared the law discriminatory, and therefore in violation of the Voting Rights Act. An *en banc* hearing is one in which all of the Court’s judges will hear the case, and they number 22 at this time.

The law was passed in 2011, but didn’t go into effect until two years later, when the United States Supreme Court struck down the part of the Voting Rights Act which required states with a history of, let’s say, “racial vigilance”, to get Federal preauthorization when changing election laws.

In late 2014, a District Judge out of Corpus Christi ruled that the law constituted a poll tax, because obtaining a birth certificate, which is the gateway document required for getting any other kind of accepted ID, could cost applicants anywhere from two dollars to nearly 50 – a situation rectified during the 84th Legislative session, which allowed for the certificates to be issued free of charge to those specifying that they needed the document for voter ID purposes. That bill, while passed by lawmakers prior to the initial ruling, was not signed into law by Texas Governor and tree-antagonist Greg Abbott until after the

oral arguments had been made in the State’s appeal to the Fifth Circuit, where a three-judge panel upheld the District Court’s ruling.

Rather than return for another go-round at the District level, and leaving itself room to appeal to US Supreme Court, Texas has decided on the aforementioned *en banc* appeal, which the Court has agreed to hear, but not yet set a date for. If the State loses again, they will likely go ahead and take it to the Supremes, where the currently vacancy would probably result in a 4-4 tie, meaning the Fifth Circuit decision would stand.

More Voting Shenanigans

While Governor Abbott continues to rail against the voter fraud epidemic that he has yet to provide any evidence for, the Great State is facing a federal lawsuit charging violations of the 1993 US law that requires states to offer voter registration services to people obtaining, renewing or updating a drivers license.

Four would-be voters who were turned away at the polls because their registration hadn’t been updated, are after a court order forcing Texas to comply with the National Voter Registration Act, which requires the state to automatically update existing registration records when a license is updated.

The State follows the rules when a driver visits a DPS office in person, but should a motorist handle their business online, as they are encouraged to by the state, the process is anything but automatic. The driver is directed to another website to download, print, sign and mail a voter registration form to their county’s registrar, and according to the Texas Civil Rights Project, who put the case together, (and common sense), that violates the Fourteenth Amendment to the United State’s Constitution, which addresses issues of equal protection.

Texas’ Secretary of State’s office has received over 1,800 complaints regarding the situation, which pre-empts any “tempest in a teapot” argument that might have been proffered otherwise. According to the suit, both the DPS and the Secretary’s office have been asked multiple times to correct the situation, and have refused to do so. Perhaps Governor Abbott is right when he says that Texas has a problem with the integrity of its elections.

You want more statewide coverage? Check out our weekly newscast, “The Texas Newsgrinder with Mike Reynolds” at txcitizen.com, Soundcloud.com, and/or the iTunes podcast store!

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YOUR LIVE MUSIC GUIDE

Fri 4.1

ADOBE VERDE
Historic Gruene, Texas

JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm

LONGSHOT
WINE BAR & TASTING ROOM

Bob Schmueckle & Derek Krueger
7pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
XXX PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Gray's Follies
6:30pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Andrew Howard
5pm
Aaron Stephens Band
9pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Big John Mills
9pm

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon

TBA
8pm

Gruene Hall
Whiskey Myers
w/ Quaker City Night Hawks
8pm

On the Rocks
Sarah McSweeney Trio
7:30pm

The Pour Haus
Mark Monaco
8:30pm

Vino en Verde
LeAnn & Noah
8pm

Sat 4.2

ADOBE VERDE
Historic Gruene, Texas

Bru's Tunes
6:30pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
XXX PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Smokehouse Guitar Army
1pm
Jamie Krueger Group
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Blackout USA Presents:
A Tribute to Scorpions &
Arrowhead
9pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Tubie Pushie
4pm
Amanda Jo Cevallos
9pm

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon

TBA
9pm

Billy's Ice House
FILE 13
8pm

Gruene Hall
Blue Water Highway
1pm
Whiskey Myers
w/ Reed Brothers
8pm

On the Rocks
Manzy Lowry Band
7:30pm

The Pour Haus
Nate Rodriguez
9:30pm

Sun 4.3

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Slim Bawb & the Fabulous
Stumpgrinders
1pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Adam Johnson
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Jamie Lin Wilson
4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
Charles & the Fabulous Four
3pm

Gruene Hall
Peterson Brothers
12:30pm
Guy Forsyth Trio
5pm

The Pour Haus
The Vagabonds
8pm

Mon 4.4

Gruene Hall
Bottom Dollar String Band
6pm

The Pour Haus
Jackson Parten
8:30pm

Tues 4.5

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon
TBA
7pm

Billy's Ice House
Reed Brothers
8pm

Bonzai Steak & Sushi
Smooth Jazz
w/ Sam Harriss
6pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
Dotts, Paul Schlesinger, Bob
Appel, Del David
7pm

Gruene Hall
Josh Grider, Django Walker
6pm

Wed 4.6

THE PHOENIX SALOON
Shand Walton
8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Manzy Lowry
9pm

