

tx citizen

VOLUME FIVE
ISSUE 15
DEC 2016



Hey, y'all, let's just forget about 2016. #bowie #prince #gatorbait

PLUS: FULL MONTH NEW BRAUNFELS LIVE MUSIC GUIDE



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OGSG
SECRET GARTEN



The Texas Newsgrinder with Mike Reynolds
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FAKE NEWS

With Tony Rainey-Bell

Sid Miller is a Well-Traveled Man

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller is in hot water again.

Earlier this year, Miller faced legal problems arising from two out-of-state trips. One was to Mississippi to compete in a rodeo in April, a trip he paid for with state and campaign funds. The Commissioner said he intended to meet with Mississippi State officials during the trip but said when he got there, "no one was home," even though he knocked several times. Miller strangles baby cows competitively.

The Commissioner also took a trip to Oklahoma on the State's dime to get a treatment for his back, a vitamin mixture called the "Jesus Shot," leading many to wonder why a medicine with that name failed to make Miller a better person. Again, the Commissioner said he meant to meet with Oklahoma state officials while he was there but when he called, all he got was their voice mail.

In the most recent case, Miller traveled to Amsterdam for more medical treatment, this time for a dose of "Jesus Weed." Like the previous trips, the Commissioner charged Texas taxpayers for his travel expenses and claimed he was supposed to meet with Martijn van Dam, the Netherlands' Undersecretary of Agriculture.

"I was supposed to meet with Marty, or whatever his name is, but when I got there, my phone was out of charge," Miller said. "I tried to charge it at the doctor's office (weed shop) but their sockets are different than ours, so I couldn't. I felt bad that I didn't meet with him, but what could I do?"

Besides his traveling travails, Miller's mouth has also landed him in trouble. The Commissioner has been criticized for suggesting the Middle East be nuked (making Israel nervous), comparing Muslims to snakes (making Holocaust survivors nervous) and calling Hillary Clinton a name that would usually get a man kicked in the testicles. Miller has either blamed his staff or claimed that his social media accounts had been hacked.

Recently, the Agriculture Commissioner raised eyebrows again when he said during an interview that the media is "unfairly biased against white supremacists" and that it is "warm in Trump's butt."

When asked about his comments, Miller blamed his staff and said his brain was hacked.

"I think someone on my staff is a witch," Miller said. "And she entered my brain with her demonic powers and made me say things that I normally wouldn't say. Hell, anyone who knows me will tell you that I love everyone, even the coloreds and the faggots."

Education Board Nixes Textbook

The Texas State Board of Education recently put the kibosh on a textbook about Mexican-Americans that was accused of being racist and riddled with inaccuracies.

After a long public meeting, which witnessed numerous Hispanic leaders and academics decrying the book, the board voted 14-0 to not adopt the text.

Momentum Instruction defended the textbook, saying that it "bent over backwards" to appease the book's critics. As an example, the company noted that it had changed the book's title to "Mexican American Heritage" from "Big Old Lazy Mexicans."

"I mean, we had to make a new cover and everything," complained Momentum CEO Cynthia Dunbar. Dunbar denies the book is racist and claims her company's constitutional rights are being violated, which prompted one member of the board to tell Dunbar to "shut the hell up."

Among the many disputed issues in the book are passages that accuse Mexican Americans of "cannibalism," being similar in appearance to "Chinamen," speaking another language "so they can talk bad about white people," and have natural talents for "gardening and housecleaning."

"I can't believe anyone could accuse me of racism," Dunbar said. "My gardener and maid are Mexicans, and they will be happy to tell you how much they love me. They even nicknamed me 'Tia Puta.' I mean, isn't that sweet?"

Other controversial social studies texts published by Momentum Instruction include: "It Was the Black Guy: The History of Crime in the United States;" "Rucky Us: Asians in the West;" "Oy Vay! What's with All These Jews?" and the children's book, "Whitey Makes Things Right."

Tony Rainey-Bell makes things up for the TX Citizen.



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D-PAD



A half-million dollars is made up of 50 million pennies. That is so many pennies that, if you lined them up, they would make a chain from Earth to Pluto and back.

Okay, that was a lie. But the truth is \$500,000 is a lot of money, especially if it is being used for the power of good.

After a mere 10 years, Billy's Ice House is on verge of having helped raise \$500,000 for numerous charities and causes. The effort is not an anomaly for Billy's Ice, but is embedded into its very core.

