



On the Rocks B1



Three Chords and the Truth B6



Beachcombing Report A5



The Art of Island Life B2



Nature Notes A6

Issue 1145

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The Island Moon

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March 26, 2026

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Sea turtle release by Evelyn Pless-Schubert

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NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

By Dale Rankin
We have reached a slow spot Around The Island this week as Spring Break 2026 fades and the 100-day summer season is still in the misty future. We are in the Chamber of Commerce Weather part of the Island calendar but while things are mostly quiet there is some movement on various Island projects that we include in this issue.

Over by the bridge
Over by the JFK Bridge the barges that have been anchored near the causeway are completing their work on Tern Island and should be heading to parts unknown soon. Under the causeway word came this week from city officials that a Memorandum of Understanding among the parties is being drawn up to clear the way for the long-anticipated paving of the parking lot under and near the bridge. Also, near the bridge expect to see some moves toward the reopening of the Packery Channel Bar & Grill there in the next few weeks.

Speedy Stop
Owners of the new Speedy Stop store next to American Bank on SPID said this week they are currently in discussion with state officials regarding rights of way for entrances and exits for the store but no date for construction has been set. Plans to reconfigure that crucial intersection have been a work in progress for many years and once the paper Sand Dollar Street north of State Highway 361 is paved and development around Lake Padre begins traffic patterns there will change drastically. A key obstacle in the past has been a need for a traffic light there, however, the location is too close to the light at the Commodores/SH 361/SPID for the addition of a second light there.

Whitecap NPI events space
Final plans for the Early Activation Center at Whitecap NPI are nearing completion with plans to have mixed use facilities open in summer 2026. Phase I of the project is already underway along Compass Street and include a

Around cont. on A6

Briscoe King Pavilion project headed to bids

County Commissioners' vote clears the way for construction to begin in summer 2026



Briscoe King Pavilion Rendering

By Dale Rankin
A request for bids for construction on the new \$8 million 6730 square-foot Briscoe King Pavilion will go out in April following a vote this week by the Nueces County Commissioners Court. The Nueces County Coastal Parks Board will issue a request for bids during a thirty day period followed by a thirty day review process setting the proposed date

Briscoe cont. on page A5

Tern Rookery Island Protection nearing completion

Work to improve the Tern Island rookery in the Laguna Madre is nearing completion. For the past several weeks barges of rocks have been staging east of the JFK Causeway while the project is underway.



Tern Island with the JFK Causeway in the background

Tern cont. on page A5

Island Skate Park Schedule

The City of Corpus Christi this week issued a Preliminary Timeline for the skate park planned for Billish Park on The Island. The park is being funded through the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2.

Preliminary Timeline Summary

Milestone	Date
Public Notice	March 12
60% Submittal	April 16
90% Submittal	June 4
100% Submittal	July 30
Final S&S	August 27
FMAC Procurement & T.O. Execution	October 22
Construction Complete (est.)	April 22 (next year)



Billish Park

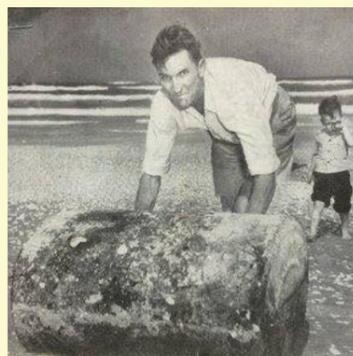
A little Island history

Getting Longer in the Tooth and remembering Louis Rawalt

By Bobbie Kimbrell

At 95 I no longer make Jack Rabbit starts or spin the wheels when I take off or speed down the road anymore.

I am more like a snail now, making sure I have it all together even before I stand up. Also I seem to be running out of gas for new fishing stories to write in the Island Moon but thanks to the stories in the Moon for the last three of four



Louis Rawalt and his son

week about Louis Rawalt I decided to write a few follow-up lines about Louis when I knew him.

I first met Louis about one year before he put in the Coastway Baitstand next to the Intracoastal Bridge. He was keeping his Penn Yann V-boat, a 16-foot skiff at my dad's bait stand, the Red Dot Bait Stand that was about 50 yards south of the Intracoastal Bridge. The skiff had a 25 horsepower

History cont. on A5

Annual PIPOA members meeting set for Saturday
Election has reached voter quorum

Majority of board seats up for election

By Dale Rankin
When the 5196 members of the Padre Isles Property Owners were asked to cast ballots for seats on the seven-member board in 2025 only 424 votes were cast which was 78 votes short of the number needed to reach the required 10 percent of membership to make the election official. As a result for the past year a majority of board members were appointed by board members rather than elected by the membership, with the board operating with only six seats filled for much of the year.

That will not be the case in the 2026 election in which the number

POA cont. on page A3

By the numbers

Sales Tax by City

Editor's note: The following numbers were provided to the Corpus Christi City Council this week by the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation for 2025.

Sales Tax Collections 2025

- \$100.2 million Corpus Christi
- \$8.4 million Portland
- \$6.8 million Alice
- \$5 million Ingleside
- \$4.5 million Beeville
- \$4.3 million Port Aransas
- \$3.8 million Rockport
- \$2.9 million Aransas Pass
- \$2.6 million Robstown
- \$2 million Sinton
- \$595,197 Gregory
- \$141 million total

Employment by Sector/Corpus Christi

- 202,700 Non-Agriculture
- 35,800 Government
- 35,300 Trade, Transportation, Utilities
- 34,700 Education and Health Services
- 26,300 Hospitality
- 24,100 Construction, Mining

Sea turtle release

Volunteers with The Texas Sealife Center released twenty-one green sea turtles on Sunday, March 22nd. The turtles were all rehabilitated from various illnesses or injuries. The turtles were released at Mile Marker 216 behind the Wyndham CC hotel. Photos By Debbie Noble



Texas Sealife Volunteers

Around cont. from A1

commons green-space area for public gatherings, pickle ball courts, docks, food trucks, and importantly for Island boat owners a fueling station. We will have the plans for the work there in the next few weeks and will share them in these pages.

Opening the canals

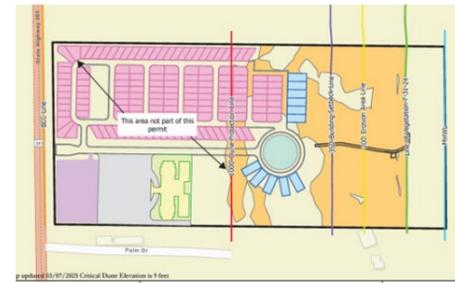
Word came from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers this week that the permit to open the canal under the Commodores Drive bridge is now pending with two federal agencies who are reviewing it under the Endangered Species Act. Corps officials said once that is approved it will return to the corps for final approval but no timeline for the opening of the canal has been set. The owner of property around Lake Padre has said the dam between the lake and the Don Patricio Bridge will be removed when the Commodores canal is opened.



State Highway 361

Two projects on Mustang Island north of Packery Channel moved forward this week with the approval by the city Planning Commission. The first is the new Beach Access Road #3 which will be in the 6500 block of State Highway 361 which was part of a 2020 bond package. The road will provide access to seven miles of beach north of Fish Pass which is currently only reachable by turning south on Beach Access Road #2. The location will also be the site of a new subdivision project at a later date but this week's vote clears the way for the city construction of the much-needed access road.

Further north a Beachfront Construction Certificate was issued by the commission for property at 7213 SH 361 for the construction of a 450-foot long, 10-foot wide dune walkover in anticipation of the building of a future development (see graphic). No start date for construction on the new access road has been set.



Port Aransas

And finally for Islanders who have long lamented the closing of the iconic Back Porch Bar in Port Aransas there was some good news this week with the opening of the new Boat Bar right next door which is on an old ferry boat. It is very Islandish and Jay Gardner has more details in this issue, our suggestion is to go before summer when it is discovered by tourists as it is sure to be a favorite *Around The Island*. That's all for now as we wind down to Easter when white pants will once again be allowed and Island dogs will howl at the full moon. It's a great time of year here on our little sandbar with Texas Sandfest barely three weeks away so get out there and enjoy it and say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



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Moon Monkeys

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Riley P. Dog

About the Island Moon

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

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14646 Compass, Suite 4
Corpus Christi, TX 78418
361-949-7700
editor@islandmoon.com
Facebook: The Island Moon Newspaper

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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Restricted access to JFK Causeway



Several years ago I suggested to the Police Department in Flour Bluff a Restricted Access to the JFK Causeway at State Park RD 22 (just west of the Intracoastal Bridge) to help reduce congestion that builds occasionally, sometimes to a stop on the Causeway when driving to Padre Island. Many drivers choose to get ahead of the line by getting off the Causeway west of the baitstands on Park road 22 and then getting back onto the Causeway just short of the Intracoastal Bridge (pictured below) causing the right-hand lane to back up even further. I was told that the limited access idea would not work here. It works very well in many places in our state and throughout the country. It could be a gate electronically activated by the Police Department when a properly placed camera revealed the need.

