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VOLUME SIX  
ISSUE ONE  
JAN 2017

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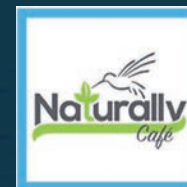
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The ONLY guide of its kind  
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Yeah, he won.  
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# 1<sup>ST</sup> WORD

## Responsibility is SO 2016

After negligence at its Texas, Oklahoma, and Alabama factories resulted in three listeria-related deaths, at least ten more serious illnesses, six-plus months of empty shelves, and two more recalls since, executives at the Brenham-based Blue Bell Creameries, *while still under criminal investigation for the last fatal outbreak*, have asked the Federal government if they can go ahead and roll back some of the safeguards put in place to prevent a repeat performance.

Because, why not? I mean, in overwhelming defiance of my libertarian, free



market ideals, it's clear that their cult of customers will give them a pass on poisonous product. This being the situation, the fiscal risk associated with another shipment of Dutch Listeria Brickle is minimal compared to the cost of prevention.

We don't expect the FDA to give in on this one, and we'll let you know what the decision is, whatever it is, when it's handed down. There's more to say about this, but the fact that the Bell is looking to cut corners in their deadly pathogen department is so ridiculous that I'm speechless at this point. We're using the rest of this month's space to offer our art division's services for Blue Bell's next round of packaging design.



\m/

Mike Reynolds  
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief



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# FAKE NEWS

With Tony Rainey-Bell

## Sanity Questioned as Sid Miller Founds Religion

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller has been leading department employees in prayer services, despite reservations among some of the members, according to sources within his office. The main complaint from his staff regards Miller's belief in a religion he made up.

During the past year, sources say, Miller has been preaching a faith based upon a stick.

"He calls it Mr. Stick," said one anonymous male employee. "Sid carries Mr. Stick everywhere but that's not the weird part. The weird part is he talks through the stick with a high-pitched voice."

Other sources confirmed Miller's obsession with the stick, saying that attendance to the prayer meetings about Mr. Stick are mandatory.

"The Commissioner doesn't outright say that we have to go," an unnamed female staffer said. "But, if you don't show up, he calls you into his office, stares at you for far too long, then shakes his head and says, 'Mr. Stick is very disappointed in you.' The meeting ends up with him preaching about Mr. Stick at you for more than an hour, so it's better if you just go to the services."

"Sid now says he has stickmata, which causes leaves to grow from his hands," she said. "I don't want to go to work anymore."

While some employees are uncomfortable with Mr. Stick, still others are more than happy to take the stick into their hearts.

"Some of the bigger apple-polishers around here have really given themselves over to Mr. Stick," the male employee said. "They even have plaques on their desks that read, 'What would Mr. Stick do?'"

The Commissioner has developed in the stick a simple yet bizarre moral system, sources say. One such example is a prohibition on beards, which, evidently, greatly offend the "Greatest Stick." Stick liturgy is replete with the battle of good and evil in the machinations of the bearded Mr. Dirt Clod, the anti-stick.

Miller is accused of using state funds for commissioning several paintings of Mr. Stick in the High Renaissance style for his office. The paintings bear titles such as "The Birth

of Mr. Stick," "Mr. Stick Eating a Sandwich," "Mr. Stick Whacks Unbelievers" and "Mr. Stick Goes to the Beach" (accompanied with a poem, "Stickprints"). One painting, "Evil Descends," depicts Mr. Dirt Clod floating above a pile of skulls while holding a match in one hand and paring shears in the other.

Office staff members are not the only ones bothered by Stickism. Others outside the department have also been irked by Miller's newfound faith.

"I hate Mr. Stick," said one Texas Agriculture Commissioner's wife, who asked to remain nameless. "I can be sitting in a room and that stupid stick will poke up from behind the couch and Sid will say, 'I'm watching you,' in that horrible high-pitched voice."

Recently, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick upset Miller by refusing to allow a Mr. Stick nativity scene outside the Capitol.

"Woe betide unto him who refuses to give suppliant to the Great Stick!" Miller was overheard yelling at Patrick.

"You're nuts!" Responded the Lt. Governor, whose sanity has also been questioned by many.

A day after the altercation, a sheet of paper was superglued to the door of the Capitol Building. Scrawled in glittery, rainbow-colored markers, the paper was titled, "The Seven Unquestionable Rules of Stickism" and listed what appeared to be seven major rules of Mr. Stick:

- 1: No one shall wear a beard.
- 2: No one shall think of wearing a beard.
- 3: No one shall speak the word, 'beard.'
- 4: The word 'beard' shall not be written.
- 5: No fire.
- 6: Shears are the unholy tool of the Clodists.
- 7: Anyone breaking said rules will be seen as having turned their backs on Mr. Stick, who will be greatly disappointed."

The paper was signed, "Not Sid Miller."

The Commissioner is rumored to be self-publishing a new book, "The Trial and Tribulations of Mr. Stick: A New (Beardless) Vision for Our Complicated World." Sources say Miller hopes to have the book turned into an epic Hollywood production.

*Tony Rainey-Bell makes things up for the TX Citizen, even some of the stuff about Miller.*



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# ASK A MEXICAN!

