



Three Chords and the Truth B8



The Art of Island Life A6



Nature Notes A7



Backwater Adventures B1



Beachcombing Report A7

Issue 1144

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



# The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

March 19, 2026

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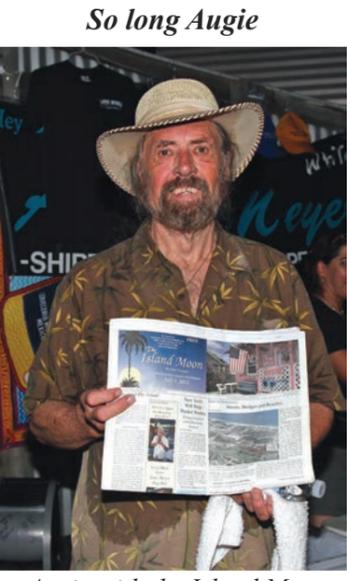

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NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

By Dale Rankin  
This is the week we take a deep breath *Around The Island* as Spring Break 2026 winds down and we slide right on into the first of the two sweet spots on the Island calendar before we hit Memorial Day and the 100-day tourist season. Spring Break 2016 had very different vibes on the Port Aransas end and on the Padre Island end. There is a lot going on *Around The Island*...

**Whitecap NPI**  
There is big news this week at the Whitecap NPI project where the marketing has gone global. We will have more on the progress over there in the next few issues but the good news is that events space there is expected to be open this summer.



Augie with the Island Moon circa 2010

We bid a fond farewell to our old friend Augie Meyers who passed away recently at the age of 85. Augie was a regular visitor to The Island and the writer of standards like *Hey Baby Que Paso?* and who can forget the classic *Velma from Selma*. Augie rode his squeezebox and Farfisa driven keyboards from the wild streets of Bulverde to the streets of Amsterdam winning a Grammy with Bob Dylan along the way. With the passing of Flaco Jimenez last year Augie was the last of the Texas Tornados. So long Augie we'll see you on the other side...

*Around cont. on A6*

## Whitecap NPI kicks marketing into high gear

Focus on residential, commercial and mixed use development  
Events area set to open summer 2026



By Dale Rankin  
The developers of the Whitecap NPI project on Padre Island, have hired two international development firms to seek investors for both retail and residential pieces of the project as the events site on Compass Street is set to open by summer 2026.

Terrence Johnson, Executive Vice President of Ashler Development and on-site manager at Whitecap

*Whitecap cont. on page A5*

Model homes set for completion by summer 2026

*By the numbers*

## Water and the future

### How long do we have before we run out?

*Editor's note: The following information is based on the City of Corpus Christi's Water Dashboard and information presented to the council at their meeting this week.*

500,000 people in South Texas served by the Regional Water Pro-	vider (City of Corpus Christi) 318,066 current population of Corpus Christi (U.S. Census Bureau) 110 million gallons per day – water demand (raw and treated) March 2026	(daily water supply does not meet daily demand) 25% Amount of cut in water usage required under Level 1 restrictions 180 days – time between declaration of Level 1 Water Emergency
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October 2026 current projection for Level 1 Water Emergency to begin

*Water cont. on page A7*

## Boat Show & Market Days

### March 21 and 22

#### Padre Island Yacht Club 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual

The Padre Island Yacht Club will feature a variety of items for sale at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Boat Show & Market Days at the club this weekend, March 21-22. The show will feature, utility vehicles from Cycle Plaza, electric bikes, sporting gear, arts and crafts, food, craft beer, and boats from Gulf Coast Marine and Fat Cat 2.0. The Yacht Club is located at 13403 Whitecap Blvd. adjacent to the Riley P. Dog Park. Gates Open at 10:00 a.m. Daily Entrance Fee is \$3.00 per person - Kids under 12 FREE, gates open at 10 a.m.



*Market Days 2025*

## A little Island history

### The Ghost at the 33

#### Part III of an Island ghost story

*Editor's note: This is Part III of a series by legendary Island guide Captain Billy Sandifer about an aberration he and a friend encountered at Mile Marker 33 on Padre Island National Seashore. The encounter happened in 1979 and the story first appeared in the Island Moon in 1998.*

In last week's story Sandifer and a friend encountered an aberration he named *The African*...an invisible entity that appeared to Captain



*Sandifer on the beach and later in a dream. This week Sandifer offers some possible explanations for the origin of The Ghost at the 33.*

By Billy Sandifer  
Seems like I've started something without intending to. There seems to be some psychological among

*History cont. on A5*

## Spring Break 2026

### Number of vehicles arriving on The Island

**JFK Causeway**  
50,571 Saturday, March 14  
43,410 Sunday, March 15

**Port Aransas ferry system**  
9,147 vehicles, Saturday, March 14  
8,018 vehicles, Sunday, March 15

## Weekend Island Police Calls

Here is a list of Island Police Calls for Friday, Saturday and Sunday of last week the highest traffic weekend for Spring Breakers.

- TERRORISTIC THREAT - DISPLAYS WEAPON 14878 GRANADA DR
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF- \$2,500-\$30K 13929 DASMARINAS DR
- PUBLIC INTOXICATION 8121 GULF BEACH RD
- RECKLESS DRIVING 8100 BEACH BREAK DR
- PUBLIC INTOXICATION 11300 GULF BEACH RD
- ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJURY 7801 GULF BEACH RD
- ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJURY 14861 S PADRE ISLAND DR
- WELFARE CONCERN 14526 S PADRE ISLAND DR SB
- ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJURY 15202 WINDWARD DR
- ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJURY 13947 S PADRE ISLAND DR
- POSS MARIJUANA 20Z 11101 GULF BEACH RD
- ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJURY NEWPORT PASS RD
- HIT AND RUN INVESTIGATION 11878 HWY 361
- ASSAULT CAUSES BODILY INJURY 15137 S PADRE ISLAND DR
- POSS CS PG 2 1G-4G 13500 S PADRE ISLAND DR E
- AGG ASSAULT W/DEADLY WEAPON 14526 S PADRE ISLAND DR
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF \$2,500-\$30K 14009 PORTS O CALL DR
- INJ CHILD/ELDERLY RECKLESS BODILY INJ - HAND FIST FEET 14833 GRANADA DR

# Yard of the Month



Kris Harring Graf from MN caught this redfish on March 14 in Laguna Madre using live shrimp.



This month's Island Gardeners "Yard of the Month" is the home of Tom & Kelly Drost on Cutlass near Dyna, just look for the "Yard of the Month" sign. This colorful yard has a range of plants from small to large, but all provide color or contrast. Their Bird of Paradise is already blooming! Also providing color are Vinca, Zinnias and Portulaca. You will see Bougainvillea, Plumbago, Salvia, and Zinnias. There is a Meyer Lemon and a lime tree. I was most astonished by the Ocotillo which has leafed out. A lot of work and love has gone into this yard.

**WIND & WAVE WATERSPORTS**  
"OUTFITTING SOUTH TEXAS SINCE 1987"

**-KAYAK DEMO DAY-**  
PADRE ISLAND YACHT CLUB BOAT SHOW & MARKET DAY  
SAT. MARCH 21 10AM    SUN. MARCH 22 10AM  
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**Old Town**

**PHOTO: WOLF'S FISHING**

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Show us your stuff! Send photos and letters to editor@IslandMoon.com

**WHOOP IT UP**  
*Glimmer on the Seashore 2026*

**A fundraiser that makes waves for kids in our community, supporting Seashore Charter Schools**

**April 11th, 6 PM  
Marker 37**

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LIVE

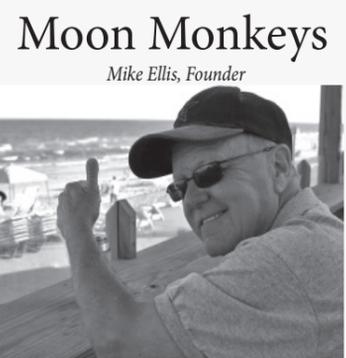
**CONCRETE STREET AMPHITHEATER  
APRIL 11**

**real life.**

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We will provide the coffee. Jesus will provide the hope!

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



**Moon Monkeys**  
Mike Ellis, Founder

**Editor/Publisher**  
Dale Rankin

**Co-Publisher, Business Ops**  
Jan Park Rankin

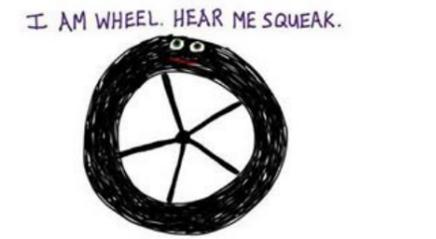
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**Letters to the Editor**



**Spring Break Rules**

Spring Break is here, and the Corpus Christi Police Department has a few reminders for the residents and visitors to our beautiful city.

Please be patient. Traffic may be congested as you make your way to the beach. The Corpus Christi Police Department will have additional officers patrolling the beach and roadways.

Don't drink and drive. Know 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
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.
7. Camping:
  1. Prohibited in front of condos and hotels
  2. Allowed for 3 days & nights consecutively, but no more than 6 days within 1 month.

On North Beach and McGee Beach – Additional Rules:

1. No driving on the beach
2. No BBQ pits allowed
3. No moonwalks or other inflatable games
4. No campfires
5. Dogs must be on a leash or under verbal command



**An eye on government can track taxpayer money, expose wrongdoing**



As we watch over our government, it's often about the money.

Are taxpayer dollars being spent wisely on social programs, road projects and employee pay? Can we view government contracts with outside organizations? What are the details of bond proposals on the election ballot?

Long-established state open government laws – the Texas Public Information Act and the Texas Open Meetings Act – help us answer these questions and root out malfeasance. As we celebrate national Sunshine Week March 15-21 let's recognize our transparency laws and learn how to keep them strong.

Beyond detecting financial waste and fraud, journalists and vigilant citizens are using these laws to retrieve videos related to suspected crimes against kids, to identify finalists for top jobs in cities and school districts and to review the emergency response after the tragic Hill Country floods.

The Texas Public Information Act and the Open Meetings Act are more than 50 years old and continue to be adapted to modern times and troubles.

Open government advocates worked with legislators last year to establish stricter requirements for public officials responding to records requests. There are now more consequences when a government ignores a request.

Another new law requires public meeting notices to be posted at least three business days, rather than 72 hours, before the meeting. That prevents a notice from getting overlooked if it is first posted on a weekend. This common-sense law also specifies that if a budget is to be considered at the meeting a copy of that proposed budget must be posted for public view in advance.

There's always more work to do to better equip citizens and to prevent public officials from eroding transparency laws through loopholes and game-playing.

Those who must resort to lawsuits to force the release of public information deserve reimbursement for attorneys' fees if they win the case. Governments that hire private lawyers to handle public records requests need to disclose who those attorneys are and how much they are paying them. And there should be penalties for governments that abuse Texas' attorney general open records ruling system.

The attorney general's office serves as an umpire of sorts, issuing rulings when governments want to try to withhold information. State law presumes records are open unless an exception in the law allows them to be kept secret. A government generally cannot withhold information on its own and must ask permission from the attorney general's open records division to do so.

Unfortunately, many request rulings even if the information is clearly public and should have been released promptly. Bad faith ruling requests add to the attorney general's workload and cause weeks or months of delays for requestors.

Finally, charges for public records can be excessive, sometimes reaching thousands or tens of thousands of dollars. If an estimated charge is too high, it can deter a requestor from pursuing the inquiry, letting the government off the hook and keeping information hidden. In some cases, requestors are required to pay the cost up front, then the government seeks to withhold that information by asking for an attorney general ruling. That means the requestor's money sits in the government's bank account for weeks or months until a decision is made.

In so many ways, money plays a role in open government. It's crucial to follow the finances and stand staunchly against all kinds of waste and abuse.

Protecting the free flow of information helps ensure that government answers to its citizens.

Kelley Shannon  
Executive Director of the Austin-based non-profit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.

**Barefoot Mardi Gras**

Barefoot Mardi Gras income is derived from several sources, the majority being in Sponsorships. Our Title Sponsor this year was Whitecap NPI, and Co-sponsor was First Community Bank. Other income included Fat Friday ticket sales, silent auction, parade entries, and merchandise sales throughout the season. This year our collective activities raised over \$114,000 before expenses.

From that, the parade and Fat Friday party obviously have a lot of expenses, which include paying for the police the day of parade, port-a-potties, merch inventory, rentals (Stage, tent, Tables, etc.), insurance, permits, misc. decorations, & commissioning the artist for the artwork. Some of the biggest expenses we paid for were for permitting (\$2,400.00) which included the Traffic Control plan, police (\$5k), port – o's (\$5,300), and the barricades \$7,150.00, which are required by the TCP.

non-profits with charity proceeds, making sure that our efforts go right back into our community.

