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Issue 1122



The
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Moon

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Photo by Debbie Noble



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By Dale Rankin

The Island Moon has gone international. The 1122nd printed issue of the paper you now hold in your hands was printed in Mexico and delivered *Around The Island* all within a 24-hour cycle with more than a few moving parts on both sides of the Rio Bravo. If the words you hear in your head while you read these sixteen pages come with a little Spanish lilt well, that's okay.

We can't help but wonder what Moon founder Mike Ellis would think if he were *Around The Island* today to see how the paper he founded in 1996 has evolved. Aside from the printed version the digital version is available each Thursday on the Island Moon Facebook page at [theislandmoon-newspaper](https://www.facebook.com/theislandmoon-newspaper) and on our website at islandmoon.com. The evolution of the paper is a reminder that change is the only constant *Around The Island*...we appreciate our readers and advertisers that make it all possible.

An Island thing...

Every now and then something happens *Around The Island* that reminds us that we live in an incredible place. The things that the folks who live OTB would marvel at happen *Around The Island* every day. As the weather has slipped on into fall of late our Island Nights have been as close to perfection as they can be. October is a great time to be here. Then comes the news this week that an Island dog owner who took his dog to a boat ramp to play fetch with a floating toy got a Big Island Surprise when a pod of dolphins showed up to join in the fun. Anyone who has been *Around The Island* for a while has watched in wonder as our dolphin friends play in a boat wake or just come to say hello and just like finding a whole sand dollar on the beach making contact with a dolphin never gets old and makes the most geriatric among us feel like a kid again. In this case the

Around cont. on A8

Skate Park for The Island!

Wheels could be rolling by fall of 2026 pending council approval

By Dale Rankin

A skate park at Billish Park on The Island could be in place and ready for use by the fall of 2026 after a vote by the Board of Directors of the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 (TIRZ #2) this week, according to city officials.

The fourteen-member TIRZ #2 board voted unanimously to repurpose up to \$850,000 in funds from TIRZ #2 previously earmarked for the paving of Island streets which now are expected to be placed on a 2026 bond issue. Funds for the skate park became available after the cost of paving the streets –



Billish Park

known as Paper Streets because for over thirty years they have existed only on paper – ballooned from an anticipated \$7.2 million for the paving of two streets to \$7.9 million for the paving of a single street. The two streets scheduled for paving are Sand Dollar Avenue from Verdemar Drive south to State Highway 361 and Crowsnest Street from Whitecap Blvd. south to Beach Access Rd. 4. One or both of those projects are now expected to be included in a bond pack-

Skate Park cont. on page A8

How the Skate Park Got Funded



West Guth Skate Park

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner



The TIRZ #2 board voted to reappropriate \$850,000 from the "paper streets" to build a skate park at Billish Park the other day. The project still has to be properly scoped by engineering and then passed by the city council in order to get it into the Capital Improvement Plan

On the Rocks cont. on page B1

The Island Seagate Then and Now



The Island Seagate (left) as it used to stand, and the current wider pass (right) as it is today.

A little Island history

Once Upon a Time there was an Island Seagate

Until it rusted to pieces and was removed

By Dale Rankin

More than thirty years ago when Westinghouse Financial Services owned more than 1000 acres of land on Padre Island they decided to try to slow down any surge tide from an incoming hurricane by building a concrete structure at the entrance to Lake Padre that would hold four iron gates to be dropped



History cont. on A4

The four iron gates on the west side of the channel entrance are now gone. They were never closed.

By the numbers

Island Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone

Editor's note: The City of Corpus Christi this week released updated numbers for the Island Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone #2. Funds for TIRZ #2 are derived from property tax on new construction inside the boundaries of the zone since its creation in 2002. It was renewed in 2022 and now runs through the year 2042. Money raised in the zone is earmarked for improvements inside its boundaries. The zone includes areas on The Island zoned for commercial and retail business, it does not include areas zoned for residential. The numbers are current as of August 31, 2025.

Revenue

- \$11.1 million** fund balance beginning Fiscal Year 2025
- \$6.4 million** total revenue year to date 2025
- \$4.6 million** income from property taxes year to date 2025
- \$6.5 million** total expenditures anticipated 2025
- \$4 million** total fund balance year to date 2025

Numbers cont. on A8

Voting begins Monday October 20

Texas Constitutional Amendment Elections

Early Voting in November 4 Texas Constitutional Amendment Elections begins with Early Voting on Monday October 20 and runs through October 29. Polls are open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. And October 30 - 31 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Election Day is November 4th.

Of particular interest to Island voters is an opportunity to lower the appraised value on homesteaded property for assessing school taxes which make up about half of their property tax bills.

Proposition 13 would increase the school tax exemption for homeowners from the current \$100,000 reduction in appraised value to \$140,000. Accompanying legislation would put the state on the

Voting cont. on page A9



Wes, Hilda, Erica, and David took the Moon to Nafplio, Greece



Erica and David Hulse also took the moon to Monemvasia, Greece



Debbie Knowles of Jacksonville Texas caught this 36 inch Redfish this week.



Babes on Baffin 2025

Photos by Debbie Noble



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Baltimore Orioles migrate to warmer climates in Central America for the winter, a journey fueled by their need for energy from ripe, sweet fruits. Riekie Roncinske



Letters to the Editor

◄ AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



U.S. Sailing Championships November 3-7 in Corpus Christi Bay
US Sailing Multihull Championship Seeks Platinum Level Clean Regatta Sustainability Certification CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS – When it is held on Corpus Christi Bay on November 3-7, 2025, the US Sailing Multihull Championship will be a Clean Regatta registered with the international organization, Sailors for the Sea Powered by Oceana. Recognizing that sailors have a role to play in protecting and restoring the world’s oceans, Sailors for the Sea has established criteria to help race organizers make their events more sustainable. The Championship’s aim is to reach Sailors for the Sea’s Platinum Level certification. Some of the goals for this event include paperless event management, eliminating single-use plastics, daily cleanups on McGee Beach, recycling and composting, and promoting non toxic sunscreen and boat washdowns. Ben Wells with the Formula Wave class of catamarans that will race on Corpus Christi Bay explains, “As sailors, we rely on the environment to provide us with the resources to pursue our hobby, so it’s only right that, in turn, we make an effort to take care of those resources. This regatta aims to be an example for sailors everywhere to show how a large event can be sustainable and environmentally friendly.”

Voting cont. from A1

hook for the revenue school districts lose if the increased exemption passes.

Proposition 11 would allow homeowners over 65 years of age to take an additional \$60,000 off of appraised value for school property taxes, an increased reduction over the current \$10,000 exemption.

Taken together the two ballot items would allow homeowners over 65 years of age to reduce the appraised value on their homes for school tax by a total of \$200,000. If both ballot items are approved by voters as expected the state would have to help pay for revenue school districts lose which could cost the state more than \$1.2 billion in general revenue for the next two fiscal years and upwards of \$477 million annually after that, according to a fiscal note from the state’s Legislative Budget Board.

Polling places for both Early Voting and Election Day include

- Island Presbyterian Church**, 14030 Fortuna Bay Dr. on Padre Island
- Ethel Eyerly Senior Center** 654 Graham Rd. in Flour Bluff
- Ellis Memorial Library** 700 W. Ave A. in Port Aransas

Overnight Sensation: A Tale of Resurgence

World War 1 ended in November of 1918. American troops slowly made the long journey from the devastation of battle fields in Europe back home, to the shores of the USA. They travelled, deliberate yet cumbersome, with the ugly scars that can only be had from the brutality of war. They arrive home, not to crowds of revelers, but rather, a whirlwind of shit. 1919 comes in like a cyclone of bad fortune. In April thirty-six bombs are mailed to politicians, businessmen, and newsmen, including John D Rockefeller and the US Attorney General. Some detonate leaving death and injury while others are secured before they reach there destinations. On the evening of June 2, within a 90 minute window of time, powerful bombs explode in 7 major US cities. Anarchists are blamed. Many blacks have migrated from the south to the north, drawn to better jobs at the factories. Consequently many white workers are concerned that their pay will be wrecked. In St Louis, Chicago, and the District of Columbia, race riots leave hundreds dead and thousands injured. A labor strike, beginning in the ship yards of Seattle, involves over 65,000 and work grinds to a halt affecting shipping concerns all over America.

There is death, disarray and destruction at home. The fear of Russian Bolshevism and the German Hun has cast a roaring fire in the imagination of America. There just isn’t much good news in 1919.

In the wake of all this, attention is focused on baseball. Center stage are the Chicago White Sox, and, there star players, potential hall of famers, outfielder Shoeless Joe Jackson and pitcher Ed Cicotte. With their leadership and talent they win the competitive American League Pennant and are heavy favorites to win the 1919 World Series in October. Lo and behold its not to be. Chicago loses the best of 9 series, 5 games to 3, to the lowly National League Pennant winner Cincinnati Reds. It is said that some of the talented White Sox team didn’t hustle and made uncharacteristic errors.

Shortly after the series, bad news hits the street. Eight of the Chicago players are accused of making a deal with the devil, well known gangster, Arnold Rothstein, to throw the 1919 World Series. There star players, Shoeless Joe Jackson and Eddy Cicotte, are among those named. Although they are acquitted in court, they are eventually banned for life from professional baseball by the first appointed commissioner of Major League Baseball, former district judge of Chicago Kenesaw Mountain Landis (who had been targeted by one of the 36 mail bombs in April).

The 1919 Black Sox scandal shocks millions, young and old, to the core.

America didn’t need this...not now.

Major League Baseball, as well as America, stood at a crossroads. Baseball once the darling of American sports, its reputation tarnished, now has an uncertain future. Fans are disillusioned, and the sport teetered on the brink of irrelevance. Yet, as the cold, violent winter of 1919 had set in, a group of visionary minds within the league, particularly those tied to the New York Yankees, devised a bold plan to restore baseball’s glory and America’s conscience.

At the center of this plan was Babe Ruth, the

Boston Red Sox’s ace pitcher and a burgeoning slugger who had set a league record with 29 home runs in 1919. Recognizing Ruth’s potential to captivate audiences beyond the mound, the Yankees’ owner made a daring move in 1920: acquiring Ruth and transitioning him into a full-time hitter and outfielder.

But the Yankees had more than just a positional switch in mind. They had a secret weapon—a newly designed baseball, with a tightly bound cork center, created to travel farther upon impact with the bat. With the tacit approval of league officials, these specially prepared balls were reserved exclusively for Ruth’s at-bats. The league officials had also introduced a new rule requiring the umpires rub dirt into all baseballs prior to game time, thus eliminating the possibility of the special balls being obvious. And, according to the plan, each time the “Sultan of Swat” stepped to the plate, the umpire would discreetly swap out the standard ball for one of the enhanced balls. The results were nothing short of spectacular. Ruth smashed an unprecedented 54 home runs in the 1920 season, out-homering entire teams and leaving his closest competitor, George Sisler, in the dust with a mere 19.

The nation was enthralled. Baseball had found its savior, and Ruth became an “overnight sensation”. His larger-than-life persona—defined by his love for high society, beautiful women, and all-night revelry—captured the imagination of a public eager for heroes.

1921 proved just as captivating and Ruth hit 59 homers, the third season in a row that Ruth had eclipsed the single-season homerun record. Learning that homers meant increased profits, the league officials began encouraging umpires to use more corked balls with other players and the 1921 season saw an explosion of offense, with a record 1,000 home runs hit across the league.

The offseason between 1921 and 1922 brought a pivotal official decision: the corked ball would be used exclusively, league-wide. Although Ruth’s dominance continued, in 1922 many new stars joined the carnage of power hitting, including Rogers Hornsby of the St. Louis Cardinals and later the hard-living Hack Wilson of the Detroit Tigers, adding to the dizzying spectacle. Thus began the modern era of baseball, an era defined by power, pageantry, and unparalleled excitement.

