



Beachcombing Report A5



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Backwater Adventures B1



The Art of Island Life A6

Issue 1142

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The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

March 5, 2026

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Scott Electric's Dragon Float. Photo by Debbie Noble

Around The Island

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NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

By Dale Rankin
 The Island New Year arrives this week. For locals the cycle of life *Around The Island* starts anew with Spring Break which marks the final chapter of the Island calendar as Winter Texans cycle out to make room for Spring Break and the higher lodging prices that it brings. The fact is most of our spring breakers are daytrippers rather than college students and after the March surge we get a lull before Memorial Day when our 100-day season arrives. You know the Winter Texan season is winding down each year when the Bollard Buddies up Port A way are removed. Think of it as our New Year celebration *Around The Island*.

Behold the Landman cometh!

The CEO of Visit Corpus Christi Brook Kaufman told the Island Strategic Action Committee this week that producers of the popular show *Landman* paid a recent visit to Corpus Christi scouting for new locations for shooting during its third and upcoming season. She also said visitors during 2026 Spring Break are tending toward Short-Term Rental units where rentals are trending up while hotel occupancy is holding steady. The weather forecast for Spring Break 2026 includes scattered showers which may discourage some revelers. It all kicks off this week.

Bob Hall revival

The newly opened Bob Hall Pier has seen a flurry of activity in its first week of operation. It took barely a week before the crowd started drilling holes to hold fishing rods and angling activity has been brisk. But contrary to a social media rumor that President Donald Trump paid a visit to the pier during his stop here he did not. Those in the presidential escort confirmed that his route was from the airport to the Port of Corpus Christi with the only other stop being a Whataburger. But judging by the crowds he may have been about the only person in town who didn't visit the popular pier this week.

Spring forward

We officially go off of Daylight Wasting Time at two a.m. Sunday, March 8 as Father Time takes

Around cont. on A7

Barefoot Mardi Gras 2026



Great weather and low tides made for ideal conditions for a record number of people to head out for Barefoot Mardi Gras 2026. Aerials by Jacob Augs More photos on A2

Cause of Marker 37 fire still undetermined



By Dale Rankin
 The cause of the fire that tore through the docks at Marker 37 on Padre Island in the early morning hours of Monday, February 23, is still undetermined, according to the Corpus Christi Fire Department. The Island Moon filed an Open Records Request for information on the fire. The questions and answers with regards to Corpus

Marker 37 cont. on page A6

Race for Island congressional seat narrows to two candidates

Flores and Gonzales to face off in November for newly-drawn district

When Island voters went to the polls this week they knew they would have a new U.S. congressional representative in District 34 in January 2027. Ten candidates were vying to win the primary elections in the two political parties with a runoff considered likely on the Republican side. But when the dust settled on election night only two candidates were left, incumbent Democrat Vicente Gonzales and Republican Eric Flores who garnered 20,685 votes, %56.64, who will face off in the November balloting to represent the newly redrawn district.

Vote cont. on A3

A little Island history

The biggest pack of sharks I've ever seen...

Editor's note: This is the second part of a series by local fishing guide Billy Sandifer about his encounter with the spirit world on Padre Island National Seashore.

About half a mile down the beach we came up on the biggest pack of sharks I've ever seen on the beach. Our count came to 40 sharks, most four and one-half to six foot Blacktips but here were six or seven good Bull sharks in the bunch.



We considered sight casting a big Bull but it seemed too easy and we decided to just enjoy the show.

We continued south and passed long-time beach fishermen Cliff Wilson and Earl Brown fishing about the 37 Mile Marker and got to thinking about all those sharks headed their way and decided common courtesy would be to

History cont. on A6

Barefoot Mardi Gras 2026 was a huge success!

Aerial by Jacob Augs, Photos by Debbie Noble



Vehicles were two and three deep on Whitecap beach all the way down to Bob Hall Pier



Barefoot Mardi Gras King and Queen, Debbie Wall and Rod Lewis



Judge Susan Barclay Swearing in the judges



Photographer choice - Blue's Coastal Docks and Decks



Scott Electric Dragon - best of parade



Keller Williams Krewe de Karnivale best of show



CARE Firefighter Foundation



CoastLife Credit Union

Winners List

Barefoot Mardi Gras PARADE 2026 was one for the books attracting an estimated crowd of twenty-thousand people to our beautiful beach. Organizers would like to thank everyone who decorated, dressed up, and tossed beads, and although we are all winners for having experienced the magic, the judges announced the following awards:

BEST OF SHOW : Keller Williams Krewe de Karnivale

Floats:

- 1) CoastLife Credit Union
- 2) Brotherhood of the Coast
- 3) Scott Electric

Auto

- 1) Keller Williams Krewe de Karnivale
- 2) Born to Boogie
- 3) CARE Firefighter Foundation

Golf Cart

- 1) PINS Volunteers
- 2) Evoke Studios and Gifts
- 3) Myra Valentine Party Sandy Heart Krewe

Multi-Unit

- 1) Ceanne Richter Party
- 2) Padre Island Parrot Heads
- 3) Gulf Coast Mokes with guest Visit Corpus Christi

Photographer Choices

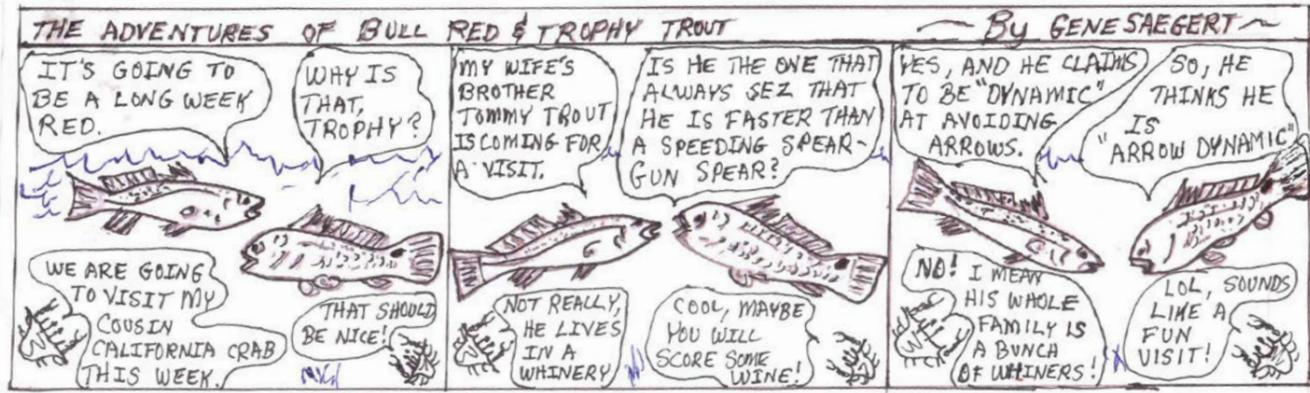
- Scott Electric Dragon - best of parade
 Blue's Coastal Docks and Decks - absolute legend
 Island Italian steaming pasta bowl - golf cart magic
 Charlie Stewart - golf cart magic



Stan Hulse, Millie Stokes, Laurie Harrington, Dan Harrington and John Stokes



Keller Williams Krewe de Karnivale won Best of show and 1st place auto



Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



- Editor/Publisher**
Dale Rankin
- Co-Publisher, Business Ops**
Jan Park Rankin
- Design and Production**
Jacob Augs
- Business and Feature Writers**
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Miles Merwin (Emeritus)
Debbie Noble
Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)



Riley P. Dog

About the Island Moon

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

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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Hatchling Hustle

Sharing a local story idea that brings community, conservation and a scenic sunrise together on the sand! On Saturday, March 28, the 4th Annual Hatchling Hustle returns to Babe's Beach on Galveston Island, hosted by Turtle Island Restoration Network. The 5K and 1-mile fun run support endangered sea turtles in the Gulf, including the critically endangered Kemp's ridley, just ahead of nesting season along the Texas coast.

The event comes on the heels of a challenging winter marked by severe cold-stunning impacts to sea turtles in our region, making this year's race especially timely. Last year, Texas celebrated a record 449 documented sea turtle nests — a hopeful milestone for conservation efforts.

We'd love to invite you to cover the event, speak with Ocean Program Director Joanie Steinhaus, or highlight how local families and businesses are rallying to protect sea turtles right here in our community.

Please let me know if you're interested — I'm happy to coordinate interviews or share additional details.

Sincerely,
Laurel Irvine
Communications Manager
Turtle Island Restoration Network

Spring Break 2026 School Schedules

MARCH 9-13

- Abilene Christian University
- Baylor University
- Del Mar College
- St. Mary's University (San Antonio)
- Stephen F. Austin
- Sul Ross State University
- Texas A&M College Station
- Texas A&M Corpus Christi Texas
- Trinity University (San Antonio)
- University of Houston
- University of North Texas
- University of Texas Arlington
- University of Texas San Antonio
- University of the Incarnate Word (San Antonio)

MARCH 16-20

- Angelo State University
- Austin Community College
- Lubbock Christian University
- Oklahoma State University
- Rice University
- Southern Methodist University
- Southwestern University
- St. Edwards University
- Tarleton State University
- Texas State University
- Texas Tech University
- University of Central Oklahoma
- University of Houston
- University of Kansas
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Texas Austin
- University of Texas Rio Grande Valley West Texas A&M University

PIE Scholarships available

The Padre Island Enrichment Club (PIE) is offering seven \$3500 scholarships to 2026 high school seniors graduating in 2026.

To be eligible students must: Reside on Padre Island, be in the graduating class of 2026, must show merit or financial need, must be pursuing post-secondary education or training, demonstrate community involvement and leadership. Applications must be submitted by April 24, 2026.

For questions: piescholarships@gmail.com or call Maureen Dean 206 949-3825

Vote cont. from A1

U.S. House District 34 covers Cameron, Willacy, Kenedy, and Kleberg counties, including parts of eastern Hidalgo County. Previously Padre Island had been represented by Republican Michael Cloud who is based in Victoria. The two candidates left standing after their respective party primaries are primarily based in the Rio Grande Valley. Port Aransas remains in Cloud's district.

The District 34 seat which includes Padre Island and most of Corpus Christi is expected to be an active race as one of the five

congressional districts redrawn by the Texas Legislature in 2025 with the stated goal of flipping it from the current Democrat to a Republican challenger.



Vicente Gonzalez

The final tally for the Republican nomination:

- Eric Flores 20,685 (56.64%)
- Mayra Flores 8,644 (23.67%)
- Luis Buentello 1,942 ((5.32%)
- Scott Mandel 1,635 (4.48%)
- Gregory Kunkle 689 (1.89%)
- Keith Allen 1,374 ((3.76%)
- Hinojosa 1,392 (3.81%)

Democrat

- Vicente Gonzalez 35,249 (62.72%)
- Etienne Rosas 28,777 (37.28%)

The vote tallies for the two voting precincts on Padre Island are not yet available.



Eric Flores

Where to Find The Island Moon

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



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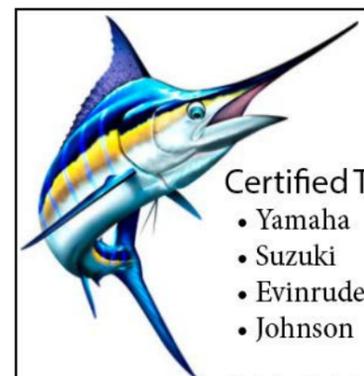
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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

To paraphrase Kris Kristofferson... *I woke up Sunday morning with no way to hold my legs that didn't hurt*

On Monday my friend Dotson got a call from the Whitehouse to lead the pledge of allegiance at the Presidential rally at the Port of Corpus Christi on Friday and he asked me to be his driver so off we went. They told him we had seats reserved but what they didn't tell us was that we had to walk over a mile to get to them. I didn't mind the walk but at 97 Dotson needed a cart which never materialized.