Starting last year, we expanded our focus to include the "Season" of Mardi Gras and to promote our island businesses throughout the month of February. Through our savings pass, the promotion of Mardi Gras themed events at area businesses, as well as profit sharing on merchandise from area retailers, we have really worked to promote our island businesses during what is traditionally a slow time of year.

Thanks for all your help this year in making the 2026 Barefoot Mardi Gras parade the best ever! I can't wait till next year!

Regards,  
Dan Harrington

It's important to note that Barefoot Mardi Gras is an entirely volunteer driven effort. The goal is to raise enough funds to give to our charities and to support the Business Association's activities. This year, thanks to our sponsors and a record number of parade participants (93), we are happy that we will be able to give almost \$35,000 to our charity partners, which is one of the largest totals in the parade's history! A side note – in addition to our primary charities which were the Texas Sealife Center, The CCFD CARE Foundation, and the CCPD Foundation, we also give to five other island centric



Riley P. Dog  
About the Island Moon  
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# Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

My first spring break in Port Aransas was the year I got my driver's license. I drove my friends over from Portland and as locals who were accustomed to going to that beach what we saw was different in that groups of kids a bit older than us gathered around flags from various universities across the state and signs with Greek letters identifying their fraternity or sorority. There was no such a thing as spring break for high schools in those days and flying to Cancun for college students was too expensive. It reminded me of a drink-or-drown night on fraternity row; edgy but controlled.

## Heading to The Coast

Once I arrived at college in San Marcos my upland friends couldn't wait to go to The Coast for spring break and we got rooms at Beach Lodge and did the stupid stuff college kids do (no one was arrested) but after my freshman year I preferred to head to Leakey or Garner State Park, I had seen enough of the beach and the flatlands and I didn't attend another spring break on The Coast until the late mid-eighties when I flew down to cover things for our annual Chopper Five Goes to Spring Break week and I immediately noticed a change in the beach crowd. The drinking age had gone back up to 21 which excluded about half of college students who instead made a pilgrimage to the Corona Bar in Acuna where the drinking age was the price of beer.

Instead of college students I saw lots of tattoos and pet snakes and the mood was always edgy and just in need of one dirty look, cutoff in traffic, or pass at a stranger's girlfriend from a flashpoint. As we were doing a live shot near the south jetty in Port A word came of a "riot" down the beach and we took off in the helicopter in search of the melee which as it turned out wasn't hard to find. A man from San Antonio had run over a teenage girl on the beach and instead of stopping hit the gas with her under the car dragging her down the beach. By the time we landed and got to the scene the police had the bloodied driver in the back seat of a patrol car after the crowd had dragged him out through the driver's-side window and commenced to apply a straightforward brand of street justice. These weren't frat boys.

## Padre Island 2000

Then in 2000 I moved to Padre Island and the crowd in Port A and on the Padre end were pretty much the same. Keep in mind that on Padre the Packery Channel did not yet exist and the beach drive was from Newport Pass south down the beach to Access Road 6 south of Bob Hall Pier. It was one long continuous line of cars and there were as many revelers in the cars as on the sand. That changed in 2006 when Packery Channel bifurcated the spring break conga line and split the crowd into two distinct demographics. South of Packery was where a more family-oriented crowd migrated and north of the channel was ripe with snakes and fireworks and like Port Aransas was not a college crowd. A drive along the beach after the partiers went home found abandoned couches, beer cans, parts of wooden lifeguard stands that had been turned into firewood, and a landfill full of broken chairs and ice chests. Military recruiters began setting up displays to connect with high school kids looking for direction.

## Action in Port A

A little over a decade ago the Port Aransas City Council addressed the growing volatility of the spring break crowds by banning the consumption of alcohol after sundown which had the effect of pushing the late-afternoon already-lubricated crowd south to Newport Pass to join the late-afternoon already-lubricated crowd there and after a few years they both skipped Port A and gathered on the beach north of Packery Channel. The result was huge crowds that required three traffic lanes carved out of the sand and a

huge police presence. Scores that began in San Antonio and points north migrated to the North Packery Beach where they were often settled with gunfire and knife fights. As things spiraled toward controlled anarchy Corpus Christi looked for a way to address the problem and the answer was a breed ban on pit bulls north of Packery with the goal of keeping out gang gatherings but it was soon discovered that breed bans were not constitutional so all dogs were banned — a version of which still exists today. For several years I attended pre-spring break briefings at Port Royal where law enforcement outlined plans for crowd control and police began setting up command centers on the Padre end. The new rules and a heavy, heavy police presence on the beach north of Packery had an effect over the years and as I drove that stretch of beach this year I saw a crowd very different from those of a decade ago. There were still plenty of police cruisers showing the flag but fights were few and I heard no gunfire.

## This weekend in Port A

Not so in Port Aransas. I drove north up the beach from Access Road 2 just north of Fire Station #16 on Saturday the beach there was almost vacant in some points, but somewhere around Marker 35 things changed drastically and it wasn't the mom-and-pop-and-kids crowd found on the Padre end. It was a volatile crowd of kids between the driver's license age and the legal drinking age of 21, which didn't seem to matter. Golf carts zipped and zagged in and out of traffic and jacked up trucks zipped through crowds of pedestrians. We stopped at an impromptu rave up where trucks had been backed into a circle and a helicopter hovered overhead while uniformed officers hovered around and stopped cars leaving the scene, often putting underage drinkers in cuffs. As officers swooped, partiers jumped in trucks to find another, less supervised spot. Like in past years chaos was just one word or one cut-off in heavy traffic away. Jan was hit by a golf cart while taking photos. The line of cars into Port Aransas by mid-afternoon — by beach or by highway — was backed up to the point that we never made it within five miles of Port Aransas. The volatility of the crowd was confirmed when gunfire broke out later that evening and five people were hit. A twerker on the roof of a jeep that rear-ended a car sent him to the ER. Reports came from downtown Corpus Christi that bikini-clad women were wandering the streets there after being released from jail with no way back to Port Aransas.

## How other cities have coped

Spring Break as we know it started in Ft. Lauderdale in the 1960s and by the 1980s that city found itself in much the same predicament as Port Aransas now faces. Their solution was to ban alcohol, prohibit overnight parking — a more severe step beyond the current after-dark alcohol ban, and reroute traffic to prevent crowds from congregating. The spring break crowd then migrated south to Miami and in 2024 that city went to \$100 daily beach passes, bag checks, and alcohol bans which lead to a 25% decrease in arrests in 2026.

Based on what I saw last weekend I think Port Aransas has become the Ft. Lauderdale/Miami of The Coast and things are only going to get worse. The scene last weekend took me back to the 1980s when the teenage woman was run over by a car. It was a big, mostly underage, crowd with no adult supervision, peace officers were working but in a reactive mode and no one was really in control. I don't know how you prevent problems in a crowd like that and it only looks to get worse as the population in our feeder markets continues to explode. What I saw last weekend was a wildfire just waiting for a match and over time that can't be good for business.

The current plan isn't working.



By Chris Jordan

When I was a child — and even well into my adulthood — my extended family went camping in the Texas Hill Country for several days every summer. At least once. Sometimes in the spring. We had several cherished private properties we would go to: a horse farm on the Blanco River, a deer lease on the headwaters of the Nueces River, or a ranch on the Medina River. And there were others. All of them were owned by family friends or were just places my dad, grandfather, or an uncle had scouted. Some were available for camping to the public; some not. Mostly they didn't have electricity or running water. Some had outhouses; some didn't. We almost never went to a state park, although I do remember being at Pedernales a time or two. These experiences comprise my most coveted memories.

We all had some form of camper. Uncle Jack and Aunt Mary had an RV. Uncle David and Aunt Nancy had a travel trailer. We did too and pulled it behind my mom's two-tone Suburban. My grandparents had an especially cute little bumper-pull. It had been built in the 1940's and had been a pristine example of the state of the travel trailer arts when it was built. One summer Uncle Jack brought a WWII-era Willys Jeep with a floor-shift manual three-speed transmission. We had innertubes, CB radios, trot lines, seines, and crawfish traps, block ice and banjos. There were firearms, fireworks, and firewood; field guides and fishin' poles.

## Mold, kerosene and cotton candy

My grandparents would always arrive ahead of everyone else. Mostly to raise hell and piss-off anyone they could. They were normally nice people but my grandmother was an aggressive camper. First order of business at the campsite was to get the antique mess tent set-up. It was made from heavy blue-and-white-striped canvas. I'd always imagined it had come from a circus. It smelled like mold, kerosene, and cotton candy but it was big enough for all of us to gather under for meals: all the grown-ups plus my sister and I, as well as cousins Matt, Rob, and Julie. In the later years we might have had an outsider: a foreign exchange student or somebody's girlfriend or boyfriend. We'd bring plenty of food: milk, bacon, eggs, potatoes, sausage, chicken, steaks, cold cereal, fruit, a few of the hardier green vegetables, canned goods, cold cuts, s'more fixin's, and a boatload of beer and sodas. But it was the unexpected foods we'd catch, forage, or even purchase that captivated me.

## Rattlesnakes and turtle soup

There was catfish, bass, perch, and the occasional trout. We never ate the fish any way but fried with hushpuppies. Once or twice there was an abundance of crawfish. Sometimes one of us would shoot a rattlesnake and we'd fry that, too. Uncle David even made turtle soup once — but just the once. It smelled so foul only the chef tried it and I'm pretty sure he spat it out when no one was looking. We'd forage for ramps, pecans, mulberries, mint, watercress, and bull nettle seeds.....dependent upon season.

My mom and her sister, my Aunt Nancy, took to having a "spa day". Really this was just them running off by themselves with a large Thermos full of Bloody Mary. They'd find some isolated patch of flat limestone on the river bank where they'd get half-naked, three-fourths drunk, and fully sunburnt. At camp, everyone pitched-in to make sure some of our meals were exotically catered

with foodstuffs. Nancy and David might bring wine and caviar. My mom and dad: deviled eggs, and homemade French onion dip. My grandmother: smoked oysters in a tin and Camembert. The others were not as sophisticated. Jack and Mary brought hot dogs and my grandfather maybe an extra handle of rotgut whisky. Every so often we'd go to town for cornmeal, gunpowder, ham hocks, and guitar strings.

On one particular trip to somewhere on the Guadalupe, the caviar and French onion dip met on top of a fancy cracker and everybody went nuts over the combo. The caviar didn't last long and everyone wanted more. There was always a little country store within a few miles of where we camped, and this time there was one very nearby. I was vol-un-told to ride my bike to this little country mercantile to buy.....caviar? What were these idiotic (and possible drunk) grown-ups thinking? There wouldn't be anything there but stale bread and evaporated milk. I resented being sent on this wild goose chase but dutifully went anyway.

When I got there, I pushed the screen door open. The return spring sponged and the hinges creaked. I didn't let the door slam shut — I'd been brought up better than that. I went over to the mostly-barren shelf where the canned goods were kept, and to my surprise — nestled between a cloudy jar of pickles and a dusty can of Dinty Moore beef stew — low and behold, were two little jars of blackfish caviar with rusty lids. I was ecstatic and received a hero's welcome back at camp, replete with a barely-standing ovation.

## Happy Hollow Grocery a Concan place

Another memorable shop was Happy Hollow Grocery in Concan, not too far from our friend Fritz Streib's ranch on the Frio River. I was a little tike way back then, but I can still remember the sweet old couple that ran the place. They'd keep us in ice, beer, and charcoal lighter. One time my dad bought me a little slingshot there. My second happiest Happy Hollow memory was the jerky. Somebody from around there — and maybe it was the shopkeepers — made the best jerky I've ever had to this day: it was from locally bagged venison and probably not exactly legal to sell. I stopped in Happy Hollow Grocery just a few years ago. Naturally the sweet old couple had passed — this being confirmed by their daughter who was minding the store. She didn't have any venison jerky, but to my surprise there were a few handmade wooden slingshots for sale. My eyes welled-up thinking about those good times with family so long ago. One fully-formed tear did finally roll down my cheek. It was for my papa.



Fritz Streib



Port A Spring Break 2016 Miles Merwin.

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History cont. from A1

inquiring minds to figure out who, or more precisely what “the African” had been in life.

I must admit that his identity has always remained a puzzle to me, even though I’ve obviously had a lot longer to mull it over in my mind than others. So, if you’d like, let’s play a game and YOU try to guess what and who he was and send your message to the Island Moon. I would be very interested in hearing them.

But first I’ll give you some information on Island and coastal history that might well have led to his being where he was, or at least make it more interesting to figure it out.

Let me start by sharing a few personal thoughts I’ve had over the years. IF he were a slave, why would he have been left with a solid gold tooth and earring? Certainly these items would have been taken by his captors. UNLESS he were a shaman or spiritual leader, in which case they may have been afraid to take them.