Nick Sisoian, current owner and general manager of Billy's Ice, said helping others helps define what Billy's is about. In fact, the ice house holds fundraisers "about every month."

"We love hosting fundraising events and we take it very seriously," he said. "We will do it for local charities, local families and as a reaction to serious events, such as floods or fires. We will also do work for those who want to raise awareness for certain groups, such as Special Olympics of Texas, Red Cross. There are also memorial events, such as for members of the local music community whose families want to raise money for scholarship funds, memorials, research and such."

Nick, along with his family, also owns Red River Ice House, which has helped raise another \$500,000 for local charities. This means, of course, that both businesses have pulled together an astounding \$1 million for local causes.

The owner lays all of the credit for this fundraising success on the residents of New Braunfels.

"The New Braunfels community is phenomenal - they are incredibly generous

and supportive," Nick said. "From the smallest donation to the biggest check, we want everyone to know that we truly appreciate every dollar. And they can be secure in knowing that 100 percent is going to the cause they are giving to."

"At these events, you can donate any amount you want, whether it's a dollar or a hundred dollars," he said. "This, we feel, is the most honest way we can say we have reached \$500,000, all from voluntary donations, from locals who donated their own money to help others in their community."

Nick takes great pride in the staff at Billy's Ice, who goes above and beyond to help any worthy cause. Many times, it's the staff who bring those in need of help to his attention.

"Whatever the case, if something happens, we want people to know they can call us," the owner said. "We'll make the facility available, we'll put the staff on it, and we'll promote and raise awareness for the cause. Also, we don't like to charge a cover for such events. If you come, you don't have to give anything, but someone will be at the door to promote the cause, to say 'this is why we're here today, will you please donate?'"

The annual Turkey Fry is a perfect example, which Billy's Ice has been organizing for a decade. In fact, the event was held on the Ice House's very first night of operation in 2006. At last month's Turkey Fry, Billy's Ice was able to raise 1,000 pounds of food and \$1,000 (which Nick says can buy another five tons of food). All of the proceeds went to local food banks.

As the Turkey Fry illustrates, the fundraising efforts of Billy's Ice is, oftentimes, local centric.

One of the reasons for their success is that their efforts are geared toward local people helping neighbors, family and friends.

"This money comes from hard-working locals who care about supporting others in need," Nick said. "In a close community like this, we always know of somebody out there who is having a hard time. We often run into families that suddenly will have a cancer patient in the family, from the very young to the very old."

The next big event for Billy's Ice will be the second annual Coats & Cash for Kids. The goal of the fundraiser is to collect winter clothing for local children's charities as well as to raise funds for SOAR (Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief). SOAR supports orphanages and schools for children of refugees, as well as orphaned children with special needs. Nick is still working on a firm date, but look for the event later this month or early January.

Nick feels the best way he can benefit his community is not just with his monetary donations, but to be there for people.

"For us to say we have the resources that we can put to the best use has always been critical to our business model and attitude," he said. "If we're going to be a busy place, then we need to be busy for the public and the community events, as well. All of our staff takes great pride in this."

Nick wants everyone to know that if they have an important cause they wish to raise money for, they can contact him directly at nicksisoian@yahoo.com.

Nick Rogers covers courts and features for the TX Citizen.

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friday

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sunday

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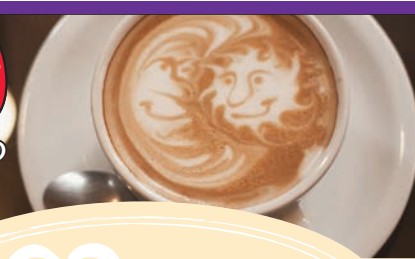
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BIG JOHN MILLS 9PM

SATURDAY 12/3
SCOTT H BIRAM 9PM

FRIDAY 12/9
JAMES HAND 9PM

SATURDAY 12/10
BILLY DEE 9PM

FRIDAY 12/16
ROY HEINRICH 9PM

SATURDAY 12/17
JOHN EVANS 9PM

FRIDAY 12/23
PEPPER'S BLUES 9PM

SATURDAY 12/24
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

FRIDAY 12/30
PRIVATE PARTY

SATURDAY 12/31
KATHY & THE KILLOWATTS 9PM

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YOUR LIVE MUSIC GUIDE

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12/2: Dan Adams
12/10: Billy's 10-Year Anniversary Party!
w/ Texas Renegade
12/16: Jerrett Zoch and the O.S.R. Band
12/23: The Texas K.G.B.

