



Beachcombing A7



On the Rocks A6



Three Chords and the Truth A12



Nature Notes A7



Backwater Adventures A7

Issue 1148

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# The Island Moon

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April 16, 2026

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Sunset on the Laguna Madre by Debbie Noble

**Around The Island**

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NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

By Dale Rankin  
Life is good here on our little sandbar this week with the high tides finally starting to leave us some room on the beaches, we got just enough rain to knock the sand off our cars, and about the only tourists are high schoolers on Senior Trips who arrive pale and leave with lobster tans. All in all it's good times *Around The Island*.  
**Was ist das**



Over on the sandy side our intrepid Beach Reporter Evelyn Pless-Schuberth sent us this photo of a beach find this week. The best we can tell it either says *Docks for sale or live—ready to cook* or *Ducks for sale—ready to cook or live...* We'll go with the latter cause them docks is hard to chew. Every picture tells a story...

## Michael J. Ellis Beach sand on the way

Word came this week from the City of Corpus Christi Beach Maintenance supervisor that trucks are about to start moving sand from Mount Padre moving the north side of Packery Channel to Michael J. Ellis Beach in the next few weeks to widen the beach there after the spring tides. There is not enough sand to get the entire beach along the seawall out to 150 feet which would allow for vehicular traffic all along its front so crews will start at the north end and push southward until they run out of sand and it is likely the traffic-blocking bollards there will be moved south a ways for the summer season.

Around cont. on A4

## City study looking at water flow through Island canals

Impact on Encantada culverts, modeling for width of passage from Packery Channel to Lake Padre under review

The total cost of the study is \$48,980 and the results are expected to be handed to the city in May, according to Jeff Edmonds, Director of Engineering Services for the City of Corpus Christi. The study is the third regarding water flow through Island canals. The proposal is the first by the City of Corpus Christi which includes a study of the opening at Packery



Location of the previous Seagate by the 361 Bridge.

Study cont. on page A4

### A little Island history

## Solution for better water flow at Encantada Avenue has a long history

Next step is an agreement on order of work between city and PIPOA

By Dale Rankin

When the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) had its first meeting in 2010 one of the first items on the agenda was the building of a bridge over the canal at Encantada Avenue. At issue was who owned the substructure beneath the roadway, the City of Corpus Christi or the Padre Isles Property Owners Association.



History cont. on A5 The Encantada culverts are filled with sand. Bubblers were installed on one side to aerate stagnant water

## PIBA gives back



The Padre Island Business Association gave donations to the Texas Sealife Center on Padre Island, the Corpus Christi Police Foundation, and the Firefighter CARE Foundation this week. The money was raised through the Barefoot Mardi Gras event.

## Packery Flats Spring Cleanup April 18

Second location at Malaquite Beach added



The first is a Packery Flats where check-in opens at 8:30 a.m. The cleanup begins at 9:00 a.m. and runs until 12 p.m. Volunteers meet at the Packery Flats Parking Lot, about 1 mile north of Zahn Rd. on Hwy 361 on the bay side (not at the boat ramp). Volunteers are asked to wear closed-toe shoes, bring plenty of drinking water,

Cleanup cont. on A3

## By the numbers Spring season brings increased real estate activity

By Apryl Noles

**Detached Homes In Option Period:**  
-14746 Aquarius St (Listed for \$975,000)

-13762 Cayo Cantiles Ct (Listed for \$769,000)  
-16118 Broomsedge St (Listed for \$439,000)

**Detached Homes That Sold:**  
-15230 Cartagena Ct (Listed for \$799,900)  
-13829 Suntan Ave (Listed for \$335,000)

**Townhomes In Option Period:**  
-15001 Harbor View Dr (Listed for \$495,000)  
-15402 Fortuna Bay Dr Unit#2806 (Listed for \$365,000)  
-15110 Leeward Dr Unit#303 (Listed for \$265,000)

Real Estate cont. on page A8

# Whoop it up 2026 was a great success!

Photos by Debbie Noble



# The Traveling Moon



Islanders Sarah and Jimmy Pena took the Island Moon on their Silversea cruise to Italy, Greece and Egypt.



Islanders, Tim & Jeannette Gilliam (left), Joan & Richard King (middle) and our new German friends touring the Louis Jadot winery in Beaune, France. Thanks! See you at Barefoot Mardi Gras!



Paul and Juli Weber are with Noel and Becky Horan at the Viridian Art Gallery in Manhattan, where Becky had a painting on display! The Island Moon goes with us everywhere!



Jason, Metra, Raina and Lagen in Marsh Harbour Bahamas

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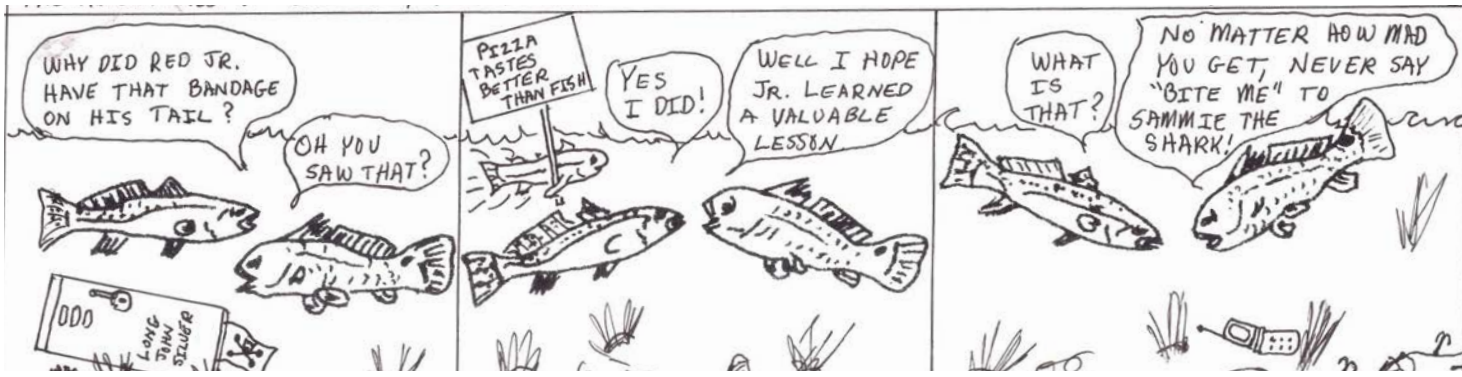
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The Adventures of Bull Red and Trophy Trout

By Gene Saegert



Moon Monkeys

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Riley P. Dog

About the Island Moon

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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



USAA Scam

We're seeing an increase in scams where criminals try to access members' accounts by pretending to be USAA. They often create urgency by saying there's fraud on your account or your money is at risk to get you to act quickly before you can confirm the request. What to watch out for: They ask for your one-time code. You may receive a call, text or email asking for the one-time code we send during authentication. Do not share this code with anyone. USAA will never call you and ask for it. They offer a temporary password. If someone claiming to be USAA says they will give you a password to fix or secure your account, it is a scam. We will never provide passwords by phone, text or email. They pressure you to act immediately. You may be told your account is compromised or your money must be moved right away. The goal is to rush you, so you don't stop to verify. The most important thing you can do is pause.