When we arrived there were more than a thousand people waiting to get in and the first trouble arose when we parked in an area reserved "for members of congress" and were told to move. I saw at least three dozen reserved parking spots and wondered exactly how many members of congress were going to show up – it is after all an election year. What I also noticed is that while Dotson, Korean War Veteran, had to walk there were plenty of carts for "congressmen" who as it turned out were from the Rio Grande Valley – as evidenced by their cowboy hats. Apparently cowboy hats are standard issue for politicians south of the Wild Horse Desert even for the ladies.

We ended up in the green room with the Governor and Lt. Governor and as Dotson was getting ready to go on he needed to make a trip to the restroom. We were inside a warehouse that could have easily fit three football fields and the port-o-johns were at the far end of the building. There were two separate trailers each with a men's and women's door and the first three were locked but the last door, the men's room, was open so Dotson made his way up the steps and as the door closed behind him I heard yelling and turned to see a secret service agent – as evidenced by the black suits they wear – sprinting across the room. "He can't go in there! I will have to sweep it for security again!" As it turned out Dotson had wandered into the Chief Executive's Washroom who was not using it at the time. A national crisis was avoided but it was a close thing there in the Presidential Port-O-John.

I have been to dozens of Presidential whistle stops over the years for Presidents of both parties and a good many – especially during the campaign season – are held on the tarmac right at the airport as the President makes a sweep through Texas cities in a single day. In this case the only other stop made by the Presidential motorcade was at Whataburger on the way out of town.

The significance of this event being at the port, and the two giant tanker ships used for a backdrop, didn't sink in until the next morning when the news came of the bombing in Iran. Oil was center stage and after that event security at the port would have been tightened to the point that the public would not have been allowed in. The Associated Press later reported that the decision to bomb Iran was made at 2:28 p.m. Friday which meant he knew what was about to happen as he took the stage here.

A few observations

There were several things I observed at the event that were telling. The first was that all three of the candidates for U.S. Senate on the Republican side were present and acknowledged but none were allowed to speak. Aside from the Governor and Lt. Governor (and actor Dennis Quaid who somehow made an appearance) the local speakers were denizens of the Rio Grande Valley including a candidate for the U.S. House seat which now includes Padre



Dotson Lewis at the podium

Island. The lineup of speakers and those acknowledged from the dais drove home the point that the political future of Padre Island, and even Corpus Christi, is now joined at the hip with the Rio Grande Valley where the population has now grown to about three million while the population of Corpus Christi has remained constant since the 1980s. The Corpus Christi area which has been represented in congress by a resident of Victoria will now be represented by a resident of the Rio Grande Valley no matter which candidates wins the office in November. Neither of those candidates however, is known to wear a cowboy hat. I had my notepad along Friday but when the speeches were done I had written down nothing as I heard nothing in the way of what was new in the news.

To the beach!

Then on Saturday I hit the beach on my sandboard for Barefoot Mardi Gras and the place was packed. I had my pack full of moon pies and everything went according to plan until we got to the south end of the seawall and had to drop out of the parade due to a vehicle issue. I ended up hauling my board through soft sand then finishing the parade route on foot while wearing shrimper boots which as it turns out are made for shrimping and not for walking. My ring monitor informed me that I had walked just under fifteen miles in two days and to once again paraphrase Mr. Kristofferson...

The blister I had for breakfast wasn't bad so I had one more for dessert...



The Hats rode in the carts.



Dotson greets The Governor



By Chris Jordan

Master of Ceremonies, architect, doctor, and chef to Lao King Sisavang Vong, Phia Sing left this earth in 1967. His handwritten royal recipes were published posthumously in 1981 in *Traditional Recipes of Laos*.

Sai oua moo is a fantastically delicious sausage from Laos that I would never have known about if not for a chance encounter on a Caribbean island.

My life on Saint Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, operating my little wine cafe, was a joy. The weather was unendingly lovely. You could drive just a few minutes east to enjoy an arid, near-desert clime, or west if a tropical rain forest was more to your liking. The water too was postcard-pure and surely what the gemstone aquamarine was named for. The scuba diving and snorkeling opportunities there are world class. Fishing, too. Hell, you can harvest your own lobster. This is it, I thought: I might never leave.

The community was notably international. Sure, mostly locals — Crucians — of course, but plenty of Europeans, folks from other nearby islands and people like me: a yankee. Being as true a Texan as one could possibly be, I never got used to being called that. I didn't see very many Asians down there, well, except for this one guy. He was a bartender at a joint adjacent to mine, and — oddly for the typically vampiric lifestyle that accompanies that trade — an avid jogger. I didn't know this man's name, but I thought he might be Thai. He wasn't.

I guess Tom and I got to know each other the way people get to know one another when they work two bars a stroll apart. He was almost always in mid-smile and his charming, somewhat childlike laugh was never long off. Tom had a deliberate manner of speech that was simultaneously light and uplifting. It was this that drew me to him most. We talked often and became good friends. Turns out Tom was from Granbury, Texas.

If you were to get to know Tom really well you might get to know the two most mysterious things about the man: his real name and his actual age. You couldn't possibly guess either. Tom has told me both. Tom's trips around the sun are enigmatically unaccounted for, even though I know a number. For an English speaker unfamiliar with the languages of Southeast Asia, Tom's given name is a long string of incongruously arranged vowels and consonants. Gazing upon his written name metes a curse upon you knowing you will never be able to pronounce it. Tom is an ace bartender, a skilled sushi chef, and a pool shark. There's more, but you get the idea.

After a couple years in Saint Croix, I returned to Port Aransas being essentially summoned by my friend Tiana to help her relocate her excellent restaurant, Cafe Phoenix. The new and expanded restaurant was about to open when the obvious need for a bad-ass bartender became apparent. I immediately thought of Tom and managed to talk him into coming to Port Aransas. That was over a decade ago and Tom still works at The Phoenix Restaurant and Bar, now in its third iteration.

I'll never forget the day Tom handed me a paper napkin with a bias-cut sliver of roasted sausage on it. "Try this", he said. I didn't know my life was about to never be the same. The meat wasn't ground like we're used to, it was in small chunks. And every other chunk was pure fat. My morsel was fragrant, spicy, and oh-so juicy. I wanted more right away but there wasn't more. I considered throwing a proper tantrum, it was that good. Tom promised he would get me some, and sure enough, just a couple of weeks later I was holding two packages of four bratwurst-sized Laotian sausages. Could I eat one link at a time, savoring each bite or would they be instantly devoured?

Sai Oua Moo



Lao sausage, sai oua moo

Over time, I would get a few more little gift-packs of exotic forcemeat. Yum. I had to learn how to make this stuff and I had a leg-up on that endeavor. Having grown-up in the German enclaves of the Texas Hill Country, I had some experience making sausage. A trip to Academy for some casings and an attachment for my Kitchenaid later, I was ready to rock. But what exactly was the magic combination of ingredients for this most exalted sausage? I didn't have a clue. Some ginger, I thought, but that was wrong. The Googly interweb thingy wasn't much help, but I eventually learned enough to take a good shot at it. There are many ingredients in my new obsession, but the highlights you need to know are pork belly, lemongrass and kaffir lime leaves.

The first time I made sai oua moo, the result was an utter failure. The meat was ground too fine and I overstuffed the hog casings causing the sausage to explode upon cooking. The flavors were close though — close enough for me to concoct the loony notion that I should make it for a BBQ I was catering. For the sake of my dear pal Herb Lancaster, as well as the employees and patrons of his eponymous furniture factory's customer appreciation party, I hoped I would get it right.

Since preparation and leaving nothing to the last minute is the name of the game in catering, I started making the sausage the day of the event. I was struggling to make it myself. There are lots of moving parts to the process and I was thrashing about like a hungry shark in the shallows and getting nowhere. My beloved Andrea jumped in to help, but that didn't save me so we called my sister-in-law Tracy and she rushed over to get in on the action. Still not working at a rate that would ensure timely success, I finally resorted to calling-in my Samoan pal Serapio. He's not really Samoan but he sure looks like he sumo wrestles and plays a mean ukulele.

There we all were... elbow-deep in pork fat, slam-dancing to the tune of a whirring stand mixer. It was an assembly line of various pieces of machinery that kept going no matter what. It was like that famous scene in *I Love Lucy* except we had two Ethyl's, a giant Samoan Fred, and various pig parts instead of chocolates. If you're wondering, I was, of course, Lucy.

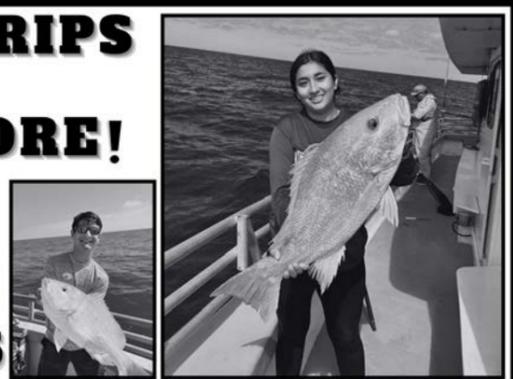
The sausage was effing delicious. The meat could have been coarser still, and I've got a plan to address that. Tom and I hung-out this last Sunday and he made us the fixin's for sai oua moo lettuce wraps. They sure were good and we hatched a plan to make the world's most tantalizing sausage ourselves this coming Monday. As they say in Saint Croix: soon come.

Update: Tom and I are making sai oua moo again today, Tuesday March 3, 2026.

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Nature Notes

Spring Migration

An exciting time to be a bird nerd!

By Caleb Clarkson



Painted Buntings are one of the many species that fly through the Upper Texas Coast area during Spring Migration

Photo by Mike Williams

Spring is an exciting time to be a bird nerd on the Texas Gulf Coast. As fresh buds begin to swell on the trees and Texas shakes off the grasp of frigid northern winds, birds that previously fled to warmer regions grow restless to return. For many species, spring migration isn't just a cross-country voyage; it's a race to secure the best habitat for foraging, breeding, and raising young.

Each year, millions of birds fly overhead, hugging the landscapes of the land as if they were highways, using rivers, mountain ranges, and coastlines to navigate home again. Some species even cross the expansive Gulf, racing to reach shore before their wings give out. Migration is an energetically intensive process that requires instinct, navigation skills, learned routes, and a fair amount of luck to pull off successfully. By the time a bird navigating the Gulf finally sees land, it is desperate for rest, water, and food. Vital coastal habitats become crucial, journey-saving rest stops where birds can regain strength before continuing. These spots serve many different migrating species, and it is one of the reasons why places like Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary and High Island boast such impressive diversity during peak migration.

Unfortunately, migration doesn't always go as planned. Environmental hazards such as storms and wildfires can push birds off the beaten path, and younger, less-experienced birds can make navigational errors. Sometimes, birds even join flocks of similar

species and migrate with them instead. When this happens, birds appear outside their normal, expected ranges. These unusual visitors, called vagrants, often only stick around temporarily before moving on, so zealous birders are quick to seek out these exciting additions to the usual birds of the area.

Sometimes, bird species show up that are completely out of left field: not just in the wrong area, but on the wrong continent. Many of these birds are ship-assisted vagrants. They were not blown off course by weather or capable of crossing the ocean on their own, but instead hitched a ride on a trade vessel. In some cases, they may travel thousands of miles with barely enough food or water before departing at the first sign of land. To the untrained eye, these birds may look like run-of-the-mill, haggard migrants, tired from their journey. In reality, they are transcontinental visitors who made a ridiculous voyage with the help of human systems and infrastructure.

Migration is already a massive undertaking, but vagrants remind us just how unpredictable and full of surprises the skies above us can be. Every bird overhead flies a long path shaped by weather, instinct, and endurance, and once in a while, those paths take unexpected turns. For birders watching the coast each spring, that uncertainty is part of the magic, because you never quite know what might appear next.

Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

Ice Cream Cone Worms



Jace with an Ice Cream Cone Worm

During this week's Beachcombing survey along the Texas coast, I came across several tiny "ice cream cones" scattered along the wrack line. Not the edible kind, of course, but the delicate sandy tubes of trumpet worms, also known as ice cream cone worms, members of the marine worm family Pectinariidae.

These fascinating polychaete annelids are master builders. Each worm constructs its tube by carefully cementing together grains of sand with a natural protein-like glue. The craftsmanship is remarkable: the tube wall can be only one grain thick, with each grain precisely fitted into place. The finished product resembles a miniature trumpet or waffle cone, tapered and symmetrical.

In life, the tube is buried in sandy or muddy sediment with the wider end downward and the narrow end extending slightly above the surface. The worm lives head-down, using bristles and tentacles to gather sediment. As sand is taken in, the worm sorts out nutritious organic particles for food. Cleaned sand grains are expelled out the narrow top,

sometimes forming tiny piles on the seafloor. Beating cilia help move food toward the mouth and circulate oxygen-rich water through the tube.

As the worm grows, typically over a 1-3 year lifespan, it lengthens the tube by adding larger grains to the wider end, maintaining that signature cone shape. After spawning, many die, and storms or tidal currents can easily dislodge the now-empty tubes. Though rigid when intact, they are fragile and often break apart once washed ashore. All three tubes crumbled in my hands before I even left the beach.

So, the next time you spot a tiny "ice cream cone" in the wrack line, pause for a closer look. It's not just beach litter, it's evidence of the busy, hidden life thriving just offshore. Jace Tunnell is the Director of Community Engagement for the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His Beachcombing series appears on YouTube (@HarteResearch), Facebook (facebook.com/harterresearch), and Instagram (@harterresearch).



Ice Cream Cone Worm on the sand



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The Art of Island Life

After the Glitter: Quiet in the Details

By Melissa Mitchell

What a week. Long days and late nights. So many moving parts and last-minute details—but all of it made sweeter by a second-place category win. We are truly grateful for your support. If you caught one of our miniature hats along the parade route, I would love to hear about it.

Mardi Gras season is joyful and colorful and full of life—but it's also a whirlwind. After the music fades and the last rhinestones and glitter are swept from the floor, I always find myself craving something quieter. The shift from celebration to stillness is almost immediate.

When life is too busy for me to get outside and enjoy the fresh air, I've learned how to bring a bit of it inside instead. Bringing the outdoors in doesn't mean decorating with seashells on every shelf—though I'll never turn down a perfect sand dollar and still find joy in passing them along. It's about capturing the textures, colors, and mood of where we live in a way that feels natural and personal.

A photograph of dune grass caught mid-sway can hold the same sense of movement you feel standing on the shoreline. A strand of wooden or sea glass beads draped casually across a stack of books carries texture without feeling staged.

I keep live plants throughout my home—simple touches of green that soften the space and keep me feeling connected to nature, even on the busiest days. You can go bold with a large-scale painting of crashing waves—or subtle with a cluster of botanical prints that nod to native grasses and coastal blooms. Even placing a small stone vase of fresh greenery near a favorite piece of art creates a quiet visual bridge to the outdoors.

The Balance

The magic happens in the balance.

I enjoy having my home reflect where I live—but not in a way that feels obvious or overdone. I reserve that full “beach arrival” feeling for my guest room—I want visitors to feel like they've truly arrived on the coast. Throughout the rest of my home, it's softer. A touch here. A nod there. Just enough to feel connected to the shoreline without shouting about it.

And, when I don't have time to walk the shoreline at sunrise, I still feel that same sense of peace and place reflected in my home.

There's a grounding effect that comes from those small reminders of where I am—even on the busiest days.

We live in a place where the horizon stretches wide and the light changes by the hour. The Gulf has a softness to it—muted blues, silvery greens, warm sand tones. When you carry those hues into your home, even subtly, it creates a calm that feels



authentic. It's less about matching décor and more about reflecting environment.

And this approach works no matter where you live—near a lake, near the mountains, or tucked into a city neighborhood. Every place has its own palette. Quiet doesn't require a full redesign.

Sometimes that reflection is as simple as swapping out heavier textiles for lighter linens as the weather warms, or adding a woven basket that echoes the natural fibers you see outdoors. It lives in the details. And the details are where personality shows up.

Room to Breathe

Over the years, I've learned that the most inviting homes don't feel over-styled. They feel layered. Collected. Personal. These aren't just decorative choices. They're reminders.

When the schedule is full and the days move quickly, those small visual cues slow you down. They reconnect you to place. They remind you why you chose to live where you are in the first place.

After the gatherings and the glitter—and the joyful chaos of our win—I find myself editing. Clearing surfaces. Softening spaces. Letting light back in. Not because I want less beauty and sparkle—well, maybe just a little less of the glittery kind—but because I want room to feel it. The peace in my surroundings.

Finding quiet in the details doesn't mean retreating from celebration. It means creating balance. Allowing your home to breathe the way the coast does—steady, layered, alive, and unforced. So when I can't get to the beach, these details are enough—for a while.

And in the coming weeks, if you can't find me, I'll likely be recharging. Early morning walks along the shoreline. Coffee on the patio. Maybe even an intentional infusion of Vitamin D from the hammock. A little sunshine. A coastal breeze. A bit of stillness.

The Art of Island Life will return next week with more stories and coastal reflections. Have a story to share or a cause close to your heart? I'd love to hear from you at contact@melissamitchellart.com

History Cont. from A1

let them know the sharks were headed their way so we turned about and went back.

As we stepped out of the truck Earl Brown was down on his knees with a roofing hatch trying to chop a still kicking 30-pound jack crevalle into a small a-pieces as possible. Broken fishing tackle was scattered about and it was obvious that Mr. Brown had several rigs set out for Redfish and a school of large jacks came through and hit them all at once.

To be perfectly honest it appeared to me that Mr. Brown was not in the mood for conversation so we left him to his chore and waded out to talk to Mr. Wilson. As I came alongside Mr. Wilson looked over at me and asked how Earl was doing, I chuckled and said that to be honest I had been afraid to ask. He laughed and said, “Year, I know. That's why I came out here to get away from him!” We both roared and then I told him about the sharks.

He was unconcerned stating that the sharks had passed through earlier and hadn't bothered anything. He and Earl had simply nudged with the tips of their fishing rods when they go too close. Then he busted out laughing again and said that he was a heck of a lot more concerned about his fishing partner then he was about the sharks.

An \$8.95 life raft and a very large Blacktip

We bade him well and drove down as far as the 46 Mile Marker. All the action seemed to stop that far south so with it being mid-day we decided to pick a spot and set up camp and get the shark rigs baited and set out. No activity was visible on the way back north so we decided to set up where we'd tried to gaff the Blacktip; thought it would be good luck. What a hoot it turned out to be. Good luck indeed. I had seven big sharks rigs at the time and we baited them all up with one-half of the Jackfish on each.

In those days we ferried the bait offshore in a paper thin vinyl, \$8.95 life raft and we spent the afternoon spacing baits across a fair stretch of water, baits in each of the in-shore guts and the others further and further offshore.

We took turns paddling them out and as I watched David I noticed a very unusual thing; a very large Blacktip came up right behind the raft in the second gut and followed him to the edge of the sandbar. David was not in a position to know it and I thought it would be funny not to mention

Marker 37 Cont. from A1

Christi Fire Department are as follows:

Record request received. Please see below for the answers to your questions, as well as an update for the cause.

- 1) Time the fire was reported to CCFD - MetroCom – 0347
- 2) Time first crews dispatched – 0347
- 3) Time first truck arrived – U900 0358 & then E92 arrived 30 seconds later
- 4) Time last truck arrived at the scene – E14 0427

Fire Investigation Update – 13313 SPID The fire at 13313 South Padre Island Drive (SPID) remains under investigation. At this time, the case is open but inactive unless additional information is discovered. A total of 14 boats sustained fire damage, and 21 boat stalls were damaged. Approximately 300 feet of pier was damaged by the fire. The vessels involved include both commercial and privately owned boats. Not all of the boats were insured.

Due to the extensive fire damage, the exact cause of the fire remains undetermined. Investigators determined the origin of the fire to be in the southeast corner of the boat

it so I didn't. This happened all three times as David returned from taking bait offshore. Once it even followed him out. I'd never seen anything like it and it gave me an eerie feeling. It was as if the fish was a sentinel or guardian or something.

As I started to go out with our last bait David told me to wait a minute and then he blurted out that maybe I shouldn't go back out as a really big Blacktip had shadowed me on each earlier trip. I grinned and told him that was okay for it had done the same on each of his trips as well and that if it hadn't bothered us by now it probably wouldn't. I watched for it on that last trip and saw him clearing on the way out but not on the return trip.

A cold spot on the beach...

I barely got back on shore in time to head for the nearest high dune for the Sunset Ceremony and the temperature was beginning to drop as I hurried along. Then all at once the hair began to stand up on the back of my neck and I began to break out in goose bumps even though I was walking briskly and then I was so cold I thought I'd shake to pieces. As I doggedly continued I suddenly began to warm and the goose bumps went away and the shaking stopped. By the time I reached the dune I was quite comfortable.

As I walked back toward the truck I could feel it beginning to happen all over again. In a hunch I skirted the north of my earlier straight path and sure enough, I found I could control my temperature by how far from a particular area of the beach I was. I changed clothes – I'd still been in wet shorts- and then told David to come with me. I said nothing else and we took off by the lantern light toward the dune. As we neared the area I felt the chill coming even though the dry and more appropriate clothing and David said “Wait a minutes, I'm about to freeze to death.”

We were both shivering and his teeth were chattering. I told him he'd be okay to just back up toward the truck and he would get warmer; we did and of course we got warmer.

David was going on about what could possibly be causing it and I told him I didn't know but that if appeared to be something about that particular spot. Something about the ground or in the ground making everything cold.

Next time: Rattling chains and moaning in the night.

dock. Limited video footage was available, and the severity of the damage made it impossible to determine the specific cause. At this time, Snoopy's Pier restaurant and Scoopy's Ice Cream Shop are open for business. However, Marker 37 Marina Retail Store will remain closed until further notice. Cleanup and restoration efforts are currently in progress.

Records from Emergency Services District #1 for the event are as follows:

ESD2 apparatus and personnel, as a part of normal commercial fire response with the Corpus Christi Fire Department were dispatched to 13501 SPID for a commercial structure fire at 0348.

Please see the below response times referenced in the call. Times were provided to Unit 900 via MetroCom for the media brief that morning. Ch 3 and Ch 6 - times were over the radio that morning of the call.

- Time of Alarm (Dispatch): 0347
- First Arriving Fire Unit: ESD#2 Unit 900 - 0356
- First Arriving Fire Truck: ESD#2 Engine 900357 less that a min behind 0900
- Agent Applied: (Water on the Fire) - 0359
- Control Time: (Fire is extinguished/no further fire growth) - 0531



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Congratulations to our 2026 Billy Sandifer Memorial Scholarship recipients. We are excited to see what these students discover as they continue their graduate research!



Angelic Splasher By Lu Ann Kingsbury

Around cont. from A1

back the hour he gave us in 2025. So spring forward one hour to Daylight Saving Time before you go to sleep Saturday night, or just use your phone to find the time like most of us do and it will do the work for you. Daylight Saving Time has always seemed a misnomer to us here at the Word Factory since in fact it does not “save” daylight it just moves it around on our chronometer. Wouldn’t actually saving time require a time machine?

