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Backwater Adventures B1

Issue 1120



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By Dale Rankin

It's been a week of numbers *Around The Island* this week as we tracked numbers for the Island Hotel Occupancy Tax to get a handle of where our visitors like to stay. Then mid-week came word from the U.S. Census Bureau that the population of Texas is now 31,290,831 and about one in ten of those, according to the Corpus Christi Visitors Bureau, will find their way across the JFK Bridge to pay us a visit. We may need another bridge...

Under the bridge

And speaking of the JFK Bridge there have been some changes around there this week. We include news of much-needed improvements coming to that area in this issue from our city council woman and there has been a sailboat roundup there this week as well.

It seems that sailboats that find their way to slips along Packery Channel are often forgotten by their owners and sometimes become strays drifting up and down Packery Channel or finding sand alongside the JFK Causeway. Once they go rogue and run amok in local waters their ownership becomes blurry...until they touch bottom when they fall under the purview of the Texas General Land Office who rounds them up and hauls them off, as seen in the photos on this page this week.



In the Island canal system the task of removal belongs to the Padre Isles Property Owners Association and in the past they hired contractors to pull them up on boat ramps and cut them up with chain saws and put them in dumpsters with payment coming in the form of the value of lead in the keels. But alas, the bottom fell out of the lead market and the value is no longer worth the work.

Around cont. on A4

Where do the tourists stay? *Hotel Occupancy Tax numbers tell the story*

By Dale Rankin

When visitors come to The Island and rent overnight lodging they leave a footprint of their movement in the form of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) charged for each night by hotels, motels, and increasingly in short-term rental units.

The visitors pay a HOT of nine percent to the City of Corpus Christi and an additional state tax of six percent for a total of fifteen percent. To find where they stay we looked through records of the state HOT in the Texas Comptroller's Office where the state's portion of the HOT is recorded.

The numbers included here are for gross revenue and some of the numbers are the aggregate sum of multiple units which are booked through a single source, while many of the short-term rentals are booked directly by the unit's owners. The numbers included here reflect HOT receipts for the second quarter of 2025 in the 78418 area code and only for locations south of Packery Channel with the exception of Lively Beach on Zahn Road. We will have HOT numbers for Nueces County in future issues.

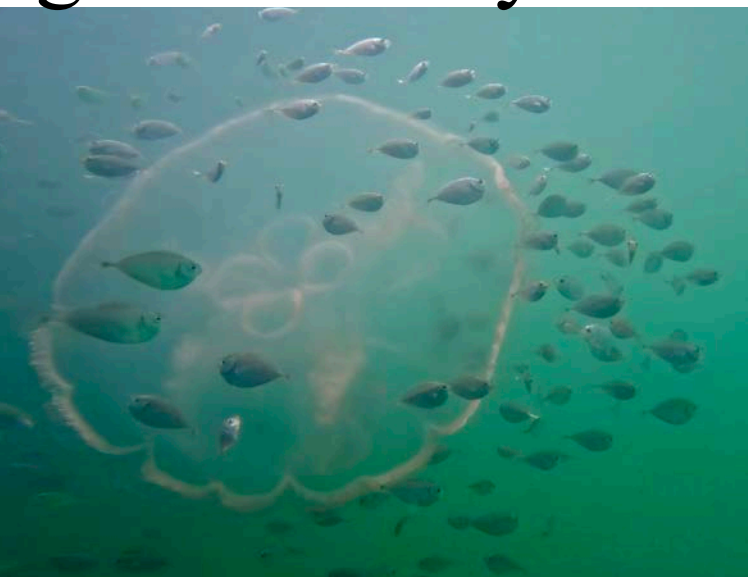
While complete numbers for the 2025 fiscal year are not yet available, traditionally the HOT each year raises about \$20 million in

Beachcombing Report: Swarming Moon Jellyfish

By Jace Tunnell

If you've been walking the docks or launching a boat around Port Aransas this past week, chances are you've seen one of nature's most mesmerizing spectacles — thousands of moon jellyfish filling the marinas. The water has been so clear that it felt like peering into a giant aquarium, with layer upon layer of translucent, pulsing jellies drifting beneath the surface.

Moon jellies are one of the most common jellyfish species along the Texas coast, recognized by their round, saucer-shaped bodies and



Schools of fish swimming around Moon Jellyfish

Beachcombing cont. on page A5

Out with the old...



Officials from the Texas General Land Office removed abandoned sailboats from the JFK Bridge area.


A little Island history Civil War Battle on Padre Island *Yanks and Rebs squared off at the end of Whitecap*

By Greg Smith

The historical marker that went up on Padre Island this week commemorated the battle between Confederate and Union forces on Padre Island on December 7, 1862. It began when two Union cutters under Ensign Alfred Reynolds chased the Confederate Texas Schooner, *Queen of the Bay* up Corpus Christi Pass close to the where the Beach Club Condo's are located on Whitecap Blvd today. The Rebels under Captain John Ireland had beached the *Queen* and fled to the dunes that lined the pass.

Seven sharpshooters from Seguin

In a matter of minutes from the time the Confederates fled the *Queen* the Union sailors closed the gap and prepared to capture the Rebel schooner. Then only thirty yards away from their quarry flashes of fire and black powder smoke suddenly erupted from the nearby sand hills as



Type of schooner used in Padre Island Civil War clash

History cont. on A4

By the numbers Island Hotel, Motel, Short-Term Rental gross revenues Jan.-March 2025

Editor's note: The following dollar numbers come from the Texas Comptroller's Office and show gross revenues as reported for the Hotel Occupancy Tax in the 74819 Zip Code for the Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 (January 1-March 31).

\$1,314,837 Wyndham Hotel (Monarch Island)

\$404,390 15202 Windward Dr. Monarch Island (filed separately)

\$960,293 Lively Beach (Zahn Rd.)

\$820,177 Holiday Inn Express & Suites across Windward Dr. from Wyndham Hotel

\$595,532 Executive Residency by Best Western

\$722,418 Gulfstream Council of Co-owners

\$611,692 Island House

\$595,532 Executive Residency 9305 SPID

\$441,016 Candlewood Suites 9225 SPID (OTB)

\$312,692 Best Western Padre Island

\$382,578 Hawthorn Suites 15209 Windward Dr.

\$166,912 Firefly Resort Coastal Bend (Flour Bluff)

\$88,110 La Quinta Island 14430 SPID

\$95,676 Hawthorn Suites 15201 Windward Dr.

\$79,330 Monterey Motel 15705 SPID

\$33,281 1430 Aloha Street. Puente Vista Vacation Resorts International

\$61,220 Plaza Motel

\$48,454 Gateway Motel Flour Bluff

Single Units Short-Term Rental

\$23,629 El Constante highest grossing unit

\$23,566 Gulfstream highest grossing unit

\$23,494 Bluff's Landing Marina and Lodge

\$20,998 Our Beach Times highest grossing unit on Bonasse Ct.

\$23,108 Our Beach Times 15102 Boca Grande Dr.

\$21,603 Padre Motel

\$21,407 Cruiser St. highest grossing unit

\$20,998 Bonasse Ct. highest grossing unit

\$20,604 Pirates Landing highest grossing unit

\$16,629 Cottage House 14890 Granada Dr. highest grossing unit

\$13,882 Padre Beach View condos 15202 Beach Way Dr. (Windward Dr.) highest grossing unit

Numbers cont. on page A3



Caught September 23, 10 year-old Myles with his grandfathers and dad. He kept saying I can't do this but we just hung onto his life jacket from behind and he did 100% of the work. 42," 34 pound redfish. We're in from Colorado and had a fantastic time in Port A.

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Join Valray on the front lawn for a toning dance and defense class. Great for all ages, and offered on a weekly basis at 6PM.

TUESDAYS

CANAL TOURS

Learn more about the community with a guided tour through the canal by boat. Scheduled by appointment.

WEDNESDAYS

TAI CHI & CHAI TEA

Immerse yourself in the serene sway of the palms on our front lawn as you embark on a revitalizing Tai Chi class with Grand Master Mark. Sip on a deliciously brewed Chai Tea from local Coffee Waves. Class and glass of tea available weekly at 6PM.

THURSDAYS

CAPTAIN'S RESERVE

Pairing an island favorite, the Padre Island Cigar Company, with a night of cigars on the deck or dock alongside a tasting in partnership with Vida Cana Rum. Starting October 2nd at 6:30PM.

PI FARMERS MARKET

Offered on the third Thursday of the month, with live music and local vendors on our front lawn from 4-7PM.

Whitecap Community Events

SATURDAYS

SUNRISE YOGA

Wake up at Whitecap with a guided sunrise yoga class on our front lawn or deck at 7AM.

SUNDAYS

BAYVIEW BRUSH & BAR

Join us for an evening of inspiration on the front deck. Paint alongside an instructor from the Padre Island Art Gallery. Embrace the coastal colors while sipping your beverage of choice. Offered bi-weekly at 4PM.

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The Island's New Historical Marker

Photos by Dale Rankin



Dunn Ranch descendent Greg Smith reads the contents of the marker at Packery Channel Park on Saturday.

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from open to close

History cont. from A1

Rebel Captain Ireland gave the order to fire to his seven sharpshooters from Seguin. Consternation broke out on the two Yankee cutters with the whiz of bullets, the near misses screeching by, splashing in the water, the deafening sound as bullets clanged off the iron hull of one cutter and the sickening thud of musket ball striking flesh.

Ensign Reynolds gave the order to turn from pursuit and head to the middle of the channel as the hunters became the hunted. Trying to return fire and reload the muzzle loading muskets from the rocking and crowded boats amidst their wounded and dying comrades the Union sailors shortly decided to make for the opposite shoreline; quickly leaving their cutters as they struck the bottom of the Mustang shore, taking only their muskets, leaving all other equipment in the bottom of the cutters along with two seamen, Nicholson and Cowen, dead from wounds in the head and chest.