We're seeing an increase in scams where criminals try to access members' accounts by pretending to be USAA. They often create urgency by saying there's fraud on your account or your money is at risk to get you to act quickly before you can confirm the request. They ask for your one-time code. You may receive a call, text or email asking for the one-time code we send during authentication. Do not share this code with anyone. USAA will never call you and ask for it. -USAA



Monday morning seagull buffet.  
Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Laguna Madre Commercial Fishermen

By Bobbie Kimbrell

Editor's note: Bobbie Kimbrell moved to Flour Bluff in the early 1940s where he was a commercial fisherman until his retirement. He is now 95 year of age and lives in the Flour Bluff.

The number of commercial fisheries in the Laguna Madre has decreased quite a bit through the years because of changes in the commercial license years ago. The only way you can buy a commercial license now is to buy it from some fisherman who has a license, with the going price of about \$15,000 or maybe more. It's just up to what a license holder wants for the license. Most fishermen don't sell their license unless they plan to retire. As far as I know there is only about five fishermen selling to the Flour Bluff market. Also there is a few fisherman from Port Aransas and Aransas Pass who fish in the Lagoon and a few fishermen from Loyola Beach in Rivera. That's about all that I know of although there could be a few more.

And since commercial fishermen are only allowed to catch and sell drum, there catch of red fish since 100% of those released survive. It's very seldom a trout is ever caught on a trotline due to the fact that only circle hooks are allowed and it's very rare that a pompano is caught. Quotes from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department state without the catch of commercial drum they tend to crowd out sport fish.

The Covid epidemic of the past and the tariff act of now has caused the price of drum

to increase just like everything else there is with the fishermen getting about \$1.50 per pound most of the time.

There is a fish restaurant in Flour Bluff on SPID that sells fried drum and other seafood to go or to eat outside, patio style. And possibly another place like that at the fish market on Morgan Ave, Alageria's place. For those of you who are interested in investing some money in a fish market on about 1.5 acres land at Loyola Beach in Rivera contact Keny Danley at the fish market on Shore Drive in Flour Bluff, you turn off Laguna Shores at Buena Vista, go I block.

A lot of the drum caught in the Lagoon are sold in San Antonio and Austin and sometime in Houston. The sale of the license reminds me of a snapper fisherman in the Gulf. He retired and sold his license for \$86,000, which was more than what he sold his snapper boat for!

I forgot to mention that despite the inflation, with increased cost for fishermen's gear and so forth, the fisherman are still able to eke out a living doing what they like to do the most. Some fisherman never touch the drum they catch. They use a handled hook to flip the fish off the hook into a 100-pound plastic box, then unload the boat at the market with another long hook. Nearly every new fisherman of the past added something new to the catch of fish, such as different hooks, stageings, lines, and even bait, drag anchors to slow down the drift putting out a trotline in a strong wind and later on trolling motors and a lot of different outboard motors with different horse power.

Five Reasons Homeowners Should Protest



By Brian McCabe

Taxpayer Liaison

Nueces County Appraisal District

Many homeowners assume they should protest only if they think their home would not sell for the amount listed by the appraisal district. In reality, there are several reasons a protest may make sense.

One common reason is unequal appraisal. Similar homes in the same neighborhood should generally be valued in a similar way. If nearby homes are appraised lower, a homeowner may have a valid protest even if the district's market value appears reasonable.

Another reason is missing exemptions. Homestead, over-65, disability and veteran exemptions can all reduce taxable value. If one of those exemptions is missing, the homeowner may be paying more than necessary.

Incorrect property details can also lead to overvaluation. Homeowners should review the district's property record card for errors involving square footage, lot size, pools, garages, additions or other features.

Comparable sales matter because appraisal districts rely heavily on recent sales in the area. However, not every sale is truly comparable. If the district relies on homes that are newer, larger or in better condition, the value may be too high.

Homeowners should also remember the protest deadline. In most cases, protests must be filed by May 15 or within 30 days after the notice was mailed, whichever is later.

Missing the deadline can sharply limit a homeowner's options.

Finally, taxpayers should know that many protests are resolved informally before a formal hearing. In an informal meeting, the homeowner and appraisal district staff review the evidence and may agree on a reduction without appearing before the Appraisal Review Board.

Cleanup cont. from A1

hat, bug spray and sunscreen. The event happens rain or shine.

Registration can be done online at the Texas General Land Office website. For questions: Cristal Guerrero, Project Manager: cristal@baysfoundation.org

Malaquite Beach

A second location has been added this year by organizer Larry Collier at Malaquite Beach on Padre Island National Seashore, it is also from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Volunteers can check-in at the Malaquite Beach National Park Pavilion and Visitors Center almost at the end of Park Road 22.

To register, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-texas-adopt-a-beach-spring-cleanup-coastwide-registration-1980207320401?aff=oddtcreator>

No park entrance fee will be charged for volunteers.

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## Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

What a difference a word makes.

Thursday morning while we were on the air on KEYS Radio and *Island Moon Live* with Terence Johnson, Executive Vice President of Ashlar Development which is doing the vertical construction work at the Whitecap NPI site, received a text with the content of the press release that started: “*North Padre Island Resort Listed for Sale*” *Avision Young has been retained to market for sale Whitecap Resort, a shovel-ready 240-acre amenity-driven coastal master community located in North Padre Island in Corpus Christi, TX.*”

*Sale* being the pivotal word there. Given the history of the previous development at the site Islanders are understandably programmed to watch for signs of trouble and by using the word *Sale* it left open the possibility that the entire development was for sale, which I knew was not the case because I had just had a two-hour conversation with Johnson who clearly would have known if that were the case and who over the course of the show described what we had reported in the *Island Moon* a few weeks before which was that as Phase I of the project wound down outside marketers had been brought in to seek investors and partners for the various residential, resort, and commercial pieces on the 240-acre site.

I figured that was the end of it but as I made my way around the island Thursday everywhere I went I was asked about the “Sale” of Whitecap NPI so I reread the press release and I realized where the gossip was coming from, the language in the press release left room for wild speculation unless fact checked so I checked.

I contacted the President of Diamond Beach Holdings, which owns Whitecap NPI to find out what exactly the facts were and as I suspected the only thing that has changed at the development is that they have hired two

marketing firms to spread the marketing effort worldwide as the project moves into the next phase of development, as we had reported.

Then this week I checked the property listing on the Avision Young website where the new language reads: *Avision Young Selected to Market Whitecap Resort on North Padre Island in Corpus Christi, Texas.*

So what we are talking about here is the difference between *Marketing* – which entails selling property on the site – versus *Sale* which connotes the selling of the entire site – which was never the case. The entire site/development is not and never was for sale but words matter and the first choice of *Sale* hit social media without anyone checking facts. It’s not the first time that has happened and won’t be the last. So let’s move on.