By Gustavo Arellano

**Dear Mexican: I'm wondering what your thoughts are on the use of Loteria cards as decorative elements, specifically when used by people without Mexican heritage. Loteria cards are beautiful and interesting, but is using an image from the cards without a connection to any specific history, culture, or meaning (like on a tote bag or the like) a disrespectful appropriation? Or is it just a fun game like checkers that happens to include some interesting artwork?**

**Not Columbusing, Just Asking**

Dear Gabacha: While gabachos have appropriated Mexican everything ever since they took our cuitlaxochitl flowers and renamed them poinsettias after some pendejo ambassador or other, I'm a bit more lax with Lotería. While this bingo-esque board game goes back to the 1700s, its most iconic pictograms—like the bare-chested mermaid “La Sirena” or the derelict borracho called, fittingly enough, “El Borracho”—aren't cultural patrimony so much as the intellectual property of Don Clemente, Inc., a for-profit company. And while it's easy to get mad at gabachos doing its own take on Lotería cards, it's akin to doing the same with Monopoly figurines. We're talking about a private, capitalist enterprise here, not la pinche Virgin of Guadalupe. Besides, Mexicans appropriate ourselves all the time—and if you don't believe it, ask the tehuanas in Oaxaca how they feel when fresas from Guadalajara steal their steez.

**Dear Mexican: If U.S.A. and Mexico go to war, whose side will the Mexican people in the U.S.A. stand on?**

**Alt-Asshole**

Dear Gabacho: Ah, the ultimate Chicano parlor game, one brought closer to reality by our incoming president! It's all about context. Mexicans here have fought the narcos south of the border for the past couple of years with arms shipments and even brigades, so you'd expect the same if Enrique Peña Nieto announced he'd use his cartel amigos to try and invade el Norte. If Trump decided to move on Mexico for not trying to build a wall, you'd see a lot of hilarious memes but no uprising, as much as yaktivists would want you to believe. But if Trump starts mass roundups, let's just say raza won't take it quietly. I'd say more, but then the FBI would show up at my doorstep and disappear me to some black site or other for further questioning with Señor Waterboard.

**Dear Mexican: I love ¿Qué Pasa, USA? Lots of Spanish, English, and Spanglish. Do you know of any other TV shows like it? Netflix and Chillar**

Dear Pocho: Nope. And this is how pathetic Hollywood is: 40 years ago, television was confident enough in a bilingual show about the Latino immigrant experience that it made a sitcom about a Cuban family that aired nationwide on PBS. Today? They do entire films about Los Angeles, like La La Land, and show a total of one Latino character in the film. Chris Rock put it best: “You're in L.A, you've got to try not to hire Mexicans.” I'd end on a funnier note, but trying to follow Chris Rock is like eating drinking Cazadores, then following up with Sauza—and I'm not even as good as Sauza.

**Dear Mexican: How come you call yourself a Mexican? By definition, you're a Chicano, not a Mexican. A Mexican is a person that was born and raised in Mexico, not beautiful Orange County. A Mexican is a person that is proud of his country and appreciates and respects the Mexican flag even though he left the country years ago. A Mexican read the free textbooks provided by the Secretaría de Educación Pública during his school years and studied Mexican history. A Mexican is a person that sang the Mexican national anthem every Monday morning while watching six kids carry the flag around. Mexicans know the difference between the more than 150 chiles that exist in our country. Mexicans grew up eating candies with different chiles. Mexicans watch Televisa and Televisión Azteca, not Telemundo or Univisión. Mexicans speak fluent Spanish, not Spanglish. Mexicans came to this country to work hard and have a decent life, not to destroy this place like you and your people believe. Mexicans believe that family and religion are the most important values. Mexicans are not planning to take over California—we are too lazy to even think about it, and we do not believe in wars. I can go on and on describing the differences between you and me, but let's just leave it like that. How can you even describe our culture, values or behavior if you don't have a clue about it? Eating burritos at Taco Bell, going to Mexican parties in SanTana or having Grandma cooking some Mexican dishes doesn't make you a Mexican.**

**Más Pendejo**

Continued on page 11.