Yankees take cover at Boathouse location

Out of musket range on the Mustang side the battered sailors watched the sand hills on the opposite shore for activity. (While this was Mustang Island in 1862 it is now in the vicinity of the current Brewster Street Icehouse on Leeward Drive.) One of the sharp shooting Confederate farm boys decided to take a long shot, aiming eight feet over one of the Yankee lads and several feet to the right for windage he then pulled the trigger. Ensign Reynolds dropped to the ground, hit for the second time by a combination of marksmanship and luck.



IM Noakes Painting of the Civil War Battle on the Island

Around cont. from A1

Also under the bridge the Packery Bar & Grill has shuttered its doors for a few days to repair a water leak and the business is also undergoing some ownership changes. It may be open as soon as Saturday, October 4 if the paperwork moves forward. It is a temporary closure and expect some improvements to the facility as the new owners take over.

Lights out...

We have had occasional power outages along the west side of SPID in recent weeks as AEP works to upgrade the Island power grid. This week the work was along Jackfish Ave. where crews strung new cable and installed new switch gear, according to an AEP spokesman. The work is part of a months-long effort that is ongoing.

October events

As longtime Islanders know October is the month for events *Around The Island* and this October is no exception. It kicks off this weekend with the Texas Sealife Center Sea Turtle Festival at Briscoe King Pavilion. It raises money for Dr. Tim and the

Quickly the Federal sailors scurried behind some small dunes to the north. With their commander seriously hurt, three dead and two others bleeding from wounds, their boats in range of Rebel fire things got worse. The wind picked up and the cutters unsecured from the quick flight started drifting toward the Confederate position. With this helpless position the decision was made to start a long march back to the *Sachem* on the other side of Port Aransas with nothing but their muskets and carrying their injured comrades. Twelve hours later, at midnight the Federals finally arrived at the *Sachem*, exhausted and defeated from a day that began with the hope of triumph and prize money. The surgeon was called from the ship *Arthur* to tend to the wounded. Ensign Reynolds who had risen through the ranks from seaman to officer and acted bravely in this and previous fights was one more victim of that tragic conflict.

Rebels take Yankee ships

Meanwhile the Confederates secured the two Yankee cutters and the body of the civilian guide, Peter Baxter who died on the Mustang shore. With the boats in tow they made their way back to Corpus Christi, landing at nine that evening, a victory to report to the inhabitants of the blockaded and choked off town.

The Confederate commander Captain John Ireland ended the war as Lt. Colonel. He was later elected to the Texas House where he was responsible for the legislation creating the University of Texas and in 1882 elected Governor.

good folks over at the Texas Sealife Center so get out and support them if you can but watch out for Turtleman as he can be cantankerous when he comes out of his shell.

The Babes on Baffin Women's Fishing Tournament takes to the water at Marker 37 Marina on Saturday, October 10 and there is still time to register.

Also on October 10 the 42nd Annual Pig Party happens at Shorty's Place in Port Aransas. The event celebrates the Oldest and Friendliest spot in town and runs through the weekend. It got its name from Mrs. Rose's collection of model pigs and if you have never been to one it is a chance to soak up some local flavor.

On Thursday, October 9, the Stars, Stripes, and Support event happens at Mansion Royal, 8001 SPID, to raise money for local veterans groups. Tickets are still available.

That's all for now everybody, it's the time of pigs and sailboats hereabouts so get out there and take your pig for a sail and in the meantime say hello if you see us Around The Island.



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

For the first ten years of the Island Moon the paper was printed in Kingsville. When I first began writing for the paper in 2000 Mike Ellis, who started the paper in 1996, told me that if he added pages to an edition he had to cut down on the number of copies he printed because there was a railroad track in Kingsville between the print shop and the highway. Before I could walk through his logic he explained that if he added pages the added weight would smoke the tires on Pete's truck when he went over the tracks.

The paper was done the old world way then by physically taping the copy down on newspaper-sized pages and driving them to Kingsville, the same way we did the *University Star* in San Marcos back before Al Gore invented the internet. When I took over the paper in 2007 I did one issue that way before moving to the digital process that we still use today. At that time there were presses in San Antonio, Victoria, Beeville, Port Lavaca, New Braunfels, Brownsville, and McAllen and I talked to them all looking for the best deal.

Eventually we outgrew the Kingsville press and they later shut down their presses and sold them for scrap. We moved our printing to Victoria where the *Victoria Advocate* was printing seven days per week but the Corpus Christi *Caller-Times* kept after me to print with them and it would cut down on the cost of getting the papers from Victoria to The Island. But the *Caller-Times* press could not print the full-width 26-inch broadsheet which I preferred so I resisted for several years until the *Advocate* scrapped their presses and began printing at the *Caller-Times* and I followed suit. That worked well when we switched from a fortnightly to a weekly in January 2012 and each Thursday I would drive to the *Caller-Times* building and load up a ton of news print in the back of my pickup and meet Pete under the bridge in Flour Bluff and load them into his truck for delivery.

I watched over the years as the well-worn presses at the *Caller-Times* got creakier and creakier and crews had to machine make replacement parts because they couldn't buy new parts for presses that old. Then one day when I rolled up at the *Caller-Times* the pressmen informed me that they were shutting down their presses and selling them for scrap. I was starting to see a pattern.

I looked around for an alternative and there weren't too many. The *San Antonio Express-News* had spent north of \$200 million on state-of-the-art presses just a few years before but was shutting down their printing operation to print at the *Houston Chronicle* since both were owned by Hearst. More metal for the scrap yard. The *Houston Post* had closed its doors a few years before and sold their presses to a Chinese owner who planned to put them on a ship and print magazines while the ship was en route from China and the on-board workers would sort and insert pieces for delivery in the U.S. That plan never materialized as the truck hauling them overturned in Dallas scattering them along the freeway and sending them to the scrap yard. A metaphor if ever there was one.

By the time the *Caller-Times* shut down their presses most of the printing operations around Texas were gone. Print work concentrated in a few hubs around the state and we ended up printing in McAllen where the paper you hold in your hands was printed. But this week came the news that the building that houses the presses in McAllen sold and the presses there are headed to the scrap yard and the printing operation is now moving to Mexico. So starting a few weeks from now the printed copy of the *Island Moon* will be delivered from across the border. The *Island Moon* is going international!

I am often asked how we are able to print a free paper each week and the answer is through advertising. I have considered charging a small price for each issue but over the years I have watched as many of my friends in the newspaper business have gone that route only to spend most of their time trying to hire delivery people. I asked a friend who had a weekly in Oak Hills west of Austin how he decided who to hire and he said, "I hire people with small hands, because who can resist sticking both hands into a bag of quarters and filling their pockets?"

We have many more readers online now than print readers, largely because of the migratory nature of life on The Island. People who come down find the paper and read online, and seldom a day goes by when someone doesn't call asking to get a paid subscription and have a copy mailed to them. They still like to have a product they can hold in their hands and so we soldier on here at the Word Factory cranking out enough pages each week to provide the heft needed to swat the averaged-sized Island horse fly.

I have had several delivery people over the years but in the end I prefer to do it myself. It gets me out of the office and keeps me in touch with people. Each Thursday morning we do a two-hour live radio show from Doc's then I head to Kingsville to pick up papers for delivery – just like it was back in 1996 but instead of going to a print shop I go to a door in back of the Tractor Supply where the papers are delivered. Now, with them coming from Mexico I may end up on the wrong end of a smuggling investigation! So thank everyone for reading and supporting our advertisers. As they say...we'll see you in the funny papers... Gas y sigue leyendo.



Old presses at the Caller Times



A truckload of words at the Caller Times Press



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Nature Notes

Purple Gallinules and American Lotus

By Celeste Silling



Purple Gallinule and American Lotus by Celeste Silling

If you have never seen a Purple Gallinule, now is the perfect time to visit Brazos Bend State Park to see one. The boardwalk at the State Park’s “40 Acre Lake” reliably hosts these birds as well as Common Gallinules and other waterbirds.

Purple Gallinules are perhaps some of the whimsical-looking birds on the Upper Texas Coast. Their feathers are an iridescent purple, with shades of blues, blacks, and greens mixed in. Their beaks are bright red with a neon yellow tip. Their feet are bright yellow as well, and have incredibly long toes. The toes allow them to spread their weight out over a large surface, so that they can walk and run over lily pads and other aquatic vegetation without sinking! Overall, they look like a child’s drawing of a fantastical bird come to life.

Purple Gallinules live in freshwater marshes, especially those with lily pads or other floating vegetation. At the state Park, they make use of the American Lotus lily pads that float on the lakes. The gallinules will use these pads to walk around the lakes looking for food. They eat an omnivorous diet of spiders, beetles, and other bugs along with flowers, leaves, seeds and fruits. Handily, they eat water hyacinth, which is an invasive floating flower that plagues lakes and bayous in our area.

A favorite treat of the Purple Gallinule is the fruit and seeds of the American Lotus. The American Lotus is a native aquatic

water lily with pale yellow flowers and flat round leaves that umbrella on or above the water. Their seed/fruit pods are cone-shaped with holes on the top surface. The Purple Gallinules will tear at the seed pods with their beaks, peeling them like an orange, and using their long toes to hold the peel aside. Then, they will pluck the small yellow fruits from inside and eat them or feed them to their chicks.

The seeds and fruits of the American Lotus can also be a delicious snack for us humans! The young seeds can be eaten like peas, and the mature seeds can be popped like popcorn. This plant was eaten by Native Americans across the U.S., as its range is quite vast. Of course, the American Lotuses at Brazos Bend State Park are reserved for the wildlife (don’t take them!) but if you find these plants elsewhere, you might consider researching some ways to prepare and eat them.

