



PIBA A2



Three Chords and the Truth B8



Backwater Adventures B1



The Art of Island Life A6



Beachcoming Report A5

Issue 1135

27° 37' 0.5952" N | 97° 13' 21.4068" W



# The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996  
January 15, 2026  
www.islandmoon.com  
Full Color Version Available Online!

Weekly  
**FREE**



Feeding frenzy By Paula Baker



**DON'T FORGET ISLAND MOON RADIO ON THURSDAY'S FROM 7-9 ON 105.9 AND 103.3 GET THE RETRORADIOCC APP, OR WATCH US ON YOUTUBE AT**



By Dale Rankin

## Island Under Construction

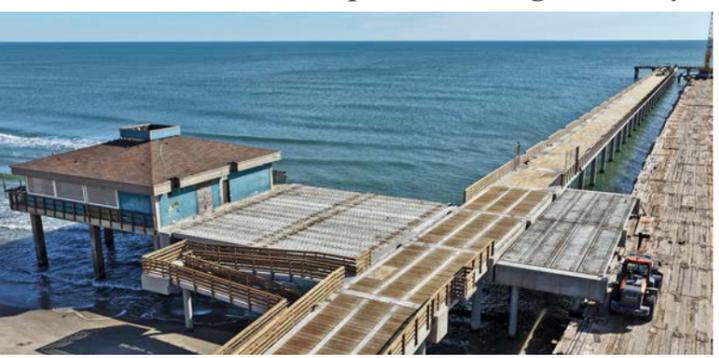
### Three Island Projects Set to Begin

#### Process to select new operator for Bob Hall Pier restaurant about to launch

*Request for proposals from business owners expected to begin in May*

By Dale Rankin

Submission of proposals from business owners interested in operating the new 5000-square foot restaurant space on Bob Hall Pier is tentatively set to begin in May, according to the chairman of the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board Troy Adler this week.



Bob Hall Pier Restaurant location

“We have already started putting a  
*Bob Hall cont. on page A4*

## Rare Bird Sighting in Port Aransas

A rare American Woodcock was recently seen at Paradise Pond in Port Aransas. It is big news for the bird watching crowd as the Woodcock is known for its long bill, excellent camouflage, and unusual courtship display (much like that of our Winter Texan friends).



Photo from Port A Parks Dept

## Work set to begin on Commodores Park improvements

### Groundbreaking February 12 for basketball, pickleball, and tennis courts



Groundbreaking on Phase I of improvements at Commodores Park is set for Thursday, February 12.

The project is funded through the Bond 2022 and 2024 programs and construction is expected to take about nine months.

- Project Highlights**
- ☐ **Covered Basketball Court Pavilion:** Providing
- Commodores cont. on page A4*

## How much do we pay? School Taxes — how do we compare

Last week we compared the tax rate of the City of Corpus Christi to other cities around the area. This week we look at the tax rates of local school districts and how much property tax is raised for operation and debt payment on bonds. These numbers were released by the Texas Comptroller's Office and show the tax rate on each \$100 of appraised property value. To calculate the property taxes for any piece of property, divide the appraised value by 100 and multiply the result by the tax rate shown here, which is the tax rate.

The second number shows the amount of tax dollars raised by each of the districts and gives an idea of the total annual budget. We will feature more information on property tax levies by various agencies in the next few issues.

These numbers show the Total Tax Rate and Total Levy (money raised) by each of the districts in descending order from highest tax rate to lowest.

### Nueces County School Districts

|                       |               |                      |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Robstown              | 1.2552        | \$10,883,244         |
| Agua Dulce            | 1.22          | \$1,774,737          |
| London                | 1.1649        | \$12,125,342         |
| Driscoll              | 1.157         | \$1,100,544          |
| West Oso              | 1.1169        | \$12,492,705         |
| Bishop                | 1.083         | \$8,871,466          |
| Tuloso-Midway         | 1.0565        | \$39,895             |
| <b>Calallen</b>       | <b>1.04</b>   | <b>\$27,663,017</b>  |
| <b>Corpus Christi</b> | <b>0.9583</b> | <b>\$185,757,852</b> |

Taxes cont. on A4

## Work on new Briscoe King Pavilion ready to start

### Funding and design in place for construction to begin in February

By Dale Rankin

Work on a new \$8 million Briscoe King Pavilion could begin as early as February, 2026, after the Corpus Christi City Council put the final piece of funding in place this week.



Briscoe King Pavilion

The council approved allocation of \$2.1 million in additional funds from the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 to cover

*Briscoe cont. on page A5*

## A little Island history

### Packery Channel through the years

By Dale Rankin

For those who have moved to Padre Island since 2005 there was a time when there was no such thing as the Packery we see today. Groundbreaking for Packery Channel was held on August 19, 2003 and the pass was cut through prematurely by a hurricane in 2005 just before the final channel work was completed.



January 2005

Nueces County led the initial  
*History cont. on A7*

The soundtrack Around The Island this week has included coughing and sneezing with some wheezing thrown in for continuity as the north wind brings in the pollen to cap off the flu season and we hack our way on into the new year. We Islanders are travelers and as we fan out into the nether regions for the holiday season we tend to bring back the fungus among us. We can tell the Winter Texans have arrived by the rapidity with which copies of the Moon disappear from the racks and up Port Aransas way the belt sander season is in full throttle as the Winter Texans migrate south with their new and improved racing machines they have been wood-shedding in the northern regions. Let the belt sanders run!

### Island under construction

A reading of this issue of the Moon will find that there is much construction about to start Around The Island with the final piece of the funding for the new Briscoe King Pavilion put in place this week clearing the way for construction to start in the near future just as the new Bob Hall Pier is about to be complete with the process to find a new restaurant operator for the pier also just around the corner. Then on the city side the groundbreaking for phase I of the improvements at Commodores Park set on our Island is finally going to have tennis courts and pickleball courts. No more setting up temporary nets at Aquarius Park for Island pickleballers. The Commodores work comes after years of efforts from the Island Strategic Action Committee and city planners and is much appreciated.

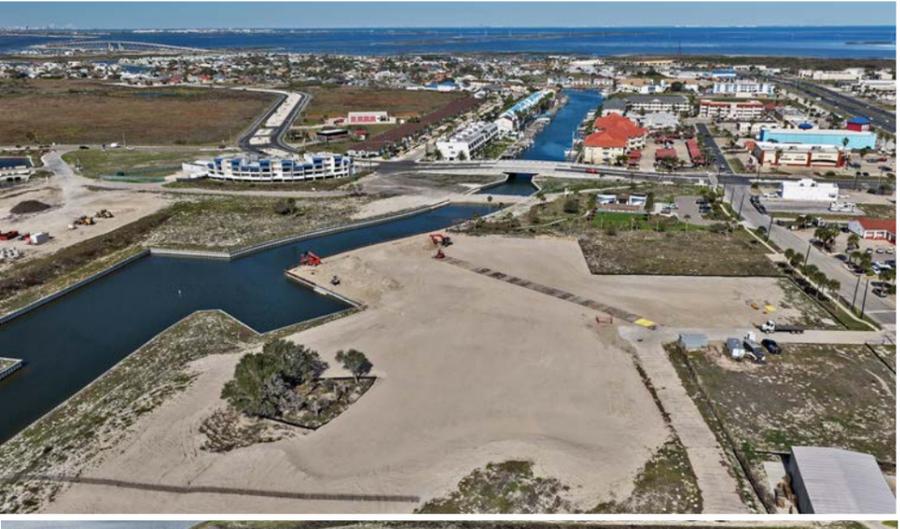
### ISAC members

And speaking of ISAC two new members were appointed this week, Terry J. Brown and Natalia Muse. The committee is chaired

Around cont. on A6

# Padre Island Business Association

Photos by Debbie Noble



A site at Whitecap NPI is being prepared for hosting public gatherings and will have parking



Millie Stokes was named PIBA Citizen of the year.



Brook Kaufman CEO of the Corpus Christi Visitors Bureau was the featured speaker.



PIBA is auctioning off a Lifeforce vehicle with the drawing on March 4.



Spikey hair and don't care.  
By Lu Ann Kkingsbury

**NOW SELLING**

ARTIST'S CONCEPTUAL RENDERING

**WHITECAP**  
NORTH PADRE ISLAND

**DISCOVER A NEW WAY TO LIVE ON THE ISLAND**  
TOUR PHASE 1 TODAY!  
VISIT THE SALES CENTER  
14353 Commodores Drive,  
Corpus Christi TX 78418

©2025 Diamond Beach Holdings, LLC. All information and services are subject to change. Availability, prices, materials, and options may vary. All photographs, renderings and other depictions are for the sole purpose of illustration and are subject to change. Imagery is representational and does not depict specific buildings, views or future architecture, community, amenities or other details. Architect: PLACE Designers, Inc.; Landscape Architects: Cadence; Marketing & Sales by Strategist LLC.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY: Models do not reflect racial or ethnic preferences. Not an offer or solicitation to sell real property. Whitecap NPI does not discriminate against any class of persons protected by federal, state or local law.

**WhitecapLivingNPI.com**



Whitecap NPI was awarded the PIBA Business of the Year Award.

## Buenas Noches Cockroaches!

# Pest Patrol

Locally owned and operated



**(361) 852-4002**

[www.pestpatrolcc.com](http://www.pestpatrolcc.com)

NEW CONSTRUCTION • RENOVATIONS • ADDITIONS

**BUILDING DREAMS WITH PRECISION:**  
IN-HOUSE EXPERTISE, TRANSPARENT PRICING,  
& A FLAWLESS PRE-CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

At Innovo, we specialize in creating stunning spaces that reflect your unique style and needs. Our commitment to unparalleled craftsmanship and attention to detail ensures that every project we undertake is executed with precision and care. Whether you're looking to revamp your current home or construct your dream residence from the ground up, our team is dedicated to exceeding your expectations. Elevate your living experience with us—where your dreams take center stage! Discover the art of beautiful living today!

**INNOVO** RESIDENTIAL

361.589.9877 • [INNOVORESIDENTIAL.COM](http://INNOVORESIDENTIAL.COM)

# MICHAEL HALL

for Nueces County Commissioner - Precinct 4

**VOTE!**

- Professional Engineer
- Local Island Resident
- Fiscally Conservative

Early Voting: February 17<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>  
Election Day: Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

SCAN TO DONATE!



# Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



**Editor/Publisher**

Dale Rankin

**Co-Publisher, Business Ops**

Jan Park Rankin

**Design and Production**

Jacob Augs

**Business and Feature Writers**

Joey Garah

Emily Gaines

Jay "Ride like the wind" Gardner

Todd Hunter

Dotson Lewis

Dr. Mario Martinez

Melissa Mitchell

Ronnie Narmour

Dr. Ed Proffitt

Reverend Dr. Ken Ritchie

Gene Saegert

Celeste Silling

Jace Tunnell

*Photographers*

Miles Merwin (Emeritus)

Dr. Debbie Eoble

Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)

Riley P. Dog

**About the Island Moon**

The Island Moon is published every Thursday, Dale Rankin, Editor / Publisher.

Total circulation is 10,000 copies. Free distribution of 6,000 copies in over 50 Padre Island businesses and condos, as well as 600 copies distributed in Flour Bluff, 1,400 copies on Mustang Island and Port Aransas businesses.

News articles, photos, display ads, classified ads, payments, etc. may be left at the Moon Office.

*The Island Moon Newspaper*

14646 Compass, Suite 4

Corpus Christi, TX 78418

361-949-7700

editor@islandmoon.com

Facebook: The Island Moon

Newspaper

## Where to Find The Island Moon

- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Port Aransas               | North Padre                     |
| Pioneer RV                 | All Stripes Stores              |
| Stripes on 1A              | Black Sheep/ Barrel             |
| Kody's                     | CVS                             |
| Coffee Waves               | Dollar General                  |
| Moby Dicks                 | Doc's Restaurant                |
| IGA                        | Hometown Seafood                |
| Treasure Island            | Snoopy's Pier                   |
| San Juan's Restaurant      | Isle Mail N More                |
| Wash Tub                   | Island Italian                  |
| Shorty's Place             | Ace Hardware                    |
| Gratitude                  | Texas Star (Shell)              |
| The Gaff                   | Spanky's                        |
| Red's Riviera              | Subway                          |
| Sounds Good BBQ            | Island Tire                     |
| Spanky's Liquor            | Padre Pizzeria                  |
| Beach Lodge                | And all Moon retail advertisers |
| Ellis Memorial Library     | WB Liquor                       |
| Bernie's Beach House       | Island IGA                      |
|                            | Island Fitness                  |
|                            | Ridleys                         |
| Flour Bluff                | My Coastal Home                 |
| H.E.B.                     |                                 |
| Ethyl Everly Senior Center |                                 |

## Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



### Dan Herrington Announces Candidacy for Corpus Christi City Council, District 4



Corpus Christi, TX – Dan Herrington has announced his candidacy for Corpus Christi City Council, District 4, citing the need for experienced, principled leadership as the district continues to grow.

"A thriving city is built on a strong economy, a skilled and diverse workforce, reliable infrastructure, and a government that leads with vision and integrity," Herrington said. "District 4 is growing quickly, creating both tremendous opportunities and new challenges. It's time for strong, experienced leadership to guide that growth and ensure it benefits everyone."