Utility bills

There was some sticker shock *Around The Island* this week as people opened their utility bills and discovered elevated numbers. City officials confirmed that the new budget year came with an increase of \$4.78 per month for water and \$4.28 for wastewater. Wastewater bills are tabulated with the use of Winter Averaging which is based on water usage during winter months which have the lowest usage over three consecutive billing cycles from December 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026 with new rates appearing on your bill starting June 2026. City officials stressed that none of the increase in fees is related to water conservation measures or the ongoing drought conditions. Much of the increase found on utility bills was due to increases in charges for natural gas which fluctuate with demand and tend to increase in colder winter months, according to city officials this week.

PIPOA election

The election for new members of the PIPOA Board of Directors is on, see the details in this edition. But other than board members an item is included on the ballot to remove a paragraph from the PIPOA bylaws regarding the seawall. The City of Corpus Christi took over liability and maintenance for the Michael J. Ellis Seawall in 2025 for which we are greatly appreciative. The item on the ballot, if approved, would potentially impact the ability of the city to apply for funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in case of damage to the seawall. FEMA funds are paid as reimbursement after repairs are done and applying for them can be a tedious and trying process; city officials just recently received the last FEMA funds for repair

damage to the Packery Jetties caused by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The item on the PIPOA ballot could help in that process if the day comes when funds are needed to repair the seawall and its approval on this ballot is a good move for Islanders. In another seawall-related item engineers told the Island Strategic Action Committee this week that the permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin the repair work on the seawall have been completed and the work is set to begin in the next few months. It’s all good news and for the first time in forty years there is a workable plan in place to keep the seawall in good shape.

Remember the Alamo!

The Shrine of Texas Liberty made history again this week when the opening bell for the Nasdaq stock exchange was rung from Alamo Plaza on the eve of the battle that occurred 190 years ago.

Newman!

And finally, from the Moon’s *You Can’t Make This Up Department* it didn’t involve a mail truck full of empties or John Kennedy’s golf clubs like in the Seinfeld episode but way up in Connecticut this week officials were caught off guard by an invasion of empty bottles after they passed a law raising the deposit paid on returned bottles from five to ten cents and redemption rates reached 97% as bottle movers snuck empties in from across state lines! Beverage distributors reported millions of dollars in losses as a result of having to pay out for excess returns so this week state lawmakers passed an emergency bill to crack down on illegal returns by increasing fines, requiring redemption centers to keep track of bulk drop-offs and allowing local police to go after out-of-state violators. “I’m heartbroken,” said House Speaker Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, who supported the effort to increase deposits to 10 cents and expand the number of items eligible for redemption. “I spent a lot of political capital to get the bottle bill passed in 2021, and never in a million years did I think that New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island residents would return so many bottles.” Beware the Law of Unintended Consequences, watch out for Spring Breakers and say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



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So long Buddies!

It's time for the Yarn Bombing & Bollard Buddies in Port A to be taken down, cleaned and stored until next year. About three hundred Bollard Buddies were displayed on the beach in Port Aransas from the first week in January until today March 3rd. The buddies are each hand made by people all over the country and donated to the group to be put on a bollard. The project is an immense amount of work displaying them and caring for them every day while on display. A volunteer checks on them in the early morning and again in the evening ensuring that they are well anchored and not missing. Yes, a few of them were stolen this year, six in fact over a three day period recently. After they are removed all three hundred are meticulously cleaned and washed and then stored until next year. The Yarn Bombing project was started by Diana Knowlton Vondra who came upon a display in France and decided to start the tradition in Port Aransas. The Yarn Bombing display is always in need of volunteers so if you would like to get involved you can email Diana at vondra922@gmail.com



Volunteers remove buddies from the bollards in Port Aransas



Diana Vondra founder and organizer of the Bollard Buddies



Paul, Juli, Cindy and Mark Weber with Becky and Noel Horan on a whale watching sunset cruise in Maui!



Mrs. Roper's Pub Crawl from Pioneer RV last week at Bernie's.

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NOW OPEN

Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner



This past weekend was a testament to folks volunteering like you rarely see. I mean, the kind of grassroots, community and business efforts for a common cause that gives you a warm fuzzy feeling. This past weekend was the 31st annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Clean up down on the Padre Island National Seashore. Despite the fact that the Mardi Gras organizers switched the date to coincide with Clean Up (which is Always on the last weekend in February), we had an awesome turnout. Things started kind of slow, but then the volunteers showed up in throngs and filled the ranks. We had over 1,100 people suit up, show up, and get it done. Billy would have been proud, and the Friends of Padre organizers were blown away.

I typically wouldn't call out a certain group that participated in the cleanup, but I will this one time. The folks from Gulf Coast Growth Ventures showed up en force, with trucks and trailers and gloves and serious attitudes to get things done. By some stroke of luck, they gathered together in the parking lot and were assigned to my section. To be honest, I should say that I was assigned to lead their section, ha! Marissa, Leo, and Ed (whiz kids who keep the machines running at the plant) got everyone lined up and down the beach to the 23-mile marker and got things going.

I always say each year that "they were the best section I've ever been blessed with" but this year set the bar higher than it's ever been set. They even brought snacks and water for everyone instead of the other way around! We knocked the mile out, and then some. I can't remember the last time we picked up that much trash, my truck was loaded past the top of the bed, and she was squatting on the way off the beach. Driving was a little sporty between the 20- and 22-mile markers; you'd better pay attention if you're headed south. That was a great clean up and I look forward to it next year. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Augs picked up a sack of oysters the other day, and I have to say, they were some of the most interesting oysters we've seen in a while. There were two giant behemoth oysters like I haven't seen in years, easily 4 inches wide and 5 inches long. There were some very obviously undersized oysters, I mean like maybe an inch and a half. Most of the oysters, however, were absolutely beautiful, and perfectly square and in good shape. They were a great mix of both salty and sweet, just like we like them.

One of the interesting things we started to notice was that some oysters were attached to gravel. Yup, gravel, river rock. Organizations like Texas Parks and Wildlife, Dr. Jenni with Sink Your Shucks, CCA, HRI,

and private lease holders will sometimes use river rock as cultch to provide a place of attachment for the oyster spat to land on and grow. The best cultch is recycled oyster shells, but that is more expensive than gravel, which appears to work just fine, except that they are removed from the system when the oysters are harvested. More on restored oyster reefs later, but Augs and I thought that was pretty interesting with today's oyster farming and restoration efforts.



This Oyster was the size of the Tabasco Bottle



Oyster On the Rocks

The hummingbirds are on their way! When we hit temperatures in the 80's and we have these multiple days on-end of southeast winds, the birds feel the change and head north from south and central America. I have one feeder up and need to get another one or two up as I heard a buff bellied hummingbird this morning in the yard. I also need to do some yardwork and repot some plants, but you loyal readers don't care about that.

Thursday night is/was the CCA-Corpus Christi Chapter banquet to raise money to partner with TPWD and put oyster cultch back in the water, deploy artificial reefs, and restore marshes. Hope we have a big night, because as Randy says, "it's for the fish!" Y'all drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Marissa, Leo, and Ed. Phot by Jay



The Gulf Coast Growth Ventures Cleanup Team

Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah



Monte with a nice stringer of trout and reds we caught this week in the Laguna Madre along the edge of the Intracoastal Canal. Farah



Mr Hammer holds a gorgeous 27.5" redfish we picked up on soft plastics drifting the King Ranch shoreline in pretty stiff winds. Slow your drift down with multiple drift socks. Farah



I put my hands on this nice 26" trout this week. She was in a small sand pocket along some submerged spoil areas close to the ICW canal. She struck a bone colored soft plastic. Farah

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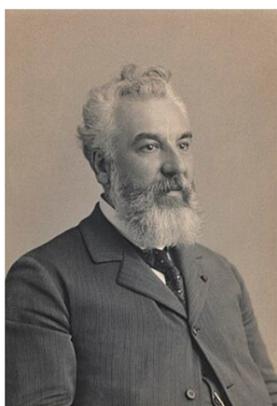
Kitesurfing Acrobatic at Padre Island. By Laura Bennett

Senior Moments Special to the Island Moon

Alexander Graham Bell-Engineer

By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: If you carry a phone around with you, I thought some of you Moon Monkeys might need a reminder of the person that started this mess. He was a Scottish-born Canadian-American inventor, scientist, and engineer who is credited with patenting the first practical telephone. He also co-founded the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) in 1885. Thanks to my dad and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in this report.



Alexander Graham Bell

Bell's father, grandfather, and brother had all been associated with work on elocution and speech, and both his mother and wife were deaf, profoundly influencing Bell's life's work. His research on hearing and speech further led him to experiment with hearing devices, which eventually culminated in his being awarded the first U.S. patent for the telephone, on March 7, 1876. Bell considered his invention an intrusion on his real work as a scientist and refused to have a telephone in his study.

Many other inventions marked Bell's later life, including ground-breaking work in optical telecommunications, hydrofoils, and aeronautics. Bell also had a strong influence on the National Geographic Society and its magazine while serving as its second president from 1898 to 1903.

Beyond his work in engineering, Bell had a deep interest in the emerging science of heredity. His work in this area has been called "the soundest, and most useful study of human heredity proposed in nineteenth-century America ... Bell's most notable contribution to basic science, as distinct from invention."

Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on March 3, 1847, to Alexander Melville Bell, a phonetician, and Eliza Grace Bell (née Symonds). The family home was on South Charlotte Street in Edinburgh, where a stone inscription marks it as Bell's birthplace. He had two brothers: Melville James Bell (1845–1870) and Edward Charles Bell (1848–1867), who both died of tuberculosis. He was born as just "Alexander Bell". At age 10, however, he made a plea to his father to have a middle name like his two brothers. For his 11th birthday, his father acquiesced and allowed him to adopt the name "Graham", chosen out of respect for Alexander Graham, a Canadian being treated by his father who was also a family friend. To close relatives and friends he remained «Aleck». Bell and his siblings attended a Presbyterian Church in their youth.

As a child, Bell displayed a curiosity about his world; he gathered botanical specimens and ran experiments at an early age. His best friend was Ben Herdman, a neighbor whose family operated a flour mill. At the age of 12, Bell built a homemade device that combined rotating paddles with sets of nail brushes, creating a simple dehusking machine that was put into operation at the mill and used steadily for a number of

years. In return, Ben's father John Herdman gave both boys the run of a small workshop in which to "invent".

From his early years, Bell showed a sensitive nature and a talent for art, poetry, and music that his mother encouraged. With no formal training, he mastered the piano and became the family's pianist. Though normally quiet and introspective, he revelled in mimicry and "voice tricks" akin to ventriloquism that entertained family guests. Bell was also deeply affected by his mother's gradual deafness (she began to lose her hearing when he was 12), and learned a manual finger language so he could sit at her side and tap out silently the conversations swirling around the family parlour. He also developed a technique of speaking in clear, modulated tones directly into his mother's forehead, whereby she would hear him with reasonable clarity. Bell's preoccupation with his mother's deafness led him to study acoustics.

His family was long associated with the teaching of elocution: his grandfather, Alexander Bell, in London, his uncle in Dublin, and his father, in Edinburgh, were all elocutionists. His father published a variety of works on the subject, several of which are still well known, especially *The Standard Elocutionist* (1860), which appeared in Edinburgh in 1868. *The Standard Elocutionist* appeared in 168 British editions and sold over 250,000 copies in the United States alone. It explains methods to instruct deaf-mutes (as they were then known) to articulate words and read other people's lip movements to decipher meaning. Bell's father taught him and his brothers not only to write Visible Speech but to identify any symbol and its accompanying sound. Bell became so proficient that he became a part of his father's public demonstrations and astounded audiences with his abilities. He could decipher Visible Speech representing virtually every language, including Latin, Scottish Gaelic, and even Sanskrit, accurately reciting written tracts without any prior knowledge of their pronunciation.

