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ISSUE TWO
01.14.16

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**POSTSEASON - WEEK ONE
RESULTS ARE IN!**

PAGE 12



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1ST WORD

Hey, you going to breathe that?

If you paid any attention to local media outside of your TX Citizen and Texas Newsgrinder over the past week, (and nobody can blame you if you haven't), you've no doubt been subject to the Chamber of Commerce/4-B/City Hall/HZ hype over Canadian General Tower's acceptance of a \$2 million dollar bribe grant from the State, \$1.1 million in local tax dollars, and some hefty County tax incentives in order to move here. It's just the greatest thing ever.

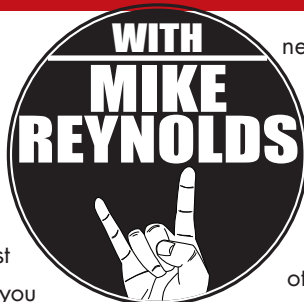
Governor and tree-antagonist Greg Abbott is making a very big deal about this, issuing an in-your-face statement to the rest of the Union, some members of which were trying to get CGT to build within their state's confines:

"Thanks to our skilled workforce, low-tax and low-regulation climate, Texas will continue to attract industry leaders like CGT. By choosing Texas as the location to reshore part of their manufacturing efforts, we are proving that when given the opportunity, the Lone Star State can compete and win against any economy in the world."

Sure. Texas and New Braunfels "won" in the same way a buyer at an auction "wins" – by paying more than anybody else thinks is reasonable. Congratulations. But there's one part of Abbott's first sentence there that's given us pause. Let's see. Skilled workforce. Check. Low taxes. Check. Low-regulation climate*. Ch... uh-oh.

Yeah. According to Canadian television network CTV, Canadian government data declared CGT the fifth largest polluter in the Waterloo region of Canada in 2009. That CTV report was issued in 2011.

CGT was one of three of the top-ten polluters that chose not to respond to the



network's questions about their emissions. It's important to note that CGT was within legal guidelines for output of pollutants, so we're not talking criminals like so many other businesses that have been lured to town with public money, just a heavy emitter. When considering City Hall's track record of whom they pay off to come here, maybe polluters are preferable to criminals. Maybe.

Also important is that the tree-huggers down in the Guada-Coma neighborhood that were sooooo concerned with local environmental quality during the disposable-container ban fight had nothing to say about this. Keep that in mind the next time you hear somebody screaming about "ecology" and "stewardship" and "quality of life". It's usually a front for some less defensible position, like keeping "undesirables" out of "their" river.

Anyway, mind the air as CGT builds its factory out behind the Walmart Distribution Center. Maybe breathe a little less deeply when you're in that part of town. And at the end of the day, thank the gods that it's not a Blue Bell Meningitis Crunch plant. While they've had problems with OSHA, CGT hasn't killed anybody that we know of.

**We're all about a low-regulation climate. Government regulations can bite it. Laws are different, as they're made by elected officials - regulations, which carry the weight of law, are made by appointees without any legislative action. There's no love lost here for those people. Just the same, clean air is a pretty big plus for New Braunfels. If CGT is moving here for the low-regulation climate, and the workforce, and the low taxes, that's incentive enough. We shouldn't have to pay them for the privilege of degrading the air-quality as well.*

In Other News...

City Council approved the master plan for Callen's Castle, the park for special needs kids out on FM 1044 and Old Marion Rd that we've been backing for the last year. Congratulations to Lauren and Colby Clawson of the Callen Hughs Foundation on reaching that milestone.

Council also approved a \$2 river-access fee for out-of-towners that wish to enjoy the pristine waters of the Comal River this summer. Locals are exempt from the fee, so at least we got that going for us. (That and the Blue Bell thing.)

\m/

Mike Reynolds
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief



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A few years ago, my girlfriend (now my wife) asked me if I wanted to try a new tapas bar. I had never heard of a tapas bar and understandably thought she was asking me to try a new topless bar. I said to myself, "Wow, this girl is really branching out. And on a weeknight, too." Imagine my surprise when we arrived at a bar where everyone was fully clothed and enjoying delicious snacks and drinks in a completely dignified atmosphere. As it turns out, I love me some tapas. If you're like me in that regard, then I have good news for you. Longshot Wine Bar is now offering tapas! Come on in and enjoy some house made bruschetta, warm pita bread, hummus, olive tapenade, and Spanish cheese alongside your favorite Longshot wines. We won't even try to hustle you out of your wad of hard earned dollar bills!

