

"We're not having breakfast now, but that doesn't mean breakfast isn't coming." — Greg Ashbaugh

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Unicorn Band: Crisis Averted | Best of the Wurstplex Awards | Fake News

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SUN 1PM-8PM
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August

Friday 8.4

The Clever Name Band

Saturday 8.5

Tom Ben Lindley

Friday 8.11

Ryan Kennedy and
Green River Revival

Saturday 8.12

Wyzer

Friday 8.18

Jamie Krueger Group

Saturday 8.19

Slim Bawb and
the Fabulous Stumpgrinders

Friday 8.25

Big Bad Billycatz

Saturday 8.26

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1ST WORD

That was quick.

At the end of the 2016-17 school year, NBHS Band director Ken Vise moved on to helm the Lockhart High School marching program (*Go Lions!*). As this season begins, the Mighty Unicorns will stampede forth under the direction of former NBHS Assistant Director, David Eckert. But that's not our story. We've got something dumber.

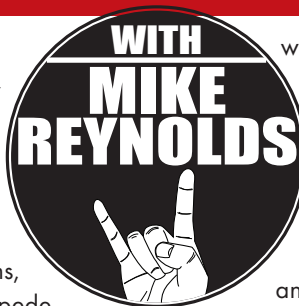
For a few weeks in between Vise and Eckert, another guy, Dan Suniga, was running the show. His tenure was cut short by a career-killing brew of deception and shortsightedness, as he made easily verified claims of high-profile experience, never thinking that maybe somebody would attempt a fact-check. Oops.

Here's an excerpt from his bio at dansuniga.com:

"He has been a caption head or technician the last ten years in both the Colorguard or Visual captions for many DCI programs including: Bluecoats, Boston Crusaders, Colts, Crossmen, Genesis, and Guardians."

For those of you squares out there, "DCI" stands for Drum Corps International, and the groups named are drum and bugle corps that compete within that organization. These corps are huge operations - 150 kids on the field, playing all over the country, with million-dollar budgets. It's a pretty big deal. I saw all of the aforementioned groups perform at the Alamodome when DCI's national tour came through in July (That Boston show, man - WICKED).

FUN FACTS: I have friends that either marched in and/or have kids in each of the groups Suniga named. The former Mrs Reynolds and friends took over my dining room table for weeks to sew stuff onto 100+ Crossmen uniforms for the 2006 (I think) season. The current Chair of the Board of the Santa Clara Vanguard and I have been friends since we were both freshmen in high school. I bring all of this up only to illustrate



what Dan Suniga should have known - the world of pageantry is small and tight-knit, even as it stretches across the country.

Case in Point: Geoffrey Sperling, the (now-former) Unicorn guard instructor, is also an alumnus of the Canton, OH,

Bluecoats and a choreographer with Austin's Genesis. Before he resigned over the new hire, he figured he'd ask his former corps about Suniga. Here's what came back from David Glasgow, Executive Director:

"Never heard of him."

Uh-oh.

Sperling checked with Chris McGonigal at Genesis as well, who said Suniga was never on staff.

It went on like this. Boston's Christopher Holland said that Suniga had never been hired or paid by the corps. The Crossmen's guard caption head, Tyler Edrington, said that he could only speak for the last seven years, but that Suniga wasn't on staff during that time.

This was the tip of the iceberg on this stuff, as Suniga made claims of scores earned that could be called up in seconds from the UIL website. The massive discrepancy between fact and fiction on those numbers, discovered by a band booster, was what got Sperling's attention. Oops, again.

In any case, Suniga had to resign for being stupid enough to make claims about himself that were easily vetted. The lesson here, kids, is don't lie on your resume, but if you do, make sure all of your references are dead.

The Pièce de Résistance: As of press time, the bio that lost Dan his New Braunfels gig remains online at his website, dansuniga.com, as a testament to being too stupid to teach in our fair city. #dummy

\m/

Mike Reynolds

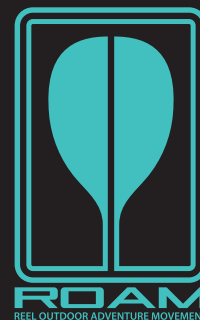
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In 2015, Dr Beau Gregersen of Gregersen Chiropractic beat a field of eight other gastric-stuntmen to win the title of Texas National Frito-Pie Eating Champion. In May of this year, Dr Beau finished a close second in the same competition to Ryan Hille of Feller Roofing. A grudge ensued, and we put this thing to bed once and for all at the TX Citizen's Best of the Wurstpalex Award show at the Watering Hole, where Ryan seized the crown in a one-on-one Frito-Pie face off.