Herrington is a long-time District 4 property owner, resident, and active community member with more than 25 years of experience in banking, budgeting, and strategic planning. "I'm running for City Council because I have the experience, dedication, and leadership skills to help District 4 reach its full potential," he said.

Former District 4 City Council Member Dan Suckley will serve as Herrington's campaign treasurer. "Dan both lives and works in District 4 and is very passionate about our community," Suckley said. "His experience as a respected local business leader and former council member, and his commitment to being present and accessible, will help move District 4 forward."

"District 4 deserves a leader who listens, leads with integrity, and gets results," Herrington said. "I am ready to serve and help move our community forward."

Dan Harrington



### Resolution of the Padre Island Business Association Adopted by the Board of Directors on January 13, 2026

*Editor's note: The following is a resolution by the PIBA Board passed this week in opposition to a new fee proposed by the City of Corpus Christi to be voted on by council in February.*

In Response to the Proposed City of Corpus Christi Ordinance Establishing a Biennial DSHS Fee for Food Service Establishments

WHEREAS, the Padre Island Business Association (PIBA) is a regional Chamber of Commerce, recognized by the State of Texas, representing the Padre Island and surrounding areas of the City of Corpus Christi; and

WHEREAS, the membership and service area of the PIBA include more than 40 food service establishments, retail food stores, mobile food units, roadside vendors, and temporary food establishments; and

WHEREAS, these local food service businesses contribute significantly to the cultural, economic, and social vitality of our community, providing jobs, supporting tourism, and fostering entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, the PIBA recognizes the continuing challenges faced by the food service industry — including rising supply costs, inflationary pressures, ongoing workforce shortages, and numerous existing licenses, fees, and compliance requirements — all of

#### Commissioner Chesney,

Thank you for meeting with me last March about the Bob Hall Pier project. I shared with you my concern that the wave loads Jacobs used for the pier head design may not have been in compliance with the code for the 100 year storm criteria and you must have taken me seriously because Scott later told me that a 3rd party Independent engineering company was reviewing them. I would like to request a copy of that sealed report and all sealed drawings issued since March 1, 2024.



The new "D" shaped end of the pier

which already strain small business operations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed City of Corpus Christi ordinance establishing a biennial DSHS fee would impose an additional financial burden on an industry still recovering from years of economic uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the PIBA believes that supporting and strengthening local businesses is essential to maintaining a vibrant and sustainable community economy; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Padre Island Business Association (PIBA), on behalf of its members and the broader business community, strongly urges the Corpus Christi City Council to vote AGAINST the proposed ordinance establishing a biennial DSHS fee for food service establishments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the PIBA encourages City leaders to explore alternative approaches to support public health compliance that do not place additional financial strain on small businesses, including consultation with industry representatives and stakeholder collaboration.

Adopted this 13th day of January, 2026, by the Board of Directors of the Padre Island Business Association.

One of my suggestions to resolve the problem was to reduce the size of the pier head. I offered this solution several times, but my suggestion was not accepted and the pier head dimension of 159' shown on the 100% drawings issued on March 1, 2024 stayed the same as the previous pier head. However, the attached picture taken a few days ago indicates a 30% smaller pier head than shown on the 100% drawings. I assume that the 3rd party Independent reviewer determined that the smaller pier head is adequate for the 100 year storm wave loads, but please confirm.

Sincerely,

Bill Portwood, P.E.

## SNAPPER TRIPS FROM NORTH PADRE!

**\$140**

361-742-3195

**BuccaneerCruises.com**



## WADE IN THE WATER

POOL & SPA SERVICES



WEEKLY MAINTENANCE • EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION • REPAIRS • REMODELS

15715 S. Padre Island Dr. #101

**FREE** Water Testing!

Wade in the Water Pool Services LLC

**361-658-8581**

www.WadeInTheWaterPools.com

# Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

Funding for the repair and maintenance of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall has been in the news lately and the chain of events that has brought us to where we are is a long and winding road so this week I want to get into some background.

## In the beginning...

The seawall was built before Padre Island was part of the City of Corpus Christi so it was built without a permitting process. When Hurricane Allen came along in 1980 it picked the seawall up and moved it in large chunks and the rebuilt seawall structure was much stronger than the original. In the time I have lived on Padre Island I have only seen a tidal surge top the seawall once and that was during Hurricane Ike in 2008 and a few years ago I was struck by something that an official from FEMA told the Island Strategic Action Committee when the new FEMA flood map was being drawn.

At the time the Base Flood Elevation on Padre Island was nine feet above sea level but that was raised to eleven feet after the new maps were approved in 2022. The top of the seawall is about nine feet above sea level, the same as most homes on The Island and the FEMA official was asked what kind of flood event it would take to top the seawall. His answer was surprising. He said that for a tidal surge to top the seawall it would have to flood the area north all the way past the Crosstown Expressway because an incoming tide would work its way up the Oso into the low-lying areas there before flooding The Island. That all depends of course on the direction and speed of the storm but it was noted that damage to Island bulkheads during Allen was due to outbound water. The Whitecap Bridge was damaged by Allen when water pushed its way over SPID into the canal just north of Cruiser St. but it was outbound water that took out eleven-hundred feet of bulkheads and the Gypsy Bridge, and that was before there was a water passage under the SPID roadway. It was a stark reminder of how exposed out Island is without the Ellis Seawall.

## The problem

For three decades after Allen we rolled the dice each hurricane season and were lucky - and luckier than most people realized. Building on the Ellis Seawall stopped in 1983 when developers realized how vulnerable the seawall was because there was no requirement that property owners there repair their section of the wall if it was damaged. The property owners there each own the piece of the wall directly in front of them and there was never a requirement that the owners repair their section if it was destroyed. This fact was uncovered during due diligence for various projects over the years and made financing difficult if not impossible and halted new development.

## The solution

That changed in 2022 when District 4 City Councilman Dan Suckley started a push to have the City of Corpus Christi take over maintenance and repair of the seawall which has now come to fruition. It is a subtle but historic milestone in Island history because since that time we have already seen two new projects come to life there as a result.

The city now has taken full responsibility for the much needed repairs to the seawall structure and \$2 million in inspection work has already begun. A total of \$15 million was set aside from the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 but in reality only about \$2 million-\$3 million can be done in any single year. When it was announced in late 2025 that the TIRZ #2 accounts did not have \$15 million available; it caused understandable consternation, particularly among seawall property owners who had done their part in signing over their rights to the city. But when you dig into the details the news is not so bad.

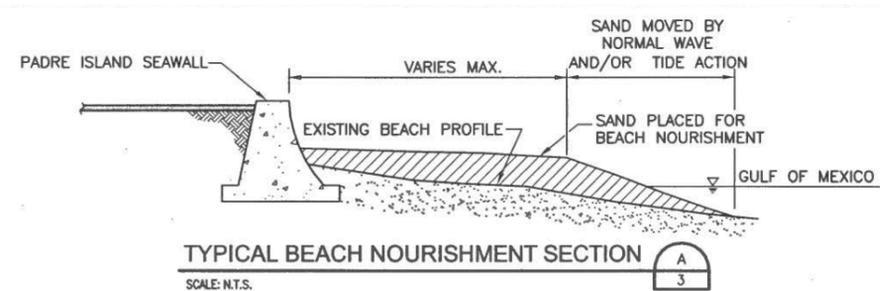
The first alarm bells went off when the TIRZ #2 budget showed no money for seawall repair in 2025, but in reality the money had already been moved into the city's Capital Improvement Projects budget - which is why it was no longer in the TIRZ #2 budget - and the work it funded was already underway. Since then it was announced at the most recent ISAC meeting that another \$2 million has been dedicated to seawall repair which came from a FEMA reimbursement from repair work to the Packery Jetties after Hurricane Harvey, so the work for 2026 is also funded. Moving forward City Manager Peter Zanoni told the TIRZ #2 board in December that Sales Tax Money from a proposition approved by voters can be used to fund some or all of the other seawall repairs. The good news is that city planners understand the value of the seawall to The Island and the work will get funded in a way that the work will be continuous.

## So the question is what exactly is going to be done?

For those who moved to Padre Island after the opening of Packery Channel in 2005 it may come as a surprise that the seawall has eight steps because since that time all but the top few steps have been covered with sand. When Packery was dredged the fine sand in the channel was pumped onto the beach and eventually the wind piled it up against the seawall, or blew it back into the channel where it was dredged up again and put back on the beach.

The first step in the maintenance process was to uncover the bottom steps for inspection and the news was good. While the exposed portion of the seawall shows signs of rusty rebar, the portion buried beneath the sand line needs little work. The plan is for contractors to create a "sleeve" that will fit over a section of the seawall to repair and coat it and then work its way along the full length of the structure. How long that process will take is unknown. The thing to keep in mind is the problem has been identified, designed, engineered, and funded and is moving forward. Bashing the city for various reasons - some deserved and some not - is a favorite pastime but in this case the city council and city staff took the problem on and found a solution. It is highly unlikely any new seawalls will be built on the Texas Coast moving forward largely due to the Dune Protection Act and protecting the one we got before city of state laws disallowed it is paramount to our Island's future.

It's in good hands.



Seawall construction diagram



Seawall looking south to the Island House

Bob Hall cont. from A1

committee together to establish the criteria and rating system for evaluating interested operators for the new facility," Adler said. "According to our current timeline we expect to start soliciting proposals by early May."

Crews from Callan Marine which is building the new pier are expected to be complete in mid-February with the opening of the pier originally scheduled for January but was delayed by supply chain issues regarding the light poles for the new pier which are not expected to be in place when the pier is opened in February. Adler said the current plan calls for the pier to open without the lights with no decision yet made on whether to keep the pier open to the public after dark without lights.

The design of the new restaurant space on the pier is complete and calls for the removal of the current structure atop the cement pilings left from the old pier and a new building constructed that will encapsulate the entire new business in one contiguous space put in place. LMC Construction has been selected to build the new \$5 million restaurant facility with work expected to begin in February and take about six months, Adler said.

The process for selecting a new restaurant operator will begin with a list of criteria created by the parks board subcommittee and rated by category. That criteria is expected to be ready to share with interested potential operators in early May followed by a window of 30 to 60 days when proposals will be submitted and evaluated by category.

"We are going into the process with an open mind," Adler said. "We want to hear from everybody."

The final agreement for operation of the new facility will be between the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board and the operator. The previous agreement with the operator, Mikel May's Beach Bar & Grill, called for a revenue split between the operator and the parks' board, however, whether the new agreement will be the same is subject to negotiation.

"We want a facility that will be good for Island residents and tourists as well," Adler said. "We want to hear from everyone who is interested in operating a business there."

Adler said the new building and the interior improvements should be in place by late 2026 with the opening of the new restaurant facility by the end of the year or early 2027.



Taxes cont. from A1

Flour Bluff 0.9461 \$41,150,228

Port Aransas 0.738921 \$47,099,823

### San Patricio County

Taft 1.2416 \$13,751,491

Sinton 1.23532 \$29,823,569

Gregory Portland 1.1046 \$86,057,373

Ingleside 0.825814 \$43,019,827

Aransas Pass 0.8088 \$8,187,884

Commodores cont. from A1

a year-round sports venue.

- Tennis and Pickleball Courts:** With two tennis courts and four pickleball courts.
- Playground:** A fenced-in, shaded area with poured-in-place surfacing for safety.
- Bird Observation Blind:** Encouraging wildlife appreciation and education.
- Concrete Walking Trail:** For strolls and exercise.
- Picnic Area:** Designated space for family and community gatherings.
- Parking and Accessibility:** A concrete parking lot with golf cart accommodations and ADA accessibility throughout.
- Park Lighting:** Ensuring safety and extended use during evening hours.



Instant Debit Cards  
Smart ATMs with Teller Access  
24/7 Online Account Access  
Mobile App Banking  
Mobile Deposit Banking  
Online Bill Pay

**1st**  
**Community Bank**  
MEMBER FDIC

361-949-9310 | 14254 South Padre Island Drive

Featured:  
Dan Herrington, Vice President, NMLS# 562367

Switch to First Community Bank at [fcbot.com/switch](https://fcbot.com/switch)

## Nature Notes

### Nurtured by Nature

By Caleb Clarkson



Buffalo Camp Bayou Photo by Celeste Silling

In my personal life, there are times when my brain feels like it is moving a million miles per minute. Whether it is personal struggles, friction with friends, goals and aspirations, or the mental list of random items I need to grab before leaving the house, it is always changing and evolving, and my brain is always thinking. Some days, it seems like the orbits of my thoughts align. These are the days I feel overwhelmed, and the days I tend to be most critical of myself. Fortunately, one thing has always seemed to help me clear my head: a quiet walk in nature where I can find a spot to sit, reflect, and be alone.

I have my spots: the benches and winding trails that cut through the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, where I work; the end of the jetty at Surfside Beach, where you can hear nothing but crashing waves; and the scenic stretches of road forgotten by the masses, where pulling over with the windows down feels both natural and special. Often, I bring a book to read or a journal to sketch in, but most of the time, I am perfectly happy sitting, watching, and waiting.