### What is the status?

So this week I contacted Michael Kennedy, Principle at Avision Young for an update. “Ashlar Development has teed up an aircraft carrier,” he said. “We are marketing the components for partners to develop retail, hospitality, entertainment, mixed-use and blocks of home lots.”

Diamond Beach Holdings will retain ownership of the common areas such as the marina, nature areas, entertainment area now under construction, and clubhouses already complete at the site.

A hotel operator is being sought for a 150-key boutique hotel. The model homes now under construction along Aquarius Drive are scheduled for completion by summer 2026 and construction of individual homes soon after and the sale of individual lots will continue through the current sales office at the site, including the 199 lots currently available in Phase I.

For a more complete understanding of what is happening go to the *Island Moon Live* podcast on YouTube and listen to the entire interview with Mr. Johnson. And everybody just simmer down...

## Water Line to ensure Island supply approved

At today’s regularly scheduled City Council meeting, the Council awarded a construction contract to Gerke Excavating Inc. for the Flour Bluff Water Line Extension project. This \$4M contract marks a vital investment in the water distribution infrastructure by improving redundancy, increasing capacity, and enhancing service delivery to The Island, which is in Council District 4.

The water distribution system for North Padre Island relies on two main transmission lines: an 18-inch line built in 2015 and a 24-inch line built in 1970. The 18-inch line currently functions at about half its capaci-

ty. The extension will fortify the reliability of the water supply by providing a robust backup to the existing 24-inch line, ensuring uninterrupted service during maintenance or unexpected repairs.

The project will enable the 18-inch line to operate at full capacity, supporting the growing demands of Padre Island and its residents. By connecting the new line to essential points in the existing system, the project will ensure improved water flow and reliable service to the Coral Vines Elevated Water Storage Tank on The Island.

*Around cont. from A1*

### PIPOA news

After several complaints from homeowners regarding an upcharge for paying their PIPOA fees online we contacted the powers that be over at the PIPOA and the answer is that the fee is for paying by credit card and the money goes to the card company not the PIPOA. To avoid it next year, or this year if you are late, scratch out a check and walk it in...

Also, we inquired regarding the annual PIPOA financial reports which are normally released to membership during the annual Members Meeting each March but were not released this year. The response is that they are a work in progress and are expected to be posted on the ManageCASA website before the next scheduled monthly PIPOA board meeting on April 28th. The last available financial reports showed that the PIPOA had about \$14 million in its investment account.



SandFest 2025 - Duo Masters Sculptors Photo by Ronnie Narmour

### SandFest this weekend

This weekend is the Texas SandFest in Port Aransas, the largest beach sand sculpture contest in the United States. The sand that makes up our beaches is of the silty kind that when mixed with a little water and Elmer’s Glue can be formed into some mind-blowing works of temporary art. It starts on Friday and runs through Sunday afternoon when locals come up for air and head that way to get a look at the work of the masters and maybe catch a little music. Try the approach from Anchor Street to avoid the traffic and don’t miss it if you can. That’s all for now everybody, we’ll see you there and say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



2024 Sandfest Duo Winners Chris Guinto & Melineige Beauregard, Mother Nature

## City commissions study on Island water flow and Encantada Culverts

The City of Corpus Christi has commissioned a study regarding the width of the opening between Packery Channel

and Lake Padre. The following is a document describing the scope of the study provided by the city officials.

Re: Proposal for Task Order No. 3 – Encantada Culvert Study, General Civil Engineering Projects, Master Service Agreement (MSA) 6457  
LJA Proposal No. 26-11295\_TO3

Dear Mr. Edmonds:

LJA Engineering, Inc. (LJA) is pleased to provide this proposal for Task Order No. 3 for additional hydrodynamic flow modeling and analysis necessary to evaluate the size of potential culverts under Encantada Ave. Additionally, model simulations will be run to illustrate the effects of different size openings for the connection between Lake Padre and Packery Channel.

The existing calibrated CMS model previously prepared will be modified to reflect as-built conditions. Once the model has been updated various scenarios will be configured and modeled as described below.

Modeling modifications and simulations will be performed by our subconsultant, Dr. Christopher Reed of MHHW Consulting, LLC.

### SCOPE OF SERVICES

#### 100 Update Existing Hydraulic Model to As-Built Conditions (Fixed Fee)

- Using recent Google Earth imagery, record drawings and local knowledge, the existing model will be updated to reflect current site conditions
- Calibrate updated model to run simulations

#### 200 Modeling of Various Scenarios for Encantada Culvert Sizing (Fixed Fee)

- A total of 5 (five) scenarios will be run for various sizes of the future culverts under Encantada Ave. to determine which size will be most beneficial in potentially lowering flow velocities in connecting canals. The five culvert sizes to be modeled will be discussed and finalized with City Staff input. The following are initial suggested sizes:
  - 2 Runs of 36” RCP (existing condition)
  - 1 Run of 9’x9’ RCB (RCBs potentially provided by others)
  - 1 Run of 6’x6’ RCB
  - 1 Run of 12’x6’ RCB
  - 2 Runs of 12’x6’ RCB

#### 300 Modeling of Various Widths for Old Sea Gate Location (Fixed Fee)

It has been made apparent by past modeling that the width of the opening from Lake Padre to Packery channel has direct effects on the velocity of water moving in canals. A total of 3 scenarios will be run to analyze and quantify the modeled effect of three different widths for the opening, 50-feet, 85-feet and 170-feet.



Encantada Ave ends at the Balli Park entrance. The Bob Hall Pier construction can be seen in the background. Aerial by Jacob Augs

*Study cont. from A1*

Channel and Lake Padre which was the location of the old sea gate which was removed in 2022 at the behest of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The idea for a study regarding the need for and configuration of a potential replacement for the gate was floated at the annual Members Meeting of the Padre Island Property Owners Association in March, 2025. Then on May 8, 2025 a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 was held with a single agenda item styled:

*Discussion and possible action to approve the Sea Gate Study Project for the Padre Island Canal System, evaluating the feasibility of a replacement Sea Gate, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 from the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 (TIRZ #2) fund and amend the FY 2025 budget.*

The TIRZ #2 board tabled the item on a unanimous vote and sent it to the Island Strategic Action Committee for consideration where the request for \$250,000 was voted down on a vote of six against, four abstained, and one in favor but with the provision that the city move forward with the study with funding from sources other than the Island TIRZ #2, and that is where the matter stood until the current study was launched.