Dr Beau is prohibited from future competitive eating by his wife, Gigi.

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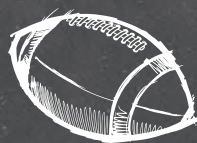
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FAKE NEWS

With Tony Compton & Bell Burck-Rainey

Transportation Issues

After hearing testimony that local bus companies are taping senior citizen and disabled passengers to the roofs of vans, the New Braunfels City Council almost unanimously decided to consider discussing the possibility of perhaps, at some point, discussing the issue at some unknown point in the future.

"This is a serious issue," said Mayor Barron Casteel. "We should move on this issue as soon as it's convenient."

The Council noted that while taping people to the roofs of vehicles is "unseemly," the City must first decide whether it or the County has oversight of the vans and, most importantly, whether rectifying the situation will cost money.

Of course, there is also the problem of finding time to act on the issue, according to City spokesman Slippery Slipstream.

"If Council jumped up and did something every time something needed to be done, it would never have time to do anything," Slipstream said.

For Carl Morgan, owner of Hey Baby, You Wanna Ride? and Room For One More van services, said he is against any action that could be seen as government interference in his business.

"It would be government overreach, pure and simple," Morgan said. "That's why we voted Obama out of office."

For its part, the City Council has said it is concerned about the problems of taping people to the top of vans, but just not right now.

Confusion at the Capitol

Running at full throttle through the special session, Texas legislators are now having to slow down to rewrite bills that were too hastily put together.

One such bill would forbid immigrants from using public bathrooms unless they are transgender.

"I think we were in too big of a hurry on that one," said the bill's author, Rep. Goobar Tubthumper (R-Beans and Potato Salad). "While it's not necessarily a bad idea, I'll be the first to admit it is a bit confusing."

Expecting the measure to pass, many of Texas' migrant workers could be found buying

dresses in stores throughout the state.

"As if things aren't hard enough, now I have to look like a man who is really a woman," said migrant Carlos Saenz. "I hate my life."

Another measure would keep transgender Texans from declaring sanctuary while in a public bathroom, while another bill would make it against the law for Texans to have abortions in schools (although there is some contention that the latter measure is not a mistake).

While the source of the confusing bills is unknown, Texas House Speaker Joe Strauss puts the blame squarely on Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.

"I hate that guy," Strauss said. "He sucks."

Farenthold Blames the Ladies

Texas Congressman and walking perineum Blake Farenthold (R-Sleazebutter) blamed Republican "bitches and hos" for the GOP's difficulties in repealing the Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare.

"Are they on the rag or something?" Farenthold asked, referring to Sens. Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and Shelley Moore Capito, who refused to support replacing the ACA. "You know how women are - one woman has a period, they all have a period. It's like some kind of disease."

He also indicated, while grabbing his crotch, that he had "what they need."

Farenthold also added that if it had been a man who stood in the way of ending Obamacare, the Congressman would kill them in a duel "Aaron Burr-style."

In 1804, Burr shot and killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel. Hamilton was a Revolutionary War hero, the nation's first Secretary of the Treasury and the founder of the Coast Guard. Thus, Farenthold seems to indicate that he would kill someone smarter, better and more historically significant than himself.

To prove his dueling skills, Farenthold led reporters outside where he attempted to shoot at a man-shaped target. However, the Congressman's gun became entangled in his Spider-Man Underoos, leading Farenthold to shoot himself in the foot to much hilarity.

