



Issue 1136

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The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

January 22, 2026

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Warm winter days by Jan Rankin

Around The Island

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Island Moon Live

By Dale Rankin

The approaching cool front announced its approach *Around The Island* mid-week with the itchy eyes and sniffles that form its van. Come the weekend we'll be wearing our fur lined flip flops and looking for our long pants but so far the Winter Texan season has been a soft opening.

So long Andy



We bid a fond farewell this week to our longtime friend and Island columnist Andy Purvis who passed away at 75. Andy was the sports fan's sports fan and authored five books on sports and the men and women who played them. He first began writing for the *Island Moon* a decade ago while also hosting a local sports radio show, sometimes with our own Dotson Lewis, and always attending home games of the Corpus Christi Hooks. Andy was a long-time member of the Island Presbyterian Church and so far no services for him have been set, we will have more information when it becomes available. Andy was a valued member of the *Island Moon* family and he will be missed.

Seawall meeting

We want to send out an Island thank you to City Manager Peter Zanoni and Engineering Director Jeff Edmonds who attended an early Saturday morning meeting on The Island to bring everyone up to date on the work to shore up our Island seawall. This was the almost final step in the process of putting \$15 million in funding in place for the work, but the plan outlined Saturday was the last of the heavy lifting for what is arguably the most important project currently underway *Around The*

Around cont. on A6

Funding set for repairs to Island seawall

\$15.5 Million dedicated, work to begin after Labor Day 2026



Current state of the seawall

By Dale Rankin

The City of Corpus Christi this week announced a total of \$15.5 million has been identified for repair, maintenance, and upgrades to the Michael J. Ellis Seawall on Padre Island.

A memorandum issued this week by Sergio Villasana, Director of Finance & Procurement to City Manager Peter Zanoni under the heading of North Padre Island Seawall Project Funding reads as follows:

Seawall cont. on page A4

Packery Boat ramp improvements and restrooms proposed

The Corpus Christi City Council is taking steps to improve the boat ramps on Packery Channel along Zahn Road. A plan for improvement to the ramps, built in 2006, is included in the city's 2026 Capital Improvement Plan.

The council will consider applying for a \$250,000 grant from Texas Park & Wildlife at its next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 27. If approved the state grant would require a city match of 25% or \$83,333 for Phase I of a project which would be followed by appli-

Packery cont. on page A6



Mount Packery finds its purpose



The sand collected from beach maintenance on north Packery will be used to renourish the beach in front of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall



A little Island history

The Island Before Civilization Showed Up

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of stories from the autobiography of Louis Rawalt. Rawalt move to The Island in 1925 and lived a life that would be impossible here now. As you will see from the stories he built cabins from material he found on the beach at several locations and knew The Island in a way that probably no one else ever will. He collected relics from over thirty sites on The Island and knew where all of the shipwrecks were to be found, including the Spanish gold ships from the



Louis with his son Charlie on Padre Island.

16th Century and when the Padre Island National Seashore was founded it was Rawalt who led the researchers around The Island and showed them ten sites which they studied as part of the due diligence for founding the park. Everything Rawalt found he documented; where he found the road traveled by the troops of General Zachary Taylor in the Mexican War, the long-gone Singer Ranch and numerous shipwrecks. Rawalt

History cont. on A7

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 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.

Full park plan on page A2

Island Rotary Club comes to Life!

The newly formed Island Rotary Club is now officially chartered and meeting the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Island Time Sushi Bar and Seafood Grill. The meeting are at 5:30 p.m.

The club was recently chartered as a free-standing club after five years of being a satellite club. Padre Island had a Rotary Club for many years before it was discontinued. To join the new club call Ron Little at 361 230-5403.



Rotary cont. on A2



Well that's a mouthful. Port Aransas South Jetty By Joann Carrillo



Updated Commodore Park Plan



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 YouTube at Island Moon Live, or via these links. We record the show on Thursdays live at Doc's from 7 to 9 am.



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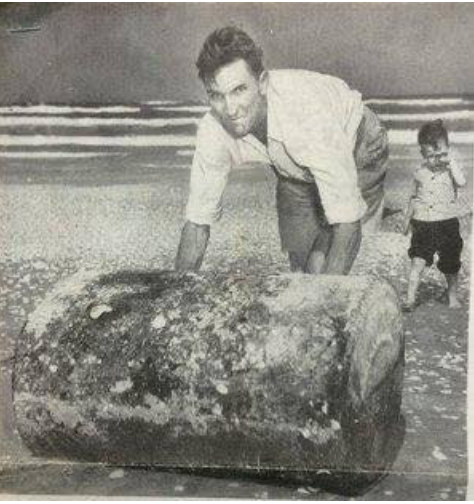


Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



An Island Mystery. Who wrote the history of the Original Islander Louis Rawalt?



I would like to know more about Cash Asher, the person Louis Rawalt told his story to. Did the work on the manuscript, Island of Reprieve, take place at the military hospital?

A question from a reader on the Island-moon.com website

Editor's note: A very good question. Let's start at the beginning. When I took over the Island Moon from founder Mike Ellis in 2007 it came with all of the local history books Mike had collected going all the way back to 1981, including the Hurricane Almanacs which he compiled himself while working for FEMA. Among the items found in the Moon office, then located in the strip center behind the Subway sandwich shop was the typewritten manuscript you see here. It was twenty-two pages long, double-spaced, and began when Mr. Rawalt was 21 years old. It begins:

"ISLAND OF REPRIEVE By Louis Rawalt (As told to Cash Asher). "It was the summer of 1925. I was seated near the desk of the chief surgeon in the Military Hospital at Chelsea. The bulky form of the surgeon was across the desk from me. He looked at me with speculative eyes. Finally he said, "If you have any business that needs attention, you had better return to your home in Texas and take care of it. He leafed through a chart on his desk, "Prognosis, six months." He looked straight at me. "A lot of them didn't" have any time left he said, encouragingly."

"It'll do," I replied. "It'll have to."

Then from there he told his story about how he returned to Padre Island with his soon to be wife Viola and lived for the next thirty years with the final words, twenty-two pages later:

"Now, thirty years later after the doctors predicted my imminent death, I roam the wilds of my unsubdued island like an aging Karankawa Indian. "

There is a two-page, dog-eared insert included with some additions, source notes, follow-up questions that appear to be typewritten by someone other than Mr. Rawalt since the writer uses the first person pronoun "I" in several places. Those pages end with (quoting Mr. Rawalt):

"I wouldn't be surprised if Americas Vespucci was the first one who saw this island. After all the Englishman (illegible) and two others saw it in 1639. (sic) let out from Hawk ship starving at Ve..."

And so it stops.

It is not stated where the manuscript originated but by inference we can deduce that it was written in 1955 – thirty years after the narrative began. When the two additional pages were added is speculative.

Island Obituary

Andrew ("Andy") Phillip Purvis
Author and Island Moon
columnist passes away at 75



Andrew ("Andy") Phillip Purvis was a successful, retired Pizza Hut franchise owner, sports enthusiast, radio personality, and prolific writer who died January 10th, 2026, after cardiac complications following a combination of mounting health factors. He was born on Christmas Eve 1951 in Raleigh, North Carolina to Gordon and Edith Purvis. Despite his many successes in life, his roles as husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather reigned supreme at the top of his list. After his marriage to Janet Purvis in 1977, Andy loved and cared for Bill and Harry as his own sons. The man was born to be a father, he often could be heard sharing anecdotes full of wisdom and humor with his children and grandchildren. He was the type of grandfather to call and leave voice-mails, often after a Corpus Christi Hooks game, saying he "Just wanted to say I'm thinkin' of ya." One of his greatest joys was sending baseball cards to his great-grandsons and great-grand nephews.

Andy felt most at home under stadium lights holding a hotdog in one hand and a scorecard in the other. He rarely missed a Hooks game and loved collecting prizes to send to his grandkids and later his great-grandkids and great-grand nephews. He never went anywhere without looking for a way to surprise those he loved most. Andy fell in love with baseball October 13th, 1960, at the age of eight while watching the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the New York Yankees in a wild upset. Though a fan of

most every sport, hearing the crack of the bat or watching his favorite team's player round third base was pure magic to Andy. Taking grandkids and friends to games gave him immense joy.

The Corpus Christi community was greatly impacted by his life. Another of his most beloved activities was to host a sports radio show every Wednesday and Thursday with his longtime friend Dennis. He did this for more than 30 years. He wrote weekly articles for his local newspaper, The Island Moon, and ESPN Corpus. "Uncle Andy" as he affectionately was called by his friends wrote more than 10 books about his parents, sports, and especially baseball. His community of friends or the "R-O-M-E-O (retired old men eating out) club" will feel the gaping hole of his loss as they continue to eat out and talk sports in his honor. Andy was a deacon at his church, Island Presbyterian, which he attended for many years. He never failed to tell his kids "God has really, really blessed me."

Andy is preceded in death by his parents William Gordon Purvis and his mother Edith Moore House Purvis and his younger brother, Clifton ("Cliff"), whom he deeply loved. He is survived by his cherished wife of 48 years Janet Purvis, his stepsons Bill (Mary Ann) James and Harry (Tina) James. He leaves behind four grandchildren Matt (Rachael), Sarah (Steven), Hannah and Nathan and nine great-grandchildren: Jack, Caroline, Henry, Louie, Etta, Judge, Sawyer, Winston, and Slate.

To quote his own writing in his book Buy Me Some Peanuts...., "I think the team in heaven just got better." His family and friends are sure he's making his way down a long list of sports heroes, talking and laughing with that thunderous warm laugh of his.

"Until then, we'll see you at the ballpark!" -- Andy

During his wanderings on Padre Island, which included the years of World War II, the Archeological Assessment of the Padre Island National Seashore done by the Texas Historical Commission in June, 1974 lists ten archeological sites found by Mr. Rawalt and a long list of artifacts he found through the years.

I never personally met Louis but did become acquainted with his son Charley from whom I purchased the lease to what is now Packery Bar & Grill on Padre Island in 2003. He had founded it as "The Coastway" before his passing in 1980 and it was run by Charlie for another ten years then sat empty until the original building was torn down. I am sorry to say I never got the chance to speak with Viola who passed away in 2010. Her obituary read:

Viola Mae Bell Rawalt passed away on November 8, 2010. She was born April 28, 1904 in Stoneham, Massachusetts and was raised in Dorchester by her Mother and Daddy Bell. She met her husband, Louis E. Rawalt at the Naval Hospital where her brother was a patient, and where Louis received further treatment for his war wounds. After a year of courtship, Louis and Viola married and moved to Kingsville, Texas where his parents lived. They eventually moved to Padre Island, living in a tent and later in a small shack, where Louis fished and regained his strength. They eventually opened a bait and tackle shop near the causeway and named it "The Coastway". It became a popular place to buy bait and chat with friends.

As for Cash Asher the closest I have been able to come to a firm identity is this obituary dated February 2, 1984:

"Obituary" CASH ASHER
Cash Asher, 90, of Corpus Christi, TX, died

Moon Monkeys

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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

It was Hunter Thompson who famously said “When the going gets weird the weird turn pro” and if Hunter was hanging out in these parts about now he would be making bank. The political season is in its full fury and when that happens the various office seekers like to try and get us to roll up *the Island Moon* and hit somebody else over the head with it.