A subsequent summation of a meeting by city staff held on March 17 between city officials, City Councilmember Kaylynn Paxson, officials from the PIPOA, Whitecap NPI (Ashlar Development), Lake Padre development and LJA Engineering stated: **Meeting Summary** This meeting was the first opportunity for city staff, the Padre Island Property Owners Association (PIPOA), the District 4 Councilmember, and representatives from both the Whitecap and Lake Padre Developments to discuss the removal of the earthen dam located on the Lake Padre side of Park Road 22. The Lake Padre Development has completed the work that required the earthen dam but has left it in place at the request of the PIPOA while the PIPOA assesses potential bulkhead repairs. Topics discussed at the meeting included repeated issues with two smaller box culverts that routinely fill

with silt, the potential effect of removing the earthen dam prior to the opening of the Commodores Bridge, whether or not a sea gate in Packery Channel would be of benefit to the island, the need for permanent flow gauges for better data, and the need to identify ways to relieve the pressure on island canals. The group agreed that the removal of the earthen dam should be handled carefully to ensure the protection of the community and to reduce any additional pressure on the canals. Timing was discussed including the Commodores Bridge opening in summer 2025 that will increase the flow of water beneath the Don Patricio Bridge, allowing for less of an effect on the island canals should the earthen dam be removed at the same time.

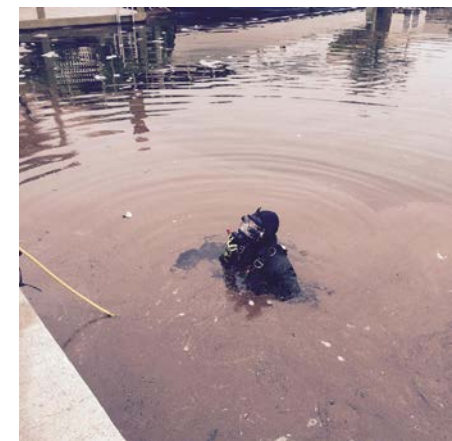
As a result of that meeting, according to the Meeting Summary, the Next Steps are:

- The PIPOA will complete their repairs on the east side bulkheads.
- City Staff will amend their agreement with Ashlar Development to identify who will manage a project to create box culverts to aid in the water flow on the island.
- City Staff will request a proposal from HDR to study the potential for a mechanical sea gate somewhere in the canal system. The scope of the study will include: a. Analyze potential benefits b. Consider design and citing alternatives c. Estimate probable construction cost d. Study needs for additional monitoring data collection (that study was the subject of the ISAC meeting where the funding was voted down with the proviso that the City of Corpus Christi proceed with the study but from sources other than the Island TIRZ #2)
- PIPOA to dredge inlets to existing Encantada pipe culverts.
- The group will reconvene in May 2025 to ensure that projects are on schedule and the consensus remains the same.
- City staff will update and/or bring actions forward to TIRZ #2 at their April meeting for consideration.
- Amend TIRZ#2 project plan as required for proposed actions
- Install permanent data collection devices

The new study now expected in May 2026 would appear to be the follow up to the city memorandum. For the complete scope of the study see a copy of it in this issue.

History cont. from A1

Since 1970 when two 36-inch culverts were installed there by the original developers of Padre Island water flow had been a problem due to sand accumulation which often blocked as much as 80% of the culverts. Since their installation the PIPOA had been hiring a diver to go down and clean the culverts periodically and they would remain clear sometimes for as long as a year, depending on rainfall, before needing another cleaning. By 2010 ISAC members were looking for a long-term solution and a bridge was the preferred solution, and at issue was who was responsible for building it. The ISAC members, pushed by ISAC Chair Gabi Hilpold, took the position that since the city owned the roadway they also owned the substructure and therefore the building of the bridge was a city responsibility. On the city side the Assistant City Manager present at the meeting took the position that the city owned only the roadway and the substructure, and therefore the building of a bridge, was the responsibility of the PIPOA. This standoff between the city and the PIPOA over who is responsible for opening the passageway under the road to water flow is still at a standoff sixteen years later, although in a slightly different form.



Diver Dave checking the Encantada Canal.

**A long and winding road...**

The issue of who was responsible for building the bridge remained unresolved until November 2023 when a Developer's Agreement between the City of Corpus Christi and the Whitecap NPI was signed which called for a bridge over the canal at the location with fourteen feet of water clearance, the same as the Don Patricio Bridge. That provision made sense at the time because there were several similar bridges being built at the Whitecap NPI site so the equipment and knowhow was already present and \$2.7 million was earmarked from the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 (TIRZ #2) for the project.

That is where matters stood until preliminary design work on a bridge began shortly thereafter and it was determined that a bridge at the location would have to rise above the roadway to a height that would block the vision on oncoming drivers and therefore turning lanes would be required. The problem was that the right of way was not wide enough to allow for the construction of turn lanes due to the presence of adjacent homes and structures.

It was at that point that a plan was hatched to replace the 36-inch culverts with box culverts to allow for water to flow under the entire width of the canal with enough clearance for the passage of kayaks and small craft. Significantly, with that change the responsibility for placing the box culverts, for the first time, shifted to the city which after more than a decade of denying responsibility for owning and maintaining the structure under the roadway accepted it.

That was where things stood when Tropical Storm Alberto hit Padre Island in June 2024 destroying bulkheads along Cuttysark Street and Cutlass Avenue. A check of the Encantada Ave. culverts during the storm found that they remained clogged until late in the storm surge when water could be seen flowing under the roadway.

**The next step**

To move the project forward the City of Corpus Christi commissioned a study by LKA Engineering to determine the best way forward and in August, 2025 the results were presented to the Board of Directors of TIRZ #2.

The study presented three options, Option 1 called for the cleaning of the existing culverts and dredging the canal approach on both sides of the culverts to prevent their refilling with sand. This option was rejected since it would only prolong the problem and would require continued cleaning of the culverts for the foreseeable future.

Option 3 called for a bridge that could be built within the existing right of way which would not require turning lanes and would allow for traffic at 30 mph and would have the same 11-foot clearance as the current bridge on Whitecap Blvd. However it would block traffic flow to adjacent streets and driveways.

Option 2 was chosen by the TIRZ #2 board. That option calls for ten-by-ten foot box culverts which allows for the passage of kayaks and canoes. It will create a slight incline in the roadway but not to the height it would impair driver visibility and therefore does not require turning lanes. The distance under the Encantada roadway is about 100 feet meaning that each string of box culverts running north to south along the canal would each require ten separate box culverts for a total of about 20 separate box culverts would be needed. The TIRZ #2 board approved \$650,000 for the project and since that time the estimated cost of the project has risen to about \$1 million, according to those who have studied the project.

After that time the project was considered for the 2026 Capital Improvement Projects budget by the city, however, final design and funding for the project was predicated on a plan for the PIPOA to schedule dredging of their canals on each side of the roadway prior to the placing of the box culverts to prevent future sand buildup in the floor of the new culverts. That is where the project has been since August 2025 with PIPOA leadership waiting for the project to move forward before dredging, and city planners stating the project would not move forward until a schedule was announced for the dredging of the canals.