BUT, possibly an even greater benefit could have helped in a multi vehicle accident with injuries on the Intracoastal Bridge in the early afternoon of March 11 of this year. The accident was in the eastbound lanes on the Intracoastal Bridge and very quickly created a long backup. Emergency vehicles from town heading to the accident scene became mired and halted along with the other traffic west of the Intracoastal Bridge. With a little ingenuity and the Restricted Access mentioned above, Parkroad 22 traffic could have been directed along the sand like so many other drivers do today to get to the turnaround and back on the Causeway westbound toward Flour Bluff. Then, if still needed, the mired traffic in the right lane on the bridge could be backed off the bridge to get back onto the Parkroad and to the turnaround thereby clearing the entire way to the accident scene.

Craig J Wooldridge

CLEAT Marks 50 Years of Representing Texas Law Enforcement

The Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT) is commemorating 50 years of service to Texas law enforcement, marking five decades of legal defense, legislative advocacy, and member representation across the state.

Founded in 1976 by a group of officers seeking independent, member-driven representation while attending a law enforcement conference in San Antonio, CLEAT is now grown into the largest law enforcement association in Texas. For half a century, the organization has provided legal protection, contract and bargaining support, and a strong voice in the Texas Capitol on issues impacting public safety professionals.

"For 50 years, CLEAT has stood firmly behind the men and women who protect our communities," said Scott Leeton, President of CLEAT. "Our foundation was built on independence and a member-first approach. That mission continues today as we defend careers, protect due process, and advocate for those who wear the badge and safeguard our communities."

Over the past five decades, CLEAT has represented thousands of officers in critical incidents, administrative proceedings, and complex legal matters. The organization remains member-funded and focused on ensuring law enforcement professionals have experienced, dedicated legal defense and consistent representation statewide.

As CLEAT reflects on its history, leadership emphasizes that the anniversary is not only a milestone but a forward-looking commitment.

"The challenges facing law enforcement continue to evolve," said Robert Leonard, Executive Director of CLEAT. "Our job is to make sure officers have the representation and protection they need now and in the years ahead. We have continued to adapt to meet the changing needs of Texas law enforcement, and we will continue doing so for future generations."

From CLEAT headquarters Austin

Good day PIYC Members,

The Board would like to express its gratitude to all those members who worked so hard to pull off our 3rd Annual Boat Show and Market Days.

To Mike Hettick mastermind of this event - THANK YOU!

To all those who were involved in the pre-planning, putting out signs and fliers, following up with vendors, and getting the word out - THANK YOU!

To all those who got up at the crack of dawn to help get vendors set-up and then spent two days picking up trash, schlepping stuff, helping wherever needed and then staying to help tear down everything at the end - THANK YOU!

To all our Courtesy Shuttle Drivers - THANK YOU!

To all our Gate, PIYC Tent and Garage Sale volunteers some of whom were there all day, both days - THANK YOU!

To all the members who donated items to the garage sale - THANK YOU!

To all the members who either purchased a booth or showed up to support the event - THANK YOU!

The numbers aren't in yet, but one definite is the comradery it created. Members were working together for a common cause. Members who didn't know each other before the event got to know each other by working together. And overall, it was hard work but fun.

So, again THANK YOU!!!

We will report our results soon.

Best Regards,



- PIYC Board of Directors
- Gail Iwaniak
 - Lee Eledge
 - Ann Adams
 - Butch Stosberg
 - Tim Lockman
 - Joan Schultz
 - Renee Schroeder
 - Mike Hettick
 - Rob Tagliaferro



POA cont. from A1

of PIPOA members has dropped to 4996 meaning that 501 votes were needed for a quorum to make the results official and as of this week 580 votes have been cast.

To ensure a quorum was reached for the 2026 election the deadline to cast a vote was extended to midnight March 30 meaning that the results of the election will not be announced as per tradition at the annual Members Meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, March 28. When balloting began the only means of voting was online through the ManageCASA website with paper ballots added to the process and the voting deadline extended to increase the number of voters participating.

"I will present the election results to the board by Thursday 2 April. The POA staff will collect paper ballots at the annual meeting, but they won't be entered into ManageCASA until the following Monday," said Executive Director Rick McGinley.

2026 priorities

McGinley this week released a list of priorities for 2026 which he will outline for the board at the annual Members Meeting.

- A quick review of last year's bulk-head repair statistics
- Our property management tool suite and how it supports business operations
- The new ACC process and how it folds in all aspects of the covenants and guidelines
- A Canals and Waterways Synopsis and the path forward
- The election process and how it's going
- A general discussion on our focus on process improvements and office automation where practical
- Member comments and discussion about the presentation material

Board candidates

The candidates are: (Vote for four)

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

PIPOA Annual Meeting
Seashore Middle School Cafeteria
15437 SPID
Seashore Middle School Cafeteria
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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

I have reached the stage in life where about the only time I reunite with old friends from other OTB lives is when one of the group dies. It used to be weddings. That was the case this year when a member of the San Antonio Express-News refugees passed away and the lines of communication lit up and each call started with someone asking if we still had water down here and it reminded me that when it comes to firing people up there are two kinds of stories that never miss; taxes and water and one of my friends brought up a water-related story that I did during a tight rating fight has been told and retold each time we gather for the next funeral...

A live human sacrifice

In the mid-1990s I was working at KENS television in San Antonio and we were locked in a dogfight with KSAT during a rating period when market supremacy was at stake. Winning or losing a ratings fight by a point of less may not seem like a big deal; it's only one point. But the way a lot of national advertising buys are done is strictly by the numbers. When a big agency in Dallas or New York is looking to buy ads for a campaign in a given market they start with the market leader and buy up all their inventory first, they don't care if the leader is only the leader by one-tenth of a ratings point, they don't care if the station got its numbers because the anchor does the show without pants. They're renting eyeballs. So whichever station has the ratings lead not only sells its inventory out first, they become the de facto price setter for the entire market. While winning a ratings fight may only mean free pizza for the polyester-wearing wretches in the News Department it means a new Lexus for the silk wearers in Sales.

So as is often the case when money was at stake we had a meeting with the suits. There was one week to go in the ratings period and the two competing stations were one-tenth of a ratings point apart. "We need something big," said a suit. "Something that will get everyone's attention."

I suggested a live human sacrifice and they laughed.

"No, I'm serious, well, sort of. There's a guy on death row that I've interviewed twice who says he wants his execution televised and it's this weekend. If we could get a camera in there we would have every set in the city tuned to us."

"Do you think they would do it during the 10 o'clock show?" someone asked. "No," I said it wouldn't be live, at least not at ten. They used to do them at the stroke of midnight but the state got tired of paying overtime for the staff so now they put them down at sundown."

"So maybe we could win the 6 o'clock show," someone said. "If we hooked them up to IFB (an earpiece) with the producer we could cue the executioner to start the drugs right after the open and they would pull the sheet over his face right after sports. That would be killer! Can we do that?"

Now I know there are going to be some among you reading this who are going to think I made that up. I wish that were the case. But you have to understand newsrooms in markets with meters hard-wired to television sets are brutal places. Every morning when you show up for work the numbers from yesterday's shows are on the bulletin board and broken down into fifteen minute segments. If you start off strong and die in the second quarter the weatherperson gets very nervous and is likely to predict snow in tonight's show even if it is August in South Texas. If you start slow and pick up in the bottom of the hour the anchor starts looking for someone to blame and the producer is the first in line. The second rule of television is it's always the producers fault. The first being that engineers get you last.

Ratings correlate directly to the bottom line and if the bottom line is good anchors and

weather people get new contracts, if ratings go south the sports guy usually is the first to go after the producer simply because he/she is the easiest to get rid of.

Plan B

So as I'm mulling the logistics of a live human sacrifice I'm seeing all kinds of production problems, the moral implications can come later – after the ratings are in. I realize that if I don't stop this train from rolling down the track I'm going to spend the next five days trying to get a satellite truck into the Polunsky Unit in Huntsville. My only hope is to call Allan Polunsky, a San Antonian who was then Chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice and plead my case and it's a longshot at best and if it doesn't work and we lose the ratings fight the blame will find me. I threw out the old standby.

"How about we feature a different tree climbing dog every day," I say. "We could do that and the human sacrifice," a suit says. Things are getting desperate. Now besides a human sacrifice I'm going to have to find five tree climbing dogs.

"How about I go test the drinking water," I say. The suits come up with a dozen or so time-wasting questions.

"Let's don't waste time testing the water until we know what's in it. What if we don't find anything? Why don't we just go to the water treatment plant and just get a sample there?"