OR maybe he wasn’t a slave at all, but rather was a slave runner himself. This is NOT to negate the possibility he was a pirate who had gotten on the Captain’s bad side and was left dead or alive to guard a buried treasure. Chained and with his tongue sliced out so as to never tell the tale.

The possibilities are both endless and interesting. He was betrayed unexpectedly and he remains in a state of indignant rage and disbelief of his betrayal. He was a very powerful man, spiritually as well as physically and he knew it. This knowledge feeds his indignation at his betrayal and his fate.

### The facts

Now on to the facts. Years ago I found reference to a village of black Indians that the Spaniards found living at the mouth of the Rio Grande (Rio Las Palmas) very early on. There were over one hundred of them living in circular mud huts and wearing armor made of sea turtle shell and the hide of alligator gar.

Trouble arose rather quickly over a woman (seemed the Spaniards were real good at the) and the Spaniards killed them all. It was presumed that they were slaves left by earlier expeditions. So, the Spaniards had slaves.

Whitecap cont. from A1

NPI said this week that New York-London based Experience Studio has been hired to market the residential area of the Whitecap NPI site, while the firm of Avison Young, has been hired to market the retail, mixed-use, and hotel portions as the project moves toward the completion of Phase I.

“We are reaching out to big players,” Johnson said this week. “These new partners give us a nationwide and worldwide reach.”

Avison Young is concentrating on marketing the commercial and mixed-use space along with an on-site boutique hotel with 150-200 rooms.

“The hotel will have a full day spa, meeting rooms and a conference center,” Johnson said. “While Experience Studio will concentrate more on the residential side.”

With site work complete or nearing completion on the newly constructed residential islands Experience Studio, with projects nationwide, will concentrate on investments from commercial developers and Real



The Preserve at Whitecap NPI



There is an island in the southern Laguna Madre that used to be called Slave Island. Before the Civil War a boat carrying slaves dumped the slaves overboard near the shore of Padre Island and the slaves cross Padre and part of the Laguna and stayed on this island.

### The Pirate

The famous pirate, Jean Lafitte operated out of a settlement called Campeche located on Galveston Island for several years around 1817. Legend says Lafitte spent quite a bit of time mugging slave ships off the middle and southern coast of Texas, including Padre.

The slaves would be kept by pirates on Padre Island until a suitable number had been gathered to justify a trip to New Orleans where they were sold to Jim and John Bowie. The Bowie brothers were slave traders and personal friends of Lafitte.

Although many scoff at the idea of Jean Lafitte ever actually have set foot on Padre Island I find an interesting account by early settlers on Padre which leads me to think otherwise.

One old story says that upon occasion Lafitte’s men buried a treasure on the north end of Padre Island. On the surface they left a large millstone with “Dig Deeper” etched on it in French. Well, when people first began to live in a makeshift community near Packery Channel the children went to play and came back talking about the large, flat, circular rock they’d come upon during the day used as a picnic table.

One child mentioned that there were words carved on it. When questioned further, the one child who could read stated that she couldn’t read the words as they were not in English. Immediately a search was organized but the illusive rock was not to be found again. Shoot, maybe it’s in your flowerbed. What a hoot!

And so ends the tale of the Ghost at the 33.

*Editor’s note: The ghost has not been seen nor heard from since Hurricane Allen in 1980.*

Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) looking to develop up to fifty homes on each of the islands, he said. The model homes now under construction on the west side of the 240-acre site are expected to be complete by summer 2026 and ready for sale.

He said work at the site has shifted from a focus on the marina site near the Don Patricio Bridge where work in infrastructure is complete to the Activity Center on Compass Street which is set for opening by summer 2026 with an event area, ships store, boat docks, on demand boat fueling, pickleball courts, golf cart rentals, a boat rental club, and boat sales.

“The addition of these two groups are to help us market and showcase what we are doing nationwide,” Johnson said.

The development is owned by Diamond Beach Holdings, a wholly-owned subsidiary of International Bank of Commerce (IBC) with construction at the site managed by Ashlar Development.

# A Tour of Texas Lighthouses

From Port Isabel to Bolivar Point with a stop on the Lydia Ann Channel

By Katie Green

Did you know that the Texas Gulf Coast has some of the coolest and unexpected lighthouses in the Country? The next time you’re heading up or down the coast, take a little extra time to enjoy a Lighthouse Tour – between Port Isabel and Galveston there are six unique lighthouses to explore!



**Port Isabel.** Built in 1852, Port Isabel Lighthouse is a 72-foot brick tower that guided ships and served as a Civil War lookout. It was abandoned in 1905 but restored in 2022 and it’s currently the only lighthouse in Texas that’s open to the public. You can climb all 75 winding steps to the top for killer views of the Laguna Madre Bay where you can even see South Padre Island on clear days!



**Frazier Lighthouse** is right here in Corpus Christi on North Beach and is a modern landmark, standing 142 feet tall which makes it the tallest lighthouse in Texas and the tallest lighthouse constructed entirely from stone in the United States. It was completed in 2023, as part of the Lighthouse Pointe apartment complex through the vision of developers Lynn Frazier and Jeff Blackard. While you can’t climb it, this lighthouse stands as a unique and remarkable feature in the Coastal Bend skyline and is worth checking out!



**Lydia Ann Lighthouse** was built in 1857. It is a 68-foot-tall lighthouse situated on Lydia Ann Channel near Port Aransas and is the second-oldest lighthouse on the Texas Coast. It is privately owned by Charles Butt whose family owns HEB Grocery stores and has a live-in caretaker. If you want to visit Lydia Ann Lighthouse, you’ll have to hop on a dolphin cruise or a fishing charter because the only way to see it close-up is by boat – you can’t miss its timeless red brick design.



**Matagorda Island Lighthouse** was built in 1852 (rebuilt in 1873) and is the first lighthouse tower on the Texas Coast. Standing at 91-feet, this cast-iron tower is very tall and mysterious looking. You’ll need a boat to get to Matagorda Island Lighthouse because it sits on Matagorda Island which is undeveloped, uninhabited and only accessible by boat.



**Halfmoon Reef Lighthouse** was built in 1858, and doesn’t look like your typical lighthouse – it’s a short hexagonal wooden screw-pile lighthouse and the only one that still stands in the Gulf Coast. It’s situated in Port Lavaca, supported by seven iron piles that extend 25 feet into the water and it has a red glass chimney that creates a red beam to distinguish it from the nearby Matagorda Island Lighthouse. Located next to Hwy 35, it’s a tourist attraction with free parking. When you visit, you can go inside and check out the living quarters where lighthouse keepers once braved hurricanes and wild coastal storms.

**Port Bolivar Lighthouse** was built in 1972, and guided sailors into Galveston for over 60 years. This 117-foot-tall lighthouse is made of cast iron plates on the outside but the interior tower is made of brick. It has survived hurricanes and countless storms, it even served as a shelter for over a hundred people during the deadly 1900 hurricane. The lighthouse has been partially restored and the Bolivar Point Lighthouse Foundation continues to work to raise funds for its restoration.



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## The Art of Island Life

### Learning to Expect the Unexpected

#### *The everyday rhythms of Island life*

By Melissa Mitchell

When people imagine island life, they tend to picture long quiet walks on the beach, slow afternoons, and plenty of time to watch the waves roll in.

Some of that is true.

But after nearly four years, I've realized there are quite a few things about living on an island that I simply could not have known ahead of time. Island life may look relaxed from the outside, but living in a place people come to escape means there is almost always something happening—events, visitors, conversations that lead to the next idea, plenty of planning, and the steady rhythm of life on the coast.

Then there are the smaller surprises. Wind isn't just weather here—it becomes part of daily life. You learn to check it before deciding what kind of day it will be on the beach, and even what kind of hat you wear—because beach hair is a very real thing. Somewhere along the way, I've also realized that I haven't heard a tornado siren in years. Growing up in West Texas, that was a way of life. Living in Northeast Texas wasn't much different. Now it's just the occasional reminder that hurricane season is something to keep an eye on.

And then there's the sand—no West Texas-style, pink-sky sandstorms, but the kind that quietly makes its way everywhere—shoes, car seats, floorboards. You eventually stop trying to keep it completely contained and accept it as part of living near the water.

You even give in and buy a golf cart to save the constant vacuuming of your car. I was firmly in the *I don't need a golf cart camp*—until I found myself researching endlessly to find THE golf cart that would fit my needs.

#### **The Unexpected**

Sometimes island life offers moments you truly wouldn't find anywhere else. One morning while walking the beach, I watched a coyote trot casually out from the dunes and stroll down the sand like it owned the place—because really, they have for centuries. It wandered toward the shoreline, kept a curious eye on me, decided the Gulf was the perfect place to take care of business, and then headed right back across the beach as if it were the most ordinary thing in the world.

I had never considered this could be a thing—the ocean as the world's largest potty for coyotes. Moments like that remind you that living near the water comes with its own set of rules—and its own cast of characters.



Island life isn't exactly what I had imagined. Not slower, not quieter—just full in ways I couldn't have predicted. My schedule is busier than ever, and I've learned to time beach visits around the traditional vacation seasons. Spring Break, for example—we mostly give the beach to the visitors. Because after all, we get to enjoy it the other fifty weeks of the year.

#### **Learning the Rhythm**

And then there are the little everyday things that surprise you the first time you see them.

Driving on the beach, for example. The first time I saw trucks rolling slowly down the shoreline, it felt unusual. Now it's simply part of the landscape. Before moving here, I never once looked at a tide chart. Now I know those little charts can determine everything from the best time for a beach walk to something as big as the date of a parade held on the shoreline.

You also start to notice how much people here read the water. Surfers study the waves and wind with the kind of knowledge that rivals the local weatherman. Fishermen stand quietly out in the Laguna Madre, keeping an eye on the birds as much as their lines.

And you quickly learn how beloved the sea turtles are here—protected, watched over, and celebrated by the entire community. It's not just the tides or the wind or how the sky can go from cotton candy pastels to something almost fluorescent before you even finish your walk. It's the way people move with those things—adjusting their plans, watching the sky, paying attention to the small signals the coast offers every day. After a while, you realize that island life isn't about escaping rhythm.

It's about learning how to live within 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)*

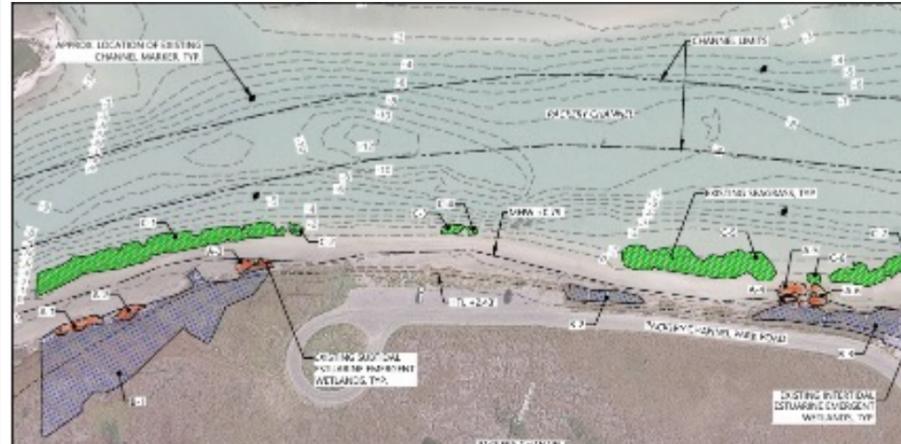
## Plans for Packery Channel Park

*Editor's note: Packery Channel Park is currently undergoing a makeover by the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board. The following is a copy of the permit for the work filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

Nueces County/Packery Channel Nature Park Shoreline Enhancement / Packery Channel

The applicant proposes to construct both a living shoreline and nearshore breakwaters to provide shoreline protection from erosion, and a pier for park enhancement. The project would use two types of breakwaters - primary breakwaters and gap protection

breakwaters. The project proposes to fill approximately 0.41 acre (3,510 cubic yards [CY]) of unvegetated bay bottom for primary breakwaters. The primary breakwater structures would be constructed parallel to the shoreline and vary in dimensions. The maximum bottom width of the primary breakwaters would be approximately 28.5 feet and have a maximum length of 130 feet. The proposed gap breakwaters would be placed approximately five to ten feet shoreward between the primary breakwaters and fill approximately 0.08 acre (475 CY) of unvegetated bay bottom. The gap breakwaters would vary in dimensions but have a maximum width of approximately 15 feet and a maximum length of 50 feet. The combined footprint of the breakwater structures total 0.49 acre.



Packery Channel Park Plans

*Around cont. from A1*

#### **Two big events**

There are two big events *Around The Island* this weekend with the third annual Boat Show and Market Days at the Padre Island Yacht Club. This event has taken off and become an Island favorite, see the details in this issue.

Then there is the Friday Fish Fry over at St. Andrew by the Sea Catholic Church where they turn lent into a celebration, see the complete information in this issue.