Tony Compton & Bell Burck-Rainey make things up for the TX Citizen.

soundcheck

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8/5: Chandler & The Bings
8/19: Smokewagon
9/9: LG ROCKS
9/16: 80's Night w/ FILE 13

8/10: Adam Hood
w/ Reed Brothers
8/12: William Clark Green Fest
w/ Flatland Cavalry & Johnny Chops
8/26: Mark McKinney - River Fest



Fri 7.28

ADOBE VERDE

Historia Gruena, Texas

Bob Cheevers
6:30pm



Texas Renegade
8pm

HAPPY COW

BAR & GRILL

Adam Johnson Band
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S

OGSG

SECRET GARTEN

3 Man Front
6:30pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Junior Nash
5pm
Derrick Davis Band
9pm

POWERPLANT

Broken Arrow
7pm



Parker McCollum & Mike Ryan
8pm



Meyer Anderson Band
9pm

Gruene Hall

Ray Wylie Hubbard
8pm

Riley's Tavern

Roy Heinrich
6pm
Jake Hooker & the Outsiders
9pm

Sat 7.29

ADOBE VERDE

Historia Gruena, Texas

Bru Erdman
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

HAPPY COW

BAR & GRILL

Armadillo Road
9pm

OMA GRUENE'S

OGSG

SECRET GARTEN

The Hot Attacks
1pm
Ruben V
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Chris Castenada Project
9pm

POWERPLANT

TBA
7pm



K Phillips, Haley Cole, Austin Gilliam,
Galleywinter, Josh Weathers,
Prophets & Outlaws
8pm



Roadside Libby
9pm

Gruene Hall

Flat Top Jones
1pm
Wayne 'The Train' Hancock,
Jesse Dayton
8pm

Riley's Tavern

Phineus Reb
9pm

Vino en Verde

The Vagabonds
9pm

Sun 7.30

ADOBE VERDE

Historia Gruena, Texas

JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

HAPPY COW

BAR & GRILL

South Texas
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S

OGSG

SECRET GARTEN

Stray Dogs & the Wolves
2pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Ken Raba
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Geronimo VFW #8456

Glen Collins & the Allibis
3pm

Gruene Hall

Slim Bawb
12pm
Mike Zito Band
5pm

Mon 7.31



Doug Kent Music
8pm

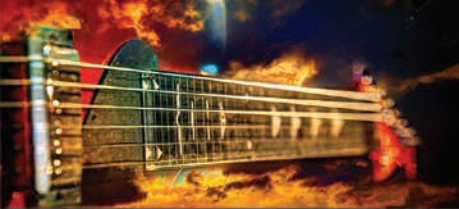
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8pm

Tues 8.1



Reed Brothers
8pm



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@ 6 3 MAN FRONT
AUG 6 @ 2 COLD SNAP
AUG 10 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
AUG 11 @ 6:30 ADAM JOHNSON
AUG 12 @ 2 BROTHER WIVES
@ 6 HOT ATTACKS
AUG 13 @ 2 LIL HENRY & THE TRIBUTE BAND
AUG 17 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
AUG 18 @ 6:30 THE MELISSA LUDWIG BAND
AUG 19 @ 1 PHIL LUNA AND THE LUNATICS
@ 6 BIG BAD BILLY KATZ
AUG 20 @ 2 STRAY DAWG & THE WOLVES
@ 7 LUCAS JACK
AUG 24 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
AUG 25 @ 6:30 KIM & HER BAD HABITS
@@KIMS BIRTHDAY BASH@@
AUG 26 @ 1 BRAD STIVERS
@ 6 3 MAN FRONT
AUG 27 @ 2JAY WIMBERLY
AUG 31 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
SEPT 1 @ 6:30 WYZER
SEPT 2 @ 1 MICHAEL WAID

Geronimo VFW #8456
Justin Trevino, Paul Sanchez
7pm

Gruene Hall
Two Ton Tuesday
8pm

Wed 8.2

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas
Singer/Songwriter Night
6pm



TBA
8pm

Gruene Hall
The Georges
8pm

Riley's Tavern
Manzy Lowry
8pm

Thu 8.3

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas
Josh Holden
6pm



TBA
8pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGS&G
SECRET GARTEN**
Jam Night
6pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Junior Nash
5pm
Tony Taylor
8pm

POWERPLANT

Buddy Vargas
6:30pm

Riley's Tavern
Austin Meade
8pm

Vino en Verde
Brett Cline
8pm

Fri 8.4

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

Dean's List
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

**HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL**
Clever Name Band
8pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGS&G
SECRET GARTEN**

Minglewood
6:30pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Bandreu
5pm
Bonnie & the Bootleggers
9pm