"We won't know what is in it until we test it, if we don't find anything then that's the story, and we don't have a water treatment plant, the water comes right out of the Edwards Aquifer ready to go. Look, if you want to win a ratings fight stop trying to micromanage. I'll go out there and scare the most people possible with the fewest facts allowable and we'll get ratings." That seemed to do the trick. They didn't want to win any Murrow Awards, they just wanted a new Lexus.

"Are you crazy!?"

So I called a friend at Southwest Research and asked if they would test the samples I brought in. "Are you crazy!?" We do the testing for the San Antonio Waters Systems if we test for you once we'll lose the contract." I was sent to a lab in Pittsburg which agreed to do the work and given instructions on how to take water samples. "The first place they are going to come back at you is your methodology for taking the samples," my friend said. "If that isn't done just right they can say it's a bad sample and it won't matter what you find."

So the next day I found myself driving to six locations in different sections of San Antonio knocking on the doors of strangers and asking if I could come in and sample their tap water. I think the only reason most of the people didn't call the police is because they had seen me on the news – otherwise I was just a shady character trying to talk my way into the front doors of strangers.

The great water-sampling story was now flowing downhill and there was no dam in sight. The promos were due to hit air two days before I got the sample results back. If there was nothing in them that was newsworthy it was up to me to pull a rabbit out of the hat and turn it into news. I wasn't liking the direction this was going, but hey, at least I wasn't sitting in an office in Huntsville explaining why it was in the public interest for me to televise an execution.

"I can make this work no matter what," I told myself, all the while knowing it was a black lie. This had catastrophe written all over it and my name was on it. Maybe I was the subject of the human sacrifice but if that was the case at least the crowd on the third floor would get their Lexus.

Next time: The story starts to take on water.

Island Moon on A Spoon

Easter Eggs Aren't Just For Coloring

Although serving "Deviled Eggs" on Easter sounds inappropriate, it is truly a delicious snack or appetizer to serve none the less. So for the sake of being politically correct we can call them "Bunny Cheeks". Held side ways they actually resemble the cheeks of a bunny. Ok it's stretching it I know... But let's focus on the recipe. :)

For most of us who make or eat "bunny cheeks" we can't eat just one. Years ago, while preparing this recipe at a golf course where I was the Executive Chef, I decided to make them a little more filling and tastier. I followed a traditional recipe and added cooked chicken breast in the along with the whipped yolks and it made an amazing difference. The chicken added a richer, tastier addition to the basic yolk mixture.

If you're feeling adventurous... why not add smoked salmon instead of chicken and then add a shred of the salmon as a garnish, a small dollop of lemony sour cream, and top with a sprig of dill or chive.

The tricky part isn't what you add to embellish the eggs, it's actually the art of cooking the eggs properly so that they don't turn green and they look better when being served. Although making hard boiled eggs is fairly easy, there are a couple of little tricks I've learned along the way that I'd like to share with you. When you are ready to boil your eggs, place each egg in a pot of cold water. The water should be at least 2 inches above the eggs. In order to peel them without the shell sticking to the egg, add 1 teaspoon of baking soda to the water. Gently add each egg one at a time to avoid cracking the shell. Once all of your eggs are in the pot, turn on burner and pay attention to the water. Soon after tiny bubbles start forming, the water will begin to boil. Once the pot begins to boil turn off the burner and cover with a lid for 13 minutes. After 13 minutes have passed drain the water and add fresh cold water and ice. This stops the cooking process and holds the eggs bright yellow.

When you are ready to peel your eggs, place a couple of paper towels on the counter and peel away. Rinse your eggs and place rinsed eggs, on another paper towel, to absorb any water. Gently, with a sharp knife, cut them directly in half, - length wise. Add yellow yolks and the ingredients of this recipe in a food processor and blend. You can spoon the filling back in the egg or get fancy and use a pastry bag and star shaped pastry tip and fill accordingly. Refrigerate and serve.

Stuffed Bunny Cheek (Eggs) Recipe

12 large hard cooked eggs
1 Large Cooked Boneless Chicken Breast
Chopped Fine (Rotisserie Chicken works too)
1 cup PHILADELPHIA Whipped Chive Cream Cheese Spread
4 Tbsp. Hellman's Mayonnaise
1 Tbsp. Sour Cream
1 tsp. spicy brown mustard
1 Tbsp. Fresh Squeezed Lemon Juice
½ tsp. sugar
dash hot pepper sauce
¼ tsp. Salt and pepper
¼ tsp granulated garlic
2 Tbsp. fresh chives

Tip of the week!

Deviled Eggs / Bunny Cheeks are truly like making pizza... You can get creative and add all kinds of ingredients. Bacon, ham, olives, capers, even caviar. So play away and have a great Easter! Have Fun! Try New Things! Happy Eats... Enjoy!



Photo from justataste.com

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History cont. from A1

outboard on it and he used it to checkup on the birds on the Big Bird Island. Come to find out he was a bird warden for the National Audubon Society. He only used the skiff once or twice a month and let me use it to run a trotline I had while I was also working at the Red Dot. At times we would give children who had never had a ride in the boat, rides in the canal.

According to the stories about Louis in the Moon he and his wife were actually pioneers on The Island since about the only other people living on Padre were the cowboys who lived in the ranch house near Packery Pass. At that time in history I doubt that anybody else lived on The Island, although there were some fishermen living in tarpaper shacks on Mustang, north of Corpus Christi Pass a little later on. I am pretty sure Louis drew a pension from the Army since had been given up to live because of the gas poisoning in World War I and I'm sure he drew a salary from the National Audubon Society. Also you have to give the wife of Louis a lot of credit for living such an adventurous challenging life style on The Island, away from the hustle and bustle of city life or the busy life on a farm, milking the cow every morning and feeding the chickens and gathering the eggs and stoking the wood-fueled stove and so forth.

I never knew Louis's wife but I knew his son Charlie when he operated the bait stand. We played a lot of poker with Charlie and other shrimpers and fishermen at night after business had slowed down. Party boat Captain Clark's son played poker with us fishermen as well. I never knew Louis' daughter but I went to school at Flour Bluff

with her husband Norge Williams who later on owned and operated the Williams Boat Works near Loyola Beach at Rivera. I know that Louis found a lot of arrowheads and artifacts at the highest point of land near Packery Pass which later became Lemans Motel which was across SPID from Whataburger.

Hopefully in the near future some kind of memorial will be erected somewhere on Padre with his name etched as an adventurous, challenging pioneer. Louis survived the death diagnosis the Army doctors gave him and lived, lived, lived!



Coastway founded by Louis Rawalt.



Bobbie age 13

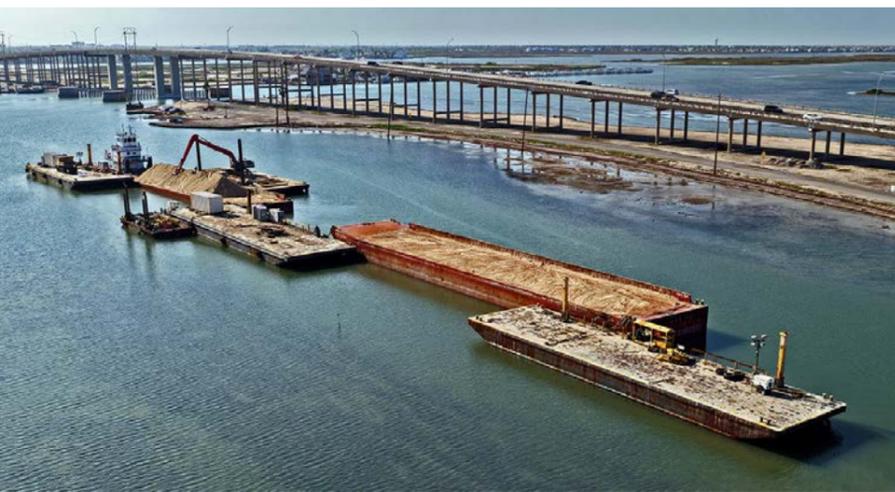
Tern cont. from A1

Tern Island is located near the bottleneck of the Central Flyway, in the Upper Laguna Madre which serves as a vital stopover and nesting area for colonial waterbirds, such as pelicans, herons, terns, and skimmers. As habitat loss associated with coastal erosion and increased development continues to impact coastal ecosystems, protecting remaining rookery islands has become a top conservation priority.

To address the impacts of erosion approximately 1,000 linear feet of riprap rock breakwater has been installed around the perimeter of the island which will serve as breakwater to reduce wave energy, slow erosion, and increase the island's resilience to future environmental stressors. Imported fill material will also be placed behind the breakwater, increasing the island footprint and available nesting habitat. Once complete, the island's footprint is expected to increase from approximately 1.5 acres to 2.5 acres.