The Purple Gallinule nesting season is coming to a close, and many of them have chicks now. It’s fascinating to watch the parents lead their babies around the lily pads, or peel lotus fruits for them to eat. If you watch and listen closely, you can hear the parents clucking at their chicks to keep them in line. At Brazos Bend, as with all wildlife viewing, be sure to be quite and move slowly, so as not to scare the birds away. Hopefully you will get to see these amazing birds and plants up close and in the wild!



Beachcombing cont. from A1



Swarming moon jellies

four distinct horseshoe-shaped gonads visible in the center. While their sting is mild to humans, they play an important role in the marine food web — serving as prey for turtles, fish, and even other jellyfish.

This week, the scene was especially lively. Green sea turtles cruised through the marinas, gliding effortlessly among the jellies and occasionally stopping to snack. Meanwhile, small schools of baitfish took advantage of the drifting jellyfish as floating shields. At times it looked like the fish were buzzing around the jellies like a swarm of bees, darting in and out for protection while larger predatory fish circled close behind.

I had my GoPro camera in the water to capture the action, and the footage turned out stunning. The clear water made it possible to watch the entire drama unfold with the gentle pulsing of the jellies, the turtles weaving between them, and the small fish frantically hiding among their gelatinous umbrellas. It was one of those rare moments when all the pieces of the ecosystem

seemed to come together in one small corner of the marina.

I put together this week’s Beachcombing video to showcase the spectacle and titled it Swarming Moon Jellies. What might look like a simple swarm of jellyfish provides food, shelter, and opportunity for a variety of creatures.

So, if you’re near the water in the coming days, take a moment to look down. You might just witness a mesmerizing dance of moon jellies, turtles, and fish which is a reminder of the beauty and complexity of life on the Gulf Coast. Jace Tunnell is the Director of Community Engagement for the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His Beachcombing series appears on YouTube and you can follow Jace at harterresearch.org, or Facebook (facebook.com/harterresearch), Instagram (@harterresearch) and X (@HarteResearch) (the platform formerly known as Twitter).



Green Sea Turtle swimming around the moon jellyfish



Least Flycatcher



Male Wilson's Warbler

Female Wilson's Warbler

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State News

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

State Representative Todd Hunter, District 32

Each year, the month of October is recognized as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Spearheaded by the National Breast Cancer Foundation, this annual initiative serves to raise awareness about breast cancer and offer support to those impacted by the disease. The National Breast Cancer Foundation estimates that there will be 316,950 new cases of breast cancer in 2025. Breast cancer is also the second most common cancer in women behind skin cancer. Furthermore, 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Given these statistics, I would like to use this week's article to share information about breast cancer risks and warning signs as well as the important role cancer screenings and early detection play in fighting the disease.

Breast cancer occurs when malignant cells grow in the tissue of the breast. These cells sometimes form into a tumor, which can be felt as a new lump or mass in the breast. While this new lump, along with other unusual changes, may indicate the presence of cancerous cells, breast cancer does not always present physical symptoms in the earliest stages of the disease. According to the American Cancer Society, however, cancer found at an early stage – when it is small and has not spread – is easier to treat. For this reason, screening exams, such as mammograms, are key to finding cancers before they start to cause symptoms, known as early detection.

Breast cancer screenings are recommended for all women beginning after the age of 40. However, individuals with a higher risk of the disease may need to be screened earlier and more often. There are several key factors that are used in determining a person's risk level of developing breast cancer, such as age, ethnicity, and family history. While some men, especially those with a genetic history of the disease, have a risk of breast cancer, women represent 99 percent of all breast cancer cases and have a significantly higher risk of breast cancer than men. In addition to this, the American Cancer Society



states lifestyle also plays an important role in determining a person's risk level. These factors can include weight, alcohol and tobacco use, physical activity level and diet.

To learn more about this important awareness month, you can visit the National Breast Cancer Foundation website here: <https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-facts/>. More information about the National Cancer Institute's research can be found here: <https://www.cancer.gov/types/breast>. Additionally, for information about the different symptoms and risk factors for breast cancer, please review the American Cancer Society's guide here: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer/about/what-is-breast-cancer.html>

If you have questions regarding any of the information mentioned in this week's article, please do not hesitate to call my Capitol or District Office. Please always feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or issues regarding a Texas state agency, or if you would like to contact my office regarding constituent services. As always, my offices are available at any time to assist with questions, concerns, or comments (Capitol Office, 512-463-0672; District Office, 361-949-4603).

- State Representative Todd Hunter, District 32

Rep. Hunter represents Aransas County and part of Nueces County. He can be contacted at todd.hunter@house.texas.gov or at 512-463-0672.

Fair and Uniform Windstorm Coverage Texas Coastal Windstorm Task Force Chairman

Editor's note: The following letter was sent to the Island Moon prior to the passage of the House Bill cited. The legislation mentioned here was subsequently passed and is now law. We print it here for informative purposes and thank Chairman Zahn for his work on Windstrom over the the past 12 years.

In 2012 Chairman Todd Hunter formed a task force made up of residents, businesses, organizations and municipalities in the 14 counties on the Texas Coast to study the mismanagement of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) in the handling of claims for the catastrophic losses from Hurricane Ike when it hit Galveston Texas on September 13, 2012. The Texas Coastal Windstorm Task Force was charged with developing needed changes and regulations that could make windstorm coverage on the Texas Coast uniformly and fairly applied to Coastal policies like other types of policies are applied throughout Texas.

The September 4, 2011 fire in Bastrop County caused \$350 million dollars worth of insured damage. Premiums for fire and allied lines of insurance policies from all over Texas including mine paid the claims from that fire. Similarly, premiums for fire and allied lines of insurance policies from all over Texas including mine paid the claims for the fires this past year in the Texas Panhandle.

During the past 12 years the Task Force has worked with the Texas Legislature to provide coastal representation on the TWIA Board of Directors, strengthened the claims adjustment policies and stopped the actions that created unnecessary litigation.

Over the past 3 years the Task Force has worked with the insurance industry to develop a funding mechanism that would be uniformly and fairly applied to windstorm coverage such as fire and allied lines are. This session of the legislature we have worked with Chairman Hunter to develop HB 3689 which in my opinion fulfils the charge given to the Task Force a dozen tears ago. HB 3689 addresses 2 major concerns that still exist. The first is to replace public securities (debt) with state-funded financing for TWIA

to cover excess losses and operating expenses. Public securities are a loan to TWIA that is paid off over a period of time from current year's premiums. Ordinarily these current year's premiums would go into a reserve fund (Catastrophe Reserve Trust Fund) to pay current year losses. Since the funds have been used in the past to pay debt, they are not available to cover the current year's losses.

The bill authorizes the State of Texas to provide loans or financing arrangements as an investment. The Comptroller today has the authority to invest state and enterprise funds under the Government Code. The aggregate funding would be limited to up to \$500 million in pre-event financing and up to \$1 billion in post-event financing from available state money rather than from securities.

The second is to create catastrophic surcharges to repay the state-funded financing. The state-funded financing must be repaid in 3 years, has an interest rate based on fed funds rate plus 2%, and would be secured by catastrophe hurricane charges.

Catastrophe Hurricane Surcharges require all property insurers to collect and remit the surcharges to support future coastal insurance losses. Surcharges apply to all fire and allied lines, farm and ranch owner's policies written, residential property insurance, and the property insurance portion of commercial multi-pearl policies. It is estimated that the surcharge percentage to repay the state financing would be 3% or less. HB 3689 will finally provide those of us who live and work on the Texas Coast windstorm coverage that applies to us in the same manner as all other insurance coverages apply to those that don't live on the Texas Coast. We would ask that you tell your legislative representatives that this legislation benefits you and for them to support this legislation when it comes to the floor of the Texas Senate and House of Representatives.

Charles W. Zahn, Jr.
Texas Coastal Windstorm Task Force
Chairman

The Art of Island Life

Feeling the Difference of Fall



By Melissa Mitchell

On Padre Island, the change of seasons doesn't arrive with the blaze of color so many of us picture when we think of autumn. Our palm trees don't turn red, and there are no piles of leaves to crunch underfoot. But the season still stirs something in me. Fall is more a feeling than a forecast—an inward shift toward warmth, comfort, and a slower pace.

Before moving here, I lived in a home surrounded by oak trees. Each year, their leaves would blanket the yard in shades of gold, russet, and crimson. I don't miss the endless raking, but I do miss the beauty. That memory was what inspired me to create my painting, *Swirling Leaves*—an abstract tumble of autumn tones caught in motion. It was my way of capturing the movement of the season, that sense of change you can almost feel in the air.

The Story of Swirling Leaves

I painted this piece before I made the Island my home, but recently someone told me it remains one of their favorites. The piece itself sold to a collector a few years ago, yet its spirit continues to swirl on in notecards I've created from the image. For me, it captures the heart of autumn—the beauty of change, the fleeting moment you want to hold onto just a little longer. Even though the Island doesn't give us the fiery treetops of other regions, we can still bring that warmth inside—through art, memory, and simple rituals.

Bringing Fall Inside

Here on the Island, when rain does fall, I lean into that cozy mood—curling up with a book and a cup of coffee, letting the sound of rainfall soften the day. Sometimes I light a candle scented with cinnamon or clove, just to add to the atmosphere. At the gallery, we've found our own ways to welcome fall, too. You'll see paintings of pumpkins, cotton stems, and autumn florals—little reminders that even if the trees outside stay green, we can still surround ourselves with the season. A simple tablescape, a small painting on the wall, or a notecard tucked into a frame on a tabletop or bookshelf can carry autumn's warmth indoors.