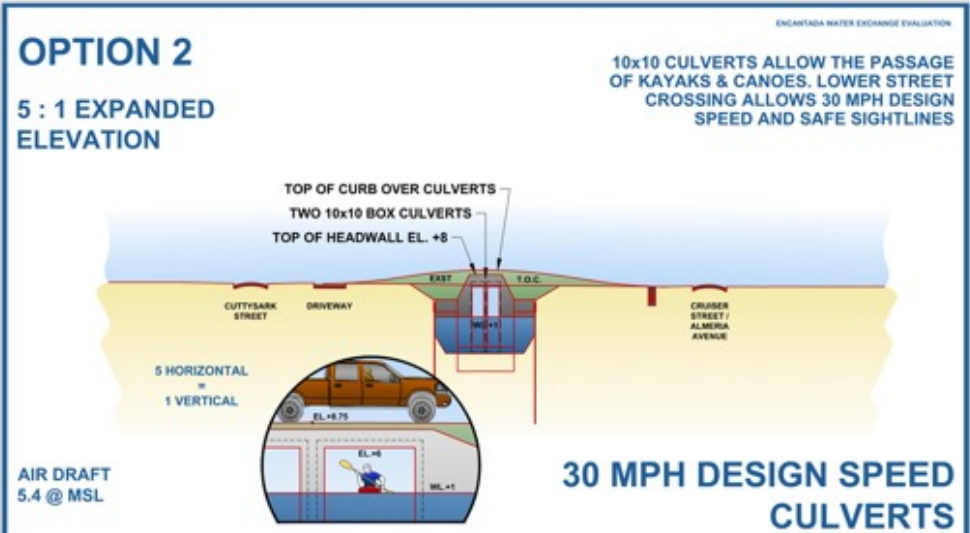
At their April, 2026 meeting members of the ISAC instructed the city staff to provide an update on the project in their May meeting hoping for a resolution of the standoff so the project can move forward.

**Funding**

The canal dredging would be at the expense of the PIPOA which has maintenance permitting under a Nationwide permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the dredge material to be placed on any upland location, even possibly to fill the water logged area under the JFK Bridge. The city is prohibited from funding the dredging work since the canals are privately owned by the PIPOA. That dredging would likely not require a waterborne dredge but rather could be done with the use of heavy equipment from the shore which could bring the dredged material over the bulkheads.

To fill the funding gap for the installation of the culverts, an estimated \$350,000, the city could use money from the Street Fund which has been used in the past to patch the existing culverts which allow sand to seep into them from the top, according to those involved with designing the project.

What has been lacking in order to move the project forward since August, 2025 has been an agreement between the City of Corpus Christi and the PIPOA for an order of work guaranteeing that the dredging of the canals would be scheduled by the PIPOA followed closely by work to install the box culverts by the city. It would also require language that allow city crews to cut into PIPOA bulkheads during the installation work. An update on the progress of any such agreement is what was called for by ISAC members in April and may be forthcoming in their next meeting which is normally held the first Tuesday of each month at Gulfstream Condominiums.



**The Art of Island Life**

**Finding Balance: The Heart Behind Island Wellness & Nutrition**



By Melissa Mitchell

I first connected with Stacy Samuelson while working alongside her during a few island community business events. It didn't take long to see that she offers more than knowledge—she brings warmth, sincerity, and a genuine desire to help others. It's my honor to share her story. There are some businesses that do much more than sell products. They provide guidance, encouragement, and the kind of personal connection people remember long after they leave. *Island Wellness & Nutrition* is one of those places. For many on Padre Island, it has become a trusted stop for vitamins, supplements, natural skincare, wellness support, and thoughtful conversation. But behind the shelves is something even more meaningful—the story of a woman whose own challenges shaped a life centered on helping others feel better and live with greater balance.

**A Personal Path to Wellness**



Stacy Samuelson

Stacy's journey into health and wellness did not begin as a business plan. It began with a personal health crisis when she was just 27 years old. What started as a search for answers—and a desire to protect her two young daughters from facing the same struggles—grew into a lifelong passion. Her mission became simple: help as many people as possible find better health and balance.

Years later, life called her back home. In 2015, while managing two compounding pharmacies in the Wimberley and San Marcos area, Stacy learned her younger brother was battling cancer here in Corpus Christi. She made the decision to hire and train her replacement, sell her home, and return to the island to help both her brother and his business. Thankfully, he beat cancer. *Island Wellness & Nutrition* opened in the fall of 2021, as many people were emerging from the uncertainty of the time and looking for ways to better support their health. Stacy found herself having daily conversations about immune support, wellness habits, and creating healthier routines. She recognized that people were searching for options—and ready to ask new questions. That desire to help remains at the center of everything she does.

When asked what she loves most about her work, her answer was clear and simple: helping people. Building trust. Creating

relationships. Empowering others to feel better and make positive changes in their lives. And on the harder days? Gratitude and faith keep her going. Step inside *Island Wellness & Nutrition* and you'll quickly see that Stacy is intentional about what she carries. She looks closely at ingredients, favors quality brands, and often tries products herself before recommending them. She wants to know what they do and how they may help create balance for her customers. Many of the questions she hears most often revolve around sleep, stress, anxiety, and everyday wellness. Her approach is both practical and compassionate. She encourages people to let go of perfection, be kind to themselves, and focus on creating internal balance. Sometimes, that kind of support is exactly what people need most.

**Quiet Strength**

There is another part of Stacy's story many customers may never realize when they walk through the door. Stacy is deaf. She lost hearing in one ear in 1995 due to a brain tumor, and in the other in 2011 after another tumor. A cochlear implant in 2012 restored a small amount of sound, though she still relies heavily on lip reading. Most people never know. She has thoughtfully arranged her store in ways that help her serve customers effectively, and she continues to navigate ongoing health challenges with grace and resilience. In many ways, the balance she helps others seek is something she practices daily herself.

When asked what "feeling well" means to her personally, Stacy described it as being physically and mentally calm, and in balance. That feels especially fitting here on the island, where so many of us are drawn to the peace of the water, the salt air, and the slower rhythm of coastal life. Her closing message was simple and hopeful: you can decide to get healthy at any age. And sometimes, all it takes is one person willing to help you take the first step.

If you've never stopped in, consider this your invitation. Visit *Island Wellness & Nutrition*, meet Stacy, and experience the kind of encouragement and care that can make all the difference. 14330 S Padre Island Dr. Suite 102.

*The Art of Island Life* will return next week with more stories and coastal reflections.

Have a story to share or a cause close to your heart? I'd love to hear from you at [contact@melissamitchellart.com](mailto:contact@melissamitchellart.com)



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# Island Outdoors

## On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

The water wars continue to rage downtown at city hall; however we got a nice reprieve late last week in the form of about 2 inches of the actual wet stuff over about a 6 hour period; a good soaking. While the rain did give my vehicles the first bath they've had in maybe over a year, the moisture will also cause the weeds in the back 40 to rejuvenate and attempt to take over again. That reminds me that I haven't even started on my winter time project list and here we are in the middle of spring. Alas, another year down range without much progress to show.

A couple of weeks ago, I covered a few things regarding the "six-pack" items from the old Packery Channel project and some things that haven't been done yet. I went back and read some of the founding documents and remembered things like the Loop Road, parking lots, bathrooms, boat patrol, and maintenance facilities that were supposed to be built around Packery Channel. But there was something major that I didn't cover besides amenities.