Billy's Ice House
Aaron Stephens
8pm

Gruene Hall
Tom Gillam
6pm

The Pour Haus
Shady Rest Band
8:30pm

Thu 4.7

ADOBE VERDE
Historic Gruene, Texas

Josh Holden
6:30pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
XXX PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR
Live Band Karaoke
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Greg Sell
5pm

Riley's
TAVERN

TBA
9pm

Gruene Hall
Bill Small Band
6pm



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 APR 2 @ 1 SMOKEHOUSE GUITAR ARMY
 @ 6 JAMIE KRUEGER GROUP
 APR 3 @ 1 SLIM BAWB AND
 THE FABULOUS STUMPGRINDERS
 APR 7 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
 APR 9 @ 12 PROFESSOR PORKCHOP
 @ 3:30 JAMIE KRUEGER GROUP
 @ 7 THE MONTY "GUITAR" TYLER BAND
 APR 10 @ 2 CHRIS RUEST
 APR 14 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
 APR 15 @ 6:30 3 MAN FRONT
 APR 16 @ 1 ARMS LENGTH
 @ 6 KIM AND HER BAD HABITS
 APR 17 @ 2 BARE FAX
 APR 21 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
 APR 22 @ 6:30 JUMBO FUNK
 APR 23 @ 2 ROBERT JOHNSON'S SOUL
 @ 7 LUCAS JACK
 APR 24 @ 1 GREG IZOR
 APR 28 @ 6:30 GEORGE DEVORE
 MAY 1 @ 2 MARK SEARCY
 MAY 5 @ 6 JAM NIGHT

On the Rocks
 Carter Beckworth
 7pm

The Pour Haus
 Junior Gordon
 8:30pm

Vino en Verde
 Brett Cline Quartet
 8pm

Fri 4.8

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

Broken Duck Feet
 6:30pm

HAPPY COW
 BAR & GRILL
 Jordan Minor
 8pm

LONGSHOT
 WINE BAR & TASTING ROOM
 Bob Schmucke & Derek
 Krueger
 7pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
 PATIO BAR XXX SHOT BAR PIANO BAR
 Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
 8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
 TBA
 6:30pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
 Junior Nash
 5pm
 The Blind Owls
 8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Mark Jungers
 6pm
 Billy Dee
 9pm

THE WATERING HOLE
 Saloon

TBA
 8pm

Gruene Hall
 Los Lonely Boys
 w/ Peterson Brothers
 8pm

On the Rocks
 Madelyn Victoria Band
 7:30pm

The Pour Haus
 Whiskey Rodeo
 8:30pm

Vino en Verde
 Jackson Parten
 8pm

Sat 4.9

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

JAM
 6:30pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
 PATIO BAR XXX SHOT BAR PIANO BAR
 Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
 8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
 Professor Porkchop
 12pm
 Jamie Krueger Group
 3:30pm
 Monty 'Guitar' Tyler Band
 7pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
 Kori Free & the Groove
 Hounds
 w/ Alli Mattice Band
 9pm

Riley's
TAVERN
 Billy Bacon
 9pm

THE WATERING HOLE
 Saloon

TBA
 9pm

Gruene Hall
 Garrett LeBeau
 1pm
 Leann Rimes
 8pm

On the Rocks
 Tyler Rogers Band
 7pm

The Pour Haus
 Sean Castillo & the Hubcaps
 9:30pm

Sun 4.10

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
 Chris Ruest
 2pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
 Jade Marie Patek &
 Brian Catalani
 3pm
 Lucas Taylor
 7pm

Riley's
TAVERN
 TBA
 4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
 Big Country Band
 3pm

Gruene Hall
 Bret Graham
 12:30pm
 Teresa James
 w/ Clay McClinton
 5pm

The Pour Haus
 Sam Williams
 4:30pm

Mon 4.11

Gruene Hall
 Chris Ruest Band
 6pm

The Pour Haus
 Reagan Boggs
 8:30pm

Tue 4.12

THE WATERING HOLE
 Saloon

TBA
 7pm

Billy's Ice House
 Austin Gilliam
 8pm

Bonzai Steak & Sushi
 Smooth Jazz
 w/ Sam Harriss
 6pm

Gruene Hall
 Adam Carroll, Jonny Burke,
 Halleyanna Finlay
 6pm

Wed 4.13

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
 Natalie Rose
 8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN
 TBA
 9pm

Billy's Ice House
 Aaron Stephens
 8pm

Gruene Hall
 The Georges
 6pm

The Pour Haus
 JJ Villareal
 8:30pm

Thu 4.14

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

Josh Holden
 6:30pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
 PATIO BAR XXX SHOT BAR PIANO BAR
 Live Band Karaoke
 8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
 Jam Night
 6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
 Scott Boddicker
 5pm