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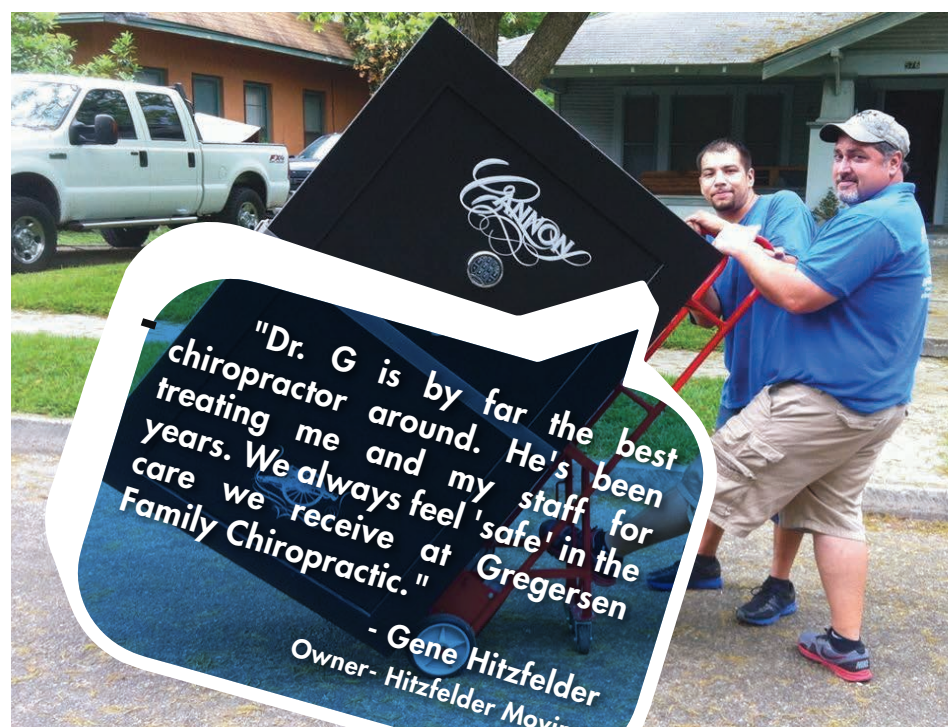
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**FRIDAY 1/6**  
THE MERLES 9PM

**SATURDAY 1/7**  
JASON JAMES 9PM

**FRIDAY 1/13**  
BEN MORRIS 9PM

**SATURDAY 1/14**  
BILLY DEE 9PM

**FRIDAY 1/20**  
BIG JOHN MILLS 9PM

**SATURDAY 1/21**  
MIKE & THE MOONPIES 9PM

**FRIDAY 1/27**  
MAYEAUX & BROUSSARD 9PM

**SATURDAY 1/28**  
LYNETTE & LEFTY 9PM

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Sat 1/14 Prophets and Outlaws  
Wed 1/18 Matthew Logan Vasquez

Sat 1/21 LC Rocks

Thu 1/26 Kevin Galloway of Uncle Lucius  
Sat 1/28 Nick's Birthday! With Adam Hood  
Sat 2/4 Chandler and The Bings



**Fri 1.6**

OMA GRUENE'S

**OGSG**

SECRET GARTEN

Texas T & the Shine Runners  
6:30pm

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

Bandreu  
5pm  
Kori Free & the Groove Hounds  
9pm

**Riley's TAVERN**

The Merles  
9pm

**THE WATERING HOLE Saloon**

Painted Pony  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
Bob Cheevers  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue  
8pm

Longshot Wine Bar  
Bob Schmuckle & Derek Krueger  
7pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

Vino en Verde  
Jackson Parton  
8:30pm

**Sat 1.7**



3 Man Front  
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S

**OGSG**

SECRET GARTEN

Jamie Krueger Group  
1pm  
Bare Fax Band  
6pm

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

Ebrolution  
9pm

**Riley's TAVERN**

Jason James  
9pm

**THE WATERING HOLE Saloon**

Mick Hernandez & Texas Silverados  
9pm

Adobe Verde

Tony Taylor  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall

Greg Harris & the Famous Bandini Brothers  
1pm  
Dale Watson & Ray Benson  
8pm

Vino en Verde

The Vagabonds  
9pm

**Sun 1.8**

OMA GRUENE'S

**OGSG**

SECRET GARTEN

Chris Ruest  
2pm

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn  
3pm  
Mismatch  
7pm

**Riley's TAVERN**

Emily Herring  
4pm

Gruene Hall

The Peterson Brothers  
12pm  
Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun  
4pm

**Mon 1.9**

Gruene Hall

Bret Graham  
6pm

**Tues 1.10**

**THE WATERING HOLE Saloon**

Zac & Derek  
7pm

Gruene Hall

Jordan Minor  
6pm

**Wed 1.11**



Aaron Stephens  
8pm

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

Michael Martin  
8:30pm

**Riley's TAVERN**

Ryan Kennedy  
8pm

Gruene Hall

The Georges  
6pm

**Thu 1.12**

OMA GRUENE'S

**OGSG**

SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night  
6pm

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

Marcus Morales  
5pm



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JAN 5 @ 6 JAM NIGHT  
 JAN 6 @ 6:30 TEXAS T AND  
 THE SHINE RUNNERS  
 JAN 7 @ 1 THE JAMIE KRUGER GROUP  
 @ 6 BARE FAX BAND  
 JAN 8 @ 2 CHRIS RUEST  
 JAN 12 @ 6 JAM NIGHT  
 JAN 13 @ 6:30 PEPPERS BLUES  
 JAN 14 @ 1 JIMMY T & THE TEAR DROPS  
 @ 6 COLD SNAP  
 JAN 15 @ 2 LUCAS JACK  
 JAN 19 @ 6 JAM NIGHT  
 JAN 20 @ 6:30 3 MAN FRONT  
 JAN 21 @ 1 KIM AND HER BAD HABITS  
 @ 6 THE HOT ATTACKS  
 JAN 22 @ 2 BRAD STIVERS  
 JAN 26 @ 6 JAM NIGHT  
 JAN 27 @ 6:30 THE NUMINOUS  
 JAN 28 @ 1 THE LESTI HUFF BAND  
 @ 6 ADAM JOHNSON