I have never done candidate endorsements for the simple reason that I see no good reason why 8400-plus registered voters on Padre Island should listen to me try to tell them how to vote. When I first took over the Moon in 2007 one of the first things that happened is people would ask for advice on who to vote for and my solution was to help form the Island United Political Action Committee (IUPAC) in order to get input from across The Island to unite behind candidates and it worked...for a while.

As candidates began to work the system it became harder and harder to get enough voters to participate and the IUPAC kind of collapsed under its own weight – or more to the point was a victim of its own success as candidates realized the value of an endorsement and started working the angles – that’s what politicians are supposed to do.

But with or without the IUPAC the Island vote has been crucial in races for seats on the Corpus Christi City Council because of the At-Large system which allows us to vote in five of the nine races that appear on the ballot every two years. Those races are not yet on the radar since there are primary elections and the formal filing deadline is still five months away.

It’s no secret that Islanders are generally conservative voters and as such vote heavily Republican. Normally our vote in federal races – Senate, President, even U.S. House don’t swing races, but this year is different. I have gone through the numbers in the race for the U.S. Congressional seat in District 34 in these pages before and will do so again as the election gets closer because we have a rare opportunity to sway that house seat with our turnout. I don’t want to get into national politics so looking strictly local the question is what do we want?

What do we want?

There is the usual list of federal grants and programs that we could benefit from but there is likely to be little daylight between the various candidates on that front as Free Federal Money is always politically popular.

But there is one federal issue that has been bubbling on the back burner for a few years and that is guaranteeing free, unfettered public access to the sixty miles of beach on Padre Island National Seashore.

Before a few years ago I thought this was a settled issue after the attempt by the park to expand into the 3680 acres of land in Kleberg County was thwarted by Nueces County taking ownership due to the very same issue we are looking at now. The park’s plan then was to bollard off the beach less than two miles south of Bob Hall Pier and force drivers to make the sixteen mile detour to get into the park. The issue now, as best as I can tell, is whether the park plans to restrict driving on the southernmost forty miles of the park just north of Mansfield Pass.

This issue goes all the way back to the founding of the park when the final decision on whether to turn that piece of beach, in the days before Mansfield Channel was dredged, into a wilderness area, meaning the only way in was by foot or by boat. That decision went all the way to the desk of Lyndon Baines Johnson where he determined that the area did not meet the criteria for a wilderness area and it became a park with guaranteed and unfettered public access in perpetuity – or as it turned out until the park service decides to change the rules. The recent downsizing – or reorganizing – of the Kemp’s Ridley sea turtle program there has made us all wonder what the next shoe to fall will be. It taxes reasoning to understand why the park would do away with turtle releases that drew thousands of visitors to the park and in some ways became its identity. What is the upside of that and where does that process end?

As we cue up for Early Voting less than one month from now it seems to me the question of maintaining public access to this publicly-owned resource is one question we should make sure the candidates for our newly redrawn U.S. House seat should answer. The ability of park officials to unilaterally write rules we all have to follow is something that can only be addressed through the political side. If you get a chance to talk to one of the candidates in that race, ask them where they stand. This is a fight we only get to lose once and that’s it.

It’s time to turn pro.

Seawall cont. from A1

Potential funding sources for the North Padre Island Seawall Project have been identified which consist of deferring funding for certain projects, leveraging project savings, and unitizing contingency funds.

To fund the North Padre Island Seawall Project, the following budget reallocations and savings will be unitized:

- Reallocation of funds designated for construction of paper streets—(funding for paper streets remain intact)
- Reallocation of funds from Packery Channel project.
- Savings from Whitecap effluent waterline project.
- Use of contingency funds reserved for unplanned projects

The North Padre Island Seawall Project has an unencumbered balance of \$4.4 million. With budget reallocations of \$11.1 million, the project revised budget will be \$15.5 million.

Beginning in FY 2027, TIRZ #2 operating funds will start replenishing the San Dollar project fund, with full replenishment anticipated by FY 2031. Replenishment of the Crowsnest and Packery Channel Capital Repair project funds will begin in FY 2029 and is expected to be fully funded by FY 2035. Revenue projections are conservative and do not account for potential increase in taxable values resulting from the Whitecap and Lake Padre developments

Project Description (funding for seawall)

North Padre Island Seawall current allocation \$4.4 million

Sand Dollar construction funds \$1.8 million

Crowsnest design cost savings \$.3 million

Packery Channel capital repairs \$1.2 million

Contingency reserve for unplanned projects \$4.8 million

Grand Total \$15.5 million

A meeting for homeowners along the seawall was held at Gulfstream Condominiums on Saturday, January 17 which was attended by City Manager Peter Zanoni, Corpus Christi’s Director of Engineering Services Jeff Edmonds, District 4 City Councilwoman Kaylynn Paxson, and Precinct 4 County

Commissioner Brent Chesney. Paxson and Chesney are members of the board of the Island’s Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 which is the source of the funding for the seawall work which is scheduled to begin after the 2026 summer season with the first phase of the work expected to take nine months to complete. That work will consist of covering the sea wall with a protective layer to prevent decay and will begin in the area directly in front of condominiums there and proceed to undeveloped area of the seawall during the summer season.

Craig Tomlinson who is the chief engineer for the job said the work will be restricted to the area directly around the seawall and will not affect public access to the beach. He said public hearings will be held to get feedback from property owners along to seawall to determine where to locate future benches and shade structures.

The work marks the first phase of the work to repair the seawall since it was rebuilt after being destroyed by Hurricane Allen in 1980, and also marks a changing of responsibilities for the structure which passed from the hands of the private property owners along the seawall to the City of Corpus Christi.

“The city has taken responsibility for the seawall,” Edmonds said. “It has also taken on liability, from here on the seawall will be treated like a public street.”

The move by the city marks the end of four decades of uncertainty regarding the repair of the structure in future storms. Until 2024 each of the individual property owners was responsible for the maintenance and repair of the portion of the seawall directly in front of their property but there was no legal requirement that repairs to be done, creating uncertainty for property owners and potential investors alike.

The announcement by the city this week came on the heels of numbers presented to the TIRZ #2 board in December 2024 that the \$15 million set aside for the work was not readily available, however, in was announced at the Saturday meeting that funds from other TIRZ #2 projects will be used to fill the funding gap. The final step in the funding process will be a vote by the TIRZ #2 Board of Directors at a scheduled January 27 meeting followed by a vote by the city council where both are expected to vote for approval.



PINS Dedication Images courtesy of the Caller Times



Michael J. Ellis Seawall

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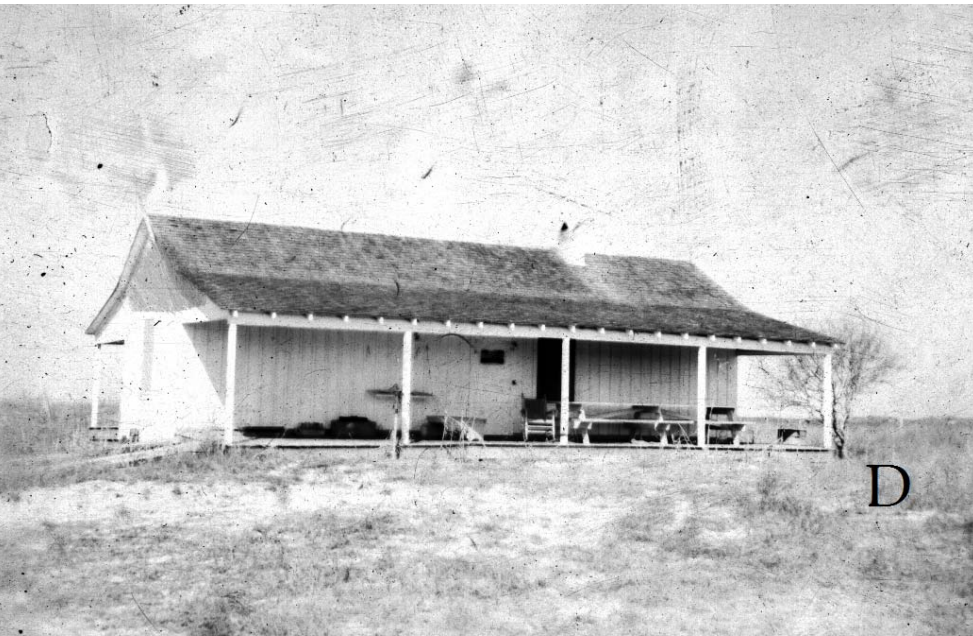


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The Island as it was...

The photo at top shows the Dunn Ranch House located near Packery Channel which was made from driftwood and later destroyed by a storm.

The bottom photo shows the Dunn Ranch line house that was at the northern end of Padre Island. That house still exists today.



Spellbound By Lu Ann Kingsbury



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Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

Sea Pork



Jace holding Sea Pork

Beachcombers along the Texas Gulf Coast may have paused mid-walk this week after spotting unusual orange, green, and brown blobs scattered along the shoreline. These squishy surprises are known as sea pork, a type of tunicate, part of the group commonly called sea squirts.

At first glance, sea pork doesn't look like much more than a blob of goo. Some of this week's finds were still attached to sea whip soft corals, while others were free-floating, likely torn loose by waves or rough seas. Their lumpy, rubbery texture and muted colors make them easy to mistake for something artificial, but they are very much alive (at least when freshly washed in).

All tunicates, including sea pork, are sea squirts, and yes, sea pork does have siphons like other tunicates. These small openings act as inlets and outlets for seawater. Sea pork are filter feeders, pulling water in through one siphon to trap microscopic plankton, then pushing the water back out the other. If handled, they can suddenly expel that water, earning their memorable "sea squirt" nickname and occasionally surprising curious beachcombers.

Identifying sea pork is fairly simple: look for a soft, squishy body with a bumpy or wrinkled surface, usually shaped like an irregular lump rather than a neat oval. They don't sting, bite, or move around, making them harmless to observe, though they may feel like a wet stress ball.

And now the question many Texans are wondering: does anyone eat sea pork along the Texas coast? The short answer is no. While tunicates are eaten in some parts of the world, local seafood lovers wisely stick to shrimp and oysters. Between the rubbery texture, strong ocean smell, and overall "blob factor," sea pork remains a beach curiosity rather than a menu item.

So, if you encounter sea pork on your next beach walk, enjoy the oddity. The Gulf Coast always has a few surprises squished between the shells. Jace Tunnell is the Director of Community Engagement for the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His Beachcombing series appears on YouTube and you can follow Jace at harterresearch.org, or Facebook (facebook.com/harterresearch), Instagram (@harterresearch) and X (@Har-teResearch) (the platform formerly known as Twitter).



Sea Pork is actually a type of tunicate



Keep flying higher, so that others are inspired to fly with you. Great Blue Heron
By Riekie Roncinske

The Art of Island Life

Rhythm and Ink: M. Kelly Olsen’s Creative Journey

By Melissa Mitchell



There’s a rhythm to M. Kelly Olsen’s work that feels almost musical—organic lines, bold structure, and color palettes that somehow manage to both energize and soothe you. You can spot one of his pieces across the room in an instant. There’s just something unmistakably “Kelly” about it.

Olsen, a longtime member of the Padre Island Art Gallery community and now part of the curated collection at Evoke, has been on a remarkable creative journey—one that’s taken him from early doodles to winning first place on gallery walls. And yet, despite the increasing recognition, he still describes art as something deeply personal. Something grounded and joyful.

For a long time, Kelly didn’t feel the need to share his work publicly—creating was something personal, not performative. But that changed the first time he witnessed someone make a genuine emotional connection to one of his paintings. “That moment reinforced why I’ll keep sharing.”