Talk of conspiracies and rigged balls was barely whispered, as the fans simply reveled in the show. Baseball had been reborn, and its resurrection was nothing short of legendary.

And...just like much of the tale of success and wonder in America...the stain of the 1919 Black Sox scandal, is white-washed by the perfectly executed slight of hand....the 1920-21 corked baseball.

It’s a tale entirely rooted in fact, with a possibility of fiction. The only insinuation unproven is the “loaded baseball” used only for Babe Ruth’s at bats in 1920....and given the true rule requiring “all balls be scuffed prior to the game,” who knows??? Simply a piece of Louis’ism BS conjecture—a story where truth and imagination blend to celebrate the magic of resilience of America and America’s pastime.

Louis Rogers
Aloha Street

Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



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History cont. from A1

into vertical slots on each side of the channel. The gates would be stored immediately adjacent to the concrete structure and as a hurricane approached a contractor would use a crane to raise them then drop them into the slots to avert the power of moving water. The gates were not solid metal, they contained slots for the water to flow through since the goal was not to keep the water out, which no gate solid or slotted could do, but rather to slow the rushing water as it entered or exited Lake Padre and eventually passed by the POA-owned bulkheads. Keep in mind this was fifteen years before Packery Channel was cut open to the Gulf of Mexico and the water body immediately in front of the gate was known as the Ski Basin and it did not connect directly to the Gulf of Mexico.

The lines and tackle for the deployment of the gates was stored in the cart house at the old Padre Isles Country Club which is where it stayed until it was removed during the construction of the Schlitterbahn waterpark in 2014. The seagate was tested once, according to the property managers at the time, but never deployed during a storm. Over the years the iron gates which were left stored in racks adjacent to the gate rusted to the point of being unusable. They were removed when the concrete structure designed to hold them when deployed was removed in 2021.

Why the seagate was removed

In 1994 when Asset Development bought out Westinghouse they consulted the Conrad Blucher Institute to decide whether to restore the dilapidated seagate to usable condition or remove it and were informed that it would be of little help in a storm and it was left to rust and decay. In that time the engineering behind the de-

sign of the seagate was called into question by subsequent generations of designers until the consensus became that not only was the structure considered useless it could be potentially dangerous to anyone trying to lift iron sails swinging from a cable in the winds of an approaching hurricane. The advice from the Blucher Institute, and turned into policy at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was that the best defense for Island bulkheads in the face of rising storm water was to submerge the bulkheads as fast as possible to protect them from flying, windborne debris found primarily in the top nine inches of the water column as it moved through the canal system driven by storm winds. According to Paul Schexnailder who managed the property inside the location of the seagate at the time the study found that the best way to protect Island bulkheads during an incoming storm was to allow them to be submerged as quickly as possible, but with as slow-moving water as possible. What was desired was a slow-moving tide that would cover them early in the storm surge and the best way to do that was to widen the opening between Packery Channel and Lake Padre. At the time of the study the design for what became the Don Patricio Bridge was not yet begun so the width of the opening under the bridge – eventually set at 44 feet – was unknown. As a result of the that study and at the behest of the Corps of Engineers the seagate was removed in 2021 and the width of the opening between Packery Channel and Lake Padre widened to its current width of about 80 feet to facilitate slower water flow during high-water influx through the Venturi effect and is where the matter stands today. If the seagate is to be replaced the most likely location is on a 150-foot wide easement between Packery Channel and Lake Padre. That easement is owned by the Texas



Demolition of the sea gate structure in 2020.



Time was not kind to the never deployed seagate structure.



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Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

The question of the week is when will water again flow from Lake Padre through the Island canal system? I am writing this as a *column* rather than a *news* story because there are so many unknowns that hard facts are hard to come by and can change anytime. Here is how I understand things as we sit here today. Let's start at the beginning.

How we got here

As outlined in these pages many times before once upon a time all the property from the entrance to Lake Padre from Packery Channel, across the SPID corridor, the property that was the Padre Isles Country Club and is now Whitecap NPI, and the canal system and surrounding property that makes up the Padre Isles Property Owners Association (PIPOA) was covered in a single U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit issued more than thirty years ago and consistently called for water to flow from Lake Padre, under SPID and through the canal system. That permit was severed when ownership of the property split during bankruptcy proceedings in 2018 and it remained in the hands of the Lake Padre property owners where it rests today.

That permit called for water to flow under the new Don Patricio Bridge on SPID by the end of calendar year 2024, however that deadline was extended to the end of 2025 after Tropical Storm Alberto caused damage to bulkheads on both sides of SPID in June 2024. A temporary sand dam was put in place between Lake Padre and the Don Patricio Bridge to facilitate repairs to the damaged bulkheads and remains in place today.

Where are we now?

Since the dam was put in place several relevant developments have happened. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the PIPOA and the owners of the Lake Padre property where the dam is located which delayed the dam's removal until a permit from the Corps of Engineers is issued allowing water passage under the new bridge on Commodores Dr. which is now complete with the finishing of the work adjacent bulkheads only weeks away. That permit is separate from the one covering Lake Padre and is pending.

Meanwhile, the board of the PIPOA has taken the position that they want the Lake Padre dam to remain in place until a seagate is constructed between Packery Channel and Lake Padre to block water flow during high water events to protect the PIPOA-owned bulkheads. The PIPOA board recently issued a Request for Qualifications for consultants to conduct a study regarding the optical location for the proposed seagate and according to PIPOA Executive Director Rick McGinley this week no contract has yet been signed with a consultant to do the study.

Previously a request to the board of the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 (TIRZ #2) for \$250,000 to fund that or a similar study was referred to the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) where it was denied and no funding source for the design and/or construction of the proposed seagate has been announced by PIPOA officials other than the possibility of "FEMA grants" and no construction cost has been announced. But it can be reasonably said that even a fast track for that project could not have it in place sooner than three to five years and that is optimistic so under that plan water would not flow through Island canals for many years.

What's next?

So until recent days the timing of the removal of the temporary dam on Lake Padre was tied directly to the permitting and subsequent opening of the canal under Commodores Drive which has been reiterated several times by the Lake Padre owners citing the MOU with the PIPOA, saying the dam would be removed when the Commodores Canal is opened as per the MOU with the PIPOA. It should be noted that a copy of that MOU has never been released to the PIPOA membership so the exact wording is known only to the PIPOA board.

However, a recent directive from the U.S. Corps of Engineers to the Lake Padre owners reminded them that the temporary dam was allowed under a one-year extension to allow for the repair of damaged bulkheads and expires at the end of December 2025 and will not be extended meaning that as things now stand by January 1, 2026 water must flow under the Don Patricio Bridge into the Island canal system, whether the permit to open the Commodores Canal is in place or not.

Where will the water flow?

The idea behind delaying the removal of the Lake Padre dam and tying it to the opening of the Commodores Canal was to split the water flow through the canal system thereby relieving some of the pressure on PIPOA-owned bulkheads south of the Don Patricio Bridge. Further, it was anticipated that the long-clogged culverts under Encantada Ave., historically kept clean by the PIPOA, would be cleared by the time the Commodores Canal was opened thus splitting the water flow through the PIPOA-owned canals a third way and further relieving the pressure on the PIPOA bulkheads.

But as you read this there is currently no plan nor funding in place to unclog or replace the Encantada Ave. culverts and while it is a story for another day, suffice to say that city officials have said they will replace the current Encantada culverts once the adjacent PIPOA-owned canals are dredged to prevent them from refilling with sand, but only once the canals are dredged which can be done by the PIPOA under the rules of a Nation Wide permit from the Corps of Engineers. PIPOA Executive Director Rick McGinley reiterated this week that the PIPOA currently has no plans to dredge the canals there meaning imminent movement on replacing or unclogging the culverts is stalled.

When will the water flow?

Things could change but as we sit here today the best estimate on when water will once again flow though Island canals is by the end of 2025 since that is when the one-year extension from the Corps of Engineers expires. Further, as things now stand there will be no seagate in place by then, there will be no water flow under Encantada Ave., and since the removal of the Lake Padre dam is no longer tied to the opening of the Commodores Canal the removal of the dam means all of the water moving west under the Don Patricio Bridge must flow solely through the same PIPOA canals and bulkheads which were damaged by the water from Tropical Storm Alberto. Things can always change but as we sit here today gulf water is coming to a canal near you by January 1, 2026 and it is only going to have a single path to the Laguna Madre and that is through PIPOA-owned canals.

I will let you know if anything changes.



On the new Commodores Bridge looking south at the sand dam currently blocking the canal.

Nature Notes

Down to the Wire

Why do birds like to sit on power lines and why are they so good at it?

By Caleb Clarkson



European Starlings are often seen sitting on wires

Photo by Celeste Silling

Around this time of year, when high Texas temperatures finally break into pleasant breezes of somewhat autumnal air, large, ominous flocks of black birds descend on the parking lots of my local H-E-B. They line up along the power lines, almost perfectly equidistant from one another, and closely survey their newly claimed spot. They keep an eye out for any scraps of tortilla, kolache, or other foodstuffs that they might eat. Even as the wind blew the lines about, they could balance and maneuver like seasoned tightrope walkers. It may seem like an impossible feat, but there are many reasons why birds are well-equipped to balance on powerlines. As well, there are some attributes of powerlines that are particularly attractive to birds. The first evolutionary adaptation that makes birds particularly skilled at balancing on power lines is a special tendon structure in the legs of some birds. Most commonly found in perching birds, the tendon structure automatically tightens a bird’s toes around an object anytime it lands. As it lands, the weight of its body causes its legs to bend underneath it, and as that leg bends more and more, a chain of connective tissues closes the toes tighter and tighter. This allows birds to grip objects with little to no exertion, since the gripping energy first comes from gravity bending a bird’s leg as it perches. The next secret lies in the bird’s skeleton. Birds are incredibly light and have porous bones that greatly reduce the weight of their skeleton. Because their skeletons are so light, a bird’s weight is distributed more evenly across its body, and the spread of its feathers acts almost like a counterweight, lowering the center of gravity and allowing it to remain stable even on swaying wires. With a bird’s already superb sense of balance and orientation, the low center of

gravity makes balancing that much easier, allowing birds to straighten themselves with minimal movement and effort. But birds don’t just flock to telephone poles and wires to put on a balancing act! Poles and wires offer several perks that make them especially appealing to our feathered gymnasts. One of the biggest draws is elevation. From their high vantage points in the artificially flattened urban world, birds can more easily spot potential food sources (or potential predators). Being off the ground also protects them from roaming threats like feral cats, dogs, raccoons, and other opportunistic hunters. The clear visibility at this height further facilitates communication and social interaction within flocks. During migration, power lines can even serve as staging grounds, allowing birds to rest and prepare before long journeys, while the lack of obstructions makes it easier for them to take off together in unison. Consistency is another advantage: in urban environments, trees can be sparse or seasonal, but telephone wires are available year-round, offering ample space for many perching birds in a single area. Urban environments are not the best places for birds to thrive. Constant light, noise, and lack of natural food sources make it a challenging place for wild animals to live. Yet species like grackles, blackbirds, and starlings demonstrate remarkable adaptability to their environments. While the urban environment is drastically different than the environment they evolved in, birds make use of man-made structures to not only survive but also successfully reproduce and establish completely urban populations of birds that continue to grow. For every amazing performance of bird balance you see on a powerline, a bird’s incredible adaptability and years of evolution are on full display.



