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Issue 980

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The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

January 26, 2023 Weekly FREE

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Fair Winds and Following Seas to Joe Farah
Farah's Water Hole outdoor patio
Photo :Mary Craft

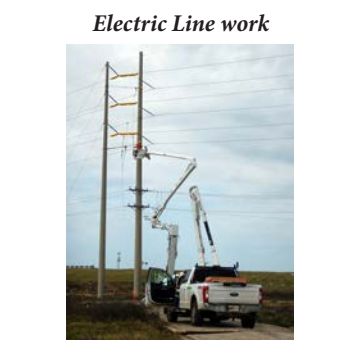
By Dale Rankin

Festivus has come and gone and the Lunar New Year kicked in Sunday which is of some notice here at the Island Moon since we sometimes do act like lunatics hereabouts. We're whipping right through the heart of the celebration for the Chinese New Year this week dodging blue northers and watching our Winter Texan friends swim in the 61-degree Gulf water as we locals put on the largest – and maybe only – winter coat we have and the only pair of long pants and wonder how they do it.



Port Aransas' Oldest and Friendliest gathering place is on the move these days. If you are reading this on Thursday you still might have time to get to Port A and watch it go. After decades of doing business on Tarpon Street they are pulling up stakes and moving to the corner of Beach Street and Alison Street where the plans call for an expanded concert area that will form the basis of a new entertainment area along Beach Street. For Winter Texans looking for a day out and about there is a golden opportunity to watch as Shorty's makes its way through Port A streets past several eating spots and watering holes...think of it as a Shorty's hopscotch...

Lake levels...
If it's true that you don't miss the water until the well runs dry it may be time to get ready to miss your green lawns. The city staff told the Corpus Christi City Council this week that as we work our way into the normally dry summer season the lake levels in Lake Corpus Christi (Lake Mathis) and the Choke Canyon Reservoir where we get our tap water are at 42.9% capacity. Last year at this time, before we entered the period of water restrictions we are in now, the lakes were at 53% capacity and with no relief currently in sight the staff next week is going to make a recommendation to the council on what do to next but water restrictions through the summer look like a good bet. The map provided to the council on Tuesday shows that the recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer which is the source of water for San Antonio and Austin is the driest part of the state in Exceptional Drought conditions and the watershed of the Nueces River is in Severe Drought conditions. From the looks of things oyster shell yards on The Island are going to be popular this summer.



Around cont. on A5

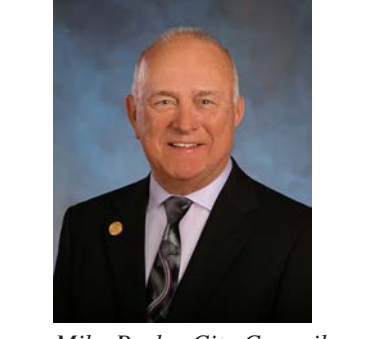
A Break for City Taxpayers!

Pusley proposes increasing reduction in taxable value for city property owners Those over 65 years of age would get 20% and \$62,500 reduction in taxable value

By Dale Rankin
Corpus Christi At-Large City Councilman Mike Pusley is pushing a proposal that would give property owners across the city a 20% reduction in the appraised value of homesteaded property for tax purposes and a reduction of \$62,500 in appraised value for property owners over 65 years of age.
"I have asked the city staff to work out the details of how it would work," Pusley said. "I expect to have a proposal to take to the city council in February.

Currently the City of Corpus Christi cut 10% off the value on a homesteaded property as appraised by the Nueces County Appraisal District and a \$50,000 reduction for tax calculations for property owners over 65. Nueces County gives property owners a 20% reduction in appraised

value for homesteaded property and a reduction of \$62,500 for property owners over 65 years of age.
Pusley said this week the plan would bring the city policy in line with that of Nueces County by increasing the current 10% discount to 20% for all property owners, and also increase the deduction in taxable value for property owners over 65 from the current \$50,000 to \$62,500.
Pusley said the city collected a \$40 million surplus over expected revenues in the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year with half of that money going into reserves and half being used for long discussed city projects. He said he expects the surplus for the current 2022-2023 Fiscal Year to at least match the \$40 million number and the appraisal cuts he is proposing would cut \$9.5 million off the anticipated surplus for the current



Mike Pusley City Council At-Large member

fiscal year.
"This will give property owners a break, and especially those over 65," Pusley said.

The exact date for the vote by the city council has not yet been set but Pusley said he expects it to be in mid-February.

The Bloom of AI

The Moon's first AI Article

By Ed Proffitt
We all know a little about AI (artificial intelligence) from movies, and more recently from the news. Like many educators I've been concerned recently if term papers written by my students are really "theirs" or are generated by one of the emerging AI Chat Bots. And, I've been wondering if use of AI in writing term papers really is plagiarism, or if it's simply some highly advanced form of editing software like Word's spell and grammar checker. Most recent higher education literature seems to come down on the side that it's really some form of cheating, since the student isn't really using their intellect to produce a paper. Of course, they ARE using their intellect to use AI to help with work which some might consider an extension of their own mind and effort. Not me, I want to see their individual writing skills and help them improve. The trick is how to determine if a piece is written by the student or by an AI! I've heard a graduate student in the UK may have worked out a program to tell the difference, but haven't tracked that one down yet.

Anyway, that's all an aside to this week's column. The Guardian has published a piece (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/18/ai-game-changer-eastern-bristlebird-queensland-artificial-intelligence>) that shows the use of AI in conservation of species so endangered as to thought to be extinct. Australian scientists, having nothing better to do, have trained a computer AI to listen for calls of the eastern bristlebird, thought to be extinct nearly so in south Queensland. The bird is small and secretive and so biologists crashing through the bush usually have small chance of hearing or seeing one. But, microphones can be deployed to record sounds when no person is around and the AI

AI cont. on A4



San Jose Island This Week

City Councilman requesting Plan for City's Proposal for Emergency Services District

By Dale Rankin
District 4 City Councilman Dan Suckley said this week he will ask the staff at the City of Corpus Christi to prepare a detailed plan for how the city would take over the services of Emergency Services District #2 (ESD #2) which is headquartered in Flour Bluff.
The district serves Flour Bluff and Padre and Mustang islands an auxiliary to the Corpus Christi Fire Department through a property tax paid by property owners on Padre

Island, Mustang Island and Flour Bluff.
Outgoing CCFD Fire Chief Robert Rocha spoke to the five-member ESD #2 Board of Directors on January 17 and outlined a plan to move the 11 full-time employees of ESD #2 into the operation of the city fire department.
Under current state law cities under 500,000 population cannot unilaterally disband or dissolve Emergency Management Districts, however, there is a push in the state legislature

now in session in Austin to alter current law to lower that population requirement allowing smaller incorporated areas such as Corpus Christi to absorb the services of ESD whose service area is located entirely inside city limits thus eliminating the separate property tax for ESD operations. As of this week no bill to that effect had been filed.
ESD #2 officials raised several questions regarding the city's plans such

ESD cont. on A4

A little Island history Longtime Islander Joe Farah Passes Away

Pioneer in the deep water diving industry and longtime Island business owner

By Mary Craft
Island icon Joe Farah passed away this week after a brief illness, so we take a look back at the life of our friend and longtime Islander. Last July Joe celebrated 30 years of business at Farah's Waterhole on The Island. Joe took an interesting road to get to Padre Island that started in Hollywood where he grew up and where he was an extra in the movie Spartacus, played ball in Bob Hope's yard before becoming a legend in the commercial diving industry in Louisiana where he was a pioneer in deep saturation diving.



Joe in a dive suit

From Syria to New York
Joe Farah's grandparents came to New York City from Syria in the early 1900s (in 1943 the country split up and became Syria and Lebanon.) His father, Joe Sr. was born in New York City and joined the army in 1940. He was stationed at Fort Polk where he met his Louisiana bride who was also Syrian. New Orleans was the only port of entry from Syria at the time.
After the war, Joe Sr. took his family to live in the Rodger Young Village in Los Angeles which held 750

History cont. on A4

By the Numbers

Downtown Convention Center

City-hired consultants Hunden Strategic Partners presented their report on the cost of repairing and expanding the Corpus Christi Convention Center downtown on Tuesday. Here are some highlights.

- 458,500 visitors to American Bank Center in 2019
- 66.9% of those came from within 100 miles
- 31% of those came from 100-500 miles
- \$639 million construction costs over 30 years to upgrade convention center and build convention hotel
- \$383,400 million labor costs to improvements
- \$255,600 million for materials for improvements
- \$193 million for 40,000-square-foot grand ballroom at American Bank Center
- \$60 million to upgrade deferred maintenance at convention center
- 40%-50% in public money required to build a convention center hotel
- \$20 million annually to support operations at convention center and American Bank Center
- \$5.5 million in revenue generated annually by convention center and American Bank Center
- \$14.5 million in tax money paid annually – including Hotel Occupancy Tax – to pay cost overruns at convention center and American Bank Center



Flour Bluff High School has added a P-Tech construction program where students learn to build bird and dog houses, picnic tables, corn hole, game tables and sell them at the Spirit Shop to raise funds for the class. Back in my day the class was called woodshop.



The Go Car Wash is not coming to the Island apparently since there is now a for sale sign on the property next to Sonic they own. Their website still shows it is coming soon but that is probably because the site has not been updated. Dunkin' Donuts is going in between that lot and Best Western. That property was originally purchased for \$14/sq. ft. by La Palapas Restaurant but sold to Dunkin' Donuts for \$23/sq.ft. Which shows how much the value of commercial property has increased.

The hotel pad site at Packery Pointe was sold about a month or so ago and I have heard that construction should begin before the end of the year.

The Port Aransas Garden Club is having their 33rd Annual Home Tour on Saturday, January 28th with a bus tour at 9 and 11 am for \$30. Self guided tours start at 1 pm.

Guajillo's now has outdoor seating with several picnic tables. The Restaurant Guru app that rates restaurants worldwide ranked Guajillo's #1 out of 429 Mexican restaurants in the area. For the best Italian restaurants Venetian Hot Plate in Port A was #1 and Padre Pizzeria #2.



The Flour Bluff ISD Nutrition Department has a Complimentary Supper Program where all children in the community can pick up a meal for dinner at the high school cafeteria 4:45 - 5:15 pm. All school cafeterias will be participating for immediately after school pickup.

Smile. Amazon charity donation where a percentage of your purchase goes to charity is ending February 20th. Riley P. Dog Park will no longer benefit from those purchases.

Kiwanis Bingo at the Beach will be at Hardknocks every Tuesday at 7 p.m. until March 7th. There will be door prizes and cash prizes. Admission is \$5 plus cost of the cards.

Hangout Ramen & Sushi-Bar has half price sushi on six of their 28 rolls 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. for takeout or dine in daily. The Happy Boy fried roll I had was crunchy and delicious. The rolls are the biggest I have had and definitely one of them is a lunch meal. They are closed on Wednesdays. Their current Thai chef came aboard a few months ago and has many years of experience. That is about the same time they added sushi and changed the restaurant name from "& Bar" to "& Sushi-Bar". Remember it's not the restaurant it's who is in the kitchen. Call 867-1031 to order.



The Port Aransas Garden Club is having their 33rd Annual Home Tour on Saturday, January 28th with a bus tour at 9 and 11 am for \$30. Self guided tours start at 1 pm.

Random Stuff

D'Italiano Italian Bread is now my favorite bread. I really did not have a preference before. It is available at HEB and Walmart.



My friends were merciless about my last week door knob brief but I showed them because that photo got the most likes.

My full page Island Timeline in the Moon a couple of weeks ago had a bunch of typos because it was just my notes to be used as reference for Moon articles. I didn't know Dale was going to publish them and obviously it didn't get proofed. The continuation next issue was much better. The timeline is a work in progress that I have been working on the past few years. If anyone has anything to add or photos let me know. I will add timeline photos to my column each week.