And of course, I lean into fall in the kitchen as well. Pumpkin spice everything? Yes, I am one of those. And, Island Joe's on the Island just released their fall menu—with a Pumpkin Spice Latte! Yum!

For me, it's not just about the flavor. The smell of cinnamon, nutmeg, and ginger wafting through the house instantly says *fall has arrived*, even if the palm trees outside don't get the message.

Pumpkin Spice Mini Muffins

One of the things I love most about this season is baking, and I want to share one of my favorites with you—pumpkin spice

mini muffins. Soft, spiced, and perfect for sharing, they've become a little tradition in my home each fall. They rarely last long once they come out of the oven, and are a welcomed addition to any fall gathering.

This isn't a recipe I pulled from a book—it's one I created in my own kitchen, born out of a love for the season. A swirl of cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, and pumpkin came together to capture the flavors I crave when the air cools and the days grow cozier.

Fresh from the oven, they fill the whole house with that unmistakable fragrance of fall—warm spice, a hint of sweetness, and the comfort of home.

Snap the QR code or visit my blog at melissamitchellart.com to get your copy of the recipe.



Autumn in the Heart

So while we may not rake leaves or watch the treetops turn, fall is still here. It's in the art we make, the flavors we savor, and the small comforts that remind us that change can be beautiful—even when it looks a little different on the coast.

And maybe that's the lesson of Fall on the Island: this season may not be something we wait to see, but it's something we can create.

The *Art of Island Life* will return next week with more stories and inspiration from our coastal community. Have a story to share or an upcoming event? Reach out to me at melissa@padreislandartgallery.com.



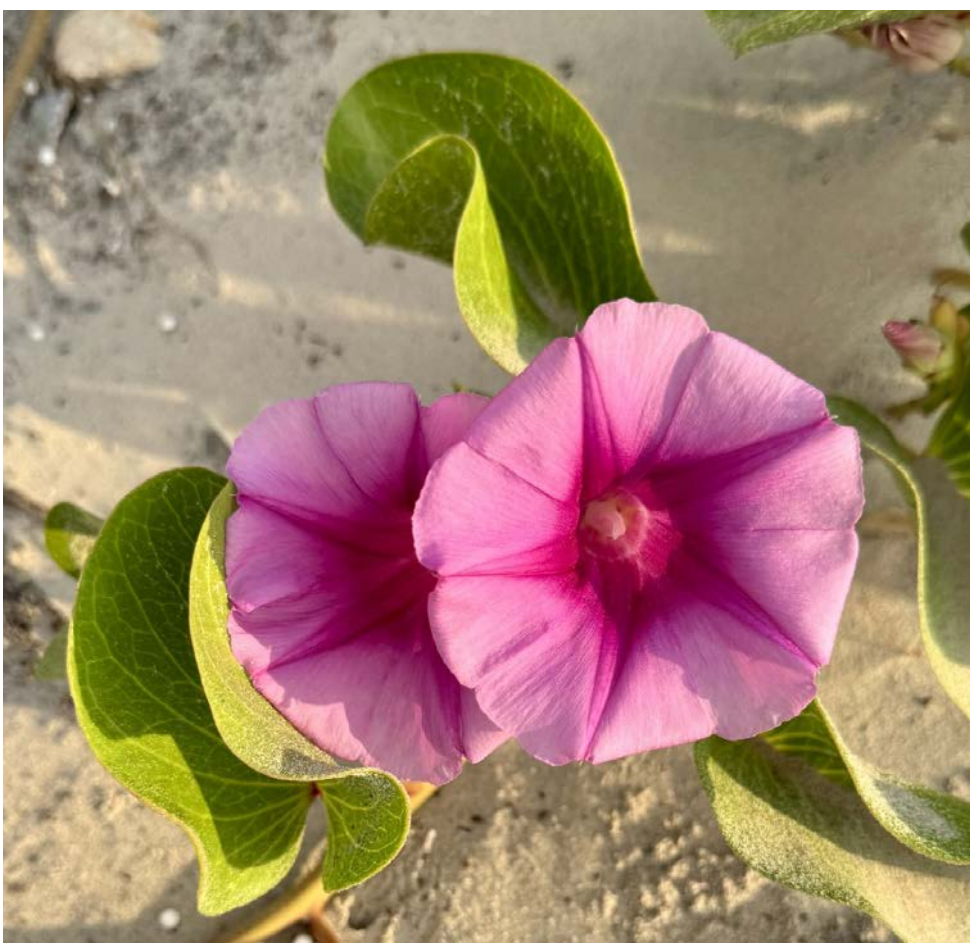
Swirling Leaves - Artwork by Melissa Mitchell



Hummingbirds By Riekie Roncinske



Berry picking time, one in the bucket and one in the mouth. Northern Mockingbird By Riekie Roncinske



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15209 SPID #802 2BR/2BH Fully furnished, with tropical coastal style. New A/C and fresh paint. Near dining, shopping & most importantly the beach! Resort style pool, clubhouse, and BBQ pits. Ideal getaway or rental! **\$229,500** Call **Kim Mogford** 361-434-8522



14911 Packery View Loop 2/3 @ 1,168 sq ft. Looking for that GREAT beach getaway? Don't miss out on this priced to sell townhome. Sleeps 10+, poolside, short walk to the beach! **\$327,000** Call **Tinker Boos** 361-563-6641



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15402 Dyna New design by Steve's Homes 4/3/2 plus study on a large corner lot with room for a pool for a pool. **\$585,000** Call **Cindy Molnar** 361-549-5557 for a preview!



14904 Village Beach Dr. Village by the Beach 1BR/1BTH selling fully furnished, turnkey, and ready to rent or use. Open concept with a charming coastal vibe. Heated pool. 5min walk to the beach. **\$279,900** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914



15306 Yardarm Ct 3/2/2 @ 1,486 sq ft. Beautiful waterfront home with east facing backyard for great afternoon shade. Covered boat lift. **\$519,995** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



2317 Nautical Wind Dr. Very nice Southside location, one owner home with open floor plan offering 1456 sqft of living space. 3bed/2bth/2 car garage with large fully fenced in yard **\$269,900** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



13941 Flintlock New by Steves's Homes 4/3/2 with inground pool, open floor plan, and ready for move in! **\$610,000** Call **Cindy Molnar** 361-549-5557 for a preview!



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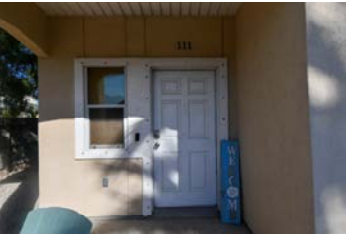
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14905 Packery View Loop Priced to sell! 3/2 @ 1,168 sq ft. Comes completely furnished w/coastal décor as well as washer and dryer. Walk to beach! Sleeps 10+ **\$327,000** Call **Tinker Boos** 361-563-6641



14428 Compass St. Unit #204 1BR/1BTH waterfront condo at the popular Mystic Harbor. Selling fully furnished and is equipped with all new hurricane rated windows/doors. First come first serve boat slip access **\$189,000** Call **Randy Corpuz**



14861 SPID #111 Village by the Greens is a centrally located island townhouse with an open floor plan, split bedrooms, quartz countertops, and an EV charger in garage! Can be used as a perfect vacation rental! **\$189,000** **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



15642 Cruiser Units A & B Calling all investors! Multi-family duplex 3 bedroom, 2 bath, units each, with a 2 car garage. **\$682,500** Call **Cindy Molnar** 361-549-5557 for details or to preview!

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Island Outdoors



By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks

Last week we left you loyal readers off as we were walking out the door to head to the north side of the Island across the ferry to try and find the beach. It was a long bicycle ride after the other side of the ferry, only to find Bliss Beach closed for the season. Sonja found a little path through the jungle however, and we found a nice cozy spot to get in and cool off, and do a bit of snorkeling. We headed back south and found a new beach bar run by a Canadian ex-pat named Desmond and his wife. The place was new, and they were very nice and fun. The best places we found were the small places off the beaten path. There's a lesson there.

Since the person that was supposed to bring the rods didn't make the trip, we had to get creative because there are no stores there with fishing gear of any consequence. They had fishing line and hooks at most stores however, and we had to get creative. I had seen kids and folks in Mexico and other places using beer bottles with line wrapped around them as "fishing poles." I found some perfect hooks and line, and we fashioned our own poles for fishing off the dock. The bonefish and tarpon would swim by the pier in regular intervals, and we just couldn't help ourselves.

Lily was a bit clunky learning this new fishing method, but she finally got to where she could get the shrimp out into the water in front of the fish and was the first to strike a bonefish and actually get it to the dock. Her's was the perfect size for landing and releasing, and then I got absolutely smoked by a four-pounder that made me feel I was on the back of a bronco. I eventually wrangled one in, and we both caught our first bonefish; and using a beer bottle for a rod. People spend thousands on fly fishing equipment and travel chasing these fish, and we used a Belikin bottle off a dock. HA!

We spent the rest of our time exploring closer to home and found the beach on the back side where they feed the stingrays in the afternoon, and these behemoths were very friendly. We ate the local restaurants and drank the locally made spirits. Somewhere between there we opened our computers and got a few things done despite the



Me with a bonefish

pull to go outside and play. Time ran out too quickly as it always does, and the ferry ride back to Belize City and points north was bittersweet.

Ex Assistant City Manager Heather Hurlburt reached out to me the other day as she saw my article about Caye Caulker, and evidently her and her husband are big fans. We may try and muster a few groups to head back down that way next year, and I already can't wait. There will be a return trip to the Caye. And the fireworks show will be one minute longer next year, so we have that going for us.