#### **Padre Island Property Owners election**

The deadline for voting in the election for board members of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association has been extended due to the late influx of paper ballots. The voting now will continue until midnight March 30 which is after the annual members meeting on March 28. There is also a provision on the ballot that would help clear up any obstacles to obtaining funds from FEMA in case of damage to the Michael J. Ellis Seawall if it is approved by voters. For details on the election changes see the Letter to the Editor in this edition.

#### **Whitecap Wastewater building approved**

The Corpus Christi City Council this week approved \$3.6 million to build a much-needed operations and control building at the Whitecap Wastewater Treatment Plant at the west end of Whitecap Blvd. The center at the plant, which processes three million gallons of wastewater per day, was built in 1973. The price of \$702 per square foot drew questioning from city council members but that cost includes the monitoring and testing facilities needed to meet state water discharge standards and was ultimately approved for funding. Construction is set to begin in April.

#### **Desalinization in Flour Bluff**

The long-discussed use of the Barney Davis power plant in Flour Bluff as a site for a desalination plant for city water took a big step forward this week as the council approved the opening of negotiations with the plant's owner City Public Service which is owned by the City of San Antonio. The plant has a desal permit and an existing offshore line that could be used for outflow of brine but would likely need to be expanded to scale up production at the plant. The city staff told the council this week that CPS has agreed to the sale of desal water to the city and the matter is expected to go before the CPS board in San Antonio this month. For those new *Around The Island* the plant is the structure you see when watching a beautiful Island sunset over the Laguna Madre.

#### **Where the water!?**

It is looking more and more like we are headed for Level 1 water restrictions before the year is out. It was reported to the city council this week that the Nueces River is not flowing below saltwater retention dam and the Navidad River which feeds Lake Texana is a trickle at best. We feature more details in this edition. There was some comic relief at the council meeting this week as a woman rose to ask why we are "wasting water" when we are in a drought? It was explained to her that there is a difference between "wasting water" and "wastewater." Each week here at the Word Factory we are careful to not confuse the spelling of "wastewater" and "waistwater" as there is quite a difference. Just for the record we also avoid clichés like the plague... That's all for now folks it's the quiet time now and life is good here on our little sandbar. You can come up for air and say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



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## Nature Notes

### NestFest An assist for turtle and bird nesting areas

By Celeste Silling



Some of the trash removed from Ferry Beach

Photo Credit: SPLASh

On March 10, we helped host NestFest, one of my favorite volunteer events of the year. NestFest is a large-scale beach cleanup that focuses on removing dangerous litter from important sea turtle and shorebird nesting habitat along the upper Texas Coast.

Sea turtles and birds can easily get entangled in trash when they come onto Texas beaches to nest. Fishing line in particular is a huge entanglement threat. Sea turtles get the line tangled on their flippers, heads and all around their bodies. Birds frequently get it wrapped around their feet, legs, wings, and beaks while they walk or swim. The tightening line can limit the mobility and hunting ability of these animals, and can often cut off circulation and cause death. If you ever see a one-legged bird on the beach, this is likely the cause.

Some animals consume trash as well. They can mistake it for food, or accidentally eat small pieces of trash while they're eating their normal diets. Sea turtles are prone to this, as they mistake plastic bags and other trash for yummy jellyfish. Birds can easily eat microplastics as they're hunting for fish or other marine prey.

NestFest began in 2023, when five partners decided to team up to prepare our beaches for nesting season. SPLASh (Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines), Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, American Bird Conservancy, Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research, and the Galveston Texas Master Naturalists came together to host cleanups across several beaches where turtles and birds like to nest.

This year, we hosted NestFest on fourteen different beaches across Bolivar, Galveston, Follets, and Quintana islands! Cleaning up fourteen different beaches in one day is no small task, but we had the help of 500 amazing volunteers to do so. We here at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory are in charge of overseeing the five cleanups on Follets

and Quintana, and I can attest that everyone was giving it their all! Our staff and volunteers definitely put in the work to get these beaches clean for the birds and turtles.

In total, across all fourteen NestFest sites, we removed over 5,200 lbs of trash in one day with the help of over 500 volunteers. The site with the most trash was Ferry Beach on Bolivar, which is next to the ferry landing and has a lot of trash washing up from the gulf. Other standouts were the Jocelyn Nungaray wildlife refuge, with 832 lbs and Follets Beach Access #5, with 658 lbs.

We are so grateful to the people who came out to help our local wildlife and ecosystems. Those 5,200lbs of trash are now out of the way and our turtles and birds will be safer for it. If you are interested in learning more or signing up for NestFest next year, visit SPLAShtx.org and look for the NestFest page. We'll be doing it for years to come, so look out for NestFest next March!



Volunteers removing litter from the beach at NestFest 2026

Phot by Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research

## Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

### Blue Dragons Sea dragons or living snowflakes



Jace with blue dragons

This week's beachcombing brought an unforgettable sight along our Texas shoreline: blue dragons. While walking a short stretch of beach, I counted nearly 20 of these tiny, electric-blue sea slugs scattered along the sand. They arrived with what beachcombers often call a "blue wave", a flotilla of open-ocean drifters pushed in by wind and currents. Mixed in with the dragons were Portuguese man o' war, by-the-wind sailors, blue buttons, and delicate purple storm snails.

Blue dragons (*Glaucus atlanticus*) are among the most striking animals that wash ashore. Only about an inch long, their silver and sapphire bodies branch into finger-like appendages that make them look like miniature sea dragons or living snowflakes. When placed in a small glass of seawater, they glide gracefully upside down along the surface, using a gas-filled sac in their stomach to float. Watching them move is mesmerizing.

But despite their beauty, these animals deserve respect and distance.

Blue dragons feed on stinging creatures such as Portuguese man o' war. As they consume them, they store the stinging cells in their own tissues and concentrate them in the tips of their appendages. This means their sting can be even more painful than the animals they eat.

While they typically sting only when threatened, unlike the Portuguese man o' war, which can sting on contact, handling them is still a bad idea. I carefully moved the ones I found with my hands, but that's not something I recommend others try. Their sting can be intense, and some people may experience severe reactions.

If you're lucky enough to spot a blue dragon on the beach, enjoy the rare encounter, just admire it from a safe distance.

After all, even the smallest sea dragon carries a powerful defense. 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/hartere-



Blue dragons

Water cont. from A1

Editor's note: The following information is based on the City of Corpus Christi's Water Dashboard and information presented to the council at their meeting this week.

500,000 people in South Texas served by the Regional Water Provider (City of Corpus Christi)  
318,066 current population of Corpus Christi (U.S. Census Bureau)  
110 million gallons per day – water demand (raw and treated) March 2026  
October 2026 current projection for Level 1 Water Emergency to begin (daily water supply does not meet daily demand)  
25% Amount of cut in water usage required under Level 1 restrictions  
180 days – time between declaration of Level 1 Water Emergency and 0% capacity in water supply system  
June 2027 daily water supply does not meet daily demand (no tap water)  
8.6% current capacity level of Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir

February 2027 Choke Canyon Reservoir empty  
May 2027 Lake Corpus Christi empty  
\$1 billion in current water projects being advanced by City of Corpus Christi  
76 million gallons of water per day – amount generated by \$1 billion in projects  
30 million gallons per day – amount of water expected to be generated by Inner Harbor Desalination Plant  
\$760 million to \$1.2 billion increase in price of Inner Harbor Plant  
50 million gallons per day – amount of water anticipated from Harbor Island desal plant (target date 2029)  
26 million gallons per day – water generated from new wells in Nueces County (some ready, some awaiting permit with no date set for public hearing.)  
24 million gallons per day in increased water production from Lake Texana due to recent improvements to Mary Rhodes Pipeline  
16 million gallons per day – amount of potential water savings through refiners using treated wastewater

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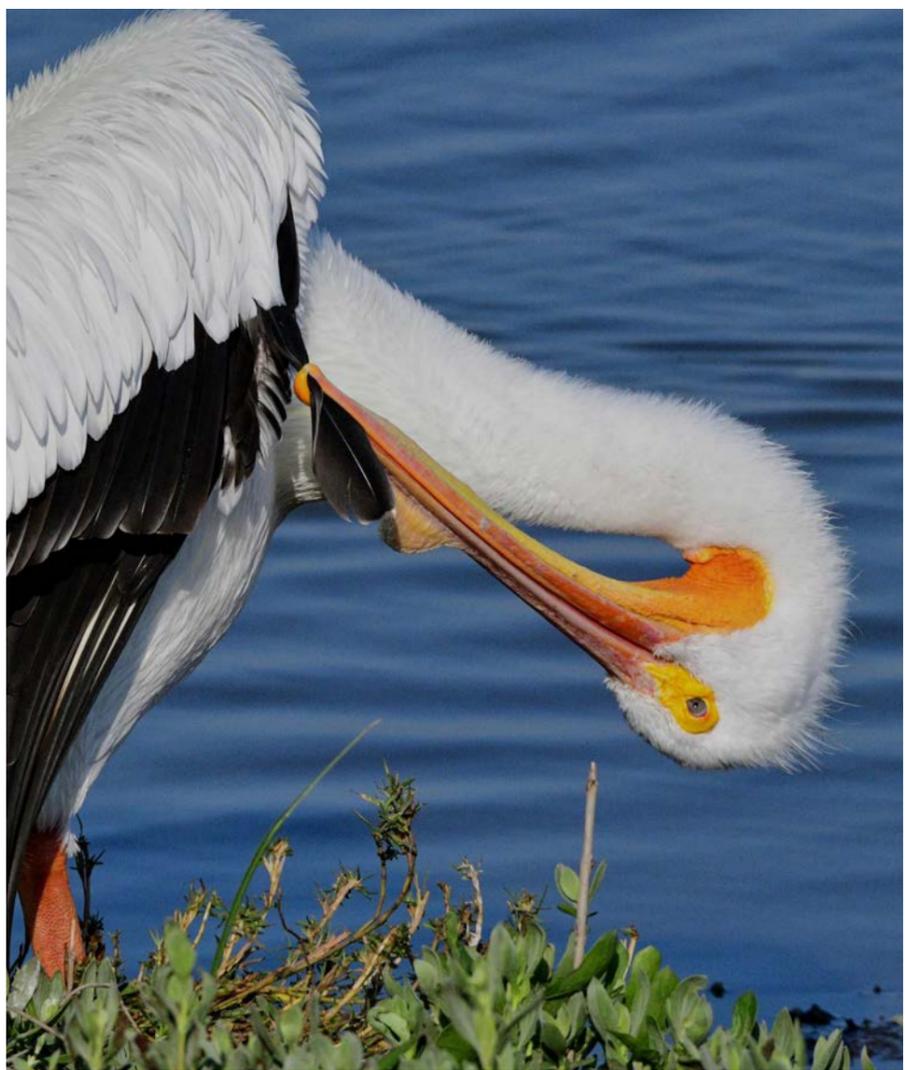
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Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Where the Tide Left Her Photo By John Morris



White Pelican Preening on a beautiful day. Photo By Lu Ann Kingsbury

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# Island Outdoors

## On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner



Yes, it's true folks, sometimes I get called away for work and have to be on the road and sometimes out in the dunes. We were down in South Padre last week looking at a site (undisclosed purpose) on the backside of the Island and it is like a different planet. After you get past the surprisingly steep dunes, the wind tidal flats stretch for almost as far as the eye can see all the way to the edge of the Laguna. Wind tidal flats are unique special aquatic sites found primarily on the lower half of Padre Island and almost the entirety of the backside of South Padre Island.



Lily studying the tidal flats

You can get on the Texas General Land Office GIS website and click on all the boxes and see the pipelines that are in the area of the power plant. Most come in from offshore or are lateral lines in the Laguna and are 16". Some are being used, some may not be in service, and some may be abandoned. While there is a process called "pipe bursting" that could be employed, I'm not sure how big of a pipeline you can pipe burst through a 16" line. The most attractive thing is that a short 2 miles away, there is a new 32" water line that goes to all the new water towers that has been built. With the addition of some pumps, we could reverse the flow of freshwater back uphill and even send more out to the Island. There are a lot of hurdles to overcome.

Well, the mockingbirds are singing their hearts out attempting to secure territory for nesting, the dove birds are calling to each other, and the mesquite and south Texas natives are starting to pop leaves and flowers. The hummingbirds will be here en force shortly, so time to get those things up. I'm trying to get some milkweed started but having issues getting them big and healthy. They pop, but then they fall over and wilt or the wind has been too much. Drop me some advice at [jaygardner1032@gmail.com](mailto:jaygardner1032@gmail.com) and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Wind tidal flats

These special flats are characterized by almost completely flat elevations that are just above the average tides. Wind forcing is what causes these to be occasionally seasonally flooded, typically during spring tides or frontal passage. Just an inch of water above the mean high tide can flood square miles of these flats. There is no appreciable vegetation save for a small blue-green algae (*Lyngbya* spp.) that leaves a dark crust on the soil. While it appears that there's nothing out on those flats, they can be highly productive for some of our most endangered species, namely the Piping plovers and other shorebirds.