This week it is the Country Store that opened at the blue building on SPID near Angry Marlin in 2002. It had a drive-thru window where you could order their great burgers, inside were groceries, beach stuff, souvenirs, beer and more. There were about ten gazebos on the adjacent lot where you could enjoy your meal in the shade. A couple of those gazebos are now at the Balli RV Park.



Al and Jack Hadi owners of the new Country Store along the Budweiser Girls customers at the Grand Opening March 14.



Patrons will be able to order and picnic in the colorful new gazebos at the Island Country Store and Roller Blade Babes will deliver your food.

Snoopy's Pearl Oyster Bar is reopening Friday January 27th with an extended appetizer menu. Full menu will be available in March.

Business Briefs (some not so brief)

The Whitecap North Padre Development will have contemporary flat roof designed homes with the roof as a patio that can view both the Gulf and Laguna Madre. There will be sidewalks, bike/skate board lanes and golf cart lanes all accessible from roads on Whitecap and surrounding streets. I foresee many young families buying homes there just so their kids can just go out and enjoy the neighborhood with several parks and a preserve to go to and maybe later ice cream shop and such. For this reason I believe, although most of the lots are approved for STRs, that many of those will be full time residents or weekenders. There will be 52 acres of canals with access to the rest of the Island. The sales office trailer was brought to Compass Street and will be open likely in June or sooner to start selling lots. By April there should be a map available showing the actual lots. The residential phase one will be developed first which is the section bordered by Aquarius and Dasmarrinas.



Brush pickup is now until January 29th.

D'Weekend nail salon has closed. The unit is currently for lease.

The Black Marlin Restaurant in Port A has Sunday Brunch with an extensive Bloody Mary bar every week. Last issue I mistakenly wrote



Padre Island Enrichment (PIE) Member News

January 20, 2023

The women of Padre Island Enrichment (PIE) kicked off their thirty-fourth year of fun and fellowship with their January 13, 2023, luncheon held at HardKnocks Sports Grill. Thanks to Rod Lewis and his hard working team, the 79 members in attendance enjoyed a delicious creamy chicken piccata over bowtie pasta, honey Asian Brussel sprouts, fresh green salad and Rod's famous dessert. The HardKnocks crew also served an alternative grilled chicken salad for those keeping their new year's resolutions.

This month's Scholarship raffle basket donated by the 2022 PIE Board was won by Vicky Philips; and Charlene Forest was the lucky winner of \$227.50 from the 50/50 raffle. December and January PIE member birthdays were celebrated with Brenda Jo Pena and Rachelle Stottlemire both winning a free birthday lunch next month. The ladies enjoyed several rounds of Bingo to close out their first luncheon of the year.

PIE was started in 1989 by a small group of Padre Island women who were looking for fun and fellowship. Today PIE is 160 members strong! Their motto is "Bloom where you're planted." Membership is open to all women

who reside on Padre Island and they have twelve activity groups that meet monthly for activities like Lunch Bunch, Craft Masters, Book Club, Happy Hour, Bunco, Hearts and Mahjong. Their monthly member luncheon is held on the second Friday of the month but reservations are required. Please reach out to membership chair, Deborah Packer at Deborah@deborahpacker.com, for more information on becoming a member or attending the next luncheon on February 10, 2023.

In addition to fun and fellowship, PIE is a philanthropic group raising scholarship funds for graduating high school seniors seeking post-secondary education. They also support several local non-profits with supply drives and financial assistance. The 2022 PIE Board and Subcommittee Members were proud to announce that members raised over \$13,000 through their various fund raising efforts last year! What a great way to celebrate 2022 and kick off 2023. If you're new to the island or been here for years please check out this fun group of women. Happy New Year!



Shorty's is on the Move!



Port Aransas' Oldest and Friendliest is moving in late 2022

The venerable Port Aransas waterhole is moving from its longtime location on Tarpon Street to the corner of Beach Street and Alister Street. It's going out with a bang with a month-long series of musical shows in October then Joe King Carrasco on Halloween

night before hitting the trail, gimmi caps and all.

The new Shorty's will be larger than the present location and will included additional buildings to be moved to the site. It will provide a much larger live music venue.



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth 1



The Board House building will be moved and become part of the new Shorty's



By Marvin Orellano



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

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History Cont. from AI

Quanset pre-fabricated huts. The government established this village (which is where the LA Zoo is now) in 1946 for temporary housing for its veterans. It was planned to hold 1500 residents but ended up with 5000.

"My dad grew up in New York City where all ethnic groups lived in separate neighborhoods," Joe said. "While in the army he and his new friends came from all races and ethnic backgrounds. My dad and his army buddies decided to live in California for this reason. No one could take that old system anymore. Many establishments around the village stopped their racial segregation policies after the village was built."

Life in California

Joe and his three younger brothers spent about six years of their youth in the village sharing a hut with another family. His dad opened the only bar in the center of the village called Farah's Corner. Other businesses in the building were a grocery store, barber shop and movie theater which was popular with the kids. Joe Sr. was the last in California to hold an "on and off" liquor license which allowed the sale of liquor to be taken out. The family was Syrian Catholic and Farah boys were bused out to a Catholic school and Joe would not attend a public school until he went to college.

In 1952, the family left the village to live in the Toluca Lake neighborhood of L.A. which was between Warner Brothers Studio and Universal Studio. Joe made some spare money working as an extra in films including the movie Spartacus and Mad, Mad World. Joe knew many of the Hollywood stars at the time including Bob Hope, whose yard they would play ball in, W.C. Fields, Bill Holden, John Ford and Tom Sellick.

Chief Bromden, the Indian actor in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, lived in the village when he was there and later Joe went to school at St. Charles School with Annette Funicello. Danny Thomas was also from the old country and Joe revealed "I knew Marlo Thomas before she had her nose job." Jamie Farr, cross-dressing Corporal Max Klinger from Mash, is Joe's cousin whose real name is Farah.

Joe takes to the sea

As was typical in Southern California, Joe spent a lot of time on the beach. He was an avid surfer and bought an old hearse to drive his boat to the beach. He also enjoyed sport diving at Malibu Beach and at times caught abalone and lobster. He and his brothers all helped out at their father's bars which eventually numbered nineteen.

Joe received his Marine Biology degree from San Fernando State College in 1966.

"At that time you could make \$200 month without a degree, \$400 with a Bachelor's and \$500 with a Master's," Joe said. "But commercial divers were making \$300 a day." At age 24 he set out for Morgan City, Louisiana where he became a commercial diver for Transcontinental Pipeline.

A gun, a knife and three months on the bottom

Morgan City at the time was the Dodge City of the oilfield and different from where Joe grew up. When you signed on with Transcontinental they issued you a gun and a knife - literally. Before long Joe was known as "the Arab" and his education helped him to create new diving

techniques for inspecting and repairing gas pipelines.

"I developed all the gas and decompression diving tables using the partial pressure law, gas laws and physics that I learned in college and high school. They used to think 150 feet was deep until I got there" Joe explained.

He made 200-300 foot dives routinely and held the record for 350 feet. In the decompression chamber he would go down over 1000 feet and stay on board with three other crew members for 120 days. It would take four days to ascend because of the saturation point they would have to go up only one foot an hour.

Joe's diving tables were used to determine the decompression stops on the ascent. Joe was the first to use "Live boating" in the field. He would walk the pipeline to inspect it and the boat would not be anchored but mobile, following him along on the surface. He was also the first to do "live boat construction" where he would take two pipelines and flange them together. He was also instrumental in Bringing OSHA safety regulations for commercial divers. He did all this during his almost thirty year career during which time he became, and still is, a legend amongst divers.

Joe battles sea monsters and does his Jonah thing

Joe had many wild experiences during his time under the Gulf waters. He was attacked by an eight foot moray eel that shredded his chafing gear but left him unharmed. Another time he was exiting through the bottom of a diving bell and leaped feet first into the mouth of a jewfish. "It was mating season and the fish was curious about the bell. I just hit it in the mouth with my wrench and it took off."

A Bluff landing at Da Beer Shack

Joe's work kept him offshore 300 days out of the year while his wife Toni and their two sons, Joey and Michael, waited home in Morgan City. In 1980, Joe visited a fellow diver who lived in Flour Bluff and they had some beers at The Barrel House (most recently Da Beer Shack) which was the only bar open on Sundays. On the way back to his friend's house he saw a house on the water for sale and he put a bid on it.

"I wanted to get my kids out of Southern Louisiana and to a place with a higher quality of life. If they stayed there at the time they would have ended up an oil field worker, a hoodlum or a policeman. I got the purchase agreement for the house while offshore and sent them a check" Joe explained.

In 1992, Joe decided it was time to "drag up" (retire) from diving. He thought about how to make a living in the Bluff and decided to take his father's advice and "Open a bar where there were none." He looked at lots on the Island because there were not any bars there. Island realtor Mary Spolans helped him find the right site and Island architect James Mazoch helped him refine his design.

Joe and Toni married in 1969 and lived in their home on Azores in the Bluff that was built by a developer in 1964. Son Joey is a popular Laguna Bay fishing guide and son Michael is a partner at Morgan Stanley in Rockport.

Joe had stories of being swallowed by a giant fish and breaking a window at Bob Hope's house along with a long list of Island history and legends. Joe's passing leaves a hole in Island living that can never be filled.

AI Cont. from AI

can sort through all those sounds to see if the bird is singing. The AI, you see, doesn't mind wading through many hours of a cacophony of sounds, whereas people would nod out or go for a beer well before they'd likely hear the birds chirping! Anyway, long story short (somewhat, that is) they've confirmed the bird's presence and thus further conservation programs can be developed.

That, of course, leads us to a consideration of native plants! I wondered if an AI chat bot could provide some information on plants native to coastal Texas, and their pros and cons. So, I put such a question to chatGPT AI bot as well as asking for a listing of such native plants. Feel free to do the same, it's pretty personable --- more so than some humans I know. Here's the response I received.

ChatGPT "There are several benefits to using native plants in landscaping, including:

Low maintenance: Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, so they require less watering, fertilizing, and pruning than non-native plants.

Wildlife habitat: Native plants provide food and shelter for local wildlife, including birds, butterflies, and bees.

Ecosystem services: Native plants play important roles in local ecosystems, such as reducing erosion, improving air and water quality, and supporting pollinators.

However, there are also some potential downsides to using native plants in landscaping, including:

Limited variety: The selection of native plants may be more limited than non-native plants, which can make it more difficult to create a diverse and interesting landscape.

Invasive species: Some native plants can be invasive and can outcompete other plants in the ecosystem. It's important to research and select native plants that are not invasive in your area.

Regional availability: Some native plants may not be readily available in certain regions, making it difficult to find or purchase them.

Overall, using native plants in landscaping can be a great way to create a low-maintenance, environmentally friendly landscape that supports local wildlife. However, it's important to research and select the right native plants for your area to avoid potential downsides. "

Hmmm...sounds a bit like some of the points I've made, although perhaps better written. Then, I asked it to list native plants in coastal Texas that'd be so useful in landscaping.

ChatGPT "There are many native plants that are well-suited to the coastal regions of Texas. Here are a few examples:

Sea oats (Uniola paniculata): A grass that is

commonly found on sandy beaches and dunes. It is important for stabilizing dunes and providing nesting habitats for beach-nesting birds.

Saltgrass (Distichlis spicata): A grass that is tolerant of salt and can be found in marshes, mudflats, and coastal prairies.

Black mangrove (Avicennia germinans): A tree that is commonly found along the Gulf Coast and in coastal saltwater marshes. It is an important habitat for fish and crustaceans.

Wax myrtle (Myrica cerifera): An evergreen shrub or small tree that is commonly found in coastal woodlands, pine rocklands, and along wetlands. It provides food and cover for wildlife.

Coastal prairie wildflowers such as Indian Blanket (Gaillardia pulchella), and Yellow Coneflower (Ratibida columnifera)

Sea dune sunflower (Helianthus debilis) a wildflower that is commonly found on sandy beaches and dunes.

Texas sage (Leucophyllum frutescens) is a small shrub that is tolerant of heat and drought, and is commonly found in Texas and Mexico.