Billy's Ice House
 Randall King Band
 8pm

Gruene Hall
Sarah Pierce Band
6pm

On the Rocks
Dallas
7pm

The Pour Haus
Breelan Angel
8:30pm

Vino en Verde
Brett Cline Quartet
8pm

Fri 4.15
ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

Broken Duck Feet
6:30pm

LONGSHOT
WINE BAR & TASTING ROOM
Bob Schmueckle & Derek
Krueger
7pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
XXX PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

3 Man Front
6:30pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Andrew Howard
5pm
Ranch\House
w/ Snowbyrd
8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Michael Dart & the Skyline
Wranglers
8pm

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon

TBA
8pm

Billy's Ice House
Reed Brothers
8pm

Gruene Hall
Micky & the Motorcars
8pm

On the Rocks
San Martian Quartet
7:30pm

The Pour Haus
Charlie Oxford Band
8:30pm

Sat 4.16
ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

Bob Cheevers
6:30pm

HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL
Armadillo Road
8pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
XXX PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
Arms Length
1pm
Kim & Her Bad Habits
6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Steven James & the Jaded
w/ Brian Christopher & the
Wild Oats
9pm

Riley's
TAVERN
Joel Hofmann
9pm

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon
TBA
9pm

Billy's Ice House
Statesboro Revue
8pm

Gruene Hall
John Arthur Martinez
1pm
Delbert McClinton
w/ Clay McClinton
8pm

On the Rocks
Chris Taylor Trio
8:30pm

The Pour Haus
Dirty White Horse
9:30pm

Vino en Verde
Vagabonds
8pm

Sun 4.17
ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

Fallon Franklin
6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Bare Fax
2pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Cut-a-Thon
1pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Riley's
TAVERN

TBA
4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
Glenn Collins
3pm

Gruene Hall
Big Gus & Swampadelic
12:30pm
Mike Zito
5pm

The Pour Haus
The Vagabonds
8:30pm

Mon 4.18
Gruene Hall
Bottom Dollar String Band
6pm

The Pour Haus
Jillian Beebe
8:30pm

Tue 4.19
THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon

TBA
7pm

Billy's Ice House
Big Red Drum Showcase
8pm

Bonzai Steak & Sushi
Smooth Jazz
w/ Sam Harriss
6pm

Comal Country
Music Show
KC Hall
Glen Collins, Lorraine
Chavana, Rennie Guenther
6pm

Gruene Hall
Tony Taylor & Friends
6pm

Wed 4.20
THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Sam Pace
8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Mike Ethan Messick
9pm

Billy's Ice House
Aaron Stephens
8pm

Gruene Hall
Lucas Jack
6pm

The Pour Haus
Myles Smith
8:30pm

Thu 4.21
ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

JJ Garrett Duo
6:30pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
XXX PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR
Live Band Karaoke
8pm

DIVERSIONS

HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL

Karaoke

Thursdays Nights

MOONSHINE & ALE
XXX PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR

Live Band Karaoke

Thursdays

OLD ICE HOUSE

Karaoke

Thursdays, Sundays

DJ

Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Karaoke

Thursday Nights



Karaoke

Thursdays, Saturdays

DJ Johnny V

Fridays



Trivia Night

Tuesdays



Karaoke

Mondays & Thursdays



thursday
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friday
DJ JV

saturday
KARAOKE W/ JOHNNY V

sunday
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SALOON

Shawn Hart
5pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Big Red Drum Showcase
9pm

Billy's Ice House
Kirk Baxley
8pm

Gruene Hall
Robert Earl Keen
w/ The Roosevelts
8pm

On the Rocks
Jes Strahan
7pm

The Pour Haus
Ken Brazle & the Craze
8:30pm

Vino en Verde
Brett Cline Quartet
8pm

Fri 4.22

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

3 Man Front
6:30pm

 **LONGSHOT**
WINE BAR & TASTING ROOM

Bob Schmueckle & Derek
Krueger
7pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
-XXX-
PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Jumbo Funk
6:30pm

THE **PHOENIX**
SALOON

Junior Nash
5pm
Michael Martin & the Infidels
8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN

The Beaumonts
9pm

THE **WATERING HOLE**
Saloon

TBA
8pm

Billy's Ice House
Colton O'Neill
8pm

Gruene Hall
Lucinda Williams
w/ Buick 6
8pm

On the Rocks
Jesse Stratton Band
7:30pm

The Pour Haus
Mark Monaco & the Strayhearts
8:30pm

Vino en Verde
Eric Langenhahn
8pm

Sat 4.23

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

Bru's Tunes
6:30pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
-XXX-
PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Robert Johnson's Soul
2pm
Lucas Jack
7pm

THE **PHOENIX**
SALOON
Paul Nipper Band
9pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Linda Gail Lewis
9pm

THE **WATERING HOLE**
Saloon

TBA
9pm

Gruene Hall
Lucinda Williams
w/ Buick 6
9pm

On the Rocks
Beau Daniels Band
8:30pm

The Pour Haus
Jeremy Steding Band
8:30pm

Vino en Verde
TBA
8pm

Sun 4.24

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Greg Izor
2pm

THE **PHOENIX**
SALOON

Jade Marie Patek & Bryan
Catalani
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Riley's
TAVERN