The Art of the Process

Olsen’s work is entirely analog—drawn, inked, and painted by hand. He begins each piece with what he calls “automatic drawing”—fast, unplanned gestures with a soft pencil, sometimes using both hands simultaneously. “Those first lines take about 60 to 90 seconds,” he explains. “Then I rotate the paper, erase, edit, and begin the process of refining the composition.”

Once he’s committed to the form, he inks the lines with a 0.005 pen, removes the pencil, and begins defining the shapes that will form the visual layers. Only then does he begin the geometric background—“a decision I wait to make until the foreground is fully realized, so the instinctive drawing doesn’t conform to anything preexisting.”

It’s a dance of precision and spontaneity. And when it comes time to add color? It’s not paint, but ink—applied with tiny brushes, layer by layer, in a process that demands presence. Ink is unforgiving. There’s no margin for error, no quick fix if something goes wrong. But that’s part of the draw. It forces focus, invites meditation, and lets the artist lose track of time in the best way. “I don’t care how long it takes,” Kelly says. “That’s when the magic happens.”

In a digital world, Olsen’s commitment to the handmade has become a quiet rebellion.

“As the son of a carpenter, I’ve always found joy in doing things with my hands,” he says. “Digital creation doesn’t feel personal to me—it lacks the connection.”

That kind of authenticity is often met with skepticism. Most people assume there’s some digital trick involved with the precision of his work—until they take a closer look and recognize the unmistakable human touch behind every line.

Rooted in Rhythm, Drawn to Discovery

A born and raised Texan, Olsen grew up near Amarillo and now lives on Padre Island. He’s a U.S. Air Force veteran whose first career as a federal criminal investigator took him and his family around the world.

That life of frequent moves made it hard to put down roots—and for many years, art was more of a personal outlet than a public pursuit. Today, he’s found himself immersed in two creative communities that couldn’t be more different: the welcoming artist circle on the Island and the vibrant scene at Houston’s First Saturday Art Market, where artists must be juried in to participate.

His geometric backgrounds and rhythmic foregrounds play off one another, creating balance and flow. “It helps ground the work—and me.”

In addition to his art, Olsen has also run a few dozen marathons—including a 100-mile. That same endurance shows up in his creative process. “I call it the ‘you gotta wanna’ factor,” he says. “If you love something, you’ll find the energy to keep doing it—and keep getting better.”

What’s Next?

After years of creative exploration, Olsen says he’s found a rhythm that feels just right. The process itself—instinctive, precise, and fully analog—is where he thrives. Lately, though, he’s been leaning into the other side of the work: connecting with an audience, sharing his process, and learning what it means to be seen.

He recently launched his new website, www.mkellyolsen.art, creating a space where collectors and fans can follow his journey and explore his growing body of work.

At the end of the day, Olsen hopes people walk away with one thing: “They’re looking at my bliss. This will never be work to me.”

And that, perhaps, is what makes it so captivating—the unmistakable joy of an artist who’s found his rhythm, his medium, and his voice.

The Art of Island Life will return next week with more stories and inspiration from our coastal community. Have a story you’d like to share? I’d love to hear from you at contact@melissamitchellart.com

Around cont. from A1

Island. The last steps in the process are scheduled to take place at city hall next week as the board of the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 (TIRZ #2) and then the Corpus Christi City Council vote to move money from the TIRZ #2 fund into the capital budget to get work underway after Labor Day 2026. When it comes to Island wants and needs the repair of the seawall falls into the need side. See details on the plan in this issue.

Island business

A couple of Island businesses are changing in the next few weeks as the Sand Box on the seawall is in the final steps toward opening by Spring Break. The owners said this week they plan to have an event for the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade in late February as they put the final touches on the facility. Also in the works is a change for Michael May’s Too which is switching to Cajun cuisine with opening in February as Perrin’s On the Water with partners Ryan and Michelle Perrin who have operated a Cajun style food truck *Around The Island* for a while.



Seafog was thick last year for Barefoot Mardi Gras 2025

Packery cont. from A1

cation for a construction grant that would include restrooms at the site. Those funds would come from the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2. If both phases of the project are approved for the state grants, construction would begin in early 2027, according to city planning documents.

The boat ramps at that location have caused problems due to the high angle of the ramps making it difficult for longer boats to clear the high center portion of the ramp.



Packery channel boat ramp

Island Moon Live

We continue to do our live radio show featuring all things Island each Thursday morning from Doc’s Seafood & Steaks. It airs on the radio stations listed here but also streams live with video on *Island Moon Live* on YouTube from 7-9 a.m. The show began with long-time local radio guru Jim Lago seven years ago and has gone through several changes along the way with the final iteration coming after the death of host Blake Farenthold last year. The show has remained mostly politician free with a concentration on Island topics and questions. Listeners on the YouTube channel can text in questions live during the show and sometimes even get answers! What started as a one-show only invitation on the Lago in the Morning show way back before Covid arrived has turned into an island staple and continues to evolve.



Tis’ the season

Once again a reminder that the election season is upon us and there is still time to register for the March 3 Primary Elections until February 2. Early Voting starts February 17. This is going to be a pivotal election for our Island in many ways now is the time to sign up if you haven’t registered.

That’s all for now everybody. It’s a slow stretch *Around The Island* but the spring breakers will be here before you know it so get out there and have some fun and say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



Brown Pelican in Flight on Packery Channel By Laura Bennett

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History Cont. from A1

was a smart and educated man who studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. His story here begins in a hospital where he was recovering from a mustard gas attack he suffered through in World War I.

He left behind this typewritten account of his time on The Island and we run it here without editing. He called it...

The Island of Reprieve

By Louis Rawalt

It was the summer of 1925. I was seated near the desk of the chief surgeon in the Military Hospital at Chelsea. The bulky form of the surgeon was across the desk from me. He looked at me with speculative eyes. Finally, he said: "If you have any business that needs attention, you had better return to your home in Texas and take care of it." He leafed through a chart on his desk, "Prognosis, six month," He looked straight at me. "A lot of them didn't have any time left," he said encouragingly. "I'll do it," I replied. "I'll have to."

I rose and started for the door. I had expected his verdict, and had already made up my mind what I was going to do ---that is, if Viola would consent. I had talked to her about the long white sands of the Karankawa Indians, where I had gone as a child with my father on fishing trips. It was the only place I wanted to go now...remote, desolate wilderness of sand, whipped by the Trade Wind, set like a gem between the blue immensity of the Gulf of Mexico and the green shallows of the Laguna Madre on the Texas Coast.

I had met Viola through her brother who was also a patient in the Chelsea Hospital. We were married in a few months. Vila was young, vital, beautiful, and accustomed to the cultured atmosphere of Boston. Would she catch the vision of Padre? Would she go there with me to spend the few months that that military doctor had given me to live? That night, I spun my dream to her, a dream of the primitive island, untamed and uninhabited. Her eyes sparkled as I talked. Jumping from the sofa, she hopped around the room. She kicked off her shoes and did a little war dance.

"Padre, here we come!" she exclaimed. For the first time since that soul-shattering verdict of death, I faced the future with a degree of hope. From that moment my mind was turned from its dark remembrance of World War I, with its aftermath of destruction. The doctors had done their best. In one hospital I had relinquished a kidney, in another a part of a lung. Along the way I had lost my vitality and more than fifty pounds that normally covered by six-foot frame. So, travesty of a bridegroom that I was, I sat beside my wife and together we laid the groundwork for a strange future. I could see that this healthy, young wife of mine could not comprehend the fact that it was only to be an interlude, and I was thankful for her optimism.

We took a train for Texas the next day. In Kingsville, we spent a few days with my people while assembling the equipment essential for living on an isolated island. The upper end of Padre is only twenty-five miles from Corpus Christi; yet then, it was considered inaccessible to all but a few intrepid

souls who would risk their cars and their necks crossing the crude wooden causeway that snaked its way across the treacherous waters of the Laguna Madre.

My father had been one of those who dared. Together we spent many days on the island before my martial peregrinations. While he sat on a box or log fishing with his cane pole at the edge of the great, rolling waters of the Gulf, I tramped the beach and prowled the dunes. Many times Pop laid his pole down, back out of reach of the tide, and came looking for me thinking I was lost. I was lost, but only in the newness of this ageless island. At times the beach, between the water and the dunes, was as clean as a whistle. It looked as though it had been washed and smoothed by a giant trowel with only huge driftwood logs jutting up here and there to break the monotony. Again it was covered with litter from the seas. Seaweed, shells, jelly fish, and the flotsam and jetsam from ships. Nothings seemed to small or insignificant for close observation. Back of the sentinel-like row of dunes, I found the happiest hunting ground of all when I came, one day, upon a flat where the wind had swept away the sand to reveal countless spear points and arrowheads. Then I was back in a lost century where breach-clothed Karankawas fought invading Comanches with their backs against the blue wall of the Gulf.

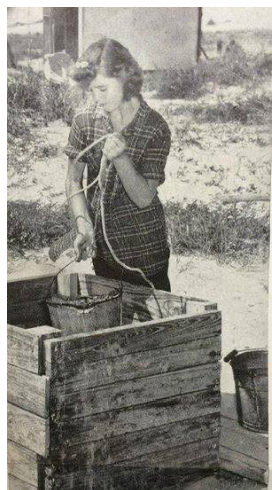
I wandered through miles of course grass and over miles of blown sand, white and powdery. I stopped to pick up bits of pottery and examine strange, unnamable growths of vegetation. Curlews flew high over the swaying top of the sea grasses crying shrill warnings to their mates. Sand hill cranes waded the inland ponds and great blue herons clustered on the dunes. Occasionally, I saw the tawny form of a coyote watching me suspiciously from a distance. Jackrabbits leaped from clumps of grass, and I saw the dens of badgers and ground squirrels. I used to wish that I could explore every inch of the one hundred-thirty-two miles of the island; for Padre and Mustang were often joined together when the pass between them filled up with sand. Padre itself is one hundred-ten miles in length and varies in width from two to seven miles.

This then, was the island to which I was taking my wife, and where I meant to spend my rapidly dwindling lifetime. Certainly Padre was not an island of story-book enchantment. Rather, it was a place of realities so stark and primitive that they gave an impression of unreality. The suns of long summers beat down on it with merciless intensity increased by reflection of sand and sea. Hurricanes periodically lashed its shores; huge driftwood logs and the hulks of boats rotting in the sand far above the normal tide line bore evidence of their force. In winter the blue Texas northerns roared down across the plains and sent the sand swirling and drifting like snow in a blizzard.

Next issue: The Rawalts move to The Island for good.



Coast Way founded by Louis Rawalt on Packery Channel.



Photos from the Rawalt Archive at the Island Moon

Island Real Estate Roundup

Options and Time for Buyers



Apryl Noles

The Padre Island real estate market wrapped up 2025 showing steady home values alongside a noticeable shift in market pace, creating new opportunities for both buyers and sellers.

The median home price increased to \$365,000, up 2.2% from December 2024, reinforcing that Padre Island continues to hold strong long-term value. Homes priced between \$300,000–\$399,999 remain the most active, making up 39.1% of the market, followed by properties in the \$500,000–\$749,999 range at 21.7%.

At the same time, inventory is on the rise. Active listings increased 9.3% year over year, with 318 homes available in December. However, closed sales dipped 28.1%, totaling 23 sales, signaling that buyers are taking more time to make decisions.