When I give myself that space to exist quietly, the sharpness and urgency of my thoughts soften. Sometimes I envy the wading egrets and herons, beacons of patience, as they move through the marsh, watching and waiting for an opportunity to catch a fish, frog, or snake. Behind their glassy eyes, there are no thoughts of taxes, shopping lists, or travel plans, only focus

and presence. They do not worry about who they are. They only concern themselves with what is in front of them: still water and its hidden snacks waiting to be found. I am not ashamed to admit that I take lessons from them. I try to emulate them by moving my attention to the tangible, the present, and the here and now, stilling the ripples of my thoughts.

Other times, I notice the trees around me: small saplings bending in the wind, moss-adorned live oaks wearing pale green veils, and fallen, decomposing trunks whose nutrients from years of living reinvigorate the soil around them. The ones that interest me most are the gnarled and scarred elderly trees, often standing proud above the canopy. Even at that age, they never stop growing. Through hurricane seasons, they fill in limbs they have lost with new life, and every winter, when old foliage falls to the ground, and the tree is barren, new buds form and fresh leaves return in spring. I am a student of the trees, too, and try to remind myself that, like them, we never stop growing. When I remember that, the voices of self-criticism lose some of their bite.

So when your thoughts begin to pile on, one after another, I invite you to find your own spots in nature, or revisit old favorites, and spend a few quiet minutes simply watching. Sometimes, seeing nature undisturbed, just as it is, can bring clarity and peace to our chaotic lives

#### Briscoe cont. from A1

costs of the project which was originally approved for \$5.9 million from the TIRZ #2 fund. According to information submitted to the city council this week the reasons for the increased cost are:

- Updated Opinion of Probable Construction Costs (OPCC) based on 90% design completion
- Inflation and material cost increases between 2022–2025
- 2021 IBC code adoption requiring: – Structural enhancements – Life-safety upgrades – Energy-efficiency improvements
- Phase II work (site, utilities) now required earlier to support foundation and building
- Need for specialized septic system due to infeasible extension of force main
- Complex foundation design includes 47 piers drilled up to 35 feet deep

- Extended construction timeline increasing labor and mobilization costs

The construction contract on the 6730 square-foot project has been awarded and once work begins it is expected to take about fourteen months to complete placing its opening mid-2027. No firm timeline for construction on the project to be announced.

“Everything is in place for the work to begin,” Nueces County Coastal Parks Board Chairman Troy Adler said this week. “They have indicated to us they hope to start work in February.”

The new facility will be built adjacent to the current one and will include air conditioned meeting space and a prep kitchen. Improvements to the pavilion parking lot are planned but currently have not been funded.



Briscoe King Pavilion



**PADRE**  
DERMATOLOGY  
& Skin Cancer Center

Island Owned and operated  
Physician staffed office  
Fellowship trained Mohs surgeon  
Double Board Certified  
in Dermatology and  
Mohs Micrographic Surgery

14650 Compass St Ste 1  
Corpus Christi, TX 78418  
361-867-1032

www.padrederm.com

Accepts Medicare United, Humana, BCBS, WellMed  
Reasonable Cash Pay and Out of Network rates

New and Existing patients call to schedule  
Existing patients, we still have all old records available.

## Beachcombing Report

By Jace Tunnell

### Sea Potato Mass Stranding on the Texas Coast



Jace Tunnell holding a handful of sea potato

This week’s beachcombing survey along the Texas coast revealed an event far beyond a rare find. Over more than 60 miles of shoreline, I encountered thousands of whole sea potatoes washed ashore, with many thousands more broken by wave action. On some beaches they were scattered lightly, while on others they were thick enough to immediately draw attention. At one location, I picked up a full gallon of intact sea potatoes in 10 minutes, something I have never experienced before.

Sea potatoes are not plants, despite their name. They are heart urchins — close relatives of sand dollars and sea biscuits, and distant cousins of sea stars. Unlike the spiny urchins found on rocks and reefs, sea potatoes live buried beneath the seafloor, slowly plowing through soft sand and mud. Their potato-shaped bodies are perfectly adapted for this hidden lifestyle.

Finding a whole sea potato is uncommon. Their tests, or skeletons, are extremely thin and fragile, and wave action typically breaks them apart long before they reach shore. That’s what makes this event so remarkable: not only were there enormous numbers of sea potatoes, but many were still intact, suggesting a sudden and widespread disturbance.

The most likely cause of this mass stranding was the recent strong cold front that moved through the region. Rapid drops in water temperature combined with powerful waves can be deadly for bottom-dwelling animals. Disturbance of the seafloor or sudden environmental stress can dislodge or kill buried sea potatoes, which are then carried ashore by surf and currents.

Ecologically, sea potatoes play an important role. They feed by ingesting sand and mud, extracting microscopic organic material and algae, and recycling nutrients back into the sediment. They can live for several years, quietly maintaining seafloor health, rarely seen by human eyes.

If you find one alive, admire it gently and return it to the water. Events like this remind us that beaches are dynamic edges of a living ocean, shaped by weather, waves, and unseen life just offshore. 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).



Sea potatoes scattered along the shoreline



Sea potato showing spines

# The Art of Island Life

## Let the Good Times Roll (and Pass the King Cake)

By Melissa Mitchell

You know it's Mardi Gras season when glitter starts showing up in unexpected places and someone walks by wearing purple, green, and gold beads—and not just for the parade.

This time of year brings an energy that's hard to ignore. And on the Island, we've found our own rhythm for celebrating. The official *Barefoot Mardi Gras* parade rolls down the beach at 11 a.m. on February 28, but the joy starts well before then.

At Evoke, we're kicking off the season in February with our *Mardi Gras Maskerade*. This event is in collaboration with the incredibly creative students from Seashore Learning Academy and is proudly hosted and sponsored by Evoke, as part of our continued support for young artists and local traditions. If you've never seen the flair these young artists bring to a Mardi Gras mask, make it a point to stop by. Their artwork will be featured all week long—and yes, you can vote on your favorites. (Dates to be announced.)

You'll also find the official *Barefoot Mardi Gras* original art now on display at the gallery. Swing by, take a peek, and maybe snag a few extra beads while you're at it. If you haven't grabbed your tickets for the *Fat Friday Party*... now's the time! Join the fun January 30 at The Waterline at Doc's—live music, costume contest, cash bar, appetizers, silent auction, and all the Mardi Gras magic to kick off the season right. Tickets sell fast! Get yours at [freshix.com/events/fatfriday2026](https://www.freshix.com/events/fatfriday2026)

But no Mardi Gras season is complete without one very important treat: the King Cake.

### Not Just a Cake—A Crowned Tradition

Few traditions are sweeter than King Cake. So before you toss some beads on a cupcake and call it a day, let's talk roots.

King Cake season begins on January 6, also known as Epiphany or “King's Day,” and continues through Fat Tuesday—the day before Lent begins. It is the feast that concludes the Twelve Days of Christmas, marking the culmination of the Christmas season. It's a tradition steeped in faith, culture, and celebration, tracing all the way back to Old World Europe.

The traditional King Cake is more like a sweet, braided bread than a cake—think cinnamon roll meets brioche, twisted into a ring. It's often filled with cinnamon, cream cheese, pecans or fruit, and topped with icing and dusted in purple, green, and gold sugar. Hidden inside is a tiny plastic baby (symbolizing the Christ child), and whoever gets the slice with the baby is said to be “King or Queen” for the day—and is also responsible for bringing the next cake... or hosting the next party.

And the colors? They're not just festive: Purple represents Justice  
Green stands for Faith  
Gold signifies Power

I bake my own King Cake most years, and no matter who ends up with the baby, I always seem to be the one baking the next



2025 Maskerade 1st Place Winner  
Miranda R – 6th Grade

one anyway. The odds are stacked. But I don't mind—it isn't just about the cake. It's about tradition, family, and the joy of keeping something special alive.

South Texas puts their own spin on this tradition. Some use Bundt cakes (Nauti T's makes a GREAT one and they are taking orders now!), some skip the baby entirely, and others opt for cupcakes or cookies with Mardi Gras sparkle. While I personally lean traditional (I generally don't mess with a good thing), I love seeing how the spirit of King Cake evolves and spreads.

### What Mardi Gras Means on the Island

Mardi Gras might not have started here, but that hasn't stopped us from giving it our own flair. Between the beachfront parade, community events, and our weeklong celebration at Evoke, you'll find plenty of ways to enjoy the season—glitter and all.

Each year, a local artist is chosen to create the official *Barefoot Mardi Gras* artwork, and it's always a highlight of the season. Last year, *M. Kelly Olsen* captured the spirit with his distinctive abstract style. This year, the baton has been passed to *Kaleigh Glover*, whose vibrant new piece is now on display at *Evoke*—a bold and joyful reflection of our coastal Mardi Gras energy.

We have had many inquiries about the 2026 *Barefoot Mardi Gras* t-shirts—they aren't quite ready yet, but they'll be available to purchase at Evoke soon. We'll be sure to announce as soon as they arrive.

Mardi Gras season is more just a party. It's about celebrating resilience, creativity, and the people who make this community feel like home. Whether you grew up with King Cake traditions or are just now discovering them, you're part of the story now. Grab a slice of cake, don your mask, find a good spot on the parade route, share a smile, and let the good times roll—Padre Island style.

*Laissez les bons temps rouler, y'all.*

P.S. If anyone wants to bring in a King Cake from Louisiana, I'll have a knife ready—BTW, my vote is that the knife stays in the box—IYKYK.

The Art of Island Life will return next week with more stories and coastal inspiration. Have a story you'd like to share? I'd love to hear from you at [contact@melissamitchell-art.com](mailto:contact@melissamitchell-art.com)

Around cont. from A1

by longtime Islander Bryan Gulley and meets the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Gulfstream Condominiums. All meetings are open to the public. Time to be heard!

The election season is upon us folks but there is still time to register for the March 3 Primary Elections until February 2. Early Voting starts February 17 so now is the time to sign up if you haven't registered. Vote early and vote often...

### No Water Emergency Declared at this Time

A notice sent out by the City of Corpus Christi this week got our attention No Water Emergency Declared at this Time which sounded pretty good until we kept reading the status report included which reads: “The combined capacity of Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Corpus Christi has reached 10%, marking the lowest level these reservoirs have experienced in their history. Lake Corpus Christi currently stands at 11.6% capacity, while Choke Canyon Reservoir is at 9.4%.”

That's down there in the mud folks. We are still in Drought Status Stage 3 and according to the Water Wonks “no specific operational changes are mandated when the western reservoirs are below 10%.” We're not sure what exactly that means but the word is that “the next critical step in the Drought Contingency Plan occurs when the entire water supply system reaches 180 days from the point at which the total water supply would no longer be sufficient to meet the total water demand. This point is currently forecasted for November 2026. At that time, a Level 1 Water Emergency would be initiated.” We're not experts but that doesn't sound good. The good news is that the western reservoir levels alone do not determine when a water emergency takes effect and “Corpus Christi's water supply includes millions of gallons from eastern sources, including Lake Texana and the Colorado River. Currently, 65% of the City's water comes from these sources.”

Shower with a friend folks come November we may be bathing in the canals.

### Attention those of a certain age...

For Moon readers of a certain age it is time to break out your old jeans as it was announced this week that The Marshall Tucker Band will play the Corpus Christi Rodeo this year. The Caldwell brothers Toy and Tommy have Taken the Highway to the Hereafter but lead singer Doug Gray will be here and if comedy is more your style then you will be happy to know that Larry the Cable Guy will also make an appearance since many of us of a certain age still haven't cut the cord!

## Barefoot Mardi Gras

And finally the next item on the Island calendar is Barefoot Mardi Gras with the kickoff party at Doc's Seafood & Steaks on Fat Friday, January 30. So for those who are still slim you have two weeks to fatten up and get ready for the party and then the beach parade on Saturday, February 28. You may notice that date is after Fat Tuesday and late in the Mardi Gras season but ours is the only Mardi Gras parade in the country that has to schedule around the tide charts. This is the day when thousands of islanders hit the beach at sunup to start celebrating the occasion, which we note will be in lent this year so be careful what you give up as it may interfere with your parade festivities. That's all for now folks, we await our first Island freeze of the season but keep an eye on your brass monkeys and say hello if you see us Around The Island.



Barefoot Mardi Gras 2025

THOMAS & JENSEN, PLLC  
CPA FIRM  
[info@thomasjensencpa.com](mailto:info@thomasjensencpa.com)  
[thomasjensencpa.com](http://thomasjensencpa.com)

UPTOWN OFFICE 711 N. CARANCAHUA, SUITE 1818 CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78401  
TEL: (361) 884-6346 FAX: (361) 887-1931

ISLAND OFFICE 14633 S.P.I.D. CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78418  
TEL: (361) 949-7890 FAX: (361) 887-1931



Kaleigh Glover & the 2026 Barefoot Mardi Gras artwork

GALE LAW GROUP  
PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

ATTORNEYS/MEDIATORS  
14633 S. Padre Island Dr.  
361.808.4444  
[Office@GaleLawGroup.com](mailto:Office@GaleLawGroup.com)

G | L | G

History Cont. from A1

effort that led to the building of the channel in 1999, when it was authorized through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and called the Storm Damage Reduction and Environmental Restoration Project. The water conduit under the South Padre Island Drive roadway included in the project was designed to provide freshwater flow from the gulf to the hypersaline Laguna Madre after the construction of State Highway 361 on Mustang Island blocked the six natural passes that had previously allowed water from the gulf to flow into the Laguna Madre and temper the salinity levels. Packery Channel, originally known as Corpus Christi Pass, was one of the channels and ran from the back of The Island near where Fish Pass is located today to the gulf through a passage located where Lake Padre is found today. That path formed a triangular-shaped island that included the gulf beaches between where Packery Channel is located today and the eastern terminus of Whitecap Blvd. and was shown on period maps as *The Middle Ground*.