The island is owned by the Texas General Land Office (TGLO), leased to Audubon Texas for the protection and management of colonial nesting waterbirds, and managed annually by the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP) Coastal Bird Program.

In a second project nearby, City of Corpus Christi officials said this week plans for paving the parking area under and around the JFK Bridge are 90% complete and they are currently working with the Texas Department of Transportation to amend a Memorandum of Understanding between the two entities which share jurisdiction there. Once that is complete the project will go to the Corpus Christi City Council for a vote. Bonds for the project totaling \$2.1 million already approved by voters are available for funding.



Tern Island restoration material barges

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Beachcombing Report

By Jace Tunnell

Purple Sea Snails Sea Drifters



Jace with Purple Sea Snails

Strong onshore winds this week brought in one of the Gulf's more unusual drifters, the Purple Sea Snail. While riding my e-bike on the beach I found around a dozen washed ashore, many of them still alive. Curious to watch them up close, I placed several in a clear glass of saltwater where they immediately went to work rebuilding the delicate bubble rafts that keep them afloat in the open ocean.

Unlike most snails that crawl along the seafloor, purple sea snails live their entire lives drifting at the ocean's surface. I found two species this week that include the globe and common sea snails. Both species hang upside down beneath a raft of bubbles they create using mucus and trapped air, forming a floating life raft that allows them to ride the currents across entire ocean basins.

While observing them, a couple of the snails released a splash of purple dye that stained my hand for nearly a full day. This defensive ink contains pigments similar to the famous "Tyrian purple," a dye once prized by the Romans for coloring royal garments. In ancient times, related sea snails were

harvested in huge numbers to produce the valuable purple pigment associated with wealth and power.

Purple sea snails are part of a floating community of ocean drifters that occasionally wash ashore together. I most often find them alongside Portuguese man o' war, by-the-wind sailors, and blue buttons, organisms that also live at the surface. For the snails, these creatures are not just neighbors but dinner. Purple sea snails are specialized predators that feed on these gelatinous drifters, even consuming venomous Portuguese man o' war.

One especially neat discovery this week was a small bubble raft floating alone with clusters of tiny purple sea snail eggs attached. Female snails attach their eggs to these bubble rafts, allowing the next generation to begin life drifting on the ocean's surface. Jace Tunnell is the Director of Community Engagement for the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His Beachcombing series appears on YouTube (@HarteResearch), Facebook (facebook.com/harteresearch), and Instagram (@harteresearch).

Briscoe cont. from A1

for construction to begin in July 2026. Funding for the project which will be built adjacent to the existing pavilion comes from the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2.

Bob Hall Pier updates

Work on the new restaurant facility on the pier is also set to begin in the next few weeks. Parks Board President Troy Adler

said this week that the construction contract has been signed for the construction work and crews are expected on site any day. Portions of the existing structure which housed the previous restaurant facility will be used in the new building, however, to what extent is unknown until demolition is underway.

Requests for Proposals from prospective operators for the new restaurant venture are expected to go out in May to be reviewed by the Parks Board with the opening of the new restaurant scheduled by spring 2027.

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Nature Notes

Anoles Changing color to fit their mood

By Celeste Silling



Green Anole



Green Anole



Brown Anole

A green Green Anole. Middle: A brown Green Anole. Bottom: A Brown Anole
Photo credit: Top and Middle: Celeste Silling. Bottom: Zygy, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons

When I first moved to Texas, I was given some misinformation that I maintained as factual in my head up until writing this article. The beautiful bright green and brown anoles, I was told, were invasive. Even believing this, I still thought they were charming little animals and very exciting to look at. So, as you can imagine, I was very happy to learn that the Green Anole is, in fact, actually native to our area!

The Green Anole, *Anolis carolinensis*, is a small lizard in the anole family. It is native to the Southeastern United States and can be found quite commonly on the Upper Texas Coast. Identification of this species can get a bit tricky because they are able to change the color of their skin from a bright, vibrant green to a more discreet brown. The Green Anole (which turns out to be a misnomer half the time) changes color depending on their mood, activity level, and temperature.

The Green Anole's ability to turn brown often gets it confused with the Brown Anole, an anole of similar size and shape with brown coloring. The Brown Anole, or Cuban Brown Anole, *Anolis sagrei* is native to Cuba, the Bahamas, Little Cayman and various other locations in Central America. This species is invasive in Texas and is likely the source of the false accusations against the Green Anole.

You can tell the Green Anole from the Cuban Brown Anole in a few different ways. First, the Green anole can turn brown, but

the Brown Anole cannot turn green. So, if you see a vibrant green, or even a somewhat green, anole, you're in the clear.

It gets a bit harder when the Green Anole in brown. The Brown Anoles often have intricate patterns on their skin, such as stripes or spots, spots in lighter or darker brown. The Green Anoles lack these patterns, though they do have some texture and freckles. Females of both species tend to have a light-colored stripe running down their backs. Green anoles have a longer snout than Brown anoles, and male Greens have a pink dewlap (throat skin flap) while male Browns have an orange one.

The dewlap can be a method of communication to competing anoles or other interlopers. When male anoles feel threatened or aggressive, they can open and close their pink dewlap in a menacing way. They can also bob up and down, doing pushups, and glaring. This posturing helps the males defend their territories from each other and can also get the attention of the female anoles as well myself and other nature lovers.

Despite their intimidating pushups, Green Anoles are entirely harmless to humans. They eat insects, including cockroaches, and are an important source of food for native birds. Overall, I am very happy to be able to clear the Green Anole's name. Though it's commonly mislabeled as an invasive species or a pest, the Green Anole is an important and endearing part of our Texas Ecosystem.

Quadruplets Arrive



A Corpus Christi family is sharing an extraordinary birth story after welcoming four baby girls following a rare quadruplet pregnancy delivered at Corpus Christi Medical Center. Adriana Luna and her partner, Anthony Lerma, were stunned to learn they were expecting quadruplets. Already parents to a 2 year old son, the couple recently welcomed Amora, Analia, Arya, and A'zura, who were delivered at 29 weeks, 4 days gestation. All four babies are doing well and receiving care in the hospital's Level III NICU.

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Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner



Here's an oldie but goodie story for you loyal readers, that leads us right up to today. Back in 1998 and 1999, I was finishing up my undergraduate degree at TAMUCC and transitioning into graduate school for my Masters in "Ecology with a Marine Emphasis." One of my favorite classes was with my good friend and mentor Dr. David McKee, and it was of course Ichthyology (study of fish). A bunch of us were running around knowing more about fish than the average person. We were dangerous, Ha!

That summer was a heck of a transition period; I had just gotten out of a long term relationship, had been offered a job with the Padre Island National Seashore by our friend Cynthia Rubio to do Turtle Patrol, was offered a Teaching Assistant position at TAMUCC, won a fishing tournament with my dad, and won a skiff in the "Kiss the Boat" contest. I went from listless to 100 mph in a few short weeks (reminder to run those stories again at some point).

During that same time, I was working on the *R/V Duke*, which was an educational and sightseeing tour boat out behind Woody's in Port Aransas (now the R/V Mustang) with owner Billy Gaskins, T-Joe, Bryan and Whitney, and Capt. Steve. Funnest. Job. Ever. We got paid to take people out on a boat, pull a small shrimp net, put the fish and creatures in a touch tank, and give tourists and children WWAAYYY more information about what we had just caught than anyone ever expected on a tour boat. We pulled the plankton tow, and I showed people through handheld viewers all the little copepods and critters that live in our water (and what gives you that "sandy feeling" in your shorts when you swim in the water; that revelation always raised some eyebrows). We also watched dolphins and did sunset cruises, and the odd benefit, bird tour, wedding, ashes spreading, etc.

Sometimes the shrimp net wouldn't yield much, and we had to tap-dance with two pinfish and a comb jellyfish in the tank surrounded by 20 wide-eyed kids. I really enjoyed working with the crew, and every once in a while, Billy would ask me to go out with T-Joe on the Island Queen (II) and take folks out fishing in the bay or if it was

flat, out to the north jetty. The 100-day tourist season in Port Aransas is a crazy time to be working out there, and despite a few trials and tribulations with boats or T-Joe landing in jail, we worked like a family, laughed and had fun, and made money.

Eventually I got more permanent jobs and moved on with my education and got a job with Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (TCOON) maintaining the water level and water quality stations along the coast. Side note, I had heard that Billy sold the Duke, and I was in San Antonio Bay one morning in my work boat, and was headed back to the boat ramp very slowly in a fog. I could hear a boat chugging up the ICWW, and suddenly the Duke appeared like a ghost out of the fog. I didn't see anyone on board and was kind of spooked out. I caught up with T-Joe years later just the other day and told him the story, and he laughed, said "yeah, sold the boat to someone in Alabama or somewhere that was doing tours as well. You didn't miss anything on that trip because the weather was rough!"