As a young child, Bell, like his brothers, was schooled at home by his father. At an early age, he was enrolled at the Royal High School in Edinburgh. But he left at age 15, having completed only the first four forms. His school record was undistinguished, marked by absenteeism and lacklustre grades. His main interest remained in the sciences, especially biology, while he treated other school subjects with indifference, to his father's dismay. Upon leaving school, Bell travelled to London to live with his grandfather, Alexander Bell, on Harrington Square. During the year he spent with his grandfather, a love of learning was born, with long hours spent in serious discussion and study. The elder Bell took great efforts to have his young pupil learn to speak clearly and with conviction, attributes he would need to become a teacher himself. At age 16, Bell secured a position as a "pupil-teacher" of elocution and music at Weston House Academy in Elgin, Moray, Scotland. Although enrolled as a student in Latin and Greek, he instructed classes himself in return for board and £10 per session. The next year, he attended the University of Edinburgh, joining his brother Melville, who had enrolled there the previous year. In 1868, Bell completed his matriculation exams and was accepted for admission to University College London, though he did not complete his studies, as his family emigrated to Canada in 1870 following the deaths of his brothers Edward and Melville from tuberculosis.

TO BE CONTINUED

The Day I Drove in the Presidential Motorcade



By Dan Grimsbo

It started with a simple call from a good friend, who wanted to submit my name to be part of the Presidential Motorcade. Within 15 minutes my phone rang, it was the advance staff calling to confirm my interest. An hour later, I was speaking with Mr. Carter Boyce from the White House Advance Motorcade, who requested a few more details needed for a background check.

By that afternoon, Carter had created a group text with the six local drivers selected for the motorcade. Not long after, I got another call, this time from Altan Guzel-dere, our Island CCPD Police Officer. He recognized my name immediately; we'd known each other for years. As fate would have it, he had also been selected as one of the motorcade drivers.

Preparing for the Assignment

The night before the President's arrival, the six of us received instructions on where to meet in the morning. Altan picked me up and we were off to the Airport. All drivers were required to wear a suit and tie. Not common practice for those who normally wear official uniforms. Altan had to actually buy a suit the night before, and as a Navy veteran, I had to admit to him that I actually didn't own a real suit until after my retirement.

That morning, we received a basic briefing, our vehicle assignments, and familiarized ourselves on the equipment inside each vehicle. We then moved the motorcade vehicles to the staging area on the airport runway also known as the tarmac. There, the United States Secret Service (USSS) conducted a detailed briefing. We were issued temporary USSS lapel pins and signed a document acknowledging our responsibilities. Our vehicles and ourselves were inspected thoroughly and swept for any unauthorized items.

I was assigned to the van designated Press-1, with Altan directly behind me in Press-2. Surrounding us were state police, local police, SWAT units, ambulances, and multiple USSS vehicles—an impressive display of coordinated security. Altan knew many of the Police Officers assigned to perimeter security team and those assigned to the motorcade.

Air Force One Arrives

As Air Force One approached, the motorcade repositioned closer to the landing zone. USSS agents seemed to be everywhere. Parked within 20 feet of the President's limousine, also known as The Beast, I watched the USSS prepare it for the President's arrival.

Around 3 p.m., Air Force One landed and taxied toward us. The President and senior staff exited from the front stairs, but the real surge of activity came from the rear stairs, where roughly 200 staffers and reporters poured out and hurried toward their assigned vehicles.

The reporters assigned to Press 1 sprinted to the van, gear in hand, followed by a USSS

agent who took the seat beside me. He was the agent in charge of this press group. Once everyone was loaded, the motorcade moved out quickly to the Port.

A High-Speed Escort Through Empty Streets

Driving in a presidential motorcade was quite the experience. It reminded me of military convoys that took me around Baghdad, Iraq, where we also did not follow traffic signs or signals. For the Presidential Motorcade, every road was blocked, every intersection was secured. On the freeway, we reached speeds of 90 mph. It was strange driving with no regards to speed limits or traffic signals, seeing Police Officers blocking the roads and large crowds lining the route.

We arrived at the Port of Corpus Christi location, and again everyone moved with purpose. Reporters poured out of the van and ran towards the event. We waited in our vehicles until the President finished his speech. Then we loaded up quickly and headed to Whataburger — yes, Whataburger — where roughly thirty police vehicles and city dump trucks secured the area. We were there only minutes before racing back toward the airport.

Somewhere along the way, one of the reporters handed me a pack of Air Force One M&Ms, saying I was a pretty good driver. I figured they'd ridden with all kinds of drivers over the years, so the compliment meant a great deal. I thanked him for the M&Ms.

A Photo, a Scramble, and a Departure

Back on the tarmac, we pulled up beside Air Force One, then all the personal quickly unloaded the vehicles and reloaded the Air Force One. Altan was able to get a photo of me standing next to Air Force One, a moment I'll never forget. I was preparing to take his photo when Carter Boyce suddenly started shouting, "Go! Go! Go!" Air Force One was powering up, and we had to clear the area immediately. I still had Altan's phone in my hand as we sprinted back to our vehicles.

Once we regrouped at a safe distance, we watched Air Force One depart. USSS agents then collected our temporary pins, and we returned to the same location where the day had begun. Carter thanked us for volunteering and for doing a great job. And just like that, the whirlwind was over.

The Ride Home

I gave the Air Force One M&Ms to Altan, feeling bad that he did not get his photo with Air Force One. He has already placed the M&Ms in his display case. On the drive back to the island, we talked about the experience and what a fantastic day we had. I also thanked my friend for submitting my name; he'll never really know what a huge favor he did for me.

For me personally, it's another remarkable Navy Sea Story.

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Gene's Corner

More Random Strange Thoughts

By Gene Saegert

His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without cling free.

She grew on him like a colony of maggots and he was a rotting carcass.

She had a deep throaty, genuine laugh, like that sound a dog makes just before it throws up.

Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.

He was as tall as a six foot three inch tree.

The revelation that his marriage of 30 years had disintegrated because because of his wife's infidelity came as a rude shock, like a formerly surcharge free ATM machine.

The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly like a wrecking ball wouldn't.

From the attic came an unearthly howl. The whole scene had an eerie surreal quality, like when you are on vacation in another city and Wheel of Fortune comes on at 7:00 instead of 6:30.

Her hair glistened in the rain like a nose hair after a sneeze.

The hailstones leaped from the pavement like maggots when you fry them in hot grease.

Long separated by cruel fate, the star crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 p.m. traveling at 55 mph and the other from Topeka at 4:19 p.m. at a speed of 35 mph.

Even in his last years, grandpa had a mind like a steel trap, only one that had been out so long that it was rusted shut.

Shots rang out, as shoots are known to do.

The plan was simple, like my brother in law Phil. But unlike Phil this plan might work.

The young fighter had a lean and hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a while.

He was as lame as a duck. Not the metaphorical duck, but a duck that was actually lame, like from stepping on a land mine or something.

The ballerina rose gracefully En Point and extended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a fire hydrant.

Thought for the day: Anything that doesn't kill you will make you stronger, except bears, they will kill you.



Ewww, something touched my foot! By Lu Ann Kingsbury



The Winter Texans were taken in the sun at El Constante this week. Photo by Dale Rankin

PIPOA Update

Voting continues in PIPOA races

Deadline is March 26

By Dale Rankin

Paper ballots are mailed out and online voting continues in the race for four of seven seats on the Padre Isles Property Owners Association Board of Directors.

A minimum of 503 votes must be cast to reach a quorum for the election and make the results official. Online voting can be done through the ManageCASA website.

Votes is to fill four seats on the seven-person board must be submitted either online or in person at the PIPOA office by March 26 with the results to be announced at the annual Members Meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 28 at the Seashore Middle School Cafeteria. No voting will be conducted at the meeting. The worksheet from the ManageCASA website can be printed and taken in person to the PIPOA office where the votes will be recorded.

Board candidates

There will be a meet and greet for board candidates at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 5 at the Presbyterian Church on Padre Island. The candidate's resumes can be viewed on the PIPOA website. We are offering space in the Island Moon for candidates to submit a statement on their reasons for running and what they hope to accomplish while in office. Email submissions to editor@islandmoon.com.

The candidates are: (Vote for four)

- Terry Brown
- Ross Garcia
- Mark Dick
- Randy Eaton
- Jim McFadden
- Tom Cable

On Spring Break take a 'break from the beach' to soak up some sun, fun, beauty and relaxation at South Texas Botanical Gardens!

Looking for Spring Break excitement, or laid-back relaxation, students or families here during official Spring Break weeks, March 6-22, should spend a day at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, a living museum, 8545 S. Staples St. Explore gardens, conservatories, butterfly house, meet animal ambassadors, and experience quiet trails and wetlands. Picnics and well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome. Parking is free. General Admission tickets are available online, or at Visitors Center. www.stxbot.org, www.visitcorpuschristi.com.

9 am- 6 pm Daily, experience:

Orchid & Bromeliad Conservatories. Rose, Hummingbird, Sensory, Arid, Butterfly and Trial Gardens. Butterfly House stocked for spring, with possible butterfly releases. Exotic parrots in outdoor enclosures to engage with visitors. Reptile Room housing variety of "Resident Reptiles," staff for interaction. Iguanas, Tortoises outside. Children's Play Area with just-finished updates and relocation for expansion later this spring. Brennecke Nature Trail, Birding Tower, Wildlife in Focus winning photographs, Palapa Grande, Wetland Awareness Boardwalk; and Oso Creek Loop Trail--recently widened and surfaced to ADA requirements. Visitors Center Nature's Boutique—Shop, Snacks, Drinks, Memberships!



10:30 am, Saturdays, Sundays: 'REP-TALES' on Festival Lawn.

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Brennecke Nature Trail



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Digging a Shallow Sand Well on Padre Island

A free source of water right beneath your feet!

Editor's note: The following account comes to us from a Moon reader who recently dug an irrigation well in his yard on the south end of Padre Island. Ground water suitable for irrigation can be found at shallow elevations on Padre and Mustang islands and is a drought free source of water for landscaping.

How to begin

Start by digging as deep as you can with posthole diggers for the well site (4-5 feet). Make sure to locate all utilities in the vicinity and avoid them. Saw some "teeth" in the end of the 10-foot long 4-inch PVC casing and work it into the well hole down as far as possible. Construct a jetting tool from 3/4-inch PVC connected to garden hose with fireman nozzle on the other end, start with 10-foot long.

Jet the inside of the 4-inch casing while pushing down on the casing to sink it, it might take two people. Try to get it as close to 10-feet deep as you can with the 4-inch well casing. Build your well point assembly from the 1 1/4-inch well point, 48-inch long, reduced to a 1-inch PVC with the 1-inch brass check valve at the top of the 48-inch well point. Total well point assembly should be 20-22 feet long. Take the 10-foot long jetting tool and add another 10-foot section of PVC to it so it's 20-feet total. Continue jetting as deep as you can. Target depth is 18-22 feet or so, starting from ground elevation 8 feet or 9 feet; no deeper than 25 feet.

Jetting

There will be a clay layer around 12-14 feet deep that will take time to break through. Make sure to keep constantly moving the jetting tool up and down. If you need to stop, make sure to pull it out as far as you can to avoid it getting stuck. Jetting is the hardest part of the project. Make sure adequate jetting is done to the target depth before trying to insert the well point assembly. As mentioned, I used just my house water hose for the jetting tool. Other methods would be easier, such as a trash pump hooked to the canal or swimming pool and a larger PVC pipe. Goal is to liquefy the sand and remove it from the well hole as much as possible to avoid the loose sand from sticking around the pipe as you jet deeper and deeper. The more sand you can remove the easier time you will have without getting stuck. Higher volumes of water are better, such as the trash pump but it's not impossible to do with just your water hose. Just takes more work and time. Others have used a pressure washer with a sewer pipe cleaning jetting nozzle on the end of a hose extension inside a PVC pipe to jet, that works too.