These are just a few examples of native plants that are well-suited to the native regions of Texas. There are many other native plants that can be used in landscaping and gardening in coastal Texas, it's important to research and select the right plants for your specific area and soil condition."

Well, kudos to the AI for finding a small subset of the plant species, but it'd not receive an "A" in a course where I asked students to do the same! Some of the plant species it listed, I have covered, but I've discussed many more that the AI didn't list. Kudos for it mentioning the black mangrove Avicennia germinans especially since some state agency in Texas considers it an invasive...ugh...back to school! But, it used an old genus name for wax myrtle so I can do a good "gotcha" there! Plus, it did indeed leave out MANY, very many species that could be included.

All in all, being a nice guy, I'd probably give the AI a C- for this kind of report. And only then if it included literature references, although in fairness I didn't really ask it for that here. In past tries when I have asked it for scientific literature references on other topics, it sometimes gives good results and some times it just seems to "make stuff up." I think it may actually combine literature from different sources into a single reference, but with journal and volume and pages taken from other references. But that's just a guess, since I figure the AI has to be getting its information somewhere...although some of the references are completely bogus. Anyway, AI has a ways to go yet, but it's getting there in terms of Going Native.

ESD Cont. from AI

as how seniority of ESD #2 employees would be transferred to CCFD, how pensions would be handled, and what type of duty assignments current ESD #2 employees would be given in the CCFD. Those questions would be addressed in the plan requested by Councilman Suckley.

Currently three of the five members of the The ESD #2 Board of Directors are up for reappointment with their regular terms ending on January 1, 2023, as of this week there are seven applicants for the three seats, including the three board incumbents. The appointments to the three seats would be delayed last week at the request of Precinct 4 County Commissioner Brent Chesney to give the County Attorney's Office time to determine if the board has the legal authority to call an election on the future of the district. The board issued the following statement on the city's offer on Wednesday.

The ESD Board of Commissioners is in the process of preparing a detailed response to Chief Rocha's presentation January 17th. There are still many questions regarding this proposal given by Chief Rocha and the Board is in the process of gathering information and formulating questions for clarifications about CCFD's proposal. Obviously, the Board wants to uphold the value of the Nueces County ESD#2's services to the Island and Flour Bluff in the areas of fighting fires, water rescue and beach rescue and it is imperative that the decisions made do not jeopardize these services. The wishes are to maintain the integrity of the department and is sensitive to the questions raised by the community at the meeting and is working to address these concerns to the benefit of our community.



For the last six years Island Moon photographer Evelyn Pless-Schubert who walks the beach almost every day began collecting sand toys left behind by beach goers and donating them to kids who can give them a second life. This week she donated her 2022 collection which was a total of 58 bags. She made the local news on KIII with reporter Brandon Schaff who made a little story about it.

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Senior Moments



Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Reports For Military Active Duty & Veterans

Dotson's Note: Conscription is the mandatory enlistment in a country's armed forces, and is sometimes referred to as "the draft." The origins of military conscription date back thousands of years to ancient Mesopotamia, but the first modern draft occurred during the French Revolution in the 1790s. The United States instituted conscription during the Civil War, which led to a series of bloody draft riots. Resistance to the draft, as managed by the Selective Service in the United States, reached a historic peak during the Vietnam War. Thanks to David Fenton, Natasha Frost, Douglas Brinkley and Dirck Halstead for the facts contained in this report and thanks to Spc.5 Jerry Deaton, US Army for the photos.

On January 21, 1977, U.S. President Jimmy Carter granted an unconditional pardon to hundreds of thousands of men who evaded the draft during the Vietnam War. In total, some 100,000 young Americans went abroad in the late 1960s and early '70s to avoid serving in the war. Some initially went to Canada, where after some inactivity controversy they were eventually welcomed as immigrants. Still others hid inside the United States. In addition to those who avoided the draft, a relatively small number, about 1,000, of deserters from the U.S. armed forces also headed to Canada. The Canadian government technically reserved the right to prosecute deserters, in practice they left them alone, even instructing border guards not to ask too many questions.

For its part, the U.S. government continued to prosecute draft evaders after the Vietnam War ended. A total of 209,517 men were formally accused of violating draft laws, while government officials estimate another 360,000 were never formally accused. If they returned home, those living in Canada or elsewhere faced prison sentences or forced military service. During his 1976 presidential campaign, Jimmy Carter promised to pardon draft dodgers as a way of putting the war and the bitter divisions it caused firmly in the past. After winning the election, Carter thought no time in making good on his word. Though many transplanted Americans returned home, an estimated 50,000 settled permanently in Canada.

Back in the U.S., Carter's decision generated a good deal of controversy. Heavily criticized by veterans' groups and others for allowing unpatriotic lawbreakers to get off scot-free, the pardon and companion relief plan came under fire from amnesty groups for not addressing deserters, soldiers who were dishonorably discharged or civilian anti-war demonstrators who had been prosecuted for their resistance. Years later, Vietnam-era draft evasion still carries a powerful stigma. Though no prominent political figures have been found to have broken any draft laws, Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Donald Trump and Vice Presidents Dan Quayle and Dick Cheney, none of whom saw combat in Vietnam, have all been accused of being draft dodgers at one time or another. Although there is not currently a draft in the U.S., desertion and conscientious objection have remained pressing issues among the armed forces during the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.



President Jimmy Carter-1977

Carter's executive order left many people

furiously, while others saw it as a bold show of compassion. It was a move with the power to unite the country, even if it came at the cost of ruffling many feathers. Just days after Jimmy Carter's inauguration in 1977, the new President fulfilled a campaign promise: the granting of a pardon to Vietnam War draft evaders by executive order. Yet the draft had proven so divisive that not even the promise of an open-arms reunion could convince as many as 50,000 American dodgers to return home. At the time of the order, it wasn't clear what impact it would have, or even how many people it affected. A 1977 New York Times article, described the act as "narrow," applying to just 10,000 people, "largely white, and middle or upper class." The total number, in fact, was closer to 500,000.

About 100,000 draft evaders had left for foreign shores instead of going to war. The vast majority headed to Canada, where they were accepted as legal immigrants. So far as Canada was concerned, this influx of young men was a highly desirable addition to the labor force. They were often young and well-educated, and had few ties to the country that they had felt obliged to leave—making it easy for them to stay for good, even after Carter issued his pardon and they were permitted to return. Back in the United States, in the days after the inauguration, the White House was beset



Above, antiwar demonstrators burning their draft cards on the steps of the Pentagon during the Vietnam War, 1972.

But an initial rage burned bright, and then quickly out. "Three weeks later," says Peter Bourne, who worked with Carter for decades and later wrote his biography, "most people didn't care what he'd done. The phone calls stopped; the furor died down. While some were happy about the executive order, those who weren't had largely moved on." Members of the Congress sort of accepted it."



Dotson's *Other Note: For many people, Carter's presidential pardon changed the course of their lives. Douglas Brinkley, author of the biography The Unfinished Presidency: Jimmy Carter's Journey Beyond the White House, describes it as one of the defining moments of his presidency. "It gave people their lives back," he says. "Carter dealt with the anti-war issue by saying, 'You are Americans and we're going to take you back into the fold.'" Do any of you Moon Monkeys agree with him that President Jimmy Carter did right in pardoning the Draft Dodgers? What about the Deserters? Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at dlewis1@stx.rr.com. The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 - 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397...It's your two hours, please let us hear from you.*



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin



Joe's diving helmet and last pack of Camels

Our friend Joe Farah passed away this week. For the past few months Joe had been a regular on the Thursday morning radio show we do at Doc's Seafood & Streaks regaling us with Island history that he had lived through over the years. Joe was one of the original generation of Islanders who came here when there wasn't much out here. The story goes that for years Farah's Water Hole and Island Italian were the only gathering spots on The Island and even in the years before cell phones when something happened at one of them in the time it took to drive from one to the other the word had already spread like Island magic.

Among other things Joe ran for Mayor in 2005 as the City of Corpus Christi made a push to ban smoking in bars. Joe took umbrage at being told how to run Farah Water Hole and he ran on a pro-smoking platform with packs of cigarettes with his name on them as part of his campaign. Smokin' Joe ultimately lost the race but since his bar was open to the outside on one side the ban, at least in Joe's mind, did not apply in Joe's mind to rules there were several that in Joe's mind did not apply to him. He owned a condo in Anchor Resort which at the time was zoned as a hotel and Joe figured that any hotel needed a bar so he applied for a liquor license to run his condo there into a bar. I have no words to describe the look on the face of Dean Lucas, who was head of the owners association at Anchor Resort then, when he found out that Joe had posted a notice in the window of his condo that he had applied for a liquor license. For months we badgered Dean about when the bar at Anchor Resort was going to open which Dean did not think was funny at all; Joe on the other hand thought it was hilarious.

Over the years Dean and Joe locked legal horns over all kinds of issues, mostly of Joe's making to amuse himself and get under Dean's skin all at the same time. The next time you drive by Farah's Water Hole notice where the drain pipe that drains Farah's parking lot empties.

A pioneer deep diver

Before Joe came to The Island he had been a pioneer in the deep diving industry off the coast of Louisiana. Since decompression from the dark waters where he was laying pipe on the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico took hours Joe bottomed the bottom for days and weeks at a time living in a diving bell and working out the gas mix for his breathing. Since there were no manuals for such things in the nascent diving industry at the time Joe was writing them as he went along.

"How did you get the right mix," I asked him. "I turned the knob one direction until I got light headed and then I turned it back the other way," he said. So there was Joe at the bottom of the Gulf, in the dark, armed with a welding torch connecting lengths of pipe and sleeping in a diving bell. He once slid out of the porthole in the bell right into the mouth of a living grouper who tried to swallow him like Jonah and Joe's solution was to give the fish a burst from his torch and call on the radio to the boys topside that dinner was on its way up. Every time Joe wouldn't tell me these stories I would reply that I couldn't imagine myself doing that. "It's a young man's game," he would say. On more than one occasion oilfield divers had arrived in Farah's Water Hole looking for Joe because his work offshore had made him a legend in the industry where they were still using the charts for gas mixes that he pioneered through trial and error.

Farah Water Hole is born look out for falling bras

So 30 years ago Joe Farah took the office of Island banker John Trice and into a loan to open his bar. Joe said he had come to the conclusion that it was time to stop diving and Farah's was born at the location where it is still located today right next door to Whataburger. Over the years it became famous for the collection of bras that hung from the ceiling.

Some years later Joe said, "You guys got to come over to Farah's tonight, I'm celebrating the fifteen-year anniversary of the bar and I'm going to take all those bras above the bar and make a piñata out of them." How often do you get the chance to see a piñata full of bras busted open, right? So when midnight rolled around that night Mike Ellis, Mary Craft, and myself found ourselves armed with cameras and standing in Farah's Water Hole under a surprisingly large garbage bag full of bras which Joe said he had taken down and washed before making a piñata out of them and we took his word for that. The thing weighed seventy pounds and at the stroke of midnight the bartender came over with a pool cue and began whaling (I had to look up the spelling on that) away on the piñata but the thick garbage bag that could withstand more blunt force trauma than she could inflict with the business end of a pool cue and despite her best efforts the piñata was winning the stick fight.

The solution was to take a knife and duct tape it to the pool cue and what happened next caught us all by surprise. Instead of whacking the piñata she stabbed it with her steely knife and it didn't break; it exploded. I was standing too close and it knocked me backwards ripping the knee out of my jeans but Joe got the brunt of it. He was standing right under it and the next thing we knew Joe was lying on the floor flat as a freckle and covered in bras; hundreds of bras. Seventy pounds worth of them. Fortunately Mike was standing far enough back that he was able to snap the photo you see in this issue or the moment would have been lost. Joe survived and so did Farah's Water Hole and in mid-2022 we all gathered there for the thirtieth anniversary. Mike informed me that you are not really an Islander until you have been banned from Farah's for life...at least twice.

We lost Joe this week but not the memories of the times we spent with him. Every time we lose one of the original generation of Islanders a little Island history goes with them. Joe is gone but he won't be forgotten.