I eventually got my first "career" job after being recruited by local Port A resident Dave Sullivan (good seeing you and Amy the other day!) and just didn't have time to spend out in Port A, but they are still family. Billy has transformed the Island Queen II into The Boat Bar, and I'm sure they will do well. The Mustang is still running trips, which T-Joe is deck handing, and I highly recommend you go out there when they're running. I hear there's another Mustang in the works, which I can't wait to see her.

Well folks, we were out in Port A the other day catching up with everyone as T-Joe's trailer burnt down with everything in it. There was a great benefit put on by Billy, the local boating community, dock rats, and a bunch of other fine folks, which reinforces my use of the term "family." We had a great visit catching up, and as we were leaving, T-Joe was taking out the trash and cleaning up from his own benefit. "Always in motion he says." I agree T-Joe, see y'all sooner than later out there, and see you loyal readers here next week On the Rocks.



Billy, T-Joe and I

Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah



Springtime runs start soon!



Redfish are hunting along the flats beside the INTRACOASTAL CANAL, this 29" er blasted a DOWN SOUTH LURES, PINK PANTHER! Great new color: Farah

The winds of March will soon subside and allow the heavens to sprinkle some rain upon us all. I don't think that it will be enough in any way, but that change of weather patterns will be welcome. In our local fishing, the change will surely bring a higher tide and flush of green water and good fishing. The first part of spring usually sees a push of fish and bait from the north until we get a big Bull tide from the south. This is an exciting time in Baffin Bay and the surrounding waters. The mature speckled trout from Mansfield and beyond migrate north into the fertile grass flats and spawn. We will be enjoying all of the fruits of spring every day, I'd love to invite you to remember why you live and breathe here on Padre!

The thump echoed up the line and through my hands, I stalled, reeled down and pulled the rod to a full bow. She struck a run that made me think it was a redfish but her black back and flashing silver face told me I had hooked a giant trout! Whitewater looked like cotton candy as she shook, and then bolted again out and around the boat. I had the live

well ready when she came aboard and we slipped her strait in and let her catch her breath. Her purple flanks echoed back the morning sun. A few pictures snapped and she splashed my glasses as she left. Those big mature trout demand respect; they look you into the eyes. They are also masters of their environment, sensitive to boats, waders, and even casted baits falling from above. Picking each cast, and using your imagination while working your bait all the way back each cast makes a big difference in the results.

Beach fishing has been great! Sheepshead, pompano, whiting, sharks and more all from our new BOB HALL PIER! I've seen some great catches from the Port A jetties as well. This is usually starting to slow down but they are hit right now! I'm pinched for time the Moon monkeys are calling to send in some graffiti!

Go walk the beach, make some casts and let the sunset clear your soul. Follow all of our hookups on Facebook and Tick Tok, at Joey Farah's Backwater Fishing! 361-442-8145

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29.5" 8.5lb Monster Trout! We caught this great fish on AGAIN PINK PANTHER by DOWN SOUTH LURES. This fish came from the deep flats along the King Ranch Shoreline. Farah

The Art of Island Life

A moment of inspiration that led to a life of art

By Melissa Mitchell

For artist and author John Little, the path to becoming a professional artist began years ago while standing with his wife in Marathon, Florida. The two were watching renowned marine artist Guy Harvey paint an ocean mural on the side of an old Kmart building.

Layer by layer, a bull shark began to appear. "I remember watching him create the large shark," John told me. "Each layer shaped it, and you could see the whole thing start coming to life. I remember turning to my wife and saying, 'Babe... I can do that.'"

At the time, life had other plans. But that moment stayed with him.

Early Creativity

Art had always been part of John's life. He remembers it being his favorite class in elementary school—aside from lunch and recess, of course. In high school, creativity showed up in unexpected places. While taking drafting classes, John transformed an old kitchen cabinet in the family barn into a colorful underwater mural.

"It started as a plain blue background that looked like water," he said. "So I began adding fish—a spinner shark, a queen angelfish, coral, and reef fish. Before I knew it, that old cabinet had turned into a full mural."

Life eventually carried him in another direction. John went on to serve in the United States Coast Guard and later spent years with the Corpus Christi Police Department. Those experiences shaped how he sees the world today.

"It gave me a perspective that made me realize how important time with family and the people we care about really is," he said.

For years, painting remained something he once loved—but never pursued. Until a simple moment changed everything.

Picking Up the Brush Again

That moment arrived through a Facebook post. A retired police lieutenant John once worked with suggested acrylic painting as a hobby for retirees with a little extra downtime. John decided to give it a try.

He stopped at Dollar General, picked up a small 4x6 canvas, a few tubes of paint, and some brushes—and painted what he knew best: the water. Drawing on his love for fishing and the outdoors, he created his first seascape completely from memory.

When his wife Alicia came home, she admired the painting and asked where he bought it. "I told her I painted it," John said with a laugh. "She said, 'No you didn't. Paint another one.'"

That simple challenge turned out to be the beginning of something much bigger.

Capturing the Moment

In February of 2025, John attended a class with internationally known wave artist Wade Koniakowsky—something I had encouraged him to consider as a way to further develop his work. The impact was immediate, and he said his paintings have evolved tremendously since that experience.

For John, learning in person made all the difference. "There's just something about seeing it done in person that makes that 'aha' moment happen," he said.

One moment from the class especially stuck with him.

"Wade held up a roll of paper towels to show how waves roll," John said. "When you break it down like that, it becomes simple. Those visuals are what really help you understand painting."

His artwork—inspired by fishing trips, coastal scenes, and the outdoors—captures moments he has experienced firsthand. But painting isn't John's only creative outlet. He has also written several books, including *The Traveling Angler*, which blends fishing stories with reflections on life and the outdoors.

His first book was inspired by becoming a grandfather.

"When my daughter told us we were going to be grandparents, I wrote a book for her



John Little and one of his paintings

called Teach Me How to Fish," he said. "I wanted a way to pass those things on."

John is already planning his fifth book.

John's work has already reached audiences beyond the coast. He was recently accepted into the Coast Guard Art Program and has submitted two paintings for consideration in the 2026 collection. Last year, one of John's paintings was featured in the National Law Enforcement Museum's exhibit in Washington, D.C., *Officers as Artists: The Creative Expression of Those Who Serve*, which highlights the artistic talents of officers from across the country. The exhibit explored how creativity often becomes an important outlet for those in public service—helping them reflect, process difficult experiences, and express a different side of their lives beyond the badge.

After the exhibit, John donated the piece to the Corpus Christi Police Department, where it now hangs at the Police Academy as a reminder that there's always room to grow, explore new passions, and give back. When people stand in front of his paintings, John hopes they feel something familiar.

"I want them to feel like they're right there beside me," he said. "Living that moment just like I did."

And that's what great art does—it invites us to become a little part of the story. You can learn more about John's artwork and find prints at Evoke, or visit his website at john-littlearts.com.

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



Island Real Estate Roundup



Apryl Noles

Market focus on high-end homes

This week on Padre Island, we're continuing to see encouraging activity, especially in the higher price points—and that is really speaking volumes about the strength and confidence in our current market.

While we didn't see any movement in the condo or townhome sectors this week, the detached home market more than made up for it. We have two homes in the option period ranging from \$800,000 to \$1.4 million, along with one home pending over the \$1 million mark. Activity in this price range is something we've been watching closely, and it's a strong indicator that buyers are not only active but willing to move forward on higher-end properties.

On the closing side, six homes sold between \$220,000 and \$700,000, showing

that we're still maintaining steady momentum across the mid-range market as well. This balance between entry-to-mid price points and luxury activity is a great sign of an overall healthy market.

What stands out the most this week is the shift we're seeing in the upper price tiers. Higher-priced homes going under contract tells us that buyers are gaining confidence interest rates are being absorbed into decision-making, and lifestyle-driven purchases—especially here on the island—are continuing to drive demand.

Overall, it's been a strong and active week for Padre Island real estate. If this trend continues, we could be looking at a very solid spring season ahead. Stay tuned for next week's update!

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 YouTube at Island Moon Live via these links.