– Josh McFarling

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HOURS:
Tues-Thurs: 12-10pm
Fri: 12-11pm Sat: 10-11pm
Sun: 10am-4pm
(Brunch: 10am-2pm)

There is more to a good river outfitter than just providing a tube, much like there is more to skydiving than strapping on a backpack.

While the tube is the most obviously necessary instrument, there are a variety of things essential for the erstwhile tuber, none of which are more important than an all-around enjoyable experience.

When Kris "The Bro" Bolstad, owner of Comal Tubes, says he wants to "make the customer the king," he means it earnestly and without irony.

Bolstad, who helped the original owner start the company, took over Comal Tubes a few months ago.

"There are some changes I'm implementing, but most of those are customer-service oriented with a lot more focus on New Braunfels residents," he said. "We want to be more engaged and not have the mentality that we're doing the customer a favor by simply being here."

In a sense, Bolstad has retro-vision when it comes to customer service. He wants those who visit Comal Tubes to experience a time when the "customer as king" was ingrained into the business psyche. Those old enough can remember a time when service stations actually serviced the car, hotels and campgrounds offered numerous amenities, and the good people at Stuckey's were very happy to sell you pecans.

If you are not old enough to remember such a customer-first mentality, you have sincerely missed out and Bolstad wants to reinitiate that experience.

"When you drive up, you're going to get the bro service, such as 'Hey, Bro! Glad you made it,'" he said. "People are buying season passes right now and I'm responding to each and every one of them by email, thanking them for buying a season pass, letting them know how stoked we are to see them this summer."

To create that experience, Bolstad and his staff want to begin providing service the minute the customer pulls into the parking lot, to the minute they pull out. The outfitter will provide what the customers need, help

them to the shuttle buses, pick them up quickly and answer any questions tubers may have. Such red-carpet treatment is not only because the owner feels that it's the right thing to do, but also because it makes solid business sense.

"If a person has a good experience, they may tell four other people," Bolstad said. "But if they have a bad experience, they will tell anyone who will listen, they will beat that drum. I'm not having it."



Comal Tubes will offer anything a person needs for a proper and safe tubing experience (they do not sell alcohol). Bolstad says this is important because a lot of people who have never tubed before might not necessarily know what they need, and one of the tasks for the staff is to help outfit the novice.

"If you're going tubing, make sure you have your pass, which you can either buy from us online or you can just show up," he said. "You're also going to need

sunscreen, which we sell. You are probably going to want a hat, which we will have, and definitely water.

"You can leave your stuff with us, and we now have lockers," Bolstad said. "You may also want to bring some food with you because it's about a two-and-a-half hour experience. But the main objective is to have fun and relax. For those who have never tubed before, we want to have anything they may need."

If you are hungry after the river sojourn, Comal Tubes also has plans to offer space for food trucks.

Another main objective for Bolstad is to make sure that his shuttle buses are continuously running, so tubers are not waiting too long to be dropped off or picked up.

"After dropping customers off, the buses will immediately drive to the pick up area and if anyone is waiting there, those customers will be immediately picked

up," he said. "We want to have a sense of urgency in picking people up. Buses aren't cheap, but by purchasing more buses you're not just making an investment in the business, but also in the customer."

And there is, of course, the all-important tube. If you try to go down the river without a tube, river rescue teams will have to launch their boats, making at least Guada-Coma neighborhood resident nervous.

Outfitters spend a great deal of time surrounded by tubes, the all-important alpha and omega to all that is tubing. Comal Tubes has about 1,000 tubes, which can mean days of tube maintenance.

"Right now, I have a trailer that has 40 tubes and I don't know if they have holes in them, or if someone just let the air out," Bolstad said. "I will have to get out the compressor and blow up each one. If the tube is patchable, great. If not, it will have to be recycled."