There's a lot going on here on the Island coming up, starting with the CCA Babes on Baffin Ladies Fishing next weekend at Marker 37. Online sign-up is over, but you can still sign up on Friday evening if you want to fish. Check out the babesonbaffin.org website for more details. The next weekend will be Commissioner Chesney's Sandcastle run. The weekend after that will be the 21st annual Sharkathon fishing tournament on October 24th. Check out sharkathon.com for more details on this event. And the weekend after that will be the Friends of Padre Fall Fiesta at the Briscoe King Pavilion. There's a lot going on and my calendar is full. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you here next week On the Rocks.



Sonja with a few stingrays



Lily with a bonefish caught on a handline from a bottle

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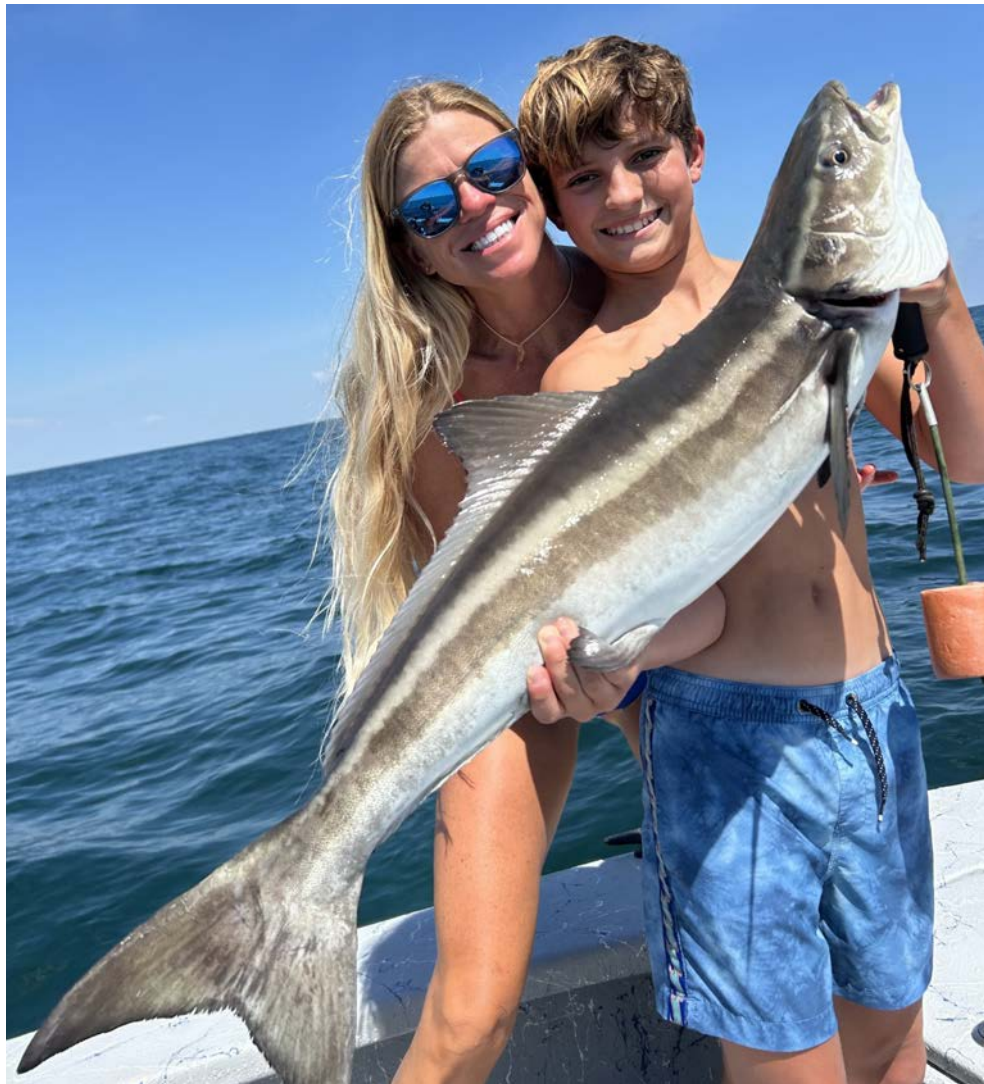
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By Joey Farah

Backwater Adventures

The Onset of Seasonal Change



Keegan and Codie brought this gorgeous LING COBIA up from the close Riggs off of PACKERY this last weekend when the seas were light. 10lb test line and a light action trout rod! What a fight!

Crimson sky's and the distant dark clouds hid the peaking sun's eye. The winds charged from the west and blew the scent of the oak Motts out over Baffin Bay. I could feel fall taking a step into the door. The first few hours of that day were magical, birds alive with dives and plucking bait from the surface. Schools of tiny minnows gathered in tight groups along the shoreline as we tossed lures among the rocks. Most casts received the plucks of multiple trout attacking our plastics. A long cast with the big topwater crashed what seemed to be out of sight, and rolled back and forth over the waves. The second cast and I was already day dreaming, bringing myself up into the brush of the Kennedy Ranch. Hunting and the Call of the Wild had taken over. A familiar sound of the plug cracking the water and my eyes caught the entire body of the redfish up in the air. She crashed down with it in the side of her face, and bolted for the horizon. That vision against the red morning sky has fueled me for weeks since our first little cool snap. I'm looking forward to the change over the next few weeks into fall and winter, and so are the gamefish.

Water temperatures have already dropped almost ten degrees in a three week period, headed down to those CRAZY 70's! When the water dips down a hair more then the urgency of winter starts knocking on everyone's door. The importance of building body reserves is life and death for mature gamefish in the Laguna Madre and Baffin Bay. Bait will start to settle in zones of the bay that harbor the bases of the food chain though the winter. They are zones that include deep water refuge nearby, shallow mud bottoms, gravelly sand, and grass flats.

These places will offer everything in a small area so that precious energy is not burned to travel back and forth when temperatures rise and fall. As strong cold fronts come in, fish may move deep to avoid cold snaps. Up until January the deep water will be warmer, but as cold water pushes down it will eventually flip and gamefish and bait will start to chase the warm. Jeremy's in the shallows as the daytime sun warms the flats. For the next few months watch as bait moves out of the flats. And the cold snaps light the local fishing on fire! November is by far my favorite month of the year. The FALL TROUT SPAWN will be a great opportunity to land your trophy of a lifetime with very little traffic on the water. Fish will group together and feed with an urgency.

MARKER 37 REPORTS

LIVE BAIT is still available with croaker working well down south in Baffin Bay and the land cut, piggy perch bringing in the best stringers of trout and reds in the Laguna Madre. Live shrimp are becoming more consistent at the bait shop and working great while drifting the edges of Baffin Bay, the rocks of Baffin, and the land cut. If you are ready to position yourself to take advantage of all the great fall fishing come rent a boat sling so you can just drive up, park, and step into the boat!

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Lily Hammond caught her first saltwater keeper here on the Island after moving here from Ohio this summer. The Island Melting Pot.



Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

Forgiveness is hard. Really hard. When we witness forgiveness offered in a public setting relating to a serious crime or accident it touches us deep inside our souls.

Several years ago in Dallas, a young police officer entered the wrong apartment when returning home. Upon entering she encountered the resident of that apartment, a young Black man. Thinking he was an intruder, she shot and killed him.

She was convicted by a jury for murder. It was during the sentencing part of the trial when the unexpected happened. The man's brother publicly forgave the woman. He went further. He requested the opportunity to hug her. They hugged, and it was said there was not a dry eye in the courtroom. Forgiveness is hard and we know how vital it is.

When Jesus taught his followers to pray, he included a petition about forgiveness. Followers pray to receive forgiveness from God. They also are to pray to forgive others. Our forgiveness is made real and whole in the forgiveness of those who wrong us. Without forgiveness there is no future.

Whenever and wherever people exist together, forgiveness is a necessity. The ties of life that bind friends, family, neighbors, community, nation, and the world unravel so easily and so often because of the inability to seek forgiveness or give forgiveness. Anger, resentment, and bitterness inevitably follow. Mutual destruction looms. These things when left alone cause us to continually re-feel the pain, and the cycle continues. We hold on to these feelings thinking we are punishing the other. However, it is as if we drink poison and hope the other person dies.

We would like to think that forgiveness of another can come easily. It doesn't. Forgiveness can take time. Forgiveness cannot be rushed. It is like other parts of life, three steps forward and two steps backward. It is not easy to forgive when abuse, betrayal, abandonment, rejection, ridicule, attack and other traumatic events occur. Sometimes, we may even think the offense is unforgivable.

Forgiveness is not a simple statement of "that's okay." Forgiveness is not about forgetting or pretending the offense didn't happen. Scars, literal and figurative will always remain. Yet, healing is possible. For-

giveness is not about ignoring the consequences of an action. Forgiveness does not require that we compromise our standards of justice. Forgiveness does, however, require truth telling.

When Peter, one of Jesus' followers, asked how many times he should forgive another, Jesus said seven times seventy times. This was an idiom that meant unlimited times. Peter asked this question from the context of his life. Is there a limit to forgiveness? Just as there is no limit to love, so is no limit to forgiveness.

Forgiveness is not a "one and done" affair. It is a process; it's a journey. Old hurts have a way of resurfacing as we are led to examine a new facet of a wound we thought had healed. Forgiveness is a commitment to face life with a posture that risks rather than protects, while struggling with the fact that there are times when protection is the wise choice. Forgiveness is the process which allows us to let go of the intense emotional pain associated with the wrong.

However, when forgiveness is absent, evil begets evil, harm generates harm, attack produces attack, hatred births hatred, pain brings pain. Forgiveness breaks the chain. The forgiveness God offers us in grace brings a new day of new opportunity to snap the sequence of hurt.

The original Greek word in the Bible for forgiveness literally means release. When we forgive, we release ourselves as well as the other person. We choose to allow life to go on. To withhold forgiveness actually suppresses joy. It holds us in bondage.