12/2: Aaron Copeland
12/16: Josh Ward
12/30: Zac Wilkerson w/ Aaron Stephens
12/31: **NYE Bash**
w/ William Clark Green



Fri 12.2



Dan Adams
8pm



Bob Schmucke & Derek Krueger
7pm



The Hot Attacks
6:30pm



Junior Nash
5pm
The Nightwows
9pm



Big John Mills
9pm



Aaron Copeland
8pm



Monte Good & the Honky Tonk Heroes
8pm

Adobe Verde
Buddy Vargas
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
The Wood Brothers
w/ Ben Sollee
9pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Sat 12.3



Kim & Her Bad Habits
1pm
The Mighty Orq
6pm



Marcus & the Boho Groove
w/ DeVille San Ramos
9pm



Scott H Biram
9pm



Made in Texas
9pm

Adobe Verde
Tony Taylor
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
Whitney Rose Band
1pm
Gary P Nunn
w/ Silo Road
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Sun 12.4



Jamie Krueger Group
2pm



Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Adobe Verde
Fallon Franklin
6:30pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
TBA
3pm

Gruene Hall
Guy Forsyth
12pm
Mike Zito
4pm

Mon 12.5

Gruene Hall
Bret Graham
6pm

Tues 12.6



Reed Brothers
8pm



Monte Good & David Russell
7pm

Gruene Hall
Bo Porter, Dallas Moore
6pm

Wed 12.7



Aaron Stephens
8pm



Natalie Rose
8:30pm



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9pm

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6pm

Thu 12.8

OMA GRUENE'S
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Jam Night
6pm

THE **PHOENIX SALOON**
Jay Russell Wimberley
5pm

Adobe Verde
Josh Holden
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
Ted Russell Kamp
w/ AJ Hobbs
6pm

Moonshine & Ale
Live Band Karaoke
8pm

Fri 12.9

BLAY'S
ICE
Mark Monaco & the Strayhearts
8pm

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

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
Jimmy T & the Teardrops
6:30pm

THE **PHOENIX SALOON**
Bandreu
5pm
The Canvas People
9pm

Riley's TAVERN

James Hand
9pm



Alibi
8pm

Adobe Verde
JJ Garrett Duo
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
Jerry Jeff Walker
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Sat 12.10

BLAY'S
ICE
Texas Renegade
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
Poor J Brown
1pm
3 Man Front
6pm

THE **PHOENIX SALOON**
PRIVATE PARTY

Riley's TAVERN
Billy Dee
9pm



Fools of the Trade
9pm

Adobe Verde
Bru Erdman
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
The Eastside Kings
1pm

Jerry Jeff Walker
9pm
Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Sun 12.11

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
Cold Snap
2pm

THE **PHOENIX SALOON**
R.L. Hayden
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Adobe Verde
JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm

Geronimo VFW #8456
TBA
3pm

Gruene Hall
Bret Graham
12:30pm
Hot Club of Cowtown
4:30pm

Mon 12.12

Gruene Hall
Bret Graham
6pm

Tue 12.13

BLAY'S
ICE
Austin Gilliam
8pm



Jay Eric & Bruce Weldy
7pm

Gruene Hall
Adam Carroll
6pm

Wed 12.14



Aaron Stephens
8pm

THE **PHOENIX SALOON**

Michael Martin
8:30pm

Riley's TAVERN

TBA
9pm

Gruene Hall
The Georges
6pm

Thu 12.15

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
Jam Night
6pm

THE **PHOENIX SALOON**
Jam Night
5pm

Adobe Verde
Doug Parkinson
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
Chubby Knuckle Choir
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Live Band Karaoke
8pm

Fri 12.16



Jerrett Zoch & the O.S.R. Band
8pm

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

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN**

Greg Izor
6:30pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Junior Nash
5pm
The Watters
w/ Those Nights
8:30pm

**Riley's
TAVERN**

Roy Heinrich
9pm



Josh Ward Band
8pm



County Line Band
8pm

Adobe Verde
Right on Red
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
Kelly Willis & Bruce Robison
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Sat 12.17



FILE 13
8pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN**

The Aaron Stephens Band
1pm
Stray Dawg and the Wolves
6pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

The Georges
9pm

**Riley's
TAVERN**

John Evans
9pm



TBA
9pm

Adobe Verde
Traveling Trees
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
The Powell Brothers
1pm
Bob Schneider
8pm