TBA
4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
The Countrymen Band
3pm

Gruene Hall
Slim Bawb
12pm
Prophets & Outlaws
5pm

Vino en Verde
Soul Sessions
5pm

Mon 4.25

Gruene Hall
Adam Johnson
6pm

The Pour Haus
Dennis Jay
8:30pm

Tue 4.26

THE **WATERING HOLE**
Saloon

TBA
7pm

Billy's Ice House
Austin Gilliam
8pm

Bonzai Steak & Sushi
Smooth Jazz
w/ Sam Harris
6pm

Gruene Hall
Mark Jungers & Friends
6pm

Wed 4.27

THE **PHOENIX**
SALOON
Code 2 Band
8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN

TBA
9pm

Billy's Ice House
Aaron Stephens
8pm

Gruene Hall
The Georges
6pm

The Pour Haus
Brent Michael Wood
8:30pm

Thu 4.28

THE **PHOENIX**
SALOON
Josh Holden
6:30pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
XXX
PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR
Live Band Karaoke
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
George Devore
6:30pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Ken Raba
5pm

Riley's
TAVERN
TBA
9pm

Billy's Ice House
Colton O'Neill
8pm

Gruene Hall
Aaron Einhouse
6pm

On the Rocks
Victor Dean Trio
7pm

The Pour Haus
Cody Coggins
8:30pm

Vino en Verde
Brett Cline Quartet
8pm

Fri 4.29
ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm

HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL
Slim Bawb
8pm

LONGSHOT
WINE BAR & TASTING ROOM
Bob Schmueckle & Derek
Krueger
7pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
XXX
PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
TBA
6:30pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Andrew Howard
5pm
Poor J Brown
w/ Whiskey Rodeo
8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN
April Hall Trio
9pm

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon
TBA
8pm

Gruene Hall
Joe Ely Band
8pm

On the Rocks
Mick Hernandez & the Texas
Silverados
7:30pm

The Pour Haus
Cody Bryan Band
8:30pm

Vino en Verde
Luke LaGrange
8pm

Sat 4.30
ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

JAM
6:30pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
XXX
PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Bird Dog
w/ Kinfolk
9pm

Ruby Dee & the Snakehandlers
9pm

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon
TBA
9pm

Gruene Hall
Flat Top Jones
1pm
Junior Brown
8pm

On the Rocks
Natalie Rose Band
8:30pm

The Pour Haus
Matt Begley & Bitter Whiskey
8:30pm

Sun 5.1
ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
Mark Searcy
2pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
TBA
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Riley's
TAVERN

TBA
4pm

Billy's Ice House
Anthony Wright Band
8pm

Gruene Hall
Ruby Jane Smith
12:30pm
Sarah Pierce Band
w/ Nathan McEven
5pm

Mon 5.2
Gruene Hall
Grouchy Like Riley
6pm

Tue 5.3
THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon
TBA
7pm

Billy's Ice House
Reed Brothers
8pm

Gruene Hall
Jordan Minor & Friends
6pm

Wed 5.4
THE PHOENIX
SALOON
TBA
8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN
Manzy Lowry
9pm

Billy's Ice House
Aaron Stephens
8pm

Gruene Hall
Tom Gillam
6pm

Thu 5.5
ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

JJ Garrett Duo
6:30pm

MOONSHINE & ALE
XXX
PATIO BAR SHOT BAR PIANO BAR
Live Band Karaoke
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
Jam Night
6:30pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
TBA
5pm

Riley's
TAVERN
TBA
9pm

FRIDAY 4/1
BIG JOHN MILLS 9PM
SATURDAY 4/2
TUBIE PUSHIE 4PM
AMANDA JO CEVALLOS 9PM

FRIDAY 4/8
MARK JUNGERS 6PM
BILLY DEE 9PM

SATURDAY 4/9
BILLY BACON 9PM

FRIDAY 4/15
MICHAEL DART &
THE SKYLINE WRANGLERS 8PM

SATURDAY 4/16
JOEL HOFMANN 9PM

FRIDAY 4/22
THE BEAUMONTS 9PM

SATURDAY 4/23
LINDA GAIL LEWIS 9PM

FRIDAY 4/29
APRIL HALL TRIO 9PM

SATURDAY 4/30
RUBY DEE & THE SNAKEHANDLERS
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ASK A MEXICAN!

By Gustavo Arellano

Dear Mexican: A friend of mine says nobody calls themselves Chicanos anymore—que dice, Mexican? ¿Cierto? Is it just a term for us old-timers, like hippies or beatniks?