## Riley's TAVERN

John Dempsey  
 8pm

Gruene Hall  
 Austin Meade  
 6pm

Moonshine & Ale  
 Live Band Karaoke  
 8pm

Vino en Verde  
 Brett Cline  
 8pm

## Fri 1.13



Backwater Blvd  
 8pm

**OMA GRUENE'S**  
**OGSG**  
**SECRET GARTEN**  
 Pepper's Blues  
 6:30pm

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**  
 Junior Nash  
 5pm  
 Josh Field Band  
 9pm

## Riley's TAVERN

Mark Jungers  
 6pm  
 Ben Morris  
 9pm



John Christopher Way Band  
 8pm

Adobe Verde  
 Code 2  
 6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
 Josh Abbott Band  
 w/ The Last Bandoleros  
 8pm

Longshot Wine Bar  
 Bob Schmucke & Derek Krueger  
 7pm

Moonshine & Ale  
 Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
 8pm

Vino en Verde  
 Trace Owen Jr  
 8:30pm

## Sat 1.14



Prophets & Outlaws  
 8pm

**OMA GRUENE'S**  
**OGSG**  
**SECRET GARTEN**  
 Jimmy T & the Tear Drops  
 1pm  
 Cold Snap  
 6pm

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**  
 Billy Kiesel Band  
 9pm

## Riley's TAVERN

Billy Dee  
 9pm



J Abram Band  
 9pm

Adobe Verde  
 Don Reilly  
 6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
 Sol Patch  
 1pm  
 Josh Abbott Band  
 w/ The Last Bandoleros  
 8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
 Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
 8pm

Vino en Verde  
 Brett Cline  
 9pm

## Sun 1.15

**OMA GRUENE'S**  
**OGSG**  
**SECRET GARTEN**  
 Lucas Jack  
 2pm



Ken Raba  
 3pm  
 Mismatch  
 7pm

## Riley's TAVERN

Matt Harlan  
 4pm

Gruene Hall  
 Landry & Company  
 12pm  
 John Evans Band  
 4pm

## Mon 1.16

Gruene Hall  
 Bret Graham  
 6pm

## Tue 1.17



The Vagabonds  
 7pm

Comal Country Music Show  
 KC Hall  
 Conrad Gonzales, Bob Appel,  
 Priscilla Speed  
 7:30pm

Gruene Hall  
 Josh Grider, Drew Kennedy  
 6pm

## Wed 1.18



Matthew Logan Vasquez  
 w/ Aaron Stephens, Austin  
 Gilliam  
 8pm

## THE PHOENIX SALOON

Sam Pace  
 8:30pm

## Riley's TAVERN

Mike Ethan Messick  
 8pm

## Thu 1.19

**OMA GRUENE'S**  
**OGSG**  
**SECRET GARTEN**  
 Jam Night  
 6pm



Jay Russell Wimberley  
 5pm

## Riley's TAVERN

Scott Morgan  
 8pm

Gruene Hall  
 The Railhouse Band  
 8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
 Live Band Karaoke  
 8pm

Vino en Verde  
 Brett Cline  
 8pm

## Fri 1.20

**OMA GRUENE'S**  
**OGSG**  
**SECRET GARTEN**  
 3 Man Front  
 6:30pm



Bandrev  
 5pm  
 Aaron Stephens Band  
 8:30pm

## Riley's TAVERN

Pepper's Blues  
 6pm  
 Big John Mills  
 9pm





Garrett Simon Band  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
Christian Sparks  
6:30pm

Longshot Wine Bar  
Bob Schmueckle & Derek  
Krueger  
7pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

Vino en Verde  
Beau Daniels Band  
8pm

## Sat 1.21

Fifth Annual Blowin' Off  
Steamboat Music Festival  
@ Freiheit Country Store  
Jomo & The Possum Posse,  
Smoke Wagon, Kori Free &  
The Groove Hounds w/Alli  
Mattice Band, Carol Cochran  
and Two Way Street, TBA  
(Tristan, Brittney & Aubrey),  
Erin Enderlin, Kayla Ray,  
Jeremy Steding, Dennis Jay  
w/Bob Stafford, Keith Hickie,  
Tyler Derryberry, Billy Broome,  
Kris Smith, Jason Scott, David  
Russell, Navi Blu, Elisa Maria,  
Hannah Jenkins



LC Rocks  
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S  
**OGSG**  
SECRET GARTEN

Kim & Her Bad Habits  
The Hot Attacks  
6pm



Lucas Taylor  
w/ Highway Hypnosis, Monty  
'Guitar' Tyler,  
The Magic Rockers of Texas  
9pm

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**Riley's**  
TAVERN

Mike & the Moonpies  
9pm



Fools of the Trade  
9pm

Adobe Verde  
Traveling Trees  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Bo Phillips Band  
1pm  
American Aquarium  
8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

Vino en Verde  
The Vagabonds  
w/ Jess  
9pm

## Sun 1.22

OMA GRUENE'S  
**OGSG**  
SECRET GARTEN

Brad Stivers  
2pm



Jade Marie Patek,  
Bryan Catalani  
3pm  
Mismatch  
7pm

**Riley's**  
TAVERN

Reed Brothers  
4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456  
TBA  
3pm