Joe and the Bra Piñata Photo: Mike Ellis

Port of Corpus Christi Finishes Fiscal Year 2022 with Record Tonnage

The Port of Corpus Christi ended 2022 with record tonnage, mainly attributable to a 21 percent year-over-year (YOY) increase in refined products and 15 percent YOY increase in total crude oil. The Port of Corpus Christi achieved a new annual tonnage record of 187.9 million tons – a 12 percent increase over 2021 volumes. Crude averaged a record 2 million barrels of export volumes per day in 2022, an increase over its 2021 record average of 1.76 million barrels per day. Petrochemicals exports increased 23 percent YOY, reaching 3 million tons for the year. Notably, LNG exports have doubled since 2020 and increased 3.5 percent in 2022 versus 2021. Cheniere's Corpus Christi Liquefaction facility announced its Phase 3 expansion in 2022, which will increase LNG exports by another 12 million tons per year over its current 16 million tons today. The Port of Corpus Christi finished 2022 on another record high quarter in Q4 2022 – 49.6 million tons – surpassing the previous record of 48.3 million tons set in the previous quarter. For the periods July through December 2022, the Port of Corpus Christi's tonnage was 97.8 million metric tons, up 12 percent from the previous half-year record set in the second half of 2021. In December, the Port of Corpus Christi hit an all-time high for crude oil exports, exceeding 70 million barrels in a month for the first time in its history. In 2022, the Port of Corpus Christi accounted for roughly 60 percent of all crude oil exports, according to research firm RBN Energy. Through the past six years, the Port of Corpus Christi and the South Texas Coastal

Bend have attracted more than \$65 billion in private industrial investments, engendering a thriving community, built on 98,000 Port-related jobs. Continued infrastructure investments include the Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project, which once completed in 2024 will render the Corpus Christi Ship Channel the deepest and widest ship channel in the entire U.S. Gulf. Work on Phases 2 and 3 of this four-phase project are ongoing. The final phase will commence in 2023, courtesy of project closeout funding approved by Congress in December 2022. Committed to evolving and marshalling change for U.S. port authorities, the Port of Corpus Christi is exploring innovative initiatives, such as scalable hydrogen and renewable energy production, as well as a centralized Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) solution for existing target sources and anticipated area projects. Committed to evolving and marshalling change for U.S. port authorities, the Port of Corpus Christi is exploring innovative initiatives, such as scalable hydrogen and renewable energy production, as well as a centralized Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) solution for existing target sources and anticipated area projects.

Around Cont. from A1

The work crews that have been swarming out little sandbar this week are replacing electric lines. Large generators have taken up residency at the far south end of Windward Drive if they are needed. AEP has not said how long the work will take.

Whitcap office

The building that will be the temporary sales office at the Whitcap North Padre Island site arrived this week. It is scheduled to open for the sale of lots in June



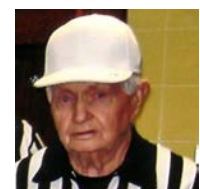
Packery improvements

Work crews have removed the picnic benches at the cabanas along the north side of Packery Channel and will replace them with picnic tables.

That's all for now. The days are getting longer and nights are getting shorter and Island sunsets are free. Say hello if you see us Around The Island.

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Is Baseball No Longer America's Game?

By Dotson Lewis



Who Is This Batter?

Dotson's Note: This note was written opening day of the 2022 MLB: "Major League Baseball is finally back. Despite a lockout and delay in Opening Day, the players are actually going to take the field." I remember back in the 1930s, Baseball's Opening Day, was to me, the biggest event on the sports calendar. For today's kids, it is just another day. Nowadays, baseball is not the sport that stands out above all others. Many of my friends' stories are part of a larger one about America's declining interest in baseball. The sport, which was once the most popular in the country, has a bevy of problems that has landed it, at best, a distant place in America's hearts. This is especially true among America's youth. Thanks to Bill Morgan, Harry Enten and Justin Edmonds, for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan for the photos.

Just 11% of adults listed baseball as their favorite sport to watch in a [2021 Washington Post poll](#). That put it well behind football (34%) and tied with basketball for the second favorite sport. Soccer and "something else" (e.g. esports/competitive video gaming) were closely behind at 7%.

When examining the poll more in-depth, the problem baseball has becomes more apparent – and even scarier. A mere 7% of those under the age of 30 say baseball is their favorite sport. This ranked fifth behind football (24%), basketball (17%), "something else" (12%) and soccer (10%).



While these fans are overjoyed to be at the ballpark, only 11% of total adults and 7% of people aged under 30 in the US list baseball as their favorite sport. To put baseball's overall 11% in perspective, there were many more fans of baseball the last time there was a work stoppage in 1994. In an average of [Gallup polls](#) that year, 19% of Americans said baseball was their favorite sport.

While the 1994 baseball strike may have hurt the sport's popularity, the truth is baseball had been on the decline for a while. Baseball hadn't ranked as America's favorite sport to watch since 1960, when 34% said it was. Soccer that year came in at less than 0.5%, while football picked up 21% support. By the next poll Gallup did on the subject in 1972, baseball was second to football.

The fact that 1960 is the last time baseball reigned supreme is notable. The sports landscape has changed dramatically from 63 years ago. One big reason baseball no longer finds itself the darling of American sports is competition and the dawn of the television age.

The NFL didn't sign its first league-wide TV contract [until 1962](#); it led to every game being on television and each team receiving a share of the revenue pie. This came around the same time that the AFL – a rival league which would eventually merge with the NFL – started play and [signed its own](#) league-wide TV deal.

After this point, this meant that over 20 teams had their contests televised, and the country had universal access to the pro game. Additionally, the Super Bowl would begin in 1967. The NFL, of course, is a sport that benefits tremendously from being seen. Baseball, on the other hand, doesn't gain as much going from radio to television.



NBC Camera At Yankee Stadium Circa 1950-The Bronx, New York City

Another sport which is better visually than audibly is basketball. The NBA was less than 15 years old [in 1960](#). There were [just eight NBA teams](#) at that point, half the size of either professional baseball or football. The NBA Finals [wouldn't be aired](#) in their entirety nationally until 1970.

The country was years away from a successful professional soccer league in 1960, let alone the incarnation of the MLS. Now, a soccer fan can watch games from here and those across the Atlantic Ocean, the English Premier League and the UEFA Champions League, for example – with ease.

As for other sports, [there were only six](#) NHL teams compared to the 32 today. And the idea of competitive video gaming was a science fiction fantasy and not at all conceivable.

The increased competition and the use of screens to watch sports came at an inopportune time for baseball. If bored, Americans can change the channel very quickly. On social media platforms like TikTok, things go by faster than a bullet train. Baseball is anything but fast as far as Americans are concerned. Check out this [2007 Gallup poll](#) when people who weren't pro baseball fans were asked why they didn't like the sport. The two top reasons given were boring/uninteresting (31%) and games being too slow/too long (21%).



Who Is This?

When you look at the data from actual games, you get why people might think the sport is either too boring or too slow. Balls being put into play have shrunk dramatically, and the strikeout rate has skyrocketed. About 100 years ago, there were well more than twice as many hits than strikeouts in baseball. In [1960](#), there were 1.7 times as many hits than strikeouts. [Last year](#), there were nearly 3,000 more strikeouts than hits.

In most sports besides baseball or football, the game is constantly in action. Unlike in baseball, there's a real rhythm to when each football play starts up with a moving game and play clock.

Increasingly too, baseball fans need to sit through a game which is taking longer and longer to finish. The [length of the average](#) a nine-inning game has gone from two hours and 33 minutes in 1960 to three hours and 10 minutes in 2022. Compare this with a soccer match, which has 90 minutes of play, a 15-minute halftime and some stoppage time – usually two to four minutes.

Additionally, there simply isn't a sport that requires someone to sit through more minutes with so little action, so often. While NFL game lengths are similar, remember that an MLB team has 162 regular season games per year. The NFL has just 17.

Dotson's Other Note: Perhaps people might be more willing to sit through long games if they cared about the players. Many have pointed out the fact that baseball doesn't have any "stars" as a reason why the sport has struggled. What do you think?



We Are What We Remember

By Andy Purvis

"Incoming." That's how it must have felt in the beginning as issues were constantly being lobbed like mortar shells into the game. But like a good soldier, located behind enemy lines, he adapted and moved forward. The National Basketball Association was a complete mess in the late seventies and early eighties. Lack of respect was rampant. The league was full of drugs, and violence had permeated a game of grace and skill, in the locker-room and on the court; even the NBA Finals were tape-delayed. The league was just trying to survive as Larry O'Brian stepped down at the end of the 1983 season.

Enter David Stern, a Manhattan New York Knicks fan who had grown up to be a lawyer. Stern always loved the game. Stern reminisced about going to the Knicks games with his dad at the original Madison Square Garden. The cost of seat in the upper deck was fifty cents. "It was a time when you could improve your seats by tipping the usher," said Stern. As a lawyer, one of his firm's clients was the NBA. "In 1978, my job became to protect the client," laughed Stern. In 1984, Stern eventually became the Commissioner of the NBA. His body of work speaks for itself. On February 1, 2014, at the age of 71, Stern stepped aside as he completed his 30th season as commissioner.

When David Stern came into the league, there were 23 teams valued at 400 million dollars total, and the league office employed 24 people. Today, the current 30 teams are valued at 19 billion and there are 1,100 employees in 15 different offices around the globe. There are also an unprecedented 92 international players on the rosters. The secret to Stern is that he understood that this sport was capable of influencing people worldwide. The NBA is truly a global game. "There was no such thing as sports marketing until Michael Jordan came along," said Stern.

Stern is also very proud of the diversity of his sports players, coaches, owners, and front-office people. He jokes that his nickname is "Easy Dave," but don't tell Mark Cuban that. "In sports, our product is the players," said Stern. "My job is to grow the game so the players and owners of all 30 teams make money."

When you ask him about his favorite player he defers to a list. The names of Oscar Robertson, Elgin Baylor, and "Dr. J" come up. His least favorite and most favorite memories both include Magic Johnson. "When Magic announced he was HIV positive, I thought he was going to die," said Stern. "We were so uneducated about HIV at the time." His favorite memory occurred in Orlando at the 1992 NBA All-Star Game. Stern allowed Magic to play and of course Magic had a huge night, hit the last shot of the game and became the MVP. I was there, center court with my friends from Miller Brewing Company. Bob Lanier sat in front of us. Buddy Ryan sat to our right about four seats away, and Jerry West sat behind us. I was in basketball heaven. All-Star Tim Hardaway had offered to let Magic Johnson play in his spot. Commissioner Stern gave the okay.

Stern loved draft night except when he had to pronounce names of overseas players. "I loved being a part of these kids' journey and the accomplishments of these players and their families," stated Stern.

"It has never been personal with Mark Cuban. I have never been upset with



David Stern Phoenix ASG

him; he just has his own way to communicate," said Stern. "And I have mine." In fact, it was Stern who cast the deciding vote to approve Cuban as an owner. Ted Turner was one of Stern's biggest thorns in his side. "He would break things for fun," laughed David.

"You do not enter the stands," said David Stern. The display of violence in The Palace at Auburn Hills by players and fans was embarrassing. Stern had no problem being judge and jury with fines and missed games handed out like candy on Halloween. He has worked hard to remove the fisticuffs from the games.

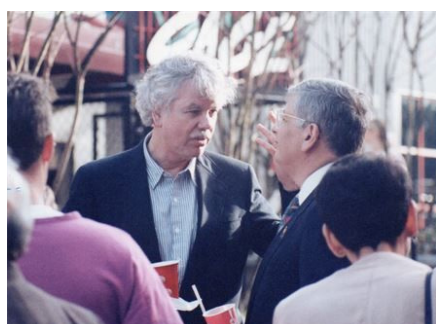
"My most prize possession is an autographed book sign by 'Red' Auerbach," said Stern. "It says, 'To the best commissioner in my lifetime and a fan of the NBA.'" "I loved him, he was a complete gentleman, a fiercest competitor and a good friend," stated Stern. Stern also has one of the original posters commemorating the Fifty Greatest Players in NBA History hanging in his home. It is signed by all except "Pistol Pete" Maravich, who had passed away earlier. "It was like we still had Ruth, Gehrig, and Cobb still alive," said Stern. "I really don't have much stuff at my house," said Stern, "Just the memories."