Saludotes de Tulsa Town

Dear Pocha: I've always maintained that one learns they're Chicano, usually in Chicano Studies classes where the term is placed in its proper historical context. And the fact is that "Chicano" as an identity was endangered by the 1980s, under assault from the Right by vendidos who preferred "Hispanic" and by Mexican immigrants who taught their children they were mexicanos, not pocho-ass Chicanos. But then the 1990s happened, and the many anti-immigrant laws passed around the country galvanized a new generation of activists who looked back to the Chicano movement of the 1960s for inspiration. Then the 2000s happened, and the mega-anti-immigration laws of that decade brought more children of Mexican immigrants into the Chicano fold, with some calling themselves "Xicanos" as a chinga tu madre against the Castilian imperialism inherent in "ch." And this decade? The super-mega-anti-immigrant rhetoric spewed by the likes of Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and others is so nasty that an even newer identity is emerging: Xicanx. Chicano identity has a far brighter future than the Republican party—and so do Chicano grammarians...

Dear Mexican: What are Mexico's residency requirements and how do you apply for their version of a green card? Because if that racist ##### Trump gets elected, I'm outta here. We've gone too far in the past forty (20, if you're from the South) to go back to the days of Jim Crow. Eight years of Bush was bad enough.

Not Gonna Put Up with that BS

Dear Gabacho: The detailed answer is in my book; the short answer is Mexico's probably going to end up building the border wall to keep out gabachos like you who didn't do enough to defeat the Drumpf.

Dear Mexican: Do you think that maybe television is part of the reason for this mass migration of people from Mexico and elsewhere to the United

States. For example the show you probably know, The O.C.—and what is it we see on The O.C.? We see bikini-clad babes and buff lifeguards that live on the beach in nice houses with green lawns. They have exercise machines that look like UFOs and fancy sports cars. They have lots of food, good booze, lots of sex—and most important of all, lots of money. On TV, we advertise the U.S. 24/7. We have rock-and-roll, gangsta rap, reagaton, and WWE. We got those brave detectives form NYPD keeping order in the streets, and the NYFD, who will show up at your door in 15 minutes or less after you dial 911. We got Russell Crowe, Sharon Stone, Madonna, U2, Sly Stallone, Daddy Yankee, Snoop Dogg, George Lopez, Cheech and Chong, Larry the Cable Guy, J-Lo, and all our ambassadors and politicians smiling in the camera saying, "Come on over and play with us. Come on over and get some of this! Come on over to Fantasylandia with your host, Barack Obama". Hey, it's only just across the border.

I Watch Too Much Glenn Beck

Dear Gabacho: American television? The only thing Mexicans ever picked up from it was The Simpsons, which remains one of the most popular gabacho shows in Mexico even though Homer's name is Homero and Bart goes by Bartolo. Other American shows are popular, but that's not what drives Mexicans to come over; it's the jobs, estúpido. And given there ain't many right now, not as many Mexis are crossing over. You want a better conspiracy? Go investigate whether Thomas Alva Edison was really Tomás Álvaro—the answer may surprise you!

Dear Mexican: My mom has long thought it cute and fun to quiz waiters in Mexican restaurants on how to say things in Spanish. When I was a girl growing up in an incredibly non-diverse area (Oregon), she said it would help me learn Spanish and that I should take advantage of these rare opportunities to talk with native Spanish speakers. But I've always felt it was a little rude, and maybe even condescending, to impose upon service people in this way. Is it?

Medford Maiden

Dear Gabacha: Todo tiene its time and place when it comes to learning Spanish.

Getting it on with a Mexican? He'll teach you the language of love. Protesting Donald Trump? You'll learn so many ways of saying chinga tu madre that you'll be able to walk the streets of Tepito with ease. But while a Mexican is working and serving you? Proceed with respect. If business is slow, quiz away; if they're occupied, leave them be. Otherwise, they'll tell their fellow meseros in the back of the kitchen about the loud gabacha and spit in your chips—as they should.

Dear Mexican: I am a second-generation Mexican who works as an erotic dancer in various nightclubs up and down the West Coast. In my work, I've noticed that black clients treat their black "sister" dancers well by tipping them larger amounts and buying them drinks and giving favors. The same goes for any of the other ethnic groups. But as a mexicana, why do I get the short end of the stick when it comes to ethnic favoritism? My Mexican counterparts, be they immigrants looking for a night of fun, or the millionaire owner of a chain restaurant don't give me a cent. They treat me very badly, asking for blowjobs or "escort service" (aka prostitution). Then, they proceed to go to my gabacha co-workers and blow a hundred bucks on a lap dance while I am left hanging. Is it so hard to blow a few extra bucks on a fellow Mexican working hard at being sexy? It's getting to the point that I won't admit my heritage because, to simply put it, I am treated poorly when they find out that I am a Chicana. ¿Por que?

Sexy Mexican on Five-Inch Stilettos

Dear Pocha: Easy answer: Madonna-whore complex. They're so disgusted by seeing a Mexican woman as a stripper that if you won't conform to their butt slut archetype, they simply won't acknowledge you. My advice? Tell them you're Persian—or, better yet, knee them in the huevos and let the club's Samoan bodyguard show that cheap wab who's the real chavala.



Ask the Mexican at
themexican@askamexican.net,
 be his fan on Facebook, follow him on
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COLLEGE BASKETBALL: The best four days in sports without question are the first four of the NCAA Tournament. The Super Bowl is great and all, the college football playoff has added another level of intrigue to our 24/7 consumption of sports and the playoffs in any given sport are a lot of fun, but they just can't measure up to those four days in March. This year's first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament were no different.