Packery Channel was funded as a beach renourishment project partly through a \$20 million earmark on a federal spending bill from then Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison with the excavated sand to be used to widen the beach along the Michael J. Ellis Seawall. That \$20 million in federal funding required a local match of \$10.5 million from the City of Corpus Christi which was raised by bonds approved by voters in 2000 and led to the founding of the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ #2) which was established to pay back the city bonds which has now been accomplished.

When the \$30 million budget for the project ran short during construction of the Packery Jetties the fifteen-foot long sheet pilings that were in the original design on the channel side of the jetties were not installed which

caused \$22 million in damage to the jetties when Hurricane Harvey arrived in 2017 and the outbound water undermined the jetty structures. The Island Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone #2 remains in place through 2042.

At the time Packery Channel was begun in 2003 the plan called for water to circulate under South Padre Island Drive through underground culverts at the site where the Don Patricio Bridge is located today. Then in 2004 a bond election was approved by voters to raise \$1.4 million to combine with the then cost of \$900,000 to the developer who owned land on both sides of the roadway to install the culverts providing \$2.3 million to change from culverts to a bridge. As the cost of the bridge project rose to over \$20 million by the time construction on the bridge was begun more than a decade later the original \$2.3 million construction cost was supplemented with funds leftover from other bond projects and from \$4 million from TIRZ #2.

In the twenty years since the opening of Packery Channel development there has not progressed as quickly as anticipated when the channel project was conceived and built. But as 2026 opens two water exchange bridges are in place to complete the vision of water flow from the gulf, through Packery Channel, and into Island canals which began in permits with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1993.

The bridges and new canals and bulkheads that we see today constructed on the approaches to the Don Patricio Bridge were built as the realization of a vision which began in 1999 to construct Packery Channel and bring new development and improved water quality to Padre Island.

It is still a work in progress but it all started with a vision.



*The beach bums chip in*



*The site before the channel.*



*Packery Groundbreaking*



*Packery Channel in 2003*



*January 2005*



*Placing blocks at the end of the jetty*



# COMPLETE FOUNDATION REPAIRS

UNMATCHED EXPERIENCE UNMATCHED RESULTS

## Formerly Uretek

---

### BULKHEAD REPAIR

### BULKHEAD REHABILITATION

- CONCRETE LEVELED
- SOIL EROSION VOIDS FILLED
- SWIMMING POOL CRACKS SEALED
- SWIMMING POOL DECKING LEVELED
- CONCRETE FOUNDATION LEVELING
- PIER AND BEAM FOUNDATION WORK

# 361-885-7901

COMPLETEFOUNDATIONREPAIRS.COM

RE-ELECT

# BRENT CHESNEY

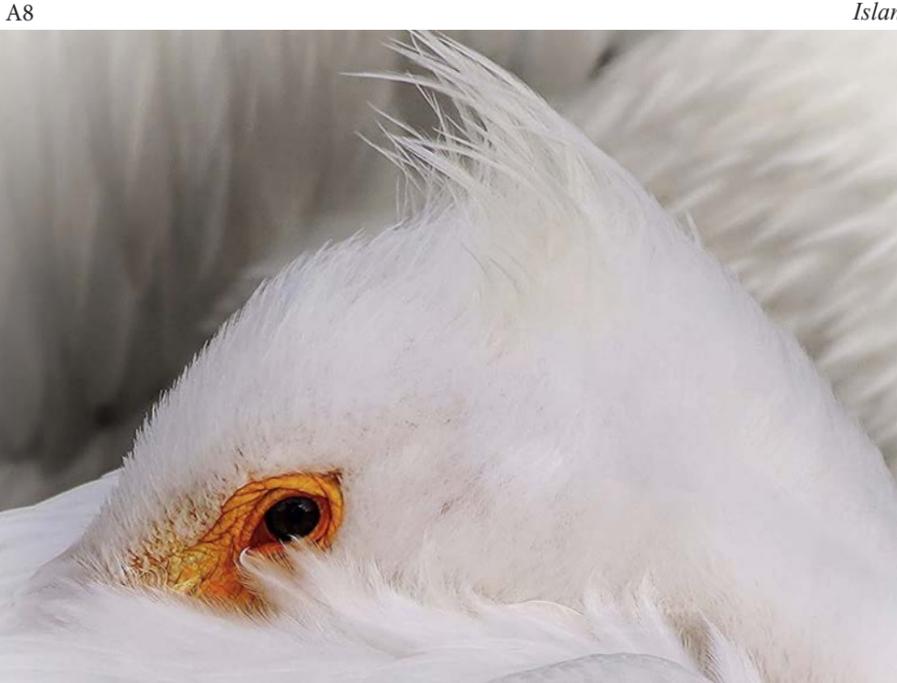
NUECES COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 4

**EARLY VOTING** | **ELECTION DAY**  
 FEBRUARY 17 TO FEBRUARY 27 | MARCH 3

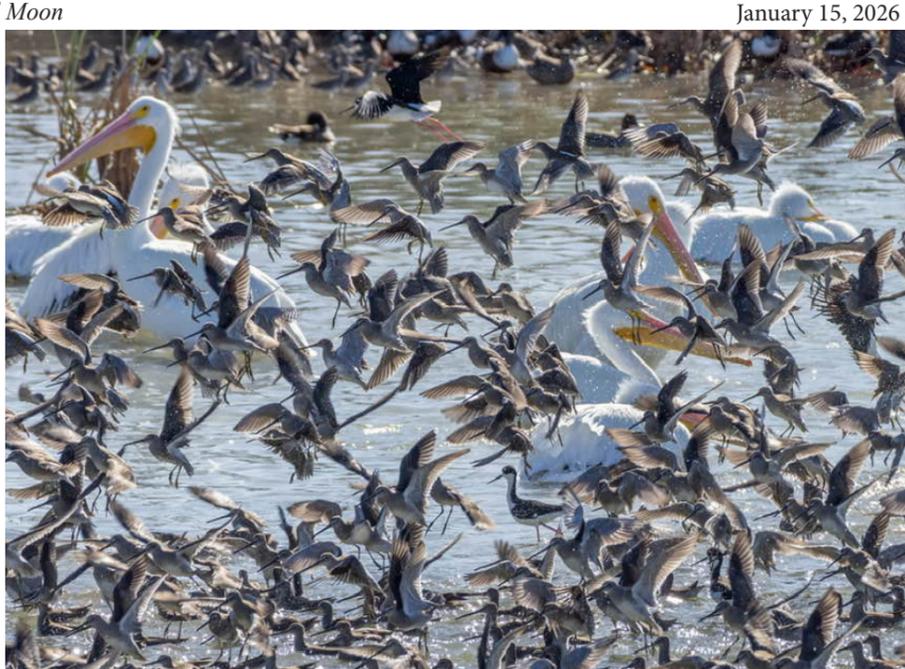
- ★ SECURED FUNDING TO REBUILD BOB HALL PIER
- ★ SECURED FUNDING TO REFURBISH BRISCOE KING PAVILION & BUILD A BRAND NEW FACILITY WITH NO INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES
- ★ LED FUNDING EFFORTS AT ISLAND TIRZ FOR AN ISLAND SKATEPARK
- ★ PROVIDED THOUSANDS OF FREE PHYSICALS & HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR THE ISLAND & PRECINCT 4
- ★ DELIVERED MILLIONS MORE DOLLARS IN ISLAND PROJECTS & THROUGHOUT PRECINCT 4
- ★ ISLAND BUSINESS & PROPERTY OWNER

FOR MY COMPLETE RECORD, PLEASE VISIT  
BRENTCHESNEYFORNUECESCOUNTY.COM

POL. ADV PAID FOR BY BRENT CHESNEY CAMPAIGN, ASHLEY CHESNEY TREASURER



American White Pelican By Riekie Roncinske



Dowitcher uprising at Birding Center, Port Aransas. By Nil Heard

One place. One weekend. All your projects **solved.**



— 27th Annual —  
**HOME & GARDEN SHOW**  
CORPUS CHRISTI

**JAN. 23-25**  
Hilliard Center



**FREE ADMISSION**

PLUS, ENJOY FREE PARKING!

**FRI** 1/23  
2pm-6pm  
**SAT** 1/24  
10am-6pm  
**SUN** 1/25  
11am-5pm

learn more at [corpuschristihomeandgardenshow.com](http://corpuschristihomeandgardenshow.com)

Interested in being an exhibitor?  
EMAIL [sales@showtechnology.com](mailto:sales@showtechnology.com)

### Island Moon Live

Our Thursday radio show is now streamed live on YouTube! We have an enormous amount of different friends and guests, telling stories about how the Island used to be, and where we are heading. All of the videos are free to watch, and can be found on You Tube at Island Moon Live, or via these links. We record the show on Thursdays live at Doc's from 7 to 9 am.



Live Streams



Special Videos



**Are You Ready For The Next Hurricane?**

Storm?  
Freeze?  
Tornado?  
Grid Failure?



Call Us  
**361-782-6329**

**generator**  **GENERAC**

[GeneratorSupercenterOfCorpusChristi.com](http://GeneratorSupercenterOfCorpusChristi.com)

**We Treat Your Pets LIKE FAMILY!**

**Keepin' Dogs on the Beach!**

**Island Animal Clinic**

Bill McGehee, DVM & Associates

- Medicine • Surgery
- Diagnostics • Radiology
- Pharmacy • & More!

**Mon-Fri by Appointment**

319 Beach St.  
next to The Crazy Cajun Restaurant  
**361-749-4134**

**NOW OPEN**



# Island Outdoors

## On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

Ok, last week I mentioned the Island Mobility Plan, and how the city council needs to get it on the agenda and get it finally approved. The Island Strategic Action Committee came up with the idea around 5 years ago to delineate some of the roads for bicycle and golf carts, where appropriate. The city hired a consultant, and city staff has been working on the plan since then, and I think it's a great start to the program. The plan has been approved at all the steps, and just needs to get on councils' agenda, and I mean soon.

### Here is what we know

There have been several studies and other plans that the Mobility plan dovetails with, including the ADA Master Plan, Plan CC Comprehensive Plan, Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL), our Area Development Plan, and most importantly, the Strategic Plan for Active Mobility. The latter plan includes recommendations from the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and reads, "The plan was designed with bike-dependent commuter and casual rider as the priority user. The plan identified a cycle track along both directions of travel for SH 358/PR 22 within the study area. Additional facility types include bike boulevards, buffered bike lanes, and crossing locations for other collectors and local roadways."

The MPO actually put this in their plans and allocated \$17 million for construction for the project. The project is supposed to stretch from Aquarius/Sonic all the way down to Whitecap (and potentially beyond, depending on funding.) The project is supposed to involve separated paths from PR 22 on both sides of the road that may have enough room to have separate bicycle and golf cart paths. This would be a huge improvement to that stretch and allow for multi-modal access to areas that now are only for cars and is fairly dangerous. Think like the linear park along Aquarius that the Whitecap folks put in. It could be really nice.

Here's the issue though (and you KNEW that it was coming.) The MPO funds are for construction only; it needs to have a local sponsor (the city of Corpus Christi)

and planning and engineering for it needs to be accomplished and approved by TxDOT. Now, we've all known about this project for over 5 years, but nothing has been done about it. The city needs to approach TxDOT and get an agreement going for the project and get it down the road. To date, I'm not aware of any coordination that has occurred between those two parties.

What I learned from our friend Robert at the MPO was that those funds that have been dog eared for the project are in jeopardy of being pushed down the road by TxDOT (pun intended) and moved from their current plan to a plan 10 years down the road in lieu of other projects that have more support. Things that get pushed down the road by a decade usually take 2 decades, and sometimes longer to get accomplished. This needs to occur before and at the next city council meeting because the MPO/TxDOT will be making their recommendations in the next month.

### What can we do?

So, what can we do you loyal readers may be asking? What we need to do is get the attention of our District 4 city council representative and get this on the radar as soon as possible. We also need to get the Mobility Plan on the next city council agenda. As I mentioned, it's already been blessed by everyone on the Island, city staff, and I think I saw a letter of support from Ted Koppel somewhere. This isn't controversial; just pass it and get going.

Once that occurs, then the projects can start getting in the hopper (also known as the Capital Improvement Plan) and we can start picking at the low hanging fruit, as well as the bigger projects that other people have already allocated money for. It seems that we can't get out of our own way sometimes.

Anyhoo folks, I'm working on the winter time projects and making a bit of progress, although life is crazy busy right now. I'm headed to Galveston for a TPWD Artificial Reefing Workshop and hope to have some great updates for you next week. Y'all be safe out on the roads, drop me a line at [jaygardner1032@gmail.com](mailto:jaygardner1032@gmail.com) and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Existing transportation network

## Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

### Solo Tracks



*Soft plastics along the edge of the Lamd Cut is a great place to find cold stunned monster trout like this one we caught on a DOWN SOUTH LURES soft plastic. Farah*

How long has it been since you felt the cold virgin sand at dawn between your toes? Can you remember the last time the brisk salty wind thrust into your bellows, as your race south with poles in hand hunting Baffin Bay for winter trophy trout. Both are just a mile or so apart but two worlds so different. The beachfront is the rim of everything we know and of an ocean of the unknown. Its easy reach has made it hard to catch a stretch of sand naked of footprints, so sunrise and along the very edge of the lapping waves is where Mother Ocean washes away our steps and cleans the slate.