I met David Stern in Phoenix, Arizona, at a luncheon during the 1995 NBA All-Star Game. He signed my program and let me take his picture. One of the things he said that impressed me, "The best seat in sports is courtside at a basketball game." I believe that to be true. "He leaves a footprint that is much bigger than his shoe size," said Coach Mike Krzyzewski. Stern has excelled as an ambassador, judge, marketer, and fan.

David Stern was replaced by Adam Silver who has worked side-by-side with Stern for 22 years. "So far, so good," said Silver.

Andy Purvis

www.purvisbooks.com



David Stern



We had our 2023 SLC Spelling Bee today Winning word was torment. 1st Place Emma Polderman. 2nd Place Harleigh Collins. 3rd Place Carsyn Steffan



Seashore Spelling Bee contestants

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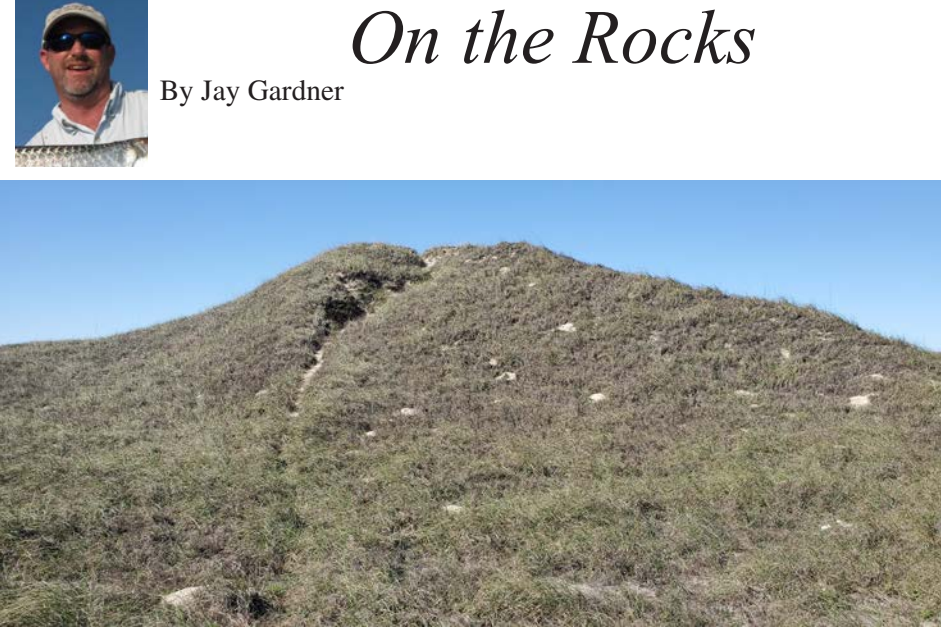
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The Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner



Green Hill on PINS

We're still waiting to hear back from the city on where they are with the multi modal mobility plan that was finally funded by the TIRZ #2 this past fall. There have been several Requests for Qualifications (RFQ's) posted by the city, and this project isn't on either of the lists. I'm wondering if they've already chosen a company based on a "small A&E" and will come to council with a 30% design and of course ask for feedback if they want to pursue this design. But we don't need to know how the sausage is made, just that it's tasty.

At some point in time, designers will have to get some public input on the types, or modes, of traffic that they need to plan for. Roadway design standards require specific spacing, separation of modes by either striping or physical barriers, minimum widths, and a host of other details. Design standards also are a moving target dependent on traffic counts, and ours fluctuate. For example, if you use the average daily traffic counts for say December, and the speed limit of 40 mph, then standards say that you could have a bike lane on the side/shoulder of the road. However, if you use July traffic counts and speeds over 45 mph, then there should be a separated bike lane and/or a shared use path depending on available right of way. Basic engineering calculations based on accepted formulas, but there are lots of exceptions, waivers, and variances as well.

There are a couple of key ingredients to multi modal planning. The first one is what is called "option value". This is described by having, say, a separate pedestrian walkway next to a bike line, and golf cart lane. While there are very few people that walk from Commodores to Whitecap for whatever reason, the community may place value on a sidewalk there. Like having lifeboats on a cruise ship; they are seldom used, but people want them available. It adds value to the community. A sidewalk may also encourage people to walk or jog more and increase pedestrian usage of the area. Making it safe by separating vehicular traffic and making it well-lit for nighttime usage may also increase the inherent value.

One thing that we've known for quite some time is that because of the increased development and usage of that PR 22 corridor, that the speed limit will likely permanently be lowered to 45 mph or potentially slower. It has already been de facto lowered by the construction of the bridge, and my average speed through the construction zone is under 40 mph most of the time anyway. The bridge is also going to be a bottleneck because it wasn't designed to accommodate multi-modal paths. Oops. While there are pages and pages of instructions in the TxDOT Design manual for bicycles and micro mobility vehicles (scooters) there are no instructions on golf carts or UTV's.

To the beach...

Enough of that noise. Cousin Anita was in town from Kansas last weekend, and I loaded her and the folks up in the truck and we headed down the beach to do a little shelling. The driving was 9/10, but it was still windy. The surf had been up to the base of the dunes for a few days, so everything was up high. There were massive amounts of black mangrove seeds, but no pumice or really any other fun flotsam. Most of the shells were incongruous arc shells, some disc dosinia, and pieces of sunrise tellins. There was a fair amount of drift algae from the bays, and a couple pieces of whip coral. We made it down to the 26 and walked up Green Hill for a look about. There were few people down the beach, however I was surprised to see many people with metal detectors working the seashore (it's illegal). Wonder if they found any pieces of eight.

On the horizon...

Anyhoo folks, ISAC is not next week but the week after on February 7th. The Big Shell Clean Up is the last weekend in February, and the CCA-CC banquet is March 9th. These two events will be on us before we know it. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and we'll see you here next week On the Rocks.



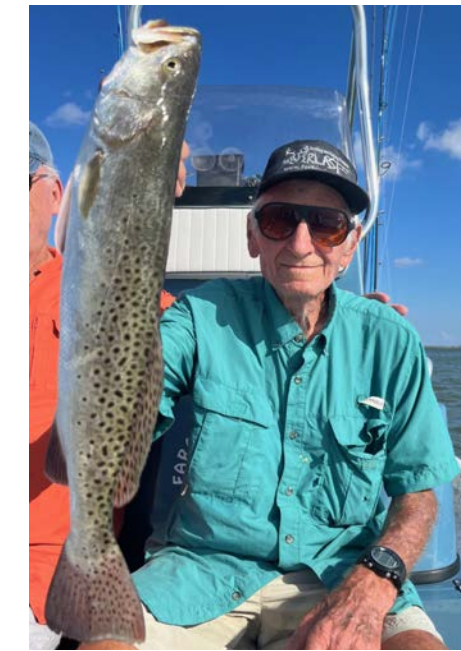
Jay and the Family on Green Hill

Tides of the Week

26 Jan	27 Jan	28 Jan	29 Jan	30 Jan	31 Jan	1 Feb
Thu ↗	Fri ↗	Sat ↗	Sun ↗	Mon ↗	Tue ↗	Wed ↗
5:52AM 0.89ft	7:57AM 0.85ft	10:52AM 0.98ft	1:11PM 1.21ft	2:17PM 1.35ft	3:07PM 1.44ft	3:49PM 1.48ft
6:50PM 0.79ft	6:40PM 0.75ft	5:57PM 0.82ft				
00:41AM 0.46ft	1:25AM 0.13ft	2:16AM -0.16ft	3:10AM -0.39ft	4:06AM -0.56ft	5:00AM -0.66ft	5:52AM -0.72ft
12:48PM 0.1ft	2:09PM 0.52ft	4:43PM 0.82ft				
7:18AM 6:04PM	7:17AM 6:05PM	7:17AM 6:06PM	7:16AM 6:07PM	7:16AM 6:08PM	7:15AM 6:08PM	7:15AM 6:09PM
11:32PM 10:50AM	11:23AM 11:56AM	00:31AM 11:56AM	1:30AM 12:31PM	2:29AM 1:10PM	3:26AM 1:52PM	4:22AM 2:40PM

Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah's Fishing Adventures



I slipped my head under the water and felt around in the dark, I felt the soft layers of the picture book. I rose and crawled out of the Harvey sunk cabin boat and jumped up on the dock where Capt Ron patiently watched me. All he could say was, "stop joey that's enough son." I argued and tried to go back down to save the next piece of his sunken life. He pulled me close and opened the book. Pictures of a young man, a beautiful woman, playing kids, cars of the past, and friends. He fingered each picture and bragged a bit as a tear rolled over his face. My life slowed down a bit as he looked into my eyes. "NOTHING IN LIFE LASTS FOREVER SON, not me, not you, it wouldn't be worth a dam if it did." We walked away from the boat, leaving the rest of his worldly possessions behind. Later that day Ron said all the pictures had faded away from the soaked picture book, to just ghostly white paper. Fill your picture book with memories and set out into the wild with friends and family. Put aside tasks and work to go fishing. Those are the things that matter the most, the conversations that will last forever in our hearts.

Somehow that day prepared me for this week. From life to death can be a split second, a run of a few hours or days, or a long painful slide. My FATHER JOSEPH FARAH took a quick dive in health and passed away this week. He drifted into a dream, the pages of his picture book rolled and then the room was filled with family and friends from the past, dogs and cats, kids and favorite songs. He could smell his favorite dinners from moms kitchen, and outside the window was all the best sunsets he had ever seen. I leaned over the GIANT and kissed his head, I pulled his last breath deep into my body and said a prayer for our Heavenly Father to open his arms and the gates of heaven for my father. Let him watch over all of us that loved him and stand on our shoulder until he is there to open the gates for us.

Fishing right now can be some of the best, in between the weather events. Watch the weather and plan your week to slip out and enjoy the best days. Drift fishing with lures when winds and from the southeast and north east is best. We are concentrating on changes of depth between 2-4ft. These areas are those transition zones, often where the color of the water changes as well. Grassy bottom filters the sediments rolled in the current, the open deeper areas will be a bit more cloudy but will still hold fish. My best luck has been with a 1/4ounce jig head and a DOWN SOUTH LURES SUPER MODEL, purple reign, red Shad, and bone DIMOND have been my favorite colors. Casting past any sand pockets you can see, lightly drop the bait into the open bottom. Remember that it's winter and a soft and slow presentation is a must, too many times we find ourselves lost in thought and giving our lures hard and fast action, slow it down.

When the winds are up and moving the bay from one end to the other, pick up some live shrimp and go to the bottom for some great black drum and redfish action. The nice days are not the best for drum fishing. These fish have incredible smell and ability to feel vibration. This keeps them away from the boat and sensitive to you moving the bait. When the bottom is rolling and sweeping food sources around, the reds and drum are on the hunt. Carolina rig set ups with a #4 OWNER CIRCLE HOOK will be best. Let the fish take the bait without resistance on the rod.