One of the issues with wind tidal flats is how fragile they are. There are times when there is literally only a quarter of an inch of water covering many square miles. The problem occurs when a vehicle gets out on the flats and drives for a mile leaving deep ruts that can actually prevent water from making it to the other side of the ruts, stranding water from what can be miles of wind tidal flats. This is due to their nearly level slopes, and the fact that these environments take years and years to develop, and they take even longer to recover from disturbance. There are several areas that are being restored and studied on both Islands now.



Camping with Jeff

## Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah



## From the Ashes



The Big Black Drum Run and spawn will continue through mid April, then these fish will spread out and head shallow after shrimp and crabs! Right now they are gathered around the deeper passes, channels, and piers in the Laguna Madre and Port Aransas. Farah



The Allen Family came down to fish the LAND CUT with me this week and we caught over 50 redbfish! They are streaming into our back bays right now following shrimp and crabs.

Flowers grow from the ashes of fire, and so I have been striving to do the same in life and fishing after the devastating fire a few weeks ago at Marker 37 Marina. My family there has been busting their buns to clean up and and running. THEY ARE OPEN! BAIT SHOP IS ROCKING! A new bar and eating spot has grown up called HEMMINGWAYS, smash burgers and fun easy food on the water, along with anything and everything from SNOOPY'S delivered in minute's right to the water. Funny thing I noticed the other day, now that the boat lifts are gone, the view all around SNOOPY'S AND MARKER 37 marina is open for the eyes to wander. They have some exciting plans for rebuilding and entertaining the Island folks and visitors.

FISHING HAS NOT SKIPPED A BEAT! The winds of March have been strong, but that is normal. We have had abnormally light winds in March for the last few seasons, this year we are right on schedule. With these high winds tides are moving north and south with the tug of war between north and south. When the southeast winds take over look for a giant bull tide to come in and bring green water to our inland bays. Fish are settled in zones close to deep water where shrimp are moving, as well as the mid depth flats that are full of baitfish taking shelter in the grass. Anglers drift fishing with both live shrimp and popping corks and soft plastics are having great success on redbfish and trout. Use a drift anchor to slow you down and drift strait. Remember that while drifting you will want to cast out down wind and match the speed of your retrieve to the drift plus a little for your action. Casting in front of your drift keeps you fishing undisturbed water; being shallow the gamefish will spool off after the boat drift up on them. Starting your drift shallow along shorelines and flats

then moving out over deeper areas is a good way to find cleaner water conditions and stay out of the big wind and waves. After a few days of high winds bait and gamefish will move or be moved away from sheltered areas and be swept into windy shorelines, spoil areas, and structure. I call these k-makazi drifts! Drift with your motor down so that when you touch bottom in the high winds you can casually lift the motor and idle out. With your engine up you're going to end up with the boat on the bottom and a strong wind fighting as you push the boat out.

We have been using 1/4-3/8ths oz jig heads from the boat, when wade fishing lighten that up to 1/16-1/8oz. Some great areas along the JFK causeway, the backside of Mustang Island, and the eastern shoreline of Bird Island have been excellent for easy access fishing. The BIG SHEEPHEAD RUN did not go well; I guess the tens of thousands of sheepshead they caught last year put a dent in everyone's plans to fill the freezer. Black drum are still filing boxes in the land cut and Baffin as well as along the ICW in the Laguna Madre. They will be ending their spawn and will spread out when the big Bull tides come in and head to the shallow flats following the shrimp and tiny crabs.

Spring is here and Summer is right around the corner. Let's get you on the boat and back into fishing before summer hits. Come back to the reasons you moved here, walk the beach at sunset, one have a drink at the bar at MARKER 37 and watch the fishing boats come in, I'll even try to pump you up with a fish story or two! Follow all of our fishing at JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING ON FACEBOOK ! Or call to find your day, 361-442-8145

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Mr Dick Butler with a nice over slot trout caught on a DOWN SOUTH LURES PURPLE REIGN! This has been the #1 trout color.

**FAT CAT**  
20

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# Senior Moments Special to the Island Moon

## Alexander Graham Bell-Engineer Part 3

By Dotson Lewis

*Dotson's Note: Thanks to Dotson G. Lewis Sr. and Wikipedia, for many of the facts, and the photos contained in this report.*



### Boston School for Deaf Mutes, 1871

Bell provided pedagogical instruction to teachers at the Boston School for Deaf Mutes in 1871. Throughout his life, he referred to himself as «a teacher of the deaf». Bell's father was invited by Sarah Fuller, principal of the Boston School for Deaf Mutes (later to become the public Horace Mann School for the Deaf), to introduce the Visible Speech System by providing training for Fuller's instructors, but he declined the post in favor of his son. Travelling to Boston in April 1871, Bell proved successful in training the school's instructors. He was asked to repeat the program at the American Asylum for Deaf-mutes in Hartford, Connecticut, and the Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, Massachusetts. Returning home to Brantford after six months abroad, Bell continued his experiments with his "harmonic telegraph". The basic concept behind his device was that messages could be sent through a single wire if each was transmitted at a different pitch, but work on both the transmitter and receiver was needed.

Unsure of his future, he contemplated returning to London to complete his studies, but decided to return to Boston as a teacher. His father helped him set up his private practice by contacting Gardiner Greene Hubbard, the president of the Clarke School for the Deaf for a recommendation. Teaching his father's system, in October 1872, Alexander Bell opened his "School of Vocal Physiology and Mechanics of Speech" in Boston, which attracted many deaf pupils, with his first class numbering 30 students. While he was working as a private tutor, one of his pupils was Helen Keller, who came to him as a young child unable to see, hear, or speak. She later said that Bell dedicated his life to the penetration of that "inhuman silence which separates and estranges". In 1893, Keller performed the sod-breaking ceremony for the construction of Bell's new Volta Bureau, dedicated to "the increase and diffusion of knowledge relating to the deaf".

Throughout his life, Bell sought to assimilate the deaf and hard of hearing with the hearing world. He encouraged speech therapy and lip-reading over sign language. He outlined this in an 1898 paper detailing his belief that, with resources and effort, the deaf could be taught to read lips and speak (known as oralism), enabling their integration with wider society. Members of the Deaf community have criticized Bell for supporting ideas that could cause the closure of dozens of deaf schools, and what some consider eugenicist ideas. In his memoir, *Memoir upon the Formation of a Deaf Variety of Humans*, Bell wrote that if deaf people tended to marry other deaf people, this could result in the emergence of a "deaf race". Ultimately, in 1880, the Second International Congress on Education of the Deaf passed a resolution mandating the teaching of oral communication and banning signing in schools.

In 1872, Bell became professor of Vocal Physiology and Elocution at the Boston

University School of Oratory. During this period, he alternated between Boston and Brantford, spending summers in his Canadian home. At Boston University, Bell was «swept up» by the excitement engendered by the many scientists and inventors living in the city. He continued his research in sound and endeavored to find a way to transmit musical notes and articulate speech, but although absorbed by his experiments, he found it difficult to devote enough time to experimentation. With days and evenings occupied by his teaching and private classes, Bell began to stay awake late into the night, running experiment after experiment in rented facilities at his boarding house. Keeping «night owl» hours, he worried that his work would be discovered and took great pains to lock up his notebooks and laboratory equipment. Bell had a specially made table where he could place his notes and equipment inside a locking cover. His health deteriorated as he had severe headaches. Returning to Boston in autumn 1873, Bell made a far-reaching decision to concentrate on his experiments in sound.

Giving up his lucrative private Boston practice, Bell retained only two students, six-year-old "Georgie" Sanders, deaf from birth, and 15-year-old Mabel Hubbard. Each played an important role in the next developments. Georgie's father, Thomas Sanders, a wealthy businessman, offered Bell a place to stay in nearby Salem with Georgie's grandmother, complete with a room to «experiment». Although the offer was made by Georgie's mother and followed the year-long arrangement in 1872 where her son and his nurse had moved to quarters next to Bell's boarding house, it was clear that Mr. Sanders backed the proposal. The arrangement was for teacher and student to continue their work together, with free room and board thrown in. Mabel was a bright, attractive girl ten years Bell's junior who became the object of his affection. Having lost her hearing after a near-fatal bout of scarlet fever close to her fifth birthday, she had learned to read lips but her father, Gardiner Greene Hubbard, Bell's benefactor and personal friend, wanted her to work directly with her teacher.

By 1874, Bell's initial work on the harmonic telegraph had entered a formative stage, with progress made both at his new Boston "laboratory" (a rented facility) and at his family home in Canada a big success. While working that summer in Brantford, Bell experimented with a "phonograph", a pen-like machine that could draw shapes of sound waves on smoked glass by tracing their vibrations. Bell thought it might be possible to generate undulating electrical currents that would correspond to sound waves. He also believed that he would be able to convert the undulating currents back into sound by tuning multiple metal reeds to different frequencies. But he had no working model to demonstrate the feasibility of these ideas.

In 1874, telegraph message traffic was rapidly expanding and, in the words of Western Union President William Orton, had become "the nervous system of commerce". Orton had contracted with inventors Thomas Edison and Elisha Gray to find a way to send multiple telegraph messages on each telegraph line to avoid the great cost of constructing new lines. When Bell mentioned to Gardiner Hubbard and Thomas Sanders that he was working on a method of sending multiple tones on a telegraph wire using a multi-reed device, the two began to financially support Bell's experiments. Patent matters were handled by Hubbard's patent attorney, Anthony Pollok.

*Thanks For Reading -To Be Continued*



Photo courtesy of history.com

## Fish fries at St. Andrew By the Sea continue through March 27

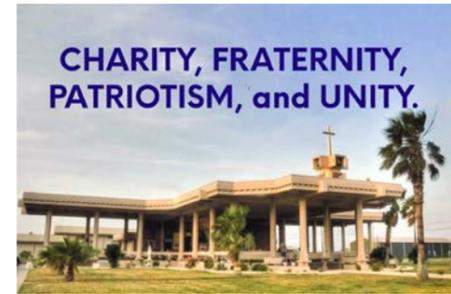
Knights of Columbus Padre Balli Continues Annual Lenten Fish Fry Fridays

For only \$10.00 a ticket or 3 tickets for \$25.00 you can enter in a chance to win prizes.

The Knights of Columbus Padre Balli Council #10677 at St. Andrew By the Sea Catholic Church has you covered for a delicious meal on Friday evenings through the rest of March.

Come join us for a tasty plate of fish with sides, held every Friday during Lent at the Family Life Center on the grounds of St. Andrew by the Sea located at 14238 Encantada Ave. from 5-7pm. There are only two Friday fish fries left this year, this coming Friday, March 20 and the final one, next Friday, March 27. Don't miss out on your last chance for a delicious meal and the chance to win some amazing prizes!

All proceeds benefit charities the Knights of Columbus Padre Balli Council support. The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization engaged in charity.



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## How to Safely Dispose of Your Used Fishing Line



Used nylon fishing line (monofilament) can be extremely harmful to boat motors and wildlife when it's disposed of in the water. It's not biodegradable and remains in the environment.

You can decrease the amount of fishing line entering your fishing spots by properly discarding your used line. Many bait shops, marinas and boat ramps have line collection bins. If your favorite spot needs one, consider making a line collection bin, installing and monitoring it – they're pretty simple.



Photos by Texan By Nature



Life is short, make every feather count Photo By Riekie Roncinske

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# Gene's Corner

## Experiencing the unknown

### *A cracking spinal tap*

By Gene Saegert

This has been a very weird week. I encountered two adventures that were heretofore alien to my body. No, neither illegal, nor extra-terrestrial, thank goodness. The cause for these experiences was a pinched sciatic nerve. I have not had pain like that since a kidney stone back in the 80s. The nerve pinch unfortunately occurred while I was training to run another 5k.

That is off the table now. But back to these experiences. Number one was my first trip ever to a Chiropractor. I had no idea what I was getting into. The adjustment started. Wow, are all those bone crunching noises actually coming from my body? I thought, can anything good actually come from my spine sounding like branches breaking? Is this actually supposed to make me feel better? Well I did survive and I don't understand how anything that causes my body to sound like that could be a good thing.

However, In conclusion it actually worked and a lot of the physical pain was gone, the mental picture may be hanging on the wall in my mind for a while. The second new experience, physical therapy. I didn't know what to expect after the chiropractor thing. Physical therapy? A totally different experience. First up, laying on a padded table with electric impulses, and heated massages that almost put me to sleep, I can definitely handle this! I look forward to more of this. Other than that it has been an interesting week. I am looking forward to more new experiences. Here is one interesting thing that came up after my sciatic nerve pinch. A senior friend of mine saw me walking with a limp and said "Looks like you got a hitch in your getalong" I hadn't heard that saying in ages. This brought back a lot of memories of the old sayings that we seniors had that the youngsters will never experience. Those were the days my friend. Have a good week!