POWERPLANT

2 Tons of Steel
7pm



Painted Pony
8pm

Gruene Hall
Sean McConnell (Acoustic)
8pm

Riley's Tavern
Big John Mills
9pm

Sat 8.5

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

Traveling Trees
6:30pm



Chandler & the Bings
8pm

**HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL**

Tom Ben Lindley
8pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGS&G
SECRET GARTEN**

Brad Stivers
1pm
3 Man Front
6pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Natalie Rose
9pm

POWERPLANT

Ryan Baker
7pm



Honeyhoney
9pm



3 Chord Rodeo
9pm

Gruene Hall
Jason James
1pm
Sean McConnell Band
8pm

Riley's Tavern
Rochelle & the Sidewinders
9pm

Sun 8.6

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

Doug & Glenn
6:30pm



Texas Crossing
8pm

**HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL**

South Texas
5pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGS&G**

SECRET GARTEN

Cold Snap
2pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
Jimmy Bolado & Monte Good
3pm

Gruene Hall
Moot Davis & the Good
Americans
12pm
Houston Marchman
5pm

Mon 8.7

Gruene Hall
Grouchy Like Riley
7pm

Tue 8.8



Austin Gilliam
8pm

Gruene Hall
Two Ton Tuesday
8pm

Wed 8.9

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas
Singer/Songwriter Night
6pm



TBA
8pm

Gruene Hall
Country Fools Gold
6pm

Thu 8.10

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

Bob Cheevers
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG**

SECRET GARTEN
Jam Night
6pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Shawn Hart
5pm
Shane Walker
8pm

POWERPLANT

Ben Farius
6:30pm



Adam Hood
9pm

Riley's Tavern
Kevin Galloway
8pm

Vino en Verde
Brett Cline
8pm

Fri 8.11

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

**HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL**

Ryan Kennedy & Green River
Revival
8pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG**

SECRET GARTEN
Adam Johnson
6:30pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Junior Nash
5pm
Aaron Stephens Band
8:30pm

POWERPLANT

Jeff Wood
7pm



Emmerson Biggins
8pm

Gruene Hall

Bob Schneider
8pm

Riley's Tavern

Mark Jungers
6pm
Mike & the Moonpies
8pm

Sat 8.12

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

Bru Erdman
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

**HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL**

Wyzer
9pm

OMA GRUENE'S

OGSG

SECRET GARTEN
Brother Wives
2pm
Hot Attacks
6pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Kori Free & the Groove Hounds
9pm

POWERPLANT

Hard Cover
7pm



William Clark Green
w/ Flatland Cavalry, Johnny
Chops & the Razors
9pm



J Abram
9pm

Gruene Hall

Uncle Lucius
8pm

Riley's Tavern

Scott H Biram
9pm

Sun 8.13

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

Fallon Franklin
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

**HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL**

South Texas
5pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG**

SECRET GARTEN
Li'l Henry & The Tribute Band
2pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Jade Marie Patek
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Geronimo VFW #8456

Paul Sanchez
3pm

Gruene Hall

Bret Graham
12pm
Dallas Moore Band
5pm



TBA
8pm

Comal Country Music Show

KC Hall
Curtis Richard, The Oneals
(Tara, Larry, Bobby)
7:30pm

Gruene Hall

Two Ton Tuesday
8pm

Wed 8.16

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

Singer/Songwriter Night
6pm



TBA
8pm

Gruene Hall

The Georges
7pm

Riley's Tavern

Mike Ethan Messick
8pm

Thu 8.17

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruena, Texas

Josh Holden
6:30pm



Bret Coats
8pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG**

SECRET GARTEN
Jam Night
6pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Carlos the Tall
5pm
South Texas Trio
8pm

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POWERPLANT

Buddy Vargas
6:30pm

Fri 8.18

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Guana, Texas

Dean's List
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL
Jamie Krueger Group
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG

SECRET GARTEN
The Melissa Ludwig Band
6:30pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Bandrev
5pm
The Southsiders
8:30pm

POWERPLANT

Traveling Trees
7pm



Jesse Stratton
8pm

Sat 8.19

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Guana, Texas

Neon Hustle
6:30pm



Smokewagon
8pm

HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL
Slim Bawb &
the Fabulous Stumpgrinders
9pm