We are in the best time of the year for beachfront fishing! The sunrise opens the gates of heaven, and illuminates the guts along the shore at dawn. Game fish like winter surf trout, redbfish, drum, whiting, pompano, and everything else push up at dawn into the first few guts. Fisherman casting into calm seas with mid weight tackle set ups, baited with live/dead/peeled shrimp or fish bites on a small hook and weighted line are hammering fish! This is pompano season and they are a very unique and good tasting fish. Tackle stores will carry special pompano rigs with little green floats on the hooks, they work! When the waves are up, walk out and cast back towards the beach, into the first few guts, at high tide. This is a great way to load up on great eating WHITING. Remember small hooks work well. The beach is a healing place, you can walk the beach, fish, surf, climb a dune, swim and just freakin stand there looking out to sea. Someone told me one time as the angry of the Ocean hits the beach, its positive energy crashes, becomes airborne, and fills your lungs. I will have to agree.

Just over the dunes, through the Cattails, and across the flats is our Mother Lagoon, protected from the hands of the Sea by our Padre Island. We live in a special place, far removed from mankind. The solitude and remote reach of the mighty King and Kennedy Ranch's keep the WESTERN SHORES WILD! Within just a short distance the buildings are home and you are along a piece of Texas that has hosted indigenous peoples for thousands of years, secret pirate camps, and every critter that lives in South Texas. The eastern shore is protected within the National Seashore. Between them in the shallow flats is the most fertile bay estuary on the Texas Coast. The Laguna Madre is a Hyper-saline environment that is closed to fresh water flow or much current from the Gulf. It is a breeding ground for the best fishing in the state!

Each morning I head over the flats hunting speckled trout, redbfish, drum, flounder and more. I look for signs laid over a mental map of the entire bay, drawn into my mind over my lifetime. Each flicker of bait, a diving seagull, changes in water color and flow. The all are flags for me to slow down and pull in. Researching maps and making a game plan is vital in becoming consistent in bay fishing. No electronics can show you fish or structure in less than 3ft of water, it's OLD SCHOOL! This is not something you can grab off of the internet; it's usually gifted down to you from another angler. A passion someone opens your eyes to the grand sympathy of fishing. Letting your imagination work with your eyes and the mental picture of maps of the bay all link things together for you on each trip. We drift over the changes in the bottom throwing soft plastics, roosters, and live bait. Peering into each sand pocket ready to see a big trout inhale the lure as it falls slowly with your rod stroke. Winter fishing now has just started;

we are only now getting water temps back into the low 60's and high 50's. Fish will be pulling back out to deeper water. Look for more fish to spend more time out in 4-5' of water. Sun and warm weather will send them up into the grass flats close to the guts. The biggest and most mature Speckled trout learn to manage their body heat by slipping in and out of the ultra shallow water. This is where mid-day sun warms the shallow mud flats and they move up warming and waiting for schools of mullet to do the same. We will be wade fishing and making precision boat movements to sneak up and catch these Massive Big Specks for the next four months.

There so much public access to great fishing here on North Padre and Port Aransas that some of the best firemen I know don't even own a boat. Again grab a map and remark areas of interest, explore, ask questions and observe. I can't give out my local best spots but I can tell you I fish them from the bait sometimes!

I felt the thump on the line, and dropped the tip fighting the line for the hook set. When it came to, her head raised half out of the water and she broke in a frothy explosion. A long run, a mid air flip and slamming the waves at a full gallop! I could hardly grasp the fish with her shoulders so thick from winter weight. Purples and shiny blue accents showed winter colors and games. Two worlds so different but just a mile apart.

Choose one or both on your next personal time. Let your souls free and remember why you're on the Island after all. Small gaps in my winter schedule have left some days open here and there, if you see fair weather around the corner pick up the phone and give me a call. Years of insight in a day on the water is what we will share, along with great catching! Follow all of our adventures on FACEBOOK AT JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER ADVENTIRES!

361-442-8145



*Trout will fall to deeper water when we finally get some cold snaps. This young lady loved to use live shrimp in the winter, and she was really good at it! Farah*

HERRINGTON  
**Dan**  
for DISTRICT 4

Dan4D4.com  
#dan4d4

Pol. Adv. paid for by the Dan Herrington Campaign; Dan Suckley, Treasurer

REAL LEADERSHIP  
REAL EXPERIENCE

Join us for a  
CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF  
**MEET & GREET**  
Tues. Jan. 20. 5:30-7:30

Anchor Beach Bar & Grill  
at Wyndham Resort Padre Island



## The Grub Hound's Disciple

By Chris Jordan

Last spring I was hired to cook for several days at an adult church camp — retreats they are often called. Regardless of your faith or spiritual proclivities, withdrawing from the distractions of daily life to assume contemplative repose has merit. You get to live in a bubble that insulates you from the secular world you have temporarily left behind. What could go wrong?

It wasn't a religious retreat by any means, but my sister and I did a two-week stint at YMCA camp in the summer of '79. There was a bunch of us kids split into two groups: 10 and under and 11 and over. I was turning 11 that summer and would normally have been in the older group, but since my 7-year-old sister was in attendance, they put me with the younger kids. Seemed like a good idea at the time.

Several old YMCA passenger vans were loaded up in San Antonio with a few too many kids in each. The instant we got in our seats, one of the more obnoxious runts was climbing all over everything including me. When I pushed him off, Mike, the head counselor, scolded me from the front of the bus. This would turn out to be quite portentous.

Our "camp" was at McKinney Falls State Park. We'd never been there before, but I was looking forward to it. The pristine Hill Country rivers, creeks, and springs my sister and I enjoyed in summers past had set an unrealistic expectation. All us youngsters disembarked our respective creaky old vans, were shown to our cabins, and told we could all go swimming as soon as everyone had donned their swimwear.

I took one step into that water and my response to immediately back out of it was instant and instinctual. I didn't know then what I know now. The park sits at the confluence of Onion Creek and Williamson Creek. A dilapidated old wastewater treatment plant was discharging untreated sewage into Williamson Creek every time it malfunctioned — which was often. Just two years later, swimming would be prohibited in the park due to fecal coliform levels being 13 times higher than deemed safe. I refused to get in the gross and obviously unsafe water and that somehow got me in more trouble with Mike.

On the third day of the weeklong camp, another of the little hellions attacked me during a game of squirt gun tag. I defended myself as gently as possible, but it wasn't good enough for Mike: I was a repeat offender, a danger to the other kids, and was placed in solitary confinement for the duration of the camp. I truly had done nothing wrong, no one was hurt in any way. I felt the full, shameful weight of being wrongly accused. Counselors brought meals to the cabin I was locked in. They also escorted me to and from the restrooms and showers — almost as frequently as needed. On one such excursion, I saw my little sister from a short distance. She'd already spied me — and let me tell you — the look of worry, powerlessness, fear, and concern on her face struck me forcibly and deeply. Hers was much worse than my own fate and it broke my heart.

For years I remembered Mike's full name so I could find him once I'd become a man. I can still remember it, believe me, but it turns out morphing into an adult also involves forgiveness and an aversion to violence.

If you've ever worked in a restaurant — back of the house, front of the house, I don't care — you know it can be rough. There are threats to one's emotional wellbeing o' plenty — both from customers and coworkers alike.

If you are a waitperson, just being late can send you into a tailspin of trouble. No telling how long ago the hostess seated a party in your section — the crappiest one — so you can't even play catch-up and do your share of preshift sidework. Everyone in the front of the house turned against you before you even got there, your first table is pissed off, and the back of the house — having caught a whiff of blood in the water — has you on their fecal list just because.

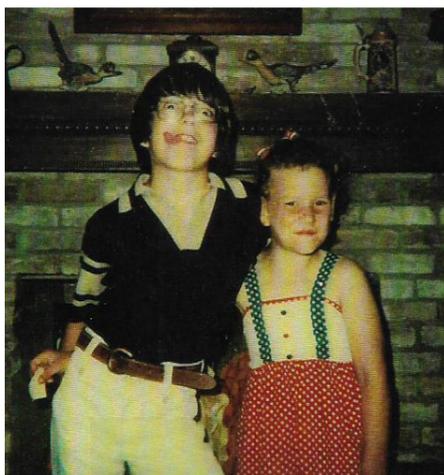
Speaking of the kitchen, it can be its own special hell. You know there's a chef in there, right? Even the nice ones secretly take pleasure in breaking a new minion. Also, the kitchen is just inherently dangerous: it is rife with disgruntlement, substance abuse, ego, and knives. If you're new, just do your work, keep your head down, and pray they hire someone else soon so you're no longer the newbie.

Whether you're in the kitchen or out on the floor, if you're lucky, everyone will get so busy they won't be able to carve out time to be mean to you. If not, and the hazing continues, sometimes it just gets to you. So you head to the walk-in for no reason. On the way, you tell yourself it's just a quiet place where you can regain your composure, but as soon as the giant door makes that latching sound as it shuts behind you, you realize the tears have made other plans.

When it's all over, if you're really lucky, the gang doesn't resurrect the cruelty after work at the bar down the street where you all go to lick wounds and binge drink.

So what could go wrong at the adult church camp last spring? I'll tell you: a woman that works there fulltime took an immediate dislike to me. She was hostile, combative, and mean. I shrugged it off until day three when she accused me of making a lewd gesture toward her with an English cucumber. I realized right away I would have to leave camp posthaste — not out of shame but out of self-preservation: she had escalated and the place it could go from there was not a place I wanted to be. I went to the walk-in to think about the situation just to make sure leaving was the right call. Once there, I immediately started sobbing uncontrollably and I really wasn't sure why.

When I got home to Port Aransas, I was no less perplexed by my emotional reaction to the inexplicable — but minor league — cruelty I'd been subjected to at the church camp. I finally put it together: even though I'm a big boy now — dare I say a man even — I carry the trauma from summer camp 47 years ago and can still see that look on my little sister's face.



The author and kid sister circa 1979

## Senior Moments Special to the Island Moon

### The Joint Chiefs of Staff

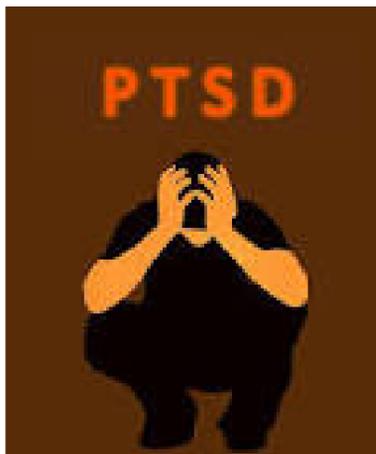


By Dotson Lewis

#### Special to The Island Moon

*Dotson's Note: The following article is a follow-up to the Veterans articles and the Brain Waves article which have been published in previous issues of The Island Moon. Thanks to Mike Coppock, a freelance writer who lives in Oklahoma, for much of the information contained in this article. Also thanks to Islanders Diane and Jim Hall for their interest and assistance.*

#### What Weight Should PTSD Carry In Criminal Justice Cases?



While being treated for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), veteran Warren Davis was arrested in Oklahoma City in November 2014 for threatening to take hostages at a car dealership for repossessing his car. Five months earlier in nearby Tulsa, veteran Cody Young was killed by police during a standoff after he fired a rifle. Young at the time was seeking treatment for PTSD at a local VA hospital.

The Washington Post's Greg Kaffe highlighted the case of Army Staff/Sergeant Robert Carlson, who suffers from PTSD, in an article this past September. "After three tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, 40 months of combat for his country, Carlson was found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon and is serving an eight-year sentence in a military prison. Soon after threatening his wife, he emptied his pistol in a blind rage, striking a neighboring garage, an apartment building, and knocking out the headlight of a police SUV in Fairbanks, Alaska, in July 2013."

A significant percentage of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans may be suffering from PTSD.

But it's a number people are struggling to get their heads around, according to veterans advocacy groups. VA numbers are imprecise. Right now, there are no solid numbers on how many are suffering from PTSD, all are estimates.

A 2014 study by the University of North Carolina School of Medicine claims that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans reporting problems with PTSD and alcohol are seven times more likely to engage in acts of severe violence that veterans not suffering from such conditions. No real surprise here.

#### PTSD as a Mitigating Factor in Sentencing of Veterans is Gaining Ground in Some States

In one study, estimates varied, but of the possible 20% of returning veterans who suffer from PTSD, roughly 5% find themselves in trouble with the law. An effort is being made to take into consideration veterans' military records once they find themselves in the court system.

In 2014, Alaska became the first state to pass a law allowing state judges to consider PTSD as a mitigating factor during the sentencing of veterans. "I spoke to people returning from Afghanistan and Iraq who said veterans were suffering from PTSD and getting into trouble once back," said Alaska State Rep. Les Gara, who sponsored the bill. "Some of the trouble they were getting into was minor criminal activities and those veterans deserve some consideration based on their service record." California followed Alaska with its own bill addressing the sentencing of veterans suffering from PTSD. A similar bill passed

in Kansas.