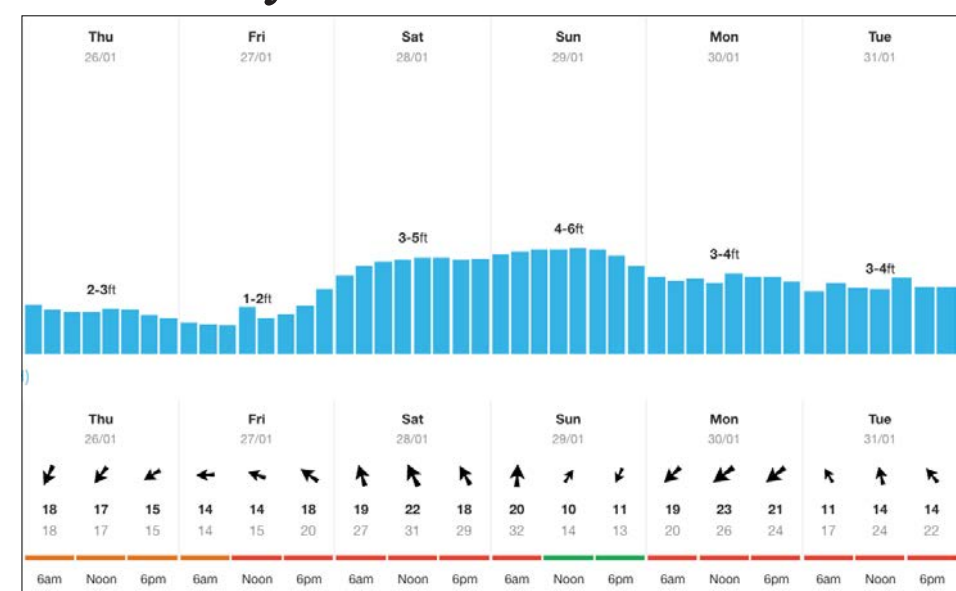
I have open holes in my calendar each week right now, so when you see fair weather ahead, pick up the phone and find YOUR DAY.

At every turn, all thoughts, and beautiful things I will see you. Thank you Dad.



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Kathleen and Tom Cullinan stand on the 11th deck of their cruise ship. The other cruise ship behind them is tied up to the same pier in Costa Maya on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.



Wendy Miller Powers took the Island Moon to Oceanside California.



We just wanted to share a pic from Padre Island's Boy Scout Troop 949. Scouts attended Scout Night hosted by the CC Ice Rays last Sat. January 21st. Super fun night for the kiddos watching the Ice Rays win and going home with Scout patch & puck! Thank you so much for helping support and promote our Padre Island Scouts!



Right: Islanders take the Island Moon to Nicaragua left to right David Turk, Derek Henry, Ricky Nichols, Greg Reynar, Mark Truskett and Doug Brown visited the Oveja Negra cigar factory Esteli, Nicaragua. Also pictured are the owners James and Angela Brown.

The 7th and 8th grade SMA basketball teams are wrapping up successful seasons that began the first week of November. The final games are next week, so come out and support the Penguins!



8th grade team point guard Julian Ainbinder "breaks the ankles" of his competitor as he dribbles down the baseline to score. The team won the home game against SST.



7th grade star player Logan Miller shoots the ball over a defender in a game against Promesa. He scored 10 points in the game.



Jazlyn Peters jumps to defend the ball from the opposing team, IWA. The 7th grade girls remained undefeated. The highlight of the season was last weekend when the girls won 1st place at the CCISD A-team tournament.



Jumping for a shot, Alondra Rullan-Mejias leaps to throw the ball into the net, scoring a point against IWA. The 8th grade Lady Penguins' record is 14 wins and 1 loss in regular season play.



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13842 Captain Kidd Beautiful 4/3.5 house built by Daniel Homes on spacious corner lot. Offers stainless steal appliances, quartz counter tops and is tiled throughout. Call **Charlie Knoll** at **361-443-2499**



13957 Ports O Call Dr 8,596 Sq Ft lot close to numerous boat ramps, restaurants and the beach. Call **Charlie Knoll** at **361-443-2499**



14149 La Blanquilla Dr. - Spacious 3/3/2 with 2,585 sq. ft. of living area. New construction home with stainless steel appliances, tiles floors & master suite with spa like bathroom. **\$651,420** Call **Charlie Knoll** at **361-443-2499**



14041 Coquina Bay Ave MLS#407084 4/2.5/2 2318sqft. Water views and Large backyard for pool. **\$479,900** Call **Randy Corpuz** at **361-765-9914**



Price Reduced!

14918 Island Village Dr. Fully Furnished 2 bedroom 2 bathroom unit, two pools on site very close the beach. **\$454,900** Call **Charlie Knoll** at **361-443-2499**.

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15330 Dasmariñas Dr. 3 bed/2 bath delightful waterfront home. Boat lift and spacious deck with breathtaking views. **\$564,900** Call **Kim Mogford** at **361-434-8522**



225 Thelma Dr - 4 bedroom, 3 bath waterfront property located in Flour Bluff Laguna Madre Cove Subdivision. Boat lift with large deck and covered patio. **\$625,000** Call **Christy Zamora** at **619-315-5195**



13801 Captains Row -Exceptional custom home, 151' canal front at fingertip of gated st. elevator, pool, 2 lifts, sunset over ICW **\$1,999,900**. Call **Pam Morgan** at **361-215-8116**

Open House Sundays 1-4



13845 Hawksnest Bay —5/3/2 with a pool 2,747 sq ft. Great location close to the beach, schools, park. **\$594,999** Call **Kellye Pena** at **361-522-0292**



14802 Whitecap Blvd #3-101 - This 2 bed, 1 bath fully furnished unit is within walking distance to the beach! Equipped with granite countertops & stainless steel appliances. **\$400,000** Call **Randy Corpuz** at **361-765-9914**

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13945 Lanyard
3/2/2
\$2,400/month



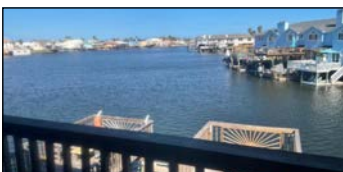
15325 Cruiser Unit A & B
2/2.5/1 each side
\$2,250/month each side



15426 Grass Cay A
3/2 Waterfront
\$1,800/month



15425 Fortuna Bay #306
1/1 Waterfront
\$1,250/month



15406 Fortuna Bay #2902
2/2/1 Waterfront
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16018 Treebine Dr.
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FRANCES WALSH

Flour Bluff-Padre

6

Okay, I got the stick. Now what.
By Del Smith.

Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Flour Bluff senior Frances Walsh represented the Flour Bluff-Padre Island 4H at the 2023 60th Annual Queens Contest

The North Padre Whitecap Project kicked off its marketing campaign in Texas Monthly Magazine.



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Carne Guisada

By Chris Jordan

Carne guisada or “meat stew” is a classic in the Tejano canon of dishes. Although *carne guisada* is presumed to be made from beef unless otherwise specified (e.g. *pollo guisado*), it is sometimes referred to as *carne de res guisada* depending on who is doing the referring. The dish has Afro-Latin Caribbean roots in Puerto Rico and The Dominican Republic but is well-established standard fare in Texas. Uber-traditional incarnations will often have potatoes along with the beef (*carne guisada con pappas*) and sometimes carrots and/or onions. All proper versions have fork-tender chunks of beef in a brown gravy. The flavor profile centers around garlic, chile, black pepper, and comino.

Years and batches of *carne guisada* would pass me by. The meat was too lean. The meat was too fat. The gravy too thin, then too thick. By the time I was opening my first restaurant a decade later, I was getting close. Very close. But Tacorama had to have absolutely epic *carne guisada*. Fortunately inspiration struck. I had been experimenting with many cooking styles and saw an opportunity to combine the Indian tradition of: blooming spices in oil and the Creole tradition of roux. I bloomed comino in oil with flour as I prepared a roux for thickening the gravy. The results were fantastic.

The recipe is very easy and uses all dried spice. Chuck works great for the beef. You want a little fat but not much. Blade steaks are very good too, but you’ll want to excise that vein of gristle down the middle. The recipe calls for the beef to be browned in an oven but this could also be done on the stovetop with a large skillet and a little more oil. The final cooking is done in a pressure cooker or InstaPot. Alternatives include overnight in a slow cooker on low heat or just simmering on a stockpot for two hours. If you choose the latter, just monitor the liquid level: if the gravy reduces/thickens too much, it could scorch. Just add water as necessary to prevent this.

I was still living in San Antonio in the 80s when I was afflicted with my first food addiction. It was *carne guisada*. Although the world had just recently been subjected to the lies of Taco Cabana, it was a lone commercial exploitation of taco culture. There were many mom and pop restaurants for me to try. Sometimes the *guisada* had potatoes, sometimes carrots. Sometimes the gravy was lighter brown and mellow. Sometimes not. And so it was one day somewhere around Culebra Road inside Loop 410 that I encountered the dankest, darkest, richest, *carne guisada* gravy to date. I didn’t try very many new joints after that: I was hooked. It was a long time ago and I don’t remember the name of the place but I got right to work on being able to make it myself.

Carne Guisada

Serves 2-4
Ready in 1 hour

Ingredients

- 2 lbs. beef chuck, cut into ¾" cubes
- 1 TBSP chile powder
- 1 TBSP onion powder
- 1 TBSP garlic powder
- 2 TBSP olive oil
- ¼ cup neutral oil
- ¼ cup all purpose flour
- 1 TBSP ground comino
- 16 oz. unsalted beef broth



Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 450°. Use the "roast" setting if you have one.
2. Combine beef, chile, onion, and garlic powders in a large mixing bowl. Toss until beef is evenly coated. Add olive oil and toss until oil coats all pieces of beef.
3. Arrange seasoned beef cubes on a greased baking sheet, spaced apart so they are not touching. Roast in oven for 30 minutes.
4. Combine neutral oil, flour, and comino in a skillet and cook over medium heat until the roux has darkened somewhat.
5. Combine meat, roux and broth in Instapot and cook on high pressure for 30 minutes.
6. Serve with flour tortillas. Some folks like grated yellow cheese and chopped onions.

Full Transparency and Disclosure

PIPOA News by Marvin Jones, President



News you can Use

As always, let me have your thoughts. You can reach me at marvin@pipoa.net or call me at 469-231-3485. You can also call the Padre Isles Property Owners Association (PIPOA) office with any questions you have at 361-949-7025.

Ducks- Last week, the PIPOA staff, while emptying the Gypsy boat ramp trash container, found 20 dead female ducks that had been shot. The ducks were not butchered. That is, the breasts had not been removed. The PIPOA has nothing against duck hunters. However, this callous slaughter of game is absolutely illegal and uncalled for. The Game Warden has been notified. Hopefully, the Game Warden will catch the hunters doing this in the future.

Sand Blasting- The Whitecap Development has acres of sand. The high winds have caused the sand to blow across the Island. As a result, people have piles of sand in their swimming pools, on their cars, and in their backyards. Members of the community have reached out to the City of Corpus Christi and the TCEQ- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. In addition, the PIPOA has been in contact with the developers of the Whitecap Development. According to the Whitecap spokesperson, they are taking remedial measures to minimize the blowing of sand.

Boat Ramps- There is a new boat ramp sticker policy. The new policy requires only one sticker to be placed in your vehicle. There will be no sticker for a boat trailer. The new policy will begin in March. Last week, six (6) vehicles and two (2) trailers were towed off the boat ramps.

Second way on and off the Island- This topic is on the agenda for the upcoming PIPOA Board meeting. The Board will consider a resolution endorsing the need and subsequent implementation of a second way on and off the Island. State Representative Todd Hunter is spearheading a volunteer committee seeking to push forward this project. He believes grassroots support for a second way on and off the Island is critical to getting the attention of the legislature and Texas Highway Department.

Common Area Maintenance Fees (CAM Fees)- The 2023 invoices have been mailed to members. Please pay your fees promptly. Thank you for your cooperation.

The next PIPOA Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Padre Island Baptist Church located across from Whataburger.

Marvin Jones, PIPOA President

February 4

Rockport Sea-A-Bration

Ahoy Matey! It's not too late! Get out your favorite pirate attire and get ready for The Pirates Treasures of the Sea-A-Bration on Saturday, February 4. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. and carry through to 11 p.m. at the Fulton Convention Center, 402 North Fulton Beach Rd. in Fulton.

Furnishings, Jewelry, Vacation and Special Occasion packages.

This will be an evening full of fun, with lots of entertainment for the evening, adding an element of energy and excitement to the event. Guests will have the opportunity to pose for “Photo Love Shots” with a theme-related background and props. Dinner will be catered by Roasted Clove Food Co. Reservations for Sea-A-Bration are \$75 for individuals. \$1,000 for reserved tables. Some sponsorships are still available but you must act now. All funds received go to support the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center,

In keeping with the theme’s event, guests are asked to dress in a pirate theme, although attire can be casual to cocktail. Guests are encouraged to bring a family member, business partner, friend or anyone they want. The event will feature a Live and Chance Auction, along with a “Bling Board”. Included in the auction are items such as Fishing Packages, Home

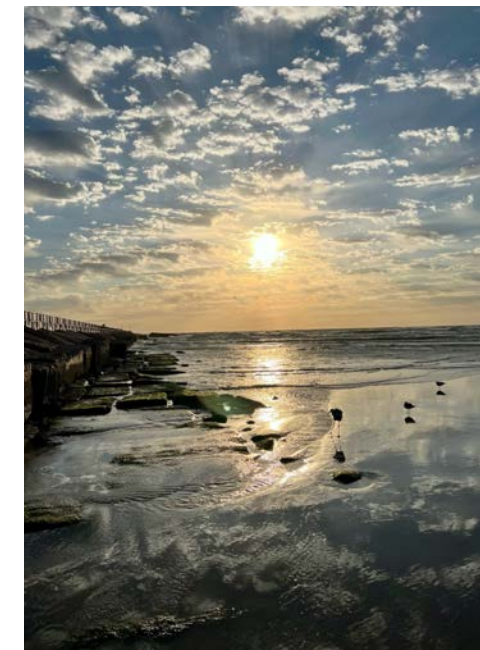
Sip N Shop at PI Art Gallery Friday

Photos by Debbie Noble



There was a full house for the first Bingo at the Beach on Tuesday January 24th. Bingo is on Tuesdays at Hardknocks on Padre Island starting at 7:00pm. Get there early to secure a seat.

Photos by Debbie Noble



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Sudoku

Sudoku answers are not available. Play at your own risk! Going Easy On You...

		8		6	9		4	3
		9						
6	1			4			5	9
4	8		6					
1	3	5	9		7	4	8	6
					4		1	7
2	9			8			7	4
							1	
5	6		2	7		3		

Knuckle-Cracker

	3	8	7					2
	7			8				
1		2	5					4
		9	6		1			5
				9				
4			8		3	2		
7					5	4		2
				7				5
	5				2	6	1	

Mind-Numbing Frustration

			7	5				1
		6		8				
	2				4			9
	6	5	2			7		
2				9				4
		3			5	2	8	
6			3					4
				2		5		
	3			6	8			

Brain-Buster

								4
	2		5				3	7
9			6	3			8	
			7	1				3
		2				9		
5				6	2			
	1		8		7			6
7	4				1		5	
8								

Moon Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

- Across
- UK awards
 - "___ on Down the Road"
 - Baggins the hobbit
 - Negri of the silent screen
 - Shoemaker Thom
 - Atom negatively charged
 - Way off base
 - Bombard
 - Sound that fakes boredom
 - Put in a horizontal position
 - Not year-round
 - Slight quake
 - Street talk, e.g.
 - "Illiad" and "Odyssey," e.g.
 - Egyptian immortal
 - "Monday Night Football" network
 - Computer programming language
 - Contemplate
 - Group race
 - Sought-after
 - "The Glass Bead Game" author
 - "Ghostbusters" director Reitman
 - Prairie wolf
 - Half a bray
 - Bundle of energy
 - Organize
 - Short narrative
 - Non-academic resident
 - Bill Clinton's instrument
 - Put holy oil on
 - Targets for mice
 - Housecat's perch, sometimes
 - Ferdinand of WWI
 - ___ plume
 - "Twittering Machine" painter
 - Black, in verse
 - Shaq's surname
 - Nutmeg, e.g.
 - Queens Park

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14				15					16					
17				18					19					
20				21		22		23						
24						25								
			26			27		28			29	30	31	
32	33	34		35		36	37			38				
39			40			41			42					
43				44				45			46			
47				48			49			50				
			51			52	53		54			55	56	57
58	59	60							61					
62						63		64			65			
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

- Down
- Dizzying design
 - Arbor
 - Unite on the run
 - Veiled dancer?
 - Ming the Merciless, e.g.
 - Serve that zings
 - Hot condiment
 - Director's direction
 - Pinza and Chaliapin
 - Lickety-split
 - Den mother?
 - Half a Polynesian island
 - Feature of color, but not collar
 - Sentimental, and then some
 - Frenzied
 - Part of London or Manhattan
 - Adrenaline surge
 - She'll "always have Paris"
 - Did in, Samson style
 - Parched
 - Group of quails
 - Family of Highlanders
 - Honorary Oscar awardee, 1991
 - Iowas relatives
 - Largest snake in the world
 - Great blue wader
 - Plays for a sucker
 - Completely wrecked
 - Serving in "Nicholas Nickleby"
 - "Buy one get one free" offer
 - Undertakings
 - Greece's Constantine II, for one
 - Weeping statue of myth
 - Under a false ID
 - Prefix with centric or biology
 - First baseman Martinez
 - Nobel Prize subj.
 - Seward Peninsula cape
 - Director Spike

Police Blotter January 16 - January 22

JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection

Suspicious Person
11800 block SPID 5 p.m. January 21

Traffic

24 Traffic Stops
SPID/Aquarius 11 a.m. January 20 Crash

SPID west to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Person

15300 block Cruiser 1 a.m. January 16 Stabbing Victim/Assault

Crimes against Property

14300 block Dorsal 7 a.m. January 23 Trespassing
15200 block Caravel 10 p.m. January 20 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle

15200 block Caravel 8 p.m. January 20 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle

15300 block Padre Island 3 p.m. January 16 Destruction of Property

14000 block Fortuna Bay Midnight January 18 Burglary

Disturbance

14400 block Aquarius 8 p.m. January 22

SPID/Whitecap 4 p.m. January 22 Possession of Controlled Substance

14400 block Cabana East 1 a.m. January 22 Noise

Ordinance Violation

14300 block Indigo 6 p.m. January 18
14000 block Cabana East 2 p.m. January 16
15400 block Seamount Cay 10 p.m. January 22

Suspicious Person

14100 block Commodores 7 a.m. January 22
14200 block SPID 4 p.m. January 21
15700 block Finistere 9 p.m. January 21

Traffic

107 Traffic Stops
Bonasse Court-Whitecap 8 a.m. January 22 Crash
14400 block Noon January 16 Crash/Hit and Run
14600 block SPID 9 a.m. January 16 Crash
Gypsy/Fortuna Bay 11 p.m. January 20 Crash

SPID east to Gulf of Mexico north to city limits

Disturbance

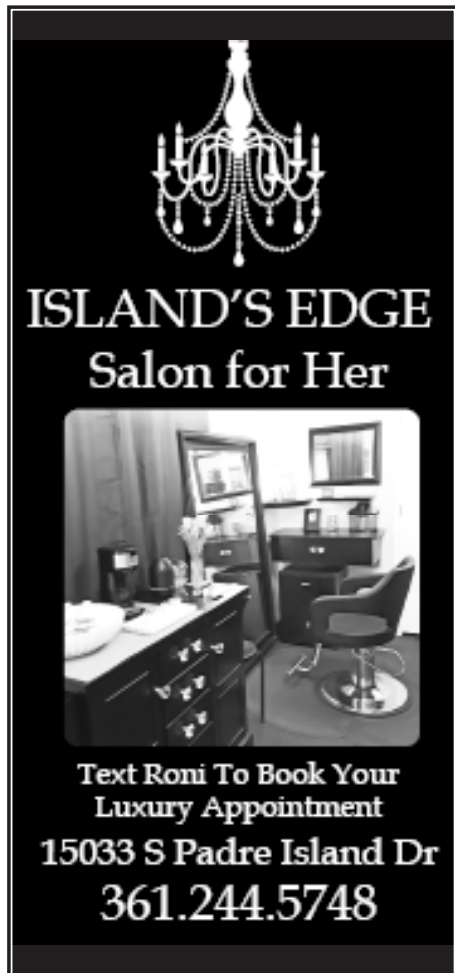
15200 block Windward 7 p.m. January 21 Noise Ordinance Violation

SH 361/Newport Pass 2 p.m. January 19 Fire

100 block La Concha 4 p.m. January 18

Traffic

39 Traffic Stops



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14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
 In addition Sunday AA Meetings are held at 8 AM at **The Pavillon on the Boardwalk Near Padre Bali**

Crossword Solution

O	B	E	S		E	A	S	E		B	I	L	B	O	
P	O	L	A		M	C	A	N		A	N	I	O	N	
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R	E	P	O	S	E		S	E	A	S	O	N	A	L	
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O	N	E	A	L		S	E	E	D		R	E	G	O	

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Port Aransas Community Theatre to Hold Open Auditions for the Comedy, "Drinking Habits"

Auditions set for February 11-12

The Port Aransas Community Theatre will hold open auditions for the comedy, "Drinking Habits," at noon on Saturday, Feb. 11, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12. Auditions will consist of a cold read from the script. The cast of eight will consist of three men and five women.

"Drinking Habits" will be directed by Emily Regier. Rehearsals will begin in early March, and the show will run Thursday – Sunday, March 30 – April 16, 2023.

Show synopsis: Accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in this traditional, laugh-out-loud farce. Two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, but Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancées, are hot on their trail. They go undercover as a nun and priest, but their presence, combined with the addition of a new nun, spurs paranoia throughout the convent that spies have been sent from Rome to shut them down. Wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves.

Auditions will be at the Port Aransas Community Theatre, located at 2327 State Highway 361 in Port Aransas. For more information, visit portaransascommunitytheatre.com/auditions.

"ANN" Opens at Rockport Little Theatre Runs through January 29

A no-holds-barred portrait of Ann Richards, the legendary late Governor of Texas is running at the Rockport Little Theatre through Sunday, January 29

The play brings the audience face to face with a complex, colorful and captivating character bigger than the state from which she hailed. Written and originally performed by Emmy Award-winner Holland Taylor, "ANN" takes a revealing look at the impassioned woman who enriched the lives of her followers, friends and family. A mother, wife, politician and American patriot who dedicated her life to helping others.

Whether you were born in Texas or "got here as fast as you could" you have no doubt heard of Ann Richards. As the fiery governor of Texas, her personal story, along with her uncanny humor and plain-spoken truisms, captured the imagination of the public -- those who knew her and many more who felt like they did.

Reserved tickets \$20, available online or at the box office. Theater opens one hour before curtain. Concessions include beer, wine and soft drinks and snacks. The plays runs Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. with a Sunday Matinee at 3 p.m.

Council Adopts Building and Fire Code Updates Protects Health and Safety of Community and Visitors

At today's regularly scheduled City Council meeting, Mayor Paulette Guajardo and the City Council approved the adoption of Building and Fire-related codes to the 2021 International Code Council (ICC) standards with local amendments.

The City of Corpus Christi currently utilizes the International Code Council's 2015 edition with local amendments.

Some updates to the code include the following:

- Building Code
 - o Defines and regulates puzzle rooms (escape rooms), shipping containers and mechanical-access enclosed parking garages
 - o Expands the use of Type IV construction (heavy timber) - tall wood buildings
- Fire Code
 - o Adds sprinkler requirements to certain types of existing assembly occupancies and high-rise residential buildings
 - o Refines requirements for Energy Storage Systems (ESS) and storage of distilled spirits and wines
- Mechanical Code
 - o Machinery rooms exceeding 1,000 square feet will require two remote exits providing additional egress to protect machinery room occupants from asphyxiating in the event of a refrigerant discharge
 - o Require a means to adjust airflow in all distribution, exhaust, and ventilating systems by an approved method
- Electrical Code
 - o Adds flexibility to the location of existing upgraded boxes and the use of wiring sizes and types
 - o Adds surge protection for 1 & 2-family dwellings
- Plumbing Code
 - o Adds allowance for multiple-user toilet facilities to serve as credit
 - o Adds alternative – Rainwater Harvesting Systems
- Swimming Pool Code
 - o Adds design and safety requirements for splash pads
 - o Creates requirements for construction fencing and barriers

The City of Corpus Christi has maintained a building code since 1929 and provided regulations that specify the minimum standards for design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, safety, and maintenance of various types of buildings to protect life, health, property, and public welfare for the citizens of this City.