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Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

Fiddler Crabs



Jace Tunnell holding a male fiddler crab

While cruising the Texas coast this week during my Beachcombing survey, I came across one of the most entertaining — and ecologically important — residents of our shoreline: the fiddler crab. Easily recognized by the comically oversized claw on males, fiddler crabs are named for their resemblance to a person playing the fiddle. But that claw isn’t for looks. Males wave it to attract mates and to challenge rival males, creating what can only be described as a coastal crab dance-off. Females, on the other hand, have two small, equal-sized claws and seem unimpressed by all the waving. These tiny crabs thrive in mudflats, salt marshes, and sandy estuaries along the Texas coast. I spotted them in droves near shallow burrows in the mud — burrows that do more than provide shelter. They also help aerate the sediment and support nutrient cycling, keeping these coastal ecosystems healthy. Fiddler crabs are detritivores, meaning they eat decomposing plant material, algae, and organic matter in the mud. Using their small claw, they scoop up sediment and sift out the edible bits with their mouthparts. The large claw? It’s far too big for eating duties. If a male loses it in a skirmish, the smaller claw will regenerate and grow into a new large claw over time.

Most active during low tide, fiddler crabs scurry sideways across exposed mudflats, feeding and dodging predators. When danger approaches, they make a speedy retreat into their burrows. They’re an important food source for birds, fish, and other coastal wildlife. Several species live in Texas, including the mud fiddler and the sand fiddler. Though they spend most of their lives on land, they need to return to the water periodically to moisten their gills and reproduce. And yes, in some cultures these little crabs are considered a delicacy, although I think it would take a thousand of them to get full. So next time you’re out on the flats or exploring a marsh, look down, you might just witness a crab-sized showdown and a critical piece of coastal life scuttling by. 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 harteresearch.org, or Facebook (facebook.com/harteresearch), Instagram (@harteresearch) and X (@HarteResearch) (the platform formerly known as Twitter).



Two fiddler crabs



Fiddler crab

Island Moon on a Spoon

By Vita Jarrin

Apple season is here. What’s your favorite apple? Hard to choose sometimes. Well... let’s rewind! Part of enjoying the fall season is the bounty we get from fall fruits and vegetables harvested, this time of year. We have access to various types of squash, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, various pears, and yes... a large selection of apples. Whether bobbing for apples on Halloween, eating one or cooking with many, we have a large selection from which to choose. Depending on our taste, or our cooking needs, we can pick a tart granny smith, a sweet juicy honey crisp, a mackintosh, or even a lightly sweet, red crispy, Washington apple, just to name a few.

Many of us have a favorite, or a favorite way of eating one. One of my favorite ways to eat an apple is one that is dipped in lots of caramel and slathered in nuts! Did someone say... Taffy Apples? Bingo! I can bypass a lot of desserts, but I find it difficult to bypass taffy apples. They are sweet, salty and tangy!

Unfortunately, taffy apples can’t take the place of a warm piece of apple pie. Apple pie often calls for a delicious cup of coffee, or a cup of hot apple cider. But no worries... I took the concept of an apple pie crust, filled with sweet and tart apples, sautéed in creamy butter, then tossed in brown sugar and deglazed with a splash of bourbon. I then nestled them in a crispy, buttery crust and topped it with almonds. Once baked, I drizzled it, all over with hot, homemade caramel! Voila! I can now have the best of both worlds! A Taffy Apple Crostata.

I don’t call it a pie, because a pie is meant to be cut from a whole into single servings. However, since I don’t share my Taffy Apple, (just kidding) I decided to make my crostata (an individual sized tart) and make single serve portions, like you would get from a taffy apple.

Crostatas are fun and versatile, just like a pie crust is. You can add cheese to the crust or herbs as well as fill them with other fruits, berries, dried fruits and nuts as well as savory fillings. One example is, roasted cherry tomatoes and savory goat cheese, drizzled with extra virgin olive oil, or how about smearing the crust in a cilantro and garlic pesto, and adding sautéed chorizo, caramelized onions, and top it with crumbled queso fresco (soft, fresh Mexican cheese). Crostata’s are quite tasty and allow for you to be creative and have fun making them, whether you’re serving yourself, or making a batch to serve others.

This Week’s Recipe: Taffy Apple Crostata:

Yields 4-6 Individual Crostatas

Crust:

10 Tbsp. butter cut into pieces
2 C All Purpose flour
½ Tsp. Salt
½ C + 4 Tbsp. Sugar
1 Egg Yolk
½ Cup Sour Cream
1 Egg (whipped for egg wash)
Raw Sugar for Topping Crostata
Flour for dusting

Directions:

Place flour in a bowl and add butter. With your hands, rub the butter in between the flour, until crumbly. Add the salt and sugar, and then the egg yolk and sour cream. ***Note: Egg Yolks vary in size... if dough is a bit dry... add 1 to 2 Tbsp. heavy cream or a little extra sour cream
Mix until a dough ball forms and let rest for 30 minutes, covered in saran wrap, in refrigerator.
Preheat Oven to 350 degrees.

Dust counter with flour, and with a rolling pin, roll out dough to about ¼ inch thickness and cut into a circle using a knife by cutting around a saucer. Fill the circles with a pinwheel of sliced apples and top with nuts or dried fruit of choice and drizzle with any brown sugar sauce from making the apples. You can top with butter pats if you wish to add richness to the tart as well as a shiny sheen. With a brush, egg wash each crostata and add the raw sugar and bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes until golden brown. Once cooled and ready to serve, you may drizzle with caramel sauce.

Filling:

1 lemon Juiced in a bowl of cold water
6 Granny Smith or Washington Apples, cored and sliced, placed in lemon water (drain before sautéing)
1 Tsp. Cinnamon
2 Tbsp. Butter
2 Tbsp. Honey Bourbon
1 C Sliced Almonds or any nut of choice

Melt butter and add apples with cinnamon and stir. Add the brown sugar and once melted, add the bourbon and step back, it may flambé (A flame will form if using a gas stove). Stir and cook, until the alcohol burns off (2 minutes) and a light sauce forms. Remove from heat and set aside.

Caramel Sauce:

1 C Granulated Sugar
6 Tbsp. salted butter cut up into 6 pieces
½ C Heavy Cream
1 Tsp. Salt

***Note be super careful not to touch the caramel sauce while cooking it. Sugar is a very serious burn hazard. If unsure, using a store bought caramel is forgivable.

- Heat granulated sugar in medium saucepan, stirring constantly with a heat resistant spatula, or wooden spoon
- As the sugar heats, the clumps will disappear and the color of the sugar will turn into amber colored liquid
- The pan will be hot, therefore, the sugar will continue to caramelize and get dark. So, to avoid this, when it gets golden, be prepared to remove off heat, in order not to burn it. You can put back on the heat in order to add butter and cream
- Once sugar is completely melted, about 2-3 minutes add the butter. It will melt into the caramel sauce
- From the edge of the pan, add the heavy cream and continue stirring. Since the heavy cream is cold, the caramel sauce will begin to bubble rapidly, allow the mixture time to consolidate, by slowly stirring the sauce and incorporating the cream.
- Remove from the heat and add the salt and stir.
-
-

Tip of the week:

You can make any sweet crostata extra special by serving it ala mode by adding vanilla bean ice cream first and then drizzling the caramel sauce. If the caramel sauce is a bit hardened, you may use a microwave to heat it back up, so it’s easier to drizzle over the dessert! And lastly... you can make one big crostata also and serve the whole family instead of making multiple individual servings... I won’t tell! Forward any pictures, questions or comments to editor@islandmoon.com Happy Eats... Enjoy!



Apple Crostata

The Art of Island Life

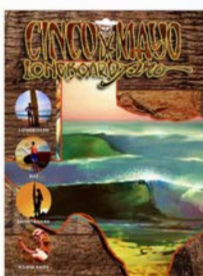
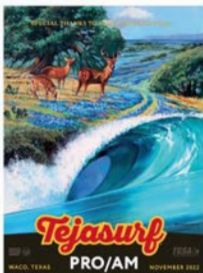
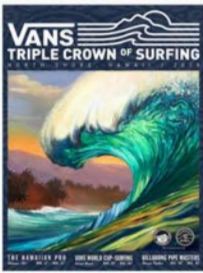


By Melissa Mitchell

Catch the Wave - Surf Art & Poster Show

SURF POSTER

20 YEARS OF VISUAL STOKE



Surf Posters by Wade Koniakowsky

If you’ve ever stood in front of a Wade Koniakowsky painting, you know—his waves don’t just move, they breathe. You can almost hear them. Each brushstroke carries the rhythm of the ocean, capturing both its calm and its chaos in perfect balance.

On Saturday, November 8th, *Padre Island Art Gallery* will make waves with a *Surf Art & Poster Show*, featuring nationally recognized surf artist Wade Koniakowsky. Known for his luminous oceanscapes and iconic surf posters, Wade’s work captures the spirit of the sea with both design precision and emotion. The evening marks the gallery’s final show of the year—a celebration of the creative energy that connects surf, art, and community.

From Design to the Deep Blue

Long before he became known as a master wave artist, Wade’s world was defined by design. “For years I’ve been fascinated with poster design—Russian Constructivist, Bauhaus, even World War II propaganda posters,” he shared. “I loved the single-page format with its powerful blend of typography and image.”

That early fascination shaped his creative eye and would eventually lead him into the heart of surf culture. When Wade sold his ad and design agency in 2004 to pursue painting full-time, it didn’t take long for word to spread. Within a year, major surf brands were calling—Quiksilver, Roxy, Billabong, Vans. “At first, I wasn’t sure I wanted to be pigeonholed as a ‘surf artist,’” he laughed. “But I wasn’t about to turn down work from companies I’d admired for so long.”

Then came the call every surf designer dreams of: the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing. “When I got the call in 2017 to create the poster for the 2018 Triple Crown, I saw it as a huge opportunity,” Wade said. “By then, Vans had begun creating merch stores at their events—so my art wasn’t just on posters anymore. It was on shoes, boardshorts, towels... it became part of the whole experience.” That moment cemented his place in surf art history—and his work began to ripple far beyond the coasts of California and Hawaii.

Surfing the Texas Coast

Wade’s connection to Texas runs deep. Over the years, he’s created posters and artwork for numerous Texas surf events, collaborating with legends like Brad Lomax of the Texas Surf Museum and the late Kevin Greer, who co-ran the Cinco de Mayo Contest with Ken Jorgensen. “Those two events stand out,” Wade said. “They both loved good art and gave me the freedom to create.”

Visitors to this upcoming show will see prints and originals from those Texas surf projects, including the Cinco de Mayo Contest posters—available in limited quantities for collectors and surf history buffs alike.

Adding to the night’s energy is a tribute to one of Texas’s most influential modern surfers, Nathan “Nate” Floyd of Corpus Christi. As a surfer, explorer, and cultural torchbearer, Nate helped define what surfing means along the Gulf Coast.

A co-owner of Wind & Wave Watersports, Nate became a pioneer of “tanker surfing”—riding the massive, rolling waves created by cargo ships. His adventurous spirit and survival story, following a near-fatal accident in 2021, have since inspired surfers worldwide.

“Nate represents what’s so special about Gulf Coast surf culture,” Wade said. “It’s creativity, resilience, and a sense of humor about chasing waves in places most people wouldn’t expect.”

Workshop: Gulf Coast Ocean-scapes

Before the show, Wade will host a hands-on **workshop on Friday, November 7th, from 1–4 p.m.**, titled Gulf Coast Ocean-scapes. He’ll share his approach to painting movement, light, and atmosphere in coastal scenes, blending fine art with the rhythm of the surf.

Workshop registration opens soon at padreislandartgallery.com/events—space is limited.

The Final Wave of the Year
Saturday night’s **Surf Art & Poster Show** marks the final event of the gallery’s 2025 show season—and it’s one you won’t want to miss. **Doors open at 6 p.m. on November 8th**, with new works by Wade on display, collector’s posters available, and an evening of coastal creativity that brings the art of surf full circle.

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 contact@melissamitchellart.com.