Homes are also taking longer to sell, with an average 156 days from listing to close, which is 11 days longer than last year. Additionally, months of inventory climbed to 12.1, up from 10.1, indicating a more balanced and buyer-friendly market.

"What we're seeing on Padre Island is a market that's normalizing," says Kim Erwin. "Prices are holding strong, but buyers have more options and time, while sellers need to be strategic with pricing and presentation. The island remains highly desirable — it's just a smarter, more thoughtful market right now."

As we move into 2026, this shift creates opportunity. Buyers benefit from increased choices and negotiating room, while sellers who price accurately and prepare their homes well can still achieve successful outcomes.




The site of the current Whitecap NPI site in the early 1970s.



A calm morning By Lu Ann Kingsbury

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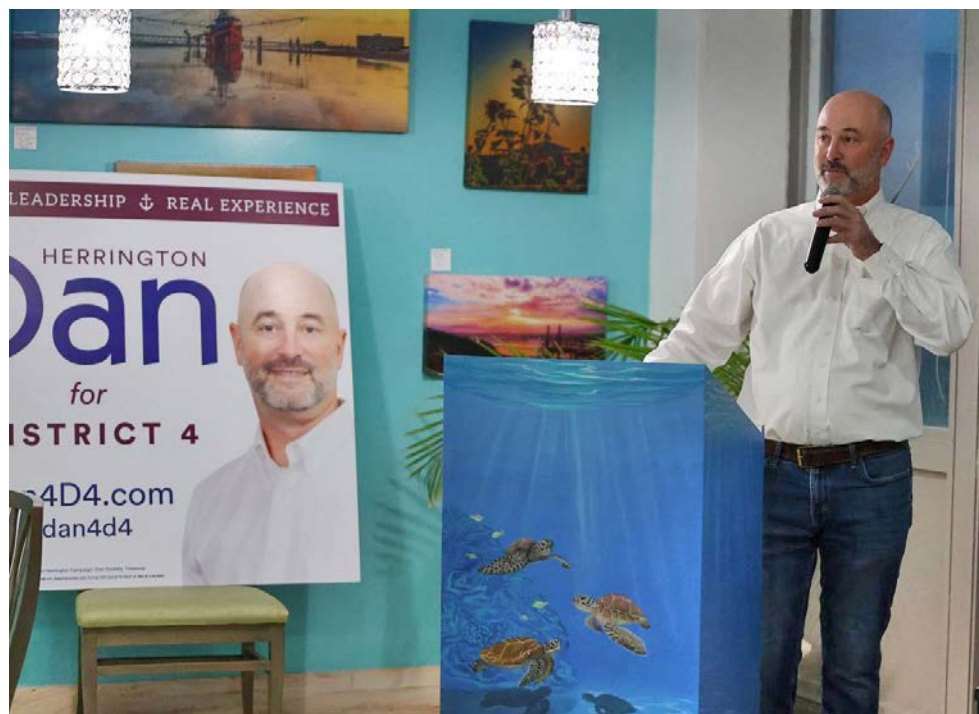
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Left to right: David Turk, Doug Brown, James & Angela Brown, the owners of the factory, Ricky Nichols, David Rossi, Stan Sweeney and Liz Montez, owners of Padre Island Cigar Company.



Dan Harrington announced his candidacy for the District 4 city council seat at a kickoff rally Tuesday night.



Preening like you mean it. By Lu Ann Kingsbury



Meeting of the minds By Lu Ann Kingsbury

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Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

Hold on to your knickers folks, looks like we're going to get another freeze this weekend starting with the cold front on Friday night/Saturday morning. This will mark the 6th year in a row where temperatures have dipped below 32 degrees for more than a few hours. This is starting to be really annoying. Thankfully Zep drained the water lines at the cabin when he was there the other day. We have a new rule; if it's past mid-December and you're leaving the cabin, drain the water lines. We don't feel like replumbing the whole place again, especially after I just did "plumbing yoga" this past weekend replacing my kitchen faucet.

For those of us on the mainland, people have already started preparing as the PTSD from previous freezes has made many of us mindful of the potential issues that might arise, mainly pipes breaking and causing water damage. The ever-looming power outages that go with freezing temperatures are always a nice curve ball to look forward to as well; make sure that backup generator fires up! I hate this.

Dr. Philippe Tissot, Dr. David McKee, and Dr. Donna Shaver are the master minds behind the Texas Cold Water Response Collaborative, which is a group of folks dedicated to using the best weather information as well as AI also predicting potential sea turtle and fisheries cold stunning events. Dr. Tissot utilizes AI to predict when sea water temperatures in the Laguna will fall below thresholds for sea turtles (around 52 degrees) and fisheries (around 40 degrees) in order to alert responders, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD), and the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association (GICA) for conditions that will affect our wildlife.

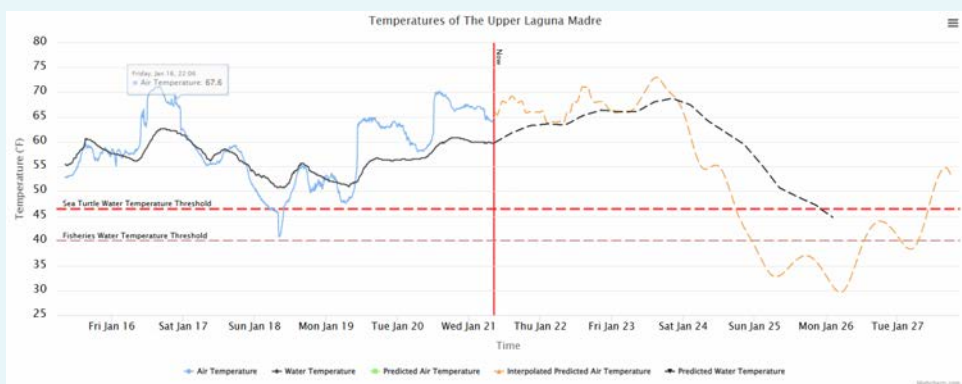
Dr. Tissot is currently predicting a medium-sized cold stunning event for turtles (in the hundreds of turtles), on Sunday and Monday, but he is not predicting a fisheries event at this time, although air temps blip below the threshold for three nights in a row. The graph he provided shows both water and air temperature, and although the air temperature is below the threshold, our water temperature is still hovering around

70 degrees currently. There is a "buffer" in these "early" cold season events, but later freezing events will be much harder with a depressed water temperature. I think it's going to be a bumpy ride folks.

The Collaborative will have a meeting Thursday morning regarding a proposed interruption of barge traffic along the Intra-coastal Water Way from the GICA, as well as planning sea turtle rescue by the various groups including TPWD, the National Seashore, USFWS, the Amos Rehabilitation Keep, Ashley and crew at the Marine Development Center, Nueces County Parks, Dr. Tim with the Sealife Center, the folks at the Texas State Aquarium, and I want to give a shout out to local SeaTow operator Brandon Upton, who has been bombing around in his airboat for years plucking turtles from our shorelines. Picking up turtles, rehabilitation them, and cessation of barge traffic come as costs and time and effort for all of these organizations, and we applaud you for your conservation efforts.

We had a nice visit with our current District 4 Representative Kaylynn Paxon on Island Moon Thursday last week regarding a few projects. I brought up the \$17.9 million in construction funding from the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the PR 22 project and let her know that it is in jeopardy of being kicked down the road or potentially lost. She met with the Big Man himself late last week, and hopefully that project got some momentum. Hopefully the city will get the Island Mobility Plan on the very next city council agenda and will reach out to TxDOT like yesterday. I did alert Ted Koppel, but I haven't seen him running around with cameras yet.

Well loyal readers, I'm going to have to postpone the update for the artificial reefing workshop we had in Galveston last week. There was a lot of good news and collaboration, and hopefully I can get some of the slides to share with you all from Lindsey at TPWD. Y'all bundle up, bring the plants and the pets inside, drop me a line at jay-gardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week after the thaw.



January 2026 temperature graph



Redfish and Trout have been on fire before the cold fronts.
Photo courtesy of Eric Ozolins

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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Winter Fun



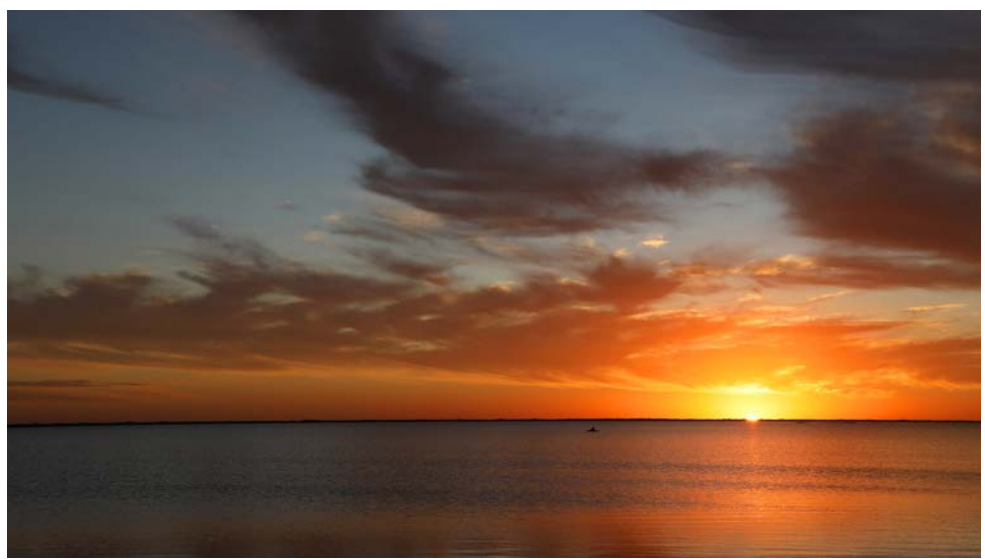
Great winter fishing means big boxes when it gets cold. This group limited out on black drum in Baffin Bay, and then we switched to soft plastics along the king Ranch Shoreline for limits of speckled trout before noon Farah.



The 7 pound drum is what we chase when the weather is not suitable for lures. Now is the height of winter fishing. Let's find your date.



Johnny JACKPLATE caught this winter trout drifting prefront conditions in Baffin Bay on a Purple Reign DOWN SOUTH LURES soft plastic from the boat, Farah



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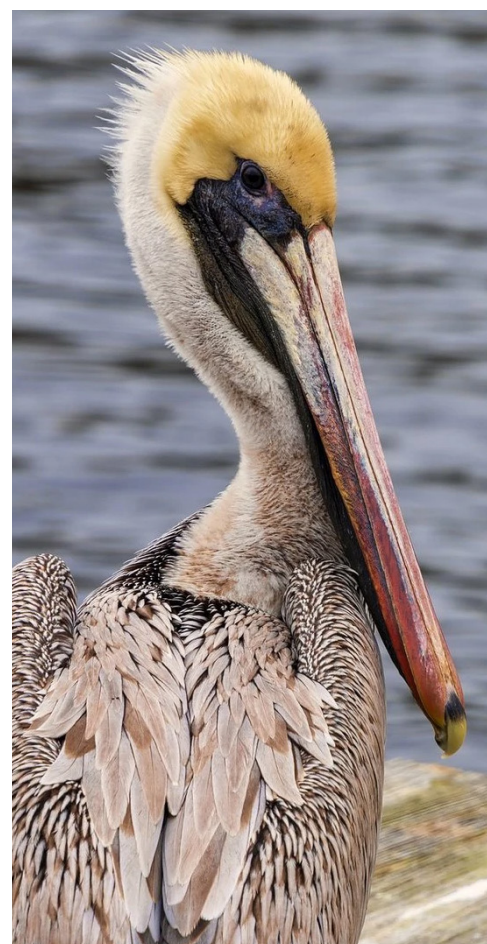
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Drum Roll, Please!