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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

8				3	9	5		
9					4			
	4	5		1	8			
				2	5			
		3				2		
			6	9				
			7	3		8	5	
		1						3
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Brain-Buster

5		4	3					
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		6				7		
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			2	7	3			
		8	1					5

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						

Across

- 1. Mentally twisted
- 5. Shucks!
- 9. They're often liberal
- 13. Aware of
- 14. 18th c. Swiss mathematician
- 16. Poi source
- 17. Bangkok native
- 18. Unanimously
- 19. Frank
- 20. Manhattan music store?
- 23. Need a bandage
- 24. Fond du __, Wisconsin
- 25. Some square dancers
- 27. Absolutely!
- 28. Jet hazard
- 30. Skater Midori
- 32. Crazy place
- 33. Party rep
- 34. Gobbled up
- 35. "Chocolat" actor Johnny
- 36. Instruments for keeping up with the Joneses?
- 40. Elliptical shape
- 41. Ran into
- 42. Group of whales
- 43. Golf sensation Curtis
- 44. Likely
- 45. Pursue with passion
- 46. Bunch of attys.
- 49. Make permanent, as cartoon drawings
- 51. Destination for the pampered
- 53. Fancy brush?
- 55. Move up in the orchestra?
- 58. Ancient Mayan gemstone
- 59. Competition site
- 60. Playwright's award
- 61. Deg. holder
- 62. Gala celebrations
- 63. Demeanor
- 64. Shriek barks
- 65. Canal sites
- 66. Football Starr

Down

- 1. Plops one's rump next to another
- 2. Get some air
- 3. Prods
- 4. Part of a setting
- 5. Sign users
- 6. Purloin future sirloin?
- 7. Hello or goodbye, somewhere
- 8. Doggedness
- 9. Do more than apologize
- 10. One with a hairy story
- 11. Forest canopy
- 12. Mama's boy
- 15. Jackson or Graham
- 21. Type of box that's often watched
- 22. Hot dog's problem
- 26. Pacifier
- 29. Thicket
- 31. Conductor's pace
- 33. "___ Joey"
- 34. Clean Air, e.g.
- 35. Pop
- 36. Hypnotist of fiction
- 37. Blotto
- 38. Liberates
- 39. Climber's need, perhaps
- 40. Kimono sash
- 44. Offspring of a queen
- 45. Time complement
- 46. Locale for Lawrence
- 47. Enjoying less leisure
- 48. Not in the same class?
- 50. Articles
- 52. Michelangelo work
- 54. Explosive development of 1951
- 56. Clodhopper
- 57. Respond with an attitude
- 58. Noisy bird



Gene's Corner

My thoughts on living alone for the first time ever

By Gene Saegert

Yes, I know, I have been living a sheltered life, but here are my thoughts of living alone for the first time. Any advice from those who already are used to it will be appreciated. My son Brian, his wife Sally and my grandson Joshua are staying with me since my wife of 56 years passed on. They will be moving out soon when their new house is finished, so this will be a new experience. I have compiled a list of pros and cons on this situation and I will share it now .

Pro... I will no longer have to shut the bathroom door. Con... None

Pro... I can fart anytime loudly with no consequences. Con... None

Pro... less dishes to wash. Con... I will be the sole dishwasher.

Pro... Can play music as loudly as I want to. Con...None

Pro...Can have all meat diet no veggies if wanted. Con...None

Pro...Lots more room to cook Con...Will have to do all the cooking

Pro...Can dress less or go completely Necked Con...Maybe not a good idea, a neighbor thing

Pro...Have to wash my own clothes Con... No change there

Pro...Less cleaning to do Con...No Sally to help clean

Pro...Can season food like I want Con... None

Pro...Can fix more fried things, less veggies Con... that cholesterol thing

Pro...Don't have to say where I am going Con... none

Pro... Don't have to explain why I was gone so long Con...Was nice to thing someone cared....

Pro... Can spread all my work on the kitchen table Con... Will still have to clean it for company

Pro... Can ask a date over anytime. Con... No dates, so no problem.

Pro... None for tech help.... All Con ... No more in house tech help, I may ruin my computer and lose all phone use ability. That about sums it up. Any suggestion from those experienced will be appreciated.

Thought for the day: The more that you weigh, the harder you are to kidnap, eat cake, stay safe.

VW Campout

An assortment of VW busses and campers posted up at South Packery this week for some beach time.



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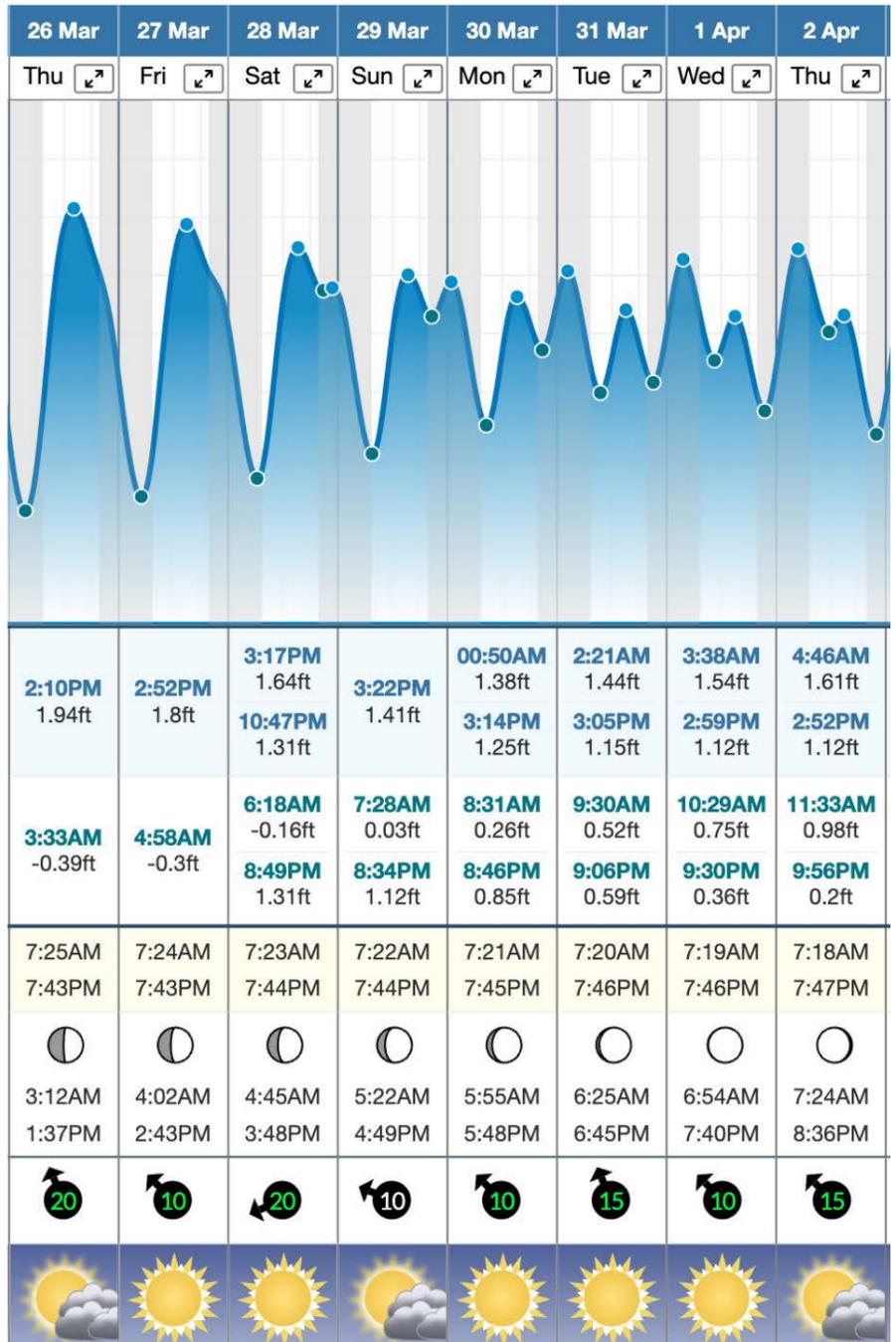
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Feeding Frenzy By John Morris

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

Donald Trump and American Football-Part-4



Dotson's Note: Disclaimer...In this report, I am quoting various sources in regards to Trump and some of his issues with American football, this does not necessarily reflect my opinion nor the opinion of the Island Moon :). Thanks to Bill Morgan and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in this report.

During the announcement of Pegula as the new owner, Trump, then in Manhattan, tweeted, "The only reason I bid on @buffalobills was to make sure they stayed in Buffalo, where they belong. Mission accomplished." and "Wow. @nfl ratings are down big league. Glad I did not get the Bills. Rather be lucky than good. In a 2015 interview with *Sports Illustrated*, which took place bought the Buffalo Bills, I probably would not be [running for president], which is much more important".

Speaking to *The Buffalo News* shortly before the New York Republican presidential primary in April 2016, Trump expressed a similar attitude, saying, "I bid on that team half-heartedly because I really wanted to do this (run for president). I could not have done that (own the team) and this, because it would have been too much".

