

# tx citizen

VOLUME SIX  
ISSUE TWO  
FEB 2017

Blowin' Off  
Steamboat FIVE  
Takes the Roof  
Off Freiheit!  
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Biedermann Intimidates Texas Muslims | Fake News | Mr Trump's Wild Ride

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## Craft

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# 1<sup>ST</sup> WORD

## Biedermann Goes Crazy

Spankin' new state rep Kyle Biedermann has wasted no time proving what a great American he is, having issued a loyalty test to Texas Muslims.

Biedermann, who beat incumbent Doug Miller for the District 73 seat up at the statehouse, is making Islamic terror his number one priority, despite the fact that he has no stroke at the Department of Homeland Security. Miller ran his campaign on the same note of "Imma protect Texas from the ISIS", and was mocked heartily for it, because his influence in that arena amounted to nil. It was as legit as if he were running on a NASA platform, as State Reps don't handle space travel either. Now that Biedermann has taken that page from Miller's playbook, it's clear we traded one demagogue for another.

In case you didn't see a copy of this at your local Islamic center, here's what Biedermann wanted Texas Imams to go on the record for. You know, just to make sure they're "one of the good ones". The following is the complete text of the, uh, "survey":

### POLL RESPONSE

Texas Muslim Capitol Day 2017

Please indicate your support and approval of any of the following items by placing an "X" in the appropriate box. Then please sign and print your name, title and your institution. Place the completed form in the enclosed pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope and mail same to Rep. Kyle Biedermann, P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 - ON OR BEFORE Friday, January 20, 2017.

I AGREE WITH AND SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING INDICATED ITEMS:

- ☐ Declaration of Muslim Reform Movement
- ☐ Muslim Pledge for Religious Freedom and Safety from Harm for Former Muslims
- ☐ S. 2230 of the 114th Congress that requires the U.S. Secretary of State to determine whether the Muslim Brotherhood meets the criteria for designation as a foreign terrorist organization.

In other words, Biedermann wants to know which Muslims might be committing thoughtcrime



in Texas. (And let them know who's boss.) As a bonus, any Imam that didn't send their "survey" back can be presumed to be hiding something. Way to make friends, Kyle.

**NOTE:** While Biedermann cited the "Poll" as part of Texas Muslim Capitol Day (an outreach event which Biedermann had no hand in), which was January 31, he was collecting the data for his January 26 "DEFENDING AGAINST RADICAL ISLAMIC TERRORISM IN TEXAS", Homeland Security Forum. Which doesn't sound near as friendly as "Capitol Day".

Now, I'm all for the Muslim Reform Movement, and protecting former Muslims from execution. I'm fairly certain the Brotherhood is a terrorist organization, and I'll go one better and assert that radical Islam is an existential threat to the free world. But if I got a letter from the government asking me to register my opinions on those topics with the aforementioned government, I'd get a little nervous. I mean, I've never had the government question me about my religious/political beliefs, and I'm betting you haven't either. Let's face it, those questions are loaded with a presumption of guilt by association, and the subtext is clear: "Prove you're not a terrorist or terrorist sympathizer".

Would you feel comfortable going on the official record, knowing that a politician was keeping your answers on file for some future purpose? Well, would you? WOULD JA?

### PLEASE ANSWER, SIGN, AND RETURN TO YOUR NEAREST DEMOCRAT LAWMAKER:

- ☐ How many guns do you own?
- ☐ How many white males live in your home?
- ☐ Do you agree with this statement? "The USA was founded upon violent revolution."

I think you can see what I mean.

\m/

Mike Reynolds  
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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## Blowin' Off Steamboat Music Festival FIVE!

By Brian Strickland - [musicofnewbraunfels.com](http://musicofnewbraunfels.com)  
Five years have come and gone... When I started Music of New Braunfels, I wanted to do two things... I wanted to promote the live music and songwriter community in our area, and I wanted to help produce live music events for local charities or individuals that either need help or are doing good things for the community. With the help of the TX Citizen staff, the great folks at Freiheit Country Store, our songwriters and bands, a few great volunteers, as well as our wonderful sponsors both past and present, those dreams have been realized!

This year our beneficiary was Pink Warrior Angels, and we are honored to have been able to lend some support to these sweet ladies! They pair breast cancer survivors up with newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. They do this to help them through the hard times they will surely go through, letting them know what to expect. When it is the right situation and they're able, they help financially. This is a classy organization doing great things for people that truly need it!

This year we added a Friday night pre-party with our official sound engineer and one of few who have performed at every single Blowin' Off Steamboat Music Festival, B.J. Thibodeaux's band Backwater Blvd. With a little creative scheduling, we ended up with a bonus set from Rumor Town as well! We are working on something really big for a Friday night kick off party next year, so stay tuned!

First-timers Elisa Maria and Navy Blu kicked things off on Saturday at noon, followed by Brittney Nemec of the sister band TBA. TBA was with us in 2013 for a brief set, and this year Brittney went solo with some harmony vocals contributed by her Aunt Tisha and sister Aubrey.