Once you finally get down to the 20-foot depth and the jetting tool is freely moving up and down easily in the well, quickly insert the well point while continuing to jet. Push the well point as deep as you can. Ideally it would go all the way down to the 20-foot depth but you might have to continue to jet it more to get it there. Once well point is set, drill a 1-inch hole in a 4-inch PVC cap and place it over the well point pipe and onto the 4-inch well casing and you are done with the well drilling. You should be about a 6-pack in at this point. Lol.



Connecting

The rest is all piping and connecting the shallow well pump and hose bib assembly. Make sure to use stainless steel threaded connectors for the pump inlet and outlets. I had to wrap the threads in quality Teflon tape and use pipe thread sealant to prevent them from leaking. Make sure to fill the pump housing and all pipes with water for the initial prime and you are ready to turn it on! It will spit out a little sand at first while it clears the well point but should clear up quickly.

My results were about 7 gallons per minute of flow, which if left running full blast will draw down the well in about 15-20 minutes but recharges quickly. When using with a sprinkler head it will run much longer since it's restricting the flow volume. I have run an oscillating sprinkler for over two hours with no noticeable draw down. The salinity in the water will vary. Mine started around 4-5 parts per thousand but has dropped to 2-3 ppt. For reference, sea water is between 30-35 ppt. Even at 5 ppt the salts can be harmful to certain non-local plants. But for turf grasses anything less than 5 ppt is fine given that we get a good fresh rainfall flush every 4-6 months or so to prevent salt accumulation. There will be a pretty strong sulfur odor from the ground water as well, but that's just more of a nuisance than an issue.



Island Real Estate Roundup



Apryl Noles

Four Island homes sold this week

What a busy week it has been in the Padre Island real estate market as we wrap up the month of February!

In the single-family home sector, we saw four homes sold, ranging from \$420,000 to \$740,000. Additionally, three homes entered the option period, with prices between \$510,000 and \$574,000, showing continued activity and buyer interest in the market.

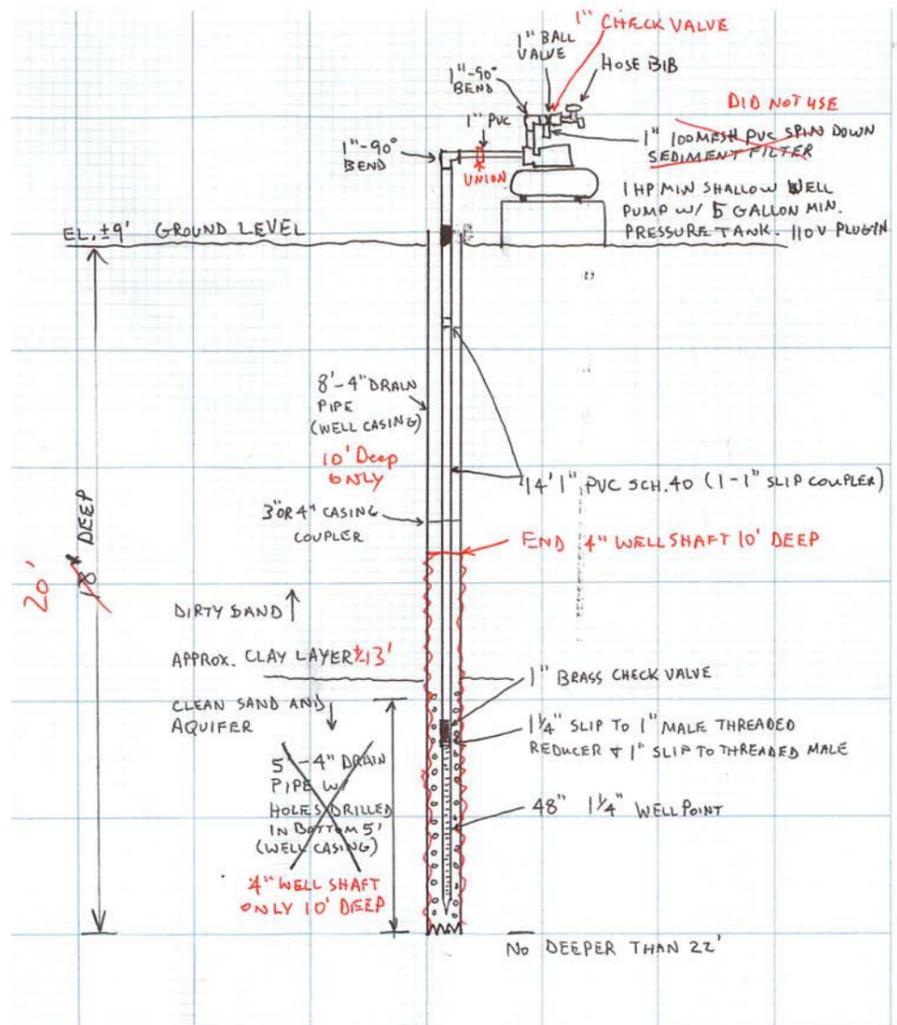
In the condo market, two condos sold this week, with prices ranging from \$290,000 to \$405,000 (both of which were waterfront).

The townhome sector also experienced movement, with two townhomes sold between \$275,000 and \$300,000, and two additional townhomes entering the option period, ranging from \$270,000 to \$450,000.

Overall, this was a great way to close out the month of February. I'm looking forward to reviewing the official numbers once they are released by our local Board of Realtors so we can compare February of this year to the previous year. Stay tuned next week as we continue to monitor the trends here on Padre Island.



Tri-colored heron on Packery Channel Photo By Laura Bennett



Shallow Well Diagram

Shallow Sand Well Inventory

Item	Quantity	Cost	Total	Use	Source
1" PVC Tees	2	\$2.07	\$4.14	Final Well Assembly	Lowes
1" Slip to 1/2" Thread Bushing	2	\$2.24	\$4.48	Final Well (prime ports)	Lowes
1" PVC Union	1	\$10.73	\$10.73	Final Well (disconnect)	Lowes
PVC Sovent Weld and Glue	1	\$11.68	\$11.68	Final Well and Drill Pipe	Lowes
1" PVC 10' Sch 40	3	\$8.48	\$25.44	Final Well Point	Lowes
1" PVC Slip Coupler	3	\$0.91	\$2.73	Final Well and Well Point	Lowes
3/4" Brass Hose Bib	1	\$10.29	\$10.29	Final Well Assembly	Lowes
1 HP Shallow Well Pump with Pressure Tank	1	\$169.99	\$169.99	Final Well Assembly	Harbor Freight
1" PVC Ball Valve	1	\$5.38	\$5.38	Final Well Assembly	Lowes
4" PVC 10' SDR35 Sewer Pipe (green)	1	\$25.96	\$25.96	Well Shaft	Lowes
1 1/4" to 1" PVC Adapter	1	\$4.42	\$4.42	Final Well Point	Lowes
1" Stainless Steel NPT Male Thread Nipples	2	\$5.00	\$10.00	Final Well Assembly	Amazon
1" Brass Check Valve	1	\$22.50	\$22.50	Final Well Point	Amazon
1" PVC Check Valve slip to slip	1	\$9.64	\$9.64	Final Well Assembly	Home Depot
1 1/4" PVC Well Point (48")	1	\$18.98	\$18.98	Final Well Point	Home Depot
1" PVC Slip to Male Thread Coupler	2	0.93	1.86	Final Well Point	Home Depot
1" Sand Sediment Filter (Optional, did not use)	1	43.98	43.98	Final Well Assembly	Home Depot
1" 90 Bend	1	1.48	1.48	Final Well Assembly	Lowes
		TOTAL	383.68		
		Tax	31.65		
		Grand Total	415.33		

Sudoku

Sudoku answers are not available.

Play at your own risk!

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Across

1. Patsies
5. Vietnam neighbor
9. Botanist's specialty
14. Repeated three times, a war film
15. "— La Douce"
16. Unpaid factory worker
17. Attraction of a sort
20. Dr. King, for one
21. Disposition
22. Unwelcome obligations
23. Like some collegiate walls
25. Quirks
26. Cubes, spheres and the like
28. Look for, as compliments
29. Links item
32. Jumps at a rink
33. Mayoral assistant
34. Star turn at La Scala
35. Parts of some diets
38. Terminer's partner
39. Places for training
40. Girder fastener
41. Positive message
42. In proverbs it's more
43. Takes the tiller
44. Stein and Stiller
45. Knocks silly
46. Accustomed to
49. Wide-mouthed jug
50. San Juan aunt
53. Ore sources
56. Not yet eliminated
57. Abrupt closure
58. Subsistence
59. Apportioned (with "out")
60. Fourth of July, for example
61. Theologies

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				49				50	51	52
53					54				55			
56					57				58			
59					60				61			

Down

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Luminary | 18. In the thick of | 37. Mr. Toscanini |
| 2. First-rate | 19. White sounds | 42. Gave a wolfish look |
| 3. Exclusive rights | 24. More loathsome | 43. Treeless plain |
| 4. "Cheers" character | 25. Bay of Fundy attractions | 44. Symbol over a vowel |
| 5. Start of a Poitier title | 26. Stomping place? | 45. It might be broken during aerobics |
| 6. Packing heat | 27. Daisy variety | 46. Scholar of Islamic law |
| 7. Arabian gulf | 28. Celluloids | 47. Northern-flowing river |
| 8. Wilt | 29. Mockeries | 48. Part of BTU |
| 9. Gallic | 30. Place to get down from | 49. "So Big" author Ferber |
| 10. Yoga position | 31. Bridge positions | 51. Couple in a column |
| 11. "The Mikado" wraps | 33. Deep chasm | 52. Some snakes |
| 12. Pastel shade | 34. "Men in Black" menace | 54. Sixties drug |
| 13. Places of withdrawal | 36. Sometimes it's hidden | 55. Kind of boot |

2026 PIPOA eVoting Ballot Worksheet

Printed Property Owner's Name: _____

Printed Property Owner's Address: _____

Submission

Complete this Ballot Worksheet and mail* it to:
 * Ballot worksheets must be signed, legible and received at the POA Office no later than **19 Mar 26**.
 You may also personally deliver it to the office but the **POA staff will not accept ballot worksheets delivered by a 3rd party or incompletely filled out.**

PIPOA
 14015 Fortuna Bay Drive
 Corpus Christi, TX 78418

Ballot Details

Description:	2026 PIPOA Board of Directors and Bylaw Update - Electronic Voting Only
Calculation Method:	Weighted Property-Based Voting. POA Staff will Verify Name & Address
Reference Files:	Current (2023) Bylaws Candidate Resumes Section A Deed Update
Reference File Location:	https://padreislespoa.org "E-Voting INFORMATION"

Vote on Proposition 1: Board Member Candidates

Please vote for 4 of the following candidates:

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Terry Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jim McFadden | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ross Garcia | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tom Cable | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mark Dick | <input type="checkbox"/> | Abstain | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Randy Eaton | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Vote on Proposition 2: Bylaw Update