In February 2019, Michael Cohen, who had served as an attorney for Trump, testified before the United States Congress that in 2014, Trump had inflated his net worth in order to help secure a loan from Deutsche Bank that would have helped in his efforts to buy the Bills. Cohen alleged that Trump had engaged in creative accounting, saying, "It was my experience that Mr. Trump inflated his total assets when it served his purposes, such as trying to be listed among the wealthiest people in Forbes. And he deflated his assets to reduce his real estate taxes". As part of his testimony, Cohen submitted three years of Trump's financial information, from 2011 to 2013, that was presented to Deutsche Bank, which showed Trump's net worth nearly double to \$8.6 billion in the third year, with \$4 billion in added assets being labeled "brand value". This "brand value", which was not defined in the documents, only appears in the third year.



NFL players taking the knee prior to a game in October 2017

In August 2016, Colin Kaepernick, the quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, refused to stand during the playing of the national anthem, which traditionally occurs before the beginning of NFL games, as a form of protest against racial inequality and police violence in the United States. Following this, other NFL players began to follow suit and either sat or knelt during the national anthem. On September 22, 2017, during a campaign rally for United States Senate candidate Luther Strange in Huntsville, Alabama, Trump criticized the protests and said that team owners should fire players who do not stand during the national anthem, saying, "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, you'd say, 'Get that s.o.b. off the field right now. Out! He's fired' ". He also called for fans to boycott the NFL until the league addressed the protests, and many Americans totally agreed with him.

The following day, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell issued a statement in response that was critical of what Trump had said. Following his statements, the number of athletes who protested during national anthems increased substantially and included athletes outside of the NFL, including players from Major League Baseball and the National Basketball Association. Several news sources considered Trump's comments to be racially charged against the primarily African American athletes who were protesting. The comments were seen as elevating the protests from a small issue within the NFL to a part of the larger culture war between liberals and conservatives in the United States. Additionally, multiple commentators saw the attacks by Trump as a sort of retribution against the NFL as part of Trump's feud with the league, stemming in part from his inability to become a team owner. In a 2018

article for *Business Insider*, Scheffter stated that some team owners believed Trump's targeting of the NFL was due to his belief that Goodell had played a role in his failed bid to purchase the Bills in 2014. Through late 2017, Trump continued to criticize the NFL, with *Business Insider* reporting that Trump tweeted about the NFL 37 times in one month, equating to about 12 percent of all of his tweets during that time. Broadcast journalist Shepard Smith of Fox News called the issue «the red meat of all red meat» for Trump's voter base and stated that Trump had reframed the protests away from the intent of the protestors.

In October 2017, team owners held a meeting wherein they discussed Trump's comments, with several owners, such as Robert Kraft (New England Patriots) and Jeffrey Lurie (Philadelphia Eagles), making statements that were critical of the president, with Kraft stating, "we have a president who will use that as fodder to do his mission that I don't feel is in the best interests of America. It's divisive and it's horrible". That same month, in what several commentators called a political stunt, Trump's vice president, Mike Pence, attended an NFL game and left shortly after several players protested. In June 2018, Trump disinvited the Philadelphia Eagles, who had won Super Bowl LII earlier that year, from visiting the White House, which was a traditional honor for championship collegiate and professional sports teams in the United States. The disinvitation came after many of the Eagles players stated their intention not to show up, with Trump stating that "only a small number of players" were expected to attend.

On the other hand, many Americans did not feel that their unhappiness with the protest during the national anthem had anything to do with race or politics. They simply felt that not standing for the anthem was



Trump (second from left) attending the 2019 LSU vs. Alabama Game of the Century

Trump is a noted fan of college football, with historian and professor Nicholas Sarantakes of the Naval War College comparing Trump's fandom and attendance of games as a form of political theatre to that of former president Richard Nixon's. He stated, similar to Nixon, President Trump regularly attended games that included two teams from the Southern United States, an area that includes a large number of Trump's supporters. For instance, during one game that pitted teams from the southern states of Alabama and Georgia, White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said both teams were «from two great states, both in the heart of Trump country». Some of the games he attended as president included the 2018 College Football Playoff National Championship in Atlanta, the 2019 LSU vs. Alabama Game of the Century in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the 2019 and 2025 Army–Navy Games in Philadelphia and Baltimore, and the 2020 College Football Playoff National Championship in New Orleans. In the runup to the 2024 Republican Party presidential primaries, Trump attended several major rivalry games in the early primary states of Iowa (Iowa–Iowa State football rivalry) and South Carolina (the Palmetto Bowl). *Dotson's Other Note: Unlike with professional sports, Trump's relationship with college football during his presidency was relatively free from major controversy, with journalist Kevin Freking of the Associated Press saying, «college football has managed to avoid similar political controversies» than other sports. Prior to his attendance of the 2018 championship game, an article in *The Hill* said, «Trump and members of his administration have favored college-level athletics amid Trump's feuds with top athletes in both the NFL and the NBA». In most of the games he attended, he was well received by the attendees and often cheered and given loud chants of approval, though protests against Trump occurred at several of the games, such as the 2018 championship game.*

Thanks For Reading



By Rev. Dr. Ken

Being alive through death

It's a pivotable moment in a life full of pivotable moments. Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. The original Palm Sunday parade. This Sunday, Christians remember that entrance with processions, palms, and praise. It tends to be a festive day of spectacle.

It's a pivotable scene in a movie series full of pivotable scenes. Obi-Wan Kenobi sacrificed himself in Star Wars: A New Hope to allow Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, and the droids to escape the Death Star. His death acted as a necessary distraction so that the group would not be captured by Darth Vader. Obi-Wan also knew that dying would allow him to transition into a spiritual form. He would become a powerful guide to Luke, galvanizing Luke's journey and commitment to becoming a Jedi. It was an act of wisdom, not defeat. It was a way of being alive through death. It was an act of self-emptying.

We reveal who we are by our actions and our words. We reveal our character. Our integrity, or lack thereof, is made obvious to all in what we say and how we live.

When Jesus entered the Jerusalem, he knew death awaited. The power of empire and human arrogance would not be denied. Yet, he chose the path of self-emptying humility, obedience, and love. It was an act of wisdom, not defeat. It was a way of being alive through death. It was a satiric decision in a setting of festive display. After all, Pilate would have entered town in a splashing and intimidating show of power and strength. Who would have the final word?

To be a follower of Jesus is to choose the same journey of humility, self-giving obedience, and sacrificial love. It is not an easy journey. The demands of our biases and agendas can become any number of roadblocks and potholes, detours and dead ends. There will be the falling rocks of anger, the potholes of bitterness, the mudslides of guilt, and the conflicting road signs of self-interest, pride and bravado.

We reveal who we are by our actions and our words.

Palm Sunday is an opportunity to relearn being alive through death. Greatness does not come through power, strength, and

domination. These are the ways of death. Greatness is found in self-emptying love. It is baring our souls to one another and to a hurting world in humility. It is sloughing off cynicism to support others. It is stripping away our judgments to be enveloped by the unity of our humanity. It is choosing to love our enemies rather than destroy them. It is extending forgiveness, choosing compassion and kindness. Into our emptiness there comes the fullness of Jesus, the powerful guide for our lives. The journey towards the descent of the cross and the ascent from the empty tomb is to guide our actions and words.

Again this year, Island in the Son United Methodist Church and Island Presbyterian Church will be partnering for special Holy Week worship services. They will offer a Maundy Thursday Communion Service at Island in the Son United Methodist Church, at 6 pm on Thursday. They will offer a Good Friday Service of Shadows at Island Presbyterian Church, at 6 pm on Friday. Maundy Thursday commemorates Jesus' last supper with his disciples and his new commandment to love one other. Good Friday remembers the crucifixion of Jesus.

The churches will also offer the Easter Sunrise Worship Service on the beach beginning at 7 am on Sunday morning. This is a long-standing island tradition held at Whitecap Beach at the end of Whitecap Blvd. Bring a beach chair as we worship the God of life with shouts of hallelujah!

Both churches will also have an Easter Morning Worship service in their respective sanctuaries.

There is a place for you at all the services. I will look forward to seeing you!

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.



Drone shot of the Island with a view of the new Harbor Bridge
By LL Imagery LLC

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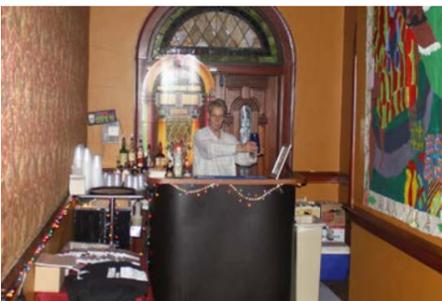
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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

I'm still here...