Pssst...
Something new is coming... Things are being shaken up, reimagined, refreshed, and redefined—and what’s coming together is something else you won’t want to miss.
□ “Every new chapter begins quietly—like the moment before a brush meets canvas. Change can be both familiar and brand new, all at once.” — Padre Island Art Gallery

Padre Island Art Gallery
14646 Compass Drive
<http://www.padreislandartgallery.com>

Senior moments Special to the Island Moon



The United States Secretary of Defense (War) Part 2

By Dotson Lewis

*Dotson's Note: The secretary of defense, appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the **Senate**, is by federal law the head of the Department of Defense, "the principal assistant to the President in all matters relating to Department of Defense", and has "authority, direction and control over the Department of Defense". Because the Constitution vests all military authority on Congress and the president, the statutory authority of the secretary of defense is derived from their constitutional authorities. Since it is impractical for either Congress or the president to participate in every piece of Department of Defense affairs, the secretary of defense and the secretary's subordinate officials generally exercise military authority. Thanks to Wikipedia for the facts contained in this report.*



As the head of DoD, all officials, employees and service members are "under" the secretary of defense. Some of those high-ranking officials, civil and military (outside of OSD and the Joint Staff) are: the secretary of the Army, secretary of the Navy, and secretary of the Air Force, Army chief of staff, commandant of the Marine Corps, chief of naval operations, Air Force chief of staff, chief of space operations, and chief of the National Guard Bureau and the combatant commanders of the Combatant Commands. All these high-ranking positions, civil and military, require Senate confirmation. The Department of Defense is composed of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) and the Joint Staff (JS), Office of the Inspector General (DODIG), the Combatant Commands, the Military Departments (Department of the Army (DA), Department of the Navy (DON) & Department of the Air Force (DAF)), the Defense Agencies and DoD Field Activities, the National Guard Bureau (NGB), and such other offices, agencies, activities, organizations, and commands established or designated by law, or by the president or by the secretary of defense. Department of Defense Directive 5100.01 describes the organizational relationships within the department and is the foundational issuance for delineating the major functions of the department. The latest version, signed by former secretary of defense Robert Gates in December 2010, is the first major re-write since 1987. The secretary's principally civilian staff element is called the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and is composed of the deputy secretary of defense (DEPSECDEF) and six under secretaries of defense in the fields of acquisition & sustainment, research & engineering, comptroller/chief financial officer, intelligence, personnel & readiness, and policy; several assistant secretaries of defense; other directors and the staffs under them. The Secretary of Defense is issuing through the Office of the Secretary of Defense the National Defense Strategy, a major policy document. The name of the principally military staff organization, organized under the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the Joint Staff (JS). The Defense Distinguished Service Medal (DDSM), the Defense Superior Service Medal (DSSM), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (DMSM), the Joint Service Commendation Medal (JSCM) and the Joint Service Achievement Medal (JSAM) are awarded, to military personnel for service in joint duty assignments, in the name of the secretary of defense. In addition, there is the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (JMUA), which is the only ribbon (as in non-medal) and unit award issued to joint DoD activities, also issued in the name of the secretary of defense. The DDSM is analogous to the distinguished services medals issued by the military departments (i.e. Army Distinguished Service Medal, Navy Distinguished Service Medal & Air

Force Distinguished Service Medal), the DSSM corresponds to the Legion of Merit, the DMSM to the Meritorious Service Medal, the JSCM to the service commendation medals, and the JSAM to the achievement medals issued by the services. While the approval authority for DDSM, DMSM, JSCM, JSAM and JMUA is delegated to inferior DoD officials: the DDSM can be awarded only by the secretary of defense. Recommendations for the Medal of Honor (MOH), formally endorsed in writing by the secretary of the military department concerned and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are processed through the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, and such recommendations must be approved by the secretary of defense before it can be handed over to the president, who is the final approval authority for the MOH, although it is awarded in the name of Congress. The secretary of defense, with the concurrence of the secretary of state, is the approval authority for the acceptance and wear of NATO medals issued by the secretary general of NATO and offered to the U.S. permanent representative to NATO in recognition of U.S. service-members who meet the eligibility criteria specified by NATO. As the head of the department, the secretary of defense is the chief witness for the congressional committees with oversight responsibilities over the Department of Defense. The most important committees, with respect to the entire department, are the two authorizing committees, the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) and the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), and the two appropriations committees, the Senate Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. For the DoD intelligence programs the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence have the principal oversight role. The secretary of defense is a statutory member of the National Security Council. As one of the principals, the secretary along with the vice president, secretary of state and the assistant to the president for national security affairs participates in biweekly Principals Committee (PC) meetings, preparing and coordinating issues before they are brought before full NSC sessions chaired by the president. Dotson's Other Note: The secretary is one of only five or six civilians – the others being the president, the three "service secretaries" (the secretary of the Army, secretary of the Navy, and secretary of the Air Force), and the secretary of homeland security (when the United States Coast Guard is under the United States Department of Homeland Security and has not been transferred to the Department of the Navy under the Department of Defense) – authorized to act as convening authority in the military justice system for General Courts-Martial (10 U.S.C. § 822: article 22, UCMJ), Special Courts-Martial (10 U.S.C. § 823: article 23, UCMJ), and Summary Courts-Martial (10 U.S.C. § 824: article 24 UCMJ). The secretary of defense is a Level I position in the Executive Schedule, thus earning a salary of US\$246,400, as of October 2024. *FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Thursdays 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.*



Halloween party by Kim Erwin and the Keller Williams team.

Don't miss the October Padre Island Farmers' Market coming up on Thursday 10/16 at Whitecap and SLC Trunk or Treat on 10/24 6-7.



City to Sell Used Vehicles and Equipment at Auction

Auction Will be In-Person and Live Webcast

The City of Corpus Christi, in conjunction with John Sisk Auctioneers, Inc., will hold its annual vehicle and equipment auction on October 18, at 10:00 a.m. The event will take place at the City auction lot, located at 5352 Ayers Street.

The City uses this auction to sell used or obsolete equipment that still has value and reinvests the revenue for purchasing new vehicles and equipment.

- The auction preview is October 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on the day of the auction
- The auction will be in-person and Live Webcast
- Buyer's Premium is 10% in-person and 12% online, and a 3% credit card fee

Access to pre-bidding, auction registration (must be registered to bid), and simulcast information can be found at John Sisk Auctioneers, Inc. (hibid.com) or (<https://siskauction.hibid.com/auctions>)

For more information, contact Russell Dean, Assistant Director, Asset Management – Fleet, at 361-826-1957 or RussellD@cctexas.com.

This year's auction lots will include over 225 vehicles (Peterbilt, Ford, Chevrolet, John Deere, Frazier, Freightliner, Kubota, etc.), as well as other items such as compressors, trailers, watercraft, water pumps, engines, golf carts, auto parts, electronic signs, and much more.

dolphins arrived to swim with the dog then began playing with the dog toy. We have learned over the years not to be too specific on the location of sightings of our dolphin friends because invariably someone will try to put a saddle on one and ride it or try to feed it Cheetos, or some such thing, but suffice to say an Islander and his dog now have a great story to tell.

Riley P. Dog Park

And speaking of Island dogs the *Riley P. Dog Park* on The Island is now back open full time. They still need volunteers to help open and close the gate but the park is in full bloom and ready for frolicking. Who knows you might even see a dolphin at the dog park with the best view of any dog park anywhere.

Stop sign on new Commodores bridge

Our story last issue regarding a decision on whether to place a stop sign(s) on either end of the new Commodores Drive bridge drew a response from officials at the Texas Department of Transportation this week. The \$10 million bridge is now complete and the traffic lanes are fully open in both directions. A report to the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) two weeks ago indicated that TxDot officials would be involved in the decision on whether to place stop signs there but we got a call to the contrary from TxDOT officials this week stating emphatically that while the bridge is of a TxDOT design that

agency is not involved in any decision on a stop sign saying the project is a city project and the decision will be made there. It may be an issue for the ISAC to take up but as we sit here today no signs are up on the new bridge and we must say it is a very nice bridge.

Harvest Moon Regatta

Each October a group of sailors set out from the Galveston area under the Harvest Moon and race to Port Aransas by its ample glow. This year was the 38th running of the *Harvest Moon Regatta* and a total of 83 boats made the crossing but the stars of the show were a crew of Sea Scouts ages 14-17 aboard the boat *Greek Fire* who won Division B by finishing in sixteen hours and fifteen minutes by hugging the shoreline. Longtime Islander and expert sailor Fred Soward finished fourth in Division B in his boat *America J* making the crossing in seventeen hours and six minutes but it was the kids who stole the show this year. Way to go you guys!

The large numbers of Moon jellyfish that have been washing up in numbers on beaches *Around The island* of late have started to let up after being as thick as Island mosquitoes for a few weeks. Halloween will be here before we know it and come November 2 we transition to *Daylight Wasting Time* when the sun sets before happy hour. That’s all for now everybody, enjoy October and say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



Riley P. Dog in full flight.

Padre Island Business Association Events

Taste of The Island October 22

Taste of the Island - October 22 at Mansion Royal. Title Sponsor is Representative Todd Hunter

Tickets available now until sold out. GA are \$55 each or tables of 10, 8, or 4 may be purchased.

Link on Facebook page, Facebook event, and PIBA website

Barefoot Mardi Gras is one of the top 3 finalists for EVENT OF THE YEAR at the 2025 State of Tourism Gala and Hospitality Awards put on by VCC. So we need everyone to vote so BFMG can win another award!! Voting is live now - public voting is Oct 1-31

Here is the landing page with a link on it to vote; <https://www.visitcorpuschristi.com/state-of-tourism/awards/>

Or direct link to vote here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciDUbrBK8YLB-wdik6UemigZV7EkJaKRpfeSYdqUSHq5hkANQ/viewform>

BFMG 2026 dates set so far: Kickoff Party is scheduled for Friday January 30, and Parade is Saturday, February 28.



Morning Flight and Foliage By Lu Ann Kingsbury

New Study Pinpoints Texas as a Source of Nurdle Pollution to Mexico

PORT ARANSAS, TX - A novel analysis combining chemistry and ocean modelling reveals that Texas is likely a source of nurdle pollution to Mexican coastlines. These tiny plastic pellets, comparable in size to a lentil, are the raw material used in manufacturing plastic products. Once released into the environment, they are extremely difficult to clean up due to their buoyancy and small size. Despite the challenge they pose, nurdles are surprisingly traceable. Most are white, contain few additives, and share a similar chemical structure. Their buoyancy allows scientists to model their movement using oceanographic particle tracking systems.

The study, led by Jordan Cisco, a graduate student at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI), published this week in *Environmental Research Letters*. Cisco and coauthors analyzed over 700 samples to track the likely sources and pathways of nurdles from Texas to the Yucatán Peninsula. By examining color changes and chemical degradation, researchers developed weathering patterns and indices that indicate how long nurdles have been in the water. Those weathering patterns pointed to probable source locations and were input into a particle tracking oceanographic model to simulate probable routes for the nurdles after release. Results indicated that in the western Gulf of Mexico (America), Texas is likely a source of plastic pollution to Mexican coasts and not the other way around. The movement along the coast is relatively rapid, with several hundred miles in a time scale of several months.

The results were clear: Texas is a likely source of plastic pollution to Mexico—not the other way around.

“Identifying the source is the first step toward solving the problem,” says Cisco. “This kind of source-tracking can be applied globally to help pinpoint pollution origins and inform cleanup strategies.”

Plastic pollution is a global crisis, and nurdles are a major contributor. By under-

standing where they come from and how they travel, policymakers can better target prevention efforts. This research offers a promising path forward for mitigating plastic pollution through science-based solutions.