Moonshine & Ale
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along
8pm

Sun 12.18

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN**

Brad Stivers Band
2pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

All Mixed Up
3pm
Lucas Taylor
7pm

Adobe Verde
JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
Bob Livingston
12pm
Kirk Family Christmas
4pm

Mon 12.19

Gruene Hall
Noel McKay
1pm
Bret Graham
6pm

Tue 12.20



Big Red Drum Series
8pm



TBA
7pm

Comal Country Music Show
KC Hall
Stacy Stark, Britt Ballenger,
Loren Scudder
7:30pm

Gruene Hall
Bo Porter
1pm
Two Ton Tuesday Holiday
Show
8pm

Wed 12.21



Aaron Stephens
8pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Heather Little
8:30pm

**Riley's
TAVERN**

Mike Ethan Messick
9pm

Gruene Hall
George Ensle
1pm
Mitch Webb & the Swindles
6pm

Thu 12.22

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN**

Jam Night
6pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Jay Russell Wimberley
5pm

Adobe Verde
Josh Holden
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
Adam Johnson
1pm

Moonshine & Ale
Live Band Karaoke
8pm

Fri 12.23



Texas KGB
8pm



Bob Schmucke & Derek Krueger
7pm

**OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN**

Ruben V
6pm

**THE PHOENIX
SALOON**

Bandrev
5pm
Big Bad Billycatz
8:30pm

**Riley's
TAVERN**

Pepper's Blues
9pm



TBA
8pm

Adobe Verde
Buddy Vargas
6:30pm

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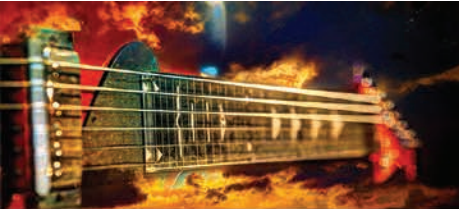
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That Karaoke Chick

FRIDAYS @ 8
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Upcoming Events:



DEC 1 JAM NIGHT
DEC 2 @ 6:30 THE HOT ATTACKS!
DEC 3 @ 1 KIM AND HER BAD HABITS
@ 6 THE MIGHTY ORQ
DEC 4 @ 2 JAMIE KRUEGER GROUP
DEC 8 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
DEC 9 @ 6:30 JIMMY T AND THE TEARDROPS
DEC 10 @ 1 POOR J BROWN
@ 6 3 MAN FRONT
DEC 11 @ 2 COLD SNAP
DEC 15 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
DEC 16 @ 6:30 GREG IZOR
DEC 17 @ 1 THE AARON STEPHENS BAND
@ 6 STRAY DAWG AND THE WOLVES
DEC 18 @ 2 BRAD STIVERS BAND
DEC 22 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
DEC 23 @ 6 RUBEN V
DEC 24 CLOSED
DEC 25 CLOSED
DEC 29 @ 6 JAM NIGHT
DEC 30 @ 6 THE LESTI HUFF BAND
DEC 31 @ 1 KIM AND HER BAD HABITS
@ 6 CHRIS TAYLOR & THE SETTING SONS
Champagne toast at 10pm!
JAN 1 @ 2 THE ADAM JOHNSON BAND \$
5 pints of MIMOSAS while supplies last!

Gruene Hall
Billy Bacon & the Forbidden Pigs
1pm
Ray Wylie Hubbard
w/ Buffalo Ruckus
8pm

Sat 12.24

OMA GRUENE'S
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SECRET GARTEN
CLOSED

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Junior Nash
9pm

Riley's
TAVERN
MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon
TBA
9pm

Sun 12.25

OMA GRUENE'S
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SECRET GARTEN
CLOSED
Merry Christmas, friends!

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
MERRY CHRISTMAS Y'ALL!