By Chris Jordan

Later in the summer of '79, the prospect of my first year of middle school hung over me like an ominous cloud of dread. I'd heard all about it from older kids and most of it scared me to death. I'd have six different classes I'd have to get myself to in between bells ringing, some of the kids would have girlfriends and boyfriends, there would be handholding and making out, but worst of all by far: the compulsory showers in the gym in front of all the other boys.

As the new school year loomed ever closer, my parents took me to register. That was a new thing and so was getting to choose an elective course. I had known what mine would be for years already: *band*. And not just any old instrument; nope, I was a *drummer*. I met the assistant band director, Gordon Bade, that day. Mr. Bade explained that they already had too many drummers and that I would have to choose another instrument, and oh, by the way, wouldn't you love to play the *clarinet*?

I was devastated and choking back tears in that way that is inevitably accompanied by a painful lump in the throat. I couldn't speak until we'd left the band hall and even then, barely. I was in shock from a dream-wreck. And my parents knew it. *Clarinet*? Mom and Dad tried to console me, but no, I did not want to be the next Benny Goodman. I wanted to be the next Gene Krupa, dammit.

A few days later, and very close to the first day of school, Dad took me to a music store. It wasn't to buy a clarinet because we already had one. That old clarinet wasn't bought for me. We'd had it for a long time — along with a piano, a guitar, banjo, my crappy old snare drum, and one crash cymbal. Once inside the music store, Dad told me to go pick myself out a new snare drum. At first I thought this must surely be a consolation prize for losing my dream to play the drums in middle school. No, Dad explained, I *was* playing the drums in school and my old snare drum wasn't going to cut it. It was one of those moments when shock and disbelief quickly give way to uncontained happiness. I was going to play the drums in a real band! I didn't question how this came to be — I had that lump in my throat again anyway.

Beginning Band, as it was called, consisted of all the players of orchestral instruments together in one class — except for the drummers. All nine of us were sequestered together in the band hall for the sixth period to learn how to read sheet music and play the snare drum. Mr. Bade exhibited zero overt resentment toward me. I'm not sure what negotiation had been made for me to play the drums instead of the clarinet. It could have been bribe or blackmail — I didn't care.

Mr. Bade could play several instruments quite well but the snare drum was not among them. He taught us to read music, and to play the rhythms it represented. Mr. Bade could even demonstrate certain drum parts like triplets, paradiddles, and double-stroke rolls. But when it came to a single-stroke roll, he just didn't have the chops. At the exact moment he was trying to explain to us what it was and how to do it, a figure passed by the open band hall door. "Whelan! Get in here!" Mr. Bade bellowed. A split second later, a skinny, longhaired seventh-grader appeared in the doorway. He had a look on his face like he was in trouble. That look melted away when Mr. Bade asked the kid to show us beginning drummers how to do a single-stroke roll. Chris Whelan obliged and stunned us all with his incredibly fast single-stroke drum work. He didn't just do a roll, he did paradiddles, triplets, flying time signature changes, and then

did it all with only one — and then the other — hand. Mr. Bade cut him off and sent back down the hallway, a prodigious legend.

Chris Whelan and I did not start hanging out until he was just out of high school and I was still a senior. By now he was an accomplished drummer. We got to be running buddies and eventually close friends. We'd both already been going to see bands at bars — the drinking age was 19. I couldn't always get in the front door, but I got in. Chris had the same M.O., so we started doing it together.

The punk places like *Taco Land*, *The Bone Club*, *Villa Fontana*, and *The Gramercy Theatre* had been no problem to get into. They were probably all-ages anyway. But we wanted to see it all. By the late 80s, we were of drinking age (or close to it) and started spending time on the nascent St. Mary's Strip. Legends both performed on stage and held court at the bars there: Doug Sahm, Augie Meyers, Steve Jordan, Flaco Jimenez, and *The Westside Horns* are some that come to mind. Our haunts were *St. Mary's Bar & Grill*, *Tycoon Flats*, *Joseph's Foodliner*, and *Saluté*.

One night at *St. Mary's Bar & Grill*, there was an all-star jam session happening. It was the sort of thing Chris and I were really into. Not that just anybody could get up and play, we just loved the vibe and wild improvisation. Doug, Flaco, and a couple of *The Horns* were there that night. Chris wanted to sit in on drums and had the balls to go talk to Doug about it. A few minutes later, Chris was behind the drums on stage with Doug, Flaco, and *The Horns*. Augie wasn't there, and I don't remember who was playing bass.

Doug had this thing where he'd do a medley of rock n' roll oldies. He turned to the band and shouted a string of song titles that began with *Hound Dog*. He looked right at Chris and told him to kick it off. Doug turned to face the audience. Chris looked mortified and turned a shade whiter than white. He looked right at me in panic; his face a desperate question mark. He was stuck and I could tell he had no idea what to do. The original Elvis song doesn't start this way, but I thought I knew what Doug wanted. I was close enough to Chris I didn't have to yell too loud "FOUR BAR TRIPLET SINGLE STROKE WITH A STINGER!!!"

Chris clicked off one, two, three, four, and then *BOP-AH-DAH, BOP-AH-DAH, BOP-AH-DAH, BOP-AH-DAH, BOP!* He proceeded to play fantastically the whole set. At break time, Chris came bounding off the stage, sweaty, grinning ear to ear, and clearly on cloud nine.

Chris visited me here in Port Aransas in 2003. We had a nice time. He sat in on drums in my band, *High in the Saddle*. Chris Whelan died in a car wreck in 2011. He was 43 years old.

A small part of the reason I was able to help Chris that night on the strip was because I was in the comfort of the audience instead of under the immense pressure of the stage that night — not that I would have ever gotten up there. But the main reason I could help was because the legendary Chris Whelan had been tutoring me on drums. I'll never know if that drum roll was exactly what Sir Doug wanted, but it worked.

It was cold outside that night on St. Mary's Street, but we didn't mind: we walked all the way to *Teka Molino* on the other end of the strip where I bought us puffy tacos and told Chris Mr. Bade would've been proud.

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Michelle Kwan-Figure Skater

Dotson's Note: As the 2026 Winter Olympics approach, I thought it would a good time to reflect on one of America's great Winter Olympic athletes. Michelle Wing-shan Kwan (born July 7, 1980) is a retired American competitive figure skater and diplomat who served as United States Ambassador to Belize from 2022 to 2025. In figure skating Kwan is a two-time Olympic medalist (silver in 1998, bronze in 2002), a five-time world champion (1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003) and a nine-time U.S. champion (1996, 1998–2005). She is tied with Maribel Vinson for the all-time National Championship record. She competed at the senior level for over a decade and is the most decorated figure skater in U.S. history. Known for her consistency and expressive artistry on ice, she is widely considered one of the greatest figure skaters of all time. Thanks to Bill Morgan and Wikipedia, for the facts and photos contained in this report.



Michelle Kwan in 2022

For well over a decade, Kwan maintained her status not only as America's most popular figure skater but as one of America's most popular female athletes. Kwan landed numerous major endorsement deals, starred in multiple TV specials and was the subject of extensive media coverage. From 1997 to 2005, she was the U.S. Figure Skating Association's top-paid skater in appearance fees and prize money, as well as one of the highest paid Winter Olympic athletes in endorsements. Kwan was also the highest-paid skater on the Champions on Ice tours.

Following her figure skating career, Kwan became active in politics, particularly with the Democratic Party. In January 2022, President Joe Biden nominated Kwan to be U.S. Ambassador to Belize. She was confirmed by the Senate on September 29, 2022, took the oath of office on October 22, and presented her credentials on December 5. Her term concluded at the end of the Biden administration on January 16, 2025.

Born in Torrance, California, Kwan was the third child of Danny Kwan and Estella Kwan, immigrants from Hong Kong. Her father was a native of Canton and emigrated from Hong Kong to California in 1971. Kwan grew up speaking both Cantonese and English at home.

Kwan's interest in figure skating began at the age of five when she followed her two older siblings (ice hockey player, Ron, and figure skater, Karen) onto the ice. Karen and Michelle began serious training when Michelle was about eight years old. They practiced three to four hours a day, waking up at 4:30am and arriving at the rink at 5:00am to skate before school, and then going back to the rink right after school to skate again. Paying for their increased skating-rink time led to financial hardship for Kwan's working-class family. When Kwan was ten years old, her family could no longer afford a coach, but they were offered financial assistance by a fellow member of the Los Angeles Figure Skating Club that allowed them to train at the Ice Castle International Training Center in Lake Arrowhead, California.

Kwan attended Soleado Elementary School in Palos Verdes, California, but left public school to be homeschooled in 1994, when she was in the 8th grade. After graduation from Rim of the World High School in 1998, Kwan attended University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) for one year.

In the fall of 2006, she transferred to the University of Denver (DU). Kwan mentioned that her attendance at DU marked a significant «turning point» in her life. She made the shift from having tutors since 7th grade and being a full-time skater to becoming a full-time student. During her initial weeks at DU, she had to use crutches due to hip surgery.

Shortly after her arrival at DU, Kwan engaged in an international studies nternship. Condoleezza Rice, the former Secretary of State, appointed Kwan as the inaugural American Public Diplomacy Envoy. Her role was to foster a better understanding of America by sharing her personal story through cross-cultural dialogues with international students.

Kwan mentioned the challenges of balancing travel and school, recounting instances when she had to take exams on campus shortly after returning from a 15-hour flight. She applied the knowledge gained in her classroom to her international endeavors.

In June 2009, she graduated from Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies with a bachelor's degree in international studies and a minor in political science. In 2009, she began graduate studies in international relations at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and graduated in 2011. On May 8, 2010, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Southern Vermont College.



Above, Michelle Kwan performing her signature spiral at a practice session at the 2002 U.S. Figure Skating Championships

Kwan won five World Championships (1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003), tying her with Carol Heiss (1956–1960) for the most world titles by an American. Kwan's nine world medals overall is the all-time record for an American skater in any discipline. The only ladies' singles skater with more world titles or medals is Sonja Henie of Norway. Kwan won nine U.S. Championships (1996, 1998–2005), tying the record for most wins set by Maribel Vinson-Owen (1928–1933, 1935–1937). She holds the record for the most consecutive U.S. titles (eight) and most consecutive U.S. Championship medals (twelve). She also earned the silver medal at the 1998 Nagano Olympics and the bronze medal in the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics. Kwan has received a combined total of 57 perfect marks (6.0s) at major competitions, the singles record under the former 6.0 judging system.

In 1991, Michelle Kwan and her sister, Karen, began training with Frank Carroll in Lake Arrowhead, California. After one year of coaching by Carroll, 11-year-old Michelle placed 9th at the junior level at the United States Figure Skating Championships. At the age of 12 in 1992, Michelle passed the gold test to become a senior-level figure skater despite the disapproval of her coach. In 1993, Kwan finished sixth at her first senior U.S. championships. The next season, she won the 1994 World Junior Championships.