The research used analytical techniques of color analysis, oxidative weathering to determine the length of exposure and time since release. While color analysis, changing from white to yellow and then brown, is a useful tool, it cannot statistically identify time in water or the degradation rate. The authors of the study analyzed mechanical abrasion and ultraviolet oxidation to determine how the molecular structure changes. They found that changes to the carbon and oxygen bonds in the molecular structure was the best indicator of weathering. To understand the route of released nurdles, a Lagrangian particle tracking model was coupled with a regional hydrodynamic model that used currents and other variables such as water level, and wind speeds. The ocean model simulated pollution sources from Galveston, Texas, and Veracruz, Mexico, under different seasonal and storm conditions. It showed fresher nurdles in Texas and more weathered ones in Mexico, confirming a southward movement of pollution. These findings were validated using buoy data. Texas and petrochemical plants have additional information and insight into where these spills are moving to. The types of analysis and new chemical techniques also provide a more accurate measurements of weathering changes as they relate to exposure time to make the pollution source estimates more precise.

Cisco collaborated with coauthors Xiangtao Jiang, Jianhong Xue, and Zhanfei Liu from UTMSI; Jace Tunnell from Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; and Junwei Hua and Jiabi Du from Texas A&M University. The research was supported by the Nurdle Patrol citizen science project, NOAA Marine Debris Program, UTMSI, Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust, and the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program.

Skate Park cont. from A1

age that will go before voters in November 2026, freeing up the TIRZ #2 funds for the skate park project.

Funds in the Island TIRZ #2 come from property tax on new construction inside the boundaries of the zone after its creation in 2002. (See the item in this issue for details). The Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) voted to approve funding for the skate park project in their October meeting pushing the decision to the TIRZ #2 board which met this week. The final decision on the skate park funding must still be approved by the Corpus Christi City Council, however that vote is not expected to be controversial as the fourteen-member TIRZ #2 board includes all nine members of the council who voted in favor of funding the skate park project this week.

Jeff Edmonds, Director of Engineering Services for the City of Corpus Christi told the Island Moon after the TIRZ #2 vote that he believes construction on the Billish skate park can be expedited by incorporating the design of an existing skate park in West Guth City Park.

“We can get someone working on the design pretty quickly. We’ll try to mirror West Guth as much as possible,” Edmonds said. “I think we could have a park in place possibly by this time next year.”

The cost of maintenance of the skate park after its completion was left open, but is expected to be minimal. The Padre Isles Property Owners Association maintains Billish Park under an agreement with the City of Corpus Christi and after the vote to fund the skate park this week issued the following statement:

“In effort to stay ahead of the rumor mill the PIPOA is aware of this initiative approved by the TIRZ committee: “...The Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) #2 Board approved funding just this morning for a skate park to be built at Billish Park. We will keep you informed as the project progresses. This item does still have to go to the City Council for their approval, and we are aiming for one of the November meetings. This skate park; however, is not part of our agreement with the City’s Parks and Recreation Department on Billish Park Maintenance. It will remain the City’s responsibility for maintenance support if and when it’s built. They will also be responsible for any insurance coverage it may require. We don’t disagree with the TIRZ committee’s decision; we just won’t accept ownership or liability of a skate park without full cost reimbursement.”

No timeline for the start of construction on the skate park has been announced.



The Sand Dollar Paper Street at Verdemar, and Park Road 22

Padre Island Market 'Island Market Days Harvest Festival' was held at Island Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 12th.
Photos By Debbie Noble.



The Battle of the Bowls Chili Cookoff hosted by the Laguna 4H was last weekend
Photos By Debbie Noble



The chili judges



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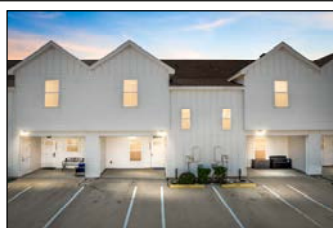
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14911 Packery View Loop 2/3 @ 1,168 sq ft. Looking for that GREAT beach getaway? Don't miss out on this priced to sell townhome. Sleeps 10+, poolside, short walk to the beach! **\$327,000** Call **Tinker Boos** 361-563-6641



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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



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14813 Leeward #404
3/2.5/2
\$2,700 / month

15325 Cruiser St. #A
2/2.5/1 canal views
\$2,450 / month



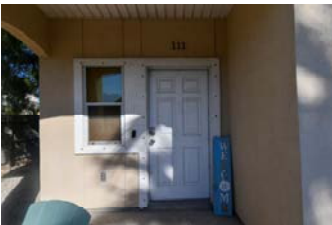
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14428 Compass St. Unit # 204 1BR/1BTH waterfront condo at the popular Mystic Harbor. Selling fully furnished and is equipped with all new hurricane rated windows/doors. First come first serve boat slip access **\$189,000** Call **Randy Corpuz**



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** Call **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

On the Rocks cont. from A1

(CIP). Once it's in the CIP, then engineering can issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) which will run for 30 days, and then they can sift through the responses, interview candidates, and then make a selection for a design/build contractor. More negotiations, and then hopefully a Notice-to-Proceed can be authorized for the contractor to do some geotechnical investigations, and preliminary design. Once designs are at 30%, then the public can see them through either ISAC or Parks and Recs Committee. Final design will occur, then they can actually start the construction. Those are the next steps here in the middle, but I'd like to back up a little and explain how we got here and the implications for the TIRZ #2.

How we got here

A skate park on the Island isn't a new idea; I remember back in the 1980's when skateboarding was really hitting its stride that a lot of decks were coming out of California, and they had been building half-pipes and skate parks for the booming trend. There was talk of building one somewhere in the city, and the Island came up several times. The idea has been around. Skaters were building half pipes in their back yards, using drainage culverts around town, and trespassing in downtown parking garages (so I hear, lol). There has been a need, and since then, there is now a skate park downtown at Cole Park and out at West Guth Park, which are used daily.

Roll with the time

Several years ago when I was chairing ISAC, the city was moving towards getting a master plan together for Commodores Park. We had lots of great input from the public regarding wanted components, like trails, pickleball courts, parking, etc. A skate park was indeed on the list, although it was down towards the bottom. The skate park made the cut for Phase III, but that meant that it would/will be many years down the line. Some kids and their parents, including Islander Cheryl Seacrest formed an organization, the Stoke Brokers along with advocates like Adam Rios and started a ground swell of support from the community and showed up at council. This made the difference in letting folks know that priorities have changed since those meetings we had several years ago. Roll with the times.

Fast forward

Fast forward to a few weeks ago when we had Commissioner Brent Chesney on the Island Moon Thursday radio show, and we were talking about changing priorities

within the TIRZ #2, and he was advocating for a skate park. Due to my close proximity to the inner workings of the TIRZ, and the recent de-scoping of several projects (e.g., Encantada Bridge down to culverts due to limited sight distance) there would be available funds. I mentioned that funds could be "moved to other TIRZ projects, like the Seawall, Packery Channel, or even a skate park." I didn't realize how many people were looking for the mechanism to do exactly that.

Since then, Brent and others behind the skate park have been working with staff and city management to move the skate park from Phase III at Commodores to sooner-than-later at Billish. The funding opportunity that I relayed to Brent was that the paper street Crowsnest, while going through design right now, has wetland issues, and may take a few years to get a permit for. I contend that design and permitting should continue on all paper streets on The Island, but because of permitting, construction may not be able to start until past the 2028 hump in funding of the TIRZ. So while we wait for the available funding level to come back up, let's do another project that can be shovel-ready soon. We've waited four decades for the paper streets to be built, so a little longer won't hurt. Plus they are already in the pipeline and moving forward, and I believe that they will get built in good time.

Here's who helped

I have to give kudos where kudos is due, and sorry if I miss a few people, as there have been many others. Past Assistant City Manager Heather Hurlburt was an absolute Island ally as she helped us not only renew the TIRZ, but showed us the flexibility of how to potentially get other projects on there. Sergio with the Parks and Recs department has been pushing the Commodores Park project to the point where council is supposed to cut the contractor loose in the next month or so, and he got all the Phase I items in this iteration that he could. Councilperson Kaylynn for getting it on the TIRZ agenda at the last minute and steering it through, and Commissioner Chesney for championing the project. That's the 30,000 foot level view, although in a nutshell.

It's been a wild ride lately folks, and there's a lot going on. Commissioner Chesney's Sandcastle Run is this weekend at the Briscoe King, next week is Sharkathon, and the weekend after is the Friends of Padre Fall Fiesta at the same place. More later. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll catch you next week On the Rocks



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Headed for Fall



These two youngsters have been coming to Port Aransas for over 50yrs! I've been blessed to take them fishing for a while and we always seem to laugh enough to call in the fish! FALL FUN!

We have eluded Tropical Storms and Cold fronts well past their normal debut. We did have a Fall Equinox tide that flushed us with good clean water from the Gulf, and pulled masses of baitfish out towards the surf zone. This is all a beautiful show of Mother Nature. Take a stroll along the beach and waves of finger mullet will be riding each wave, and gamefish under them. Their migration towards the passes has produced some of the best fishing trips of some folk's lives this year. I am looking forward to the first real cold snap; things are already turning the corner in nature here on our little island.

November is by far my favorite month for fishing! The dropping temperatures signal a time to start feeding hard and repairing for the harsh winter ahead. The flats that have been choked with sea grass are cleared out and that marbled bottom full of sand pockets has returned. The bay is quiet and not ripped apart by screaming boats. There is calm now, a relaxing walk of man and beast that we survived the heat of summer once again. November is a special time of year when the trout population has its FALL SPAWN! The female trout are already fat with eggs and grouping in spawning patterns now. We are targeting small pockets of fish in the shallows finding some of our biggest trout on topwater plugs. Soft plastics are producing limits of trout and scattered redfish all in 2-4' of water. The live croaker and piggy perch have been becoming more and more scarce and less effective. Live shrimp and popping corks are producing

lots of action and limits of trout redfish and some black drum. The big drop offs in Baffin along the rocks and shorelines have been best. In the Laguna Madre the spoil islands along the ICW are a great place to either anchor up and fish the deep traction close to the channel, or drift over the shallow spoils with live shrimp under a popping cork.

This is the time of year that fishing the lights in the canals can be great! Higher tides and a flushing incoming current from the gulf will push gamefish into the channels. Fishing the lights is a lot of fun! Nobody wants people casting into their docks or hanging out behind their house looking into the windows, well there are plenty of people that do like that I guess!

Be respectful and don't make noise fishing late at night. The trout under the lights can be very finicky and hard to catch. With the light on the bottom they can see every detail. Catching one or two on a certain lure will make them smart and you will have to change baits. Live shrimp works well, but small hooks and clear leaders are a must to trick them.

November is YOUR TIME TO COME TAKE AN ADVENTURE WITH ME! My schedule opens up a bit more and I'll have some open days here and there for last minute trips. Call and ask for my weekly fill in days and I'll share a big discount. Follow all of our fishing on Facebook at JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING! 361-442-8145



Sunrise By Michelle Walters

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I tricked this long Baffin Beauty on a dark red soft plastic along some shallow rocks. The transition to Fall has really turned on fishing.



Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

English singer-songwriter James Bay released a song earlier this year called, “Up All Night.” The Lumineers and Noah Kahan are featured on the song. It has quickly become one of my favorites.

The song has a catchy beat. It also speaks to our shared human experience about those things that keep us all night – worries, dreams, fears. It acknowledges our inner turmoil and anxiety. It voices our need for communication, for finding peace instead restlessness. It is not a song devoid of hope. The hope lies in finding clarity and the courage to change.

Who hasn’t tossed and turned through the night over issues related to a troubled relationship? Who hasn’t wrestled with debilitating thoughts at 3 am about problems at work, school, church, home, or from the past? Who hasn’t struggled in the darkness of confusion about the future? Who hasn’t been stung with the blow that comes from a diagnosis or news of a tragedy?