A second City Council vote on the measure is scheduled for January 31 with an effective date of August 1.

State Law for Dissolution of Emergency Services District

Sec. 775.052. PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION; NOTICE OF HEARING. (a) Before a district may be dissolved, the district's board must receive a petition signed by at least 10 percent of the registered voters in the district.

(b) If the petition is in proper form, the board shall set a place, date, and time for a hearing to consider the petition.

(c) The board shall give notice of the hearing. The notice must include:

- (1) the name of the district;
- (2) a description of the district's boundaries;
- (3) the proposal that the district be dissolved; and
- (4) the place, date, and time of the hearing on the petition.

(d) The notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the district once a week for two consecutive weeks. The first publication must occur not later than the 21st day before the date on which the hearing will be held. Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 775.053. HEARING. (a) At the hearing on the petition to dissolve the district, the board shall consider the petition and each issue relating to the dissolution of the district.

(b) Any interested person may appear before the board to support or oppose the dissolution.

(c) The board shall grant or deny the petition. Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 775.054. ELECTION TO CONFIRM DISSOLUTION. (a) On the granting of a petition to dissolve the district, the board shall order an election to confirm the district's dissolution.

(b) Notice of the election shall be given in the same manner as the notice of the petition hearing.

(c) The election shall be held on the first authorized uniform election date prescribed by the Election Code that allows sufficient time to comply with the requirements of law and that occurs after the date on which the board grants the petition.

(d) The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the following: "Dissolving the _____ Emergency Services District."

(e) A copy of the tabulation of results shall be filed with the county clerk of each county in which the district is located.

(f) If a majority of those voting at the election vote to dissolve the district, the board shall proceed with dissolution. An election to create a new district in the boundaries of the old district may not be held for at least one year after dissolution.

(g) If a majority of those voting at the election vote against dissolving the district, the board may not order another election on the issue before the first anniversary of the date of the canvass of the election. Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 775.055. ADMINISTRATION OF PROPERTY, DEBTS, AND ASSETS AFTER DISSOLUTION. (a) After a vote to dissolve a district, the board shall continue to control and administer the property, debts, and assets of the district until all funds are disposed of and all district debts are paid or settled.

(b) The board may not dispose of the district's assets except for due compensation unless the debts are transferred to another governmental entity or agency within or embracing the district and the transfer will benefit the district's residents.

(c) After the board issues the dissolution order, the board shall:

- (1) determine the debt owed by the district; and
- (2) impose on the property included in the district's tax rolls a tax that is in proportion of the debt to the property value.

(d) Each taxpayer may pay the tax imposed by the district under this section at once.

(e) The board may institute a suit to enforce payment of taxes and to foreclose liens to secure the payment of taxes due the district.

(f) When all outstanding debts and obligations of the district are paid, the board shall order the secretary to return the pro rata share of all unused tax money to each district taxpayer. A taxpayer may request that the taxpayer's share of surplus tax money be credited to the taxpayer's county taxes. If a taxpayer requests the credit, the board shall direct the secretary to transmit the funds to the county tax assessor-collector.

(g) After the district pays all its debts and disposes of all its assets and funds as prescribed by this section, the board shall file a written report with the commissioners court of each county in which the district is located setting forth a summary of the board's actions in dissolving the district. Not later than the 10th day after the date it receives the report and determines that the requirements of this section have been fulfilled, the commissioners court of each county shall enter an order dissolving the district.

Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Welcome Winter Texans...



Kip Shannon shows off his first prize belt buckle after winning the VFW's annual chili cook-off last Saturday. Kip is seen here with VFW post Commander Mike Garrett.

Just to state the obvious, we are smack dab in the middle of winter. Which means several things if you happen to live on a little island in the Gulf of Mexico. For one thing, it's open season for *Winter Texans* right now. They are, without a doubt, here and in abundance. And that's a good thing. I honestly look forward to them coming every year. They are such a welcome change from our, shall we say "aggressive" summer tourists. They start showing up after Christmas when the snow starts falling up north and the seasonal rates start falling down south. I'm wondering about this new trend of high priced RV spots at these "boutique" trailer parks that are springing up around Port Aransas. And we're talking six figures for a little trailer spot in an RV park. I mean they are very nice. They've been landscaped nicely and some of them have built in outdoor kitchens with lush pools and club houses. So much for the theory that if all else fails, we can always buy a trailer and live cheaply at the last chance trailer park in Port A. I've always thought that the *Winter Texans* had the right idea of growing old while running around the country in a motor home just following the nice weather. I also know there's a lot of moving parts and variables to get to that point. Guess I'll just keep paying rent.

Chili, BBQ and Live Music...



Lee Harper, Collie Farley and Winston Caraker at PalmFest two years ago.

There was some good stuff going on last week. The VFW had their annual chili cook off in which my pal, **Kip Shannon**, came in first place. Kip is the owner of our favorite pirate bar, the *Gaff* and wore his first prize belt buckle around town proudly. Also, ex *Back Porch* GM, **Lee Harper**, won first place in the bean division... but then, his was the only entry. Works for me. And speaking of Lee Harper, he and islander **Winston Caraker** have announced the line-up for this year's *PalmFest* on May 5-6. **Uncle Lucius**, **Larry Joe Taylor** and **Ruben V** are scheduled to play. They haven't released the rest of lineup yet but last year they relied heavily on tribute bands. I'm anxious to see who else they come up with this year.. This fest is family friendly and there will be a big playground for the kids to romp around on. This will be their third Southern Coast BBQ Cook Off with different categories in seafood, chicken, ribs and brisket. There will be a VIP tent and lots of comfortable options at this fest. I have a feeling this event is going take off even bigger than it is. Attaboys go out to Lee and Winston. And we can't leave out Winston's wife **Collie Farley**. She's a big part of it too.

On the local front...

The *City Wide Garage Sale* sponsored by *Port A Parks and Rec* and *Keep Port Aransas Beautiful* will be on February 11th this year. There will be 36 individual garage sales around town! Maps will be available starting February 9 at 9am at the Port Aransas Parks & Rec Department, City Hall, and Visit Port Aransas Welcome Center. The Visit Port



Riptide plays the VFW every Wednesday.

Aransas Welcome Center will also have maps available on Saturday 9am-1pm. Also, The Ellis Memorial Library is hosting a Book Sale at the Port Aransas Civic Center on Saturday, February 5, 2022 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or Sunday, February 6, 2022 (9 am. to 1 p.m.) to pick out your next read! Go to <https://www.portaransas.org/chamber/events/> for information on many Port Aransas events. Also on the local front, they were supposed to move the *Shorty's* building to the corner of Beach and Alister this Thursday. I'm assuming it's on. We were on deadline this Wednesday and I'm going on blind faith. Chris Jordan said it was happening. He said they were moving the building in two separate pieces. I'll have some pics for you next week. And finally on the local front, I'm seeing some movement over at *Bron's Backyard* recently. They are currently closed (except the beach cart rentals) and won't be having any shows until March (except for Mardi Gras with **Cruise Control** on February 21). They have enlarged their stage and installed professional stage lighting and are apparently upping their live music game for the coming season. I see all kinds of good things going on over there. With the new clubs coming online this year, I'm thinking Port A should have a dynamite season this year.

DO NOT MISS LIST Coming this weekend...

On this and every Wednesday you can catch



The PA Rockers are back at Bernie's every Wednesday until March.

the outstanding rockabilly outfit, **Riptide**, play the Port Aransas VFW. **Mike Isbell**, the front man for this band is the reincarnate of **Elvis**. I've seen his Elvis impersonation and brother, its spot on. This is fun band. Also on Wednesdays, the infamous **PA Rockers** will play every Wednesday until March. It's an early gig at 6:30 and it's non-smoking in there during the performance to cater to the *Winter Texan* crowd who typically go totally nuts on the dance floor. Do yourself a favor and check out one of these Wednesday shows at *Bernie's*. It's a bonafied hoot. On Thursday, **Kevin Kurtz** brings his straight country to the *Gaff*. Also on Thursday, **John Elijah** plays *Packery Bar* and **Sonny Salinas** plays *Rockit's*. On Friday, **Rasta Cowboy Billy Snipes** plays the *Gaff*. On Saturday, **Coach Dude Dugan** will play the *Gaff* directly after the world famous BELT SANDER RACES which start at 3 PM. Also on Saturday, the great **Mark McKinney** will light up the *Third Coast Theater* and **Janelle Shettters** will play *Island Wine*. I caught Janelle's show a few weeks ago and that lady has skills. She's very good. On Sunday check out **Barbara Jenice** at *Island Wine*. That lady packs a lot of soul in her punch. That's it for now. Be safe out there!

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Billy Snipes will play the Gaff this Friday.



Barbara Jenice will play Island Wine on Sunday.



The big ten piece party band Cruise Control will play Bron's for Mardi Gras on Feb 21.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Tuesday,

January 24

Open Mic @ House of Rock
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Billy Snipes @ Doc's

Wednesday,

January 25

Riptide @ VFW
Damon Scott @ Pelican
Joe Ely @ ACL
PA Rockers @ Bernies
Billy Snipes @ Scuttlebutt's
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Thursday,

January 26

Ruben Limas @ Island Wine
Kevin Kurtz @ Gaff
John Elijah @ Packery Bar
Alley Catz Duo @ Brewster Southside
Sonny Salinas @ Rockit's
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's

Friday, January 27

Billy Snipes @ Gaff
Dreaping in Color @ Pelican
Ty Dietz @ Packery Bar
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Eric Graham @ Brewster Southside
Randall King @ Brewster Downtown
Dial-Ups @ Rockit's
18 Hours @ House of Rock
Corpus Creeps @ Vernon's
Redtide @ La Playa by the Bay

Saturday,

January 28

BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
Mark McKinney @ Third Coast Theater
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Janelle Shettters @ Island Wine
The Groove @ Pelican
Kevin Kurtz @ Salty Dolphin
Michael Burttts @ Packery Bar
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Ruben V @ Executive Surf Club
John Cortez @ Cassidy's Pub
Trisum @ Brewster Southside
Adrenaline @ Rockit's
Updog, Moniq, Walk Offs @ House of Rock
Grant Ewing Band @ Vernon's
Timeline: Pat Benatar
Tribute @ Brewster Downtown

Sunday,

January 29

Barbara Jenice @ Island Wine

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Thursday: 7:30 Ron Baker & Jon Dunaway
Friday: 7-11 Karaoke
Saturday: 7-10 Janelle Shettters
Sunday: 3-6 Barbara Jenice

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Tumble Dry Low @ Bernies
Jerry Ward @ Pelican
Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard's
Michael Burttts @ Salty Dolphin
Jo Koy World Tour @ American Bank Center

Monday,

January 30

Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Tuesday,

January 31

Open Mic @ House of Rock
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Billy Snipes @ Doc's
Comedy Night @ The Exchange
Incubus @ American Bank Center

Wednesday,

February 1

Billy Snipes @ Scuttlebutt's
PA Rockers @ Bernies
Riptide @ VFW

Thursday,

February 2

Ruben Limas @ Island Wine
Eric Graham @ Brewster Southside
Sonny Salinas @ Rockit's

Friday, February 3

Dirty River Boys @ Gruene Hall
Michael Burttts @ Brewster Southside
Spazmatics @ Brewster Downtown
CNDB's @ The Exchange
Returned 2 Sender @ Rockit's
Schizoid Johnny @ Hook & Ladder AP

Saturday,

February 4

BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
The Groove @ VFW
Keith Sykes @ Third Coast Theater
Bright Light Social Hou @ House of Rock
Afterglow @ Cole Park
Chainlinks @ Rockit's
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside
Wade Bowen @ Brewster Downtown

Sunday,

February 5

FULL MOON
Tumble Dry Low @ Bernies
Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard's

Monday,

February 6

Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA
Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
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