Forgiveness is hard. It's a process that we must work at continually in our families, our relationships, our communities, our nation, and our world. It is the counternarrative of hope for these very troubling days.

Each Sunday a bunch of humans also gather to worship God in community at Island Presbyterian Church, giving thanks for grace, love, healing, and hope, working for peace, justice, and reconciliation. There is always room at the table for you! Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m., 14030 Fortuna Bay Drive, or on our Facebook page.

Choose kindness, compassion, and love; do justice and make peace; welcome the stranger.
pastor@islandpresby.com

Medical Minute



By Dr. Mario Martinez

You are What You Think

I was in Houston recently, and we stopped to have lunch at a Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen Restaurant. I worked as a server at Pappadeaux right before I went back to school, and I worked there while I was in college. In fact, I was a part of the crew that opened the Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen Restaurant in Dallas at Texas Stadium. The whole group of us that opened that restaurant worked at different Pappadeaux locations so that we would be trained when the new restaurant opened. The general manager that opened the Texas Stadium location was the most inspirational and dynamic leader that I have ever had the pleasure of working for. His enthusiasm was so contagious that the whole staff was incredibly motivated to the likes of which I have never seen or experienced before, and I have never experienced since then.

When we were seated at the restaurant in Houston last week, I noticed that the layout of that location off of I10 in Houston was exactly like the restaurant that I worked at many years ago in Dallas. I was suddenly overwhelmed with a positive energy that caused the hairs on my arms to stand up. I felt young and energetic again. I felt like grabbing a tray and serving some food to somebody! I asked the manager if he knew the name of the general manager that opened the Texas Stadium location because for the life of me, I cannot remember the gentleman's name. If I could, I would love to write him a letter, and thank him for all of the valuable life lessons that I learned while I was working for him.

If you think positive thoughts, you will exude a positive energy. If you think of something that made you feel good, your body will react as if you were actually reliving that moment. If you try to focus only on positive things that have happened to you in

your life you will radiate a positive energy, and people will be attracted to you.

The opposite is true if you think about negative thoughts and bad things that have happened to you during your life. When you think of negative thoughts, your body will react by making your body and mind feel the way that you felt while you were experiencing those unpleasant moments. The stress on the body that remembering bad memories will cause an increase in the release of cortisol from the adrenal glands that sit on top of the kidneys. The increased secretion of cortisol will cause weakening of the immune system. It can also cause insulin resistance, and anything that causes insulin resistance will cause weight gain and increase your chances of becoming a type 2 diabetic.

The good news is that thinking positive thoughts costs nothing! It can become a habit. I once heard Joel Olsteen say, "Picture your mind as one of those old televisions. If you don't like what you are thinking about, get up and change the channel."



Senior moments Special to the Island Moon



By Dotson Lewis

The United States Secretary of Defense-Part 1

Dotson's Note: The United States secretary of defense, secondarily titled the secretary of war, is the head of the United States Department of Defense, the executive department of the U.S. Armed Forces, and is a high-ranking member of the cabinet of the United States. The secretary of defense's position of command and authority over the military is second only to that of the president of the United States, who is the commander-in-chief. This position corresponds to what is generally known as a defense minister in many other countries. The president appoints the secretary of defense with the advice and consent of the Senate, and is by custom a member of the Cabinet and by law a member of the National Security Council. Thanks to my friend and company clerk Sgt. Bobby Coen and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in this report.



Seal of the National Military Establishment (1947–1949)

To ensure civilian control of the military, U.S. law provides that the secretary of defense cannot have served as an active-duty commissioned officer in the military in the preceding seven years except for generals and admirals, who cannot have served on active duty within the previous ten years. Congress can legislatively waive this restriction and has done so three times, for George C. Marshall Jr., James N. Mattis, and Lloyd J. Austin III.

Subject only to the orders of the president, the secretary of defense is in the chain of command and exercises command and control, for both operational and administrative purposes, over all DoD-administered service branches – the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force – as well as the Coast Guard when its command and control is transferred to the Department of Defense. Only the secretary of defense (or the president or Congress) can authorize the transfer of operational control of forces between the three military departments (Department of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force) and the eleven Unified Combatant Commands. Because the secretary of defense is vested with legal powers that exceed those of any commissioned officer, and is second only to the president in the military hierarchy, its incumbent has sometimes unofficially been referred to as "deputy commander-in-chief". The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the principal military adviser to the secretary of defense and the president; while the chairman may assist the secretary and president in their command functions, the chairman is not in the chain of command.

The secretary of state, the secretary of the treasury, the secretary of defense, and the attorney general are generally regarded as the four most important (and are officially the four most senior and oldest) cabinet officials because of the size and importance of their respective departments.

The current secretary of defense is Pete Hegseth, who was nominated by President Donald Trump and was confirmed by the Senate on January 25, 2025.

In 2025, President Donald Trump authorized «secretary of war» as a secondary title for use by the secretary; only an act of Congress can legally change the name of the position.

History

An Army, Navy, and Marine Corps were established in 1775, in concurrence with the American Revolution. The War Department, headed by the secretary of war, was created by Act of Congress in 1789 and was responsible for both the Army and Navy until the founding of a separate Department of the Navy in 1798.



Donald Rumsfeld is sworn in as Secretary of Defense by Associate Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart as U.S. President Gerald R. Ford and Chairman of The Joint Chiefs of Staff General George S. Brown watch at The Pentagon on November 20, 1975.

Based on the experiences of World War II, proposals were soon made on how to more effectively manage the large combined military establishment. The Army generally favored centralization while the Navy had institutional preferences for decentralization and the status quo. The resulting National Security Act of 1947 was largely a compromise between these divergent viewpoints. It renamed the Department of War the Department of the Army, and added both it and the Department of the Navy to a newly established National Military Establishment (NME). The act also separated the Army Air Forces from the Army to become its own branch of service, the United States Air Force.

A new title was coined by the act for the head of the NME: Secretary of Defense. At first, each of the service secretaries maintained cabinet status. The first secretary of defense, James Forrestal, who, in his previous capacity as the secretary of the Navy, had opposed the creation of the new position, found it difficult to exercise authority over the other branches with the limited powers his office had at the time. To address this and other problems, the National Security Act was amended in 1949 to further consolidate the national defense structure in order to reduce interservice rivalry, directly subordinate the secretaries of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force to the secretary of defense in the chain of command, and rename the National Military Establishment as the Department of Defense, making it one Executive Department. The position of the deputy secretary of defense, the number two position in the department, was also created at this time. The general trend since 1949 has been to further centralize management in the Department of Defense, elevating the status and authorities of civilian OSD appointees and defense-wide organizations at the expense of the military departments and the services within them. The last major revision of the statutory framework concerning the position was done in the Goldwater–Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. In particular, it elevated the status of joint service for commissioned officers, making it in practice a requirement before appointments to general officer and flag officer grades could be made. As the secretary of defense is a civilian position intended to be independent of the active-duty leadership, a secretary is required to have been retired from service for at least seven (originally ten) years unless a waiver is approved by Congress. Since the creation of the position in 1947, such a waiver has been approved only three times, for Army general George Marshall in 1950, Marine Corps General Jim Mattis in 2017, and retired Army general Lloyd Austin in 2021.

To be continued...



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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

3							6
5		7	4		3		8
			7			5	
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	2		3		4		5
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	8						2

Brain-Buster

				3	5	7
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Island obituary

Elia Cabrera Morais

Elia Cabrera Morais, 87, of Corpus Christi, Texas, passed away peacefully on September 25, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.
Born on July 15, 1938, in Kingsville, Texas, Elia was the cherished daughter of Eduardo and Reyes Cabrera. She lived a life full of love, adventure, and devotion to her family. A loyal wife and mother, she took great pride in being the wife of a Navy sailor and treasured every moment of raising her two sons, whom she loved more than anything. Elia dedicated many years to education, teaching both in Texas and abroad, including time in Nigeria and other countries. Her work inspired and shaped the lives of countless students, leaving an enduring legacy that reached far beyond the classroom. Elia’s vibrant spirit was reflected in the



things she loved most. She enjoyed playing cards, listening to mariachi music, and dancing. She found joy in beach outings, traveling on cruises, and most of all, spending time surrounded by her family. Her warmth, laughter, and love of life created countless memories that will be treasured forever. She was preceded in death by her parents, Eduardo and Reyes Cabrera, her sister, Susana Moya, and several beloved family members. Elia is survived by her devoted husband of 65 years, Raymond T. Morais Sr. of Corpus Christi; her two sons, Raymond Morais Jr. (Debbie) of Corpus Christi , and Wayne Morais (Melissa) of Kingsville; her three beloved granddaughters, Kasie (Dustin) Meyer, Dawn (Danny) Lopez, and Amy (Ethan) Cox; her brother, Eduardo Cabrera Jr. (Connie); and seven great-grandchildren who brought endless joy to her life. Her legacy of love, laughter, and family devotion will live on in all who knew her.

Fifteen Years Ago in the Island Moon

Tropical Storm Hermine was a near-hurricane strength tropical cyclone that brought widespread flooding from Guatemala northwards to Oklahoma in early September 2010. It pushed high tides across Padre Island.