Then, of course, there is the Mysterious Return of the Missing Tubes.

"You'll have some days when 15 people come back on the bus, but there are only 12 tubes," Bolstad said. "But, at some point, all of the tubes show back up. It's a phenomenon, as if each has their own beacon device that leads them back home."

The tubing season officially begins at spring break and lasts about five months, but, as Bolstad notes, "we'll probably start ramping things up about a month-and-a-half before then. Even now, I'm making sure all my technical and legal stuff is taken care of."

Comal Tubes is located at 1880 Elliott Knox, close to the freeway (they were previously located on Seguin Avenue, but moved to have more space). The company is the closest outfitter to I-35, right off of Walnut Avenue. You can contact them at by calling 830.387.4408 or by going to comaltubes.com, where you can get a free tube and shuttle combo just by putting in your email address.

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COUNTY BEAT

WITH NICK ROGERS

Campylobacteriosis Up, Syphilis Holds Steady

Comal County residents got a break from the more virulent form of flu in 2015, but did suffer an uptick in food-born illnesses.

Cases of Influenza Type A dropped last year. Influenza Type A, also known as avian flu, fell from 1,386 reported cases in 2014 to 795. Both years represent a significant drop from 2013, when Comal had 1,853 known cases. Influenza A is often responsible for flu pandemics. The virus is called avian flu because wild birds act as hosts for the virus.

Also falling were flu-like illnesses, which dropped to only 142 reported cases last year from 437 cases in 2014 and 496 in 2013.

However, there was an increase in reported cases of Influenza Type B, a less virulent form not generally associated with pandemics. Type B cases rose to 435 from 106 the year before.

"We have not really had that many cases of flu – as of yet," said Health Director Gwen Mills. "Some years, it will start earlier in December and January, but some years the peak months can be February and March. The important thing is that it is not too late to get your flu shot."

Mills did note there will be some corrections to the county illness report, but those corrections will not affect the influenza numbers.

Streptococcal infections remained steady in the county at 23, down one from 2014. There were only 11 cases in 2013. Streptococcal is a bacterial illness and primarily has two forms. Type A is more commonly known as strep throat, but can lead to scarlet fever and, in the worst case scenario, a flesh eating disease. Type B mostly affects newborns, causing pneumonia and meningitis. Streptococcus can be treated with antibiotics.

Eating food was a bit more dicey for Comal residents, who saw increases across the board in diseases caused by tainted food. Cases of Shigellosis rose from 15 cases in 2014 to 31 last year. Salmonella cases increased to 49 from 31 in 2014. There were 22 reported cases of campylobacteriosis in 2015, more than triple the seven cases the year before. There were also two reported

cases of E. Coli, whereas there were none in 2014. All of the 2015 food-born illnesses represent an increase over 2013, as well.

Most food-born illnesses are caused by bacterial contamination, which comes from a variety of nasty things. As of August 2015, there was an increase in food recalls nationwide, the most famous of which was Blue Bell ice cream due to listeria contamination. There were no reported listeria cases in Comal County.

Despite warnings last year in the TX Citizen and other public service announcements, some sexually active people within the county were still not taking precautions as sexually transmitted diseases remained relatively high.

The most common STD in Comal remains Chlamydia, which did have a slight drop in 2015. There were 203 cases of the disease in 2015, down from 221 in 2014 and 220 the year before that. Chlamydia is more damaging to women.

Also barely dropping were reported cases of gonorrhea, from 35 in 2014 to 32 last year. That number is still higher than 2013, which saw 27 cases of the disease. The number of syphilis reports remained the same, at six. There were no cases of syphilis reported in 2013.

The health department finds those high numbers worrying.

"This is an area where we and the regional health department are very concerned," Mills said. "We are always looking at ways we can cut down on those cases and their transmission."

AIDS is still rare in Comal County, as there were no reported cases of the disease for the second year in a row (there was only one case in 2013). As well, there were only two reported incidents of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) last year. There was only one incident in 2014 and three in 2013.

Strangely, there were six cases of tuberculosis reported last year. This is the highest number of reported TB cases in the county at least since 1994, the earliest year of reportable illnesses available on the County's website.