*Thought for the day: Why is abbreviation such a long word?*



# Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

## Life-Altering Disruptions

When COVID hit in 2020, we were living in Farmers Branch, a suburb of Dallas. The toilet paper shortage hit our area hard. We laugh about it today. However, I remember the week when we were on our last roll. I went to the store in desperation. There it was – a package of toilet paper! It didn't matter if it were soft or strong, double or single, jumbo or regular. It was toilet paper!

The absurdity of toilet paper shortages aside, the life-altering disruption of those days was intensely difficult for many people. Disruption is like that.

The Bible calls for us to wait on the Lord. It is hard to wait when feeling isolated, anxious, uncertain, angry, and frustrated. It is hard to wait in the face of loss. We were grieving.

When disruption hits our lives we grieve the loss of normalcy, the loss of stability, the loss of control. We grieve an uncertain future.

Disruption is still a major part of our lives. We grieve change that is forced upon us. We grieve getting older and the challenges that arise from our aging. We grieve the diagnosis that changes everything. We grieve the chaos that seems constant. We grieve rising prices. We grieve the barbarianism that plagues our world. We grieve our broken relationships. We grieve when death visits.

When disruption and grief come calling, powerlessness and hopelessness seem to arrive on the same train. They always overstay their welcome. Using an image from Scripture, our bones feel dried up in the face of disruption.

Disruption is the time when something old falls apart. When something old falls apart our soul is invited to listen at a deeper level. The soul must go to a new place, because the old place is not working anymore. This does not feel good, and it does not feel like God. This is when we need patience, and the courage to let go of our tightening controls and certitudes. God is faithful; God is present.

When disruption brings change, we can find new meaning, or we can close down and turn bitter. The latter is the easiest choice. Our grief turns into grievance, and our hearts harden into to stone. We see plenty of evidence of this in today's grievance-fueled

world. Finding new meaning requires living in a confusing dark space for a while. Richard Rohr notes that this is why Jonah in the belly of the whale is such an important symbol for many people.

After visiting my parents, I boarded the airplane with great grief in 2010. I knew I had seen my father for the last time. Life seemed so disrupted. I sat in an aisle seat, which was highly unusual for me. I prefer window seats. The young girl next to me was moving to Phoenix to join her boyfriend in a new life together. She was full of excitement and joy about her new adventure.

On the other side of me was a young mom who was agitated and bothered. This led her baby to be fussy. The pappy in me tried to cheer the baby. Mom shared that she had forgotten the baby's formula. She was feeling like a failure. Relying upon my many years of parental missteps, I tried to assure her it would be okay. I told her she had a beautiful baby as a flight attendant found some milk and a bottle.

Somewhere in the silence that followed, it dawned on me. It's going to be okay. The joy of a baby, a new chapter in a relationship, reminded me of God's enduring presence for them, for my father, for my mother, for me, for the world. It was a gift of peace that gave me strength to get off the airplane and go back into life.

Disruptions and grief are part of life. Some bring laughter; some bring tears. Some are minor; some are major. We do not need to give in to fear, we can live in the power of love. We do not need to accept despair, we can live in power of hope. We do not need to be held captive by cynicism, we can live in the power of faith. We do not need to be crushed by death, we can trust in the power of life.

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



*Like other wading birds, Reddish egrets fluff their feathers to trap air and increase insulation against the cold. By Riekie Roncinske*

## A Dry Texas

### Statewide drought over the last 12 months

#### 2025

## Water Weekly

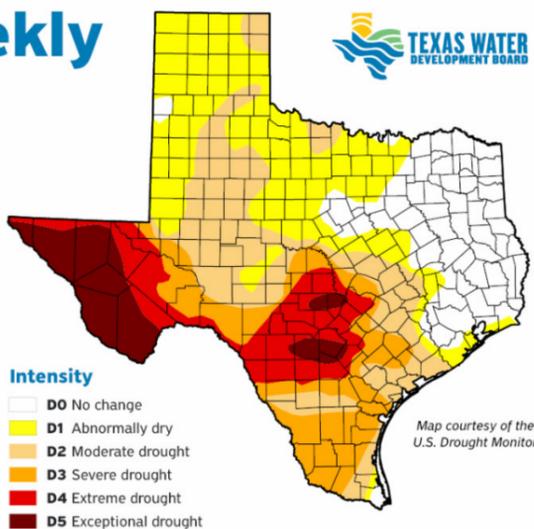
For the week of 03/17/25

### Water conditions

The latest drought map for conditions as of March 11 shows a small (less than one percentage point) decrease in drought compared to the previous week. That's the first weekly decline in drought since early February. Expected dry conditions make continued drought decline on next week's map unlikely.

### Drought conditions

- 54% now
- 54% a week ago
- 49% three months ago
- 24% a year ago



2026

## Water Weekly

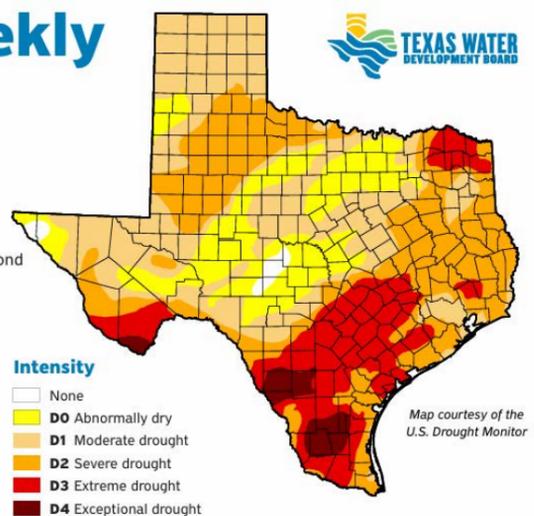
For the week of 03/16/26

### Water conditions

The latest map for conditions as of March 10 shows a small (less than half a percentage point) contraction in drought from the previous week. That's the first contraction in six weeks and only the second weekly contraction since late November 2025. Recent rains may allow for further improvements next week.

### Drought conditions

- 82% now
- 82% a week ago
- 45% three months ago
- 54% a year ago



## Help for a Friend

If you are a long time Port Aransas resident or regular then you are sure to recognize this man! T-Joe has been working in various places in Port A for decades and now he needs our help. His trailer completely burned along with everything he owns about two weeks ago. A group headed by Steve Coons has organized a benefit on T-Joes behalf this Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1pm to 5pm at Woody's Last Stand. That's on Cotter Street near where The Back Porch bar was located. They will be selling BBQ plates and also will have a silent auction, raffles and a 50/50 drawing. If you would like to help out please send us a message or come and we will get it to T-Joe. Photo by Steve Coons.



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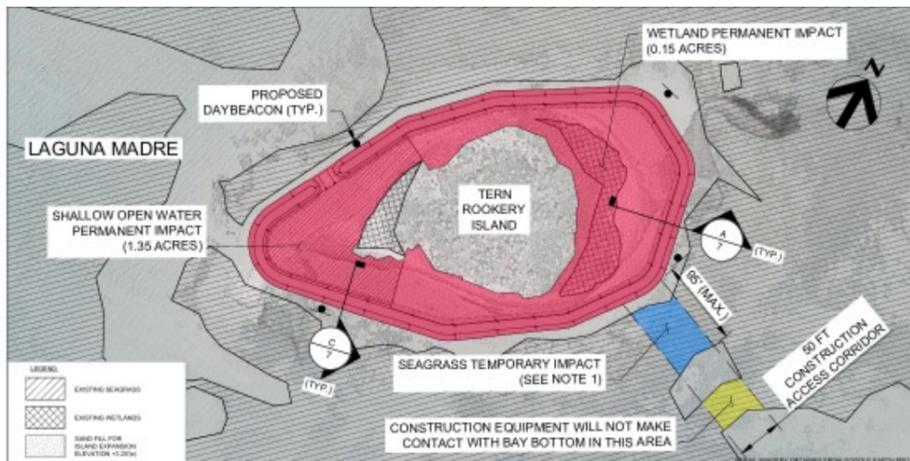
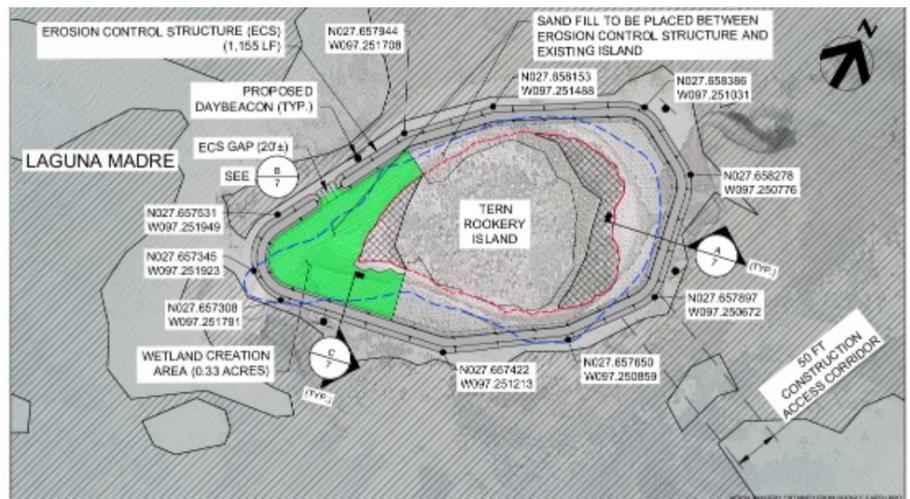
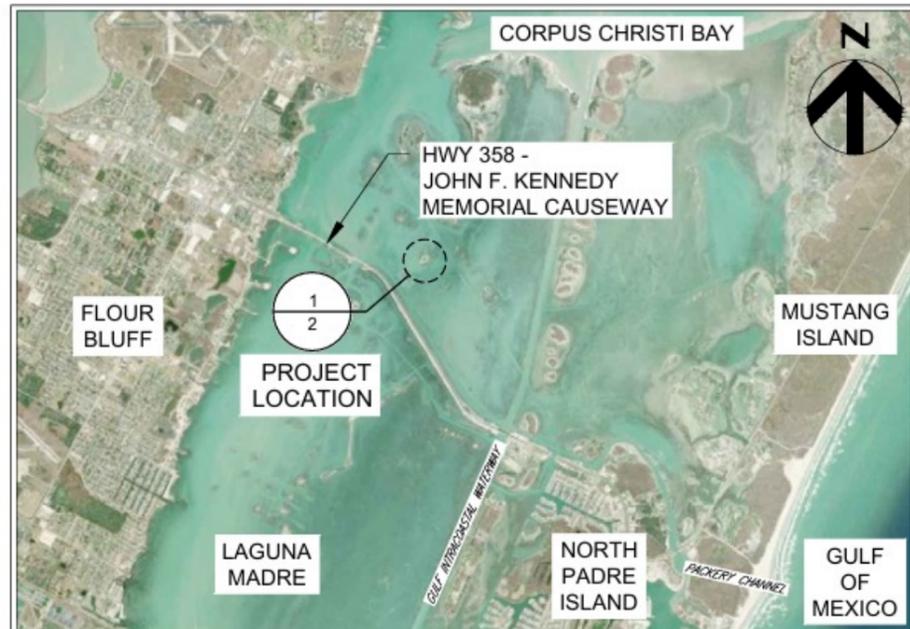
Go to Padre Boat Tours on Facebook!



# Tern Rookery Island Protection and Restoration Project

*Editor's note: Many Moon readers have asked the purpose of the barges full of rocks that have been parked next to the JFK Causeway for the last several weeks. The work by the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program is to make improvements to Tern Island which is located in the Laguna Madre. The following comes from the permit for the project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

The applicant proposes to place fill within open water and modify an existing anthropogenically created island to improve nesting habitat for colonial waterbirds. Specifically, the applicant proposes to construct an erosion control structure around the perimeter of an existing island, and place fill in nearshore open waters to expand upland nesting habitat and tidal wetlands.



## 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 Real Estate Roundup



Apryl Noles

### This week in Island Real Estate

This week on the Padre Island real estate market, we are continuing to see steady and encouraging activity across multiple price points, showing that buyer confidence remains strong as we move further into the year.

In the detached home sector, we currently have five homes under option ranging from \$319,000 to \$799,000, highlighting a healthy spread of activity from entry-level coastal homes to higher-end properties. We also have one home pending in the \$300,000 range, along with four homes that have officially sold this week, ranging from \$319,000 to \$545,000. This continued movement tells us that well-priced homes are still attracting serious buyers and getting results.