Who hasn’t grappled with God at some point about something? Even the Bible contains a strange and mysterious story about Jacob wrestling with the things that kept him up all night.

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we meet Abraham and Sarah. God chose to work through their family to bring redeeming love to humanity. They eventually had a son Isaac. Isaac married Rebekah. She had twins, Esau and Jacob. Jacob and Esau became estranged. Jacob had tricked his father stealing the family blessing from Esau. In those days the eldest son received the special blessing. Esau had been born first. He was understandingly angry and bitter. He wanted to kill his brother. Jacob fled.

In time, Jacob was led to return with his family. Esau decided to meet Jacob as he returned, with four hundred men. This anxiety, fear, and perhaps guilt, is what kept Jacob up all night. He was alone and isolated. He was alone in his hopes and fears, dreams and nightmares faced with crossing a river of uncertainty.

The story speaks of an unidentified man wrestling with Jacob through the night, until daybreak. When the nocturnal brawl ended,

Jacob said he had seen God face to face. Certainly, in any contest between God and human, God is the overwhelming favorite. However, as the story is told, there was no indication that God could wipe the ground with Jacob. Did God limit his powers? Did Jacob wrestle in high school? At dawn the mysterious adversary knocks Jacob’s hip out of joint. He also insisted that Jacob let him go. Jacob refused until the stranger blessed him. Jacob received that blessing.

Jacob’s wrestling suggests ample opportunity for an encounter with the unseen God in our lives. Hidden in our wrestling with the stuff that keeps us up all night may be our struggle with God. As we scrap to get control of life, our tussle might be with God. As we contend in relationships, our contending might be with God.

We may feel as if chaos is emerging and there is little we can. So, we grapple to overcome doubt and fear. We try to blame someone or create a scapegoat. We may feel we have been left in the dark. No wonder we prefer a God that is controllable, meek, mild, undemanding, and domesticated. God is none of these things.

Placing ourselves squarely in the hands of the living God is difficult because it is so hard for us to give up control of our choices. So often, it is with great pain that we discover that we have little control in life. Yet, the God who knows completely our broken humanity loves us enough to wrestle us back onto the paths of healing, reconciliation, and hope. This allows us to cross all our rivers of uncertainty in faith which gives us clarity and the courage to be changed.

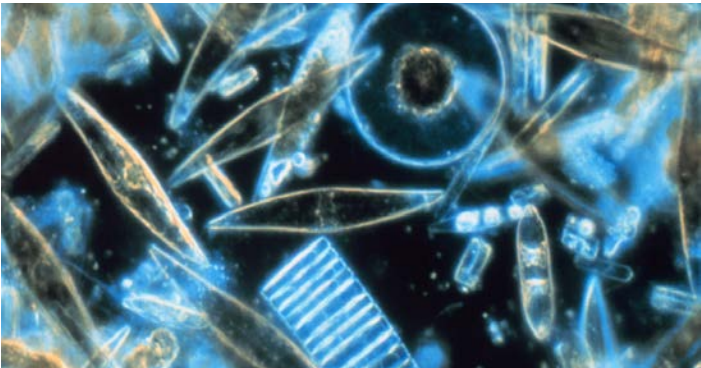
Each Sunday a bunch of humans also gather to worship God in community at Island Presbyterian Church, giving thanks for grace, love, healing, and hope, working for peace, justice, and reconciliation. There is always room at the table for you! Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m., 14030 Fortuna Bay Drive, or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

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



Mysterious Microscopic Skaters

For years, few scientists have devoted much time to studying Arctic diatoms, single-celled algae enclosed within a wall of glass-like silica. These bizarre organisms, after all, appeared frozen in the sea ice, stuck in dormancy, or so many scientists believed. In reality, however, ice diatoms are quite active—skating along the ice at temperatures as low as 5°F (-15°C). That’s what scientists recently discovered when they collected diatoms from the Arctic during an expedition in the Chukchi Sea, the body of water that sits between Alaska and Siberia above the Bering Strait, and brought them back to their lab to study them.



Under freezing conditions in the Arctic, diatoms are very active and skate along the ice. Credit: Dr. Gordon T. Taylor, NSF Polar Programs

Back at their lab, the researchers introduced the specimens to ice that resembled the diatoms’ natural environment. Then they watched as the diatoms sped along tiny channels in the ice. The algal cells glided along without the use of any appendages and without the kind of movement, such as wiggling, that other limbless organisms might use. The diatoms do it by secreting mucus that sticks to the icy surface at one end, creating a sort of anchored rope that they can pull themselves along. What stunned the researchers, though, was that the ice diatoms could move in this way at such cold temperatures. No other diatoms or other single-celled plants or animals had been documented as moving at temperatures this low.

Now the researchers are working to understand how diatoms function at such cold temperatures and, even more importantly, how they fit into the broader ecosystem of the Arctic. With the long-term existence of Arctic ice threatened by a warming global climate, researchers want to know: What will happen when the diatoms’ icy highways are gone?

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



The Harlem Globe Trotters 100 Years-Part 1

By Dotson Lewis

Dotson’s Note: They combine athleticism, theater, entertainment, and comedy in their style of play. Over the years, they have played more than 26,000 exhibition games in 124 countries and territories, mostly against deliberately ineffective opponents, such as the Washington Generals (1953–1995, 2007-2015, 2017-present) and the New York Nationals (1995–2006). The team’s signature song is ‘Brother Bones’ whistled version of “Sweet Georgia Brown”, and their mascot is an anthropomorphized globe named «Globie”. The team is owned by Herschend Enterprizes. Thanks to Bill Morgan and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in this report.



The Harlem Globetrotters originated in 1926 at the Giles American Legion Post # 87, on the South Side of Chicago, where all the original players were raised and went to Wendell Phillips High school in the Bronzeville neighborhood. They began as the Savoy Big Five, one of the premier attractions of the Savoy Ballroom; starting in January 1928, a basketball team of Black American players played exhibitions before dances to prop up the ballroom’s cratering attendance numbers. In 1928, several players left the team in a dispute. That autumn, those players formed a team called the “Globe Trotters” and toured southern Illinois that spring. Abe Saperstein became involved with the team as a coach, manager, promoter and part-time player. By 1929, Saperstein was touring Illinois and Iowa with his basketball team called the «New York Harlem Globe Trotters». Saperstein selected the name Harlem because it was then considered the center of Black American culture and the name Globetrotter to mythologize the team’s international venues.

The 1950 World Series Harlem Globetrotters, with owner Abe Saperstein (right) and team secretary W. S. Welch (left) The Globetrotters were perennial participants in the World Professional Basketball Tournament, winning it in 1940. In a heavily attended matchup a few years later, the 1948 Globetrotters–Lakers game, the Globetrotters made headlines when they beat one of the best white basketball teams in the country, the Minneapolis Lakers. The Globetrotters continued to easily win games due to Harlem monopolizing the entire talent pool of the best black basketball players in the country. Once one of the most famous teams in the country, the Globetrotters were eventually eclipsed by the rise of the National Basketball Association, particularly when NBA teams began recruiting black players in the 1950s. In 1950, Harlem Globetrotter Chuck Cooper became the first black player to be drafted in the NBA by Boston, and teammate Nat «Sweetwater» Clifton became the first black player to sign an NBA contract when the New York Knicks purchased his contract from the Globetrotters for \$12,500 (equivalent to \$163,000 in 2024). The Globetrotters gradually worked comic routines into their act—a direction the team has credited to Reece “Goose” Tatum, who joined in 1941—and eventually became known more for entertainment

than sports. The Globetrotters’ acts often feature incredible coordination and skillful handling of one or more basketballs, such as passing or juggling balls between players, balancing or spinning balls on their fingertips, and making unusually difficult shots. In 1952, the Globetrotters invited Louis “Red” Klotz to create a team to accompany them on their tours. This team, the Washington Generals (who also played under various other names), became the Globetrotters’ primary opponents. The Generals are effectively stooges for the Globetrotters, with the Globetrotters handily defeating them in thousands of games. In 1959, the Globetrotters played nine games in Moscow after Saperstein received an invitation from Vasily Grigoryevich, the director of Lenin Central Stadium. The team, which included Wilt Chamberlain, was welcomed enthusiastically by spectators and authorities, and they met Premier Nikita Khrushchev and collectively received the Athletic Order of Lenin medal. According to one report titled “Russians Baffled by Harlem Fun”, however, spectators were initially confused: “A Soviet audience of 14,000 sat almost silently, as if in awe, through the first half of the game. It warmed up slightly in the second half when it realized the Trotters are more show than competition.” The Globetrotters brought their own opponent—not the Washington Generals, but the San Francisco Chinese Basketeers. A review in state-run *Pravda* stated, «This is not basketball; it is too full of tricks» but praised the Globetrotters’ skills and suggested that «they have some techniques to show us». The American press—particularly Drew Pearson—made note of the fact that the Globetrotters were paid (per game) the equivalent of \$4,000 (equivalent to \$43,000 in 2024) by the Soviet government but were only allowed to spend it in Moscow. In May 1967, New York City–based Metromedia announced that it would acquire the Globetrotters for \$1 million, but the deal was never completed and the team was later sold to George N. Gillett Jr., who soon formed a new company called Globetrotter Communications in 1968. Nine years after the company’s attempted acquisition in 1976, Metromedia announced that it would acquire the Globetrotters for \$11 million from Globetrotter Communications. Many famous basketball players have played for the Globetrotters. Greats such as “Wee” Willie Gardner, Connie “the Hawk” Hawkins, Wilt “the Stilt” Chamberlain, and Nat “Sweetwater” Clifton later joined the NBA. The Globetrotters signed their first female player, Olympic gold medalist Lynette Woodard, in 1985. Because nearly all of the team’s players have been black, and as a result of the buffoonery involved in many of the Globetrotters’ skits, they drew some criticism during the Civil Rights era. The players were accused by some civil-rights advocates of «Tomming for Abe,” a reference to Uncle Tom and owner Abe Saperstein. However, prominent civil rights activist Jesse Jackson (who would later be named an honorary Globetrotter) came to their defense by stating, «I think they’ve been a positive influence... They did not show blacks as stupid. On the contrary, they were shown as superior.» In 1986, as part of the spin-off of Metromedia’s television stations to News Corporation and the 20th Century Fox film studio, the company sold the Globetrotters and the Ice Capades to the Minneapolis-based International Broadcasting Corporation (owners of KTAB-TV in Abilene, Texas and controlled by Thomas Scallen) for \$30 million. **To be Continued**



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Knuckle-Cracker

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Mind-Numbing Frustration

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Brain-Buster

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Skipper Tales

Smoke & Mirrors

By: Tess Clark

Perception is a mirror, it tilts what you see,
your judgment reflects
more of you than of me.

You gossip in circles, call whispers a fact,
but fiction looks silly
when the truth answers back.

You scroll like a scholar, convinced that you know,
but I post what I want
it's a curated show.

You could see the full picture if you stood where I stand,
not clinging to rumors
you don't understand.

The full story is waiting if you'd come to my side,
not just following the footprints
where all the falsehoods collide.

Walk a mile in my shoes, from beginning to end,
you'd learn what to carry,
and what we need to mend.

The bridges are ashes, the river runs fast,
the future keeps calling,
to release the weight of the past.

You boast of discovery, a scandal to claim,
but nothing was hidden,
there's no shadow, no shame.

Life doesn't pause while you stir up a scene,
there are babies & funerals
and new in between.

So pocket your pity, your whispers, your shade,
For the truth doesn't wrinkle when gossip is made.

You can twist all the tales
But the truth, it still stands.

Dedicated to everyone who wonders if I'm writing about them... I am.