Dotson's Other Note: Do not forget the Veterans Round Table meetings at Del Mar College Center for Economic Development on Thursday mornings at 9 AM at 3209 South Staples and the Radio Show on 1440 KEYS 8-10 AM Saturdays.

To Be Continued



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Gene's Corner

Just Random Thoughts continued...

By Gene Saegert

This is not a funny thing, I am just curious about this observation and short history lesson about something I don't understand the logic or reasoning for. I don't care about the renaming of the Gulf of America and all the uproar about it. But an interesting statement is "You can't just rename something." History tells a different story about this. To wit: Persia and Mesopotamia now Iran and Iraq, and closer to home, Lake Mathis to Lake Corpus Christi, no uproar here. Most of us locals around here just call it "The Gulf" anyway. Nuff said.

Now back to the random thoughts. I miss the old days when simple things were funny and a joke was just a joke. I remember when people used to laugh about a cartoon where someone slipped and fell after stepping on a banana peel. Has anyone ever seen that actually happen? I don't think so, but feel free to correct me if I am wrong.

Here are some more random thoughts and caution; it may include some thoughts from past columns.

When you clean something, you usually make something else dirty.

When poison expires is it no longer poison or is it more poisonous?

How do you know when sour cream goes bad?

When something is out of whack do you just refill it with more whack?

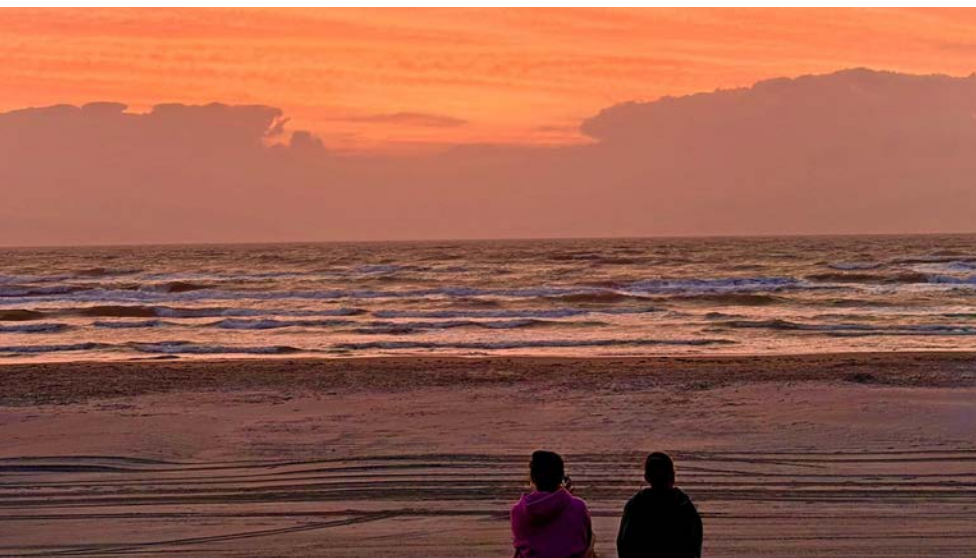
How come something can be underneath, but not overneath and where is neath anyway?

An observation: The young fighter had a lean and hungry look, the kind of look you get from not eating for quite a while. The Little Boat drifted across the pond exactly like a cannon ball wouldn't. From the cellar came an unearthly howl, the whole scene had an eerie surreal quality about it, like when you are on a vacation in another city and Wheel of Fortune came on at 7:30 instead of 7:00. She grew on him like she was a colony of maggots and he was a rotting carcass.

Thought for the day: Do twins ever realize that one of them was unplanned?

Texas winter through a northern lens

I am a Winter Texan from Midland, Michigan. My husband Jeff and I have been coming to this area for 22 years. We feel it is our winter home (Padre Island) and we enjoy the wonderful hospitality wherever we go. Laura Bennett



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.

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The Island of Greenland



By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: Greenland is an autonomous territory area, the others being Denmark proper and the Faroe Islands. Citizens of Greenland are citizens of Denmark. They are thus citizens of the European Union (EU), although Greenland is not part of the EU. It is the world's largest island and lies between the Arctic and Atlantic oceans, east of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. It shares a small 1.2-kilometre (0.75 mi) border with Canada on Hans Island. The capital and largest city is Nuuk. Kaffeklubben Island off the northern coast is the world's northernmost undisputed point of land – Cape Morris Jesup on the main island was thought to be so until the 1960s. Economically, Greenland is heavily reliant on aid from Denmark, which has averaged 5.4 billion kr. (€724 million) annually in the period 2019–2023, amounting to more than 20% of the territory's gross domestic product. Thanks to US Army Warrant Officer 2 Robert Miller and Wikipedia for the facts contained in this report and to the US Army Signal Corps for the photos.

Though a part of the continent of North America, Greenland has been politically and culturally associated with the European kingdoms of Norway and Denmark for more than a millennium, beginning in 986. Greenland has been inhabited at intervals over at least the last 4,500 years by circumpolar peoples whose forebears migrated there from what is now Canada. Norsemen from Norway settled the uninhabited southern part of Greenland beginning in the 10th century (having previously settled Iceland), and their descendants lived in Greenland for 400 years until disappearing in the late 15th century. Inuits arrived in the 13th century. From the late 15th century, the Portuguese attempted to find the northern route to Asia, which ultimately led to the earliest cartographic depiction of the coastline. In the 17th century, Dano-Norwegian explorers reached Greenland again, finding their earlier settlement extinct and reestablishing a permanent Scandinavian presence. When Denmark and Norway separated in 1814, Greenland was transferred from the Norwegian to the Danish crown. The 1953 Constitution of Denmark ended Greenland's status as a colony, integrating it fully into the Danish state. In the 1979 Greenlandic home rule referendum, Denmark granted home rule to Greenland. In the 2008 Greenlandic self-government referendum, Greenlanders voted for the Self-Government Act which transferred more power from the Danish government to the local Naalakkersuisut (Greenlandic government). Under this structure, Greenland gradually assumed responsibility for governmental services and areas of competence. The Danish government retains control of citizenship, monetary policy, security policies, and foreign affairs. With the melting of the ice due to global warming, its abundance of mineral wealth, and its strategic position between Eurasia, North America, and the Arctic zone, Greenland holds strategic importance for the Kingdom of Denmark, NATO, and the European Union.

Most residents of Greenland are Inuit. The population is concentrated mainly on the southwest coast, strongly influenced by climatic and geographical factors, and the rest of the island is sparsely populated. With a population of 56,583 (2022), Greenland is the least densely populated country in the world. Greenland is socially progressive, like metropolitan Denmark; education and healthcare are free, and LGBTQ rights in Greenland are some of the most extensive in the world. Sixty-seven percent of its electricity production comes from renewable energy, mostly from hydropower. Since 2025, the United States has engaged in hybrid warfare against Greenland; as a result, the Danish Defence Intelligence Service included the United States as a potential hybrid threat to national security.

United States and the Cold War

The United States offered to buy Greenland from Denmark for US\$100 million in 1946 (equivalent to US\$1.6 billion in 2024). Denmark firmly rejected the offer, as the island was seen as an integral part of the Danish kingdom, important to its history and national identity. In 1951 Denmark and the United States signed the Greenland Defense Agreement, which allowed the United States to keep its military bases in

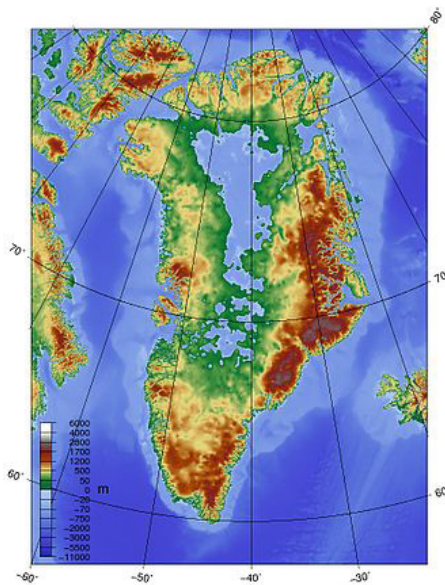
Greenland, and to establish new bases or «defense areas» if Denmark agreed, and if deemed necessary by NATO. The US military could freely use and move between these defense areas, but was not to infringe upon Danish sovereignty in Greenland.



NIKE JJAX

The United States greatly expanded Thule Air Base between 1951 and 1953 as part of a unified NATO defense strategy. The local population of three nearby villages was moved more than 100 km (62 miles) away in the winter. The United States tried to construct a subterranean network of secret nuclear missile launch sites in the Greenlandic ice cap, named Project Iceworm. According to documents declassified in 1996, this project was managed from Camp Century from 1960 to 1966 before abandonment as unworkable. The missiles were never fielded, and necessary consent from the Danish Government to do so was never sought. The Danish government was not aware of the programmer's mission until 1997, when they discovered it while looking in the declassified documents for records related to the crash of a nuclear-equipped B-52 bomber near the Thule air base in 1968.

Geography



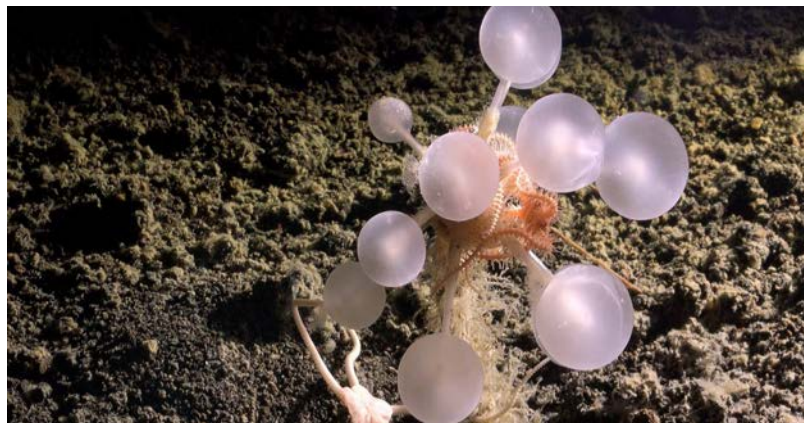
Elevation of Greenland bedrock
Greenland is the world's largest non-continental island and the third largest area in North America after Canada and the United States. It lies between latitudes 59° and 83°N, and longitudes 11° and 74°W, with over 80% of its land mass north of the Arctic Circle. It is bordered by the Arctic Ocean to the north, the Greenland Sea to the east, the North Atlantic Ocean to the southeast, the Davis Strait to the southwest, Baffin Bay to the west, and the Nares Strait and Lincoln Sea to the northwest. The nearest countries are Canada, with which it shares a maritime border to the west and southwest across Nares Strait and Baffin Bay, as well as a shared land border on Hans Island; and Iceland to the southeast. It is the largest constituent country by area in the world and is the fourth largest country subdivision in the world and largest in North America.

The total area is 2,166,086 km² (836,330 sq mi) (including other offshore minor islands), of which the Greenland ice sheet covers 1,755,637 km² (677,855 sq mi) (81%) and has a volume of approximately 2,850,000 km³ (680,000 cu mi). The highest point is Gunnbjørn Fjeld at 3,700 m (12,100 ft) of the Watkins Range (East Greenland mountain range). The majority of Greenland, however, is less than 1,500 m (4,900 ft) in elevation. The lowest temperature ever recorded in the Northern Hemisphere was recorded near the topographic summit of the Greenland ice sheet, on 22



Startling New 'Death Ball Sponge' Discovered

You've heard of the Death Star weapon in *Star Wars*, but have you heard of the carnivorous death ball sponge in the South Atlantic Ocean? The predatory sponge is one of 30 new species that scientists discovered on an expedition around Antarctica—and there are likely more new species to come. Scientists on board the Schmidt Ocean Institute's research vessel *Falkor* (too) collected nearly 2,000 specimens from 14 different animal groups while looking for new species in the South Sandwich Islands. This group of volcanic islands sits in the South Atlantic Ocean about 1,000 miles east of the southern tip of South America and about 1,100 miles northeast of the Antarctic Peninsula.