#### Townhomes

In the townhome sector, there has been no reported activity this week. While this segment is currently quiet, we often see fluctuations here depending on inventory levels and pricing strategies.

#### Condos

In the condo market, we do have one property under option in the \$300,000 range, showing that buyers are still actively pursuing more affordable options and investment opportunities along the island.

Overall, the Padre Island market remains steady and balanced. Properties that are priced strategically and presented well continue to perform, while buyers are taking advantage of opportunities across a range of price points. Stay tuned for next week's update as we continue to monitor trends and keep you informed on what's happening right here on Padre Island!



Despite the Spring Break crowds, if you get to the beach in Port Aransas early enough, you might be able to find a place to park.



Bathing Beauty Photo By Lu Ann Kingsbury at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center



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Featured: Dan Herrington, Vice President, NMLS# 562367

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# Sudoku

Sudoku answers are not available.

Play at your own risk!

*Going Easy On You...*

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

*Knuckle-Cracker*

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

*Mind-Numbing Frustration*

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

*Brain-Buster*

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

**Across**

- 1. Dote preceder
- 5. In \_\_\_ way
- 10. Cpls.' superiors
- 14. Two pairs?
- 15. "Civil Disobedience," e.g.
- 16. Trapped like \_\_\_
- 17. Word of hearty concurrence
- 18. Type of sofa
- 19. Knight time?
- 20. Duct tape, at times
- 23. Bout ender, for short
- 24. Shelter for feral animals
- 25. Individualist
- 26. Word linking get-here
- 28. Prefix meaning "gas"
- 31. ADA member
- 32. Icy hazard
- 33. Hopeful
- 36. Like a Bigfoot sighting, at best
- 41. Toy dog breed
- 42. It has eight phases
- 43. Latin lover's verb
- 46. Mail-order music name
- 47. Manhattan Project physicist
- 48. Superior grade of black tea
- 50. Teen's collection
- 52. Bill's "excellent" sidekick
- 53. Silly idea, perhaps
- 58. Gray's subj.
- 59. Burger layer, perhaps
- 60. Churn up
- 62. Field of business
- 63. Author Hector Hugh \_\_\_
- 64. \_\_\_ mater
- 65. "The Owl and the Pussycat" poet Edward
- 66. Fragrant compound
- 67. Legal instrument

# 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
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

**Down**

- 1. Sooner State town
- 2. Dunderhead
- 3. How some slug it out
- 4. "This \_\_\_ laughing matter!"
- 5. Inflation protection
- 6. Like Miss Saigon
- 7. Letters to answer?
- 8. Sir's counterpart
- 9. New Year's Eve word
- 10. Permission
- 11. Punish, in a way
- 12. Prepared for feathering
- 13. Bull market necessities?
- 21. Machine that fits in one's hand, briefly
- 22. It eliminates suspects
- 23. Fashionable Brit
- 27. Move in large numbers
- 28. Stained glass figure, perhaps
- 29. Some MIT grads
- 30. Breathing sound
- 33. Droop in the sun
- 34. Amount to be raised?
- 35. Noted plus-size model
- 37. George of "Star Trek"
- 38. Cabin feature
- 39. Erstwhile
- 40. Geraint's beloved
- 43. Horrify
- 44. Bad guy
- 45. Figure skater Baiul
- 47. Seminoles' sch.
- 49. Blender brand
- 50. Laundry, e.g.
- 51. Fund contributor
- 54. Alaskan seaport
- 55. Wildebeests
- 56. Shade
- 57. Gown wearer
- 61. Whippersnapper

## Police Calls

*March 1-11*

- 15400 blk. SPID March 2 Terroristic Threat
- 16100 blk. Seagrape March 2 Theft \$100-\$750
- 14000 blk. Bounty March 4 Burglary of a Habitation
- 11400 blk. Gulf Beach March 7 Assault on Pubic Servant
- 13900 blk. Landyard March 8 Theft of Service
- 80 blk. Quetzal March 11 Theft \$100-\$750
- 13800 blk. Laffite March 11 Terroristic Threat



*I told you I'll be ready in about 5 minutes. Black-crowned Night Heron  
By Riekie Roncinske*

**You're Invited!**



**To The Padre Island Poker Run  
Thursday, March 26, 2026 6-9pm**

**Free Local Event!**



**March theme: "Under the Sea"**  
Join us for poker, prizes,  
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Dress yourself up in  
an Under the Sea theme.

Event and donations  
will benefit the  
Texas Sea Life Center



The caravan and sign up starts at the Black Sheep Bistro/Barrel at 6pm, continues to the Brewster Street Ice House the moves to The Anchor Beach Bar & Grill and then the Sandbox Beach Bar, and finishes at The Angry Marlin Tiki Bar. Last draw and prizes at 9pm. For more information about this event or details about the next monthly themed poker event go to Facebook @AngryMarlinRestaurant

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Costs start at \$15 for 25 words  
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**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
**Sunset 7 AA Group**  
**Meets four times per week on North Padre Island**  
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
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 Sunday 8 am at Padre Balli RV Park Open Pavilion  
 15820 Park Rd 22.  
 (In bad weather, the Sunday meetings will be indoors at IPC)

**Is alcohol causing a problem in your family? Try Al-Anon**  
**Al-Anon meets at 7:00 pm Sundays at Padre Island Baptist Church**

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Lunch By Jim Gilmore



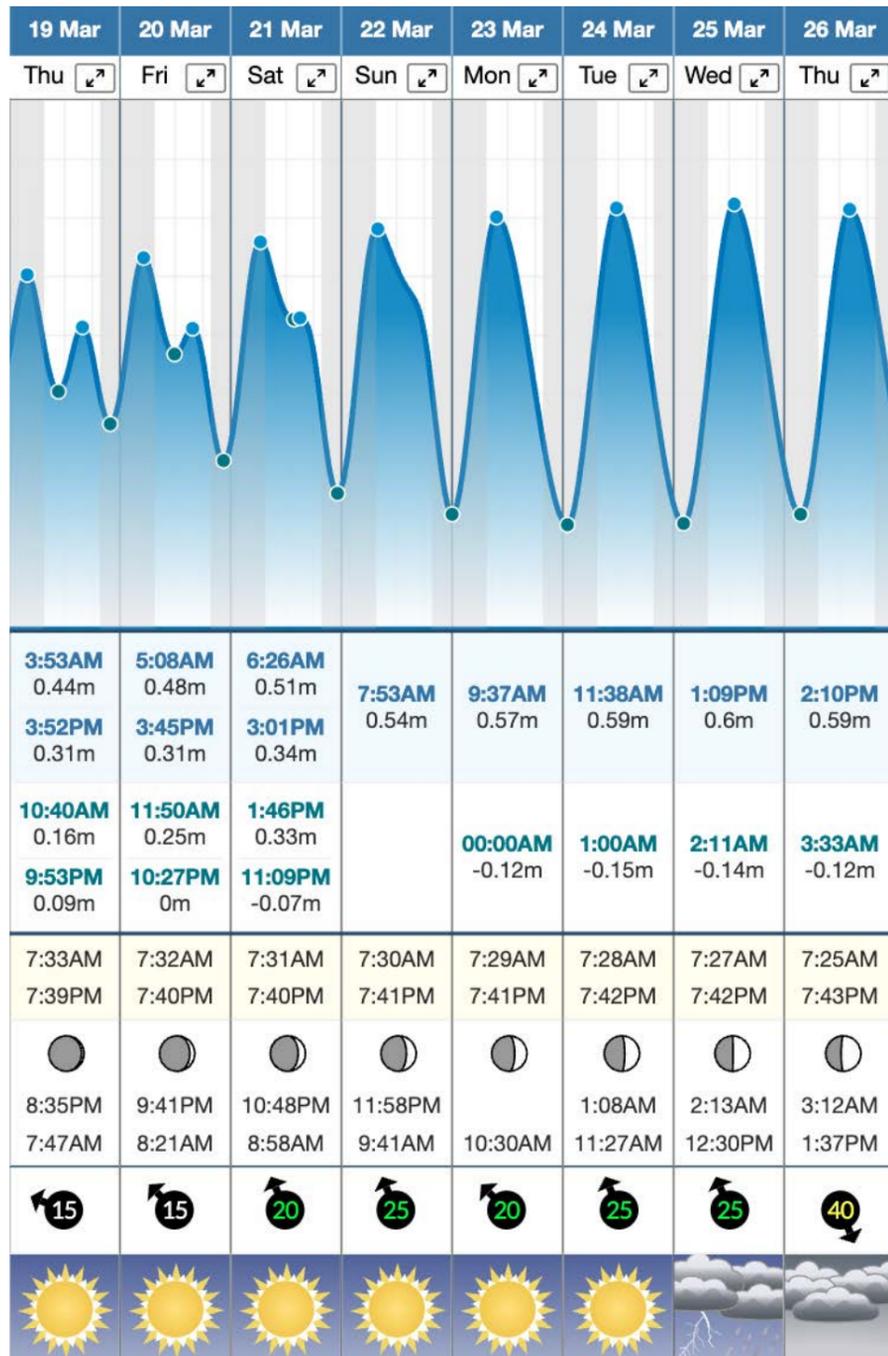
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## Tides of the Week



## Crossword Solution

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

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon

# Donald Trump and American Football-Part 3



*Dotson's Note: During the trial, Trump stated that in March 1984, he had met with Rozelle at The Pierre hotel and, during the meeting, Rozelle tried to talk Trump out of moving the USFL to the fall, offering him an NFL franchise if he cooperated. Thanks to Bill Morgan and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in this report.*

However, Rozelle denied making this offer. Rozelle stated that Trump had been the one who set up the meeting and rented the space at The Pierre and from meeting notes showed that Trump had requested an NFL expansion team in New York City, with plans to sell off the Generals. Leslie Schupak, a person who was present at the meeting, later told Pearlman that Rozelle had told Trump, "As long as I or my heirs are involved in the NFL, you will never be a franchise owner in the league".

The trial lasted for 42 days, with the jury returning a verdict on July 29. The jury ruled against the NFL, although they also stated that the USFL's financial difficulties had not been caused by the NFL and awarded the USFL damages of only \$1, which was tripled to \$3 because it was from an antitrust case. At Myerson's advice, the league decided not to host a 1986 season as they appealed the case. However, just six days after the trial concluded, the USFL folded. Four years later, the Supreme Court of the United States allowed the ruling to stand and, with including interest, the NFL paid the USFL \$3.76 in damages. A 2014 article in *The Washington Post* stated that, following the lawsuit, «Trump was effectively blackballed" from NFL team ownership.

In 2009, Tollin produced a documentary film for ESPN's *30 for 30* series called *Small Potatoes: Who Killed the USFL?*, which recounted the history of the USFL and included interviews from numerous individuals who had been involved in the league, including Trump. As part of the documentary, Tollin tried to answer the question of why the USFL failed and concludes that Trump's actions had a negative effect that led to the league shutting down. Trump was highly critical of the documentary, calling it "third rate" and calling Tollin "a loser" and "a sad guy". Pearlman was similarly critical of Trump's actions as an owner in the USFL in his 2018 book *Football for a Buck: The Crazy Rise and Crazier Demise of the USFL*, citing his involvement as ultimately detrimental to the survival of the league. Trump, on the other hand, says that his involvement in the league helped to keep it in existence for longer than it would have been otherwise and that it additionally boosted his own image. Concerning his social status before the USFL and the impact it had, Trump said, "I was well known, but not really well known. After taxes, I would say I lost \$3 million. And I got a billion dollars of free publicity".

On February 16, 1988, Billy Sullivan, owner of the New England Patriots, announced that Trump was in discussions to purchase the team from him. Sullivan had been experiencing financial difficulties through the 1980s and Trump was one of several high-profile individuals who were in talks to purchase the team from him, which also included businessmen Jeffrey Chodorow, Robert Kraft, and St. Louis Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl, among others. Trump had been given first chance to bid on the team. However, thirteen days after the announcement was made, Trump pulled out of the discussions, stating that the deal would have resulted in him also acquiring \$104 million in debt from the team and the stadium. According to *Sports Illustrated*, Rozelle was also against Trump buying the team due to Trump's involvement in the USFL lawsuit several years before and his ownership of casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey. According to *The Boston Globe*, acquiring the team would have cost Trump

approximately \$80 million. The same day that Trump pulled out, former United States Postmaster General Preston Robert Tisch began to negotiate with Sullivan about purchasing the team. Ultimately, Sullivan sold the team to businessman Victor Kiam.