Other avenues for assisting returning veterans in trouble with the law have also been created over the past decade. Veterans' courts have been popping up across the United States. First created in Buffalo, N.Y., in 2008, they are for veterans diagnosed with mental health conditions. Often drug testing and counseling are part of the sentencing program. Both are for minor offenses and not for capital crimes such as manslaughter, murder and rape. Veterans' treatment courts are much preferred over incarceration, say veterans advocates.

2008 also saw the creation of the Tulsa Veterans Treatment Court, the first of its kind at the time. Supporters were able to set it up through funding from the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program. The court handles cases involving driving under the influence, assault and battery, domestic violence, and drug addiction. Today, there are four such courts in the U.S. The Tulsa court has a 96% participant completion rate.

#### DISCIPLINE VS. TREATMENT

In the case of Staff Sergeant Carlson, his request for clemency was denied by his commanding officer who stated he led other soldiers who also PTSD yet behaved legally.



Army spokesman Jeremy O'Bryan, a public affairs officer at Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, said prisoners arriving at Army correctional facilities are given initial mental health screening within two weeks along with medical and dental screening. The screening also takes into account past and current mental disturbances and suicide attempts.

A behavioral health clinic staffed by two clinical social workers and five behavioral health specialists is located at the Northwest Joint Regional Correctional Facility in Washington, where Carlson is serving his sentence.

O'Bryan notes that all Army correctional facilities are accredited by the American Correctional Association when it comes to health care for prisoners.

Prison time may worsen PTSD amongst diagnosed veterans, making them hyper-vigilant and causing their sleep to be more impaired, as testified by Anchorage criminal attorney Cynthia Strout during hearings on Alaska's bill.

The Judge Advocate General's Corps' *Military Law Review* published an article by a United States Army prosecutor, Major Evan Seamone, the chief of military justice at Fort Benning, Ga., calling for changes in how military courts handle cases involving PTSD. It concluded the military system is too focused on discipline over treatment and fails to acknowledge mental wounds.

#### WARRIOR CODE

The United States military is at least addressing the issue of PTSD among inmates in its correctional facilities. Many states are not. The Alaska Department of Corrections for instance, does not even keep track of who is a war veteran within its inmate population.

"People do cope with PTSD," said Maria Tolleson, chief of Public Information, United States Army/Army Medical Department. "It's not something that's disabling."



## Marine Masters

### Mobile Marine Service

**Certified Technicians**

- Yamaha
- Suzuki
- Evinrude
- Johnson
- Honda
- Mercury
- Mariner
- Volvo

We've been providing quality marine repairs at your place since 2001.

**Operator Owner**  
Jon Reynolds

**361-949-7570    361-728-1745**  
marinemasters@hotmail.com

## Gene's Corner

### Random Thought Day



By Gene Saegert

As a young child, did you ever encounter any of the following?

Couldn't go to sleep and called out for your Mom. Mom comes in and you say "I can't go to sleep I am scared. Right away Mom says "Ok dear I will pray your prayer for you" " Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord your soul to keep and if I die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." Comforting right? And then followed up with "Sleep tight, don't let the bedbugs bite." Death, bed bugs? Really Mom, thanks a lot, that should do it.

#### ***Then there are those encouraging nursery rhymes just to name a couple.***

Rock a bye baby in the tree top, when the wind blows the cradle will rock, when the bough breaks the cradle will fall and down will come baby cradle and all! Fear of cradles and trees developing here. This brings to mind my fear of spiders and why I never eat curds and whey. Then as for four and

20 blackbird baked in a pie, kinda makes one suspicious of pies. Not to mention that the maid was in the garden hanging out the clothes, then along came a blackbird and pecked off her nose! To this day I don't like blackbirds and I always get nervous when I hang out the clothes. Well enough of the fear causing nursery rhymes; some were just down right disturbing.

#### ***Here are two more random thoughts***

My Uncle is one of those people of whom is said "He never met a stranger" but with a slightly different twist. He hated all strangers and always refused to meet them.

One more thought: When I die I want to die peacefully in my sleep like my grandfather did, not screaming in fear like his passengers.

Thought for the day: Maybe oxygen is killing you, but it just takes 60 to 95 years.

*To be continued...*

## Thoughts from Reverend Ken



By Rev. Dr. Ken

My wife Barbara and I spent tens days, starting on Christmas Day with our oldest son, his wife and our four grandsons in northern Illinois. We were also able to see our youngest son and his longtime partner in Chicago. It was a great week!

The three youngest grandsons are ages five, four, and three. I love them dearly! Yet, they might be great examples of the concept of original sin.

Original sin is a Christian doctrine that thinks all humanity inherits a fallen, sinful nature, creating a state of separation from God. This is the message of the classic story of the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis. Original sin describes humanity's inherent inclination to sin. It helps to explain the universal presence of sin and suffering. It explains why none of us are perfect.

It isn't fair to label three preschoolers as sinners. After all, they are adorable! However, in watching them interact I see adult human interaction playing out. I see too many leaders living in this manner.

Each of those boys constantly wanted what another had. So much so, sometimes one would try to take it, steal it, or break it. Coveting was on full display! They were always quick to blame each other often with piercing judgments. Playing the victim came very natural to all three of them. This was true for spewing hurtful comments, as well. All three of them would take turns with "look at me behavior," sometimes simultaneously. They were experts at pushing, shoving, and punching each other, thinking no one else saw such maneuvers. They have mastered quite a few methods of attempting to influence each other through force or intimidation to get their way. Even untruth was not out of the question. Of course, whining, grievances, complaints, and threats were ubiquitous.

We would like to think young children will mature as they age, such that these kinds of behaviors will fall away. Observing and participating in adult human interactions convinces me this may not be the case. And yes, I have been known to utilize some of these behaviors, as an adult.

Barbara and I could chuckle and mumble something about karma to each other as we observed those boys. We were going to get to return home soon. Their parents were not quite so fortunate. The teenage years still lie ahead! Yet, there is an undeniable bond in

the family, the bond of grace and love. It is the same bond that can be experienced within humanity.

There is a story in the Bible about John the Baptist pointing to Jesus and identifying Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. God has taken human sin and self-righteousness and allows mercy to triumph. I saw a meme that spoke to this good news. Christianity is not about controlling others, protecting our privilege, or seeking power. It is about following this Jesus who chose love over domination and compassion over cruelty.

After John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God a second time, two of his disciples followed Jesus. Jesus asked them what they were seeking? What are you seeking?

We live in a culture dominated by the covetous acquisition of things, power, prestige, privilege, likes, and followers. We live in a world where the strong take what they can and what they want by whatever means possible. Violence is excused, accountability is lost, and those who are easily scapegoated are dehumanized. We live in a time when idolatry, demagogues and bullies intimidate and rule by grievance. We live our lives chasing the illusion of control and walking a journey of fear-based self-interest.

Jesus invites us to follow him in a radically different approach to life, life lived deeply in the bonds of grace and love. Love is chosen over domination and compassion over cruelty, especially towards those targeted by authoritarianism. Grace is freely extended and received. Truth leads to celebrating diversity, working for equity, and practicing inclusion. Life is protected and peace is sought. Living deeply in Christ's love delivers us from a preschool society.

Each Sunday a bunch of humans 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](mailto:pastor@islandpresby.com)

## Debate for Republican candidates in U.S. Congressional Seat set for January 22

### *Six candidates for Island seat*

The six Republican candidates running for the newly-drawn U.S. 34<sup>th</sup> Congressional District which includes Padre Island and Flour Bluff are scheduled to take part in a debate on Thursday, January 22.

The district is one of five across the state which were redrawn in 2025, Padre Island and Flour Bluff will no longer be represented by Rep. Michael Cloud after the November 2026 elections. They will be in the new district which stretches south from Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande Valley. The seat is currently held by Democrat Vicente Gonzalez who has held the seat since 2017 who is running in the Democrat Primary

The debate begins at 7 p.m. following a meet and greet which begins at 6 p.m. at the Richardson performance Hall on the Del Mar College East Campus, 101 Baldwin Blvd.

The debate is sponsored by Coastal Bend Young Republicans Club, for more information see [www.nuecescounty.gop.com](http://www.nuecescounty.gop.com). The event is open to the public.

#### ***Candidates in the race are:***

Keith Allen  
Luis Buentello  
Eric Flores  
Mayra Flores  
Fred Hinojosa  
Gregory Scott Kunkle, Jr.

## Port Aransas Home Tour

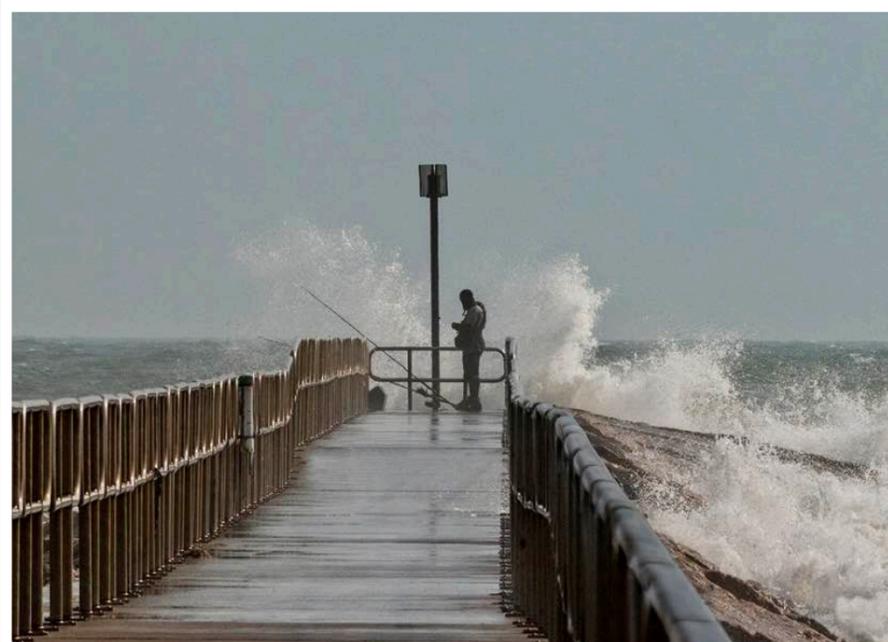


The 36th Port Aransas Home Tour will be Saturday January 31, 2026 All tours will originate from the Pollock Fellowship Center found at 113-C South Alister Street. The tour is self-drive and starts at 12:00 pm and ends at 5:00pm. On the day of the tour either bring your tickets or a copy of your Square receipt to 113-C Alister Street and you will be given a wristband, brochure and map and can start out at 12:00pm. Doors open at 10:00 AM. Tickets are easy to purchase just scan our QR code below or go to our website <https://portaransasgardenclub.org/the-home-tour/>. Tickets are also available at [Gratitude](https://www.gratitude.com) at 316 N. Station St.

This year's Thirty-Sixth Annual Home Tour on Mustang Island, will showcase the rich history and culture of the Port Aransas community, featuring homes ranging from historic to contemporary styles. One highlighted residence, built by Garland Birdwell in 1998 and acquired by its current owners in 2000, now serves as a family vacation home for multiple generations. The property spans over 4,000 square feet and includes four full bathrooms, two powder rooms, and four bedrooms—two on each floor.

The residence features two kitchens: a ground-floor kitchen originally designed as a tackle room by the builder, and a fully equipped kitchen on the second floor. Initially styled with French influences, the home's décor now reflects the owner's furnishings and a blue color palette. The property underwent its first renovation three years prior to Hurricane Harvey, and was subsequently remodeled after the hurricane due to water intrusion through the roof and chimney.

For 60 years the Port Aransas Garden Club has been involved in the Port Aransas community providing and contributing to green spaces, scholarships to PAISD seniors, PAISD school gardening programs, and donating to community programs that help our youth, our animals, our wildlife, and our food challenged. PAGC is a 501(c)3 corporation. Visit the Port Aransas Home Tour Saturday, 31 January to see this evolution from 1940s to modern construction.



*Surfs Up at Packery Channel By Laura Bennett*

# ServiceMASTER

24 Hour  
Emergency Service

## Clean

Carpet Cleaning  
Air Duct Cleaning  
Upholstery Cleaning

Tile & Wood Cleaning  
Fire & Water Damage  
Restoration

Call for our Daily Specials  
361-993-9300

book online at [www.servicemaster-tx.com](http://www.servicemaster-tx.com)

A little Island history

# Commercial Fishing in the Laguna Madre

*Editor's note: Bobbie Kimbrell has been a Flour Bluff resident since 1944 and was a commercial fisherman until his retirement in 1999.*

By Bobbie Kimbrell

Commercial fishing and the Laguna Madre itself is a far cry different scene today than I was in the early 1940s. When a hard north wind in the winter months blew in it dried up most of the upper Lagoon from the bulkheads, (Corpus Christi Bay –Laguna Madre border), down to Pete Island, with just a little water in the deeper gut that ran near the shoreline of Flour Bluff down to the Dunn's Crossing about where Caribbean Drive ends at the water's edge. Not so today since the Intracoastal Canal was completed from Flour Bluff to Port Mansfield in about 1947-1948. It raised the water level of the Lagoon, kept it from salting up in the hot summer months which ran the fish out toward Corpus Christi Bay and it killed those that got trapped in the Nine Mile Hole and Baffin Bay. The salinity of the Lagoon turned the water a strawberry red color and was called the red tide but it was not the toxic red tide that happens sometimes in the Gulf of Mexico and inland water now days. "Dunns Crossing" was the route taken by cattleman Patrick Dunn when he herded his cattle from the grazing land on Padre Island across the shallow Lagoon to Laguna Shores Road at Yorktown Boulevard. The digging of the Intracoastal Canal prevented future crossings which resulted in the cattle being shipped in trucks up the beach to Port Aransas then to markets elsewhere.