Gruene Hall  
Garrett LeBeau  
12pm  
South Austin Moonlighters  
4pm

## Mon 1.23

Gruene Hall  
Bret Graham  
6pm

## Tue 1.24



Jason (from The Electric Cowboys)  
7pm

Gruene Hall  
Brock Zeman  
6pm

## Wed 1.25



Aaron Stephens  
8pm



Russell James Pyle  
8:30pm

**Riley's**  
TAVERN

Austin Gilliam  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
The Georges  
6pm

## Thu 1.26



Kevin Galloway  
w/ Uncle Lucius, BJ Thibodeaux  
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S  
**OGSG**  
SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night  
6pm



Garrett Douglas  
5pm

**Riley's**  
TAVERN

Grant Ewing  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Grouchy Like Riley  
6pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Live Band Karaoke  
8pm

Vino en Verde  
Brett Cline  
8pm

## Fri 1.27

OMA GRUENE'S  
**OGSG**  
SECRET GARTEN  
The Numinous  
6:30pm



Junior Nash  
5pm  
David Touchton &  
the Nowhere Band  
8:30pm

**Riley's**  
TAVERN

Mayeaux & Broussard  
9pm



Waitin' on Hayden  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
Tony Taylor  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Kyle Park  
8pm

Longshot Wine Bar  
Bob Schmueckle & Derek  
Krueger  
7pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

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SATURDAYS @ 9  
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Vino en Verde  
The Henderson's  
8:30pm

**Sat 1.28**



Adam Hood  
8pm

**OMA GRUENE'S**  
**OGSG**  
**SECRET GARTEN**

Lesti Huff Band  
1pm  
Adam Johnson  
6pm

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

Jennifer Birmingham Band  
9pm

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

Lynette & Lefty  
9pm



Jesse Straton Band  
9pm

Adobe Verde  
Don Reilly  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Flat Top Jones  
1pm  
Hayes Carll  
w/ Travis Linville  
9pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing  
Along  
8pm

**Sun 1.29**

**OMA GRUENE'S**  
**OGSG**  
**SECRET GARTEN**

TBA  
2pm

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

Brosoph  
3pm  
Mismatch  
7pm

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

Brock Zeman  
4pm

Gruene Hall  
Slim Bawb  
12pm  
Kevin & Dustin Welch  
4pm

**Mon 1.30**

Gruene Hall  
Bret Graham  
6pm

**Tue 1.31**



Buddy Boy Vargas  
7pm

**Wed 2.1**



Aaron Stephens  
8pm

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

The Mismatch  
8:30pm

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

Manzy Lowry  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
The Georges  
6pm

**Thu 2.2**

**OMA GRUENE'S**  
**OGSG**  
**SECRET GARTEN**  
Jam Night  
6pm

**THE PHOENIX SALOON**

TBA  
5pm

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

Jordan York  
8pm

Vino en Verde  
Brett Cline  
8pm



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**DJ**

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**Karaoke**

Thursday Nights



**Karaoke**

Thursdays, Saturdays

**DJ Johnny V**  
Fridays



**Karaoke**

Wednesdays &  
Thursdays





## WEEK 14

FIRST PLACE: SEAN WERTENS @ THE PRICKLY PEAR 80%

SECOND PLACE: BARRY NAPP @ SCORES 40%

THIRD PLACE: TATUM DELEON @ THE WATERING HOLE 40%

## WEEK 15

FIRST PLACE: HAMPTON EUDY @ SCORES 60%

SECOND PLACE: SEAN WERTENS @ THE PRICKLY PEAR 60%

THIRD PLACE: SAM GUTIERREZ @ THE WATERING HOLE 20%

## WEEK 16

FIRST PLACE: TATUM DELEON @ THE WATERING HOLE 100% PERFECT!

SECOND PLACE: SEAN WERTENS @ THE PRICKLY PEAR 80%

THIRD PLACE: BARRY NAPP @ SCORES 60%

## WEEK 17

FIRST PLACE: SAM GUTIERREZ @ THE WATERING HOLE 80%

SECOND PLACE: SEAN WERTENS @ THE PRICKLY PEAR 80%

THIRD PLACE: HALEY NORTH @ SCORES 60%

## LEAGUE STANDINGS ON SEASON

FIRST PLACE — THE PRICKLY PEAR @ 73%

SECOND PLACE — SCORES @ 71%

THIRD PLACE — THE WATERING HOLE @ 61%



BRAZENLY  
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**citi  
zen**

Continued from page 5.

Dear Wab: Let's run down your list: check (most of my parents' rancho had relocated to Anaheim by the time I was born), check, check (my dad's cousin was a history teacher in Mexico), check, check, check, check (where do you think Univisión gets most of its programming? Lifetime?), por supuesto, check, and too late. Add to this my mestizo heritage, the facts that mi papi was an illegal immigrant and I didn't speak fluent English until I was 6 or 7, and that I grew a mustache in the time it took you to read this sentence, and I'm more Mexican than Pedro Infante. Besides, who made you arbiter of mexicanidad, Real Mexican? National character is never static, and anyone who claims otherwise is as deluded as a Trumpro.