Riley on the Jetty

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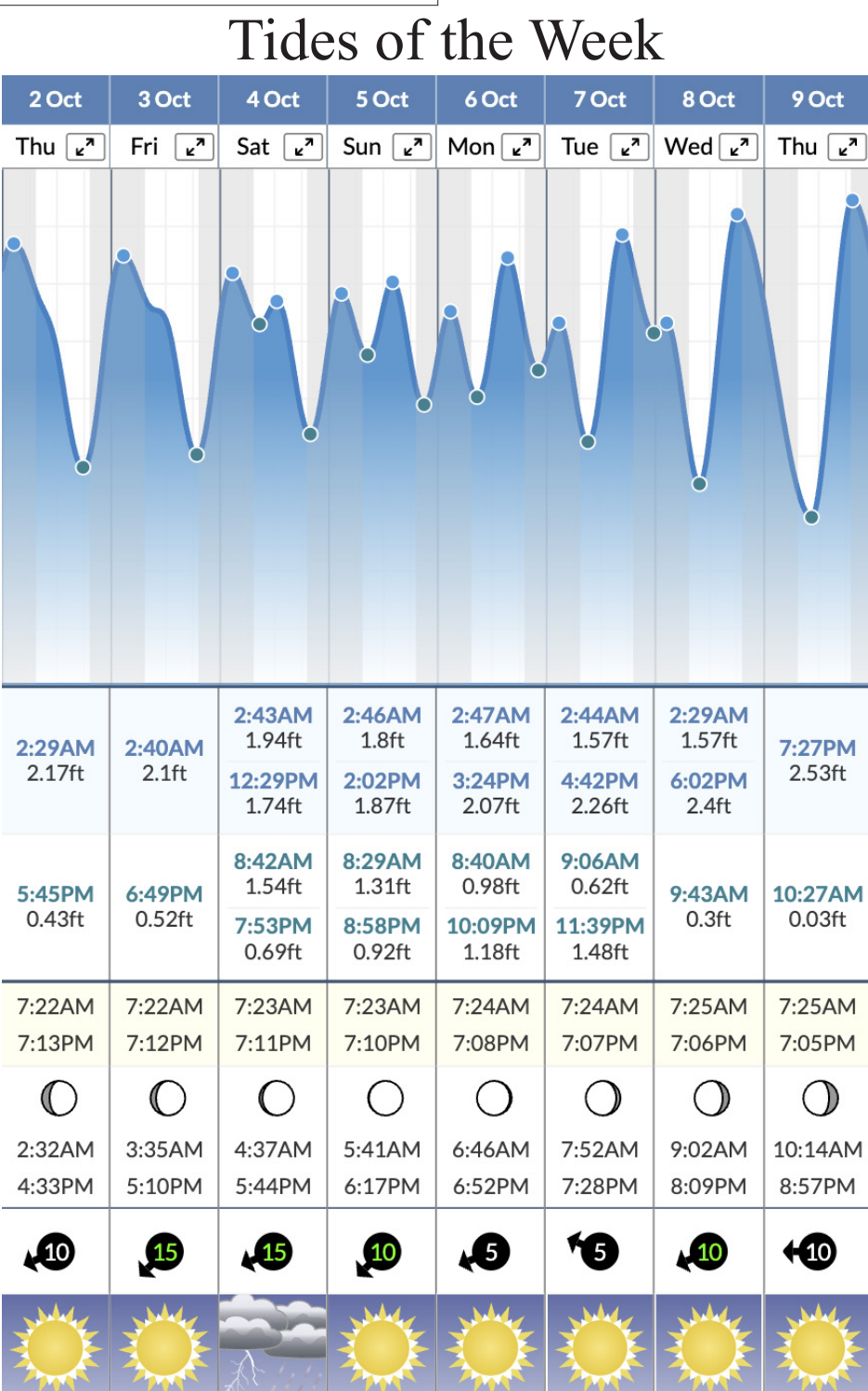
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D	O	U	G	H	B	A	L	L	S		R	U	N	E
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L	A	C	E		B	I	N	G	O		A	D	A	R
I	N	K	S		Y	E	S	E	S		G	Y	R	O



Focus

By: Tess Clark

The morning breaks in a gentle way,
soft hues blooming where shadows lay.
One view is sharp on the sand below,
each grain a truth you used to know.
But shift your stance, adjust your frame,
And suddenly nothing looks the same.
Now the water gleams in liquid gold,
A tide of truths once left untold.

Then lift your eyes, the clouds drift in,
Heavy with doubt, thick-skinned within.
They dim the light, they blur the view,
Leave just enough to see things through.
What is your focus...what do you see?
The weight of loss or possibility?
Do you fix your gaze on where you’ve
been,
or let the light come flooding in?

Life sharpens based on how you look...
Not just the angle, but what you took.
You frame your joy, you blur your strife,
Your focus shapes your path through life.
Some stare too long at skies gone black,
forgetting the tide still brings light back.
Some crop the view too close, too tight,
And miss the miracle out of sight.

The sea rolls on, and so do you,
Through crashing waves and skies of blue.
Adjust your focus, not the fight,
The darkness shifts when aimed toward
light.
So pause. Breathe. Zoom in, zoom out...
On what you have, not just without.
Let this be the frame you choose.
Not what you’ve lost, but what you use.

The picture changes, yes. It must.
The past will fade, the pain will rust.
But clarity comes to those who try
to look beyond, and learn the “Why”.
Because focus isn’t just some trick...
It’s where you aim when life turns quick.
The view depends on what you bring
And where you begin your focusing.



Turtle Nest Count

Donna J. Shaver, Ph.D.
Chief, The Division of Sea Turtle Science
and Recovery, Padre Island National Sea-
shore, National Park Service
Texas Coordinator, Sea Turtle Stranding and
Salvage Network
Phone 361-949-7608 (office); 361-443-2288
(work cell)
Report Nesting & Stranded Sea Turtles in
Texas to 1-866-TURTLE5. Direct report
Padre Island National Seashore (poor cell
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On 27 September, one green sea turtle nest
was located on North Padre Island at Padre
Island National Seashore. Including this,
the total numbers of nests found in Texas
this year, by species and area, are updated
below.

KEMP’S RIDLEY TURTLE

So far this year, **449** nests have been con-
firmed on the Texas coast including (north
to south in state):
2 Galveston Island
4 Surfside Beach
1 Quintana Beach
1 Bryan Beach
2 Brazoria County, N. of Sargent Beach
1 Matagorda Peninsula
21 San Jose Island
29 Mustang Island
250 North Padre Island, including 236 at
Padre Island National Seashore
122 South Padre Island
16 Boca Chica Beach

LOGGERHEAD TURTLE

So far this year, **6** nests have been
confirmed on the Texas coast, including
(north to south in state):
1 Mustang Island
5 North Padre Island, including 5 at Padre
Island National Seashore

GREEN TURTLE

So far this year, **33** nests have been con-
firmed on the Texas coast, including (north
to south in state):
22 North Padre Island, including 20 at Pa-
dre Island National Seashore
10 South Padre Island
1 San Jose Island



By Gene Saegert

We old timers have discussed this
horsepower thing before, but it was brought
to my mind again this week. At a local
convenience store this week I pulled up be-
hind a fishing boat that had four, yes I said
FOUR 300 horsepower outboards. Being
quick of wit and finally getting to use my
fourth grade multiplication tables (Miss
Brumbly said I would need it someday) I
came up with the figure of 1,200 horsepow-
er.....that is I repeat ONE THOUSAND
TWO HUNDRED HORSEPOWER! It
was pulling into convenience store to get
gas. I am sure that one sale gave the owner
of the store a big smile. This got me to
thinking how far we have progressed.
Well, to put it in prospective, think on
this.... In the 50’s when I was young that
IS the 1950’s (lest we get too carried away)
I learned to water ski. This was accom-
plished (eventually) with a 14 foot alumi-
num Lone Star boat with a top of the line at
that time 25 horse power Evinrude Motor.
My friends and I could spend all day on
Lake Travis and maybe see one or two
other boats with skiers on the lake.

Before we left for the lake, we would rob
our piggy banks and fill the 5 gallon tank
with unleaded marine gas, called white
gas at that time. We could get a whole day
of fishing and skiing out of that tank of
gas. We knew nothing of going “green”
back then, except the color of our boat was
green. The ski ropes were made out of
hemp back then (no we didn’t try to smoke
them) and as soon as they got wet, they
would sink. The only thing that floated was
the float at the end of the rope by the ski
handle. Needless to say we spent a lot of
time untangling the rope from the prop.

More Power to the Fishermen?

Another interesting note is this: when we
were preparing to head out for the lake,
we called our friends up on the rotary dial
telephone, that is, unless someone else was
using the party line! If no one answered,
there was no answering machine, no caller
ID, no blinking “missed call” light. To put
it bluntly, they simply missed the trip. (in-
sert loud horrified gasps by all the teenagers
here) Along the same line, if we wanted
pictures of our escapades we took along our
Kodak Duoflex camera with the 620 film
in it (I still have one), to record our trip.
You would then take your film to one of the
“Studers” or “Fox” camera stores in Austin
and if you were lucky you would get your
pictures back in a couple of weeks.

When we went fishing anywhere other than
Lake Travis, we would go to the Guadalupe
River above Seguin, and fish on what were
called the 4H Lakes that just had numbers.
We would fish from a homemade wooden
boat that had a 3 ½ horsepower motor on it
with one of those “newfangled” recoil rope
starters. I don’t ever even remember filling
the tank, in fact it was so fuel efficient it
seems we may have had to stop every so
often to siphon off some of the excess gas-
oline. At least that is the way I remember
it. I guess I still yearn for the old days when
life and fishing were a little slower paced
because now I generally fish out of my
kayak instead of a motorboat. At one time
I did think maybe a 3 bladed paddle would
speed up my kayak some, but aside from
making it harder to paddle, it would prob-
ably look pretty silly. Since I get enough
grief from my sons already about my kayak
with outriggers, (they call it a Kayak with
training wheels). That goes along with all
my other innovations that they make fun of.
I guess I will just stick with what I have.
Life is Good!



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Fall has fell...sort of



Miss Rose, the matriarch of Shorty's Place.