300-pound bars of ice to ice the fish down. Although gill netting had been banned in the Lagoon since the 30s, gill nets were the fisherman's main bait. They also used bottom trotlines and top lines with the main line hanging on cedar stakes jabbed into the seabed. The motorboats towed skiffs to do the fishing out of. They baited the top lines with live perch to catch trout, sometimes, using cut mullet to catch redfish. Cut up pieces of shrimp were used in the winter months on the bottom lines to catch drum, (black drum).

During the war years in the '40s fish were in great demand since meat was rationed. The price of fish was low as compared to the demand. Drum at 5-10 cents per pound and trout and redfish (red drum), 10-18 cents per pound. It was nothing unusual to see a motorboat come in with 2000-3000 pounds of small drum.

There was a twenty-inch limit on drum and the choice size was 12-15 inches, about 1 1/2 pounds each. The fish market preferred small drum only which encouraged the fishermen to use small size mesh gill nets, 4 1/2 to 5- inch mesh. Other than hauling the fish in small trucks to different towns, most of the drum were iced down in wooden barrels, put on the train and shipped to San Antonio and Houston. If they were shipped to Austin they were re-iced in San Antonio.



Fish Market

### Big sows along the King Ranch shore

During the early spring months a lot of big "sow" trout were caught along the King Ranch side of the Lagoon in gill nets; most of them weighting 5-10 pounds with an occasional 12-pounder. At that time of the year drum are already getting scarce and markets welcomed the trout. In the winter months most of the motorboats went to the "Lower End" of the Lagoon because that is where the winter winds pushed the drum. Before the dredging of the Intracoastal Canal the Lagoon ended, in water, a few miles south of Baffin Bay. Some of the fishermen would catch enough drum in one or two nights to fill their ice boxes and make a quick load, "Mother Load." Tons and tons of small drum were caught in Baffin and Alazan Bays and in the creek that runs into Alazan Bay. An iron pipe was used as an end stake to stake each end of the gillnets. Sometimes a Coleman lantern was hung on the pipe so the nets could be found at night with little thought that a Game Warden might be in the area.

### One Game Warden

In the early 1940s there was only one Game Warden in Corpus Christi who patrolled the Lagoon. His name was Campbell and he was rarely seen by commercial fishermen, maybe once a year. A Commercial Fisherman License cost \$3 and a skiff tag cost \$1. Gill net tags cost \$1 per 300 feet but nobody bought any. That was it, nothing else as compared to today with Commercial fishing license costing about \$400 per year and with a buyback rule in effect. The only way you can buy a Commercial Fishing License

is to buy it from a fisherman that has one with the going price at \$10,000. Most of the fishermen docked their motorboats at the Boat Hole which was located halfway between the Don Patricio Causeway what is now Hustlin' Hornet Road. It was an oil well location that had been dredged out on the shoreline. Redfish Jack and Old Man Myers, the father of Dub Meyers, had small motorboats with a Coleman stove for cooking and fished for redfish only near the rocks in Baffin Bay using trotlines baited with cut millet. Catching the mullet with a cast net was the hardest part. They kept the drum they caught on the last day only so as not to waste the ice. A few of the motorboats were still in use in the eighties, none now. A houseboat barge is all that is allowed now.

### Ban on redfish and trout

In the eighties a law was passed that banned the catch and sale of trout and redfish. Some fishermen quit, some moved to Louisiana for a while and others sold redfish "under the counter" trying to survive until winter when drum could be caught. It made for hard times until the fishermen found out they could catch some drum the year-round using cut up pieces of crab legs for bait and then later using wood dowels. The fishermen fought the ban with anger and disapproval as did the housewife who bought the trout and redfish at the market. But in the end it turned out to be a gift for the fishermen since they learned how to catch drum the year round and concentrate on drum only. They started making more money than ever before and continue to do so today.

Texas Parks and Parks and Wildlife biologists' statistics show that without the commercial catch of drum, (black drum) the sports catch of trout and redfish decline. Other statistics show that most fish caught on a trotline are caught at night and do not affect the sport fishermen's catch.

### Gillnetters to trotliners

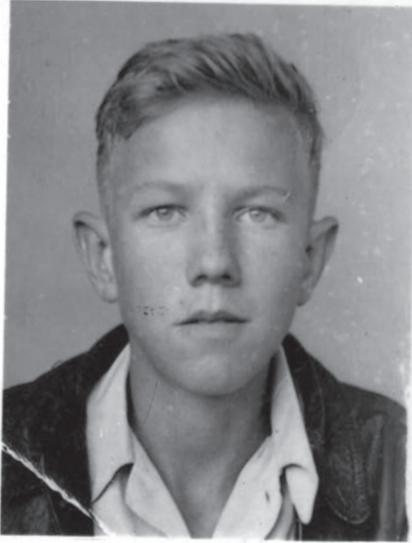
The Game Wardens turned most of the gill netters into trotliners by getting better at finding their nets which resulted in a mess of high line trotlines in most of the Lagoon. The area from Pete Island down south to the Pure Oil Channel became known as Gohlkes Jungle because Wilber Gohlke and some of his brothers had most of the trotlines there. Wilbur was one of the most dedicated hardworking trotliners ever. His family still owns and leases out the only wholesale fish market in The Bluff. It was originally Monks Place, (emporium), relocated from the NAS when the base was built.

There were some sports fishermen who waded out from the shoreline at the Lagoon who caught mostly small trout and an occasional redfish. They usually sold the fish at the market if they caught more than enough to eat because the market cared less if you had a commercial license.

It was an era before outboard motors became dependable enough to travel very far. It wasn't until after 1946 or 1947, when outboards got better and the Intracoastal Canal made for deep water, that any sports fishermen ventured past Pete Island or down to Baffin Bay. As compared to today the Intracoastal Canal on a summer weekend is like the traffic on SPID at peak hours.

### Don't have to get a job

There have always been a lot of porpoises and Tarpon on the west side, King Ranch side, of the Lagoon. It's assumed the Tarpon spawn in the Tropic Isles and other inland channels because fingerling, five to seven-inches-long, Tarpon work on top of the channels like mullet and can be caught with a castnet. An adage, old saying, about commercial fishermen is; "they commercial fish as they do not have to get a job and go to work," all the time knowing that commercial fishing requires more work than practically any job that exists. It's time consuming, requires patience and skill, with the weather being a determining factor, and the anxiety of making a catch that makes for an adventurous self-employed profession.



Bobbie age 13

### There were always fish

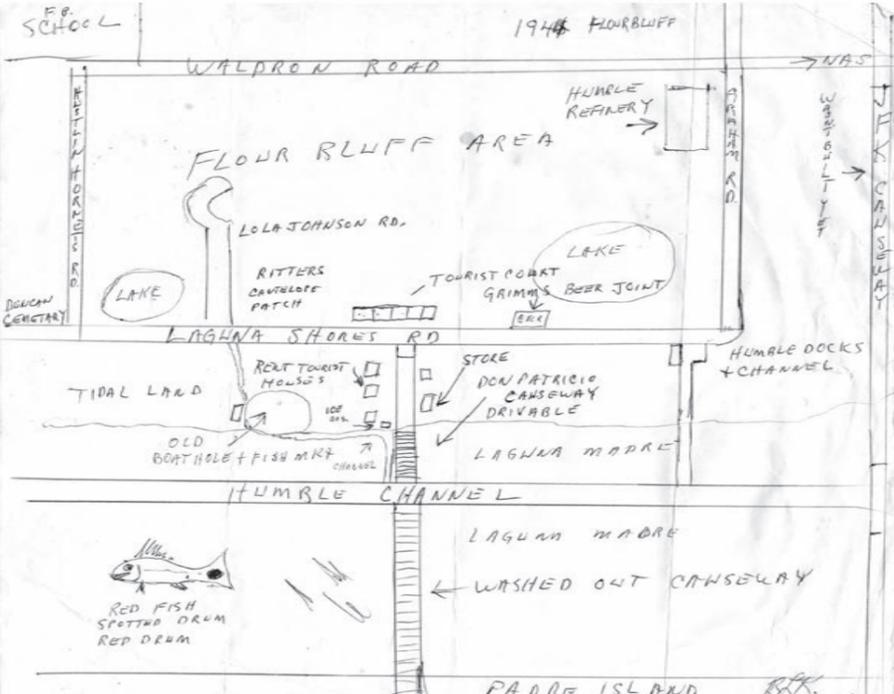
Commercial fishing was the main industry of Flour Bluff in that it provided a living even in the harshest of times like the Great Depression of the 1930s. There was always fish to eat and there was an oyster reef from near Packery Channel towards the bulkheads. Some of the fishermen fished out from the Flour Bluff shoreline and toward Padre Island on a daily basis using a small 14-16-foot skiff propelled by oars, a push pole or a single sail. If the wind was blowing too hard from the north or south, you didn't go fishing because you might get blown away. Other fishermen had 30 to 40-foot cabin motorboats called tunnel sterns with a car engine for power, with hardly any reverse gear, if any. The propeller was about halfway up in the tunnel which let the boat go across the shallow water of Dunn's Crossing to reach the deeper water past Pete Island about where Yorktown Boulevard ends today at the water's edge.

### Gill nets and war demand

The boats had rather large plywood ice boxes which carried about three to five



Bobbie in 2005



1944 Flour Bluff Map

Since 1991 [www.atlantiscorpus.com](http://www.atlantiscorpus.com)

**Atlantis**   
**Pool and Spa**  
*Quality you can swim in!*  
 (361) 563-7665 or (361) 949-8899

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**  
**Weekly Pool & Spa Maintenance \* Repairs & Renovations**  
**Island Resident**  
*Shouldn't you be saying, "It's time to relax. My pool is ready."*  
**Call Atlantis For All Your Pool Needs**

**10% Discount for Island Homes!**

**Red's**  
**AIR CONDITIONING**  
 SINCE 1986 

**Prompt Professional 24 Hour Service**  
**No Overtime Charges**

- All Makes and Models
- Commercial & Residential
- 10 Year Part & Labor Warranties on ALL New Equipment
- Financing available

**(361) 949-9545**

Serving Padre Island & Flour Bluff Since 1986   

TACL013184C

# Sudoku

Sudoku answers are not available.  
Play at your own risk!

*Going Easy On You...*

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

*Knuckle-Cracker*

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

*Mind-Numbing Frustration*

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

*Brain-Buster*

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

# Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

**Across**

- 1. Like a bowstring
- 5. Wedding reception line?
- 10. Not up to snuff
- 14. Heel's neighbor
- 15. Shun
- 16. South American Indian
- 17. French Sudan, now
- 18. Actress Oberon
- 19. Morales of "La Bamba"
- 20. Tonsorial songstress?
- 23. Bender
- 24. Substitute for
- 25. Capital of Japan
- 28. Rice\_\_\_ ("The San Francisco Treat")
- 31. Concubine's cubicle
- 32. Patronizes, as a restaurant
- 35. Aswan Dam location
- 39. Epicurean songstress?
- 42. Most draftable
- 43. Major Black Sea port
- 44. A conceited person has a big one
- 45. Casa rooms
- 47. Chess and checkers
- 49. More cunning
- 52. Jacket junction
- 54. Banking songstress?
- 60. Director Preminger
- 61. Pervasive qualities
- 62. Goose egg
- 64. Spiritual advisor
- 65. Barton or Bow
- 66. Mishmash
- 67. It's marked by an X
- 68. Shade of green
- 69. Close by

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

**Down**

- 1. Beret on the brae
- 2. Swift horse
- 3. Bruins of the NCAA
- 4. XXX, to Xenocrates
- 5. Minor role for a major star
- 6. Apparent
- 7. "Cheers" barfly
- 8. \_\_\_ monster
- 9. Yemen seaport
- 10. ShriII
- 11. Beginning
- 12. City between Gainesville and Orlando
- 13. Racetrack boundaries
- 21. Disappointed fan, maybe
- 22. Retired Dolphin Marino
- 25. Fuss
- 26. Valhalla's chief resident
- 27. Rosebud's owner
- 28. Beasts of burden
- 29. Sounds from the stands
- 30. Regretful Miss of song
- 33. MP's quarry
- 34. Accompaniment to a drumroll
- 36. List unit
- 37. Box in the theater
- 38. Slaughter in the Hall of Fame
- 40. Fired tactfully
- 41. Bother persistently
- 46. "You \_\_\_ My Sunshine"
- 48. Online bookseller
- 49. Walks laboriously
- 50. Pause
- 51. Emcee's prologue
- 52. Tie-up on the road
- 53. Blue-book filler, maybe
- 55. Pool hall triangle
- 56. \_\_\_ of thumb
- 57. Kind of surgeon
- 58. Salami hangout?
- 59. Calc cousin
- 63. "Wow!"

