

Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
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Blake Shelton steps in it...



Blake Shelton, a young country guy with a bad attitude.

According to the SavingCountryMusic.com website, "The reigning Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year and reality TV personality Blake Shelton made some disparaging remarks about traditional country fans in a recent interview with GAC as part of their Backstory series. The "Hillbilly Bone" singer and judge on NBC's The Voice made the remarks as part of an update to the original GAC Backstory episode to include more information on Blake Shelton's continued success. In connection with Blake's first CMA for Male Vocalist of the Year award in 2010, Blake Shelton said, "If I am Male Vocalist of the Year that must mean that I'm one of those people now that get's to decide if it moves forward and if it moves on. Country music has to evolve in order to survive. Nobody wants to listen to their grandpa's music. And I don't care how many of these old farts around Nashville are going, "My God, that ain't country!" Well that's because you don't buy records anymore, jackass. The kids do, and they don't want to buy the music you were buying." All righty then...

Ray Price steps on it...



Ray Price, an old country guy with a good attitude.

The immediate online backlash was that of outrage. Country music veteran, Ray Price retorted on Facebook, "It's a shame that I have spend 63 years in this business trying to introduce music to a larger audience and to make it easier for the younger artists who are coming behind me. Every now and then some young artist will record a rock and roll type song, have a hit first time out with kids only. This is why you see stars come with a few hits only and then just fade away believing they are God's answer to the world. This guy sounds like in his own mind that his head is so large no hat ever made will fit him. Stupidity Reigns Supreme!!!!!! Ray Price (CHIEF "OLD FART" & JACKASS)" " P.S. YOU SHOULD BE SO LUCKY AS US OLD-TIMERS. CHECK BACK IN 63 YEARS (THE YEAR 2075) AND LET US KNOW HOW YOUR NAME AND YOUR MUSIC WILL BE REMEMBERED." Ray sounds a little miffed...

... and it's off to the races!

The next couple of days after Shelton's controversial statement appeared online; it was open season on the 36 year old Oklahoma native. Texas country music singer, Tommy Alverson, posted a picture of a donkey playing a guitar on Facebook and asked all of his fellow jackasses to tag themselves. And fellow Texas country artist, Jesse Dayton, stated, "I usually don't advocate violence but every once in awhile my inner E. Texas comes out so is it ok if I kick this (so and so's backside)?" "My favorite post was from my friend Pam Sackowhiskey who said, "Waylon Jennings could eat alphabet soup and (poot) out better songs than Blake Shelton." Needless to say, Shelton's sanctimonious attack on everything we hold dear in Texas, went over like a flatulence attack in church. He eventually issued an apology to Ray Price but the damage

was already done. I would imagine Nashville's shining star will think twice before he insults a majority of the population again... ask Mit Romney about that.

Meanwhile back at the ranch...

Meanwhile, back on our little island, it's been a little quiet. Local wunderkind, Cody Angel almost made it to town. He came as close as Rockport last weekend where he played a gig with his new crew, The Matt Wayne Band, from up around Ft. Worth way. I missed the show but do know that they'll be back to play the Back Porch during Spring Break. Over at the Tarpon Ice House, we've been entertaining ourselves, mostly. It's been like interchangeable jackets between the Free Beer Band, the PA Rockers and Uel Jackson's weekly jam... lots of mixing and matching. We've seen a good bit of Bob Reed, Steve Goldstein, Dale West and Stuart Burns lately... which is a good thing. Throw in the rest of the Ice House regulars (Dennis Sullivan, Stevie Start, Betsy Bowen and Sean Hunter) and you've got one a heck of a hand to draw to. Also, I heard the Carol Elliott show last Friday went swimmingly.

DO NOT MISS LIST

Happy Mardi Gras!



Last year's Mardi Gras Parade in Port A.

You might have noticed on your calendar that February 13th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Christian faith's observance of Lent. I mention this because on February 12th, in observance of all things excessiv, we celebrate Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras. Bon ton roulet my friends! Down on Padre Island, they will celebrate with their 4th annual Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade on the beach and ensuing party and feast with Miss Neesie and the Ear Food Orchestra (San Antonio, TX). I've been to several of these throw-downs and can attest, these folks know how to party. I'm not exactly clear about all the specifics of this event (check their ad in this issue for where, when and how much) but I can tell you all about this band.

Miss Neesie & Ear Food

The Ear Food Orchestra is an 8 piece rockin' roots and zydeco band which WILL get your booty shaking. If you don't groove to Ear Food, you must be dead. The band has been together for over 25 years with few personnel changes and is fronted by Miss Neesie Beal (aka the Small Ax), a little lady with one giant, booming



Miss Neesie and Earfood will play Barefoot Mardi Gras on Padre Island Feb. 9th.

HAPPY MARDI GRAS

Mike Williams
Every 1st & 3rd Friday
And Every Monday (5-7)
Free Beer Band
Every Thursday
(7:00 pm)
Free Movie Night on Big Screen
Every Wednesday
(7:00 pm)



Carol Elliott
Every 2nd & 4th Friday
(5-7)
Open Jam Every Sunday
(7:00 pm)
Mike Williams & Rocky Arnold
Dixie Land Jazz
Fat Tuesday, Feb. 12

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voice. Imagine Big Momma Thornton in the body of a skinny white girl and you get the picture.

The band leader and founder is Jim Beal, Jr. on bass and banter. Beal has been a music columnist for the San Antonio Express-News for over 25 years and has a popular radio show on KSYM-90.5 Third Coast Network. This man knows his music...he writes about it, performs it and plays it over the air. The band easily has 200 songs in their repertoire, all designed to get you on the dance floor. They pass around rattles for everyone to shake and the three piece horn section is bound to take off marching at any time with legions of dancers in tow.