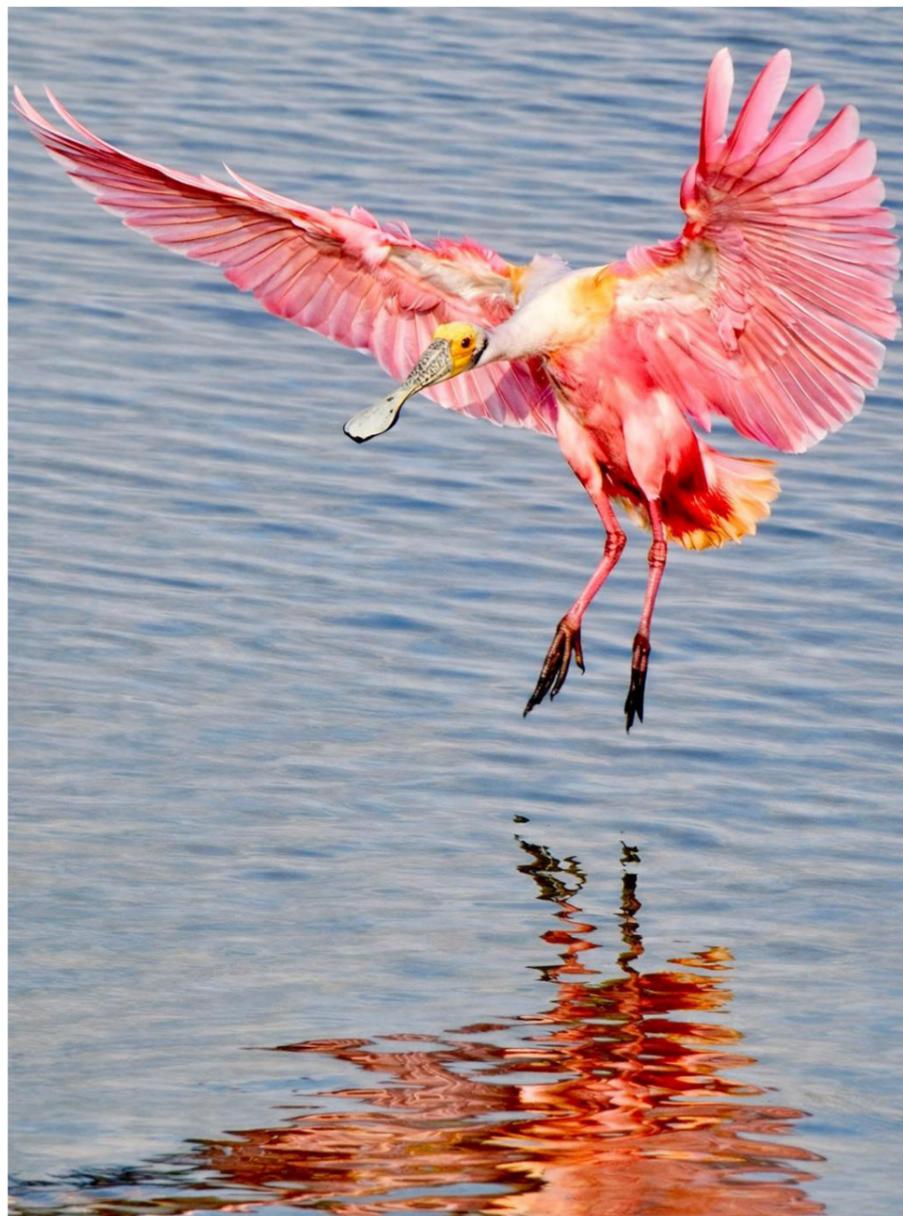
Now that the City of Corpus Christi owns the Seawall, the PIPOA must remove Para 4.05 "Seawall" from the Second Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association and refile the bylaws with Nueces County.

- Yes, I approve of this necessary change to avoid future financial responsibility for the Seawall.
- No, I disapprove.
- Abstain

This eVoting Ballot Worksheet is a written ballot that will be entered into the PIPOA electronic voting system and counted in the same manner as votes cast directly through the owner portal.
 PIPOA staff handling this worksheet will keep your voting selections confidential and will use them solely for verifying and recording your vote.
 We cannot enter your voting information into ManageCASA without your legible Name and Address printed above. Paper ballot worksheets received after 19 Mar 26 will not be counted.

By signing below, I certify that I am the record owner of the above property.

Owner Signature: _____ Date: _____



Coming in Hot Pink at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center By Lu Ann Kingsbury

Moon Classifieds #1142

Here's how to place a Classified Ad

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Alcoholics Anonymous
Sunset 7 AA Group
Meets four times per week on North Padre Island
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 7 pm at Island Presbyterian Church,
 14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
 Sunday 8 am at Padre Balli RV Park Open Pavilion
 15820 Park Rd 22.
 (In bad weather, the Sunday meetings will be indoors at IPC)

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Al-Anon meets at 7:00 pm Sundays at Padre Island Baptist Church

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LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a new Beer and Wine Permit (MB) by Corpus Christi Minutemen LLC DBA Best Western Corpus Christi Airport to be located at 2021 N. Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78408. Officer of said corporation is Managing Member Kunal Patel

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 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi seeks a geospatial analyst II to work in Corpus Christi, TX to provide geospatial analyses and support for multiple program areas. Bachelor's in forestry, geography, mathematics, or related field, or equivalent combination of education and experience & 2 years relevant experience required. Apply online at https://tamus.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/tamucc_external must include job code: **R-091158**

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 2026 SEASON - Part-Time Contract Labor
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 Nueces County resident for preceding 2 years
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<https://nuecescad.net/appraisal-review-board/>
 Application available at
http://nuecescad.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/ARB_application_2023.pdf

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED THRU March 27, 2026

For more info contact Brian McCabe
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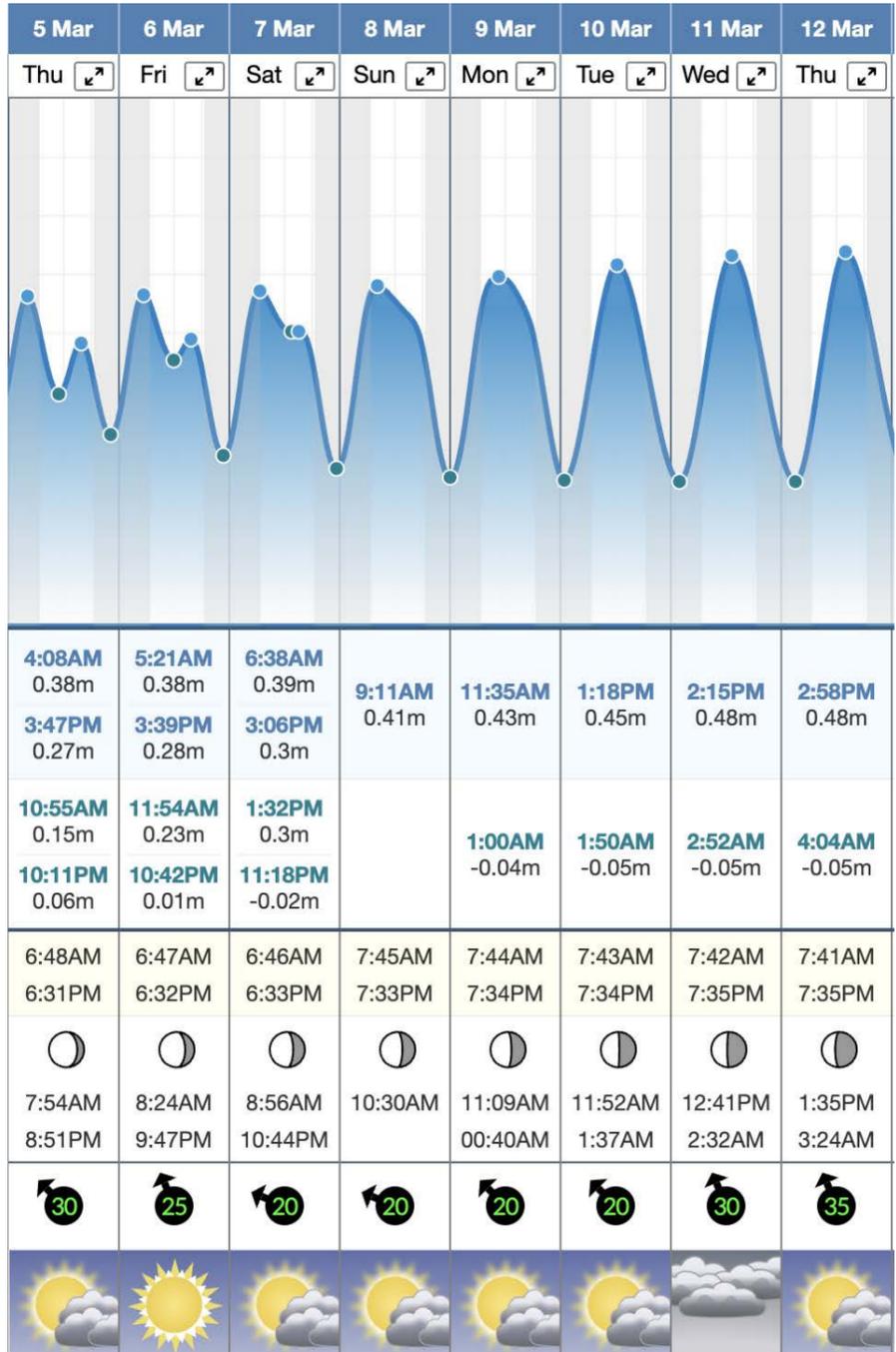
Lauren Jensen, OD

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Birds of a feather eat together. Backyard breakfast, Redwings, Blackbird, Dove, Sparrows. Padre Island By Riekie Roncinske

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

Sports

15 Years ago in the Island Moon

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon

Donald Trump and American Football



Dotson's Note: During his career as a businessman and politician, Donald Trump has had a noted relationship with the sport of American football, both at the professional and collegiate levels. Since the 1980s, he has had a strained relationship with the National Football League (NFL), the largest professional American football and Sports league in the world. A 2018 article in *Business Insider* labeled Trump's relationship with the league «The Pigskin War», calling the NFL «his oldest rival». That same year, sportswriter Adam Schefter of ESPN stated that Trump has «his own little vendetta against the NFL», while Ed Malyon, the sports editor of *The Independent*, stated in 2019 that, «Trump has long waged war against the NFL». Thanks to Bill Morgan and Wikipedia for the facts and the photos contained in this report.



Starting in the 1980s, Trump has tried on numerous occasions to become an owner of an NFL team including attempts to purchase the then-Baltimore Colts, New England Patriots, and Buffalo Bills though he has never succeeded in his bids. In the mid-1980s, Trump became the team owner of the New Jersey Generals in the rival United States Football League (USFL) and led the league in a lawsuit against the NFL to attempt to force a merger. The USFL won a pyrrhic victory in the lawsuit, though without a merger or a substantial financial victory. Trump's actions have been widely seen as a major factor in the dissolution of the USFL shortly thereafter. During his first presidency, Trump called for a boycott of the NFL over the U.S. national anthem kneeling protests that many players were participating in, with some analysts viewing Trump's comments as part of his continued feud with the NFL.

As president, Trump attended several high-profile college football games, primarily in the Southern United States, where he was often well received by attendees. Nicholas Sarantakes, a historian from the Naval War College, compared Trump's fandom of the sport and his use of attending games as a form of political theatre to fellow president Richard Nixon's. According to a 2018 article in *The Hill*, Trump favored college athletics during his time in office due to his high-profile feud with athletes and associates in professional sports leagues such as the NFL and the NBA. In 2025, Trump became the first sitting U.S. President to attend a Super Bowl game during Super Bowl LIX.



Trump and George Allen (right) were part of a group that sought to purchase the Baltimore Colts in 1981.

Trump's first attempt to purchase a team in the National Football League (NFL) occurred in 1981 when he sought ownership of the Baltimore Colts. At the time, team owner Robert Irsay had stated that he was considering either relocating the team to another city or selling it. Trump led a group that offered Irsay \$50 million (equivalent to \$177 million in 2025) for the franchise, though the offer was ultimately rejected. According to *The Evening Sun*, the group had consisted of six members, including Trump, with former Washington Redskins coach George Allen as the «front man». Allen's son (also named George) confirmed the involvement of both his father and Trump in the attempted purchase, saying, «I think my father may be involved because he is the one with the football wherewithal. Trump may want a team and the money to do it, and George Allen has the knowledge on how to do it». However, Trump denied any involvement in the purchase, telling the *Sun* that, «I have not given any offers for the team. Neither was I part of a group that did». However, multiple news sources maintain that Trump was involved in the attempted purchase, as does sportswriter Jeff Pearlman. Additionally, NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle stated in 1986 that Trump had attempted to purchase the Colts. Trump denied this and instead stated that Rozelle had attempted to woo him into buying the team.