OMA GRUENE'S

OGSG

SECRET GARTEN

Phil Luna & The Lunatics
1pm
Big Bad Billy Katz
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

New Offenders
9pm

POWERPLANT

Carol Cochran & 2 Way Street
7pm



Brandon Michael & True Country
9pm

Sun 8.20

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Guana, Texas

JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL
South Texas
5pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG

SECRET GARTEN

Stray Dawg & The Wolves
2pm
Lucas Jack
7pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Tue 8.22



TBA
8pm

Wed 8.23

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Guana, Texas

Singer/Songwriter Night
6pm



TBA
8pm

Thu 8.24

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Guana, Texas

Don Riley
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG

SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Shawn Hart
5pm
South Texas Trio
8:30pm

POWERPLANT

Ben Farius
7pm

Fri 8.25

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Guana, Texas

Traveling Trees
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL

Big Bad Billycatz
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S

OGSG

SECRET GARTEN

Kim & Her Bad Habits
Kim's Birthday Bash!

6:30pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Junior Nash
5pm
Blackbird Sing
9pm

POWERPLANT

April Hall
7pm



Trace Owen Jr
9pm

Sat 8.26

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Guana, Texas

Bru Erdman
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL

Mission: Wurstplex After Party
2pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG

SECRET GARTEN

Brad Stivers
1pm
3 Man Front
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Travis Green & the Chiefs
9pm

POWERPLANT

TBA
7pm



Mark McKinney - River Fest!
9pm

Sun 8.27

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Guana, Texas

Doug & Glenn
6:30pm



TBA
8pm

HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL
South Texas
5pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG

SECRET GARTEN

Jay Wimberly
2pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Ken Raba
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Wed 8.30

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Guana, Texas

Singer/Songwriter Night
6pm



TBA
8pm

Thu 8.31

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Guana, Texas

Josh Holden
6:30pm



Drake Hayes
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG

SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night
6pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Carlos the Tall
6pm
Jay Wimberly
9pm



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ASK A MEXICAN!

By Gustavo Arellano

Dear Mexican: I'm listening to a podcast on "Gravy." The segment is Bluegrass tacos. You were interviewed and a few statements bothered me. "The US can take half of Mexico. They can make us peons, force us to move up North." Is this a common shared view of America(ns) in your community? If so, very disappointing that in 2017, you would express this bias/prejudice against this amazing country. How were you forced to move North? Do you recognize/appreciate all the opportunities that this country has given you and other Mexicans that have come here? Would like to know your views. My initial opinion of you is that you are holding onto the "we are an oppressed people, and can't believe what America has done to us." There is always a "great" country to the South that offers so much more without the oppression that has openings for residency. Let me know what you think.

Ticked Off in Tulsa

Dear Gabacho: You know what I think? You're a pendejo. The podcast is called Gravy, and it's an extension of the James Beard-winning food journal, for which I write a column called "Good Ol' Chico" where write about the Latino South. And what you call "bias/prejudice" are straight-up facts. The United States did steal half of Mexico, but you don't have to take my word—just ask Ulysses S. Grant, who said that the Mexican-American War was "one of the most unjust ever waged by a stronger against a weaker nation." I don't have to "hold on" to the idea that Mexicans are oppressed—we know it's true every time whiny gabachos like yourself insist that we love this country just like you. The cool thing, though, is that we don't let pendejos like you get in the way of creating a better America. Finally, ever heard of a little chingadera called NAFTA—you know, the one thing Donald Trump gets right? It not only stole jobs from American workers, it upended Mexico's economy, forcing millions of people to el Norte. And, yes, they were forced—just like the Irish were forced to leave Eire due to the brutal British, or the Jews who fled pogroms, or the Okies who got out of the Dust Bowl for a better chance at life. My, how quickly Oklahomans forget their own history—sad that a Mexican has to teach you about your own people, but that happens only in America.

Dear Mexican: I always noticed that some second-generation, even third-generation Mexican-Americans speak English with an accent. I understand that English might not be their first language. But why do some Americans like Cheech Marin or Danny Trejo, who've been here for more generations, still have an accent, and a first-generation wab like me has been told I speak English like a white person, whatever that means?

Pocho Pero Paisa

Dear Pocho: Trejo and Cheech have an accent the way a mick in Southie has an accent, or the way characters on Fargo speak in their own unique way. It's regional American English—in their case, Chicano English borne by generations of assimilation in the Southwest. Us children of modern-day Mexicans sometimes get that accent, sometimes don't, because we learn English as a second language, not as our primary one. The most prominent practitioner of Chicano English is George Lopez, who once tried to make this column into a television show, then let the option lapse. Hey, George: let's take more meetings, you know?

Dear Mexican: My understanding, lo these many years, is that Mexicans cannot give up their Mexican citizenship. I understand that under Mexican law, a natural-born Mexican is never legally allowed to claim exclusive other citizenship, and that Mexico will not recognize U.S. embassy legal process in Mexico on behalf of a Mexican naturalized as a U.S. citizen who is present in Mexico. Is that correct?

August in Austin

Dear Gabacho: You're listening to too much Alex Jones. The Mexican Constitution says native-born Mexicans can never lose their nationality, which is just a fancy way for Mexico to claim more people subject to its authority—an important point we'll use before the New World Order tribunal in a couple of years to reestablish Aztlán.



Ask the Mexican at
themexican@askamexican.net,
be his fan on Facebook, follow
him on Twitter @gustavoarellano
or follow him on Instagram @
[gustavo_arellano](https://www.instagram.com/gustavo_arellano/)!



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AUGUST
EVENTS**

FRIDAY 7/28

Derrick Davis Band @ 9

SATURDAY 7/29

Chris Castenada Project @ 9

FRIDAY 8/4

Bonnie & the Bootleggers @ 9

SATURDAY 8/5

Natalie Rose @ 9

FRIDAY 8/11

Aaron Stephens Band @ 9

SATURDAY 8/12

Kori Free & the Groove Hounds @ 9

FRIDAY 8/18

The Southsiders @ 9

SATURDAY 8/19

New Offenders @ 9

FRIDAY 8/25

Blackbird Sing @ 9

SATURDAY 8/26

Travis Green & the Chiefs @ 9

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FREEMAN ON SPORTS

WITH BRANT FREEMAN

I know I've written about TV shows before in this space, namely Game of Thrones, and am compelled to do so again before getting into this month's review. The newest season of "Thrones" started a couple of weeks ago and I couldn't have been more excited. Seriously, Monday through Saturday feels like a complete waste of time until Sunday arrives and the newest episode airs. It's similar to being an NFL fan, when the entire week feels like an utter bore until sweet, sweet Sunday arrives... unless you're a Browns fan.

During the NFL season, you kill time during the week by reading up on your team, catching up on fantasy news, listening to talk shows, etc. I find myself doing similar things throughout the week in the lead up to the next episode of GOT (I need help). After each episode, I'll read reviews, refresh myself on the history of important characters and storylines, all in order to be as educated as humanly possible by the following Sunday. "Daenerys Targaryen was taken away to Braavos when she was five by a member of her deceased father's Kingsguard, HOW INTERESTING". This is where it's important to note that I am somehow married.

Recently, I was so into educating myself on all things GOT, that I actually did some quick research to see if positions such as "Master of Coin" or "Hand of the King" were actually real back in Medieval times. To my disappointment, they were not (please feel free to correct me, I would be thrilled to be wrong). However, "trial by combat" actually did exist! It was carried out by the Roman Empire, Great Britain and Ireland during the middle ages, Italy and France and even for a brief period in the United States when it inherited British common law. I can't begin to describe my excitement upon finding out trial by combat was a thing (again, married).

Now on to the month that was July, with one month remaining until the start of the high school, college and NFL football seasons...

MLB: The 88th Major League Baseball All-Star game took place back on July 11, and it was the first game since 2002 that

didn't count towards determining home field advantage in the World Series. In retrospect, my goodness, was that a terrible idea. Seeing players from terrible teams which have NO SHOT of playing in the World Series play a part in deciding the fate of home field advantage was awful.

Look at this year's favorites: The Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League, and the Houston Astros in the American League... could you imagine the Dodgers "earning" home field advantage because of something a player from the San Diego Padres did? What if, in the Super Bowl, the team from the NFC got to start from the 50-yard line because a Bears player scored the winning touchdown in the Pro Bowl?

The MLB All-Star Game was fine before the added stipulation, and is better now that it's gone. Last month's game was good, albeit uneventful (The AL won 2-1 with Seattle's Robinson Cano hitting a home run in the 10th inning). The home run derby the day before was even better. It's funny how MLB was able to tweak the derby, making it a timed event, but missed so badly on making the All-Star Game better, as have other leagues. The Pro Bowl is the worst All-Star Game in the history of athletic events, and the NBA All-Star Game is dull beyond comprehension. I'm not sure how to fix them (too busy googling Master of Coin), but it'd be nice to see *something* changed in order to keep fans engaged.

Boxing: Never written about boxing here before! However, July was a bad month for a sport which has been irrelevant for the past 20 years. A former great, Manny Pacquiao, actually boxed on "free" television and was inexplicably screwed over in a losing decision to Jeff Horn. The rest of the month was filled by two terrible human beings, Floyd Mayweather and Conor McGregor, saying terrible things to promote their upcoming match which will be terrible.

With the interest in boxing on life support, things such as possible collusion and the promotion of men who have reportedly dark and disturbing pasts aren't helping.

NBA: For those who read this column each month, you know I can't get away from the Association. While a game hasn't been played since June, last month was filled with off-season moves, the biggest one in Houston, with the Rockets trading for the "point god", Chris Paul. On the surface it's a great deal (it's freaking Chris Paul), but I'm skeptical of the fit.

Houston's offense was A-W-E-S-O-M-E last season with James Harden serving as the Rockets' primary ball handler and creator... which is what Paul does. Paul also doesn't have the best reputation for getting along with his head coaches and it wouldn't be surprising to see him clash with Mike D'Antoni.

Maybe at this point of his career, Paul will be willing to play nice with D'Antoni.

Maybe D'Antoni will make it a point to stagger Paul and Harden's time on the floor to assure that at least one of them is on the court at all times in order to keep the Rockets' offense in "seek and destroy" mode as much as possible.

Maybe the Rockets will find a way to get Carmelo Anthony as well and take one step closer to creating their own super team to combat the Golden State Warriors.

A lot of maybe's have to go Houston's way to make the addition of Paul a success, but either way, it'll be interesting to watch the story unfold.

One more note on the NBA month in review... what in the name of Winterfell is going on Cleveland? Owner Dan Gilbert lets go of GM David Griffin, whom LeBron James liked? Gilbert low-balled Chauncey Billups, who wanted to replace Griffin? Kyrie Irving, a year removed from making the biggest shot in Cavs history, says he *doesn't* want to play with LeBron anymore and wants to be traded?

Only Cleveland could be gifted one of the three greatest players in the history of the sport and screw it up... twice. Quicken Loans Arena may as well be King's Landing at this point.

Until next month...

Brant Freeman is a seasoned local sportscaster, delivering the goods as a reporter for major pro and collegiate sporting events in the greater San Antonio area for over a decade.

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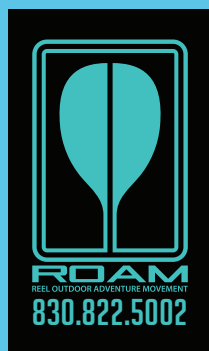
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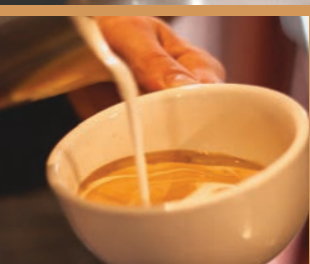
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Last Word

With Kelly Colby

MAGA Update

All right, I can't ignore national politics forever. President Trump has people in a lather on several fronts. The congress has been struggling with Obamacare. And our situation abroad had developed in some important ways. I'll do my best to do them all justice in a short column.

the most prominent news of the last few months is certainly the investigation of the Trump campaign's possible collusion with the Russian government in their interference with the 2016 election. We now have a special prosecutor looking into it which means that we have gone from the original (crazy) assertion to a broad fishing expedition for some possible minor crime that might be used to damage Trump or those around him. Even this new standard appears to be coming up short at the moment, but hope springs eternal in the Democrat heart.