Adobe Verde
JJ Garrett Band
6:30pm

Mon 12.26

Gruene Hall
Bret Graham
6pm

Tue 12.27

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon
TBA
7pm

Gruene Hall
Bo Porter
1pm
Two Ton Tuesday Holiday Show
8pm

Wed 12.28

BILLY'S
ICE
Aaron Stephens
8pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
The Mismatch
8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN
TBA
9pm

Gruene Hall
The Tailgators
1pm
The Georges
6pm

Thu 12.29

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
Jam Night
6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Marcus Morales
5pm

Adobe Verde
Doug Parkinson
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
Billy Bacon & the Forbidden
Pigs
1pm
Cody Jinks
w/ Sunny Sweeney
6pm

Fri 12.30

BILLY'S
ICE
Zach Coffey
8pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
The Lesti Huff Band
6:30pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Junior Nash
5pm
Natalie Rose Band
9pm

Riley's
TAVERN
PRIVATE PARTY

RIVER ROAD
ICE HOUSE
Zac Wilkerson
w/ Aaron Stephens
8pm

Scores
Sports Bar & Grill
NEW BRAUNFELS
TEXAS
Carlton Pride & Zion
8pm

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon
TBA
8pm

Adobe Verde
Traveling Trees
6:30pm

Gruene Hall
The Georges
1pm
Pat Green
8pm

Sat 12.31

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN
Kim and her Bad Habits
1pm
Chris Taylor and the Setting Sons
6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON
Jesse Stratton
w/ Fools of the Trade
8pm

Riley's
TAVERN
Kathy & the Killowatts
9pm



William Clark Green
w/ Parker McCollum
8pm



Greatful Dead Tribute
8pm



TBA
9pm

Gruene Hall
Flat Top Jones
1pm
Kevin Fowler
8pm



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DJ

Wednesdays, Fridays,
Saturdays

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Karaoke

Thursday Nights



Karaoke

Thursdays, Saturdays

DJ Johnny V Fridays



Karaoke

Wednesdays & Thursdays



WEEK 12 - BYE WEEK

WEEK 11 PLAYER STANDINGS

FIRST PLACE: DAVID SHEFMAN @ SCORES 80%

SECOND PLACE: TATUM DELEON @ WATERING HOLE 60%

THIRD PLACE: SEAN WERTENS @ PRICKLY PEAR 60%

LEAGUE STANDINGS ON SEASON

FIRST PLACE - THE PRICKLY PEAR @ 70%

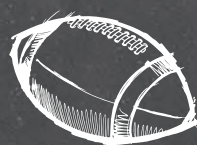
SECOND PLACE - SCORES @ 69%

THIRD PLACE - THE WATERING HOLE @ 63%



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!ASK A MEXICAN!

By Gustavo Arellano

Dear Mexican: What's up with pochos and their disrespect for their origins? I'm a Mexican born and raised in Mexico, a proud chilango, and well, I gotta know why do pochos, or Mexican-Americans or whatever, try to make our reputation as bad as possible by acting all like gangster, and drug dealer, and like a lazy ignorant, person? I mean, no kidding: they represent Mexican culture in the U.S.A, and, well, it doesn't give us real Mexicans a good image, especially the working ones. I mean, I'm not poor, but I was born poor, and my biggest example is my dad, who busted his butt off, working for us to get where we are. So, why do pochos put us as lowrider drivers that do drive-bys and lazy guys that are ignorant and know nothing? I mean, I got pushed back to eighth grade again when I studied in the U.S., for a year, just because I came from Mexico. Their excuse was that our school system was different, so they did that. Anyways, I just hope you can answer why pochos do that.

Mexico City Misfit

Dear Naco: Man, Mexicans have been fretting about the supposedly bad image Mexican-Americans give them ever since Octavio Paz was railing against pachucos in The Labyrinth of Solitude. In "The Pachuco and Other Extremes," he ripped apart Mexican-American youth as emblematic of a "sheer negative impulse, a tangle of contradictions, an enigma" and accused them of "grotesque dandyism and anarchic behavior"—and if that doesn't describe all the wannabe buchones who blast El Komander from their Escalade while driving to Culiacán, I don't know what does. Too regional a reference? How about all the Mexican soccer fans who continue to chant "Ehhhhh...PU-TO" during matches despite FIFA fines and pleas from El Tri? You think Emiliano Zapata would approve of that mierda? The years have taught me that the more "real" a Mexican says they are, the more pendejo they actually are—and, I mean, you just proved that.

Dear Mexican: I'm a dark Mexican with curly hair who spent my whole life defending my full-blooded Mexican-ness to people who insisted I was half-black. I married a black guy because (aside from the fact that I fell in love with him), as I explained to my grandma, no Mexican guy ever gave me the time of day while black guys did. So we have one child who is, as George Lopez says, "Chicano-Plus." Why is my family so fascinated with him? "Look at his curly hair!" I have curly hair! "Look at his beautiful skin?" We're the same color! He looks just like me and

not a bit like his black daddy. Same goes for another of my family members who also married a black guy! What gives with mixed babies and Mexicans? And why didn't I get this kind of love growing up?