**Dear Mexican: Why do we always think Mexican men drink tequila and sing mariachi tunes, while the women are pretty señoritas? Viva Mexico**

Dear Gabacho: Mexicans frequently blame ustedes for perpetuating various stereotypes about nosotros over the centuries, but a big part of the blame also falls on us. During World War II, a time when Mexico's film industry experienced a renaissance that scholars refer to as La Época de Oro (The Golden Age), Mexican movie studios produced great social tales, comedies and horror films, but the ones that received the most acclaim were the comedias rancheras. They starred matinee idols such as Pedro Infante and Jorge Negrete, who meted out frontier justice and wooed the chicas guapas from underneath sombreros—always while guzzling tequila and riding on horseback. The image came from the state of Jalisco, birthplace of mariachi and tequila. "Needing a people who could personify hispanismo," wrote Joanne Hirschfield...[Mexican note: The answer continues, but thanks to shrinking newspaper sizes in the decade that I've wrote this, I can't fit the whole respuesta in anymore. Support your local alt-weekly, gentle cabrones]. though he left the country years ago. A Mexican read the free textbooks provided by the Secretaria de Educación Pública during his school years and studied Mexican history. A Mexican is a person that sang the Mexican national anthem every Monday morning while watching six kids carry the flag around. Mexicans know the difference between the more than 150 chiles that exist in our country. Mexicans grew up eating candies with different chiles. Mexicans watch Televisa and Televisión Azteca, not Telemundo or Univisión. Mexicans speak fluent Spanish, not Spanglish. Mexicans came to this country to work hard and have a decent life, not to destroy this place like you and your people believe. Mexicans believe that family and religion are the most important values.

Mexicans are not planning to take over California—we are too lazy to even think about it, and we do not believe in wars. I can go on and on describing the differences between you and me, but let's just leave it like that. How can you even describe our culture, values or behavior if you don't have a clue about it? Eating burritos at Taco Bell, going to Mexican parties in SanTana or having Grandma cooking some Mexican dishes doesn't make you a Mexican.

**My grandmother died like all people of this world, but there was something fascinating that I was able to discovery after her time. She was born in Mexico, possibly: Vera Cruz. From what I understand, and that may be very little when it comes to American history, it always seems to be a bit cloudy and this cloudy tradition has been passed down from generation to generation of black Americans. During my lifetime, many questions of our past or ancestral history, have been unclear, unlike the Mexican or Asian culture of this great country. I'm American through and through, California-raised so I can easily identify with the Latin culture; I also speak Spanish, which was a prerequisite for survival back in the 70's. What light can you shed on the mystery of Vera Cruz and its relation to Americans or blacks, period?**

**Constancia—Not Your Tia Concha**

Dear Negrita: The way you spelled Vera Cruz, methinks your abuelita was actually born in the towns by the same names in Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, all named after the Gulf Coast city in Mexico. But let's say she was actually born in Mexico—in that case, you're connected to one of the proudest black traditions in the Western Hemisphere. Veracruz the state is one of two regions in Mexico with a significant population of Afro-Mexicans (the Costa Chica region spanning the states of Guerrero and Oaxaca is the other). Near Veracruz the city was the first freeman town in the America: San Lorenzo de los Negros, created after a colony of ex-slaves led by Gaspar Yanga successfully fended off conquistadors (a statue of Yanga still stands in Veracruz proper). The famous singer Toña La Negra came from Veracruz, as did the rhythms of son jarocho. Even if your grandmother was born in the U.S., it's better to say that she's from Mexico: after all, would you want your heritage to go back to some Podunk Rust belt town?



Ask the Mexican at  
[themexican@askamexican.net](mailto:themexican@askamexican.net),  
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It's been universally accepted that between all of the celebrity deaths and the ugly election season, that the year 2016 sucked - but it wasn't **all** bad. Game of Thrones was great, the NBA Finals were epic, the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship game was an all-timer, the World Series was incredible (winner be damned) and 2016 also gave us Rogue One which was extremely bad ass (and should have been THE ONLY Star Wars prequel produced). I also finally got the robo-raptor I'd been asking for, so 2016 was pretty sick IMHO.

I think most years play out like 2016 did: a handful of icons pass away, people in positions of power say/do something that makes you question how they ended up in their position in the first place, a few new innovative ideas/inventions are embraced by consumers, there's a 70/30 ratio of terrible/good news stories, about 8-10 scandals in college athletics (conservative estimate), terrible moments in officiating that winds up dictating games, five important characters die in Game of Thrones (very conservative), the showrunners for "The Walking Dead" screw things up and there's something around 50 DVR-worthy moments in sports. This has been the "year formula" for the past decade so don't be surprised if 2017 ends up a lot like 2016. The good news is Prince can't die again and the Cubs can't possibly win the World Series again (please let this be true).

I can't quite close the book on 2016 yet though as I have one month left to review: December. So let's get to it.