## Ten Years Ago in the Island Moon



The Island Sonic was the site of a PIACC Cruise-In photo by Dave Satterwhite



There was a dredging underway at Packery Channel.



A red beauty drew looks at the Cruise-In photo by Dave Satterwhite



There was a sighting of the Island rooster.



Residents on Jackfish celebrated the 2016 New Year by jumping into the 52-degree water on a 45-degree windy and rainy day



# Islander Artist makes waves downtown

Islander and TAMU-CC professor Jennifer Arnold this week opened an exhibit featuring her work at the K Space Art Studios downtown. The studio opened in 2001 in the building that once housed a Kress Five & Dime Store. The exhibit called "A Layered Space: Outside" will remain on display through February 27. The studio is located at 623 North Chaparral St. and is open Wed. - Sat. 11 am - 5 pm and Sun. 12 pm - 4 pm.



## State News

### Texas Labor Force Surpasses 15.9 million as Nonfarm Job Count Increases

Texas added 7,300 nonfarm jobs in November to reach a total of 14,321,000 positions. Over the year, the state added 146,300 jobs for an annual nonfarm growth rate of 1.0 percent, outpacing the national growth rate by 0.4 percentage points.

adding 5,700 jobs. Professional and Business Services added 3,900 jobs over the month while Manufacturing added 2,300. In addition, the Construction industry posted an annual growth rate of 2.8 percent in November, which was the highest of any major industry.

Texas' civilian labor force registered at 15,938,500 after adding 59,500 people since September 2025 and reaching a new record high level for the series. Over the year, Texas' civilian labor force has added 206,800 people. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Texas registered at 4.2 percent.

The Amarillo metropolitan statistical area (MSA) had the lowest unemployment rate with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 3.1 percent in November, followed by the Midland MSA at 3.2 percent. The College Station-Bryan and San Angelo MSAs both registered at 3.3 percent.

The Private Education and Health Services industry had the largest private sector over-the-month increase in November after

### Corpus Christi registers sixth highest unemployment rate in Texas for November 2025

Unemployment rates across Texas

- Eagle Pass 8.3%
- Brownsville -Harlingen 6.6%
- McAllen-Edinburg-Mission 6.3%
- Beaumont-Port Arthur 5.4%
- Killeen-Temple 4.8%
- Corpus Christi 4.6%**
- United States 4.3%
- Texas 4.2%



Take a bow. By Lu Ann Kingsbury

**Padre Landscapes**  
Commercial & Residential Services  
Nursery & Organics

**WINNER OF THE STATE OF TEXAS SMALL BUSINESS AWARD**

- + Professional Landscape Design, Construction & Maintenance
- + Xeriscape and Earth Kind Solutions
- + Organic & Conventional Gardening
- + Vegetable Gardens & Hydroponics
- + Stone Work & Water Features

**PadreLandscapes.com**  
**(361) 949-6999**  
padrelandscapes@live.com  
Nursery - 15606 SPID, Ste. B  
On The Island

Owned & Operated by an Islander since 1992  
Fully Insured

**Texas Master Naturalist**

Now is your chance to apply  
Scan now for more!  
www.txmn.org/st

**Connect with nature, volunteer with us!**

T E X A S

**Master Naturalist™**  
South Texas Chapter

**Learn • Explore • Serve**

**A FAMILY BUSINESS, SINCE 1987**

**SAFE GUARD STORAGE**

**Contact Us**

- Personal Storage
- Office Space
- Boat & RV Storage
- Climate-Controlled Storage
- Reliable Storage Units in Corpus Christi, TX

**Our Contact**

Phone Number: **(361)937-8673**  
Visit Us In Person  
**10514 S.P.I.D Corpus Christi, TX**

# Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
ronniennarmour@gmail.com  
**Oldie but goodie...**



*Sully the Beach Bum Guru in front of Caldwell Pier 2008*

Historically, this is the slowest time of the year for the hospitality and retail industries and our little island is no exception. Just to state the obvious, we are smack dab in the middle of winter, the days are gray and the air is crisp. The live music scene is fairly stagnant right now since many of the venues are closed for the season being that we are primarily a tourist destination. The one redeeming factor would be the arrival of our *Winter Texan* families. This yearly phenomena can be substantiated every Wednesday at *Bernie's* when the **PA Rockers** turn the joint into a 60's high school sock hop. So.... in this time we call our "slow season" I've decided to go back to a little blast from the past I wrote in May 2009 when I was just learning the ropes in Port A. It's about the nicknames of many of the colorful characters back then but it's also a glimpse into the fiber of our population when we were a little "Drinking village with a fishing problem". I think you old timers will enjoy this one!

### What's in a name?



*Russel the Love Muscle, Woodie and Hollywood Bob.*

What's in a name? More specifically, what's in a nickname? I got to thinking about this recently when I was going through my phone book. Someone asked me for one of my old buddies from Austin's phone number and full name...I had no idea. His name had always been **Eddie Spaghetti**. I was pretty sure that there was no Mr. Spaghetti, Sr. or any such lineage. I never questioned it. It just made sense. Eddie Spaghetti played bass and my other buddy **Mickie Ticky** played keys. In fact, it was Eddie Spaghetti that nicknamed me **Ronyea**. I don't know why, but it stuck. That was 30 years ago.

### The rules...



*Bicycle Mark behind the old Flat's Lounge.*

Being that there is no shortage of colorful characters running around our little island, the number of nicknames around here is certainly testimony. In fact, I'd be willing to wager that our per capita ratio is right up there with a *Bar-num and Bailey* traveling camp. With the help of **Janet Planet**, **Big Dave Hicks** and my beach bum guru **James "Sully" Sullivan**, I was able to put a face with 65 nicknamed residents of Port A. There appears to be several distinct categories here. There's the "nicknamed for what you do" category such as **Painter Bob** and **Crack Head Billy**. There's the "nicknamed for where you are from" category such as **Colorado** and **Kiwi**.

There's the "nicknamed for physical attributes" category such as **Russell the Love Muscle** and **One Eyed Jerald**. And finally, there's the "it's just your nickname" category...this category, I suppose, was handed down from the Indians who would name their children after whatever was going on at the time (like **Running Possum** and **Little Road Kill**). In this category you'll find such nicknames as **Boink**, **Woody** and **Preecher**. Be advised, this category doesn't have to make any sense.

### Sorry Thor...

I personally have a problem with people who nickname themselves. Sorry, **Diamond** and **Thor**...until you get a bonafied nickname by someone else; you will have to resort back to the names your mamas gave you. This brings up the question of who has a right to give you a nickname. I don't think there is an inherent right or a dictated right from someone who thinks it's their job to give you your nickname. That's a little pretentious and they seldom stick anyway. The nicknames that seem to stay with you for life are the ones that came out of the trenches and just get passed around until the moniker sticks. It's funny which ones stick and which ones don't. And it doesn't matter one bit if you like or dislike the nickname you've been attached to. I'm pretty sure **Crack Head Billy** doesn't care much for his since he's been clean for ten years now.

### Drum roll please...



*The PA Rockers kicked off their Wed residency at Bernie's last week.*

So, without further adeau, here is the list of nicknamed Islanders that we came up with. **Ronyea**, **Janet Planet**, **Sully**, **Rockin'**, **Kiwi**, **Starvin'**, **Marvin**, **Shirtless Pete**, **Hippie John**, **Painter Bob**, **Preecher**, **Toothless Becky**, **Crackhead Billy**, **Painter Bill**, **Colorado**, **Bicycle Bill**, **Sir Monty**, **Captain Speedo**, **Fish**, **Steve the Jeweler**, **Boink**, **Laughing Lee**, **Casper**, **Hanger Man**, **Woody** (all the **Woody's**), **Rain Man**, **T Joe**, **Russell the Love Muscle**, **Hollywood Bob**, **Parasail Brian**, **Meximo**, **Lighthouse Rick**, **Cowboy**, **Drywall Dave**, **Big Dave**, **Little Dave**, **Bastrop Dave**, **Gaff Top Dave**, **Barefoot Dave**, **Super Dave**, **Steve-O**, **Special K**, **Sherrie Berry**, **Scary Sherrie**, **Ramp Man**, **Flounder Fred**, **Coon Ass Chad**, **Diver Todd**, **Turtle Todd**, **French Fred**, **Tattoo Jamie**, **Love Monkey**, **Bicycle Mark**, **Fish**, **Pilsberry**, **Sonic**, **Big Heber**, **Little Heber**, **Drunken Mike**, **Drunk Rick**, **Accordion Rose**, **Bottle Head Miller**, **Drop Dead Fred**, **Ice Cream Erin**, **Roller Bob**, **One Eyed Jerald**, **Red Headed Kim** and **Lawn Mower Ted**.

### Scattered shots...

It was lots of familiar faces giggling around town last week. The **PA Rockers** probably take the prize for high energy at *Bernie's* last Wednesday. I was their first show of the season and it was a doozy. Also **Boo and Poo** played the *Gaff* plus **Boone Holding** and **Cathouse** played *Shorty's*. I'm also hearing some rumblings at the local *VFW*. Gonna have to check that out.

### Coming this week...

Briefly, on Thursday we have the **Clark Brothers** at the *Salty Dog* and the **Johnson All Starz** at *Shorty's*. Also playing *Shorty's* this weekend will be **Billy Snipes** and **Todd Dorn**. The *Gaff* will have the **DuneBillies**, **Jim Dugan** and **Brad Ethridge**. For more upcoming local shows, check out the *LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT* box or go to *islandmoon.com*.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



*The Dunebillies will play the Gaff on Friday*



*Two colorful characters from years past... Van Blize and Hippie John*



*Thor on his chopper bicycle in Port A circa 2012.*

# LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

### Thursday.

#### January 15

Johnson All Starz @ Shortys  
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog  
Ty Dietz @ The Slip  
David Martinez @ Brewster Southside  
Eric Graham @ Brewster Island  
Parker Ryan @ Brewster Downtown  
Myriad of Minds @ Executive Surf Club

**BELTSANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT  
OPEN MIC EVERY WED WITH BRAD E.**

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| DUNEBILLIES   | JAN 16      |
| JIM DUGAN     | JAN 17      |
| BRAD ETHRIDGE | JAN 18 & 25 |
| BOO & POO     | JAN 30      |

Mic @ Mikel May's Too

### Monday.

#### January 19

Ejey- Eddie Alaniz @ Pelican Lounge

### Tuesday.

#### January 20

Brad Ethridge @ VFW  
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Island  
Jerrioke @ Pelican Lounge  
Scarecrow People @ Executive Surf Club

### Wednesday.

#### January 21

Open Mic w/Brad Ethridge & Gaff  
PA Rockers @ Bernie's  
Coastal Benders @ VFW  
Billy Snipes @ Doc's  
Melissa Ann @ Pelican Lounge

### Thursday.

#### January 22

Johnson All Starz @ Shortys  
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog  
Joseph Martinez @ The Slip  
Damon Scott @ Brewster Southside  
Jet Jurgensmeyer @ Brewster Downtown  
Truism @ Executive Surf Club

### Friday.

#### January 23

Darren McGill @ Shorty's  
Jim Dugan @ VFW  
Lucky Dogz @ Lulu's Landing  
Vintage Pictures @ House of Rock  
Peter Salas @ Brewster Southside  
Trisum @ Brewster Island  
Emo Karaoke @ Brewster Downtown  
The Daze @ Pelican Lounge  
The Mammoths @ Executive Surf Club

### Friday.

#### January 16

Billy Snipes @ Shorty's  
DuneBillies @ Gaff  
Carson Miller @ VFW  
El Gato Bailador @ House of Rock  
Michael Burts @ Brewster Southside  
Richard Lockhart @ Brewster Island  
Groove @ Pelican Lounge  
Palacios Bros @ Executive Surf Club  
Rave @ South Texas Ice House

**JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN  
THE ALL STARS EVERY THUR 8-12**

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| BILLY SNIPES  | JAN 16 |
| TODD DORN     | JAN 17 |
| DARREN MCGILL | JAN 23 |
| ALOHA DAVE    | JAN 24 |
| ART BARRERA   | JAN 30 |

### Saturday.

#### January 17

Todd Dorn @ Shorty's  
Jim Dugan @ Gaff  
Flashback @ VFW  
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Bay Area Brew RP Alley Catz @ Brewster Island  
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside  
Double Vision @ Brewster Downtown  
National Nobodyz @ Pelican Lounge  
Sonny Salinas, Rich Lockhart @ Executive Surf Club  
Dreaming in Color @ South Texas Ice House  
National Nobodyz @ Pelican Lounge

**Tues - Sunday  
Open at 5:00**

**CLOSED FOR SEASON  
WILL REOPEN  
February 13th**

### Sunday.

#### January 18

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's  
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff  
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog  
Chainlinks @ Pelican Lounge  
Riptide Cowboy Open

**Live music  
WILL Return  
In March**

**TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA**  
Happy Hour everyday 11-6!  
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL  
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!  
(361) 416-1235  
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

**Paradise Computer Services**  
Established, Local, Trusted.  
HELP  
Since 2004  
Sales & Service  
409 W ave G (Cut-off rd) 749-4960  
Port Aransas

**Hair by Heidi**  
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
call or text 512.914.8846

**THE GAFF**  
LIVE MUSIC  
HOT PIZZA  
COLD BEER  
OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM