



Going Native B1



Bechcombing Report A7



Three Chords and the Truth B8



The Art of Island Life A6



Backwater Adventures B1

Issue 1143

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# The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

March 12, 2026

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Spring break vibes. By Lu Ann Kingsbury

**Around The Island**

**ISLAND MOON LIVE THURSDAY'S FROM 11-12 AND 1-2 ON 1440 KEYS AM, 98.7 FM, AND YOUTUBE AT ISLAND MOON LIVE**

**98.7 FM 1440 AM KEYS**

NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

By Dale Rankin  
Spring Break is upon us here *Around The Island* and so far it's been mostly slow going. The beaches got a little elbowy last weekend but all in all things were rather calm. This coming weekend is The Big One and if you are looking to ride the ferry into or out of Port Aransas check the ferry traffic at the TxDOT site at <https://its.txdot.gov/its/District/CRP/dms-messages>. If you are heading up State Highway 361 watch out for the temporary traffic lights. They are running the belt sanders at The Gaff this Saturday and it looks to be a packed house so head up there early if you want to see the Moon Monkey run.

**Jitos founder passes away**



We want to bid a fond farewell to long-time Islander Tom Spiewak who passed away this week at the age of 88. He and his lifelong friend Jim Sambol founded the venerable Jito Snack and Pack Foods store which is now the site of Captain's Diner on The Island way back in 1970 when there wasn't much else out here. They closed it in the 1980s when new convenience stores closer to the JFK Bridge cut into their business. The building sits on five lots and it was a gathering place for surfers on their way to the beach and on their way home, and a place for Islanders who lived in one of the three homes that existed on Padre Island when it opened to get a few necessities.

Sambol was a football recruiter for Kansas State University and Spiewak was an All-American guard on the football team at

Around cont. on A3

## Corpus Christi City Council considers Barney Davis Power Plant for desal water

*Plant is owned by the City of San Antonio*

By Dale Rankin

It marks the only "skyscraper" on the Island horizon at 201 feet high and for local residents is a regular sight during the popular Island activity of sundown watching. The Barney Davis Power Plant in Flour Bluff has been using natural gas to spin steam turbines to produce 730.2MW of electricity since its commissioning in 1976. But the



Barney Davis Power Plant

Barney cont. on page A3

## Flour Bluff completes renovation of baseball and softball fields

*Celebration Tuesday, March 17*

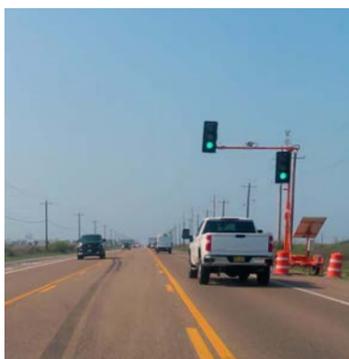


Flour Bluff ISD will hold a Grand Slam Celebration on Tuesday, March 17, to mark the completion of upgrades to the baseball and softball fields funded by bonds approved by voters in 2025.

A community presentation and walkthrough will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Flour Bluff ISD Athletic Complex, 2421 Waldron Road. Guests are invited to view the improvements firsthand followed by a baseball game be-

Bluff cont. on page A2

## Skidding into Spring Break!



Temporary traffic lights have been installed on State Highway 361 in Port Aransas to ease access from side roads by creating breaks in traffic. They have also caused brakes in traffic as evidenced by the skid marks on the pavement. One of the lights was installed at the entrance to Cinnamon Shores and another is at Access Road 1B the newly installed access road. If you are headed that way this week be prepared to stop.

Photo by Ronnie Narmour



### A little Island history

## The Ghost at the 33

*Rattling chains and dreams...a conversation with a ghost*

**Part II of an Island ghost story**  
Editor's note: This is Part II of a series by legendary Island guide Billy Sandifer about an aberration he and a friend encountered at Mile Marker 33 on Padre Island National Seashore that first ran in the *Island Moon* in 1998. In last week's story he and a friend encountered a "cold" area near the dunes after observing strange behavior of a Bull shark in the water near the same location. This week they come face to face with



Captain Billy Sandifer

*The African. We pick up the story as they set up camp for a night of shark fishing...*

By Billy Sandifer

We went back and set up the outrigger and had supper. And outrigger is made of 20 feet of antenna masting pipe with a T and two pulleys on top, on for each arm of the T.

One-quarter inch line ran through the pulleys to a dog snap braided into both ends of the line. Much

History cont. on A5

## Gas Bills up...what happened?

Editor's note: When Islanders received their utility bills from the City of Corpus Christi this month most of them noticed a decided jump in the cost of natural gas. We reached out to the state at city hall and received the following response:

It was a pleasure speaking with you on the phone today. Please see the information below regarding gas rates and how the PGA (purchased gas adjustment) factors into utility billing each month.

☐ Gas prices fluctuate throughout the year, often increasing during peak winter months due to higher demand.

○ Please view the information linked below provided by the City of Corpus Christi.

**ARTICLE IV. - GAS RATES AND CHARGES | Code of Ordinances | Corpus Christi, TX | Municode Library**

☐ For the Gas utility, there is no City rate adjustment. However, the PGA portion of the bill changes monthly based on gas market conditions.

○ PGA stands for Purchased Gas Adjustment.

Gas cont. on A3

## Rules for Spring Break

With Spring Break in full bloom the Corpus Christi Police Department has a few reminders for beachgoers. The department has additional officers patrolling the beach and roadways. Here are the Beach Rules:

### On ALL beaches

1. No glass bottles or glass containers
2. Must be 21 years old to consume alcohol
3. Dispose of litter in trash receptacles
4. No canopies left overnight

### On Gulf beaches – Additional Rules

1. Speed limit is 15 mph. All traffic laws apply including Driving While Intoxicated

Rules cont. on page A4



Jeff and Robin Blue took the Moon to Anguilla

Bluff cont. from A1

tween the Hornets and Alice and a softball game between Flour Bluff and King High at 7 p.m.

The celebration will highlight the completed renovations at both fields, which include new turf, new dugouts, finished fencing,

new scoreboards, installed flagpoles, new batting cages, and an extended softball backstop. The event will also include Youth Night, where all youth baseball and softball players are invited to participate in the celebration.



One week after the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade the tide would have made it a boating event.

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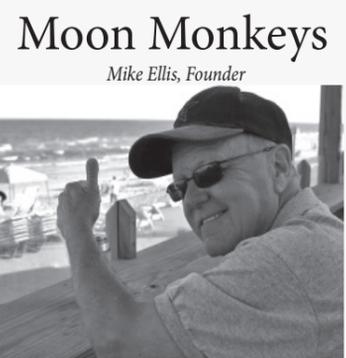
# Sunrise Beach Service

at Michael J. Ellis Seawall

## April 5 @ 7:00am

Bring your bible, beach chair, your family and friends!  
We will provide the coffee. Jesus will provide the hope!

Celebrate Easter at Real Life  
[myreallife.org/easter](http://myreallife.org/easter)



**Editor/Publisher**  
Dale Rankin  
**Co-Publisher, Business Ops**  
Jan Park Rankin  
**Design and Production**  
Jacob Augs  
**Business and Feature Writers**  
Joey Farah  
Emily Gaines  
Jay Gardner  
Todd Hunter  
Dotson Lewis  
Dr. Mario Martinez  
Melissa Mitchell  
Ronnie Narmour  
Dr. Ed Proffitt  
Reverend Dr. Ken Ritchie  
Gene Saegert  
Celeste Silling  
Jace Tunnell  
**Photographers**  
Miles Merwin (Emeritus)  
Debbie Noble  
Evelyn Pless-Schubert

Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)



Riley P. Dog  
**About the Island Moon**  
The Island Moon is published every Thursday, Dale Rankin, Editor / Publisher.

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

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

**The Island Moon Newspaper**  
14646 Compass, Suite 4  
Corpus Christi, TX 78418  
361-949-7700  
editor@islandmoon.com  
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**Letters to the Editor**

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



**H.E.L.P. needs HELP!**

The Island Presbyterian Church Health Equipment Loan Program, (H.E.L.P.) keeps running out of wheelchairs. Apparently, our neighbors have experienced a lot of injuries and surgeries lately and we have had to turn away several; people in need of a wheelchair. If you have one in good condition that you no longer need, please consider donating it to our program. Your donation will go on to serve many. Shoutout to all of you who have donated. Your generosity has been met with a phenomenal response from our community, and we join them in thanking you.

**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](mailto:piescholarships@gmail.com) or call Maureen Dean 206 949-3825

**Gas cont. from A1**

o The PGA allows gas utilities to adjust the price of natural gas to recover the costs of purchasing and distributing it.  
o PGA is calculated based on the daily market price and volume of natural gas purchased during a given time period and may increase slightly during extreme weather or other market-related events.  
□ **Corpus Christi Gas customers continue to benefit from one of the lowest rates in the state**  
o Factors that can impact your gas bill include the amount of gas you use, the

cost of gas, the efficiency of your appliances, and the weather.

Please let me know if you would like any additional information regarding the gas utility and billing. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Best regards,

**Susannah Williamson | Marketing Manager**  
e: [susannahu2@corpuschristitx.gov](mailto:susannahu2@corpuschristitx.gov)

**Barney cont. from A1**

By Dale Rankin  
It marks the only "skyscraper" on the Island horizon at 201 feet high and for local residents is a regular sight during the popular Island activity of sundown watching. The Barney Davis Power Plant in Flour Bluff has been using natural gas to spin steam turbines to produce 730.2MW of electricity since its commissioning in 1976. But the plant also uses desalination to produce fresh water for cooling equipment at the plant and includes a twenty-inch pipeline to the gulf pipeline that could be used to transport brine from the plant, however, it would likely have to be replaced by a larger line to scale up the production of fresh water for use by the City of Corpus Christi. The new line would be installed by underground boring to the open gulf. Current permits allow for the plant to produce up to six million gallons of desalinated water per day. With that in mind the Corpus Christi City Council is set to vote in its March 17 meeting on whether to authorize the city staff to begin discussions with City Public Service Energy to "develop options for seawater desalination" at the Barney Davis plant as the city's water supply careens toward an inflection point in November 20216, according to the city's Water Dashboard, when the daily water use of the Corpus Christi Water System exceeds the daily inflow and activates the Level 1 Water Emergency and imposes draconian restrictions on water users. The background material included the in city council members' packet for the March 17 meeting reads as follows:

**SUMMARY:**  
*This proposed motion will authorize and endorse City Staff to collaborate with the staff of the City of San Antonio, Texas acting by and through the City Public Service Board of San Antonio, Texas (aka "CPS Energy") to develop options for seawater desalination at the Barney Davis Power Plant.*  
**BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**  
*The Barney Davis power facility is authorized to intake water from the Laguna Madre for industrial use under permitting originally issued to Central Power and Light Co. on September 25, 1972, and amended on January 20, 1986. The permit was originally authorized by the Texas Water Commission, now the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The Barney Davis Power Plant has been considered for many years to be a potential location for seawater desalination. A proposal was submitted in 2018 by the Corpus Christi Civic Leadership Group LLC for development of the Barney Davis site as a desalination plant. The City also reviewed a proposal for development of the Barney Davis Site dated June 20, 2023. In*

*addition, the City reviewed a proposal for development of the Barney Davis Site from CDM Smith in March 2025. In February 2026, City staff discussed potential development of the Barney Davis Site with representatives of CPS Energy. Newly authorized business structures, such as public utility agencies (PUA's) are being considered as potential mechanisms for expeditiously dispensing with some of the artificial barriers to development otherwise imposed on governmental entities at various stages in the financing, permitting, and construction processes.*

The negotiations, if approved by the council, will be complicated by the purchase of the Barney Davis plant in May, 2024 by City Public Service (CPS) which has been wholly-owned by the City of San Antonio since 1942 when it was purchased for \$34 million. CPS is a not-for-profit entity which contributes 14% of its revenues to the City of San Antonio's General Fund, \$600 million in 2025. CPS is governed by four citizens of San Antonio, each from a different quadrant of Bexar County and the San Antonio Mayor as an ex-officio member. The board is appointed by the city council which also has final say on rate adjustments, condemnation proceedings, and issuance of bonds, notes, or commercial paper. Its ownership by the City of San Antonio by the not-for-profit CPS removed it from tax rolls in Nueces County under a scheduled step-down process under which CPS offered a plan to pay 75% of the former tax value in the first year, decreasing to zero by year four. That plan is currently under negotiation. Prior to the purchase of the plant the private owners paid \$1 million per year in property tax to the City of Corpus Christi and \$2 million to Flour Bluff making it the largest single taxpayer in the school district. While CPS bought the plant, along with a plant in Laredo, for the stated purpose of power generation the regional drought and demand for water that now exists across South Texas has put it on the radar of the City of Corpus Christi as the Regional Water Provider and has raised the possibility of expanding its desalination plant to provide water for San Antonio.

**Around cont. from A1**

Pittsburg State University in Kansas and he and Sambol were lifelong friends. They crossed paths at a recruiting party in the late sixties Sambol told Spiewak who was in real estate.  
"If you ever find a good deal on a business of some sort, let me know. And a while later he called and said 'Well, I found something but it's a little bit further south than Kansas. It's on Padre Island Texas.'" and that is how Jito was born. Things were a little different *Around The Island* then.

**Newport Pass sale**

Nueces County Commissioners continue to explore the possible sale of 210 acres of county-owned land at Newport Pass, according to County Judge Connie Scott. She said two primary potential buyers have emerged, one private and one public, but there is still work to do before anything can be finalized. There are some wetland issues involved and only about 63 acres of the 210-acre tract can be developed. The 210-acres are valued at \$22.8 million by the appraisal district but no sales price has been mentioned by county officials. County officials were also considering selling a 39-acre tract in Port Aransas near Horace Caldwell Pier valued at \$63.5 million but that now appears to be off the table, Scott said.

**Mark your calendars**

Mark your calendars for two events coming up next week. The first is the annual Market Days at the Padre Island Yacht Club which takes place the weekend of March 21. This is the third year for the sale which has become a very popular event where everything from fishing equipment and boat gear to furniture and bikes are for sale. Club members can still donate items for sale. Last year there was even a motorcycle and a boat that sold. It's a dog friendly event and you can take your pooch next door to the Riley P. Dog Park for a frolic while you are there.  
Also, on Thursday March 19, the Padre Island Farmers' Market will be held at Whitecap NPI from 4-7 p.m. Just to be clear they don't sell farmers at the market, they sell the stuff farmers grow so if you are looking to buy a farmer you will be out of luck. The market is offering space for the students from Seashore Charter Schools and Flour Bluff schools to do some fundraising so stop by and help out if you can – but just don't expect to buy a farmer.  
That's all for now everybody. One more week of Spring Break 2026 and we hit the lull before the Memorial Day Weekend. We are about to hit the sweet spot of the Island calendar so get ready for your cousins to start calling...and say hello if you see us *Around The Island*...



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## Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

About the time you think things couldn't get any weirder the Governor comes along and throws a skunk in the room.

I have tried to avoid going down the water discussion trail in these pages because that has been the job of the daily press, and I don't want to be Chicken Little. The sky is not falling, the problem is no water is falling from the sky.

"Corpus Christi is a victim not because of lack of water. They're a victim because of a lack of ability to make a decision," Gov.

Greg Abbott said at a press conference this week. A shot across the bow of the political class here if ever there was one.

### Boiling it down

The city's Water Dashboard predicts a Level 1 Water Emergency in November of this year. That is a bureaucratic way of saying in November we will reach a point where we are taking more water out of the system each day than is flowing in. It's a tipping point that signals that 180 days downstream, if nothing is done, "water supply does not meet demand" which is a bureaucratic way of saying, I think, that when we turn on the tap no one is sure what, if anything, will come out. On the date of June 2027 the city's Water Dashboard shows "0%" and while I'm not an official Water Wonk I'm pretty sure that when it comes to water supply "0%" is probably not good. Then this week a spokesperson for the City of Corpus Christi was quoted in the *Texas Tribune* as saying that the modeling shows that Level 1 Water Emergency could be moved forward to June...June plus 180 days...October... Yikes!

### Never let the Drill Sergeant know your name

As grunts learn in basic training getting singled out by the Drill Sergeant is seldom good and this week the top Drill Sergeant in the state, the gov said the following:

"We can only give them a little time more before the state of Texas has to take over and micromanage that city and run that city to make sure that every resident who goes to the water tap and turns it on, they're going to be getting water out of their faucet, not because of what local leaders are doing, but because of what the state of Texas will do," Abbott said. Then at a press conference he said that while the state has been actively involved, giving the city \$750 million to

address the growing water problem... "You know what they did? They squandered it," he said. Double Yikes!

Imagine if you will, we hit the tipping point in June and 180 days later things get very serious...one month before voters go to the polls to fill nine seats on the city council... the taps may or may not produce water. In more than forty years of covering local government I have never seen any confluence of events like this. I don't know how you hide from that.

### A reckoning...

The governor's calling out of the local political class is the damage here. Our leadership has had this problem before them for a decade and yet here we are with a threatened state takeover as we barrel down on a problem that seemingly no one saw coming. This is not a failure of the city staff, and not a failure by the staff to provide leadership with options. This is the failure of the political class over a long period that has now reached a critical stage. The long-term answer is desalinization, the short-term answer are the myriad of projects currently in the pipeline but whether any of those can produce water on the timeline we face is unknown.

So the way to make lemonade from lemons is to take a lesson from all this. Corpus has always resisted outsiders. It is known across Texas for being an insular place but now our muddling through approach has put us in the spotlight across the state and not in a good way. The old guard has always been more concerned with being big fish in a little pond than being bigger fish in a bigger pond but now the Drill Sergeant is threatening to big foot everyone and either June or November I think will be a political tipping point. I don't know how it will play out but I get the sense that our days of Corpusing things up may be headed down a dry hole. Maybe it takes a crisis for us to take a look at ourselves and it seems to me that the governor threatening to take over our water supply because we can't manage it meets some definition of a crisis. I sense change of some kind on the horizon and without at least twenty inches of rain in the right places come June or November things are going to get really weird.

The days of Corpusing things up may be coming to a close.

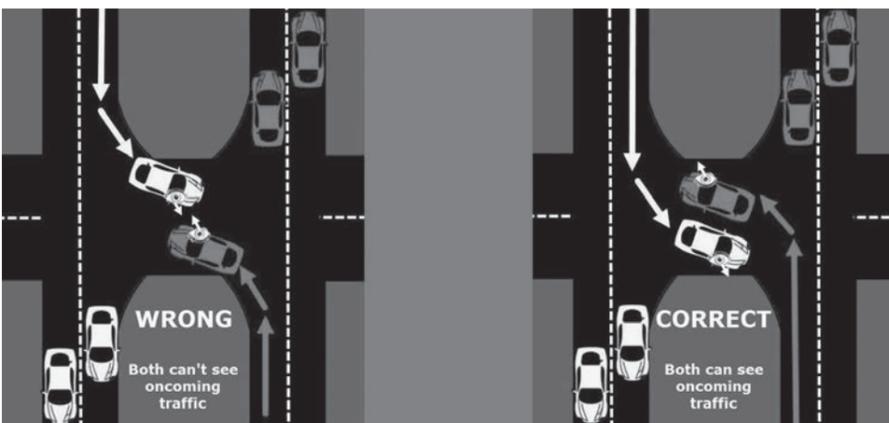
### Rules cont. from A1

2. Beach Parking Permits (valid/current) are required
3. No Campfires or Bonfires Allowed due to a Burn Ban in effect for Nueces County
4. No dogs are allowed on the beach (leashed or unleashed) from Access Rd 3 to Zahn Rd including the north side of the Packery Channel (city ordinance 10-59).
5. Dogs must be on a leash or under/obey verbal commands on the beach from the south side of Packery Channel (BM 210) to Beach Access Rd 6 (BM 137) (includes

- Ellis Beach, Whitecap Beach, Padre Balli Park and Bob Hall Pier).
6. No Golf Carts or Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) allowed on Park Rd 22, SH361, or any road with a speed limit of more than 35 mph.

### Camping

1. Prohibited in front of condos and hotels
2. Allowed for three days and nights consecutively, but no more than six days within one month.



Evelyn Pless-Schubert



By Chris Jordan

Nice, France is on the Côte d'Azur (Blue Coast), or as it is also often called, The French Riviera. Cradled by the Mediterranean Sea to the south and the low-lying Maritime Alps to the north, Nice enjoys Provençal culinary influences from Southeast France, as well as Italian influence from the very-nearby province of Liguria. There is an organization in Nice that has undertaken the task of preserving the culinary traditions of the area. Cercle de la Capelina d'Or (Circle of the Golden Hat) periodically convenes a board of restaurateurs and other industry professionals to establish preparation guidelines for the most important, classical food of Nice. At last count, the number of canonized dishes stood at thirty-seven. If a Nice restaurant faithfully produces at least three of these dishes, it may obtain the designation "Cuisine Nissarde" - the meaning of which can be thought of as "of the Nice tradition".

Given Nice's proximity to Italy, it is not surprising that traditional dishes feature various pasta like gnocchi, ravioli, and spaghetti - as well as delights like the crossborder bagna càuda - a "hot bath" for dipping vegetables in. The culinary reach of Marseille makes it as far as Nice, as well. If you look closely, you may even see some Alpine influences. But sitting squarely among the innately Mediterranean fare of Nice is its most famous dish and worldwide food-export, the Salade Niçoise.

Is there controversy over the preparation of Salade Niçoise? Yes. Does said controversy manifest as extreme indignation even among the native devotees of this salad? Definitely. We are talking about les Français, after all.

Salade Niçoise is a "composed" salad, meaning that - rather than tossed - the ingredients are arranged in like groups on the plate. This is perhaps the only characteristic of the salad that remains undisputed. Originally composed only of anchovies, tomato, and olive oil, Salade Niçoise has evolved to mean many things to many people. The first interloper to have a measurable impact on the Salade Niçoise was none other than "the king of chefs and the chef of kings", Georges Auguste Escoffier.

Escoffier published his famous ode to French haute cuisine, *Le Guide Culinaire* in 1903. This book documented and updated techniques and ingredients - and even established a military-inspired, hierarchical order of labor in the kitchen known as the brigade de cuisine. *Le Guide Culinaire* is eminently relevant to this day - and still in print. So, it may come as no surprise that Escoffier's take on the Salade Niçoise would have lasting repercussions: he added cooked potatoes and green beans.

Renee Graglia, the long-time president of the Cercle de la Capelina d'Or has pointed out - presumably on more than one occasion - that Escoffier "wasn't even a Niçois", having been born in Villeneuve-Loubet just a short distance away. Ms. Graglia mos def did not approve of Escoffier's contributions. Cercle de la Capelina d'Or stipulates that an authentic Salade Niçoise may include tomatoes, celery hearts, radishes, hard-boiled eggs, garlic, salt-packed anchovies, tuna, spring onions, Niçoise olives, salad peppers, broad beans, basil, and even mesclun. The inclusion of both tuna and anchovies as well as mesclun are themselves controversial prescriptions.

Still, opinions vary beyond even the realm revealed thus far. Henri Heyraud's *La Cuisine à Nice* (also published in 1903) prescribes tomatoes, anchovies, red peppers, artichokes, Niçoise olives, olive oil, vinegar, mustard, and fines herbes - but not tuna. To many, the vinegar and mustard make Heyraud a heretic.

This brings us to another modern-era gatekeeper of all-things Salade Niçoise,

## Salade Niçoise on the Texas Riviera



Jacques Médecin. Possessing the impressive bona fides of being both a former mayor of Nice and having written the well-regarded cookbook *Cuisine Niçoise: Recipes from a Mediterranean Kitchen*, Médecin begs us to "never, never .... include boiled potato or any other boiled vegetable in your Salade Niçoise." But he's down with cucumber. Go figure.

In her cookbook *The Cuisine of the Sun*, Mireille Johnston allows for virtually any fresh vegetable and even a vinaigrette. Other recipes have been authored by Ina Garten, Hélène Darroze, Daniel Boulud, Jamie Oliver, Gordon Ramsay, Anthony Bourdain, Nigel Slater, Martha Stewart, Delia Smith, Nigella Lawson, and many more including yours truly.

When I went to write a recipe for Salade Niçoise, I signed-up for the most dastardly departure from accepted form I could muster: toss it. Why? So it could make a nice sandwich filling. This a new twist on Pan Bagnat - the sandwich with Salade Niçoise ingredients neatly composed inside the bread just as in the traditional salad. So here now, is the recipe that will surely secure my place among the heretics. The recipe calls for the use of fresh tuna though one may certainly substitute frozen. If you aren't set-up to cook sous vide, and you absolutely must use canned tuna, please get the good stuff.

Salade Niçoise

Serves eight

Ingredients:

For the vinaigrette:

- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 garlic clove (grated on a fine microplane)
- 1 tablespoon finely-minced fresh parsley
- 1 tablespoon finely-minced tarragon
- 1 teaspoon fine kosher salt

For the salad:

- 1 lb fresh ¾"-thick tuna steaks (cooked sous vide at 125°F for 30 minutes, chilled, then broken into chunks)
- 6 eggs, (boiled ten minutes, bathed in ice water, peeled, and coarsely chopped)
- 30 grape tomatoes (cut in half lengthwise)
- 2 banana peppers (deseeded and finely chopped)
- 1 English cucumber (peeled, deseeded, and chopped)
- 24 artichoke heart quarters (jarred, frozen, or from the olive bar at the grocery store)
- 3 tablespoons small capers (well-drained)
- 40 Niçoise olives (pitted and finely chopped)
- 30 fresh basil leaves (cut into a fine chiffonade)

Instructions:

For the vinaigrette:

Combine all ingredients in a small mixing bowl and whisk until uniform.

For the salad:

Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl, add vinaigrette and toss gently until salad ingredients are well-mixed and coated with vinaigrette.

In between writing this column and catering, I'm writing the cookbook.

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History cont. from A1

like a flag pole only in this case shark lines were held within the snap and then hoisted up to the pulley at the top. This allows vehicles to travel under your lines without harm to anything and also helps keep the line from abrading on the sandbars. It also keeps the lines out of reach of lots of seaweed and other close-in debris.

The outrigger was placed dead center in front of the truck and eight feet seaward of it. The shark rods stood in place on the truck's rod rack with their lines running skyward toward the top of the outrigger. The reels are fished in gear with the clickers on and the drags set lightly.

A double mantle lantern set on the hood of the Toyota along with the shoulder harness, bellyplate, flashlight and other necessary shark catching gear. The lantern gave us a good field of view for thirty feet in three directions, with the area to the rear of the truck being rather dark. David and I sat in lawn chairs between the cot and the outrigger in front of the truck.

Not a camp nor vehicle was visible in either direction. Mr. Wilson and Brown were the only other people we'd seen all day and they were camped several miles to our south. There was no moon and no wind and it had cooled back down into the 50s. Without a hint of a breeze, the mosquitoes began to rule supreme, but being dressed warmly and sprayed down with repellent we were pretty well set in for the evening.

About 8:30 p.m. one of the rigs I loaned David took off and shortly thereafter he cranked in a beautiful 6'8" female Bull shark. She was lip hooked and we had no reason to kill her but David persisted that he sure would like just one tooth from her. I unhooked her and holding the flashlight in my mouth, got on top of her back and pulled her mouth open. Getting my forearm firmly under her snout I held her nose up while David removed a front top tooth with the air of a Buck knife and a pair of needle nose pliers. She was not very cooperative and it was a show for sure.

**Footsteps on the shells...**

By the time we got her turned loose we were both wet again and had to change clothes all over again. The area we were set up in was covered by several inches of shells. A foot fall could be clearly heard for some distance; what with the light surf and no wind.

I listened intently and decided it was one individual; probably 180-200 pounds. Putting one hand up to shield my view from the lantern glare, I reached out with the other for a large Marine Corps issue knife I've had for many years. Glancing over towards David I found him leaning forward in his chair tensely with our three pound camp hammer in hand. Try as I would I could see no movement or shadow, just the sound of the oncoming footsteps getting closer all the time.

As the sounds reached the rear of the Toyota on the south side they stopped momentarily and we could hear muffled mumbling. Then they started again, much quicker this time and I could also hear another sound mixed in with it; metallic, like a chain hitting on a chain.

I braced in my chair, sure that hand to hand combat lay seconds away. NO ONE comes into a camp at night that way. No one.

**Moaning and mumbling...**

He burst into the full light of the lantern, seven or eight feet from us, and began the god-awfullest moaning and mumbling. This was accompanied by the sound of chain rapidly striking on chain. This went on for what seemed like to us at least five minutes and we sat there in awe for you see...there was no one there.

Finally, David leaned over towards me and whispered, "Where the h--- is he?" I replied, "He's right here in front near as I can tell." David's eyes were huge. I'll never forget his eyes, as if made larger in a vain attempt to see that which could not be seen.

The noise lessened to a very low mumbling and the sound of shells crunching as if he were rocking back and forth on his feet.

Then a yell and he ran to the rear of the truck, stopped and yelled again and then came around the truck yelling all the while, to a position alongside the driver's door where he stopped and went through his whole routine again. Thereafter, he stopped and walked back in the direction he came from and it was deathly quiet.

David was scared to death; totally aghast at what had just happened. I told him to get a grip on himself before he keeled over dead from a heart attack leaving me to crank in all the shark rigs by myself. He was so full of questions and of course, I didn't have any answers. Feelings were all I had and I replied to his questions thusly; "Well, he was obviously there, wasn't he? We couldn't see him but that doesn't mean he wasn't there, it just means we couldn't see him."

"Who knows, maybe he's been dead here in this spot a long time and you can't see him anymore. He's probably sore at us for camping in his place and just wants us to go away so he's trying to run us off is all. Had I known he was here, believe me, I never would have camped here, but here's where we are and I'm not cranking all these rigs in

and moving camp in the middle of the night over some haunt that I can't even see."

**A restless night...**

Suddenly one of my shark rigs took off as fast as I've ever seen a rig run in my life. Breathtaking. And David fouled the line in the pulley block as he tried to lower it on the outrigger while I put on my belly plate and harness. The 130 pound line sounded like a pistol shot when it parted and I was furious.

I knew he was badly shaken by our visitor and I did feel sorry for him but I expected better of him. I was doing everything possible to keep from jumping down this throat but I was fuming mad. Finally I said, "David IF I ever get you back to town you can bet I'll never bring you back down here as long as I live."

He looked up and said, "Mr. Sandifer, (he'd never called me that before in his life) IF you ever get me back to town I'm never coming back down here the rest of my life." I always wondered if my anger is what brought him back. Anyway, here came our visitor again, same routine as before. David leaned over and asked if there was absolutely anything that I wanted out of the truck because he intended to lock himself inside the vehicle, pull his sleeping bag over his head and not look out until daylight.

I had a canteen of water and some extra smokes and then David did just as promised. I was worn out and exhausted and the mosquitoes were horrible, so I lay on my cot and likewise pulled my sleeping bag over my head, but to ward off the mosquitoes, not our visitor.

**A conversation with a ghost...**

I don't truly know how many times he came back, four or five times probably. Every time I dozed off he'd wake me up with his outrageous uproar. Finally in desperation, I set up on the cot and talked to him. Told him I was sorry for his misfortune, that it appeared to me that he was in a lot of anguish and that if he would let me know how I might be able to help him out of the jam he was in I'd be most willing to help; that I'd not know he was there or I would never have camped there and bothered him. I asked him to please let me know what he wanted or how I could help him of else please leave me in peace. I promised that if he would leave me in peace I would never camp here again.

When I started talking to him the noises had died away to an occasional mumble but as I finished they began again for a short duration and then he left. I heard him return at least once more during the night but dozed through his visit. Before dawn a horrible wind came screaming out of the southeast without warning and cut off every shark rig I had out. Figure I lost over \$400 worth of line and leaders that night.

**"Did it really happen..."**

We broke camp without speaking shortly after daylight and dejectedly drove to town. To my knowledge David has never been back down the beach or wanted to go there. I ran into him at HEB a couple of years later. He'd moved to Michigan and was back in town visiting his folks. He introduced me to his new wife and they asked my opinion about whether they should have a baby right away of get a puppy. I suggested they hold off on either. Then he called me off to the side and asked if it really happened and I assured him it had.

Eight or nine years later I ran into him at Walmart; same wife, only now they had a child and a dog and were doing well. Again he asked the same question and got the same answer. He said that sometimes he thought about it at night.

**A good rep with the bikers...**

After dropping David off and unloading the Toyota I went down to the local bar to mull all this over. I had a good rep with the bikers and before the evening was over I'd told several of them a short version of the story. They were just like me; they didn't understand it but they accepted that it happened and I appreciated that.

Next day or so this guy who was there calls me on the phone. He's made some phone calls and he's got some medium in New York City who'll pay me \$1500 to take her and four of her customers to the cold spot. He's saying these cold spots are common when ghosts are present and that there's a strong probability of a buried treasure being there - or so this medium says anyway. Probably a pirate that was killed and left there to guard the treasure.

I declined the offer and several other similar offers later. It just didn't seem right to use him as a plaything or to bother whatever was his if he had indeed been watching over it all these years.

**"I could see him clearly..."**

That first night back in town the visitor returned, only this time he was inside my head and I could see him clearly. Very muscular, very black and very angry. A small scar running downward at a 45-degree angle on his left cheek and a small mole to the right of and below his right eye. What appeared to be a heavy gold earring hung from his left ear and his otherwise perfect white teeth were marred by a old one located fourth to the right in his upper jaw.

**Turtle Release set for Saturday in Port Aransas**

*9 a.m. March 14, beach Marker 35*

A turtle release will be held in Port Aransas on Saturday March 14.

The event will be at Beach Marker 35, one mile south of Tony Amos Beach at Access Road 1, at the Palmilla Resort exit at 9 a.m. It will feature the release of green sea turtles with Friends of the ARK on hand selling tee-shirts and other items. The public is invited and the event is free.



**The Lydia Ann Lighthouse**  
*A piece of Texas history, just across the channel*



For Spring Break visitors who look across the ship channel and see a lighthouse in the distance, here is a close up look from a tour we took a while back.

On March 3, 1851, Congress authorized \$12,500 for the construction of Aransas Pass Lighthouse and that same year, Lieutenant Commander T.A. Craven of the Coast Survey, while mapping this part of the Texas coast, recommended that a lightship be used to mark the pass, which was known to be slowly creeping south as currents deposited sand on the southern end of Saint

Joseph Island and cut away the northern tip of Mustang Island.

The lighthouse is located on the Lydia Ann Channel which most historians believe was named for Lydia Ann Dana Hastings Hull Wells, wife of James B. Wells, a veteran of the Texas Revolution who settled on St. Joseph Island with his family and raised cattle for several decades until his death in 1880.

The lighthouse is no longer operational and is owned by Charles Butt whose family founded and owns HEB grocery stores.

He glistened with sweat and wore tattered denim trousers and shirt. His large feet were bare and he wore a twisted red rage tied off around his forehead. Shackles were on his wrists and four or five lengths of homemade chain hung loose at the end of each shackle. Both the shackles and the leg irons which he also were appeared hand-forged and there were several short lengths of chain attached to each leg iron as well.

He was standing there making all these noises and shaking the shackles at me as he gave me an acquiescing fixed stare. He seem to have trouble making sounds; to strain in the effort. I never saw his tongue and have often wondered if his had been cut off.

And might after night he visited me until I got as used to his arrival as I was to the feel of my own pillow.

**A boat in the surf...**

Then one night I had a different dream and in this dream I was on the beach at the 33. A 60-foot wooden boat sat calmly, nose to the surf. Wooden, with oar ports and oars, one mast forward and a steering wheel on the right side toward the stern. I waded out and boarded her by a hemp rope hung overboard, climbed on the deck and walked down below. Rough benches were in rows on both sides of an aisle down the middle and large oars were in place forward of each bench.

The sun shone beautifully through the oar ports but the harshness of the interior overpowered its beauty. Suddenly I felt this horrible dread; this overwhelming fear in the pit of my stomach, and the wind began to scream from the southeast and the sun was gone and the boat began to pitch so wild I could no longer hang on. I was spinning in total darkness and I could feel the ship coming apart around me. I could hear the sound the timbers made as they came apart and were flung away. Then as though in a daze I could feel the beach sand under me in the darkness and the dream was gone. After that I dreamed neither dream again.

**A pint of rum on Christmas**

For almost two years my since-departed friend, Len Decker, would take the African

a pint of rum on Christmas Day and pour it on the beach there. He figured long-term guard duty like this guy was doing was bound to make a fella awful thirsty.

In the spring of '91 I shook Len's ashes at the 25 Mile so I guess they're neighbors more or less.

After Hurricane Allen I could never find the "cold spot" again. Storm moved it somehow. Just as well that I can't find it, for that means others can't find it either and even today I remain somewhat protective of his privacy.

Years ago when I told the cut-down version of this story to my dear friend and mentor, Mr. Richard "Cactus" Prior, he never scoffed for a second but simply asked, "What do you make of all of this Billy." My answer to him then is my answer to you now. I don't make anything of it at all. I just know he's there. I don't have to understand it. He's just there, that all.

This one's for you Cactus. For being a friend and an inspiration. Without your long term insistence, this story would never have been told.

*Next time: Creuser plus profondément for Jean Lafitte and a large flat rock*



Capt. Billy Sandifer

Photo courtesy of Frieds of Padre

## The Art of Island Life

### Chasing Sunshine

By Melissa Mitchell

This week when we wake in the mornings, we can see the light has shifted.

Yes, we've lost an hour. The coffee might need to be stronger. The adjustment isn't always graceful—believe me, my mornings begin with a double espresso. But as the weeks unfold, we begin to notice something else. The sun lingers. The evenings stretch. And the world feels just a little more open. I've learned not to fight the shift in time. Instead, I look for what it offers.

Daylight Saving Time has been part of modern life for more than a century, first introduced in 1908 as a practical attempt to make better use of daylight. Today, it stretches across most of the year—an extended season of longer evenings.

#### *It began as a practical decision*

But what it gives us now is more time to step outside—and more time to notice what's changing. On the island, spring changes are quieter. The Gulf catches the light a little longer each evening. The birds grow busier in the late afternoon, and neighbors linger in driveways before heading inside. It's subtle—but it's there.

The extra light can become one more opportunity to get something done—this is often my internal struggle—or it can become an opportunity to notice more.

To notice the early signs of new growth—in the garden, in your work, or simply in your own thoughts. To enjoy the way the sky shifts color as the sun dips lower and realizing you don't feel quite as rushed.

#### *The Shift*

In the coming weeks, the island will continue to change in small ways. Banana leaves and palm trees sway against brighter skies. The water reflects light later into the evening. The kind of nights when you glance at the clock and are surprised it's already past seven.

So let's plan to chase some sunshine—not frantically, not with an agenda, but intentionally. Maybe that looks like lingering outside after dinner instead of heading in the moment the sun dips. Or taking the long way home, cruising along to enjoy the view and feel the warmth a little longer.

Light changes how we experience everything. It softens edges. It reveals color. It makes possibility feel closer. It loosens the grip of a long winter routine.

As a teenager, I loved soaking up the sun—running home after school, finishing my homework, grabbing a towel, and lying on the lawn or in the pool with the fresh scent of grass in the air and, of course, a little lemon in my hair for “natural highlights.” Journey playing through my Walkman



headphones—and Heart, reminding me to “hold on to one more day”. A breeze on my face and sunlight warming my skin. Afternoons in the 80s moved at a slower pace. No notifications. No constant urgency. Just music, warmth, and the sense that there was still plenty of daylight left.

#### *What Light Does to Us*

Over the years—and with my background in nursing—I've come to appreciate sunlight a little differently. I've always believed in supporting the body in natural ways when we can, and light plays a bigger role than we sometimes realize. Extended daylight can lift mood, help regulate sleep, and allow our bodies to produce Vitamin D. It's simple, but it's powerful.

There's a reason we feel lighter when the days grow longer. Our internal rhythms respond to light. Our energy shifts with it. We sleep a little better. We think a little clearer. Even our outlook can soften. We're wiser now—no baby oil for a deeper tan and far more mindful about protection—but that doesn't mean we have to avoid the sunshine altogether.

With a little planning, stepping into the light can still be restorative. Even a few minutes of warmth on your skin can help your body reset in a way that feels simple and natural—and it's even better when there is a little sand between your toes. And perhaps that's the real invitation of this season—not to do more, but to let the light do some of the work.

Instead of focusing on the hour we lose, let's lean into what we gain. More light at the end of the day. More time outside. More opportunity to reset.

After a full season, that feels like a gift—and I plan to enjoy it.

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](mailto:contact@melissamitchellart.com)

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*Island Sunrise*

## New \$3.6 million Operations and Control Center for Whitecap Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Corpus Christi City Council is set to vote on \$3.6 million in work at the Whitecap Water Treatment Plant at its March 17 meeting. If approved the funds will be used to construct a 5214 square-foot Operations and Control Center at a cost of \$702 per square foot. The new building will have facilities where staff can monitor and control the wastewater treatment process and do testing to make sure the three million gallons of effluent processed daily meets state standards, according to city documents.

The existing Administration Building was originally constructed in 1974 with a building footprint of 1,584 square feet and has reached the end of its functional lifespan, according to the documents. Over the past five decades, the coastal environment and the corrosive nature of wastewater processing have taken a significant toll on the original structures and the existing building is outdated and does not meet the current operational needs. Space limitations pose significant challenges, impacting functionality and safety. The laboratory space is insufficient and has become a crowded workspace that impacts efficiency of staff operations for water treatment analysis.

New wastewater treatment monitoring technologies and other equipment have been installed in office spaces and storage areas due to lack of sufficient space and restrooms have become storage areas.

The new facility will be equipped with a process control laboratory and vent hoods, controls center, monitoring stations, administrative areas, restrooms and locker rooms, break room, conference room, storage areas, new natural gas emergency power generator, and rehabilitation of the existing parking area.

Five bids were received and Victory Building Team was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and will do the work. The construction funds are available from the Wastewater Capital Fund. The project was approved by City Council in the FY 2026 Capital Budget. If approved by the council work on the project is scheduled to begin in April, 2026.

*Dale Rankin*



*Black and White Warbler this afternoon at Paradise Pond By Jim Gilmore*



*Spring Forward By Lu Ann Kingsbury*

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## Nature Notes

### Resurrection Fern

It isn't very picky about where it grows

By Evan McGuire



*Resurrection Fern*

Sonnia Hill, [creativecommons.org](https://creativecommons.org)

If you live near Live Oak trees, you will often see plants like Spanish moss or lichens growing on them. You might also see ferns growing on them. The resurrection fern (*Pleopeltis michauxiana*) is a common fern that you will see growing on other trees in the Southeastern US. Though the resurrection fern can grow on any suitable surface, it is often seen on Live Oaks.

The resurrection fern is an epiphyte, meaning that it grows on other plants or surfaces instead of rooting into soil or another substrate. Some epiphytes that you may have heard of include bromeliads, air plants, many orchids, mosses, and other ferns. Epiphytes acquire water and nutrients from the air, typically using some kind of precipitation like rain or fog.

The resurrection fern is special because it can lose up to 95% of its water content and still survive. Often, in drier parts of the year, it will look shriveled up and nearly dead. But after a good rain, it will bounce back and look lush and green. This is similar to how many tropical seasonal forests will have a dry season and a wet season where plants will lose their leaves in the dry season and regain them during the wet season. Many mosses have a similar property where they can lose a large portion of their water content and dry out, but then bounce back the next time it rains.

Being a fern (Polypodiopsida) means that instead of growing fruits with seeds like fruiting plants (Angiosperms) or plants that grow cones or scales with seeds (Gymnosperms), the resurrection ferns grow spores to reproduce. The spores are often visible at the right time of year on the backs of the leaves of the fern in little round orange clumps.

On the plant family tree, ferns represent a group in between the most primitive plants that are not vascularized and cannot send water and nutrients throughout the body of the plant, like liverworts and mosses, and the more recently evolved gymnosperms and angiosperms that have complex seed structures.

The resurrection fern grows by rhizome, which means that it sends shoots to grow new portions of the same plant. A rhizome is just a modified root structure that can grow more of the same plant, the largest organism in the world is a colony of rhizomal grown aspen trees, often known as "Pando." Many plants can do this, such as bamboo, ginger, and many of your lawn grasses. Often, introduced species of plants from other continents that can grow by rhizome become invasive, because of their ability to keep growing despite a lack of suitable reproductive partners.

The resurrection fern isn't very picky about where it grows, thriving even after the tree it was growing on falls or dies. They can come back from almost being dead after losing nearly all of their water, making their survival even more impressive. The next time you're outside on Upper Texas Coast, look up and try to spot one of these determined and persistent plants.



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## Beachcombing Report

By Jace Tunnell



### A Boat without a Crew



*Jace with the beached boat*

Last week's beach ride turned into one of those moments that reminds me why beachcombing is never predictable. I set out on my electric bike for a long ride down the shoreline, covering about 40 miles of sand near Port Aransas. The beach conditions were windy, lots of sargassum seaweed washing in with the onshore winds. There was nobody around and it felt like I had the coast to myself.

About midway through the ride, something unusual appeared ahead of me, the unmistakable shape of a boat sitting where no boat should be. As I approached, I could see it was a single-engine Bayliner, roughly 22 feet long, freshly washed ashore. No people were around. The front windshield that stretches across the bow was completely shattered, glass scattered across the deck. Inside the boat were signs that someone had been there not long before. Life jackets and safety rings were sitting in the seats. A full ice chest still held food. Fishing gear, a cast net, and even an extra gas tank were onboard. One detail stood out most, black latex gloves scattered throughout the boat. Texas tags were on the vessel, but there was

no sign of the passengers. Whenever I find something like this, my first step is to call it in. Authorities need to know, just in case someone is missing or in trouble. My hope, of course, is always the same: that whoever was on board made it safely ashore.

Strangely enough, washed-up boats aren't that rare along our stretch of coast. Each year I come across several. Sometimes it's engine trouble. Other times a wave over the bow, sudden weather, or navigation mistakes leave a vessel stranded. Occasionally, the stories behind them are far more complicated.

But standing there beside that empty boat, one thought always comes first, wherever those passengers are, I hope they made it home safely.

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/harteresearch), and Instagram (@harteresearch).



*The contents of the boat raise questions*

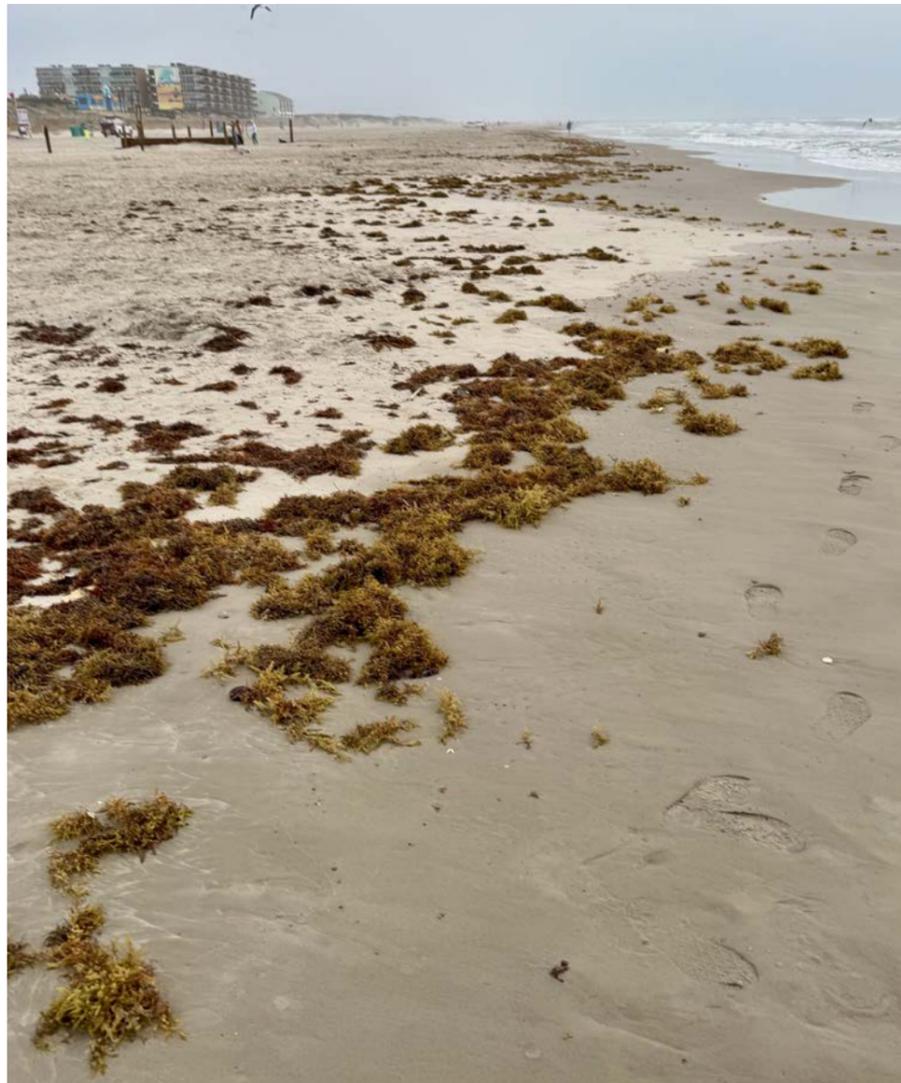


*The abandoned boat on the beach.*

# New Island Restaurant



Remodeling has begun on the old Good and Crisp location at 14601 Park Road 22 on Padre Island. Good and Crisp was a decades old business here but struggled with staffing issues among other obstacles and closed in April of 2023. The property was bought by the owners of El Tapatio #1 and will be El Tapatio #2. No timeline for the opening of the new restaurant is known at this time.



The sargassum has arrived for Spring Break 2026.



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

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# Island Outdoors

## Going Native

### The Passion Flower (*Passiflora foetida*)

By Ed Proffitt



Spring break is in the air and many of us may think of crowds of students, from just about everywhere, descending on our island and cluttering the beaches with hoping-to-become-tanned bodies and displaying a keen passion for fun, and forgetting the lessons they're supposed to be learning in school --- ok, sorry, I'm a professor... I know they'll be getting as far away from MY lessons as they possibly can for that week or so. Anyway, let's face the facts. The beach here is just about the most fun place that they could come to and still experience native plants and wildlife rather than just concrete, asphalt, and condominiums. So, let's all hope that they'll enjoy nature while here reveling on the beach --- ha, ha, get a life, Ed!

That's of course, not really fair. During Spring Break, I'll explore the beach intertidal zone a number of times with my trusty furry sidekick Mistral and every now and then a student visitor will come up and ask what I'm looking for. Then, I get to tell them stories of the intertidal zone and the beauty of beach fauna and flora. Those who don't melt away immediately in search of more beer might actually enjoy learning something of our natural systems on the island.

But, while we're all Sheltering-in-Place for the Duration, we can talk about another passion on the Island. The native passion flower, *Passiflora foetida*. I suspect you've seen a number of passion flowers although most are not native to south Texas. Their flowers can be some of the most showy out there in Native Plant Land, and the fruit of some of the species is very tasty, and can be enjoyed off the vine or in jellies. This species, and our local variety, are in the family Passifloraceae that contains some 700+ species ranging from climbing vines, to shrubs, to small trees!

The botanical literature doesn't seem to be settled on this species. Some say it's a native plant that is aggressive in colonizing some sandy habitats, while others suggest it's "naturalized" meaning a former invasive that's been here so long that we now overlook as having that moniker. Other sources say it's a native of tropical America that has become an invasive problem in various places around the world. I'll let the taxonomic experts duke that out in "The Thrilla in Passionville." As for me, I've not seen evidence of this passionflower being a problem (or even widely abundant) species in our part of the world. So, until demonstrated wrong... I'm all for the species!

Passion flower (our variety) is important habitat for the Gulf Fritillary butterfly, certain bees, and other pollinator species. It is sometimes called the "stinking passion flower" because if you crush the foliage you can note a somewhat foul odor, although it's also known as the "scarlet passion flower", which I personally like as a common name. But, despite the foliage, the



*Passiflora foetida* flower

flower is beautiful and the fruit (when ripe!) is very nice to eat, so my recommendation is... don't crush or disturb the foliage! Problem solved. Another feature of this plant is that the bracts (foliage surrounding the flowers) can trap insects although it doesn't seem as if the science has actually established if the plant can then digest and consume the insect "goodies" that it traps. A last comment about the fruit. The unripe fruit isn't just bad-tasting, it's toxic! So make sure the fruit is nice and red before eating, and I suggest making a study of the plant's fruit before eating too many!

Passion flower likes moist to wet areas, but can do just fine in arid sites for limited times until rains come again. In some parts of the world it is a common weed especially in disturbed areas. Locally, it occurs on various soil types on Padre and Matedorda Islands and can be established from cuttings or seeds. It tends to be a creeping or climbing vine. Establishment is less of an issue than controlling it in some habitat types. So, enjoy this species and others when you see the gorgeous flowers. And, please, resist the temptation to give unripe berries to Spring Breakers... they're our future (like it or not). You may vote for one of them one day, and you'll want them to like native plants!



Island Moon On the Rocks writer Jay Grdner is out on assignment in South Padre this week. He sent in this photo, check out his article next week to find out what he has been up to.

## Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

### Spring Spawn



This Father and Son duo teams up on a great stringer of trout along with this big upper slot redfish on soft plastics. In rough windy conditions bright jig heads have been helping get strikes. Farah

I have forever watched the blooms of the Yucca plants to let me know when the trout were ready to spawn. This year it's right on time with our first full moon of March. Water temperatures are in the magic realm of 70degrees, and in fluxing tides have poured both bait and gamefish into the back reaches of the bays for a month now. Knowing that trout are grouping together in small bands of mature males tending large trophy females will set your imagination in motion to be in the right place this spring, for your personal best trophy trout.

The winds rolled chocolate waves over the shallow grass bar before us. Doubt ran through the eyes of my guests as I told them of giant specs that were roaming this grass bar, spawning and feeding on any small baitfish that might decide to snack on her laid eggs. My large topwater struck the surface and I danced a short two step and then let it roll in the waves. I watched it bob and weave, cracked it under a few waves and then let it roll again. I was just slipping off into a dream when white water blew the bait out of the water! It landed I twitched the bait and without a splash it was gone. She rolled and took the plug down; when the line tightened she thrashed against the bow of the

rod with her tail slapping the surface. Drag peeled and she tried to throw the hooks with sweeping shakes and flared gills. Her eyes met mine through the rolling muddy water until she lay against my leg and I swept her to hand. These shallow grass beds will be the zones for giant trout spend their time preparing to release their eggs this spring. On those windy days as I just described an antagonizing topwater, or others a large paddle tailed soft plastic can drive them crazy enough to hunt you lure down and attack. They will be feeding on all kinds of food sources, but to protect their eggs they will try to eliminate as many baitfish threats as possible from their spawning sites.

Imagine the images of salmon spawning in gravel beds along northern rivers. This is similar to what trout will be doing as males beat their bellies on the bottom to release semen and fertilize the eggs of the female as she releases them in gravelly sand pockets. They then float into the grass and attach. Two to four feet of water is where most of the spawning takes place. In Baffin Bay the gravel sand between rock piles can be a great place to find them, in the lagoon along the spoils dumps is another.

The SHEEP HEAD SPAWN IS ON! Thousands of sheephead are converging around the jetties and gulf passes till the end of March. Live shrimp, crab, sea lice, fishnets and even ZOPE SOAP WILL CATCH them. They play the tide and the moon so pay close attention to those two factors and try to catch it on an incoming tide. When the current is raging use a 1oz slide weight on a Carolina rig to keep your bait on the bottom, small pieces of bait and #4 circle hooks will work best.

On those really windy days we are drifting the flats picking up trout and hammering those redfish! They do not like super clear water, that ghostly green water with scattered sand pockets is what I'm looking for, all in 2-3ft of water, that's knee to waist deep.

I've been letting the sun burn away my winter Blues and the wind to open my lungs to new beginnings. I hope you all find some time to take off your shoes and walk the beach, or pick up a rod and get along the sea and lose yourself in trying to catch a fish. We only live once so call when you're ready to FIND YOUR DAY! Follow all of our fishing on Facebook at JOEY FARAH'S BACKWATER FISHING! 361-442-8145

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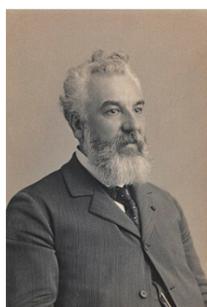
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## Senior Moments Special to the Island Moon

### Alexander Herman Bell-Engineer-Part 2 *Teaching a dog to talk...*

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

The rudimentary "mechanical man" simulated a human voice. Bell was fascinated by the machine, and after he obtained a copy of von Kempelen's book, published in German, and had laboriously translated it, he and Melville built their own automaton head. Their father, highly interested in their project, offered to pay for any supplies and spurred the boys on with the enticement of a "big prize" if they were successful. While his brother constructed the throat and larynx, Bell tackled the more difficult task of recreating a realistic skull. His efforts resulted in a remarkably lifelike head that could "speak", albeit only a few words. The boys would carefully adjust the "lips" and when a bellows forced air through the windpipe, a very recognizable *Mama* ensued, to the delight of neighbors who came to see the invention.

Intrigued by the results of the automaton, Bell continued to experiment with a live subject, the family's Skye Terrier, Trouve. After he taught it to growl continuously, Bell would reach into its mouth and manipulate the dog's lips and vocal cords to produce a crude-sounding «Ow ah oo ga ma ma». With little convincing, visitors believed his dog could articulate "How are you, grandmama? Indicative of his playful nature, his experiments convinced onlookers that they saw a "talking dog". These initial forays into experimentation with sound led Bell to undertake his first serious work on the transmission of sound, using tuning forks to explore resonance.

At age 19, Bell wrote a report on his work and sent it to philologist Alexander Ellis, a colleague of his father. Ellis immediately wrote back indicating that the experiments were similar to existing work in Germany, and also lent Bell a copy of Hermann von Helmholtz's work, *The Sensations of Tone as a Physiological Basis for the Theory of Music*.

Dismayed to find that groundbreaking work had already been undertaken by Helmholtz, who had conveyed vowel sounds by means of a similar tuning fork "contraption", Bell pored over the book. Working from his own erroneous mistranslation of a French edition, Bell fortuitously then made a deduction that would underpin all his future work on transmitting sound, reporting: "Without knowing much about the subject, it seemed to me that if vowel sounds could be produced by electrical means, so could consonants, so could articulate speech." He also later remarked: "I thought that Helmholtz had done it, and that my failure was due only to my ignorance of electricity. It was a valuable blunder, if I had been able to read German in those days, I might never have commenced my experiments!"

In 1865, when the Bell family moved to London, Bell returned to Weston House as an assistant master and, in his spare hours, continued experiments on sound using a minimum of laboratory equipment. Bell concentrated on experimenting with electricity to convey sound and later installed a telegraph wire from his room in Somerset College to that of a friend. Throughout late 1867, his health faltered mainly through exhaustion. His brother Edward was similarly affected by tuberculosis. While Bell recovered (by then referring to himself in correspondence as "A. G. Bell") and

served the next year as an instructor at Somerset College, Bath, England, his brother's condition deteriorated. Edward never recovered. Upon his brother's death, Bell returned home in 1867. Melville had married and moved out. With aspirations to obtain a degree at University College London, Bell considered his next year's preparation for the degree examinations, devoting his spare time to studying.

Helping his father in Visible Speech demonstrations and lectures brought Bell to Susanna E. Hull's private school for the deaf in South Kensington, London. His first two pupils were deaf-mute girls who made remarkable progress under his tutelage. While Melville seemed to achieve success on many fronts, including opening his own elocution school, applying for a patent on an invention, and starting a family, Bell continued as a teacher. In May 1870, Melville died from complications of tuberculosis, causing a family crisis. His father had also experienced a debilitating illness earlier in life and been restored to health by convalescence in Newfoundland. Bell's parents embarked upon a long-planned move when they realized that their remaining son was also sickly. Acting decisively, Alexander Melville Bell asked Bell to arrange for the sale of all the family property, conclude all his brother's affairs (Bell took on his last student, curing a pronounced lisp), and join his father and mother in setting out for Canada. Reluctantly, Bell also had to conclude a relationship with Marie Eccleston, who, as he had surmised, was not prepared to leave England with him.



Above, Melville House, the Bells' first home in North America, now a National Historic Site of Canada. In 1870, 23-year-old Bell travelled with his parents and his brother's widow, Caroline Margaret Ottaway, to Paris, Ontario, to stay with Thomas Henderson, a Baptist minister and family friend. The Bells soon purchased a farm of 10.5 acres (4.2 ha) at Tutelo Heights (now called Tutela Heights), near Brantford, Ontario. The property consisted of an orchard, large farmhouse, stable, pigsty, hen-house, and a carriage house, which bordered the Grand River.

At the homestead, Bell set up a workshop in the converted carriage house near what he called his "dreaming place", a large hollow nestled in trees at the back of the property above the river. Despite his frail condition upon arriving in Canada, Bell found the climate and environs to his liking and rapidly improved. He continued his interest in the study of the human voice, and when he discovered the Six Nations Reserve across the river at Onondaga, learned the Mohawk language and translated its unwritten vocabulary into Visible Speech symbols. For his work, Bell was awarded the title of Honorary Chief and participated in a ceremony where he donned a Mohawk headdress and danced traditional dances.

After setting up his workshop, Bell continued experiments based on Helmholtz's work with electricity and sound. He also modified a melodeon (a type of pump organ) to transmit its music electrically over a distance. Once the family was settled, Bell and his father made plans to establish a teaching practice and in 1871, he accompanied his father to Montreal, where Melville was offered a position to teach his System of Visible Speech.

**TO BE CONTINUED-** Thanks for reading. Don't forget the Veterans Round Table on Thursdays and The Radio Broadcast on Saturdays at 8 AM on 1440 KEYS



Tim Parr caught his personal best trout this week with me and his best friend while drift fishing the Upper Laguna Madre! High winds have not dampened the trout action, it's just BLOW'N up!! Farah



Brown Pelican By Carol Ott

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## Gene's Corner

### A "fishing facts" history lesson from March 15th 44BC a bad day of fishing for Brutus, a worse day for Caesar

By Gene Saegert

Dateline: March 14th 44 BC (The infamous "Ides of March) Caesar and Brutus were reminiscing about some previous fishing trips. Caesar remarks that he is not going to be able to fish the next day but asks "Brute" (Caesar's pet name for Brutus) if he would go and catch them a mess of fish. Brutus, being like senators everywhere jumps at the chance to skip work. Brutus says he needs some bait money and Caesar gives him the Senate Credit Card and tells him to be careful because the Senate is over budget as usual and close to the "Creditus Limitus Maximus." The next day, March 15th, early in the morning, Brutus gets up, picks up some slaves to row the boat and heads out to the local bait shop. He finds that Cassius, the local fishing guide, got there before he did and bought all the live shrimp. So he settles for cut bait. He hits the flats and drop offs along the Mediterranean Sea and catches no keepers. He remembers reading in Flavius's fishing column that anglers had fared well near the Island of Crete. Afraid to go back empty handed, he make the long haul to the Island of Crete

where he wade fishes the shoreline for about three hours and catches two small keepers. Thirsty, worn out and famished he take the two fish to Caesar's cooks and took a quick dip in the aqua duct (great news for the water supply) to clean up for supper.

Meanwhile back at the kitchen, the Cooks dad baked the two fish and taken them to Caesar. Still hungry and in a very bad mood Brutus goes to eat his fish with Caesar.

Walking up to Caesar he spies the empty fish plate with nothing but bones left. In a rage he yells "HOW MANY FISH DID YOU EAT, CAESAR?!!!" Caesar sheepishly replies, "Et two Brute." "YOU PIG" Brutus replies and pulls out his concealed cloak filet knife and fillets Caesar to his death. The moral of this story being "Never make a fisherman mad when he has his filet knife." (Especially during the Ides of March) End of story and end of Caesar.

*Thought for the day: Whatever life throws at you duck and let it hit someone else.*



## Thoughts from Reverend Ken

### Who is a true Christian and who is not?

By Rev. Dr. Ken

A man arrived at the pearly gates ready to greet St. Peter. He had asked Jesus into his heart; he had prayed the appropriate prayer; he believed all the right things. So, he was a bit surprised to learn that before he could talk to St Peter, he needed to enter his username and password. He would have preferred to offer his birthdate. He could remember that. However, the system is the system.

He knew all the right things to say as a Christian. So, he clicked away. Unfortunately, the username and/or the password he entered were incorrect. He had two more chances until the account would be frozen. At that point, he would need to call customer service. Imagine how many numbers he would need to press on that call.

This is the age-old question of who is in and who is out? Who is a true Christian and who is not? Humans being humans, we love to compare ourselves favorably against each other. Faith is no different, except we seem to assign more eternal consequences to that comparison. We see ourselves has the ones in. We see those who challenge us as the ones out.

Who is a true Christian? The question, in one form or another, has been asked throughout the ages. It is being debated with a bit more intensity in our day because of the influence of Christian Nationalism and its grab for power and dominance. We are going to hear a lot about this issue in the coming months.

The story of Nicodemus visiting Jesus at night is a story often used to teach the importance of a decision of faith. When I was young it went something like, "Have you been born again?" We cradle Presbyterians always felt uncomfortable with that question. It's a question that goes to the heart of the anxiety about being a true Christian.

Within the story most think Jesus told Nicodemus that one must be born again. True. However, the word translated as 'again' can also be translated, 'anew,' or 'from above.' Nicodemus immediately saw the absurdity of the comment. How can one be born again? We can't. But we can be born from above.

I have gone back to this story many times over the years. I think we have it wrong. This is not a story about believing the right things or saying the right prayer. Nicodemus was challenged to think differently about his faith because of what God has

chosen to do, is doing, and will do. The story of Nicodemus is a story of the gift of God's love, born from above.

A famous verse in the Bible gets twisted around to become an individualistic entrance test. It was never meant to be that. For God so loved THE WORLD that he gave his only Son . . . We are challenged to faith in Jesus Christ because of God's choice of universal love for not only us, but the entire world.

We live in a bad news world of war, violence, abuse, greed, injustice, and lies. Justifiably so, the world is under condemnation because of sin and evil. Yet, it is this world, our broken world, in

which Jesus himself was born. Born not to condemn but to save. Mysteriously, God loves this world.

Christianity is always prone to grow comfortable and cozy with power and strength. It baptizes the ways of the world in exchange for a seat at the table. This is the error of Christian nationalism. It worships power in the name of Christ. It seeks domination in the name of God.

God's love is best understood in the person of Jesus. Looking at Jesus' life, God's love was never meant to separate, leave out, subdue, or exclude. It was meant to reconcile, welcome, and include. God's love is an expansive love. There is no username or password required.

Nicodemus was challenged to live in God's love, as are we. Our day living in this love includes compassion for immigrants and migrants. It includes serving the poor and loving our enemies. This love views racism as immoral, and that all people deserve dignity and equality.

Who is a true Christian? The answer must always begin with the love born from above.

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

Choose kindness, compassion, and love; do justice and make peace; welcome the stranger. [pastor@islandpresby.com](mailto:pastor@islandpresby.com)

## State News

### Spring Break in the Coastal Bend

As Spring Break begins, I would like to show the importance of the Texas Coast. Texas has over 360 miles of coastline known as the Gulf Coast. The coastline and beaches of Texas are important for our ecosystem, communities, and economy. These areas are home to marine life, wildlife and their natural habitats. Texas beaches are also popular tourist destinations. During the break, it is essential to care for the coastline by not leaving trash, and to recycle properly.

On the southern coast, Corpus Christi, Rockport-Fulton, and Port Aransas have several beach locations to visit. These include the Padre Island National Seashore, Mustang Island State Park, J.P. Luby Surf Park/North Packery Beach, Whitecap Beach, Padre Balli Park/Bob Hall Pier, I.B. McGee Beach Park/Horace Caldwell Pier, North Beach, South Packery Channel Beach, San Jose Island, and Rockport Beach. Each of these locations offers outstanding views and recreational activities. Some of these include fishing, hiking trails, RV access/camping, swimming, windsurfing/kiteboarding, kayaking/canoeing, and birding/wildlife viewing sights. For more information visit: <https://www.visitcorpuschristitx.org/see-and-do/beaches/>, <https://portaransas.org/play/beaches/>, and <https://www.rockportfulton.com/rockport-beach-park>.

I also want to highlight the importance of beach safety since many people will be going to the beach. I want to focus on rip currents which are powerful channelized currents of water flowing from shores that pull people away from the shore. The speeds of the currents can change quickly. If you are caught in a rip current try to swim parallel to the shore and if you cannot escape float or tread water. Also, knowing



the beach conditions will help you stay safe at the beach. The Flag Warning System indicates the beach conditions. Red flags indicate extremely hazardous conditions and suggest avoiding the water. Yellow flags indicate the conditions are moderately hazardous, which means swimmers can swim but should be alert. Green flags mean water conditions are safe. For more information about rip currents, please visit the Corpus Christi Beach Flag Warning System.

To find more events around the Coastal Bend I encourage you to visit: <https://www.visitcorpuschristitx.org/index.aspx>, <https://portaransas.org/>, and <https://www.rockportfulton.org/>. There are excellent opportunities to participate in the great South Texas culture.

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

- State Representative Todd Hunter,

District 32

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# 15 years ago in the Island Moon

## Status report on Island projects

Fifteen years ago this week these were the projects making their way through the Island Strategic Action Committee

*Some were completed some are still a work in progress*

### Dawning of the Age of Aquarius Drive

*After thirty years of false starts work on Aquarius Drive approved*

*Editor's note: A couple of issues back we did a review of the status of the various ongoing Island projects. Some are relatively new and some have been hanging fire for decades. We were surprised at the response to the story and received several requests to do regular updates. So this is now the second in a series of what will be an on-going effort which seems to have taken on a life of its own.*

*The process seems to work like this: We publish the list of projects and their status, our City Council member Chris Adler follows up with questions to city staff, we publish the answers in the next issue explaining who/what has been holding the projects up and then by the next issue things start happening. Since the last status report two projects that have been stuck for years moved forward. We're not sure if it had anything to do with our story but why take a chance? So without further dicta here's the latest update. If we are overlooking some let us know and we'll include them next time.*

### Aquarius street extension

**Background:** This is one project on which all Islanders agree and its failure to move forward has stood as a monument to inattentiveness. When Island streets were first platted back in the 1960's Aquarius Drive was supposed to be the main drag that ran parallel to SPID to provide a way to get from one end of The Island to the other without having to enter SPID.

But Island developers soon figured out that extending the road the entire length of The Island meant a bridge would have to be built over a wide canal at considerable cost. We actually have an archive photo of the bridge under construction. But while it was under construction a decision was made not to finish it and further to not finish extending Aquarius all the way down The Island.

Jump ahead to 2008 when the City of Corpus Christi passed a \$150 million bond issue and The Island got a whopping \$1.7 in projects, the majority of which was for Aquarius extension. Since 2008 nothing has happened and the stretch of Aquarius in question is a muddy, pockmarked, jogging trail. In fact a block of Island homes nearly caught fire in the summer of 2009 because fire crews could not get to the brush fire one yards from the station without going all the way around to Whitecap and by the time they got there the fire was out of control.

When the subject came up the answer was always "We're working on it." In a nutshell the problem is that while the bond money will pay for the street it won't pay for the installing of utilities. To build the street without the utilities would mean the street would later have to be torn up to put them in.

**What's happened lately:** In its February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting the City Council approved the following:

"Motion authorizing the City Manager to execute a professional architectural/engineering service contract with Urban Engineering, Inc. in amount not to exceed \$186,476 for the Aquarius Drive from Dasmarias to Commodores project for design, bid phase and construction."

That is the first step. City Engineer Pete Anaya told the Island Strategic Action Committee in its February meeting that the design will take five months, project bidding will take sixty days, and construction will take nine months with a projected finish date in the Spring of 2012. As for the cost of the utilities, according to the information provided city staff before its vote "Funding is available from the Street CIP funds."

Translation: sometime between now and when construction begins City Council must approve the money from the Capital Improvement Projects fund to pay for the utilities. At this point the amount for that is unknown.

**Conclusion:** Finally some progress. It appears that is the council approved the CIP money the project will be finished next year. We'll keep you informed.

### Work on the parking lot adjacent to the JFK Bridge.

**Background:** Ten years ago the local SEA group wanted to improve the boat ramps and parking lot between the JFK Bridge and Packery Channel. (Left of the bridge as you enter The Island). As any fisherper-

son knows this lot is packed with vehicles and boat trailers on some weekends. This is a very popular place for boaters headed north to Shamrock Cove or south down the Laguna Madre.

**Conclusion:** Success! SEA stayed at it and as of this writing work has begun on Phase I a \$1.3 million project that will raise and bulkhead the parking lot to keep it from flooding during high tides. It took ten years of perseverance and we congratulate SEA on getting this done. If you are not a member of this great organization think about joining.

### Development at Wilson's Cut

A combination of private developers and public officials are working to put in a housing development and boat ramps at Wilson's Cut which is located just inside the Corpus Christi City Limits on the way to Port Aransas. The private developers have already received most of the permitting necessary to put in the housing and city and county officials are working with the Texas General Land Office to put in public boat ramps and parking. The area is a popular launch site for boaters who fish the Miller's Cut. The housing development is called Tuft's Landing. We will have more coverage on this project in later issues.

### Sand on the seawall

**Background:** In the fight with Mother Nature over who will rule the seawall Mother Nature is winning. The seawall was built in the 1960's to protect building along it from storm surges. The seawall is designed to rise about twelve feet above the level of the beach in front of it. As of this writing the sand is piled up to the top of the wall meaning that even a small storm surge will put sea water into the bottom floor of the buildings.

The problem started when dredging was done in Packery Channel in 2009 and the dredge sand was placed in front of the seawall. That sand is brought up from the bottom of the channel and is very fine, when it dries it moves with the wind and piles up on the seawall. This effect combined with the futile and ill-designed city plan for managing the breach in the area is a constant nuisance to Islanders and a potential disaster for those living along the seawall.

**Conclusion:** Island United, the Island's political action committee, has called for the county to take over management of this section of beach. They have the equipment to do so and a better track record than the city is beach management. In our last issue we ran a letter from city staff saying the county does not want to do this. This is not true. The holdup is bureaucratic inertia and turf wars at City Hall.

That stretch of beach is arguable the most valuable piece of real estate in Nueces County and there is not excuse for the poor stewardship the city has shown.

### Naming of Michael J. Ellis Beach

**Background:** When Moon founder Mike Ellis passed away last month an effort was begun to name the beach at the seawall for him. The City Council has said they are unanimously in favor and efforts are in the works. Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson has also issued a letter in favor of the move. This may be done by our next issue.

### Bollards on the seawall beach

**Background:** In 1998 property owners along the seawall signed an agreement with the city to place wooden bollards on the beach in front of the seawall to limit traffic. In exchange the property owners bought the land for the Windward Parking lot and donated it to the city. The parking lot has been open for more than three years and in 2008 the council approved a plan to place the bollards. After two years of discussion the Texas General Land Office which owns the beach approved the plan and it was submitted to the City Council for implementation last December.

**Conclusion:** The project is stuck. Jay Reinold from the City Attorney's Office informed the ISAC in its February meeting: "There is no money for the bollards." So after two years of work the plan dies for the lack of a few thousand dollars to pay for the bollards. A move has begun by disgruntled seawall property owners to force the city to refund the \$400,000 they paid for the land under city's parking lot since they delivered on their end of the contract while the city has not. The only obstacle to progress is majority approval – five votes – on the City

# Island Real Estate Roundup



Apryl Noles

## Activity in the Market!

The Padre Island real estate market showed strong momentum this week, particularly in the higher price points. In the condo sector, one unit priced around \$280,000 is currently under option period. The townhome market also remained active, with two townhomes sold between \$285,000 and \$300,000, and one townhome priced around \$380,000 is now under option.

### *Single family home*

The biggest movement this week occurred in the single-family home market, where we are seeing renewed activity in the upper price ranges. Three homes sold between

\$450,000 and \$815,000, and four additional homes are currently in the option period ranging from \$450,000 up to \$1.6 million. Notably, this marks the first time in nearly four months that we've seen a home over \$1 million sell or go under contract, signaling renewed confidence and momentum in the Padre Island luxury market.

Overall, the market is heating up on Padre Island, and it will be exciting to watch how these trends continue in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for next week's recap!

## 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.



Live Streams



Special Videos



Island 2011. Note the sand trail where the Aquarius Extension is now.  
Photo by Olaf Aerial

Council.

### Watering the sand on seawall beach

**Background:** One solution to the problem of sand piling up on the seawall is to use water trucks to keep the dry sand moist. This would also solve the problem of having undrivable beaches due to deep, loose sand during dry summer months when the beaches are busiest.

**Conclusion:** The city's beach manager informed the ISAC it would cost \$28,000 for three months of beach watering. Further, to solve the problem he would need two more water trucks and three more people. Emergency Services District #2 VFD, to which Islanders pay taxes, said they lacked the right trucks and could not afford the water.

### Garbage pickup days

**Background:** The city recently put in place new pickup days for garbage and recycling citywide. The Island schedule changes from pickup each Tuesday to every other Friday. This poses a problem since many Island

homes are owned by out of towners who leave on Sunday. That means their cans must set on the street all week. With our winds this means the cans often overturn providing bait for Island coyotes.

**Conclusion:** Council person Adler inquired if this could be altered and got this response:

Chris, to change the islands collection day would be extremely difficult, we can discuss this in person if you choose so, advise customers they can request back door service, by doing so we will retrieve their garbage from an agreed upon area, this will address leaving green cart curbside all week long, this service comes with a fee of \$11.86 per month, we will as well be offering backdoor recycle collection to current list of backdoor collection residents, we are working out the fee at this time.

Lawrence Mikolajczyk  
Director  
Solid Waste Operations

# 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                       |

# Island Police Blotter

## February 2026

- 15000 Tesoro Feb. 8 Assault
- 14700 blk. Gulf Beach Feb. 9 Assault/Family/Choking
- 14400 blk. Commodores Dr. Feb. 11 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 15000 blk. Tesoro Feb 11 Assault
- 700 blk. Quetzal Feb. 11 Assault
- 15100 blk. Tresor Feb. 13 Terroristic Threat
- 14430 SPID Feb. 14 Assault
- 15400 blk. Seamount Cay Feb 14 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 14800 blk. Windward Dr. Feb. 16 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 15000 blk. Tesoro Dr. Feb. 16 Injury to child/elderly reckless bodily injury
- 13500 blk. Ducat Feb. 16 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 14500 blk. Cabana East Feb. 17 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
- 14500 blk. Cabana East Feb. 17 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
- 14500 block Cabana East Feb. 17 Theft
- 10500 blk. SPID Feb. 21 Assault
- 300 blk. Anchor Feb. 22 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 15649 blk. Three Fathoms Bank Feb. 22 Dr. Terroristic Threat
- 15200 blk. Windward Dr. Feb. 22 Assault
- 14700 blk. Dasmarrinas Feb. 23 Assault
- 14400 blk. SPID Feb. 25 Shoplifting
- 15200 blk. Windward Dr. Feb. 26 Burglary of a Habitation
- 10400 blk. SPID Feb. 24 Theft \$2500-\$30,000
- 13921 blk. Flintlock. Dr. Feb. 27 Terroristic Threat
- 15000 blk. SPID Feb. 28 Burglary of a Vehicle
- 15200 blk. Barataria Feb. 28 Assault

## 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

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



# Sports

# 10 Years ago in the Island Moon

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon

## Donald Trump and American Football-Part 2



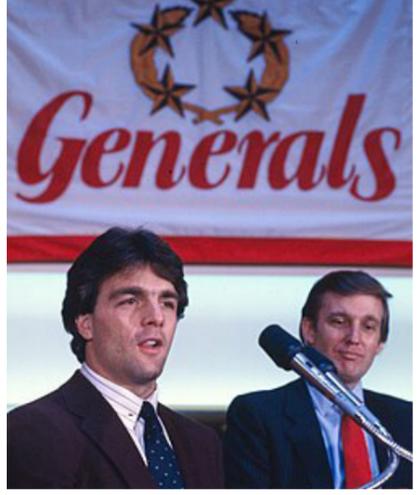
*Dotson's Note: In 1982, the USFL announced that it would begin play the following year, with games to take place in the spring and summer to avoid competing directly with the NFL, whose season ran through fall and winter. In the lead up to their first season, league executives were planning which cities would receive franchises and were adamant that at least one team be based in the New York metropolitan area. Donald Trump expressed interest in being the owner of that franchise, but after some discussions, he declined, and instead the franchise, called the New Jersey Generals, came under the ownership of Oklahoma businessman J. Walter Duncan. Thanks to Bill Morgan and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in this report.*



In the 1983 season, the Generals, under head coach Chuck Fairbanks and with Heisman Trophy-winning running back Herschel Walker on the team, performed poorly, ending the season with a 6-12 record. Additionally, Duncan was unhappy with the constant travel between Oklahoma and New York City, and so, following their inaugural season, he put the team up for sale. In 1983, Trump bought the team from Duncan for between \$5 million and \$10 million, with Pearlman saying that the team at the time was valued at \$8.5 million. According to Pearlman, Trump stated that there had been a bidding war for the team, which Pearlman says did not happen.

Prior to the 1984 season, Trump acquired a new head coach and new players for the Generals. On the field, he added three-time Pro Bowler Gary Barbaro and former NFL MVP Brian Sipe. At coaching, Trump attempted to lure Miami Dolphins head coach Don Shula with a salary of \$1 million per year. Shula declined, with Trump stating that he had requested an apartment in Trump Tower as part of this contract, which Trump refused. Shula countered that he had lost interest after Trump had talked about the negotiations in a television interview that aired during a Dolphins game, and he didn't want the discussions to interfere with the team's season. Instead, Trump signed former New York Jets head coach Walt Michaels. In their first season under Trump's ownership, the Generals went 14-4 in the regular season and defeated eventual champions Philadelphia Stars twice, only to lose to them in the first round of the playoffs.

Following his purchase of the team, multiple individuals associated with the USFL expressed optimism that Trump would bring the league more attention and increase its value. Michael Tollin, who ran the USFL's highlight show, said, "As a new league we were just starving for attention, and he got us attention. I was as guilty as anyone. I featured him more prominently than any other owner. He was the equivalent of a good copy — he was dazzling". A similar sentiment was expressed by Steve Ehrhart, an executive director for the league, who said, "He was able to generate so much publicity and respect for the league. I was very appreciative to that approach".



Above, Doug Flutie (left) and Trump at a press conference in Trump Tower,

1985. Prior to the 1985 season, the Generals acquired Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Doug Flutie, signing him to a multi-million-dollar multi-year contract. In April 1985, Trump, under his pseudonym of John Barron, told the United Press International that Flutie had been signed following a verbal agreement between Trump and the other team owners that he would be partially reimbursed for Flutie's contract. Trump stated, "People wanted me to get him for the good of the league. I told them I would sign him, but at some point I wanted partial reimbursement for the cost. From the standpoint of one team, it did not make any economic sense to sign him. So I told them at some point I would ask for reimbursement". Additionally, Trump stated that he had written a letter to USFL commissioner Harry Usher requesting that the topic be addressed at a future meeting of the owners. Despite signing Flutie, the Generals posted a worse record than in the previous season, going 11-7 in the regular season and again losing in the first round of the playoffs to the Stars (who were now based out of Baltimore). Following the season, the New Jersey Generals merged with the Houston Gamblers, which added players Jim Kelly and Ricky Sanders onto the Generals' roster.

Shortly after becoming a team owner, Trump became opposed to the league's strategy of playing in the spring and pushed to move the league to the fall, where it would directly compete with the NFL. In a July 1984 interview with ABC News, he said, "If God wanted football in the spring, he wouldn't have created baseball". Trump believed that the move to the fall would lead to the league becoming as valuable as the NFL or would result in a merger between the NFL and USFL. Several executives in the USFL, including Tampa Bay Bandits' owner John F. Bassett, rejected Trump's proposal, believing that directly competing with the NFL would hurt the league. However, in mid-1986, the team owners voted 12-2 to move to the fall.

"His entire goal was to get him an NFL team. He did not care how he got it. His goal was to get in the NFL. If it took a merger, so be it. If it took the entire USFL collapsing and he gets an [NFL] team, that is fine too", Jeff Pearlman, speaking to *Newsweek* in 2017 about Trump's goal as a USFL team owner.

In addition to moving to the fall, the league decided to initiate a \$1.7 billion antitrust lawsuit against the NFL. According to the USFL, the NFL had acted monopolistically in convincing the three major American television channels to not broadcast USFL games. The executives hoped that the lawsuit would result in either a forced merger, a large payout, or the voiding of the NFL's television contracts. Multiple sources state that Trump's intent with the lawsuit was to force a merger that would have resulted in him owning an NFL franchise. The trial took place in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, with Trump bringing in Harvey Myerson as the lead lawyer for the USFL and Roy Cohn as a consultant. In interviews with reporters, Trump stated that if the USFL did not win the case, the Generals would not play in the upcoming season. The trial received national attention, and Trump testified on June 23. At one point during his testimony, the legal team for the NFL stated that Trump had paid busses and waiters to spy on NFL owners while they were staying at his hotels, which he denied.

TO BE CONTINUED-Thanks for Reading



Schlitterbahn was getting ready for spring break.



An ISAC meeting at Schlitterbahn.



Pathway to the beach condos were under construction.



The Packery Jetties were showing signs of decay even before Hurricane Harvey hit one year later.

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# Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

## Augie Meyers died...



Augie Meyers, Jimmy Spacek, Butch Morgan, Bobby Rios, Rocky Morales, George Briscoe, Jack Barber and Spot Barnett at the Laboratory in San Antonio 1999.

The great **Augie Meyers** passed away this week. He was 85. We were friends for over 30 years. Augie was a member of the **Texas Tornados** along with **Doug Sahm**, **Freddy Fender** and **Flaco Jimenez**. Before the Tornados, I worked with Augie back when he played with The Sir Douglas Quintet, before the Tornados. This goes back to when I had the in-house booking agency for the *Antone's Record Label* in the mid 90's in Austin and represented Doug and of course Augie was always close by. Their shows at *Soap Creek Saloon* in Austin early 70's with **Jack Barber** on bass, **Rocky Morales** on sax and **George Rains** on drums were the beginnings of TexMex and Augie invented that San Antonio sound and **Joe King Carrasco** was there taking notes... *Mendocino, She's About a Mover*. Just having Doug on my roster gave me immediate creds and opened up many doors for me all over the world... and Augie was always near. Doug and Augie together were the real deal Augie played organ and accordion and is probably best known for his hit single *Hey Baby Que Paso (I thought I was your only bato.)* After Doug died in 1999 I closed my agency and moved back to San Antonio to manage the *Laboratory Brewing Company* where we'd often find Augie at our weekly pro-jam hosted by **Jimmy Spacek** and **Randy Garibay**. There's a whole bunch of people in San Antonio and all over the world that are hurting today. Augie was a good man and a respected world class musician who recorded with **Bob Dylan** and **Tom Petty**. Rest in peace Bato. You were the maestro.

## On the local front...



The new Boat Bar is soon to open.

Spring has sprung and the breakers are here. The weather was a little iffy on the first weekend of Spring Break but that's to be expected. In the immortal words of every local that lives here, "It happens every year." But after the fog, wind and rain subsided, the sun came back out and the beaches filled back up. I made a couple of early runs down to where the *Festering Den of Sin* is just beginning to take shape. The town is full and the bars are starting to gather speed. Also on the local front, it seems that we have a new bar about to open soon. The beloved *Janey Briscoe* ferry boat has been repurposed to become *The Boat Bar*. Located in the marina area on West Cotter Street, *The Boat Bar* will feature ice cold longnecks, wine, frozen drinks and fantastic views of the waterfront. **Billy Gaskins** is the owner and happens to also be the *Lydia Ann Lighthouse* keeper. A familiar face, **Robin Krenek** is the manager. Open noon to 10 pm, it's sure to fill the void left by *The Back Porch* closing. I'll let you know when the *Grand Opening* is.

## Scattered shots...

Well I jumped in the middle of it last weekend and found a bunch of good shows to get the *Spring Breakers* rolling. March 6th marked the

starting time for all the venues that shut down operations over the winter to open back up, including the *Gaff*, *Bron's* and *Treasure Island*. We're finally clicking on all cylinders. On Thursday it was the **Johnson All Starz** which features the rhythm section of **Art Galvan** and **Antone Perez** and this just in... **Ray Summy** is now and official **Johnson** and will play *Shorty's* every Thursday now. On Friday the show to catch was **Mantle Jennings** at *Shorty's*. They had the crowd on fire over there. Expect to see much more of those guys. Also **John Elijah** played *Shorty's* on Saturday with **Matt Perez** and **Joseph Sota** in tow. Those guys are starting to catch some good tread around here. **Bron's** had **Darren McGill** playing to a dead house last Friday and San Antonio guitar god, **Ruben V** on Saturday. And they cancelled **Love Street** the next night due to that little cold front that run through on Sunday. I swear outdoor stages will be the death of me trying to outsmart **Mother Nature**. Also this weekend I spent some time at the *Sip Yard* where the **Alley Catz** played on Friday and **Cathouse** played on Saturday... both noteworthy rock cover bands. The *VFW* had **Carson Miller** playing solo on Friday and the classic rockers **Groove 2.0** on Saturday. *Treasure Island* had the **Lucky Dogz** and **Jon Car**.



Dallas Burrow and his Red Bird bandmates from New Braunfels played the Gaff last weekend.

## Coming this week...



Brandon Michael will play Bron's on Friday.

Starting this Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> **Groove 2.0** will play *Bron's* and the rockabilly boys called **Riptide** plays the *Sip Yard*. On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> **Ejey Eddie Alaniz** and punk country band **Red Feather** will play *Shorty's*, **Brandon Michaels** is at *Bron's*, **Cruise Control** is at the *Sip Yard*, **Chris Lancaster** will be at the *VFW* and **Back Pew Revival** will play *Treasure Island*. On Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup>, *Spring Break* will be peaking when all the bigger Texas colleges get out: *UT Austin*, *SMU*, *TCU*, *U of H* and *Texas Tech* so load for bear. Also on Saturday we have our bi-monthly **BELT SANDER RACES** at the *Gaff*, the **National Nobodyz** play *Treasure Island*, the popular **B-Flat Dueling Pianos** play the *Yard*, grunge act **Groove Chili** is at *Shorty's*, **Texas Fever** plays the *VFW* and **Austin Forrest** will play *Bron's*. Plus, we have plenty of upcoming shows from the likes of **Retro G**, **Coastal Benders**, **Bushbullit**, **Harmonx**, **Billy Snipes**, **Wayward Gypsies**, **Boone Holding**, **Rich Lockhart** and **Jerry Ward**. And don't forget Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> is *St. Patty's Day* and the *VFW* will host their annual *Pub Crawl*. Y'all be safe.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Texas Fever will play the VFW on Saturday.



The National Nobodyz will play Treasure Island on Saturday



Groove Chili will play Shorty's on Saturday.

# LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

## Thursday, March 12

All Starz @ Shortys  
The Groove @  
Bron's  
Riptide @ Sip Yard  
Jim Bush @ Gaff  
Taken by Tides,  
Waves in April @  
House of Rock  
Brad Brown @  
Blackbeard's on the Beach  
Emma James @  
Brewster Island  
It's A 2000's  
Party @ Brewster  
Downtown  
Taken by Tides,  
Waves in April @  
House of Rock  
Flatbroke @  
Executive Surf Club

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

JIM BUSH	MAR 12
BOUDREAUX & POUSSON	MAR 13
JIM DUGAN	MAR 14
BRAD ETHRIDGE	MAR 15
MOONTIME W/JAMES	MAR 16

Jim Dugan @ Gaff  
B-Flat Dueling  
Pianos @ Sip Yard  
Groove Chili @  
Shorty's  
Austin Forrest @  
Bron's  
Texas Fever @ VFW  
Port A  
National Nobodyz @  
Treasure Island  
Cruise Control @  
Pelican Lounge  
Wade Bowen @  
Brewster Downtown  
Michael Burttis @  
Brewster Southside  
Cruise Control @  
Pelican Lounge  
The Groove 2.0 @  
Rockits  
Rick Mendez,  
Dreaming in Color  
@ Executive Surf Club

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

RED FEATHER	MAR 13
GROOVE CHILI	MAR 14
DARREN MCGILL	MAR 16
ART BARRERA	MAR 17
THE GROOVE 2.0	MAR 18

BACK PEW REVIVAL	MAR 13
NATIONAL NOBODYZ	MAR 14
GABRIEL GARCIA	MAR 17
CARSON MILLER	MAR 20
RAUL AYALA	MAR 28
JON CAR	APR 3

## Friday, March 13

Red Feather @  
Shorty's  
Cruise Control @  
Sip Yard  
Brandon Michael @  
Bron's  
Chris Lancaster @  
VFW Port A  
Back Pew Revival @  
Treasure Island  
Boudreaux &  
Pousson @ Gaff  
Cruise Control @  
Sip Yard  
Dickie Delight @  
Salty Dog  
Pop Rocks @  
Pelican Lounge  
Terror and Hubris @  
House of Rock  
Meza @ Brewster  
Southside  
Rich Lockhart @  
Brewster Island  
Spazmatics @  
Brewster Downtown  
18 Hours @  
Executive Surf Club

CHRIS LANCASTER	MAR 13
TEXAS FEVER	MAR 14
ST. PATTY'S PUB CRAWL	MAR 17
COASTAL BENDERS	MAR 18
LISA SULLIVAN	MAR 20
BRAD ETHRIDGE	MAR 24

RIPTIDE	MAR 12
CRUISE CONTROL	MAR 13
B-FLAT DUELING PIANOS	MAR 14
AUSTIN FORREST	MAR 17
BUSHBULLIT	MAR 19
ADYSEN MALEK, KELLY DANIELS	MAR 20

## Saturday, March 14

Spring Break: UT  
Austin, SMU, TCU,  
Tech, U of H  
BELT SANDER  
RACES (4PM) @  
The Gaff

THE GROOVE 2.0	MAR 12
BRANDON MICHAEL	MAR 13
AUSTIN FORREST	MAR 14
RIPTIDE	MAR 15
BRAD ETHRIDGE	MAR 17
RETRO- G	MAR 18

## Sunday, March 15

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz  
@ Shorty's  
Brad Ethridge @  
Gaff  
Riptide @ Bron's  
Mattman @  
Executive Surf Club

## Monday, March 16

Darren McGill @  
Shorty's  
Moon Time with  
James Derkits @  
Gaff  
Ejey "Eddie Alaniz"  
@ Pelican Lounge

## St. Patty's Day, March 17

Art Barrera @  
Shorty's  
Brad Ethridge @  
Bron's  
Pub Crawl @ VFW  
Port A  
Young Classics @  
Pelican Lounge  
Scarecrow People @  
Executive Surf Club

## Wednesday, March 18

Luke Daniel, Pauline  
Reese  
Open Mic w/Brad

**TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA**  
Happy Hour everyday 11-6!  
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