On the bright side, there continues to be no reported cases of Ebola or the plague in Comal County.



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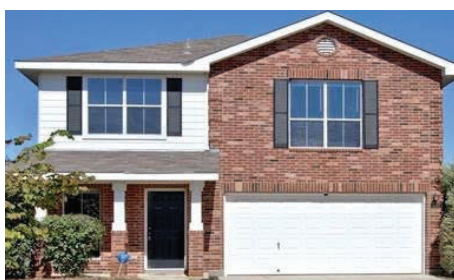
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soundcheck

YOUR LIVE MUSIC GUIDE

Thu 1.14

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

Josh Holden

6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night

6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Marcus Morales

5pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Grant Ewing

9pm

Billy's Ice House

Matt Kersh Band

8pm

Gruene Hall

Marshall Hood Band

6pm

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along

8pm

On the Rocks

Doug Kent

7pm

The Pour Haus

Shady Rest Band

8:30pm

Fri 1.15

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

Free Marie

6:30pm

HAPPY COW
BAR & GRILL

The Hill Country Gentlemen

8pm

LONGSHOT
WINE BAR & TASTING ROOM

Bobby and Paul

7pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Bird Dog

6pm

THE PHOENIX
SALOON

Junior Nash

5pm

Michael Martin & the Infidels

8:30pm

Riley's
TAVERN

Billy Dee

9pm

THE WATERING HOLE
Saloon

Arms Length

8pm

Alpine Haus Restaurant

Off the Grid Polka Band

6pm

Gruene Hall

Van Wilks

7pm

On the Rocks

TBA

7:30pm

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along

8pm

The Pour Haus

Jeremy Steding Band

8:30PM

Vino en Verde

Luke LaGrange

8:30pm

Sat 1.16



BLOWIN' OFF
STEAMBOAT
MUSIC FESTIVAL

at Freiheit Country Store

Walt Wilkins & The Mystiqueros,

Sour Bridges, Texas Renegade,

Matt Begley & Bitter Whiskey,

Dennis Jay & Lonesome Town,

Carol Cochran & Two Way Street,

AND MANY MORE!

Noon-1am

ADOBE VERDE
Historia Gruene, Texas

JAM

6:30pm

OMA GRUENE'S
OGSG
SECRET GARTEN

Pepper's Blues

1pm

Ty Gavin & His Pros & Cons

6pm

Jeromy Hooper

6:30pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Cover Letter

w/ Fire in the Kitchen

9pm

Riley's TAVERN

Roy Heinrich

9pm



Breaker Breaker

9pm

Billy's Ice House

3 Man Front

8pm

Gruene Hall

Blue Water Highway

1pm

Cody Canada & the Departed

w/ Dalton Domino

8pm, \$20

Moonshine & Ale

Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along

8pm

NB Farmers Market

Dan McCoy

9am

The Pour Haus

Mark Monaco Band

9:30pm

Vino en Verde

The Vagabonds

9pm

Sun 1.17

OMA GRUENE'S OGSG SECRET GARTEN

Blues Buzzards

2pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Jade Marie Patek & Bryan Catalani

2pm

Lucas Taylor

7pm

Riley's TAVERN

Tony Taylor

4pm

Geronimo VFW #8456

Natalie Rose

3pm

Gruene Hall

Tish Hinojosa

12pm

South Austin Moonlighters

4pm

The Pour Haus

The Vagabonds

8:30pm

Mon 1.18

Gruene Hall

Bret Graham

6pm

The Pour Haus

Austin Garrett

8:30pm

Tues 1.19



Slim Bawb & Lil' Howard

8pm

Bonzai Steak & Sushi

Smooth Jazz

w/ Sam Harriss

6pm

Gruene Hall

Tommy Elskes

6pm

Wed 1.20

Gourmage

Steven Vee

Noon - 1:30pm

THE PHOENIX SALOON

Shane Walker

8:30pm

Riley's TAVERN

Mike Ethan Messick

9pm

Billy's Ice House

Aaron Stephens

8pm

Gruene Hall

Lucas Jack

6pm

The Pour Haus

Grant Ewing

8:30pm

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Jan 14
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Jan 15
@ 6 Bird Dog