We had acoustic sets with David Russell

of Empty-Handed Vagabonds and Jason Scott, Dennis Jay with Bob Stafford and Mike Ethan Messick, then Tyler Derryberry and Neil Cooper finished out that run before kicking off the first full band set.

Carol Cochran and Two-Way Street, a staple in our musical diet at BOSMF, played some classic country favorites. Along with Carol, there's Clark Grein on lead guitar, Pat Nichols on bass guitar, Kim Hanney on steel guitar, the drummer known only as "Fruit", and vocals from every part of the stage!

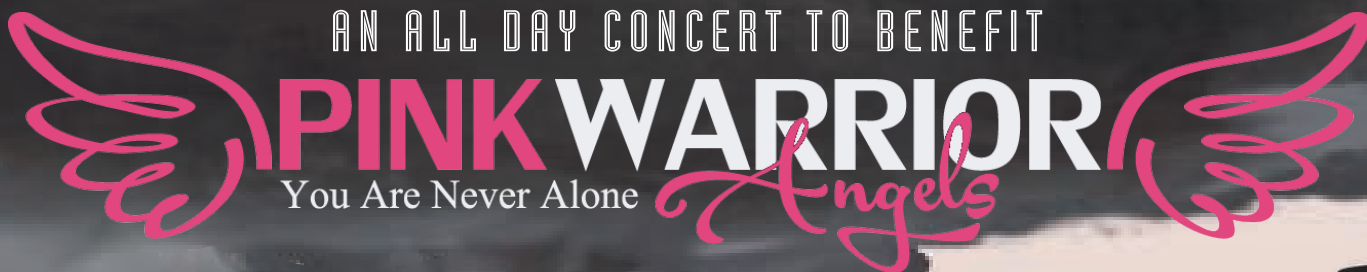
An acoustic set from Billy Broome of Silo Road and Keith Hickie was up next, followed by more amazing BOSMF veterans, Kori Free and The Groove Hounds. Alli Mattice also returned for a fifth year and joined Kori for a few songs, and after Kori's set we were treated to a full band set from the Alli Mattice Band.

Country sweetheart Kayla Ray joined the amazing Reed Brothers, Kyle and Keegan, for an acoustic set, then we closed out the night with two HUGE full band sets from Jomo & The Possum Posse and Smoke Wagon! If you've ever seen the "Guy On A Buffalo" YouTube series, that song is Jomo & The Possum Posse's light-hearted albatross, much like Ray Wylie Hubbard's "Up Against The Wall Redneck Mother" or Mike Ethan Messick's "Everclear". Smoke Wagon is one of my favorite local bands, they're very high energy and put on a great show with a mix of red dirt and Texas Country covers as well as a growing catalog of GREAT originals that have already tipped into the top 40!

We hope you'll join us for the Sixth Annual Blowin' Off Steamboat Music Festival on Friday, January 19th and Saturday, January 20th, 2018 at Freiheit Country Store. Watch the TX Citizen for details!



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# FAKE NEWS

With Tony Rainey-Bell

## Miller Continues Antagonistic Relationship with Truth

Claims by Sid Miller that he was attacked by terrorists have been debunked by Erath County law enforcement.

While hunting for chickens in his home county, the Texas Agriculture Commissioner said he was shot at by "terrorists" from Mexico. Miller called media outlets with the news and posted the claim on social media sites. The claims, however, were patently false, according to Erath County Sheriff's Department officials.

"We received several phone calls from motorists who said a naked man in a cowboy hat was running down the highway, screaming and flapping his arms," said a Sheriff's Office official, who requested anonymity due to embarrassment.

The official said that when deputies arrived, they found an unclothed Miller in a state of duress.

"Whenever Miller gets upset, he takes off his clothes," the official said. "Unfortunately, he gets upset a lot."

Miller told officers he was hunting in nearby woods from his chicken stand when "from out of nowhere," shots rang out near his head. Miller reported that the shooters were wearing sombreros and carrying trumpets.

"He said it was Mexican ISIS," the official said.

However, officers on the scene found a deer crossing sign that had recently been peppered with buckshot. Miller's pickup was nearby. The Commissioner eventually admitted that he shot the sign because he thought it was whimsical.

"I'm kinda edgy," Miller reportedly told officers. "I'm not in for that politically correct humor and sometimes that means shooting at signs."

The official said that officer believe that as Miller shot the sign, the buckshot ricocheted back at the Commissioner, scaring him into peeling off his clothes.

Nevertheless, Miller insisted that he was shot at by Mexican ISIS.

"If it wasn't Mexican ISIS, then how do you explain the sombreros and Mariachi music, Mr. Smart Guy?" Miller said when asked about the incident. He then accused the media of being elitist.

Even though Miller is being ridiculed by many for his claims, the Commissioner is getting support from State Rep. Kyle Biedermann, whose district includes New Braunfels.

"This is a serious threat to our security and a perfect example of brown people misbehaving," Biedermann said. "We need to put a stop to Mexican ISIS."

The newly sworn in State Representative said he will send out questionnaires to Mariachi bands and hold a summit to "find answers to national security issues causes by Mexican ISIS."

Miller was recently rejected by President Donald Trump for Secretary of Agriculture. Administration officials said, "there is room for only one crazy naked man here, and that's the President."

Biedermann is set to begin his first term as a state representative for District 73 and seems confused about the duties of a state legislator.

## Campbell Files Security Bill

State Sen. Donna Campbell has filed a measure for the upcoming legislative session that, she says, would protect Texas from terrorists.

"Right now, as we speak, Mexican ISIS has infiltrated our precious Texas," the measure reads. "They have already shot at one of our state commissioners, endangering him while they played sinister yet jaunty Mariachi tunes."

"Their goal is to retake the Alamo," the bill continues. "Once they get inside the Alamo, we all know from history how hard it will be get them out. After all, it recently took 181 Texans to hold off 100,000 Mexican terrorists for a year and a half."

Besides the Mexican ISIS bill, Campbell has also submitted a measure that would enforce the rights of the unborn to bear arms.

"That these precious little ones are deprived their Second Amendment Rights is unconscionable," the Doctor Senator said.

The bill would allow doctors to surgically place guns into wombs or women could swallow them, if they so choose. The law would be mandatory.

Dr. Sen. Campbell represents District 25, which includes Comal County. However, she doesn't live anywhere around here.

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



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# Chili Cook-Off

## Saturday, February 18

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# soundcheck

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2/4: Chandler & The Bings  
2/11: Chris Saucedo Band  
2/18: The Mismatch  
2/23: 3 Man Front  
3/5: "Jeepers 4 Jonathan"  
Benefit

3/3: TOM PETTY Tribute  
3/17: Tejas Brothers'  
St. Patrick's Day Bash  
3/18: Blue Water Highway Band  
3/25: GIDDY UP Rally  
3/31: Josh Weathers  
w/ Seth James



## Fri 2.3



Dean Seltzer  
8pm



Chris Taylor & the Setting Sons  
6:30pm



Taylor Pfeiffer  
5pm  
Bonnie & The Bootleggers  
9pm



Big John Mills  
9pm



Knotty Grove  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
Travelling Trees  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Jon Wolfe  
w/ Jared Deck  
8pm

Longshot Wine Bar  
Bob Schmuckle & Derek Krueger  
7pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

## Sat 2.4



Chandler & the Bings  
8pm



Highway Hypnosis  
1pm  
Pepper's Blues  
6pm



The New Offenders  
9pm



Beth Lee & the Breakups  
9pm



Dirty White Horse  
9pm

Adobe Verde  
Right on Red  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
High Plains Jamboree  
1pm  
Cody Canada & the Departed  
w/ John Baumann  
8pm

## Sun 2.5



Brad Stivers Band  
2pm



Annual Sporting Event  
All Day



Emily Herring  
4pm

Gruene Hall  
Billy Bacon & the Forbidden Pigs  
12pm

## Mon 2.6

Gruene Hall  
Bret Graham  
6pm

## Tues 2.7



Reed Brothers  
8pm



Jam Night  
7pm

Gruene Hall  
Doster & Elskes  
6pm

## Wed 2.8



Aaron Stephens  
8pm



Shady Rest Band  
8:30pm



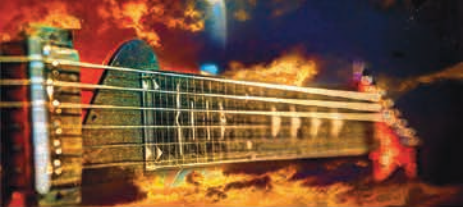
Ryan Kennedy  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Tom Gillam  
6pm

## Thu 2.9



Bret Coats  
8pm



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FEB 4 @ 1 HIGHWAY HYPNOSIS  
@ 6 PEPPERS BLUES  
FEB 5 @ 2 BRAD STIVERS BAND  
FEB 9 @ 6 JAM NIGHT  
FEB 10 @ 6:30 CHRIS RUEST BAND  
feat GENE TAYLOR  
FEB 11 @ 1 TONY T & THE SHINE RUNNERS  
@ 6 MINGLEWOOD  
FEB 12 @ 2 SLIM BAWB  
FEB 16 @ 6 JAM NIGHT  
FEB 17 @ 6:30 3 MAN FRONT  
FEB 18 @ 10 JAMES PARDO BAND  
@ 1 KIM & HER BAD HABITS  
@ 6 CHRIS DUARTE GROUP  
FEB 19 @ 2 THE MIGHTY ORQ  
FEB 24 @ 6:30 AARON STEPHENS  
FEB 25 @ 1 JIMMY T & THE TEAR DROPS  
@ 6 ADAM JOHNSON  
FEB 26 @ 2 BAREFAX BAND



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Jam Night  
6pm

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

Garrett Douglas  
5pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Rio Tripiano & Mike Valliere  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Reed Brothers  
6pm

Vino en Verde  
Brett Cline  
8pm

**Fri 2.10**

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**SECRET GARTEN**

Chris Ruest Band  
ft. Gene Taylor  
6:30pm

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

Josh Field  
5pm  
Junior & the Strikers  
9pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Mark Jungers  
6pm  
Railhouse Band  
9pm



Carol Cochran & Two Way Street  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
JJ Garrett Band  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Charlie Robison  
w/ Austin Meade  
8pm

Longshot Wine Bar  
Bob Schmuckle & Derek Krueger  
7pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

**Sat 2.11**

OMA GRUENE'S  
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**SECRET GARTEN**

Tony T & the Shine Runners  
1pm  
Minglewood  
6pm

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

Poor J Brown  
w/ Bre Jarvis  
9pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

James Hand  
9pm



River City Kings  
9pm

Adobe Verde  
Bru Erdman  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Powell Brothers  
1pm  
Ricky Skaggs  
w/ Bottom Dollar String Band  
8pm

**Sun 2.12**

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

Slim Bawb  
2pm

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

All Mixed Up  
3pm  
Lucas Taylor  
7pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**  
Matt Harlan  
4pm

Gruene Hall  
Bret Graham  
12pm  
Houston Marchman  
4pm

**Mon 2.13**

Gruene Hall  
Bret Graham  
6pm

**Tue 2.14**



Jam Night  
7pm

Gruene Hall  
Dale Watson  
7pm

**Wed 2.15**



Aaron Stephens  
8pm

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

Shane Walker  
8:30pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Mike Ethan Messick  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
The Georges  
6pm

**Thu 2.16**

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

Jam Night  
6pm

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**  
Ken Raba  
5pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**  
Bo Brumble  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Aaron Einhouse  
8pm

Vino en Verde  
Brett Cline  
8pm

**Fri 2.17**

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

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

Bandrev  
5pm  
Blackbird Sing  
w/ Jay Russell Wimberley Band  
8:30pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Pepper's Blues  
6pm  
Darci Carlson  
9pm



TBA  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
Traveling Trees  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Shooter Jennings  
8pm

Longshot Wine Bar  
Bob Schmuckle & Derek Krueger  
7pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

**Sat 2.18**

**OMA GRUENE'S  
OGSG  
SECRET GARTEN**

James Pardo Band  
10am  
Kim & Her Bad Habits  
1pm  
Chris Duarte Group  
6pm

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

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

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Scott H Biram  
w/ Ponderosa Aces  
9pm



County Line Band  
9pm

Adobe Verde  
Right on Red  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Big Gus & Swampadelic  
1pm  
Dirty River Boys  
w/ Zach Nytomt  
8pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

**Sun 2.19**

**OMA GRUENE'S  
OGSG  
SECRET GARTEN**

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

Jeffrey Ryan Vaughn  
3pm  
Lucas Taylor  
7pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Reed Brothers  
4pm

Gruene Hall  
The Peterson Brothers  
12pm  
Jeff Plankenhorn, Malford  
Milligan, Cari Hutson  
4pm

**Mon 2.20**

Gruene Hall  
Bret Graham  
6pm

**Tue 2.21**



Jam Night  
7pm

Comal Country Music Show  
KC Hall  
Glen Muencheow, Lorraine  
Chevana, Dennis Downs  
7:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Josh Grider, Walt Wilkins,  
Kelley Mickwee  
6pm

**Wed 2.22**



Aaron Stephens  
8pm

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

Fort Defiance  
8:30pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Austin Gilliam  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
South Austin Moonlighters  
6pm

**Thu 2.23**

**OMA GRUENE'S  
OGSG  
SECRET GARTEN**

Jam Night  
6pm

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

Garrett Douglas  
5pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Tony Taylor  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
Bo Porter  
6pm

Vino en Verde  
Brett Cline  
8pm

**Fri 2.24**

**OMA GRUENE'S  
OGSG  
SECRET GARTEN**

Aaron Stephens  
6:30pm

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

Junior Nash  
5pm  
Big Bad Billycatz  
8:30pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Roy Heinrich  
6pm  
Zach Walther  
9pm



TBA  
8pm

Adobe Verde  
JJ Garrett Band  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Shinyribs  
w/ Jomo & the Possum Posse  
8pm

Longshot Wine Bar  
Bob Schmuckle & Derek Krueger  
7pm

Moonshine & Ale  
Rock & Roll Piano Sing Along  
8pm

**Sat 2.25**

**OMA GRUENE'S  
OGSG  
SECRET GARTEN**

Jimmy T & the Teardrops  
1pm  
Adam Johnson  
6pm

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

Manzy Lowry Band  
w/ Opie Hendrix  
9pm

**Riley's  
TAVERN**

Billy Bacon & the Forbidden Pigs  
9pm



TBA  
9pm

Adobe Verde  
Bru Erdman  
6:30pm

Gruene Hall  
Flat Top Jones  
1pm  
Uncle Lucius  
w/ Jonathan Terrel  
9pm

**Sun 2.26**

**OMA GRUENE'S  
OGSG  
SECRET GARTEN**

Barefax Band  
2pm

**THE PHOENIX  
SALOON**

All Mixed Up  
3pm  
Lucas Taylor  
7pm

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WEDNESDAYS @ 7

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SATURDAYS @ 9

**Live Music**

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Slim Bawb  
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3pm  
Van Wilks  
6pm

**Mon 2.27**

Gruene Hall  
Bret Graham  
6pm

**Tue 2.28**



Jam Night  
7pm

Gruene Hall  
Slim Bawb  
6pm

**Wed 3.1**



Aaron Stephens  
8pm



Code 2 Band  
8:30pm

## Riley's TAVERN

Manzy Lowry  
8pm

Gruene Hall  
The Georges  
6pm

**Thu 3.2**

## OMA GRUENE'S OGSG SECRET GARTEN

Jam Night  
6pm

## THE PHOENIX SALOON

Jay Russell Wimberley  
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## Riley's TAVERN

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# ASK A MEXICAN!

By Gustavo Arellano

**Dear Mexican:** I'm a wetback myself; actually, in the eyes of a gringo, we are all wetbacks. I'm sick and tired of the political caca about illegal immigration. The gringo government knows and very well understands the plus and minus of our vatos' economic effect to the U.S. economy. The ones that don't get are the blind people who don't like our drunk culos.

It seems that a lot of people e-mail you about "Mexicans coming over here ruining our system," or "They're putting a burden on our healthcare," and a whole host of other stuff are like that. Then they follow up with some (pardon my language) stupid, dumb shit like "The wall will keep them out." It seems to me that they really don't understand the real problem (or solution) here.

**Peeved in Plano**

Dear Pocho: Ya think? As I've been saying in this columna for over a decade, the only thing that will stop Mexican immigration to this country is a fundamental economic change for both sides of la frontera: the end of the free economy in el Norte, and the end of crony socialism in Mexico. Trump and his Trumpbros know this but don't dare attack either system because they're all in the same swamp—that's why we're now getting the wall, which will prove as effective in stopping Mexicans in coming over as a tissue paper is in stopping the flow of the Rio Grande. But you know what? Let Trump build his wall. It's going to fail and embarrass him. And even if it succeeds, it'll create a revolution in Mexico, which means millions of refugees will easily tear down that wall and settle in Aztlán once and for all. Be careful what you wish for, Trumpbros: it just might marry your daughter.

**Quisiera saber si las Americas eran gluten free before 1492. No soy foodie; solo un campesino/cocinero curioso.**

**Viva El Corn**

Dear Paisa: You want to know whether the Americas were gluten-free before 1492, and the answer is ahuevo. Wheat came—along with beef, pork, and pestilence—with the wasichus; before that, Mexicans mostly ate, fruit, vegetables, and whatever game meat they caught, something that most gabachos and even Mexicans don't realize as they scarf down a carnitas burrito washed down with Bohemia (what: you thought that lager

was named after Cuauhtémoc's son?). That's why I'm all for gluten-free hipsters and Mexicans alike to go beyond what they consider "Mexican" food and embrace an all-raza diet of nopales, frijoles, squash, corn, purslane and so much more. And lest the primos think anyone who wants to forsake chicharrones and chorizo in favor of a vegetarian lifestyle is a Prius-driving chavala, get yourself a copy of Decolonize Your Diet: Mexican-American Plant-Based Recipes for Health and Healing. Written by professors Luz Calva and Catriona Rueda Esquibel after Profe Calva was diagnosed with breast cancer, it's part-cookbook, part-history, and a magnificent toma, güey to any gabacho who thinks Mexican food's default setting is Montezuma's Revenge.

**Dear Mexican:** Recently at the local Northgate market, I saw a man wearing a T-shirt that said "MEXICAN" followed by a clarification: "NOT Latino: Latinos are Anglo Europeans from Italy. NOT Hispanic: Hispanics are Anglo Europeans from Spain."

I may be crazy, I'm pretty sure the words for those two descriptions are "Italian" and "Spanish." Do I need to start telling my family that we are actually of Latino descent? What's the proper term so I don't refer to all such people as Mexicans like an asshole?

**Dago Dino**

Dear Gabacho: Don't pay attention to that T-shirt; it's the mindless droppings of a group of yaktivists who long ago declared your beloved Mexican the biggest vendido in Aztlán, beating even Carlos Menstealia and Paul Rodriguez. Mexicans are Latinos the way Americans are North American: an identity of convenience, not a matter of the corazón. The only time Mexicans use "Latino," like Americans with "North Americans" is when trying to group themselves with other people based on perceived shared traits: language for Mexicans, countries to Monroe Doctrine for Americans. Other than that, "Latino" and "Hispanic" are labels with about as much use in the daily lives of Mexicans as condoms.



Ask the Mexican at  
[themexican@askamexican.net](mailto:themexican@askamexican.net),  
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**FREEMAN  
ON SPORTS**

**WITH BRANT FREEMAN**

Stuff happened in January so let's review it while also making a terrible prediction for Sunday's Super Bowl between Atlanta and New England...

**NBA:** January was a weird month for the Spurs and as I'm writing this, it's technically not over yet as San Antonio hosts Oklahoma City tonight (January 31). Record wise, it's been the Spurs worst month of the season (no matter what happens against OKC) with losses to four potential lottery teams: Milwaukee, Phoenix, New Orleans and Dallas, two of those losses coming at home. Yet, January also included an overtime win at Cleveland, a pair of wins over Toronto and four wins of over 25 points.

We're just past the halfway point of the season and I'm not quite sure what to make of the Spurs. They're 36-11 which is great, and on pace for a 63-win season: also great. Kawhi Leonard is a legitimate MVP candidate and the Spurs are probably deeper than anyone else in the NBA. Something just feels a bit off though when watching them play. Some of that can be attributed to this time of year being "the dog days" of the NBA. It's also worth noting that despite how "easy" the Spurs have made winning games look over the past 15 years, winning in this year's NBA is anything but. The league is as good as it's been in a while (well, except Brooklyn).

All in all, I think the Spurs will be fine, cruise to 60+ wins and earn the number-two seed in the Western Conference. Whatever flaws they may have, just about every team save for Golden State would gladly trade places with them. But the Spurs' (and their fans') expectations are high, so anything less than a championship will probably (and unfairly) be labeled a disappointment. I think this year's team is good enough to win a title but a short stay in the postseason wouldn't surprise me either. Talk to me again in a month and I may feel differently.

**MLB:** Jeff Bagwell is a hall of famer! We all remember who our first sports idols were when we were kids. For me, that was David Robinson in basketball (duh), Eddie George in football (go Oilers!), Jeff Bagwell in baseball and

myself in Nintendo. Bagwell along with Craig Biggio were the faces of the Astros during their really special run from 1994 - 2005. Although Biggio and Bags weren't Houston's best players towards the end of that run, they were Astros Baseball. It felt like the trip to the 2005 World Series was *for them*. Really cool moment to see him (finally) get voted in.

**HOCKEY:** Look, I like hockey (and \*love\* playoff hockey) but if you came here wanting read about Winnipeg vs Ottawa from January 15th you come to the wrong place my friend. If you are a fan of hockey and want to read something about it then you'll be happy to know I took my 5-year-old daughter to her first hockey game this past month! (*Editor's Note: He doesn't really think this makes you happy but he will write about it anyway*)

As a Christmas gift, I promised my daughter I would take her to a hockey game and delivered a month later, taking her to see the San Antonio Rampage (AHL) a few weeks back. We did have to have a little talk with her before arriving to the arena:

A) Sometimes the players fight each other which was scary to her, but a necessity for me so I could enjoy my experience. We told her it's just a part of the game and that she shouldn't repeat what she sees in recess the next day. If you think about it though, I mean the players are put in timeout for fighting which would happen in recess as well.

B) Being this was a minor league hockey game, they were running a promotion to help with ticket sales. The promotion that day? Pucks and paws. We had to stress to her that people aren't normally allowed to bring their dogs to hockey games. It did get me to thinking that there should be MORE "bring your dog to" promotions at other places. I would go to A LOT more art galleries if they let me bring Fido.

All in all, our daughter had a great time as the Rampage won (this was really important to her), she got a hat and we all got to watch dogs

bark at the players. Hockey really is one of the best sporting events to see live, TV doesn't do the sport nearly enough justice.

**NFL:** The playoffs were mostly terrible with the exception of the phenomenal Green Bay/Dallas game in the Divisional Round. I'm sure I'm conjuring up some bad feelings for the Cowboys fans out there but you've got nothing to hang your head about. Aaron Rodgers was playing out of his mind and Dallas is going to be good for years to come. With such a small amount of cap space dedicated to highest priority position (quarterback), the Cowboys can continue to build and grow around Dak Prescott.

A great comparison is Seattle. The Seahawks struck gold by getting Russel Wilson in the third round, getting a top-level NFL starting quarterback for cheap, allowing them to invest more money elsewhere, namely on defense. If Dallas plays its cards right, they could be in store for a Seattle-like window of success.

As for Sunday's Super Bowl, this should be a fun game unlike last year's snooze fest. Did you know that there have only been TWO Super Bowls where both teams scored in the 30s? One of those was (randomly) Baltimore vs San Francisco four years ago, the other was Pittsburgh's 35-31 win over Dallas in Super Bowl XIII. I think (and hope) that Sunday's game will be the third because Atlanta's offense is killing it right now and the Patriots, well BRADY.

While I believe that the Hoodie will be able to devise a scheme to slow down the Falcons (he has a habit of doing this in Super Bowls except against freaking Eli), I just think that Atlanta has too many weapons. I also think that the only way Atlanta wins is in a shootout because I don't think the Falcons are capable of stopping New England consistently. But I do think Atlanta wins on Sunday and I NEVER thought I would predict Matt Ryan outperforming Brady on the NFL's biggest stage but here goes:

Atlanta 34, New England 30... and this year's commercials will be AWFUL.

*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<sup>tx</sup> RESTAURANT GUIDE

what to eat & where to eat it



**The Phoenix Saloon**  
There are other places to get your hands on a chili dog, but the Phoenix Saloon invented chili as we know it (Google it!). So, really, there's only one place to get a chili dog, if you're going to be serious about it. 193 West San Antonio St (Downtown) – 830.643.1400

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



**Oma Gruene's Secret Garten**  
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 Rd (Gruene) – 830.625.1045

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



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

**Lone Star Lounge**  
Venture out the back door of the Lone Star Lounge, belly up to the food truck, and savor the finest late night snack a body could want – bacon-wrapped shrimp. You can get them a la carte, but, as with most everything, they're best enjoyed on a hot bed of fries. 283 W San Antonio St (Downtown)



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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Earl Webb Mayfield, Deceased, were issued on January 12, 2017, in Cause No. 2016PCA0431, pending in the County Court at Law of Comal County, Texas, to: Joni Lynn Falcone.  
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 January, 2017.  
**Frank B. Suhr, Attorney at Law,**  
473 S. Seguin Ave, Ste 100, New Braunfels, TX 78130  
State Bar No.: 19466300,  
Tel: (830) 625-4345, Fax: (830) 606-4511,  
Attorney for Attorney for Joni Lynn Falcone



## PLATINUM ADVICE FROM DIAMOND AUTOMOTIVE

By Nick Rogers  
If you have been on this planet long enough, you have had at least one bad experience buying a car. Either the dealer was nasty, the car was unreliable or they wouldn't let you test drive the new Ferraris (thank you very much Ferrari dealership in Houston! You'll never get my business!).

Those who are new to car buying can find the process a dizzying array of paper work, unplanned costs or myriads of unexpected fees, like the time I bought a car and found out I had to pay \$200 more if I wanted a radio.

Because of these collected experiences, car dealers have a bad reputation, which is unfair because it paints all with a brush tainted by a few. I empathize with those who are hated simply by their profession because, as a longtime journalist, I know what it's like to be loathed by people who know nothing about my profession.

This is the reason I kept an open mind when I went to talk with Marcus Starr and Michael Stone at Diamond Automotive Group. They are both experienced and knowledgeable, and very thorough. Both men have a lot of insight into how to buy a used car and what to look for.

"The first thing you want to check is the sound of the engine, make sure the motor's not knocking," Michael said. "You want to check out the body of the car and look for rust. Then, look inside the trunk to make sure there is no damage because sometimes the damage is hidden. Also, you want to make sure the body is straight on the vehicle. And you definitely want to run a CarFax on any vehicle, no matter who you buy it from because knowledge really is power. Then have a third-party mechanic come to look at the vehicle."

Both men warn not to rely solely on the CarFax, though.

"CarFax is valuable but not 100 percent. If two people get in a car wreck and they don't want their insurance to go up, the person who caused the wreck may just pay for the repairs out of pocket," Marcus said. "Since it wasn't reported to the insurance companies, it wasn't reported to CarFax."

"But there are easy ways to check," he said. "For example, if you lift up the hood, the bolts are nice and straight. But, if you can see that the bolts were tampered with, you can guess that the car had front-end damage. You don't want to buy a car that had a head-on collision."

Mike also warns consumers to never buy a car with front-end damage.

"Whenever a customer buys a car with structural damage, it's real bad," he said. "The insurance company should total such vehicles out, but what happens is that someone will do a minor job repairing the vehicle and put it out to the consumer. The problem here for the consumer is if they buy a car that has been salvaged and they try to trade it in, they're going to be upside down on the vehicle."

The two also cannot stress enough the importance of having a third-party mechanic look at the car before final purchase. When a consumer signs a conditional sales agreement, they can take it to a mechanic of their choice to have it checked out. If there are any problems, Diamond will make the repairs before the final agreement.

"Other dealers may have a problem with that type of arrangement, but we don't because we knew we have given due diligence to that vehicle," Marcus said.

Before the car even hits the Diamond lot, it has been thoroughly gone over. Mike explained that at auction, a car may seem to be fine, but it may have had some hidden damage. This is why the company also uses third-party mechanics to do a 30-point inspection on any vehicle they purchase for the lot as well as a Personal Service Inspection to dig deeper into the car's history.

"We're not looking to sell junk - we've been in the business too long and our reputation is everything," Mike said. "We're here to take care of our customers."

*Diamond is located at 799 S I-35. You can call them at 830-627-9121. You can tell them Nick sent you. It won't do you any good but, still.*

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# Last Word

With Kelly Colby

## Mr. Trump's Wild Ride

So, President Trump has taken office, and anyone who expected it to be boring most certainly wasn't paying attention. It appears that Trump intends to get started without waiting for the traditional support of Congress or even a traditional support staff. Taking a tip from the Obama administration, Trump has decided that he, too, has a pen and a phone, and he's made use of them to shake things up. It would certainly be possible to examine some of his moves and look at them critically, but I'm still having just too much fun watch Trump goad the establishment into apoplexy.

In this case, I include both parties and most of the media in the term establishment. Democrats do seem considerably more hysterical over Trump's moves than Republicans, but when Trump tweets that (my paraphrase here) Lindsey Graham and John McCain should shut and stop trying to provoke World War III, you can see that both sides of the aisle are getting some lumps. Fox News seems, likewise, befuddled. They have been more establishment Republican than not in their traditional slant, but they seem reluctant to challenge Trump outright. It's possible that they may be a better source of unbiased perspective than anyone else, but it seems just as likely at this point that they will end up in some sort of Stockholm syndrome relationship and make Sean Hannity their lead news guy.

Most recently, Trump enacted an executive order to place immigration and refugee resettlement from many countries on hold. This was the Muslim ban that his enemies had been waiting for, and the situation figuratively blew up when people who are almost certainly harmless found themselves detained, without the ability to contact anyone, and wondering if they would be sent to an internment camp in this country, or worse, be sent home. Protests magically appeared around the country with beautifully printed signs designed by MoveOn.Org, Chuck Schumer came on television with several extras in hijabs and cried on cue, a federal judge

came forward to insure that green card holders would not be deported, and an Obama flunky currently heading the Justice Department announced that she would not defend such an immoral (and maybe unconstitutional) action in court. Shortly thereafter, she was fired, to the surprise of, again, only those not previously paying attention.

During the kerfuffle, right-leaning talking heads came forward to point out that this was an indication of the trouble that can be caused when one does not follow established norms in producing government action. Democrats would have quickly agreed, but they were too busy either protesting, crying, or hiding in the corner curled up in the fetal position at this point. Through it all Trump just keep chugging (and occasionally tweeting) along. His approval rating actually appears to be rising. It seems unfathomable, but there is a precedent for this sort of thing that explains not only Trump's miraculous success, but his popularity as well.

Trump is Mr. Magoo. For those not old enough to remember, a Google search will reveal that Mr. Magoo was a cartoon character who was a doddering old fool with eyesight was so bad that he would get into all sorts of trouble. But, that trouble never touched him. Through some miraculous turn of events, Magoo might find himself on a high-rise under construction. It would seem certain that a blind man in this position would fall to his death, but Mr. Magoo would find his way to the ground in the very same miraculous fashion, still blissfully unaware that he was ever in any peril at all.

For Magoo, tigers could be "good doggie"s and burglars television repair men. He would wait for his bus on the train tracks and take a shortcut through a blast area. In a similar fashion, Trump seems impervious to political harm. This isn't a new feature, it's been the case from the outset if you examine things closely. And, while it's easy to use this as an excuse to laugh at Trump, it's important to remember that not only does Trump seem to have Magoo's luck, he also seems to have co-opted Magoo's lovable nature as well, at least among his

supporters, and thus far, those supporters seem to be expanding not contracting.

In fact, this type of bumbling hero isn't always as harmless or laughable as Magoo. Certainly, the Rowan Atkinson character, Mr. Bean, has almost exactly the same characteristics, but the comic relief is much more muted in characters like Han Solo or Indiana Jones. Both are characters loved by audiences, and both defy the odds as much by dumb luck as anything else. In fact, Chrétien de Troye's Percival in the original Grail story is a similarly miraculously able bumpkin, and D'Artagnan, of the musketeers, is viewed as a farmboy and fool until he proves quite able.

I suggest that people may want to start considering President Trump in the latter light. Underestimating him seems to be working poorly. Trump's political detractors don't seem to have recognized this yet, but Trump keeps on winning. For example, the media and the Democratic party seem to be operating in lockstep to whip up hysteria about everything Trump does (including his lunch choices). So far, the only effect this has had is to convince his supporters and shrewd observers that the media is biased against him.

Additionally, Trump seems able to use this hysteria to his advantage, forcing the news cycle to take whatever direction he desires. As I write this, Trump has just fired his acting attorney general. The media is in meltdown over the action. But, Trump has already pointed out that he will be announcing his choice for the Supreme Court as I write this column. What will the media do? What will the Democrats do? What will his enemies in the Republican Party do? All these people are already turned up to eleven. How will they be able to express outrage over this new action without letting the past one fall away?

I eagerly wait to see as they are all taken on a wild ride by President Trump.

*You can reach Kelly for fan mail by email at [kellycolby@txcitizen.com](mailto:kellycolby@txcitizen.com). Hate mail still goes to Mike.*

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**SATURDAY 2/11**

**JAMES HAND 9PM**

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**DARCI CARLSON 9PM**

**SATURDAY 2/18**

**SCOTT H BIRAM 9PM**

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