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

- Gorillas, for example
- Shine softly
- Bus passenger
- Cooing bird
- Yard tool
- Author Jong
- Real-estate sales technique
- Fortune-teller's deck
- Make lovable
- Discussion groups
- From scratch
- "Iliad" or "Odyssey"
- Cavalry weapon
- Run out, as a subscription
- Coffee alternative
- "Finally!"
- Speck
- On the __ (fleeing)
- Guided vacation
- Wild West show
- Traveler's document
- Rural hotel
- Night bird
- Play segments
- Butterfly catcher
- Use a broom
- Shoe parts
- Winslet of "Titanic"
- Location
- Underground passage
- Cookbook component
- Stage whisper
- Kentucky's capital
- Call attention (to)
- Mixed-breed dog
- Song for one person
- Use an iron
- Observes
- Creame-filled cookie

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
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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			

Down

- Fuss
- Benedict XVI, e.g.
- Not odd
- Put in the mail
- Reaction to a bad joke
- Hardy's partner
- Gives the go-ahead
- Very small
- Make another recording
- Teheran native
- Shortest path
- Environmental sci.
- Lab animals
- Gets wind of
- Sauces made with basil
- Walks like a duck
- Glossy fabric
- Make amends
- Flatware needing sharpening
- Teacup handle
- "The Raven" author
- Artist's stand
- Gather up
- Bricklayer's tool
- Have a payment due
- Neckline shape
- Restaurant bill
- Takes the wheel
- Captain Kidd, for one
- South American mountains
- Campsite shelters
- Waterproof covering
- Computer operator
- In that case
- Unsatisfactory
- __ Stanley Gardner
- Some radio bands: Abbr.
- Feel bad about
- Also

Fifteen Years Ago in the Island Moon



A frothing school of redfish was moving offshore



Skydivers landed in front of the Holiday Inn



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16 Oct	17 Oct	18 Oct	19 Oct	20 Oct	21 Oct	22 Oct	23 Oct
Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
2:11AM 2.03ft	2:12AM 1.84ft	2:02AM 1.71ft	1:53AM 1.61ft	1:45AM 1.57ft	1:32AM 1.61ft	6:19PM 2.2ft	7:13PM 2.26ft
10:21AM 1.67ft	12:30PM 1.71ft	2:05PM 1.8ft	3:22PM 1.94ft	4:27PM 2.03ft	5:25PM 2.13ft		
8:06AM 1.64ft	7:57AM 1.41ft	8:10AM 1.18ft	8:29AM 0.92ft	8:50AM 0.72ft	9:11AM 0.56ft	9:34AM 0.39ft	9:58AM 0.33ft
6:40PM 0.69ft	7:46PM 0.92ft	8:47PM 1.15ft	9:50PM 1.38ft	11:04PM 1.54ft			
7:29AM 6:58PM	7:30AM 6:57PM	7:30AM 6:56PM	7:31AM 6:55PM	7:32AM 6:54PM	7:32AM 6:53PM	7:33AM 6:52PM	7:33AM 6:51PM
4:28PM 3:07AM	4:58PM 4:04AM	5:26PM 4:59AM	5:54PM 5:52AM	6:22PM 6:45AM	6:52PM 7:39AM	7:25PM 8:33AM	8:02PM 9:29AM
10	10	10	5	10	10	20	15

Crossword Solution

A	P	E	S		G	L	O	W		R	I	D	E	R
D	O	V	E		R	A	K	E		E	R	I	C	A
O	P	E	N	H	O	U	S	E		T	A	R	O	T
	E	N	D	E	A	R			P	A	N	E	L	S
				A	N	E	W		E	P	I	C		
S	A	B	E	R		L	A	P	S	E		T	E	A
A	T	L	A	S	T		D	O	T			L	A	M
T	O	U	R			R	O	D	E	O		V	I	S
I	N	N				O	W	L		S	C	E	N	E
N	E	T			S	W	E	E	P		H	E	E	L
		K	A	T	E		S	I	T	E				
T	U	N	N	E	L				R	E	C	I	P	E
A	S	I	D	E		F	R	A	N	K	F	O	R	T
R	E	F	E	R		M	U	T	T		S	O	L	O
P	R	E	S	S		S	E	E	S		O	R	E	O

Medical Minute



Carbohydrates and Sugars; Fat Hips don't Lie

I recently saw a very young man in my office who wanted to establish me as his primary care physician. He was morbidly obese. I did routine lab work on him, and it was no surprise to me what I found. His hemoglobin A1C was elevated. The hemoglobin A1C tells me the average blood glucose level over the past three months. I explained to him that this was elevated from consuming too many carbohydrates and too many sugars. I explained to him that carbohydrates are plant products, they are either a root or a grain that we eat. Carbohydrates and sugars are the sources of glucose. Glucose is the fuel of the human body, like gasoline is to a car. At the end of the day, the excess glucose is converted to fat and stored first in the liver. The fat then floats around in the blood, looking for a new place to be deposited. If a person's hemoglobin A1C is high, their lipid panel will almost always be elevated. The excessive glucose causes mostly the triglyceride level to go up but it will also cause the total cholesterol and the bad cholesterol, the LDL, to go up.

Excessive carbohydrates and sugars cause insulin resistance. This is because if the blood glucose level is always very high, the pancreas is always flooding the bloodstream with high levels of insulin. This causes our cells to become less responsive to insulin. Insulin resistance causes weight gain because as I mentioned earlier, at the end of the day the left over glucose is converted to fat and stored in the liver. When the liver cannot hold anymore fat, the fat will float around until it finds another place to be deposited. Anything that causes insulin resistance causes weight gain.

So much fat can accumulate in the liver that the functional capacity of the liver can become decreased. This is often reflected as an elevation of the transaminases or the liver enzymes. In this young man's case, his ALT was elevated. An abdominal ultrasound confirmed that he has a fatty liver. The decrease in liver functional capacity means that this young man could potentially develop liver diseases, like cirrhosis, with far less alcohol than a person with a normal liver. I dare not hurt anyone's feelings by calling them fat so let's call it hepatic steatosis. "Mommy! Dr. Martinez called me fat!"

There is a large vein that goes from the spleen to the liver. When the liver is saturated with fat, it causes a back up in pressure in the splenic vein. This causes splenomegaly, which means an enlarged spleen. One of the functions of the spleen is to destroy old red blood cells and platelets and recycle their by-products. An enlarged spleen causes increased splenic activity. This can cause the platelet count to become low, and it can also cause anemia in advanced cases. This back up in pressure can even cause the internal hemorrhoids to become engorged and easily irritated.

Morbid obesity very often causes obstructive sleep apnea. The fat under a person's chin pushes back on the opening of the oropharynx and makes the opening of the airway smaller when the person is sleeping at night. The muscles that keep the airway open relax when we sleep at night. The tongue falls back, and the tonsils move closer together. This makes the opening of the airway to become even smaller. People with obstructive sleep apnea don't get enough oxygen when they sleep at night. The large muscles of the body become painful because they are not receiving enough

oxygen while the person is sleeping every single night. The body of a person that has untreated obstructive sleep apnea is always under tremendous stress because of chronic oxygen deprivation. This causes the serum cortisol level to be high everyday. Cortisol is a natural steroid produced by the adrenal glands. The high levels of cortisol also cause insulin resistance. This causes weight gain. The muscle ache and chronic fatigue these people experience makes them unable to exercise, and they gain even more weight.

Weight gain generally causes an increase in blood pressure. This is because when our bodies get bigger, the heart has to pump harder and faster to meet the oxygen and nutrient requirements of the body. This is why excessive carbohydrates and sugars can cause the blood pressure to go up. Where ever salt goes water follows. People that eat too many carbs and too many sugars often eat a lot of fast food. Restaurant food is full of salt. This causes an increase in blood volume which causes the blood pressure to go up even further.

Some of a man's testosterone is normally converted to estrogen. Fat, called adipose tissue, causes testosterone to convert to estrogen at a much higher rate. There is an enzyme in adipose tissue called aromatase. Aromatase facilitates the conversion of testosterone to estrogen at a much higher rate than normally occurs. Increased estrogen levels in men causes growth of breast tissue and testicular atrophy. Testosterone can also become trapped in adipose tissue. Of course, a diet high in carbohydrates and sugars causes weight gain. This is why morbidly obese men have low levels of testosterone. Low testosterone can cause depression, decreases muscle mass, and makes it harder to lose weight.

A diet high in carbohydrates and sugars can also cause plaque build up in the arteries. If I spill some orange juice on the floor and it is not cleaned up properly, it will become a sticky mess. The same thing happens in the bodies of people that consume too many carbohydrates and too much sugar. The sticky sugar residue in the blood will stick to the insides of our blood vessels. This is especially true in the smaller blood vessels. A sticky mesh can form in the small blood vessels much easier than it can occur in larger blood vessels because of the decreased diameter. These plaque meshes are called advanced glycosylation end products. This mesh will then trap large fat globules and large proteins. Eventually this will cause the small blood vessels to become blocked.

People that consume a lot of carbohydrates and sugars also have a much higher incidence of tooth decay. Sweets drinks are especially notorious for causing dental caries. A lot of people feel the urge to brush their teeth after eating to remove food particles from between their teeth. Sugary drinks do not leave solid particles in between the teeth so many people will drink sweet drinks without brushing their teeth often enough. The sugar stays in between the teeth causing tooth decay.

I think you must see my point here. Excessive carbohydrates and sugars will wreak havoc on your body. Get in the habit of avoiding carbohydrates and sugars as much as possible. Instead of sugary drinks, drink water.

In my family you started fishing as soon as you were old enough to hold a fishing pole. I may have started before but I only have vivid fishing memories back to the age of around four or five.

We lived in the town of Goldthwaite, Texas and moved from town round the summer of 1948 to a cabin on Lake Merritt which was called a railroad lake, although I have no idea what that meant. My memorable fresh-water fishing career started at that lake. If you didn't catch any fish when you went fishing in Lake Merritt you just weren't trying. I fished from a long wooden pier jutting out into the lake practically every day, the best I can remember until that fateful day in the first grade when a big third grader tackled me and broke my leg. I didn't know that my leg was broken and I kept trying to stand up and couldn't. The school nurse was summoned and when she asked me what was wrong, I said, "I don't know but every time I try to stand, it feels like there is a spring in my leg."

My kids still dog me about that description, but the school nurse couldn't suppress her laughter when she saw I was experiencing no pain, and chuckled "You have broken your leg." I thoroughly loved the attention I received especially when Jenny, the cute little dark haired girl with pigtails that sat in front of me in class, signed my cast. I was in the clouds, because she would even carry my books out to the car, because I was on crutches. I worked this for all it was worth, but then came an unexpected problem. My fishing days became severely hampered because my parents would no longer let me go out on the pier. (Some lame excuse about falling in the water and not being able to swim with a cast on my leg or something equally silly.)

After moping around for several days and finally getting my parents to feel sorry for me or maybe they just got tired of hearing my complaints, my Dad came up with a solution. There was a huge metal water tank next to the house and my Dad caught fish from the lake and put them in the tank. I would sit next to the tank and catch the same fish over and over. Remember now, there was no TV or video games in those days, so fishing in the tank never got old. This turned out to be the formative years of my fishing addiction.

I didn't get my first taste of salt water fishing, however, until around the age of twelve, when I traveled with a friend to Port Aransas and fished in the surf. I was hooked from the time we entered the old wooden causeway from Aransas Pass where I first saw the sign that read "Welcome to Aransas Pass where they bite every day," I guess I should have known back then that this was my personal "Manifest Destiny."