Jan 16
@ 1 Pepper's Blues
@ 6 Ty Gavin and his Pros and Cons

Jan 17
@ 2 The Blues Buzzards

Jan 21
@ 6 Jam Night

SOUNDHECK BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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SOUND OUT OF TOWN

San Antonio
*** YOUR LIVE MUSIC GUIDE ***

Fri 1.15

Cheatham Street Warehouse

Canvas People

w/ The Refrains, The Real Hands

9pm

The Continental Club

Blues Specialists

6:30pm

Ruby Jane, Dust Bowl Revival

10pm, \$10

Robert Kraft Trio, 8:30pm

The Lost Counts, 10:30pm, \$5

Floore's Country Store

Shane Smith & the Saints

w/ Strangetowne

9pm, \$10-\$12

Luckenbach Dance Hall

Hayden Whittington

1pm

Dan Cowart

5pm

Luna

Candye Kane

8pm, \$10

Sam's Burger Joint

Eric Tessmer Band

8pm, \$10-\$45

Stubb's BBQ

Reed Turner

w/ The Gents, Blue Bear

9pm, Inside, \$8

Sat 1.16

Cheatham Street Warehouse

Aaron Einhouse

w/ Jason Bednorz, Kevin Vogler

9pm

The Continental Club

Redd Volkaert, 3:30pm

Cory & the Boys, The Crooks

10pm, \$10

Hillary York, 8:30pm

The Lost Counts, 10:30pm, \$5

Floore's Country Store

Corey Smith

w/ Kimberly Dunn

9pm, \$15-\$20

Luckenbach Dance Hall

Emily Herring

1pm

Dirty River Boys

w/ Shady Rest Band

8pm, \$20

Luna

Roxy Roca

9pm, \$10

Sam's Burger Joint

Reckless Kelly Unplugged

8pm, \$18-\$80

Stubb's BBQ

Duncan Fellows

w/ Moxxy

9pm, Inside, \$8



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FREEMAN ON SPORTS

WITH BRANT FREEMAN

Change is fun. There's something about the unknown that's intriguing because the possibilities from the change are endless, be it a new car, a move to a different city, a new pet, a new job, a different cereal, whatever. Will this end well? Will I enjoy it? What will my friends think? Are Froot Loops better for me than Special K? There are so many questions we have when change comes into our lives and over time those questions are answered. Once the mystery is removed we're left with simply one question: Do I like this or not? If the answer is yes, you stick it out for as long as you can. If the answer is no, the cycle of change starts all over again. But the moment that change comes, we're overcome by either dread (this new *fill in the blank* blows) or exhilaration (this new *fill in the blank* is FOR REAL YO).

I bring this up in light of coaching changes. This time of year there are several with the NFL season over for all but eight teams and the college football season now officially over after Monday's wildly entertaining National Championship game. The program that I cover, Texas State, made a coaching change of its own. Dennis Franchione, who had been in coaching for 40 years including the last five years at Texas State, decided to retire, bringing upon the need for change and subsequently the school chose Everett Withers as its new head coach. The buzz emanating from Withers' hiring is palpable (I get paid extra for using big words), therefore the majority of Bobcat fans are overcome with exhilaration.

Not every coaching hire is met with the same reaction. I can't imagine San Francisco 49ers fans were all that thrilled when the team shoved Jim Harbaugh out the door and chose Jim Tomsula as his replacement. To continue with the cereal analogy, the 49ers went from Honey Nut Cherrios to the cereal you get from a bag: Sweet Honey Rings. And surprise! The Sweet Honey Rings were garbage. The Tennessee Titans, the NFL team I cheer for (pours gin into coffee), are actively looking for a new head coach and I desperately want them to stop looking at the bottom shelf of the cereal section

(Mike Mularkey) and closer to the top (Hue Jackson). As for the teams with their cereal... I mean, coaches, here's the Week In Review, recapping Wild Card Weekend in the NFL.

NFL: A lot of people must be ticked off for buying a ticket to watch the home teams play this past weekend. If you're a Texans fan, you shelled out a car payment to watch your team get shut out 30-0 by Kansas City. All you need to know about just how awful the AFC South was this year is that the division champion had its fans chanting for BRANDON WEEDEN in a playoff game.