The coolest thing in my world right now is just how nice it is to live on this little island in the *Gulf of Mexico*. Summer is officially over and the tourist floodgates have slowed down significantly and we're now waiting on our *Winter Texan* families, who usually start getting here around *Thanksgiving*. I actually had the windows open this morning for a little while and took a long cruise in my golf cart looking for a traffic jam that was not to happen. Life is superb on our little sandbar right now and getting better every day. This is our time and it's absolutely delightful out there right now. And then the afternoon rolled around and it was back to the 90's. Oh well, take what you can get.

On the local front...



Dallas Burrow will play the Sip Yard this Saturday.

And with October comes a host of concerts, festivals and outdoor activities. Looking ahead for fun events this fall I see a concert series hosted by the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce and to be held every Friday in October at the *Sip Yard* that includes **Eclipse**, **Jerry Diaz**, **The Texas Headhunters**, **Uncle Lucius**, **Sour Bridges**, **Briscoe** and **Shinyribs**... not too shabby. Plus the 42nd *Annual Pig Party* is right around the corner at *Shorty's* on October 11th. That's a biggie around here being that *Shorty's* is literally the "oldest and friendliest" bar in Port A for the past 79 years. The *Pig Party* is a toast to the matriarch of *Shorty's*, **Miss Rose Smithey**, on her birthday each year. She died in 2011. Motorcycle clubs would ride in on their *Harleys* from far and wide to present Miss Rose with any and all things "Pig". The collection of pig figurines, stuffed pigs, piggy banks, pig paintings, etc was on display at *Shortys* through the years, although they took a big hit when **Harvey** blew through a while back. **Nik Par** and the **Selfless Lovers** will headline the party. Also we have a bunch of other events in October such as the FULL MOON FIRE on the 6th, NATIONAL NIGHT OUT and THE TREE GIVEAWAY on the 7th, the HARVEST MOON REGATTA on the weekend of the 10th, the FALL KITE FLY on the 11th, in Corpus the 64th TEXAS JAZZ FESTIVAL will be held in *Heritage Park* on the weekend of October 17-19, the WOODEN BOAT FEST and the CLASSIC CAR SHOW at Roberts Point Park on October 24-25, the SAND PUMPKING PATCH and the FARMER'S MARKET on the 26th... and then comes HALLOWEEN followed by the FRIENDS OF PADRE FALL FIESTA at *Briscoe King Pavilion* on November 1st and the PINK FLAMINGO PUB CRAWL on the 2nd. And don't forget the ROCKPORT SONGWRITER FEST on the 9th. Plus, all through the month we have a most excellent array of live music shows. Did I leave anything out? Aren't you glad you have me to keep you up to speed?

Scattered shots...



Highway Hypnosis will play the Gaff this Saturday, Oct 4.

It seemed like everything was in slow motion last weekend. I was in a fog and I never knew what day it was all week long. But in the immortal words of **Oat Willie**, "Onward thru the fog." The big show last week was at the *Sip Yard*. They had **Cole Phillips** opening for **Cory Morrow**. Cole Phillips was the perfect band to pair with Cory. It was up tempo in the country vein and just felt right. And of course Cory Morrow came out and knocked it out of the park. He was very animated and full of energy. I really dug his positive vibe. Plus his songs are fun and riveting. I also caught **Logan Ryan** at the *Yard* on Saturday and he didn't hold a candle to Cory Morrow. I mean he was good and it was in the same vein but Morrow is a tough act to follow. Maybe it was just me. Also last weekend I saw our favorite cowboy from San Antonio, **Todd Dorn** at *Shorty's* and he's always a treat plus I ran by the *Gaff* for my weekly dose of coon ass with **Boo and Poo**. Plus the **Palacios Brothers** show at *Treasure Island* was predictably muy bueno.



Jon Car will play Treasure Island on Friday.

Coming this weekend...

Buckle up buttercup, we got shows to see. On Thursday the 2nd we will have **Tyler Jordan** doing his one man show at the *Gaff* and **Chris Ivory** playing his weekly residency at *Shorty's*. On Friday the 3rd one of the *Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce* shows with the *Beachtober Beats* series will be **Eclipse**; **Journey Tribute**. *Bron's* will have a two nighter with the **Blevins** who are three brothers from San Marcos. They are very popular in the hill country and play *Gruene Hall* and *Laguna Bob's* in South Padre. Also on Friday our favorite coon asses, **Boudreaux and Pousson**, will play the *Gaff*, the **Drive** will play classic rock at *Shorty's* and hard rocking **Jon Car** will blow the roof off of *Treasure Island*. And don't forget the *ArtWalk* is also this Friday in downtown Corpus. On Saturday the 4th my boys who are more fun than a bucket of cats, **Triptonite**, will their rowdy selves to *Shorty's* and that makes me very happy. They have their own style. Also on Saturday **Dallas Burrow** will play the *Sip Yard*. Dallas lived in Port A back in the *Tarpon Ice House* days and has moved up the ladder in his career playing big rooms like *Gruene Hall* and doing shows with **Ray Wylie Hubbard**. He's a prolific singer songwriter with a great band behind him. Plus on Saturday, the **Back Pew Revival** will play *Treasure Island* and **Highway Hypnosis** will play the *Gaff*. All I know about Highway Hypnosis is that their name is the same as *white line fever*. I'm def checking them out if for nothing more than their great name. Check out the LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT box for upcoming shows all over the bend. Yall be safe.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



The Blevins will play Bron's this weekend.



Nic Parr and the Selfless Lovers will headline Shorty's Pig Party Oct 11th.



Triptonite will play Shorty's this Saturday.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday.

October 2

Chris Ivory & Friends @ Shortys
Tyler Jordan @ Gaff
Jim Dugan @ Brewster Island
Open Jam w/ Brad Ethridge @ Port A
Beer Hut
Michael Anthony Perez @ La Palmera
Lisa Sullivan @ Pier 99

Friday, October 3

ArtWalk @ Downtown CC
Eclipse Tribute to Journey @ Sip Yard
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Gaff
The Drive @ Shortys
The Blevins @ Bron's
Jon Car @ Treasure Island
Cruise Control @ Pelican Lounge
Pecos & the Rooftops @ Brewster
Downtown Alley Catz Duo @ Brewster Island
Any Colour You Like, Peace Frogs, Left Hand Devil @ House of Rock
Passing Strangers @ Rockit's
Love Street @ The Pearl

Saturday.

October 4

Triptonite @ Shortys
The Blevins @ Bron's
Back Pew Revival @ Treasure Island
Highway Hypnosis @ Gaff
Dallas Burrow @ Sip Yard
The Groove @ VFW
Alfred Robles @ Selena Auditorium
Kiss Alike @ Brewster
Downtown Chainlinks @ Rockit's
Young Klassics @ Pelican Lounge
Michael Anthony Perez @ 18th Bar
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Seafair RP

Sunday, October 5

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Saul Padron Benefit @ South TX Ice House
Rip Tide Cowboy
Open Mic @ Calypso
Drive and Drive

Monday, October 6

MOONFIRE @ POLE 25
Melissa Ann @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday, October 7

PA TREE GIVEAWAY @ Roberts Point Park
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT @ Roberts Point Park
Dunebillies @ Roberts Point Park
Brad Ethridge @ VFW
Carl Hayes Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin
Rich Lockhart @ Packery Bar
Los Locals @ Palm Republic

Wednesday.

October 8

Open Mic w/ Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Cage the Elephant, hey nothing, Girl Tones @ ABC
10 Years @ Brewster
Downtown Michael Burts @ Pelican Lounge
Michael Anthony Perez @ Tannins South
10 Years, Snakes of Russia @ Brewster
Downtown

Thursday.

October 9

Chris Ivory & Friends @ Shortys
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Open Jam w/ Brad Ethridge @ Port A Beer Hut

Friday, October 10

HARVEST MOON REGATTA
Village People @ Concrete Street
Jerry Diaz & Hanna's Reef @ Sip Yard
Mantle Jennings @ Shortys
Austin Forrest @ Bron's
Jim Bush @ Gaff
TBA @ Treasure Island
Metalachi @ House of Rock
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Lulu's
Chainlinks @ Pelican Lounge
Lisa Sullivan @ Eighteen 18
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Lulu's
The Groove @ La



KARAOKE EVERY MONDAY 7-10

BLEVINS OCT 3&4
AUSTIN FORREST OCT 10
PRIVATE PARTY OCT 11
BOUDREAUX & POUSSON OCT 17
CHRIS BOSS OCT 18
BOONE HOLDING OCT 24

Treasure Island

JON CAR OCT 3
BACK PEW REVIVAL OCT 4
CARSON MILLER OCT 11
JAM BAND OCT 18
PALACIOS BROS OCT 24
KITCHEN OPEN UNTIL 1:30 AM



ECLIPSE: JOURNEY TRIB OCT 3
DALLAS BURROW OCT 4
JERRY DIAZ & HANNA'S REEF OCT 10
CRUISE CONTROL OCT 11
TEXAS HEADHUNTERS OCT 17
BUFFALOE & THE HEARD OCT 18



OPEN JAM EVERY WED WITH BRAD
BELT SANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT
TYLER JORDAN OCT 2
BOUDREAUX & POUSSON OCT 3
HYWAY HYPNOSIS OCT 4
BRAD ETHRIDGE OCT 5 & 9
JIM BUSH OCT 10

SHORTY'S

JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
CHRIS IVORY & FRIENDS EVERY THUR
TUMBLE DRY LOW OCT 3
TRIPTONITE OCT 4
MANTLE JENNING OCT 10

42ND ANNUAL PIG PARTY OCT 11
DARREN MCGILL 12:30-3:30
NIK PARR & SELFLESS LOVERS 4-7
LEFT RIGHT LEFT 8-11

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