There was the half court buzzer beating game winner for Northern Iowa (sorry Longhorn fans) and then UNI followed that up by blowing a 12-point lead with under 50 seconds to go against Texas A&M two days later (um, again, sorry Longhorn fans). Fifteenth seeded Middle Tennessee took down a championship caliber Michigan State team in the first round. Fourteenth seeded Stephen F. Austin not only destroyed West Virginia, but was a miracle tip-in away from eliminating Notre Dame for a trip to the Sweet 16. There were a pair of 12-5 upsets with Yale and Little Rock conquering Baylor and Purdue. A dunk at the buzzer by Cincinnati was waived off by review, while Wisconsin's game winning three-pointer was confirmed by review in a victory over Xavier. The first four days had EVERYTHING.

Then a bunch of meh.

Of the sixteen Sweet 16 teams, fourteen were from the Power Five conferences (and the two that weren't were basketball factories anyway in Villanova and Gonzaga). The Elite Eight was better with three number one seeds going down including Syracuse's second half blitzkrieg of Virginia, Buddy Hield's torching of Oregon to send Oklahoma to the Final Four and Villanova's slaying of tournament favorite Kansas. But the basketball, despite being played at a higher level, still didn't measure up to those first four days.

Maybe that's a life rule though. That new car is SICK those first four days, but then you get crumbs on it, toss that to-go bag in the backseat and then realize you have 48 payments left on it and regret not saving up for a helicopter instead. You bring home that new puppy and after those first four days you get crumbs on it, realize just how expensive puppy chow is, how you die inside trying to house train it and regret not buying an XBOX One instead. You get married, enjoy the four-day honeymoon and then... I should stop now.

Anyway, the Final Four should be fun. Of the three phases of the NCAA Tournament, it's second behind the first two rounds and ahead of the Sweet 16/Elite Eight simply because we get to see a team win the title. Pulling for an Oklahoma-UNC final because Hield is REALLY fun to watch and no one wants to see Jim Boheim succeed.

NBA: In the column last month, I expressed my desire to see the Spurs play the Warriors again. Up until they played one another in March, each were tearing up the league BUT Golden

State had the upper hand in the "which team is better" department by virtue of A) a better record, B) having won the NBA title last season and C) beating the Spurs by 30 points in their only other meeting back in January. But since November, the two teams have had virtually identical records and let's be real, the only team with any chance of beating Golden State in a series is San Antonio. The question I asked last month is could the Spurs prove they actually could? I argued that the game in January was a bit of an anomaly since Tim Duncan didn't play and the Spurs uncharacteristically turned the ball over 26 times so let's see what happens when Timmy does play and the turnover numbers come back down to earth.

Well, the Spurs did prove they could beat the Warriors, winning the rematch in San Antonio 87-79, but the circumstances were again noticeable. Duncan did play, but just eight minutes... off the bench. The Warriors were without their two best defensive players in Andrew Bogut and Andre Iguodala. The turnover number was lower for the Spurs but still a little high (17). Steph Curry shot just one of 12 from three-point range and the chances of that happening again are the same as me getting a puppy and a new car at the same time. However, LaMarcus Aldridge was FANTASTIC (26 points, 13 rebounds), Kawhi Leonard and Danny Green did a phenomenal job defensively and Coach Pop's tactics flustered the Warriors.

So the take away from the game is that yes, the Spurs are capable of beating Golden State, but we have yet to see the two teams at their best against one another. While they do play each other twice this month, I'd say the chances of seeing both teams at full strength in the two games is slim. San Antonio's chances of catching Golden State are just about nil and the Spurs have secured their spot as the number two seed in the West. As of this writing, there are eight games left in the season for San Antonio and they're just as meaningful as the final eight games of the Lakers' season (spoiler: not meaningful). You can count on a lot of Kevin Martin, Boban Marjanovic, Andre Miller and Kyle Anderson these final two weeks because there's no way Pop is putting Aldridge, Leonard or any of the Big Three in harm's way with nothing on the line.

All that's left now is for the playoffs to start and the Spurs are looking at a first round match-up against either Portland, Utah, Houston or Dallas (PLEASE be Houston). By the time I write again that series should be in the books with a potential second round match-up against Oklahoma City looming. Until then, the intrigue of Spurs vs Warriors will have to take a backseat. Where you threw that to-go bag. You monster.

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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Moonshine & Ale kicked off it's new weekly "Live Band Karaoke" on the 24th, and the other half of town showed up to front a real band! Moonshine's got a huge hit on its hands with this, as there's no shortage of New Braunfelsers ready to embrace their inner rock star every Thursday night at 9. Get you some of that spotlight!



And of course, Easter isn't Easter without Oma Gruene's Annual Bunny Thwack. There was the requisite mayhem and plenty of candy, resulting in the standard mad dash and combing of the grounds for every last piece of sugary deliciousness.