If you're a Bengals fan, you dipped into your kid's college fund to watch your team embarrass itself in the closing moments of an 18-16 loss to rival Pittsburgh. Watching Cincy implode over the final 1:45 of the game was like watching the twist playout in an M. Night Shyamalan movie. "So let me get this straight, I sat through this movie for nearly two hours to find out trees don't like people except Mark Wahlberg?"

If you're a Vikings fan, you expunged your savings account to watch the third coldest game in NFL history all for your kicker to miss a 27-yard field goal that would have won the game. The reaction from Vikings fans afterwards was similar to Ralph Wiggum's when Lisa said she didn't like him: you could actually see the moment their hearts broke!

If you're a Washington fan, (no team nickname for you until it's changed), you spent your good Froot Loops money to watch your team get ripped apart by a pedestrian Packers team. Sure, Kirk Cousins can throw for 400 yards and seven touchdowns against the Giants and Cowboys, but even a second-tier NFC team like Green Bay was able to expose Washington which is all for the best because no one wants good things to happen for Dan Snyder anyway.

Until next week... enjoy your cereal!

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.



POSTSEASON - WEEK ONE TOP PLAYERS

1ST PLACE: ROBERT LILEY @ THE WATERING HOLE - 75%

SECOND PLACE: JOHN PERRY @ THE HAPPY COW - 75%

THIRD PLACE: HAMPTON EUDY @ SCORES - 62.5%

FOURTH PLACE: KATIE BENNETT @ THE PRICKLY PEAR - 50%

**THIS WEEK'S
WINNING TEAM:
THE HAPPY COW: 64% ACCURACY**

LEAGUE STANDINGS:

OVERALL ACCURACY ON SEASON

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+ THE HAPPY COW: 51%

= THE WATERING HOLE: 49%

= THE PRICKLY PEAR: 41%

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ASK A MEXICAN!

By Gustavo Arellano

Dear Mexican: Yesterday in a parking lot, I was opening my car door to get out, and a lovely Mexican lady was at the same time opening her door next to me to put her young child in her car. We both opened our doors at the same time. We both quickly pulled our doors in to avoid hitting each other, but then she quickly reopened her door and took a very long time to put her child in the car, thus making me wait when it would have taken me only a second to get out and then she could have proceeded. I didn't understand why she did this, especially when I'm an older woman than she, and seemingly should have been granted the right-of-way. I've always been under the impression that in the Mexican culture, the senior woman would be given courteous regard.

Leisure World Lady

Dear Gabacha: Yes, we respect our elders—but we respect a woman with a child more, and so should you. Plus, you're a gabacha—and gabachos are EVIL. Lucky she didn't steal your country while you were waiting—oh, wait...

WATCH BORDERTOWN! Reward your faithful Mexican with the regalo of watching Bordertown, the FOX animated show I served on as a consulting producer. Airs Sundays at 9:30 p.m. (8:30 pm Central). Watch it live, DVR it, watch it on Hulu or Fox Now, I don't really care—as long as you watch it! And por favor don't pirate it until the eighth season!



Ask the Mexican at
themexican@askamexican.net,
be his fan on Facebook, follow him on
Twitter @gustavoarellano or follow him
on Instagram @gustavo_arellano!

Dear Mexican: I was wondering if you can help me. I'm trying to get my family tree together. My family is from San Julian, Jalisco. Both of my grandparents were part of the bracero program and I was wondering: what is the agency or institution where they hold the list of names of Mexicans who were part of the program? I would greatly appreciate it.

Jalisco No Se Raja

Dear Jalisco Never Backs Down: Your abuelitos were braceros? One of mine was, too, along with a chingo of uncles, one who ended up picking beets in Michigan—fun! And just to remind the gabas who braceros were: they were the original guest-workers between the United States and Mexico, originally set up during World War II so that our fighting men could go kill commie Nazis. Originally an executive order signed by FDR, the bracero program continued until the mid-1960s. And while the pendejo GOP presidential field sometimes wishes it would return, someone should remind them the program ended because of exploitative conditions and the fact that both the American and Mexican government shorted braceros on their salary by withholding 10 percent of their wages, wages that elderly braceros and their descendants were still battling both governments for as recently as last year. On the Mexican side, the Secretaria de Gobernacion (SEGOB, as acronym-obsessed Mexico calls it) has a registry of ex-braceros; on the American side, try the excellent online Bracero History Archive hosted by the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University. Good luck, and don't think your great-grandpa was special because he fought with Pancho Villa; EVERY Mexican's bisabuelo says that!

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COMAL COUNTY'S MOST WANTED



ARRESTED




ARRESTED




GARZA, ARNULFO ELI II
Male • 5'11" • 205 lbs
DOB: 11/26/1973
CHARGE: Failure to appear/ theft property over \$1500 under \$20,000



ARRESTED



GONZALES, ADAM JR
Male • 5'08" • 204 lbs
DOB: 07/29/1977
CHARGE: Two charges of failure to appear unauthorized use of vehicle



MULKEY, FREDDIE RAY
Male • 5'10" • 198 lbs
DOB: 03/31/1952
CHARGE: Manufacture delivery of a controlled substance PG 1 in a drug free zone



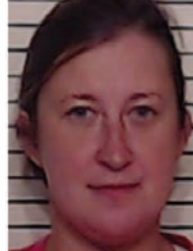
HARRISON, MATTHEW JAMES
Male • 5'11" • 170 lbs
DOB: 05/31/1989
CHARGE: Theft of property over \$1500 under \$20,000



ARRESTED



ARRESTED



WRIGHT, TONI LYNNE
Female • 5'05" • 178 lbs
DOB: 11/17/1979
CHARGE: Motion to revoke probation for harassment of public servant

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The names listed have been released in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act. This is a true and accurate account as of Monday, January 11, 2016 at 9:20 am and may not be current by the time it is read. Do not try to apprehend anyone. These are listings of criminal warrants with the Comal County Sheriff's Office and are not indicative of guilt or innocence. Officers are to verify the status of each warrant prior to making an arrest. Any person is innocent of wrongdoing unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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Cub Scouts cheer on their cars during the annual Pack 163 Pinewood Derby, held January 10 at the New Braunfels Knights of Columbus Hall. John Mitchell, Wolf Den, finished third overall, Brody Turner, Wolf Den, finished second, and Ford Bechtol, Wolf Den, took first. (Photo by Lisa On Location)



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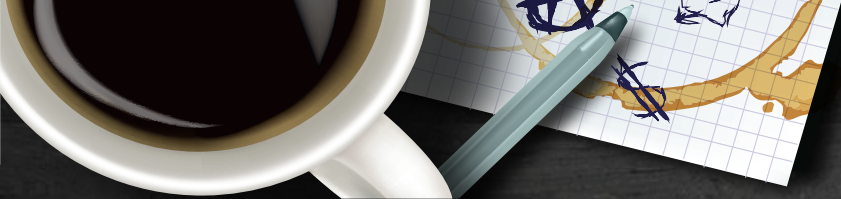
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(general function)
2 to 6 -
Professor Porkchop
and the Dishes
open to public
6 to 10 -
Money "Guitar" Tyler Band
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Last Word

With Kelly Colby

The Force Awoke, and it's Republican.

After waiting far too long, I've finally seen the new Star Wars movie. A spoiler or two did leak through before I made it to the theater, but I still enjoyed it immensely. I'm part of that generation who really did grow up on Star Wars, and though the magic is a bit diminished with my years, I think I'll always be excited by the franchise. I even went out and saw it a second time in a small local theater, and it was during this showing that it occurred to me that Star Wars (and its universe) is actually quite conservative in its message. (You can feel free to read on. All the arguments I'll make will be general ones. You'll get no spoilers from me.)

The first instance of conservative values is one I've seen used to describe Star Wars as libertarian, but it works for conservatives too: Star Wars is clearly dedicated to the idea of capitalism. This affinity isn't slavish; it shows many warts, there are thieves, cheats and smugglers aplenty, but everyone is trying to better their life through commerce. We're not forced, as we are in the Star Trek universe, to accept as heroes a group that has managed to transcend the crudity of capitalism and money. In Star Wars, capitalism is a simple reality, unquestioned. (I like to assume that in such an advanced society, communism has been left on the ash heap of history for good.)

It might be easy to question the Republican Party's commitment to capitalism. If they're less interested in a state controlled economy than Democrats, the difference is one of degree, but

conservatism is certainly dedicated to capitalism, at least in that it is anti-communist at its core and admires hard work and the free market.

In addition, Star Wars takes the attitude that science is not the solution to everything. This is certainly true in the centrality of "the Force" to the setting, but it's not limited to this. There's no question that both Star Wars and conservatism see value in religion, but both also recognize that science will not solve all the world's ills. In Star Wars you still have crushing poverty, crime, hate and even slavery. The fact that their society is far more technologically advanced than our own hasn't solved any of these problems. In fact, the problems seem even more apparent.

This is a truly conservative attitude. Libertarianism would imply some relation between overreaching government and all of these problems, and there is some of that, but for the most part, in the Star Wars universe, these things exist because they always have. Science hasn't eradicated them because it can't. Science is only a tool. Unlike the common suggestion that conservatism is somehow anti-science, conservatism is actually just dubious of science's ability to solve problems. Conservatives tend to turn to God for that (as Star Wars does with "the Force.") or recognize that only individuals can truly improve their condition.

This too is seen in Star Wars, this idea that rugged individualism is key to advancement. Most of the heroic characters in the Star Wars universe are self-made. They often come up from nothing. Think about the circumstances of Anakin, Luke, Han, Finn, and Rey. These characters are

not even middle class heroes; they come from nothing. Each in their own way rises up due to their own actions. In some cases, "the Force" is instrumental as well, but that too fits the conservative ideal.

The liberal view is that some are so oppressed that they simply can't rise above their circumstance without some form of collective help. That's the impetus for many of the government programs proposed by them, and the liberal insistence on increasing government power. To the liberal, society must help people to rise above their circumstances. They can't be expected to do so on their own. For the conservative, not only can the individual overcome adversity, there is actually a value and nobility in doing so that is lost when society tries to smooth the way.

The focus on government is also typically conservative. There is a good deal of good old fashioned anarchocapitalism in the stories, but the heroes are the rebellion and the Republic. The main body for the Republic is the Senate, a loosely grouped confederation of societies that work together as a form of government. The Empire is the main antagonist in the story, and the Empire is clearly a totalitarian unit with very focused central power.

There's no question that between liberalism and conservatism, the latter is the more dedicated to centralized power. That is not to say that liberals see themselves as the Empire; their rule would be a benevolent dictatorship. Conservatism, though, remains dedicated (in most cases) to local control of issues to the greatest extent possible. Conservatism sees the inherent danger in the power of an Empire.

Perhaps the most important conservative

ideal seen in Star Wars is the strongest one: the dedication to returning to a better time. Star Wars recognizes that there is no ideal, but that progress at least in their case has brought them to a disastrous situation. All of the heroic characters are attempting to return to a past time when things were better. Not everyone agrees on what those times were, but they are all looking back at least to before the rise of the Empire.

This same idea is a key aspect of conservatism. Conservatives also argue on where the best era might have been, but all feel that we have moved too far too fast away from the ideas of the country's founding. Liberals rightly question whether things really were better. The benefit of fiction is that this isn't as big a problem. There is no question that for the Star Wars universe things were better before the rise of the Empire. In the real world, we might need to debate just how swell the fifties were.

Probably the most interesting thing to me about this exercise is that it seems beyond question, that the people involved in the creation of Star Wars didn't intend for this to be the case. George Lucas isn't very conservative, and I doubt J.J. Abrams is any more so. Quite the opposite seems probable. Even so, the story that they tell is a conservative one. I suspect that some of this has to do with the basic nature of storytelling. I think that the best stories are sometimes the ones that aren't contrived to create a message but are drawn from deep inside the author's nature and perhaps the nature of all of us. Of course, that's an argument for another time.

*Kelly Colby can be reached via the electronic mail at
kellycolby@txcitizen.com*

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