I have heard that the Packery Channel lease between the city and the Texas General Land Office is being revised, although it may just be rumor or be involved with wetlands mitigation for the new beach shower facility being planned for Zahn Road. When Packery was built, part of the lands on the north side and south side were supposed to draw in vendors that could rent boats, jet skis, fishing equipment, food trucks, etc. The elephant in the room is the rate that the city has to charge anyone that would pop up a business there. The lease reads;

"As consideration for the right to use the Premises, Lessee agrees to pay the State as rent, thirty-seven and one-half percent (37.5%) of all Gross Revenues received by Lessee under this lease as a result of or arising out of its use of the Premises." ...."but is not limited to, entrance and parking fees, revenues from concessionaires, sub lessees, licenses, permits," ....etc.

You get the point. Who in their right mind is going to try and start a business there with a 375 lb gorilla on their back? I mean, I don't see the city paying that percentage for business owners, or would they? They would likely just pass on that percentage to any concessionaire, or maybe they could use some other incentive program? In any event, unless something changes, you can expect not to see anything for sale around Packery Channel anytime soon.

The lease is quite specific on what all items they were expecting to be built, including; amenities, bait and tackle sales, food and beverage sales, convenience stores, beach amenities (suntan lotion, umbrellas, beach chairs, and surfboards), boat launching, piers and docks, watercraft rentals, boat and trailer storage, fuel sales, recreational vehicle park...." and the list goes on. The General Land Office was expecting that Packery Channel was going to become the center of the universe and become a cash cow for them. I'd recommend that both sides of the party take another look at the lease and meet in the middle. Don't forget, Packery Channel is literally the center of TIRZ 2, and money generated there goes right back into the TIRZ. I don't know if something would generate enough money to take on 37.5 cents on the dollar, but it's something to consider loyal readers.

The Loop Current out in the gulf is a mess right now as it switches toward a spring pattern and it has spawned 4 or 5 gyres that are spinning toward us. The one against our coast right now is piling seaweed into the longshore current, which is being transported up here from Mexico and being pushed up on our beaches with our high tides. The seaweed washing in now is going to get worse before it gets a little better, and there's another wave right behind it. The way to make lemonade out of this is to get out and pick through it and see the cool stuff it's bringing in.

Speaking of things being brought in, Bird-Cast is showing almost 200 million birds in flight each night migrating overhead. I heard of the Mangrove warbler that was out at the Willows the other day, but I'm chained to this desk and can't get away to go look at it. I got a water well up and running last week and my monarch butterfly caterpillars are getting fat. Y'all get those hummingbird feeders up, drop me a line at [jaygardner1032@gmail.com](mailto:jaygardner1032@gmail.com) and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar



Painted bunting at Paradise Pond By Joe Trujillo



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## Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah



I watched the Old Salt pull his boat up to the rocks and slip his anchor over the bow, he scampered back and casted the rods out behind the boat. Mr. Bill Sheka was a forefather in the fishing and guiding here in the Laguna Madre and Baffin area, and I was blessed to have met him and got to know him as a young kid. Back in the 80's if you saw a fishing show on TV it was great, a saltwater fishing show was a rare treat, and a TEXAS BAYFISHING FISHING SHOW WAS A FREAKING EVENT! Well I was lucky enough to have watched and got to know three of my true hero's. Mr. Doug Bird, Cliff Webb, and Bill Sheka all of these men have taught me great lessons on and off of the water. Sometimes the best lessons are not in the boat, they might be pieces of information hinted towards your curiosity. Lured out from a wild would into the bright and excited eyes of youth, I took it all in. In my half conscious ramblings here in The Island Moon I always try to hide some keys to angling success, hoping that those of you who pick up the paper can use them to improve your angling and catching. When you take a hint or piece of information and apply it to success, it means more to heart than just a handed in your lap change of the guard. Sheka began casting and popping a cork over those rocks like I've never seen before. He was not even letting it sit but recalling in and casting again!?! Then he casted out the clients poles with corks and stood behind the console of the boat. One fish, two fish, and a boat load a coming! He sat in front of those rocks and caught probably 20 trout! This was in a time before power poles; we deft fished most of the time. A few days later I asked him if he was really anchored up on those rocks, even though I watched him from 500yds away. "Yep! Had to get those trout worked up with a cork before they would school up and feed!" He didn't even have a hook on the first rod, he was just calling them in he said! It never worked like that for me, but never doubt the mind of a MAD MAN! Sheka was ahead of his time on many things fishing with a passion for both knowledge and teaching in the field. Now, these days in April some of the best fishing is anchored down casting live shrimp to those rocks in Baffin Bay. Hint hint Doug Bird was the GRANDFATHER of guides here in the Coastal Bend. He brought big business and big tackle companies here and introduced them to Texas fishing. He ran big guide operations and was excellent at following seasonal gamefish patterns. I grew up in Flour Bluff in the canals down from him. We would go clean his boat and listen to all the events of the day, he would always throw us soft plastics and tell us places to go learn that were hot. Spot by spot, year by year I believe I've covered most of the bay, but there are always a few spots that I've always wanted to fish and never have. Or maybe I've just forgot about! Doug hooked me up with a great sponsorship with rods, reels, lures, and trolling motors. The rods worked great and made me look high class! They just seemed to need some cleaning after a week or two; they weren't too good in salt water. Doug had the reel repair shop so I asked him what I needed to do to keep them working. "every day after your trip fill a five gallon bucket up with water and a small drop of dawn soap. Just dunk those reel ends of the poles in there a few times and clean them off". Well I was spending more money at 12\$ a shot getting those reels cleaned than if I had gone and bought them outright. Finally I asked Cliff and he just laughed, "He has you rinsing the grease out of those reels so you will have to bring them in to get cleaned!!" Those were Pennies to pay for some of the stores and teachings I gained from sitting on a bar stool in his shop. One day I hit to jump on Doug's Boat, on the way out he said we are just going to stop down here on a migrating school of trout and catch about 100 fish them head in. He trimmed out the LAKE AND BAY, and ran strait to an area I had been driving through every day. He pointed out some terns diving and schools of little menhaden. As soon as the boat stopped he casted out and caught a trout, from then on it was probably 200 trout we caught in a few hours. He explained how the new green tides of Mid April had brought in floods of small baitfish from the Gulf and Corpus Bay. Balls of tiny glass minnows and Shad twinkled on the surface, and trout boiled the water below. "They follow that Intracoastal Canal, then peel off onto the grassy edges of the channel and spoil islands here past Bird Island." Still to this day those spoil dumps along the ICW are a gathering place for bait