**NBA:** You know which team had the best record in December? The Houston Rockets, who went 15-2 last month. The same team which was an embarrassment to the game last season has suddenly become extremely fun to watch and a legitimate threat in the top-heavy Western Conference. When the Rockets made the conference finals two years ago, I believed them to be extremely flawed and lucky by drawing a weak Dallas team in Round One and an exhausted Clippers team in Round Two.

My theory proved correct, as Houston was obliterated by the eventual champion

Warriors in the West Finals, "momentum" that carried over the following season as the Rockets fired Kevin McHale 11 games into the 2015-2016 year, playing uninspired basketball all season long before being put out of their misery by the Warriors in five games in the first round.

After watching Houston sleepwalk through an entire season, I'll be honest, I thought the franchise was doomed for mediocrity for years to come: a defensively challenged roster playing in a tough conference with a lackluster leader at the helm in James Harden. Even after the hiring of Mike D'Antoni as head coach, I yawned: a has-been coach long removed from his small window of success in Phoenix who had failed in his last two stops (Knicks and Lakers). I also believed D'Antoni only exacerbated Houston's defensive issues and that this was a marriage that was destined to fail.

Halfway through the first season of this experiment, I'm happy to admit that I was dead wrong.

The Rockets look rejuvenated this season under D'Antoni, namely Harden who had a freaking points-rebounds-assists stat line of 53-16-17 in a win over the Knicks last month. Houston's bearded superstar is a legitimate MVP candidate while off-season additions Eric Gordon and Ryan Anderson have complimented him and fit into D'Antoni's offensive scheme quite nicely. Those three players (along with Trevor Ariza) have helped spearhead a three-point barrage this season: the Rockets are averaging a league-leading 15 made threes per game this season, attempting close to FORTY three-pointers per contest.

While the play of Houston's defense still leaves something to be desired (the Rockets are 24th in points allowed), they have improved on that end in several metrics and have suddenly joined the ranks of the NBA's elite.

Now, you know I can't end a monthly NBA review without discussing the Spurs who handed the Rockets one of their two December losses. It should be noted that the Spurs had quite the impressive December as well going 12-2 although the most notable moment for the Spurs last month wasn't a

game. Instead, it was the jersey retirement ceremony for the legendary Tim Duncan held on December 18 at the AT&T Center.

I watched that thing from beginning to end and was reminded of a few things. First, is what an incredible person Duncan is in addition to the once-in-a-generation player he was. Everybody Duncan allowed to get close to him (a very small group) RAVED about him as a human being. I was also reminded of the first time I ever watched him play: at a friend's house on Halloween in 1997, when I was a junior in high school. I watched him play for the last time ever this past summer as a 35-year-old man with a mortgage and a family (life comes at you fast). What also came to mind was just how tight of a bond he has with Gregg Popovich, one I don't think I've ever seen in sports. When they embraced following Popovich's turn on the microphone, I'll admit it got a little misty-eyed in the Freeman household.

**NFL:** Good lord are the football gods are acting like one big tease to the Texans this season. Yes Houston, you can have a great defense and Jadeveon Clowney will live up to his draft position but you can't have JJ Watt! Yes Houston, you can have great receivers in DeAndre Hopkins and Will Fuller and a nice, shiny new running back in Lamar Miller but you get to have Brock Osweiler at quarterback at the low-low price of \$72,000,000! Yes Houston, you get to play the Derek Carr-less Raiders in the playoffs but get the honor of being incinerated by the Patriots the following week! Yes Houston, you get to host the Super Bowl this season but the Dallas Cowboys might play in it!

Could've been worse Houston. You could've **lost** the division to a team "led" by Osweiler because you got beat by Jacksonville in Week 16 and because Randy Bullock missed a field goal. THAT COULD'VE HAPPENED YOU KNOW. Maybe 2016 sucked after all.

*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.*



# tx citizen

## 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

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### Scores Sports Bar and Grill

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### Gourmage

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### Naturally Café

The raspberry-chipotle spread is just one of 16 reasons Naturally's Undercover Club is our office obsession. The multi-grain bread accounts for eight more. We'll let you discover the other seven on your own, as we've already said too much. 494 North Seguin Ave (Near Downtown) – 830.214.6300



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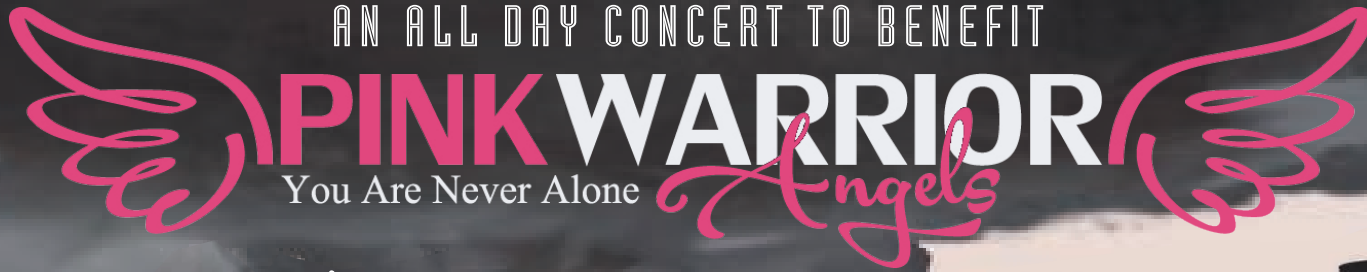
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## He Won?