In 1983, Trump again expressed interest in purchasing the Colts from Irsay, who was still considering relocating the team from Baltimore. In a 1986 court case, Irsay stated that he had told Trump, through an intermediary, that «it was a waste of time to try to buy the Colts. At least two other groups were trying to buy control of the Colts». Ultimately, Irsay remained the owner of the Colts and relocated the team in March 1984, after which they became the Indianapolis Colts.

In 1984, Dallas Cowboys founder and owner Clint Murchison Jr. stated his intent to sell the team. Trump expressed interest in acquiring the team for \$50 million (equivalent to \$155 million in 2025), but ultimately declined. Explaining his rationale for not buying the team, Trump stated in an interview with Ira Berkow of *The New York Times*, «I feel sorry for the poor guy who is going to buy the Dallas Cowboys. It is a no-win situation for him, because if he wins, well, so what, they've won through the years, and if he loses, which seems likely because they are having troubles, he will be known to the world as a loser». Additionally, Trump did not believe there was much room to generate profit given the price. Instead, Trump believed that buying a team in the newly founded United States Football League (USFL) would yield a much higher return on investment for a lower purchase cost. Several news sources have called Trump's decision to not buy the Cowboys for \$50 million to be a business blunder, as the franchise would go on to be first on *Forbes*' list of the most valuable sports teams, with a 2024 valuation of \$10.1 billion.

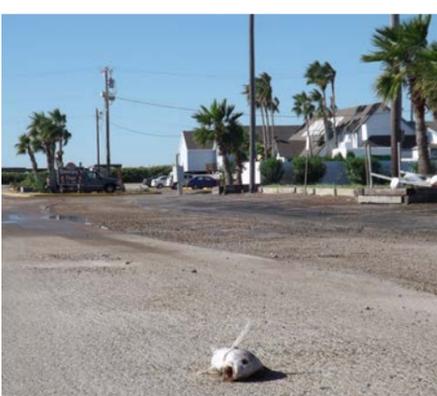
In October 1988, *The Boston Globe* reported that Trump was again interested in purchasing the Cowboys and that reporters stated that former Cowboys player Roger Staubach might be involved with Trump's efforts. However, the Cowboys were ultimately purchased by Jerry Jones in 1989.



TO BE CONTINUED



The Island Moon Art Walk was held at Schlitterbahn.



The High tide just left, covering parking lots in seaweed and fish bones.



The Island had a seagate.

Island Moon Live

Our Thursday radio show is now on 1440 KEYS and 98.7 fm as well as streamed live on YouTube and Facebook! We record the show on Thursdays live at Doc's from 11 am to 1 pm. We have an enormous amount of different friends and guests, telling stories about how the Island used to be, and where we are heading. All of the videos are free to watch, and can be found on You Tube at Island Moon Live via these links.



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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
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Adios Winter People...



The massive crowd at last week's Belt Sander Races set another new record

Here it is boys and girls. In February we reached the end of our tourist year and March 1st is where we start all over again with *Spring Break* followed by *SandFest* in April. It's time to shake winter off and bid the *Winter People* a safe trip home. We had a bumper crop this year; in fact the *Gaff* set two back to back attendance records at BELT SANDER RACES in February. They had 28 racers followed by 30 racers last week and you couldn't swing a cat without hitting a *Winter Person*. I suppose they are grappling for that last bit of Texas sunshine before going home to the land of endless floods, fires and freezes. Soon Wednesdays at *Bernie's* will be back to normal (whatever that means) when the *PA Rockers* finish their run. It's now time to start our year all over again. We will now trade a multitude of old farts like me for several multitudes of riotous college kids on leave. Let the festivities begin... and bring your camera.

Festering Den of Sin...



Spring Break 2026 is upon us.

And nothing says Port A like a beach full of scantily clad school girls exposing their hinnies as they proudly walk the beach. In fact, we've named the spot they gather *Butt Cheek Beach*. It's right next to the infamous *Festering Den of Sin* where somebody is guaranteed to get pregnant. It's easy to spot. Farther down the beach toward the pier is where families and the less rowdy gather. Early in the game revelers will start by "circling the wagons" and staking claim to their little slice of infamy. There will be the obligatory flat bed trailer serving as the stage with a monster sound system and a stripper pole. This will be the center of attention with various groups showing off their talents, which essentially means a bunch of half naked college girls lined up and wiggling. Once the circle is complete, the crowds will swell to riotous proportions and one thing is clear: a bunch of people will be spending the night in our local pokey. There will be some world class antics on display that you'll eventually get used to (like the traffic) but truth be told, you will probably find yourself repeatedly thinking, "Wow, that's stupid". This is the time when you actually feel empathy for our boys in blue. Their patience will be tested repeatedly so a word to the wise... you do not test them. There WILL be a small battalion of them hovering about. OK I'm done scaring you to death, so you kids get out there and have some fun. And don't you be turning up pregnant or in jail, especially if you're my age. Honestly, not a whole lot has changed through the years. It's mainly young adults and teens blowing off a little steam and having good clean fun while schools out.

Scattered shots...

Last weekend the big daddy *Barefoot Mardi gras Parade* takes the prize. I didn't go but the pics I saw showed another enor-

mous turn out. That's a party those cats on Padre take very seriously. Congrats guys on another wonderful parade. The *Pirates and Poets* gang showed up for their annual traveling trop-rock shows at *Shorty's* and the *Plantation Suites*. I really enjoyed the set from **Dan Sullivan**. The evening shows at *Shorty's* were local with **Billy Snipes** and **Aloha Dave**. Also I did catch soloist **Kevin Charles** at the *Gaff* on Thursday and **Boo and Poo** on Friday. And the *VFW* had **Carson Miller** plus the **Profile Band** going. I'm glad to see the *Profile Band* playing locally. I use to see them at *Bron's* the last couple of years and sure I'll be seeing more of them this years.



The Profiles played the VFW last Saturday
Coming this week...



San Antonio guitar master Ruben V will play Bron's on Saturday.

On Thursday the 5th this week the **Johnson All Starz** will have their weekly blues jam at *Shorty's* and Friday, March 6th is finally here. All of the clubs will be back open and hitting on all cylinders. Spring has sprung. On Friday a band I really like, **Mantle Jenkins** with **Jody Jenkins** on vocals and bass and **Damion Mantle** on lead vocals and guitar, will be playing *Shorty's* from 9-1. Also on Friday, **Darren McGill** will open up *Bron's* (7-10), the **Carson Miller Band** will play the *VFW*, the **Alley Catz** will open the *Sip Yard* back up and the **Lucky Dogz** will open *Treasure Island* back up. On Saturday the 6th *Spring Break* officially rears its ugly head with the **John Elijah Band** at *Shorty's*, San Antonio guitar god **Ruben V** at *Bron's*, rock-in' **Jon Car** is at *Treasure Island*, **Cathouse** will play the *Sip Yard*, the classic rockers **The Groove 2.0** will play the *VFW* and singer-songwriter **Dallas Burrow** from New Braunsfels will bring his *Redbird Roadtrip* to the *Gaff* on Saturday and Sunday. Also on Saturday the great **Pat Green** will play *Brewster Street Downtown*. On Sunday the *TIME CHANGES* so everybody spring forward on hours. On Sunday **Love Street** plays *Bron's*. On Monday the **Wayward Gypsies** will play the *Gaff* and **Billy Snipes** will play *Shorty's*. On Tuesday **Boone Holding** plays *Shorty's*, **Rich Lockhart** will play *Bron's* and **Brad Ethridge** will play the *VFW*. The **Johnson All Starz** will play Wednesday and Thursday at *Shorty's* this week and **Jerry Ward & the Dirty Birds** will play *Bron's*. Plus on Wednesday the **Cleartone's** will play the *VFW*.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Jon Car will play Treasure Island on Saturday.



Dallas Burrow will bring the Red Bird Road Show to the Gaff this weekend.



Dan Sullivan and Jon Burns with the Pirates and Poets productions played Shorty's last weekend

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, March 5

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Damon Scott @ Brewster Southside
Jim Dugan @ Brewster Island
Jackson Wendell @ Brewster Downtown
David Martinez @ Executive Surf Club

Friday, March 6

Mantle Jennings @ Shorty's
Darren McGill @ Bron's
Carson Miller @ VFW Port A
Lucky Dogz @ Treasure Island
Alley Catz @ Sip Yard
Wayward Gypsies @ Gaff
Dickie Delight @ Salty Dog
That Arena Rock Show @ Brewster Downtown
80's Dance Party @ House of Rock
Jam Band @ Pelican Lounge
Michael Burttis @ Brewster Island
Peter Salas @ Brewster Southside
Chainlinks @ Executive Surf Club

Saturday, March 7

Spring Break Texas A&M, TX State, U of H, Baylor, N. Texas
John Elijah Band @ Shorty's
Ruben V @ Bron's
Cathouse @ Sip Yard
The Groove @ VFW Port A
Jon Car @ Treasure Island

THE GAFF
BELTSANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT
OPEN MIC EVERY WED WITH BRAD E.
WAYWARD GYPSIES MAR 6
DALLAS BURROW MAR 7
REDBIRD ROAD TRIP MAR 8
WAYWARD GYPSIES MAR 9
JIM DUGAN MAR 14

SHORTY'S
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
THE ALL STARS EVERY THUR 8-12
MANTLE JENNINGS MAR 6
JOHN ELIJAH BAND MAR 7
BILLY SNIPES MAR 9
BOONE HOLDING MAR 10
RED FEATHER MAR 13

Treasure Island
LUCKY DOGZ MAR 6
JON CAR MAR 7
BACK PEW REVIVAL MAR 13
NATIONAL NOBODYZ MAR 14
CARSON MILLER MAR 20

MOORE-MCDONALD VFW POST 8967
CARSON MILLER BAND MAR 6
THE GROOVE 2.0 MAR 7
BRAD ETHRIDGE MAR 10
CHRIS LANCASTER MAR 13
TEXAS FEVER MAR 14
ST. PATTY'S PUB CRAWL MAR 17

Sip Yard
ALLEY CATZ MAR 6
CATHOUSE MAR 7
RIPTIDE MAR 12
CRUISE CONTROL MAR 13
B-FLAT DUELING PIANOS MAR 14
AUSTIN FORREST MAR 17

Bron's BACKYARD
DARREN MCGILL MAR 6
RUBEN V MAR 7
LOVE STREET MAR 8
RICH LOCKHART MAR 10
JERRY WARD & DIRTY BIRDS MAR 11
THE GROOVE 2.0 MAR 12

Dallas Burrow @ Gaff
Pat Green @ Brewster Downtown
Dan Harrington @ Brewster Island
Michael Burttis @ Brewster Southside
Ally the Piper @ Ritz Theater CC
Lucero @ House of Rock
FUZION @ Pelican Lounge
David Martinez, Trisum @ Executive Surf Club
Tailgate Troubadors @ Hideout 35
Tribute Night: Foreigner, Journey, Elton John @ Rialto AP

Sunday, March 8

TIME CHANGE
SPRING FORWARD
Redbird Roadtrip (12 PM) @ Gaff
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Love Street @ Bron's
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog
Shwayze @ House of Rock
Sonny Salinas @ Executive Surf Club

Monday, March 9

Billy Snipes @ Shorty's
Wayward Gypsies @ Gaff
Melissa Ann @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday, March 10

Boone Holding @ Shorty's
Rich Lockhart @ Bron's
Brad Ethridge @ VFW Port A
The Groove 2.0 @ Executive Surf Club
Chadwick
Lee Hunter @ Commercial Street AP

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