Oma Gruene's Secret Garten, the New Braunfels Blues Society, and Blinders Hair Salon hosted their sixth annual Hair and Hearts fundraiser on March 19, benefitting Pink Heart Funds (the folks that provide wigs and prosthetics to women and children in need of them due to illness). The event raised over \$4,300 dollars and more than 100 hair donations! Thank you New Braunfels!



Phoenix Saloon proprietors Ross and Debbie Fortune got some love from the Great State in the form of a sweet historical marker on March 22. Half the town showed up, including the Gemischer Chor Harmonie, who performed authentic German musik after the unveiling. Go down there and get a selfie in front of the plaque, and gloat to your out-of-town friends that chili was invented in our fair city. Have some while you're there. #ghostpepper



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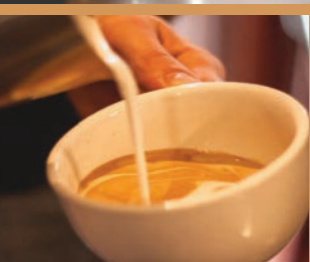
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CHARGE: Failure to appear motion to revoke for assault family/ household member w/ previous convictions



HELMS, RONALD RAY
Male • 6'06" • 253 lbs
DOB: 08/04/1990
CHARGE: Failure to appear/ evading arrest or detention with vehicle



CLARK, CARL ANDREW
Male • 6'01" • 195 lbs
DOB: 08/27/1973
CHARGE: Motion to revoke/ credit card or debit card abuse and bail jumping/ failure to appear



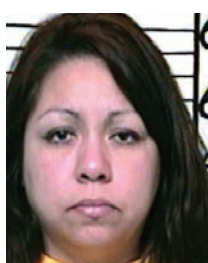
JACOBS, MARSHALL DOUGLAS
Male • 6'01" • 250 lbs
DOB: 09/16/1983
CHARGE: Possession of a controlled substance



FILES, JENNIE LYNN
Female • 5'03" • 173 lbs
DOB: 03/03/1987
CHARGE: Motion to revoke/ theft property over \$1500 under \$20,000



MEDINA, JOE LUIS
Male • 5'11" • 150 lbs
DOB: 02/11/1963
CHARGE: Credit card or debit card abuse



GOMEZ, PATRICIA
Female • 5'04" • 145 lbs
DOB: 06/04/1970
CHARGE: Violation of conditions of probation/ theft property over \$20,000 under \$100,000



REYES, JOSE LUIS
Male • 5'06" • 186 lbs
DOB: 02/03/1978
CHARGE: Failure to appear/ driving while intoxicated 3rd or more



GONZALES, NICHOLAS
Male • 5'09" • 186 lbs
DOB: 02/26/1990
CHARGE: Assault family/ house member impede breath/ circulation



RUNGE, KOBYS
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CHARGE: Violation of conditions of probation- driving while intoxicated 3rd or more

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The names listed have been released in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act. This is a true and accurate account as of Monday, March 28, 2016 at 9:30 am and may not be current by the time it is read. Do not try to apprehend anyone. These are listings of criminal warrants with the Comal County Sheriff's Office and are not indicative of guilt or innocence. Officers are to verify the status of each warrant prior to making an arrest. Any person is innocent of wrongdoing unless proven guilty in a court of law.



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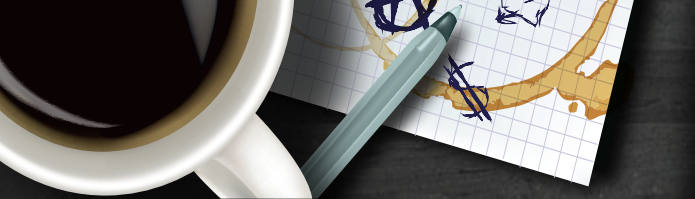
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Last Word

With Kelly Colby

Hell in a Handbasket

This year's presidential primary has been quite a dramafest so far, and it doesn't look like it's going to slow down any time soon. For the Democrats, Bernie Sanders continues to dog Hillary Clinton. She is ahead with delegates at the moment, but that lead has been dwindling, and it looks like it could go quite late before Bernie goes away. Hillary has the benefit of a large number of pledged super delegates, but those pledges might be less than firm if Hillary keeps slipping to Bernie or if she gets indicted over the email scandal she insists is simply made up. Republicans have managed to limit the field to Trump or Cruz. Kasich is still in the race, but has no actual chance of winning the number of delegates need for the nomination. If the Republican voters can't put 1237 delegates in someone's camp before the convention, then there is the opportunity of shenanigans on the convention floor. The Republican establishment has already floated a trial balloon or two about the idea of putting someone not even in the race up for nomination. That would almost certainly mean an all-out revolt within the Republican party and an almost sure win for the Democrats in 2016.

To me, the most interesting part of the primaries has been the tenacity of Sanders and Trump as candidates. Both have been ridiculed as poor candidates, but each has an almost unbreakable hold on a large number of voters. Both candidates are populists first and foremost speaking to an electorate that is tired of the same old thing from Washington.