Donald Trump is the President-elect of the United States of America. That was unexpected. It reminds me more than a little of an old Eddie Murphy bit about voting for Jesse Jackson as President and waking up the next morning to find he had won. That was, of course, the whole joke. Jesse Jackson would be President of the United States. I'm sure that more than a few people felt that way on November 9 of last year.

Now that it's January, though, it really is time to pick your jaw up from the floor and carry on. I supported Trump and even implied he could win, but nothing went as I expected either, so I don't deserve any accolades for my predictive abilities. Everyone was caught by surprise, I think, but if you haven't managed to put together why Donald Trump won the election, you simply haven't been paying attention. He won because he was the candidate the American people collectively wanted, and why they wanted him was in part evident in his opposing candidate.

So, what's next?

That's a good question. I doubt that the apocalypse is next. There seems no obvious indication that Trump will start World War III either accidentally or on purpose. Nor does it seem likely that our entire system of government will collapse. That said, I get the distinct impression from what he's done so far that business as usual is likewise out of the question. I do expect things to be interesting at least, and there are some hints at what Trump plans as long and short-term goals.

I expect that we will see him go directly after Obamacare very early on. Trump has made no secret that he intends to repeal Obamacare, and I expect that he will start tearing it apart near day one. A complete repeal would probably be cleaner, but I suspect it might be legislatively easier to remove the teeth from Obamacare and simply let it fall under its own weight. Without various mandates, Obamacare

becomes just a suggestion. Trump has said that he wants to keep certain elements and have some sort of replacement for Obamacare. That will be easier to do as a large chunk used to replace what remains of an otherwise toothless piece of history.

Trump's cabinet is extremely military heavy at the moment, and I suspect this indicates a substantial change in our policy towards terrorism. I don't expect Trump to have much difficulty getting these picks through, and I think he will use the first excuse he can find to go aggressively after some large-scale terror target. The target may even be someplace other than where we have been fighting terror, but the idea will be to show a stark difference in our tolerance for terror operations. I think he will be looking for a level of overkill that has not been recently seen, something akin to taking out a cockroach with a bazooka.

Next, I would expect him to very openly push for immigration enforcement. This will mean little more than actually enforcing immigration law to begin with. The first pushback he is likely to encounter will be from sanctuary cities and the courts. In both cases, he can expect hard battles. There are laws dictating the judicial process for deportations and for the allocation of federal funds, so the most obvious ways of dealing with this require more than simply executive power. Mind you, Trump has shown an amazing ability to come up with innovative solutions, and I can't help but think he will do so here as well.

After these three things, I think that a Trump administration will be facing a long war on several fronts. I have no idea how any of these will ultimately turn out.

First, Trump will be anxious to appoint his Supreme court pick, and that should mark the beginning of a fight with Democrats that may not end at any point in his first term. Trump will not be able to push through his choice on his own, so he will need to either make some concessions on his choice or get support from Republicans

in the Senate. He will not want to do the former and may not be able to get the latter. My guess is that he will use this as a chance to test using the bully pulpit of the presidency. He may feel he can get the people to put pressure on the Senate. He may be right.

Second will be an ongoing battle with the press. Trump has already indicated he will not take criticism from the press quietly, and the press has indicated that it intends to be partisan to the end. These two attitudes will not be able to coexist peacefully; someone will have to blink. In the end, the loser will be the one who has the least credibility with the general public, and for the moment, that actually appears to be the press. We may find ourselves getting our information directly from the Trump administration without a filter at all.

The third, and last, ongoing battle I see will be between Trump and the bureaucracy in Washington. Most of our government is not elected, and many have levels of job safety that make them all but untouchable. Most of these people are studiously liberal, and almost all of them are have a vested interest in the status quo. This will make them instant enemies of the Trump administration. We have already seen under the Obama administration that many government agencies do exactly as they please and ignore oversight from congress. They can likely do the same to the executive branch. I've already seen several very inventive solutions to this presented, but I imagine that Trump, whose life has been an exercise in contract negotiation, will have some plans of his own.

By next column, some of this will probably be more in the works. I will be looking forward to how thing will shake out in the first few months of a Trump administration.

You can reach Kelly for fan mail by email at [kellycolby@txcitizen.com](mailto:kellycolby@txcitizen.com) or by mail at Kelly Colby, 1710 Hunter Road, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77056. Hate mail go to [kellycolby@txcitizen.com](mailto:kellycolby@txcitizen.com)

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**150 N Solms New Braunfels, TX 78132  
Lease Price: \$1,000**

This quaint 2 bedroom 1 bath home is surrounded by beautiful, mature trees. Third room can be used as a bedroom. Fridge, washing machine and dryer will be provided.

**Contact Edwards Property Management (830) 515-5101  
propertymanager@edwardspropertymgmt.com**

**Check out these listings & more online at DLeeEdwardsRealty.com**

**1111 N. Walnut Ave. New Braunfels, TX**