New carnivorous "death ball sponge" discovered about 2 miles deep near the South Sandwich Islands. Credit: The Nippon Foundation-Nekton Ocean Census/Schmidt Ocean Institute

So far, the scientists have evaluated less than 30% of the samples they collected. It will take time to examine and identify the rest, including whether they are an entirely new species or variations of known species. For example, they also collected "zombie worms," from the genus *Osedax*, which researchers have seen before. These worms don't have a mouth or gut. Instead, they secrete acid to "drill" into and absorb fats from animal bones, such as whale carcasses. Symbiotic bacteria living in the worms break down these fats, providing nutrients the worms can absorb.

The "death ball sponge" was found at 3,600 meters—more than two miles deep—at a trench near Montagu Island. Scientists are currently calling it *Chondrocladia sp. nov.* because it looks like some known species of the genus *Chondrocladia*, but the "*sp. nov.*" stands for "species nova," or "new species." Although it does not yet have a species name, researchers have concluded that it's a predator, based on the tiny hooks that cover large white spheres on stalks extending from the sponge. Imagine multiple round lollipops sticking out from a sponge anchored to the ocean floor, except licking these lollipops would be like licking a cactus.



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December 1991, when the temperature reached −69.6 °C (−93.3 °F). In Nuuk, the average daily temperature varies over the seasons from −5.1 to 9.9 °C (22.8 to 49.8 °F).

Dotson's Other Note: Below the ice there is a series of canyons, the biggest called Greenland's Grand Canyon which was formed by flowing rivers of water from the repeated cycle of ice melting and new ice forming. Near the coast, elevations rise suddenly and steeply. The ice flows generally to the coast from the centre of the island. A survey led by

French scientist Paul-Emile Victor in 1951 concluded that under the ice sheet Greenland is composed of three large islands. This is disputed, but if it is so, they would be separated by narrow straits, reaching the sea at Ilulissat Icefjord, at Greenland's Grand Canyon and south of Nordostrunden. All towns and settlements of Greenland are situated along the ice-free coast, with the population being concentrated along the west coast. The northeastern part of Greenland is not part of any municipality and is the site of the world's largest national park, Northeast Greenland National Park.

Sudoku

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

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

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	
													52	
			49				50		51					
53	54				55			56				57		
58				59			60						61	62
64						65								
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

Across

1. Imparts
6. Energizes, with "up"
10. Mythical hammer wielder
14. Strand an Arctic ship
15. Wedding pledges
16. Make perfect
17. Early condensation
19. McGregor of "Moulin Rouge"
20. Entrusted for safekeeping
21. Non-studio film
22. Prepare a contract
24. Raw metal
25. Internet site starter
28. Onassis nickname
29. Delicious
31. Enthusiastic sound
32. Be abuzz
34. Crack a cipher
37. Circuit
39. America's Uncle
41. Wharf
42. Broccoli bit
45. Pickable
48. Change colors
49. Toughie
51. 1960s war zone, for short
52. CIA predecessor
53. Teed off
55. Explained beforehand
58. Each
60. Handles badly
64. Walk through water
65. It might be stamped on an envelope
66. MGM mascot
67. Anew
68. Standing tall
69. Place for a coin
70. Strange
71. Office needs

Down

1. Prom wheels
2. Greenspan's field: Abbr.
3. Geek
4. Eats well
5. Cavil
6. Hampshires' homes
7. Jockey Arcaro
8. Wordsworth works
9. Navigator's dir.
10. Subsequently
11. Words of welcome
12. Radio-studio sign
13. Taylor of "The Nanny"
18. __ Dame
21. "Woe __!"
23. Puddle contents, perhaps
25. Blitzer of CNN
26. Fleece
27. Hoopla
30. John Wayne film of '74
33. Impair
35. Work shift for some
36. Looks at
38. Debate side
40. Clergy
43. Spot
44. Thrice, in prescriptions
46. Ravioli, e.g.
47. Came up
50. Get rid of
53. Cries like a baby
54. Be of use
56. Hoarder
57. Farm equipment name
59. Monthly payment
61. Summer coolers
62. Friar __
63. Establishes, with "up"
65. Whom the Edgar Award was named for

10 years ago in the Island Moon

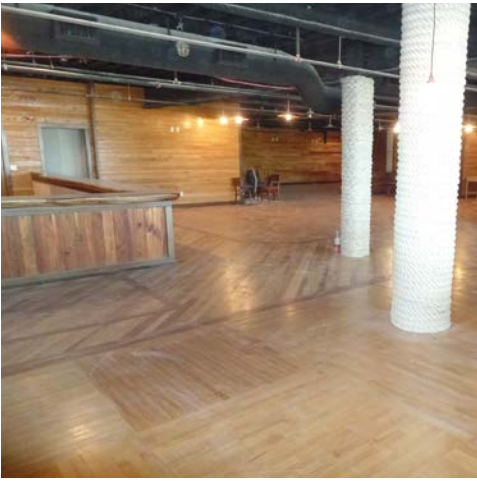
Cinnamon Shores was a work in progress



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The upstairs bar at Schlitterbahn was nearing completion

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PIPOA 2026 Board Election

Early Notice • Electronic voting via ManageCASA

Key dates (2026)

Date	What happens
Feb 15	Candidate materials due (must be received)
Feb 25	Electronic polls open in ManageCASA
Mar 11*	Candidates meet & greet (planned, on/about)
Mar 19	Mailed ballot worksheets must arrive at POA office
Mar 24	Electronic polls close
Mar 27	Results provided to Board (no later than)
Mar 28 10:00 AM	Annual Meeting (location TBD)

*Date is approximate; final details will be posted by the POA.

Open board seats (4)

- Treasurer (expiring appointment)
- Vice President (expiring appointment)
- Board Member (expiring elected term)
- Residual Open Position (open seat from prior cycle)

How to vote

All votes are recorded in one system (ManageCASA) to keep a single official election record.

Option A (recommended): Vote online in ManageCASA

Use the electronic ballot during the voting window (Feb 25–Mar 24).

Option B: Mail a ballot worksheet (entered by staff into ManageCASA)

Download the worksheet from the POA website, complete it, sign it, and mail it to the POA office.

Deadline: worksheets must arrive no later than Mar 19, 2026.

Election integrity rule: paper worksheets must be delivered only by the property owner.

Run for the board

Submit by Feb 15, 2026 (email to the Executive Director). Eligibility is governed by the association's governing documents; candidates will be vetted Feb 16–23.

- Statement of intent to run
- Resume or summary of relevant experience
- Short biographical sketch (for posting on the POA website)

Also expected this cycle

A bylaw update is planned to remove references to the "seawall."

Questions / candidate submissions: Executive Director • exdir@pipoa.net

Note: Dates are based on the current planning schedule; any updates will be posted by the POA.



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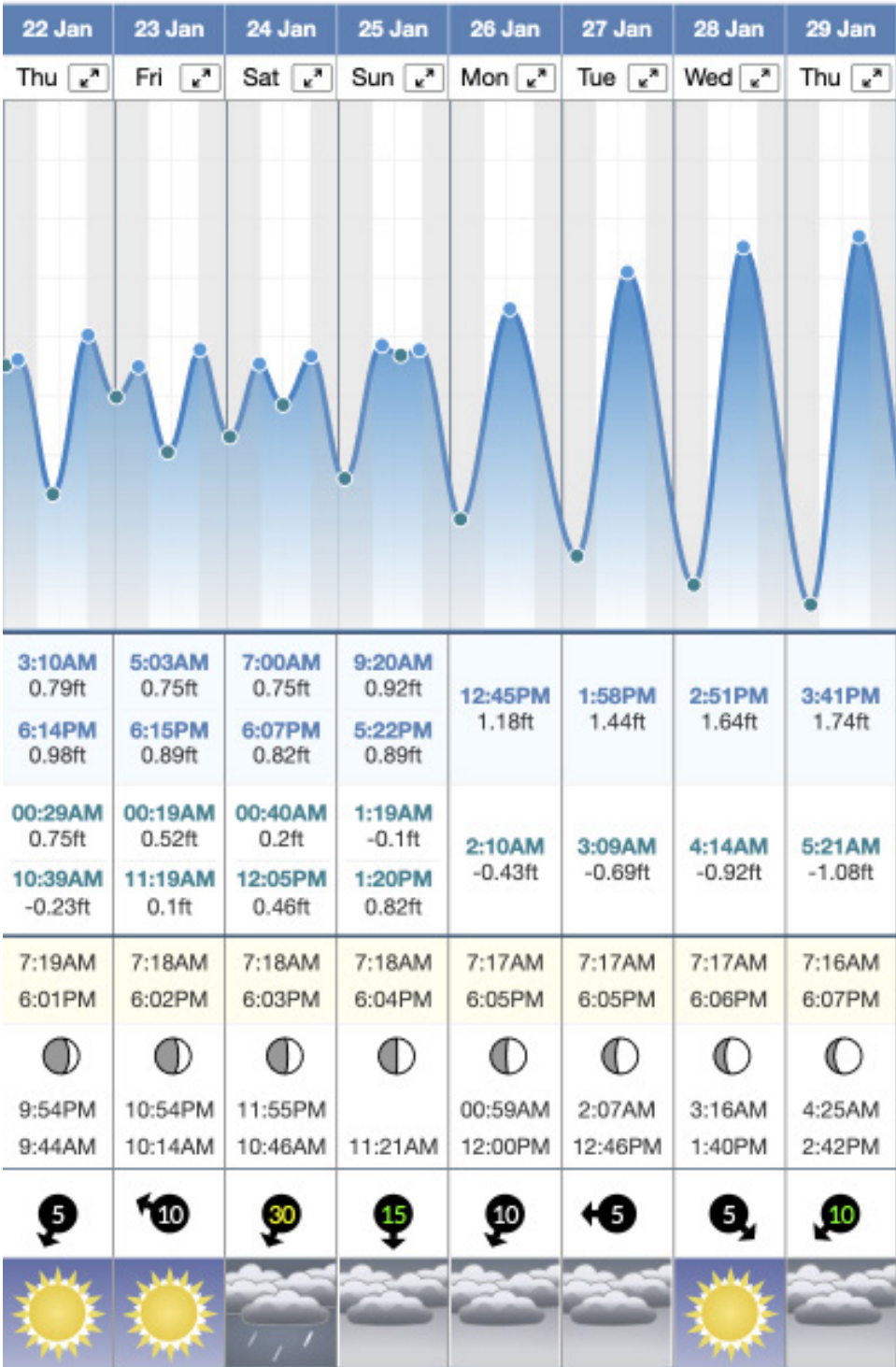
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Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

L	E	N	D	S		P	E	P	S		T	H	O	R
I	C	E	I	N		I	D	O	S		H	O	N	E
M	O	R	N	I	N	G	D	E	W		E	W	A	N
O	N	D	E	P	O	S	I	T		I	N	D	I	E
			S	E	T	T	E	R	M	S		O	R	E
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W	A	D	E			P	O	S	T	A	G	E	D	U
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S	L	O	T			E	E	R	Y			D	E	S

BBB Tip: Identifying misleading investment opportunities in the new year

Over the past two years, reports of investment and cryptocurrency related scams have skyrocketed across the nation. BBB's 2024 Scam Tracker Risk Report found investment and cryptocurrency scams are the top riskiest that North American consumers encounter. More than 80% of the people targeted lost an average of \$5,000. In Texas, residents reported losing over \$8 million to these scams in 2025, a 167% increase from the prior year.