Many years passed by after that, but eventually after I got married my wife and I began to drive to The Coast from New Braunfels where we lived for weekend fishing trips. Now my wife would not go out on a boat so we were limited to jetty, surf or pier fishing. We got hooked on the latter. At first we just carried our equipment from the truck, making several trips up the ramp to the pier. As we began to add more and more equipment to our itinerary we discovered the luggage cart. With this we could load up the ice chest, some of the bait and a couple of rods. Unfortunately as the amount of equipment grew, several trips the truck became necessary. This cut into valuable fishing time. Then came the big commitment, the pier cart. There were several cart options available, but none were big enough to carry all of our equipment. What we came up with was our "dream cart." A huge homemade cart complete with ...# 1 A live bait well with an electric bilge pump and drilled pvc pipe like a small version of the tanks in the bait shops completely rigged with variable speeds. #2 Lights for fishing on the pier after dark. # 3 Multiple rod holders, #4 Separate compartments for hooks, weights, corks and leaders. # 5 A shelf for a large ice chest. #6 A place for the heavy duty 12-volt truck battery with volt and amp meters to give us instant battery status. # 7 Last but not least cigarette lighter plugs or accessories such as radio and phone charger, because at that time we were using the old Motorola Mobile phone that they called the "Brick" because there were no cell phones as of yet.

Tackle boxes, chairs and a huge homemade drop net were all strapped on top until it looked like the Beverly Hillbilly's moving day. Oh, I almost forgot, there was an extra fully charged truck battery in the pickup in case the battery we were using got drained. Pulling this cart up the ramp to the pier was a chore that exemplified a donkey pulling a fully loaded cart. My wife joked that the donkey part was a perfect example. (I think she was joking), with the promise of catching fish dangling in front of me instead of a carrot. This rig was a sight to behold, and so elaborate and well stocked that people would stop to admire it, and quite a few fishermen thought it was a mini store on wheels and would try to buy bait and hooks from us.

All the innovations did pay off, and there is an album full of pictures with catches attributed to this rig. We became a well-known fixture on Horace Caldwell Pier and we fished through rainstorms, thunder storms, cold fronts and one huge rainy wind storm that sent us to the shelter of the entrance. We did have some of our equipment blow away during this storm and were shocked to find out later that a tornado touched down near us and tore off a roof.

So the conclusion, basically is that pier fishing can be fun and can keep your freezer well stocked, no boat and motor required.



A black and white photograph of a man with a beard and a shaved head, smiling. He is wearing a white button-down shirt with a small logo on the left chest. He is holding a brochure titled "business" which features a bar chart. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a bank branch with a "Community Bank" sign.

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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Pig Party debriefing...



Nik Parr and the Selfless Lovers played Shorty's Pig Party last Saturday.

Last weekend was a total blast. The annual *Pig Party* at *Shorty's* last Saturday went off without a hitch. I must say, **Nik Parr** is a bonafied monster. Holy moly can that cat ever rock. He banged on that keyboard like he was playing for **Jerry Lee Lewis**, not to mention that tenor sax he had swinging from his neck made it sound like a freight train was coming straight at you. In ALL honesty, Nik and his **Selfless Lovers** put on arguably the best show I've seen all year. It's obvious they've been to the woodshed, tore it down and rebuilt it with a groove like you ain't ever seen. Plus I was really impressed with the opening solo act, **Darren McGill**. At first when he was setting up to play, I thought to myself, oh **Jeeze**, not another loop-er. But brother he had all those moving parts working like a Swiss clock. His voice was pure and versatile and his guitar playing could go toe to toe with darn near anybody. And the rock band that finished off the night, **Left Right Left** surprised me with a nice selection of punk, grunge and indie rock. They were a nice change of pace and the dancers seemed to like them. I thought the music line-up this year was fire, if I do say so myself. The BBQ pork came off the grill a little late, but it was well worth the wait. All in all, I'd say it was a smashing success. Kudos go to everyone that worked to make it such a wonderful event this year.

Scattered shots...



Jerry Diaz and Hanna's Reef played the Sip Yard last Friday.

Other than the *Pig Party*, I did make it over to the *Sip Yard* on Friday to catch another installment of the autumn concert series sponsored by the *Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce, Beachtober Beats*, to see trop-rocker **Jerry Diaz and Hanna's Reef**. Jerry had some familiar faces on stage with him; **Rusty Hicks** on drums and **Ron Baker** on guitar. I've seen Jerry perform many times and really love his music and all the *Parrot Head* energy they invite. Their steel drum player really adds a whole new calypso layer ala **Harry Belafonte**. Also, *Shorty's* had another fun band on Friday with the **Mantle Jennings Band**. I really enjoyed them and the hot licks that **Damion Mantle** and **Jody Jennings** layed on us. Plus, you add **Matt Perez** on drums and **Rick Linn** on keys, and you got yourself a dandy little ensemble. If you haven't already, you really do need to go see these guys. They're a rockin' good time. There were two noteworthy shows in town; the **Village People** (yep, you heard that right... THE Village People from the 70's who did YMCA) played *Concrete Street* last Friday. I think they're down to only one original remaining member and I'm hoping it's the cowboy. I saw them many years ago in San Antonio with a whole bunch of other quirky bands from that era and you couldn't help but groove along. I know this sounds cheesy but fun is fun. And another cool event came and went last weekend on the beach in Port A was the annual *Fall Kite Fly* down at Pole 9 and what a spectacular event it was! I absolutely love the big kites and especially the lighted ones they fly at night. Do we live in a great place or what?

Texas Headhunters...

Coming this Friday the super group, **Texas Headhunters** will play the *Sip Yard*. This is another show in the *Beachtober Beats* con-

cert series. The **Headhunters** consist of three monster guitarists from Austin; **Jesse Dayton**, **Ian Moore** and **Johnny Moeller**. I've known Jesse and Johnny for many years. Jesse is from Beaumont and has played with such country giants at **Johnny Cash**, **Willie Nelson** and **Waylon Jennings**. He was the *Hard Charger* that fronted the **Road Kings Band** based out of Austin for years and wrote the music scores for the **Rob Zombie** cult films. He's also collaborated with **Samantha Fish** which earned him a *Grammy* nomination and with **Shooter Jennings** which landed him at number two on the *Billboard Blues* charts. I've also known **Johnny Moeller** for many years going back to my old *Antone's* days. Johnny has played lead guitar for the **Fabulous Thunderbirds** since 2007, taking **Jimmy Vaughan's** place. He is a monster guitarist plain and simple and a super sweet fellow. He's originally from Ft. Worth and it's rumored that he's one of the characters modeled after *Beavis and Butthead*. **Ian Moore** is also a well known guitar god in Austin since the early 90's and has a dozen albums to his credit. He's played concerts with the **Rolling Stones**, **Bob Dylan** and **ZZ Top**. I can't wait to see these three pros all together at one time. I can guarantee they will blow the top of your head off.



The Texas Headhunters will play the Sip Yard on Friday, Oct 17 Coming this weekend...



Slide guitar master Robert McCoy will play the Gaff on Friday.

The 64th Annual Texas Jazz Festival will be coming to *Heritage Park* this weekend. They will have all kinds of bands including the **St. Mary's University Jazz Orchestra**, the **Texas State University Jazz Ensemble**, the **Rio Grande Valley Jazz Orchestra**, the **Del Mar Jazz Band** and the **FBI Blues Band** just to name a few. The entertainment will run from noon until midnight and it is free to the public. Coming this Friday the 17th, we have blues rocker **Reno Perez** at *Shorty's* and our favorite Louisiana coon asses, **Boudreaux and Pousson** playing *Bron's*, plus slide guitar master **Robert McCoy** will play *Treasure Island*. On Saturday the 18th, the **Bayside Volunteer Jam Band** will play *Shorty's*, the great **Chris Boss** from San Antonio will play *Bron's*, Americana stalwarts **Buffaloe and the Heard** will play the *Sip Yard*, the **Jam Band** will play *Treasure Island* and **Coach Big Jim Dugan** will play the *Gaff*. And in town on Saturday the **Turnpike Troubadours** and **Randy Rogers** will play *Concrete Street*.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



The Jam Band will play Treasure Island on Saturday



The Autumn Kite Fly was last weekend on the beach in Port A.



Chris Boss will play Bron's this Saturday

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, October 16

Chris Ivory & Friends @ Shortys
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Island
Ty Dietz @ Executive Surf Club
Michael Anthony Perez @ La Palmera
Michael Burts @ The Slip

Friday, October 17

64th TEXAS JAZZ FEST @ Heritage Park
SHRIMPOREE @ Aransas Pass
Jennifer Pena @ Selena Auditorium
Texas Headhunters @ Sip Yard
Reno Perez @ Shorty's
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Bron's
Robert McCoy @ Gaff
Back Pew Revival @ Treasure Island
Cruise Control @ Texas Jazz Fest
Kolby Cooper @ Brewster Downtown
Nathan Allen @ Brewster Island
Love Street @ Executive Surf Club
8 Bit Serenade @ Rockit's
Stephanie Abriana Band @ Pelican Lounge
Love Street @ Executive Surf Club

Saturday, October 18

64th TEXAS JAZZ FEST @ Heritage Park
Turnpike Troubadours, Randy Rogers @ Concrete Street
Bayside Volunteer Jam Band @ Shorty's
Buffaloe & the Heard @ Sip Yard
Chris Boss @ Bron's
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Jam Band @ Treasure Island
Michael Burts @ Pelican Lounge
Elida Reyna Y Avante @ Brewster Downtown
Peter Salas @ Brew-



BOUDREAUX & POUSSON	OCT 17
CHRIS BOSS	OCT 18
BOONE HOLDING	OCT 24
RUBEN V	OCT 25

Treasure Island

BACK PEW REVIVAL	OCT 17
JAM BAND	OCT 18
PALACIOS BROS	OCT 24
TBA	OCT 25
BACK PEW REVIVAL	OCT 31
KITCHEN OPEN UNTIL 1:30 AM	



TEXAS HEADHUNTERS	OCT 17
JESSE DAYTON, IAN MOORE & JOHNNY MOELLER	
BUFFALOE & THE HEARD	OCT 18
UNCLE LUCIUS/SOUR BRIDGES	OCT 24
BRISCOE	OCT 25
SHINYRIBS	OCT 31



OPEN JAM EVERY WED WITH BRAD BELT SANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT	
BRAD ETHRIDGE	OCT 16
ROBERT MCCOY	OCT 17
JIM DUGAN	OCT 18
BRAD ETHRIDGE	OCT 19
NO WAKE ZONE	OCT 24

SHORTY'S

JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN	
CHRIS IVORY & FRIENDS EVERY THUR	
RENO PEREZ	OCT 17
BAYSIDE VOLUNTEERS	OCT 18
JOHN CORTEZ	OCT 24
GROOVE CHILI	OCT 25
TODD DORN	OCT 31

ster Island
Alley Catz @ Cassidy's
Lisa Sullivan @ Pier 99
The Groove @ Rockits
Surftoberfest @ Executive Surf Club
Jeff Black @ Harbor
Listening Room RP
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Beach Ball Brew CC

Sunday, October 19

64th TEXAS JAZZ FEST @ Heritage Park
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Rip Tide Cowboy
Open Mic @ Calypso Drive and Drive
Michael Burts @ Anchor Beach Bar
William Skrobarczyk @ Executive Surf Club

Monday, October 20

Jerry Ward @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday, October 21

Brad Ethridge @ VFW
Carl Hayes Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin
Rich Lockhart @ Packery Bar
Los Locals @ Palm Republic
Michael Burts @ Panjos RP
Scarecrow People @ Executive Surf Club

Wednesday, October 22

Open Mic w/ Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Rock Hard Comedy @ House of Rock
Alonzo Cruz @ Pelican Lounge
Michael Anthony Perez @ Tannins South
Michael Burts @ South Texas Ice House

Thursday, October 23

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

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Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
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EVERY 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY

COLD BEER

THE GAFF

OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM

LIVE MUSIC

HOT PIZZA