All this began because Attorney General Sessions allowed himself to be bullied into a recusal on matters involving Russia, and Trump has been reminding Sessions of this fact incessantly and publicly. Things have gotten so bad that there is speculation that Trump is looking to replace Sessions. It's hard to be sure if this is true or not. The media spent a good deal of time predicting that everyone from the Vice-President to the presidential dog-walker were about to be shown the door in the early days of the administration, but this seems different, and we've recently seen Sean Spicer leave the administration.

I suspect that Trump feels a bit like the guy who has been talked into bringing a knife to a gun fight and that the people who talked him into the situation are some of his closest advisors. In the case of Sessions, most of Trump's problems are coming from various areas nominally under Department of Justice control. Sessions' recusal prevents him from offering any protection, and I speculate that Sessions' principles prevent him from doing much else of use.

I think we've gotten to the point where Trump wants to hit back on his political enemies. My guess is that Session would

be very clear that this is not the function of the DOJ; it's just not cricket to use the power of government as a political club. Trump, on the other hand, sees that this is exactly what the DOJ has been used for for the last eight years and is still being used for by enemy bureaucrats, and Trump's a brawler. Today Sessions is hinting that there will be investigations into the leaks from the various agencies under DOJ control (amusingly the story appears to have been leaked). This may be an attempt to placate the President. Perhaps it will work.

Trump has actually managed to gain quite a few accomplishments since January. The stock market is up, unemployment down, both at levels far exceeding anything Obama accomplished. Illegal immigration has dropped like a rock, and for all Trump's complaints about Jeff Sessions, Sessions has been enforcing immigration law vigorously. Still, Trump has yet to get any legislative wins. I'm not surprised by this, and I'm not sure Trump should be particularly concerned about it. He doesn't have as much support in the Republican party as he probably should, and he may be better served by bullying those who won't fall in line than making the necessary concessions to get things done.

That said, Trump's current legislative focus seems to be on Obamacare. His personal position is pretty moderate, but that doesn't necessarily help matters. Getting something done will require either both moderate and conservative Republicans or Democrats; heck, the latter might be easier than the former. As of this writing, the Senate is in the midst of debate attempting to put together a bill to send back to the House.

A side bit of drama in all this is that John McCain has been diagnosed with brain cancer, and the prognosis is not good. Democrats will remember John McCain as the guy they were comparing to Hitler and calling a racist two presidential elections ago. McCain came back from a surgery that identified his cancer to help get the debate started and to chastise his colleagues and just about everybody else for not getting more done. Well, it's not like he needs to worry

about getting X'ed off of Christmas card lists.

We might all be better off in the long run if Obamacare was simply allowed to die a natural death. There is legitimate concern over who would be left out in the cold if this happened (as well as who would be blamed for it at the ballot box), but it would give congress a chance to truly reverse course and embrace the market as opposed to meddle in it. This is more of a personal pipedream than anything else; we'll get some new mess to replace the old Obamacare mess I'm sure.

On the international front, Trump had the media frothing by talking to Putin at the G20 summit without their approval. They billed it as a "secret" meeting when actually, he just sat down and chatted for a bit at dinner with his wife and everybody else present. Trump's pulled us out of the idiotic Paris climate accord. And he's managed to drive Isis out of Iraq. Syria remains a problem, both with Isis and Assad, though. It appears that Trump had hoped that Russia might be enticed to actually help with Isis, but they are far more interested in keeping Assad's political enemies from toppling his government. If Isis is to be driven from Syria, we'll need to do it. Trump has likewise reupped efforts to eradicate terrorism in Afghanistan before we leave, which seems like an overly optimistic goal.

The biggest problem on the foreign policy front is North Korea. Trump seems to have been left with the hot potato on this one. L'il Kim is crazy as a bedbug, and now that he has developed better missiles, we really need to start worrying about him getting an itchy trigger finger. Taking military action might help to protect us from a nuke going off in LA, but Seoul would almost certainly take it in the neck (Tokyo too). I'll watch with interest how Trump handles this. It's a problem without a real solution, so it will be a real test of his abilities.

Well, that just about catches things up. I'm sure everything will be different by next column.

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

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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 12th day of July, 2017.

Frank B. Suhr, Attorney at Law,
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