Hating on My Mixed Baby

Dear Pocha: Chill out—everyone's freaking out about your baby because he's obviously cute, and mixed babies are the most chulos. You didn't get that love, en el other hand, because your family was in denial about ustedes' Afro-Mexican roots (dark skin? Curly hair? There's an African in that family árbol...or at least a Moor). How to explain the contradiction? Easy: By marrying a black man, you've helped to pushed racial ambiguity and anxiety back into the chamber pot of pendejismo where it belongs, right next to Donald Trump and Mexican soccer fans who chant "Eh....PUTO!"

Dear Mexican: We have Mexican teenagers here in my apartment building who are chronic troublemakers. My question to you is: why do Mexicans break the rules, refuse to be corrected, and harass us senior citizens? Why is it always the Mexicans who are the worst? Is it in their culture? Or, are these just uneducated low-lifes? And because their fathers are nowhere in sight? The management here and the cops can hardly keep up with them, probably because they're Mexicans, too.

Frustrated

Dear Gabacho: You didn't give me specifics, so I'm not sure if the young Mexicans in questions are merely playing in the hallway in violation of apartment rules or making you pay a protection "tax." I'm thinking the former, because Mexicans are taught to revere viejitos as if they were their own abuelitas, so rarely disrespect the elderly. Since you're claiming Mexican cops and apartment managers are conspiring to protect the kids from punishment, I'm going to mark you down as a nasty old bigot, the kind who remembers when Mexicans were referred to as "wetbacks" and everyone laughed at Sy the Little Mexican. In the case you actually are a kind old soul, and a bunch of asshole kids are truly harassing you, call up an old Mexican grandma: her chancleta will have them scrambling faster than a gabacho running to the restroom after eating habanero salsa.



Ask the Mexican at
themexican@askamexican.net,
be his fan on Facebook, follow
him on Twitter @gustavoarellano
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FREEMAN ON SPORTS

WITH BRANT FREEMAN

This month's column comes not long after the Thanksgiving holiday, which brought back some childhood memories for me. I drove down to visit my parents which I normally do every year. I'm 35 years old and I believe that 33 to 34 of my Thanksgiving Thursdays have been spent with them. My father is a huge Dallas Cowboys fan, so of course watching the Cowboys on Thanksgiving is as traditional as the meal itself. You would think reminiscing about watching Dallas play on Thanksgiving would make me conjure up warm and fuzzy childhood memories but you would be wrong. Dead wrong are you, sir.

When things don't go well for the Cowboys, (or even when they do!), my dad becomes THAT GUY. Dropped a pass? Fumbled the ball? Did you call pass interference on Deion Sanders/Omar Scandrick? Then you were an S.O.B. (or worse). I had to make sure my five-year-old daughter was FAR AWAY from the living room this past Thursday for fear that she would be scarred for life and/or repeating what she heard on the drive home that night. "Daddy, can you turn the radio up you Mfer?"

I have no idea what Dallas' record is in those 33 or 34 games and am too lazy to look it up but it feels like it's 3-31 because all I remember are the losses. The games I most remember are Dallas vs. Miami in '94 (the Leon Lett game) and Dallas vs. Minnesota in '98. My god, you should have heard my father after Lett tried picking up that blocked field goal. After that loss to the Vikings in '98, when Randy Moss, then a rookie receiver, absolutely obliterated the Cowboys' secondary, my dad accused me of being a Vikings fan before storming out of the room. Good times. They won their Thanksgiving Day game last Thursday and he was still treating the TV like a celebrity treats the guys from TMZ.

It's probably no surprise that despite growing up in a Cowboys household I migrated to the Oilers/Titans, which I mean...guh. The Oilers were *terrible* when I got hooked on them (2-14 my first glorious year of following them) but watching the games was

peaceful. Watching an Oilers game when I was younger was like going to a day spa while watching the Cowboys (great Cowboys teams mind you) was like going to an anger management meeting. I'm amazed I even like sports now because for the first half of my life, I associated sports with fear.

On a related note, screw spiders. On another related note, here's the rest of the month in review which I'm keeping to the NFL:

NFL: I may not be a fan, but I can recognize how great the Cowboys are this year and this is the best team in football right now. For a team led by a rookie, fourth-round quarterback, a rookie running back whose high draft selection was (rightfully) questionable and an okay-at-best defense, it's amazing Dallas is this good.