For those who lean left, Sanders calls for a much more aggressive set of redistributionist policies. He promises the world and tells his supporters that they can have these things if a small group of the rich and rich corporations will simply "pay their fair share." If that line sounds familiar, it's because we've heard it from Democrats in general and President Obama in particular for years, but the rhetoric has not been matched with action. Sanders has tapped into the frustration of his supporters, and his long-standing socialist label has given them hope that he is actually serious about change.

Trump has populist appeal as well, but is less of a hero to right-leaning Republicans than he is the perfect expression of a wider dissatisfaction in the country not restricted to Republicans.

He has been dismissed successively as a clown, xenophobe, racist, con-man, and now a narcissist, each description more ridiculous than the last. I personally like narcissism the most. It seems an odd choice for a smear since Trump is no more or less narcissistic than any other politician in the race and probably fits as an example of the general mean within the profession. His detractors appear to have run out of ammo. As it stands, he looks to be on course to locking up the nomination on the Republican side, that this makes the more politically inclined of the Republican party (professional politicians and their lackeys) unhappy, seems to make Trump's supporters truly gleeful.

Anyone who is confused by this, should simply look at how popular government is right now on both sides of the aisle. They are just slightly more popular than venereal disease at the moment. The general public doesn't just want to vote their political leaders out of office, they would seriously consider burning them at the stake given half a chance. The most surprising element in all of this is that Bernie Sanders has been part of government in one form or another during his entire career. I can't say for his adult life, because it appears Sanders was pretty resistant to the idea of getting any job at all early in his adult life.

For me, neither candidate reflects anything like my own political views, but each seem like they would be a valuable lesson to the current ruling class and perhaps to voters as well. I could justify voting for either in the general election if I thought they could win.

For example, Bernie Sanders is the epitome of the dumb economics supported by the Democrats for years. Most of them haven't got the spine to propose removing the free market because they know that doing so would kill the goose currently laying the golden eggs. Sanders is completely unburdened by such insight. He actually believes the stuff that the rest of the Democrats have been selling to the rubes for years. He's prepared to take over healthcare and turn it into one giant VA system where we can all be put on hold until our lives finally ebb away. He's prepared to make it so unpleasant to make money in this country that no one with half a brain will want to do so. The only question is whether the ambitious will just give up ambition or abandon ship for someplace less restrictive,

like North Korea. He's prepared to turn on the corporate donor class that the Democrats (and Republicans) have blackmailed into funding their campaigns since the expansion of the interpretation of the Commerce Clause. If Bernie wins, and he is even remotely successful, he'll be the last Democrat elected for the next 100 years, and I'm ok with that.

Trump has similar appeal. For years the Republicans have talked big and then balked the moment they are in power. The Republicans have halfheartedly blocked outright amnesty while doing nothing to curb illegal immigration. Trump has decided to just build a wall and kick everyone he can find out. Republicans have supported financing dictators around the world and spending billions on infrastructure projects to make our enemies love capitalism (and hopefully us). Trump has decided it's probably just cheaper to bomb them. Republicans have carefully parsed language to allow for harsh interrogation of terrorists to be used, while avoiding unpleasant terms like torture. Trump has openly wondered why we aren't pulling out their fingernails and bombing their kids. Republicans have supported trade agreement that allow jobs in this country to move overseas and warned Americans that not doing so will wreck our economy. Trump's suggested he'd be ok with a trade war with China, and everyone else if need be. That's about as "straight talking" as it gets. If Trump does even half of this, the Republican electorate will put him on Mount Rushmore, and the Republican establishment will search Craig's List for a hit man.

Let me reiterate that I don't agree with the policies of either of these men. Some of what they suggest is downright dumb (other things might be fun to watch). Each, though, would be an excellent learning experience for the country, while almost certainly not ruining it. At the very least they would show just how important our current system of checks and balances is, and give us all a newfound appreciation for gridlock.

I wish both Trump and Sanders the best of luck in the primaries. They're probably not the best choice for President of the United States, but we haven't had anybody worth a damn since Reagan anyway.

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

-LEGAL NOTICES-

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Stephen Skinner, Deceased, were issued on March 9, 2016, in Cause No. 2016PCA0056, pending in the County Court at Law of Comal County, Texas, to: Clara Ann Skinner.

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 9th day of March, 2016.

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Lynda Kay Blalock, Deceased, were issued on March 18, 2016, in Cause No. 2016PCB0023, pending in the County Court at Law of Comal County, Texas, to: Mack H. Blalock.

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 21st day of March, 2016.

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Pamela Lynette Burrows, Deceased, were issued on March 15, 2016, in Cause No. 2016PCA0031, pending in the County Court of Comal County, Texas, to: Jeneal S. Burrows.

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.

Jeneal S. Burrows, Independent Executrix of the Estate of Pamela Lynette Burrows
c/o Carroll & Hinojosa, PLLC, Attorneys,
Attn: George Carroll,
2117 Pat Booker Road, Suite B,
Universal City, Texas 78148,
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