Ronnie tending bar at Casbeers in San Antonio 2008

I finally made it to another milestone in my association with the *Island Moon*... this is my 800th *Three Chords* column which I have written in the last 18 years. I've worn out a few keyboards and had a whole lot of fun doing it. It all started in San Antonio in 2008 when I was working as the bar manager at *Casbeers*, a popular live music venue housed in a historic old Methodist church in the *King William* district that borders *South Town*. We did our shows in the church's sanctuary where the bands played on stage where the preaching used to be and the congregation sat in church pews. It was haunted but that's a whole other story. I was working a show with some regional act, probably **John D. Graham** or **Patricia Vonne** or maybe **Terri Hendrix**, when I found my old friend **Dale Rankin** standing in front of me at the bar. I'd known Dale through mutual friends (**Nelson Allen** and **Kandy Kicker**) in Austin in the 80's. Even back then Dale was a seasoned journalist. I, on the other hand, was a seasoned night club manager and aspiring free lance writer for the *San Antonio Current* and was sleeping in my van at night in the *Casbeers'* parking lot. So as I was chatting with Rankin at the bar at *Casbeers* he asked me if I could write. I told him I could and he told me he had just inherited a newspaper on Padre Island and could use some help. My reply was, "Sure, why not?" So I pulled up the pitifully few stakes I had in the church parking lot and moved to the beach...literally. That's when I started writing my first column for the *Moon* entitled "View from a Van" while living in my Ford Econoline van on the beach. My first address in Port A was the no dogs off leashes sign behind the *Beach Lodge*. Rankin told me to cover the local scene in Port A and he would take Padre. Worked for me and 800 *Three Chords* columns later, I'm still here. I credit my father for making me take typing in high school.

Shorty's is exploding...



Edwin Meyers supervises the construction of his new deck at Shorty's with Roy y Nora.

The big news in my world right now is at *Shorty's*. First of all, it's their 80th Anniversary on April 11th and the owner, **Edwin Meyers**, is making a world class fuss over the occasion. He's hired a dandy from San Francisco, **Mitch Polzak** and the **Royal Deuces**, that he met last year while on vacation in California... and this dude is cool. He's like **Dale Watson** with a banjo and is magnificent at getting the gals wiggling. Also on the bill will be **Ty Dietz** and the **Toman Brothers**. But that's not all. Edwin surprised us all and has extended his outdoor deck to accommodate many more revelers. Plus we get a new stage and there is other cool stuff in the making. In short, *Shorty's* is about to explode. More will be revealed.

On the local front...

You may have noticed mainly from the lack of police sirens and insane traffic that *Spring Break 2026* is done. It was a rough one this year with a shooting on the beach and an ugly

traffic accident when someone was riding on top of the vehicle on 361 and they collided with another vehicle. What all this means is we have finally hit our "sweet spot" between *Spring Break* in March and *SandFest* in April. The weather is choice (usually), the tourists are gone (for the most part) and we pretty much have the island to ourselves except for second homers, day trippers and fisher people. Also on the local front, we had the fundraiser for **T Joe** last weekend at the new *Boat Bar*, which opened this week at *Woody's Last Stand* on Cotter. And also I want to wish our *Winter People* a safe trip back up north which also means the **PA Rockers** have completed their winter residency at *Bernie's*.

Scattered shots...



Adysen Maleki from Edna, TX played the Sip Yard last Friday.

I attended a ton of live music performances last week (**Carson Miller**, **Tyler Jordan**, **The Palacios Bros**, **Cathouse**, **Cruise Control**, **Lucky Dogz**, **Chainlinks**, **Dreaming in Color**, **Lisa Sullivan**), and I gotta say the biggest surprise for me came at the *Sip Yard* when **Adysen Maleki** from Edna blew my little mind. Her set was rocking and melodic and her stage presence is undeniable. I don't know where she's been hiding but I'm glad *Sip Yard* booker, **Becky Hyden** found her. Mark my words; this gal is heading for the *big times*. Also, the **Chainlinks** are a great little rock band. I always enjoy them a lot. Their singer, **Celeste Torres** is a bonafied hot rocker.

Coming this week...



The Lucky Dogz will play the VFW on Saturday.

Starting on Thursday the 26th trop-rocker **Billy Snipes**, who shops at *Stripes*, will play our favorite pirate bar, *Da Gaff* plus the **Clark Brothers** will play their last show of the season at *Salty Dogs*. On Friday the 27th the shows to catch will be the **Red Dirt/Southern Rock Band** from Bastrop, **Lowland Revelry** at the *Sip Yard* or grunge band **Left Right Left** at *Shorty's*. Also the rock cover band **Flying Free** will play *Bron's*, Cajun-Zydeco boys **Boudreaux and Pousson** will play the *Gaff* and **Garry Mitcham** will be at the *VFW*. On Saturday the 28th watch for the straight country **Timothy Noel & the Smoking Guns** band that I'm really excited to introduce to Port A. Also on Saturday southern rockers **Whiskey Down** is at the *Sip Yard*, **John Elijah** is at *Shorty's*, **Raul Ayala** will play *Treasure Island* and the **Lucky Dogz** rock cover band is at the *VFW*. And don't forget on Sunday the *Yappy Hour* is at the *Gaff* and **Moon Time with James** is also at the *Gaff* on Monday.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Timothy Noel and the Smoking Guns will play Bron's on Saturday.



Mitch Polzak from San Francisco will play Shorty's 80th Anniversary in April.



Raul Ayala will play Treasure Island on Saturday

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday

March 26

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's
Billy Snipes @ Gaff
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog
Chadwick Lee
Hunter @ Sunset Island
Toasters @ House of Rock
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Damon Scott @ Brewster Southside
Peter Salas @ Brewster Island
Eric Graham @ Executive Surf Club
Ruben Limas @ Perrin's on the Water

Friday, March 27

Lowland Revelry @ Sip Yard
Left Right Left @ Shorty's
Flying Free @ Bron's
Garry Mitcham @ VFW Port A
Boo & Poo @ Gaff
Dickie Delight @ Salty Dog
Philip Dean @ Sunset Island
Sunny Sweeney @ Harbor Listening Room
Dreaming in Color @ Pelican Lounge
Joy Division, New Order Tribute @ House of Rock
Michael Burttis @ Brewster Southside
Trisum @ Brewster Island
Young Klassics @ Rockits
Giovannie & Hired Guns @ Brewster Downtown
Scarecrow People @ Executive Surf Club
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach

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BOO & POO MAR 27
REVALUTION MAR 28
YAPPY HOUR (3-5) MAR 29
BRAD ETHRIDGE MAR 29

SHORTY'S
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
THE ALL STARS EVERY THUR 8-12
LEFT RIGHT LEFT MAR 27
JOHN ELIJAH MAR 28
MITCH POLZAK MAR 10
SHORTY'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY APRIL 11
TY DIETZ, MITCH POLZAK, TOMAN BROS
MUSIC ALL DAY, ALL NIGHT

Treasure Island
RAUL AYALA MAR 28
JON CAR APR 3
BACK PEW REVIVAL APR 4
PALACIOS BROS APR 10
LUCKY DOGZ APR 11
NATIONAL NOBODYZ APR 17

MOORE-MCDONALD VFW POST 8967
GARRY MITCHAM MAR 27
LUCKY DOGZ MAR 28
COASTAL BENDERS APR 1
CHRIS LANCASTER APR 3
TRES MATTS APR 4
BRAD ETHRIDGE APR 7

Sip Yard
LOWLAND REVELRY MAR 27
WHISKEY DOWN MAR 28
CRUISE CONTROL APR 3
JOHN CORTEZ APR 4
AHHFUGYEAHS APR 10
TRIPTONITE APR 11

Bron's BACKYARD
FLYING FREE MAR 27
TIMOTHY NOEL MAR 28
JERRY WARD & DIRTY BIRDS APR 3
RUBEN V APR 4
HARMONX APR 10
CRUISE CONTROL APR 11

Saturday

March 28

BELT SANDER RACES @ The Gaff
Timothy Noel & Smokin' Guns @ Bron's
Whiskey Down @ Sip Yard
John Elijah Band @ Shorty's
Lucky Dogz @ VFW Port A
Raul Ayala @ Treasure Island
Revaluation @ Gaff
Chainlinks @ Pelican Lounge
Red Feather @ Sunset Island
Devilpee, Learn to Swim, Testify @ House of Rock
Michael Burttis @ Brewster Island
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside
Casey Donahew @ Brewster Downtown
Cruise Control @ Food Truck Fest CC
Rick Mendez, Diamonds Edge @ Executive Surf Club
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards Too
The Groove 2.0 @ Fifth & Elm Portland

Sunday, March 29

YAPPY HOUR 3-5 @ Gaff
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's

Clark Bros @ Salty Dog
Michael Perez @ Executive Surf Club

Monday, March 30

Moon Time w/ James @ Gaff
"US" by Penny & Joe @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday

March 31

Scarecrow People @ Executive Surf Club

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