Let's be clear - this did NOT happen by design. The Cowboys stumbled into this despite Jerry's best efforts to screw it up. Dallas tried trading up to take Paxton Lynch at quarterback. The history of running backs taken in the Top 10 is not good, and with Dallas' offensive line, the thought was you could plug a seventh-grader into the backfield and still be able to run the ball. The Cowboys did next to nothing to address their defense in the offense.

But it's worked, and everyone has bought in. This team likes playing with one another. Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott are in a two-man race for Offensive Rookie of the Year. Dez Bryant, Jason Witten and Cole Beasley look like rejuvenated players. The offensive line is again great and the defense is doing enough to get by. The home crowds have been great (remember how in year's past, fans of other teams were filling up nearly half of the stadium) and the road to the Super Bowl looks like it's going through Arlington.

Who in the NFC can beat Dallas in the playoffs? Detroit is on pace to win the North and they don't pose that much of a threat. I would have said Seattle but the Seahawks just put up five points in a loss to Tampa Bay last week, a game that really exposed just how terrible Seattle's offensive line is. The one team I think should concern Cowboys fans is

Atlanta. The Falcons' offense is one of the best in football and Brandon Carr vs Julio Jones is a scary thought.

On to Houston and oh man is that a train wreck right now. The Texans are easily the worst team in the NFL with a winning record and I can prove it. Houston is one of two teams with a winning record despite a *negative* point differential at -42 (the other is Tampa Bay at -15). Even the mighty 3-7-1 Cincinnati Bengals have a better point differential (-33). Why? Two words: Brock. Osweiler. (You knew that was coming).

The \$72 million dollar man himself is coming off of a GEM against San Diego: 22 of 37 for 246 yards, no touchdowns and three interceptions. His QBR is 25th in the league, seven spots lower than... wait for it... Brian Hoyer! Trevor Siemian, who the Broncos chose to kick the tires on as opposed to paying Osweiler, is 17th in QBR. What a colossal mistake that was by Houston. If there wasn't a QB out there worth paying \$72M (there wasn't), sign a guy off the trash heap, spend the money elsewhere, ride the defense to another division title and wait for the right quarterback worth signing.

That move could set them back for a while and as a Titans fan I fully approve. God, I hope that the season finale between the two in Nashville is for the AFC South title. I look forward to writing about how the Titans blew it by letting Osweiler throw for 400 yards.

One more NFL note before wrapping up this month's review: there have been talks of the NFL finally coming around to ending Thursday Night Football. I wish for this every time I see a shooting star. TNF is awful. Thursday games should be for the season opener and Thanksgiving and that's it. The quality of play, the mustard uniforms, just not to all of it. You can tuck that Bills-Jets game away to noon on Sunday and the country will thank you for it.

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.

citizen^{tx} 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 Street (Downtown) – 830.643.1400

Bosses Pizza
Sooner rather than later, you're going to need pizza. We recommend "The Herd". Six kinds of meat, two of which are bacon, and all of which are delicious. 263 Loop 337 – 830.620.6900



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

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



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

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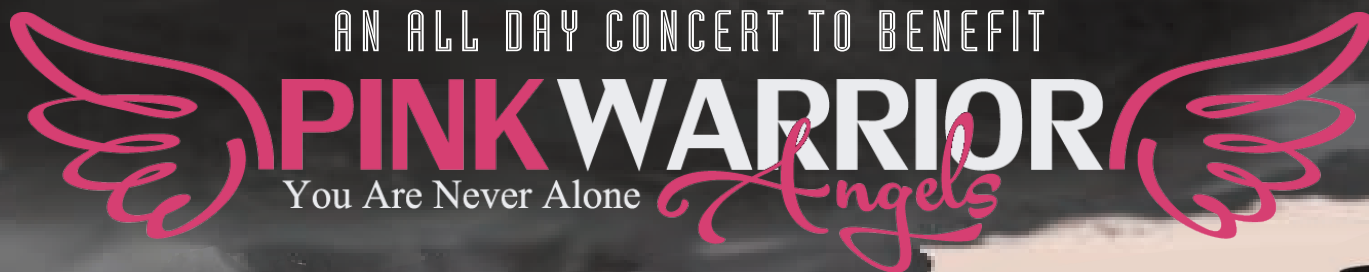
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