Investment and cryptocurrency scams often start with New Year promotions that promise low fees, guaranteed returns, or "limited-time" deals. These messages are meant to create urgency and pressure people into investing quickly before they have time to think it through.

Scammers may use professional-looking websites or dashboards that appear to show fast profits. In some cases, they even allow small withdrawals to gain trust before asking for a much larger investment.

"Scammers are patient and know how to build trust," said Jason Meza, senior director of media relations for BBB. "They may allow a small payout at first, but the real goal is to convince someone to invest much more later. Any investment that promises unusually high returns with little explanation should be a warning sign."

To help Texas residents steer clear of investment scams, BBB recommends investors follow these guidelines:

Don't fall for high-pressure or scare tactics. If a 'trader' contacts you, they may try to convince you that you will only get high returns if you immediately invest in the fund. Be wary of anyone using this type of language if you do not have a working relationship and are confident they are legitimate. If you've already provided an initial investment, they may threaten you with legal action if you do not pay additional fees. Recognize these signs as a hallmark of a scam and avoid interacting with anyone who relies on high-pressure or scare tactics.

Be skeptical of guaranteed returns. No legitimate trader can tell the future, and unforeseen fluctuations in the market can make even the most stable funds have minimized

returns. Investing comes with an inherent risk, and scammers often try to encourage people to enter the scene by guaranteeing a specific percentage or value that will be returned on their investment. These tactics revolve around the get-rich-quick scheme and are another example of - if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Do your research. Especially when approached by someone unsolicited via social media, take the time to research their name, business, or group online to see if anyone else has encountered issues with them before. Check BBB Scam Tracker for consumer reports and check if their company is listed, or Accredited, with the organization. BBB Accredited Businesses are required to adhere to the organization's Standards for Trust to maintain their status, and one of the major elements of these standards is responsiveness.

Familiarize yourself with investment terms and processes. Consumers looking to enter the investment scene are encouraged to familiarize themselves with standard processes, terms, and systems to give them the knowledge they need to recognize abnormal interactions. While it is unnecessary to become a financial expert, the ability to

speak conversationally about financial terms can help investors identify impostors and find the right person for their needs.

Be wary of opportunities provided by an online romantic interest. Using a hybrid of romance and investment scams, these schemes seek to establish a romantic relationship with a target and use the connection to coerce them into providing a deposit. They may claim they are professional traders who are willing to teach the victim how to become successful or have insider information about a particular fund. Regardless of the strategy used, BBB recommends being extremely cautious of investment opportunities provided by an online romantic interest.

If you've been a target of an investment scam, report your experience to Better Business Bureau at BBB.org/ScamTracker. Information provided may prevent another person from falling for these costly schemes.



Winter swells have been coming in for the surfers out at Packery this week.

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State News

TPWD Files Proposed Amendments to Proof of Residency Requirements for Recreational Hunting and Fishing Licenses, Permits

On January 12, 2026, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department filed proposed amendments to the department's rule regarding proof of residency requirements for issuance of recreational hunting and fishing licenses and permits with the Texas Secretary of State. The proposed amendments would require a person to produce, at the time a license is purchased or obtained, a driver's license or personal identification certificate issued by the state or territory of the United States of which the person is a resident that complies with the REAL ID Act of 2005.

Additional documentation options are provided for residents of a state or territory of the United States including a United States passport or passport card, United States military identification card, immigration-related documents issued by the United States Government, or a certified birth certificate; and for residents of Texas a concealed handgun license. If the person is a resident of a foreign country, the person must produce a driver's license or personal identification certificate issued by the person's country of residence, accompanied by a valid foreign passport and other documents required for entry into the United States. The proposed rule amendments will be published in the January 23, 2026, issue of the *Texas Register*.



Here's seeing you kid. Snowy Egret By John Najvar

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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Who's snaking my papers...



The Island Moon Newspaper rack at Lowe's Market in Port A.

I've been contacted by a several concerned readers recently informing me that the papers I deliver to the Lowe's grocery store in Port A every Thursday have been disappearing lately. Going back to the IGA days, this is by far my biggest distribution point in Port Aransas. I have easily gone through 500+ papers a week in past years but that number has gone way down since the popularity of websites have taken charge. Many printing presses have closed and weekly newspapers such as our beloved *Island Moon* and the surrounding towns have had to look elsewhere for their printing, especially since the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* shut their presses down in 2023. The trend has gone away from the printed word and gone to our computer screens. Moon publisher **Dale Rankin** is a staunch holdout for newspapers that you actually hold in your hands and even stuck it out as long as possible to print on the now oversized original *broadsheet*. We're getting our papers printed in Mexico now and we pick them up in Kingsville every week. The point is, I keep track of how many papers I go through at all the different places I drop and the grocery store in Port A gets top billing. I've been dropping papers there every week since 2009. Well... word has it that someone has been taking ALL the papers I drop there to trailer parks around town leaving many others without. But I can't prove that. And it's no surprise that this started as soon as the season changed and the *Winter Texans* got here. Look, I'm glad people are reading them and I'm happy to work these trailer parks into my routine, but it's important that I regulate the numbers. So as soon as I dropped off my usual number of papers there at the grocery store the past two weeks, I immediately went back a few hours later to see for myself and yup... some low down son of a bum done stole them all. So help me out boys and girls. If you happen upon some old dude from Minnesota snaking all my papers, give him a dirty look and point to the sign saying "TAKE ONE". OK, I'm done whining.



The Winter People were dancing like no one was watching at Bernie's last Wednesday

Slow season is here...



The PA Rockers play every Wednesday at Bernie's

As expected winter has ushered in our yearly "slow season" here in Port A and it's no sur-

prise that the music scene is slim pickins too. It happens every year. In fact, only *Shorty's*, *The Gaff*, *The VFW* and *Bernie's* are left with the task of presenting shows right now. *Bron's*, the *Sip Yard* and *Treasure Island* won't be coming back online until March. So what do you want to do now? I say get out there and support the shows that are happening and tip big. And make our *Winter Texans* (aka: *Winter People*) feel at home here. We depend on them in these winter months so show some appreciation. And don't forget the hybrid *Winter Texan/Native Texan* band, the **PA Rockers** will play every Wednesday at *Bernie's* (at 6:30) until spring break. And also, appreciate this brief reprieve from the forthcoming spring/summer mania. Spring break will release its fury soon enough come March. Cringe!

Scattered shots...



Todd Dorn played Shorty's last Saturday.

First of all I want to thank **Coach Jim Dugan**, **Ginny The Bartender** and all my pals at *Shorty's* for calling me up on Sunday to sing *Happy Birthday* to me over the mic while Jim was playing and with everyone in the bar singing along. I listened to it on my phone in my living room with my **Mermaid Gal** and it was a first for me. I would call it long distance love but my house is only three blocks away. Thanks yall. Last week was a slew of familiar faces on stage. One old friend, **Mike O'Neil** played with the **Johnson All Starz** at *Shorty's* last Thursday. Mike has slowed his roll the past couple of years and it was a real treat to see him. He's a bluesman extraordinaire. Plus I caught **Billy Snipes** and **Todd Dorn** at *Shorty's* and the **Dunebillies**, **Jim Dugan** and **Brad Ethridge** at the *Gaff*.

Coming this weekend...

Coming this weekend, look for looper **Darren McGill** and trop-rockers **Aloha Dave and the Tourists** at *Shorty's*. **Billy Snipes**, **Big Jim Dugan** and **Brad E** will play the *Gaff* and the **Silver Corvette Band** will play the *VFW*. Check the LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT box for many more upcoming shows.

On the horizon...

The good folks in Rockport have a big show coming up on February 13-14 called the *Red White and Blues Festival* at the *Fulton Harbor Tent* by *Charlotte Plummers*. The lineup includes such stalwart artists as **Tab Benoit**, **Paul Thorn**, **Johnny Nicholas**, **Jimmy Vaughan** and more. Plus, *Mardi Gras* is right around the corner with a plethora of events. *Fat Tuesday* falls on February 17 this year. Watch for events including North Padre's *Barefoot Mardi Gras* on the 28th, the *Saltwater Mardi Gras* at *Conn Brown Harbor* in AP on the 14th, the *Port A Mardi Gras Parade* on *Fat Tuesday* proper and a big *Paw Di Gras* gumbo cook-off at *Shorty's* also on the 14th. And don't forget the *Whooping Crane Fest* on February 19-21. Plus, I also want to mention that *Shorty's* 80th Anniversary is coming up in April with special guest **Mitch Polzak** coming in from Los Angeles. Yall be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Billy Snipes will play the Gaff this Friday.



Aloha Dave and the Tourists will play Shorty's on Saturday.



Boudreaux and Pousson will play the Gaff on the 30th.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

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
Billy Snipes @ Gaff
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

Saturday.

January 24

BELT SANDER RACES @ The Gaff
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Aloha Dave @ Shorty's
Silver Corvette Band @ VFW
Temptress, Switchblade Jesus, Acid Wizard +4 @ House of Rock
Alley Catz @ Brewster Southside
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Island
Casey Donahew @ Brewster Downtown
Hair Factory @ Pelican Lounge
Michael Perez, Matt Hole @ Executive Surf Club
Groove @ South Texas Ice House
National Nobodys @ Cassidy's
John Cortez @ Sugar Shack

Sunday.

January 25

LINE DANCING LESSONS (3-4) @ The Polynesian at Marker 37
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog
ENMY, Softspoken @ House of Rock
Riptide Cowboy Open Mic @ Mikel May's Too
William Skrobarczyk @ Executive Surf Club

Monday.

January 26

Michael Burts @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday.

January 27

Brad Ethridge @ VFW
Jerrioke @ Pelican Lounge
The Groove @ Executive Surf Club
Los Locals @ Palm Republic

Wednesday.

January 28

Open Mic w/Brad Ethridge & Gaff
PA Rockers @ Bernie's
CBDB's @ VFW
Los Locals @ Palm Republic
Rock Hard Comedy @ House of Rock
Billy Snipes @ Doc's

Thursday.

January 29

Johnson All Starz @ Shortys
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog
Michael Burts @ The Slip
Watched You Die, Silent Haven, No Jest @ House of Rock
Jim Dugan @ Brewster Island
Nathan Allen @ Brewster Southside
Bellamy Bros @ Brewster Downtown
Flashback @ Executive Surf Club

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BILLY SNIPES	JAN 23
JIM DUGAN	JAN 24
BRAD ETHRIDGE	JAN 25
BOO & POO	JAN 30
YAPPY HOUR (3-5)	FEB 1

SHORTY'S
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
THE ALL STARS EVERY THUR 8-12

DARREN MCGILL	JAN 23
ALOHA DAVE	JAN 24
ART BARRERA	JAN 30
JOHN CORTEZ	JAN 31
BOONE HOLDING	FEB 6

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