Jim Beal weighed in, "Barefoot Mardi Gras is a pure blow-out. Few people in South Texas know how to do Mardi Gras right. The Barefoot Mardi Gras attendees know how to do Mardi Gras right. It's a helluva party, but a helluva party for a good cause. This year we'll have the full Ear Food Orchestra octet with a fist full of new Mardi party songs and the full complement of classic zydeco, Cajun and New Orleans songs."

Tin Pan Trio



The Tin Pan Trio will play the Tarpon Ice House on Friday, the 8th, the night before the Barefoot Mardi

Gras affair. This is a more acoustic version of the big horn band consisting of Neesie on vocals and rubboard, Jim on resonator bass, Allen Elsasser on National ResoRocket guitar and Ollie Morris on cocktail drum, and vocals. They play blues, old-line swing and guitar-powered instrumentals.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, Jan. 31
Free Beer Band @ Tarpon Ice House
John Eric @ Island Italian
Wade Bowen @ Brewster Street

Antone & the All Stars @ Dr. Rockits
Mike Guerra & Trisum @ Scuttlebutt's
Uel Jackson (4-7) @ Sugar Shack- Rockport

Friday, Feb. 1
Mike Williams (5-7) @ Tarpon Ice House
Samantha Aiken @ Coast Club
Ray T & the City Crew @ Flats Lounge
Shakedown @ House of Rock
Spazmatics @ Brewster Street Ice House
Time Pilots @ Executive Surf Club
Dark Energy @ South Texas Ice House
Duke E. Brown @ Dr. Rockits

Saturday, Feb. 2
Stevie Start @ Coast Club
Terri Hendrix & Lloyd Maines @ Third Coast Studio
Mike Williams @ Hemingways Rockport
Eclipse @ Executive Surf Club
Cirque Du Soleil @ American Bank Center
Abrams Brothers @ UTAMCC Performing Arts Center
Bri Bagwell, John Eric @ South Texas Ice House
Another Level @ Dr. Rockits

Sunday, Feb. 3
Open Jam @ Tarpon Ice House
Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's Beach House
Open Jam @ Neptune's 7th Generation @ Dr. Rockits

Monday, Feb. 4
Mike Williams @ Tarpon Ice House
Winter Sounds w/ Shirley Fischer @ PACT
Open Jam w/ Antone Perez @ Doctor Rockits

Tuesday, Feb. 5
Open Mic @ House of Rock
Party of Three @ Dr. Rockits

Wednesday, Feb. 6
PA Rockers @ Bernie's Beach House
House Blend, Flatbroke, Bad Chords @ Dr. Rockits
Dark Energy @ House of Rock
Terry Smith @ JELM

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Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines will play the Third Coast Theater on Feb. 2nd.

Well, Beyonce is playing half-time at the Super Bowl... yawn. The big news is on Saturday, February 2nd, the always delightful Terri Hendrix (San Marcos, TX) and Lloyd Maines (Austin, TX) will perform at the Third Coast Theater in Port A. Stoney LaRue is at Brewster on Thursday, the 7th. Shelly King is a Dr. Rockits on the 9th. Also on the 9th, Richard Leigh & Larry Joe Taylor are at Third Coast and Roberta Morales will play a benefit for the Port A Animal Shelter at the Civics Center. On Valentine's Carolyn Wonderland will play the Rialto Theater and Reckless Kelly with The Rankin Twins will play Brewster. Keith Sykes will be at Third Coast on the 16th. Good stuff!

And, that's the truth!

Thursday, Feb. 7

Stone Sour, Papa Roach @ Concrete Street
Free Beer Band @ Tarpon Ice House
Stoney LaRue, Jason Cassidy @ Brewster Street
John Eric @ Island Italian
Antone & the All Stars @ Dr. Rockits
Uel Jackson (4-7) @ Sugar Shack- Rockport
STUF Screening @ House of Rock

Friday, Feb. 8

Carol Elliott (5-7) @ Tarpon Ice House
Ray T & the City Crew @ Flats Lounge
Girl in a Coma, Pop Pistol, Hydra Melody @ House of Rock
Another Level @ Brewster Street Ice House
Flashback @ Executive Surf Club
Anjelah Johnson @ American Bank Center
Silantro @ South Texas Ice House
Reno & the Groovegetters @ Dr. Rockits

Saturday, Feb. 9

Miss Neesie & the Earfood Orchestra @ Barefoot Mardi Gras
Stevie Start @ Coast Club
Richard Leigh & Larry Joe Taylor @ Third Coast Theater
Mike Williams @ Hemingways Rockport
2nd Saturday Piano Sing-Along @ Brewster Street Ice House
Bushbullit @ Executive Surf Club
CC Symphony Orchestra @ UTAMCC Performing Arts Center
Phil Hamilton @ South Texas Ice House
Shelly King @ Dr. Rockits
Roberta Morales @ Port A Civic Center

Sunday, Feb. 10

Open Jam @ Tarpon Ice House
Open Mic w/ Reverend Toad @ Tango Tea Room
Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's Beach House
Open Jam @ Neptune's Blue Hit @ Dr. Rockits
Ballabajoomba Poetry Slam @ House of Rock
Open Mic w/ John Eric @ South Texas Ice House

Monday, Feb. 11

Mike Williams @ Tarpon Ice House
Open Jam w/ Antone Perez @ Doctor Rockits
Goldwing Express @ JELM

Fat Tuesday, Feb. 12

Mike Williams Dixie Land Band @ Tarpon Ice House
Open Mic @ House of Rock

COAST CLUB
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Samantha Aiken & Rodeo Drive
February 1st

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