### Attempted purchase of the Buffalo Bills



Bon Jovi

Trump employed a public opinion campaign against Jon Bon Jovi during his attempted purchase of the Buffalo Bills in 2014. In March 2014, Ralph Wilson, the owner of the Buffalo Bills football team, died. Following this, the team was put up for sale and Trump made an effort to purchase them. Speaking to *The Buffalo News* in April, he said, «I'm going to give [buying the Bills] a heavy shot. I would love to do it, and if I can do it I'm keeping it in Buffalo». However, musician Jon Bon Jovi, who had formerly been a part owner of the Arena Football League's Philadelphia Soul, was considered the frontrunner to purchase the team, alongside a group of investors from Toronto. To help his chances of purchasing the team, Trump employed Michael Caputo, a political operative for the Republican Party, to organize a fan group called the "12th Man Thunder".

The group spread rumors that Bon Jovi was planning to relocate the team to Canada and circulated a petition calling for any future owner to agree to keep the team in Buffalo. The group additionally set up «Bon Jovi Free Zones» in local restaurants and bars where music from Bon Jovi was not allowed. The group received widespread media attention, including an article in the magazine *New York* titled, «Jon Bon Jovi is the Most Hated Man in Buffalo». However, according to a 2018 article in *Business Insider*, the value that this campaign brought to Trump's attempted purchase is unclear, as Wilson's trust was expected to accept the highest bid regardless of the intent of the individual making the bid.

At the time, the Bills were valued at about \$870 million and Trump's bid was for around \$1 billion. Meanwhile, Terry Pegula, a businessman in the natural gas industry and owner of the National Hockey League's Buffalo Sabres, placed a bid of \$1.4 billion, acquiring the team. In a September 2015 interview with *Sports Illustrated*, Trump stated, "He [owner Terry Pegula] bought it for a billion-two, I believe, although they say it was a billion-four. I think he got it for a billiontwo". According to sportswriter Mike Freeman, a source from the NFL stated that other team owners were skeptical that Trump had the money needed to purchase the team, and a 2019 article in the *Toronto Sun* reported that, while Trump had made a nonbinding offer for the team in June 2014, he had not placed a final binding offer by the September 2014 deadline set by the existing owners, despite telling the press at the time that he had. On October 10, 2014, the Bills held a press conference to announce Pegula as the new owner.

*Thanks For Reading-To Be Continued*



Happy Saint Patrick's Day By Lu Ann Kingsbury

## PADRE ISLES PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

Combined Annual and Regular Board of Directors' Meeting  
Saturday – 28 March 26 10:00 AM

**Location:**  
**Seashore Middle Academy – Cafeteria**  
**15437 S. Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78418**

**Attend in person or login via Zoom**  
**Browser: zoom.us**  
**Personal Meeting ID: 439 451 0087**

**Participant Passcode: xqxKy6**  
**Or, copy and paste into your browser for immediate access:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/4394510087?pwd=Lm0yKMYxcWsFdYhZjuiWaFbLo6a00N.1>

**NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA – Subject to Update during the notification period**

Zoom participants may use the chat function to ask a question. Zoom chat questions will be addressed time and content permitting. Please sign in prior to the meeting with your name, physical address, email address, and the subject to be addressed.

### Annual Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
  2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  3. PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE POA (WORKING FOR YOU)
    - a. 2025 in Review
    - b. 2026 Road Map
    - c. Current Initiatives
    4. Election Results \*
  5. COMMUNITY DISCUSSION WITH BOARD MEMBERS and Guests
- . ADJOURN the Annual Meeting

\* Election results may get pushed out to accommodate an extension of our polling window if necessary to get a quorum.

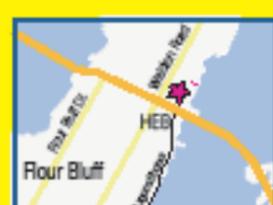
### Regular Board Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. Board of Directors - Officer Election
  - a. President
  - b. Vice President
  - c. Treasurer
  - d. Secretary
3. Adjournment



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# Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

*Icky I tell you...*



Port A Spring Break 2026...  
the Festering Den of Sin

As I sit to write this column early in the last week of *Spring Break 2026*, my immediate impression is lukewarm at best. In all the past years of watching mass gatherings of young adults on leave and in full goose party mode on the beach in Port A, this one strikes me as pretty icky so far. A 17 year old from San Antonio got into a late night fight with another group of hot heads and shot five of them. This was at pole 20 around midnight when nothing good ever happens. I saw where there were 101 arrests in the first week for minor in possession (of alcohol). With the HEAVY police presence, I'm sure there will be more plus a bunch of DWI's. Right now everyone is worried about more violence. Icky I'm telling you. Through the years I've have jumped into the middle of pretty much every *Festering Den of Sin* that I can remember in the last 15+ years. They are all pretty much the same with a few different footnotes here and there. One time seven years ago my *Mermaid Gal* went with me and *Rockin' Dale Rankin* and we literally jumped into the den with Rankin toting a local news camera that he was leading us around with and we were nearly devoured. So truth be told, I haven't made it any farther than the *Beach Lodge* this year but promise to keep trying. The weather got cold and windy on us and the beach pretty much emptied out on Monday. But it was stone cold packed last weekend and it will be this weekend too because the sky opened up and it was beautiful for the *St. Patty's Day Pub Crawl* on Tuesday, which was a rousing success. I caught up with them at the *Sip Yard* then *Shorty's* and it was a nice big turnout. *Shorty's* is overhauling their little deck outside where the stage is and making it much bigger. Work is underway and it won't be long until *Shorty's* will have a big pretty deck with a big, beautiful new stage. *Edwin Meyers* has pulled the trigger and added a bunch more moving parts. It's definitely a work in progress right now. It's buzzing over there...again.

### T Joe needs our help...

Longtime resident & fixture of the Port A waterfront, **Joseph "T Joe" Miguez** lost his trailer home & everything in it to a blazing electrical fire on March 5. T Joe has worked boats on the waterfront longer than I can remember & over 30 of those years on the *Island Queen*. In 2001 he received the *Silver Star Lifesaving Medal* from the Coast Guard for leaping into rough seas to save two men whose boat had capsized. If you know him, you love him. Friends have organized a fundraiser on Sunday March 22, (1 - 5 pm) to help him get back on his feet. There will be a BBQ, raffle and silent auction at *Woody's Last Stand*, 154 W. Cotter, under the big white tent. T Joe is originally from Louisiana so this is sure to be a good party. Everyone is welcome.

### No left turns...



Shorty's on St. Patty's where they're enlarging the deck.

The live music venues in Port Aransas were hitting on all cylinders last week. For the first time since last summer, we had live music every day of the week and our little island was invaded by thousands of *Spring Breakers*. It's the same thing this week. I cautiously maneu-

vered my way around town avoiding left turns and doing my best not to get run over in my trusty golf cart. I wasn't so lucky last year when some jerk in a giant pickup sped up as I was turning into *Shorty's* and clipped me on purpose with his bumper on purpose. It was actually a hit and run but I wasn't hurt and the damage was minimal. I'M LUCKY TO BE ALIVE I TELL YOU! The streets circling our town were one solid line of vehicles where the head met the tail. I'm wondering if it will be that same way again this weekend although I suspect it might be slower because of the shooting on the beach might have some people scared off. This is why we can't have nice things.

### Scattered shots...



Dreaming in Color will play Bron's on Saturday

It was great lineup of bands last week. I especially like **Red Feather** at *Shorty's*, **Brandon Michael** at *Bron's*, **Riptide** and also the dueling pianos show at the *Sip Yard*, **National Nobodyz** at *Treasure Island* and the **Chris Lancaster** show at the *VFW*. Believe me, there were many more (**Groove Chili**, **Austin Forrest**, **Cruise Control**, **John Elijah**, **The Groove**, **Darren McGill** and **Cruise Control**)... all noteworthy shows. Also, the *St. Patty's Day Pub Crawl* last Tuesday was a bonafied hoot.

### Coming this week...



Carson Miller will play Treasure Island this Friday.

On Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> I recommend our friends with **Bushbullit** at the *Sip Yard*, **Harmonyx** at *Bron's* and soloist **Tyler Jordan** at the *Gaff*. Also the **Johnson All Starz** Thursday night's residence at *Shorty's* have decided to keep **Ray Summy** on board permanently. Coming this Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> I highly recommend our Cajun pals, **Boo & Poo** at the *Gaff*, **Lucky Dogz** at *Shorty's*, young singer-songwriter **Carson Miller** at *Treasure Island* and sweet **Lisa Sullivan** (of *Love Street*) going solo at the *VFW*. On Saturday I'd point you towards the great **Palacios Brothers** from Hebbronville at *Shorty's*, the classic rocker **Dreaming in Color** with the amazing **Debra Scott Brown** singing her heart out, **Cathouse** with the great **Rafael Davila** on lead guitar and vocals, the **Silver Corvette Band** at the *VFW* and the rock cover band **The Chainlinks** at the *Sip Yard*. Plus check out the **Moon Time w/ James Derkits** every Monday at the *Gaff*. Y'all have fun and be especially careful out there this weekend. And the word of the day is "Patience".

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



The Palacios Brothers will play Shorty's this Saturday.



Rockin' Dale Rankin in the middle of Spring Break 2017.



T Joe's Fundraiser is March 22

# LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

### Thursday

#### March 19

Johnson All Starz @ Shortys  
Bushbullit @ Sip Yard  
Harmonx @ Bron's  
Tyler Jordan @ Gaff  
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog  
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach  
Obscura, @ House of Rock  
David Martinez @ Brewster Southside  
Nathan Allen @ Brewster Island  
William Beckmann @ Brewster Downtown  
Kat & Natp 2.0 @ Executive Surf Club  
Ruben Limas @ Perrin's on the Water

### Friday, March 20

Cruise Control @ Bron's  
Lucky Dogz @ Shorty's  
Adysen Maleki, Kelly Daniels @ Sip Yard  
Lisa Sullivan @ VFW Port A  
Carson Miller @ Treasure Island  
Boo & Poo @ Gaff  
Dickie Delight @ Salty Dog  
NEF @ Pelican Lounge  
Kolby Cooper @ Brewster Downtown  
The Groove 2.0 @ Executive Surf Club  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach  
National Nobodyz @ Sugar Shack

### Saturday

#### March 21

Palacios Bros @ Shorty's  
Chainlinks @ Sip Yard  
Dreaming in Color

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BELTSANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT  
OPEN MIC EVERY WED WITH BRAD E.  
TYLER JORDAN MAR 19  
BOO & POO MAR 20  
JIM DUGAN MAR 21  
BRAD ETHRIDGE MAR 22  
MOON TIME W/ JAMES MAR 23

**SHORTY'S**  
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN  
THE ALL STARS EVERY THUR 8-12  
LUCKY DOGZ MAR 20  
PALACIOS BROS MAR 21  
LEFT RIGHT LEFT MAR 27  
SHORTY'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY  
MITCH POLZAK APR 10-11  
TOMAN BROS APR 11

**Treasure Island**  
CARSON MILLER MAR 20  
CATHOUSE MAR 21  
RAUL AYALA MAR 28  
JON CAR APR 3  
BACK PEW REVIVAL APR 4  
PALACIOS BROS APR 5

**MOORE-MCDONALD VFW POST 8967**  
LISA SULLIVAN MAR 20  
SILVER CORVETTE MAR 21  
BRAD ETHRIDGE MAR 24  
CLEARTONES MAR 25  
GARRY MITCHAM MAR 27  
LUCKY DOGZ MAR 28

**Sip Yard**  
BUSHBULLIT MAR 19  
ADYSEN MALEK, KELLY DANIELS MAR 20  
CHAINLINKS MAR 21  
LOWLAND REVELRY MAR 27  
WHISKEY DOWN MAR 28  
CRUISE CONTROL APR 3

**Bron's BACKYARD**  
HARMONX MAR 19  
CRUISE CONTROL MAR 20  
DREAMING IN COLOR MAR 21  
FLYING FREE MAR 27  
TIMOTHY NOEL MAR 28  
JERRY WARD & DIRTY BIRDS APR 3

@ Bron's  
Silver Corvette @ VFW Port A  
Jim Dugan @ Gaff  
Cathouse @ Treasure Island  
Clark Bros @ Bier Haus  
Love Street @ Pelican Lounge  
Emo Night Tour @ House of Rock  
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Southside  
Meza @ Brewster Island  
Cruise Control @ Sugar Shack  
The Groove 2.0 @ STX Icehouse  
Sonny Salinas, Velvet Drive @ Executive Surf Club  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards Too

### Sunday, March 22

FUNDRAISER FOR TJOE (1-5) @ WOODY'S LAST STAND  
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's  
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff  
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog  
William Skrobarczyk @ Executive Surf Club  
Monday, March 23  
Moon Time w/ James @ Gaff  
Ejey "Eddie Alaniz" @ Pelican Lounge

### Tuesday, March 24

Brad Ethridge @ VFW Port A  
Heavy Soul @ Executive Surf Club  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach

### Wednesday, March 25

8<sup>th</sup> Annual TX Plastic Pollution Symposium @ TAMU Galveston

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