*Three generations of family and anglers! I've been blessed to have these folks on board for years watching this young man grow up. His largest redfish to date, caught on a down south lure Pink Panther*

and gamefish all spring long. I am still grateful, watchful, and listening to my friend CLIFF WEBB, a true angler and the most positive man you will ever meet. There is an electric charge that comes from Cliff, you can feel it in his company. He will make you laugh, get you pumped up to go fishing, and keep you casting long after the fat lady sings. Growing up I watched Cliff on TV with all the great fishing show hosts, then hit to surf with him at Bob Hall Pier! As a young man I got to really know Cliff, his wife Carol (Jr. High Sweethearts!) and both boys. I got a second job at Marker 37 marina back when I was running and bar tending at Farah's. I just knew that the bar was what I wanted to do all my life. I was saving up for a Drive through Chicken place! All the guides were pressing me to get my license and a boat, but I was not sure about it all. Cliff asked me, "What do you like to do best in life?" Surfing, hunting and fishing! "What order?" ..... "So you can't go wrong doing your third most favorite thing in the world for work then...." That's where it began for me. Cliff never really tells me where to go or what to throw at them, he tells me what the fish are doing, what they are feeding on, why they are there... temperatures, water flow, bait sources. His fish stories are animated and full of life; he throws clues in like hearing the snapping pop of a Shad creating the surface and turning to cast over a giant trout. Or seeing a black log move out from the shoreline pressing him to cast his topwater to her as she vanished. Twitch twitch and he brings in a 33" trout into the dock for me to hold in my hands. One morning, Cliff jumped in my boat and had me take him to his favorite spot in Baffin Bay. A famous place he had gained stardom in Houston and in Texas by stinging up a limit of 10 trout all but one over 30" with the newspaper editor! The small one was 28"! We came around the corner and there were 10 boats there, all full of waders. He giggled, "Well I guess I screwed up that spot!" We slipped out of the boat behind a wall of wade fisherman, I followed and casted listening to him explain every inch of the spot, and how it worked with tide, temperature and flow. He was moving fast and I was feeling the changes in the bottom as he explained it. "Joey see that hit right there, he is too far out. His is over that grass bed and the trout are sitting in the inside of it." He fires a cast; it lands within feet of the guys back. He and everyone else are listening to it all and suddenly on command Cliff sets the hook! Plays a throat slashing monster trout to hand in front of everyone laughing! Caught it in the guy's footsteps laughs and then pitches it back into the sea. Those lessons along with all the other are burned into me. Watching him in fishing and in life has been one of my models for loving and raising my family. The fish feel Cliff's energy, it runs down the line, and into the water. It's true, at the beach, on the dock, everywhere. My point is that when you give knowledge it makes you a better angler, it makes you a better person, it keeps you alive forever. Giving and taking time is the most valuable thing, share what you know, you don't have to give it just share, hints hints. Right now is a great time of year when all methods of bay fishing are working, fish are in all places far and wide. Weather is fine, and it's the time to share lifetime memories with friends and family. Don't be a crab, pass what you know to that wild eyes young fisherman, invite the kid down the street on a fishing trip, he will tell your story long past your last breathe. Follow all of our catches on FACEBOOK AND TICKTOK AT Joey Farah's Backwater Fishing! [361-442-8145](tel:361-442-8145)

## Nature Notes

# The Painted Bunting Migration

By Celeste Silling



*Painted Bunting by Mike Williams*

Spring migration is well underway on the Texas Coast. Migratory birds that winter in South and Central America are making their way North to the United States and Canada. This is a long, treacherous journey for many birds, especially those who fly directly across the Gulf, instead of circumventing through Mexico. The journey across the Gulf takes around 18 hours if the weather is good. For the small hummingbirds, warblers, and others that make the trek, there is no drinkable water, no food, and likely nowhere to rest (unless they find a lucky ship). If the weather is stormy, or if a wind is pushing against them, the trip is made even longer and more perilous for the brave travelers.

One such migrant is the Painted Bunting. The Painted Bunting is an incredibly colorful little bird who stands out even amongst the rainbow of visiting songbird species. The males have a blue head, red neck and breast, and lime green back. The females are a beautiful bright green throughout, a color not often seen in birds of our region.

The Painted Buntings spend their winters in Mexico, Central America, Florida, and the Caribbean Islands. In the spring, they begin to make the challenging journey up North to their breeding grounds in Texas and other Southern and Central states. While some of the birds, such as those that winter in Florida, don't need to cross huge bodies of water, others do. The Painted Buntings that land on our Upper Texas shores in April, are most likely ones that have just flown across the entire Gulf in one day.

Painted Buntings, like most other migratory birds, migrate at night. They do this for several reasons. First, it is cooler at night, which is important when you are attempting an incredibly difficult physical feat for 18 hours. Second, it helps them avoid predators, such as hawks and other raptors, who might be on the lookout for tired travelers. Third, they can use the stars, moon, magnetic field, and other navigation tools to orient themselves, even with nothing but blank water below.

Because their journey is so difficult, Painted Buntings and other migratory birds are exhausted when they reach our shores. Some die in the process, and those who land in Texas are greatly diminished. They need clean water to drink, bugs, seeds, and berries to eat, and safe quiet space to rest and recover. Much of their habitat has disappeared over the years, so these important stop-over sites with water, food, and native plants are hard to come by.

Fortunately, we can help the Painted Buntings and other migrating birds! The first step is to turn off your lights at night. Light pollution from towns and cities can affect the nighttime migration of birds, turning them in the wrong direction, or causing them to crash into building and cars. You can help by turning off your lights from 11PM to 6AM, especially outdoor lights. You can also close your curtains to block your interior lights, or put lights on a timer or motion-activation setting. You can also put out clean water in bird baths, seed and meal worms in seed-feeders, and plant native plants. All of these things will help migrating birds and welcome them to Texas.

To see Painted Buntings and other migrating songbirds, come by the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary in Quintana! It is full of spring migrants at the moment, and open to the public.



## Beachcombing Report

By Jace Tunnell



# Cownose Ray

*Rays are built to eat oysters, clams, and crabs*



*Jace Tunnell holding a cownose ray that washed up in April 2026*



*Top view of a cownose ray that washed up along the Texas coast*

This week I came across a cownose ray washed up along the Texas Coast. Even out of the water, its shape stood out. The broad, diamond-shaped body and wing-like fins showed how these rays move through bays and nearshore Gulf waters, almost like they are flying underwater.

True to their name, the head featured two rounded lobes that resemble a cow's nose, a distinctive trait that makes this species easy to identify. But what fascinated me most was underneath. Like other rays, the cownose has its mouth on the underside of its body, perfectly positioned for feeding along the seafloor. Inside, instead of sharp teeth, are tightly packed crushing plates, flat, powerful structures designed for breaking apart hard-shelled prey. These rays are built to eat oysters, clams, and crabs, making them important to the balance of life along the coast, even if their appetite sometimes puts them at odds with shellfish fisheries.

Cownose rays are a common sight along the Texas coast from spring through fall, often traveling in large migrating schools that can number in the thousands. On calm days, you might spot their dark shapes gliding just beneath the surface or even see one leap completely out of the water.

Despite their size and abundance, they live a vulnerable life. Females typically give birth to one pup each year, meaning populations can be slow to recover from pressure.

Finding this ray shows how connected our beaches are to the larger Gulf. Each animal that washes ashore has a story tied to movement, survival, and the changing coastal waters.

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).



*Closeup view of a cownose ray mouth.*

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Real Estate cont. from A1

**Condominium That Sold:**  
-14300 Aloha St Unit#216 (Listed for \$249,900)

**Condominium In Option Period:**  
-14300 S Padre Island Dr Unit#214 (Listed for \$175,000)As always, we're keeping a close eye on the momentum as we head further into the spring market—traditionally one of the busiest times of the year. If this week is any indication, we're gearing up for a strong season ahead. Stay tuned for next week's update!

with two homes successfully closing. In the Townhomes sector, it also showed strong movement, with three properties currently in the option period. In the condo market, one unit sold and another moved into the option period.

Below, you'll find a full breakdown of these properties, including their list prices, giving you a clearer snapshot of where the market is trending.

As always, we're keeping a close eye on the momentum as we head further into the spring market—traditionally one of the busiest times of the year. If this week is any indication, we're gearing up for a strong season ahead. Stay tuned for next week's update!

This week brought a noticeable increase in activity across the Padre Island market as we continue to move closer into the spring season. In the detached home sector, we saw three homes go into the option period, along

## Turtle Nest Count

**KEMP'S RIDLEY TURTLE**  
So far this year, 6 nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast including (north to south in state):

- 1 Mustang Island
- 4 North Padre Island, including 3 at Padre Island National Seashore
- 1 South Padre Island



*Kemp's ridley nest found recently*

Donna J. Shaver, Ph.D.  
Chief, The Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery, Padre Island National Seashore, National Park Service  
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## Island Moon Live

Our Thursday radio show is 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 this link.



*Live Streams*

## Thoughts from Reverend Ken



By Rev. Dr. Ken

### Frederick Nietzsche and the Will to Power

Charlie Brown announced one day that he had developed a new philosophy. He would only dread one day at a time. This might be worth considering given the apocalyptic rhetoric and warring actions in our world.

We are living in an age of nihilism, characterized by a will to power. We seem to be facing a new day of barbarism. War has been gamified for human entertainment disregarding the human cost and suffering of war. Entire neighborhoods have been decimated. The way of Jesus has been called weak.

Nihilism is the philosophical belief that life is without objective meaning, purpose, or intrinsic value. It rejects established moral, religious, and social authority. Moral truths and societal norms are human constructs, not objective realities. The good is whatever we will.

Friedrich Nietzsche thought that the good is all that increases the feeling of power, will to power, power itself, in a human being. He thought that the bad is all that proceeds from weakness. Happiness is the feeling that power increases and a resistance is overcome. Nietzsche thought the will to power was life affirming. He attributed many of the advances of humanity to the will of power.

In contrast to Nietzsche's version of the will to power, today's will to power is characterized by what Nietzsche called resentment. Mutually hostile groups define themselves against one another by means of shared narratives of injury. Each group is singularly focused on crushing their adversaries. Universal human dignity and rights tragically become collateral damage.

Unfortunately, Christians can be drawn into such a nihilistic war, betraying the very faith we seek to defend. Christian words and images are brandished in service of anti-Christian ends. Love is weaponized in the service of resentment. This is one of the realities of Christian Nationalism. The will to power.

Other Christians might abandon the public sphere completely, pretending there is no

connection between faith and the events of the world. The focus is only on the next life. The world is seen as a wasteland in order that the world to come might shine more brightly. However, hope for the next life drains this life of all significance.

The answer to the naked will to power of today is the willing assumption of weakness. This is at the heart of the Christian story. It is the very meaning of mercy. In Christ God willingly accepted weakness out of mercy for humanity and bids the followers of Christ to do the same. To have mercy is to allow another's misery to wound us.

True power is found in submitting to the divine will of love. Christianity teaches that divine strength is perfected in human weakness. How else can we understand Jesus on the cross? This is a reversal of the worldly desire for domination through the will to power.

The will to weakness is not an easy choice in today's nihilistic setting. One can become the object of scorn and ridicule. However, the message of Easter is that the way of weakness is the way of hope. Peacemakers will be called children of God. The pure in heart will see God. The meek will inherit the earth.

Beach worship services begin again on May 3. 8 am on Whitecap Beach at the end of Whitecap Blvd. Bring a chair! There is a place for 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.

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

*Knuckle-Cracker*

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

*Mind-Numbing Frustration*

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

*Brain-Buster*

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

**Across**

- 1. Florist supply
- 6. Fitzgerald of jazz
- 10. Shrewd storybook cat
- 14. Intimate
- 15. Den
- 16. Aztec contemporary
- 17. Three breaks
- 20. "Cakes and \_\_\_" (Maugham)
- 21. Religious rationalist
- 22. They're in their element
- 23. Hits the roof
- 25. Pound of letters?
- 27. Hunky-dory
- 28. Temple outcast
- 29. HMO workers
- 32. Wide rift
- 35. Like The Fonz
- 36. Convinced
- 37. Four breaks
- 40. "Star Wars" royalty
- 41. Book part
- 42. Snide
- 43. Better-than-anything ending
- 44. Soviet news bureau
- 45. Crony
- 46. Anjou relative
- 47. Evolve
- 51. Like one who's seen a ghost
- 54. Display histrionics
- 56. Relative of .net or .org
- 57. Three breaks
- 60. Crew on the high seas
- 61. Frivolous
- 62. Go from E to F
- 63. Knuckle under
- 64. Loads
- 65. Ibsen's "An \_\_\_ of the People"

# 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			

**Down**

- 1. Travel documents
- 2. Quite sufficient
- 3. Overindulgence
- 4. Tony winner Wallach
- 5. Set of identifying traits
- 6. Legendary Spanish knight
- 7. One-time French protectorate
- 8. Took to the skies
- 9. Boxer's greeting
- 10. Madonna rendition
- 11. Nullify
- 12. Patsy's downfall
- 13. Remarks
- 18. Nerdy type
- 19. "Duke of \_\_\_"
- 24. "Peter and the Wolf" bird
- 26. Novelist defender of Dreyfus
- 28. Shreds
- 29. Pluto, for one
- 30. "Darn it!"
- 31. Hot
- 32. Merry king
- 33. Tints
- 34. Busily working
- 35. Sound surge
- 36. Musty
- 38. Unfortunately
- 39. Fish through rubbish
- 44. Nobelist Morrison
- 45. "Pistol \_\_\_" Maravich
- 46. Harold Robbins novel (with "The")
- 47. Peace signs
- 48. One way to get a flat?
- 49. Loathing
- 50. Like thick orange juice
- 51. Considering
- 52. Dueler's injury
- 53. Smug racer
- 55. Tuna treat
- 58. Deep matter?
- 59. Flemish painter van Eyck



Ten years ago this week the Schlitterbahn waterpark was still a work site



Fifteen years ago in 2011 Carl Jara won 1st place Solo at Sandfest with The Stranger

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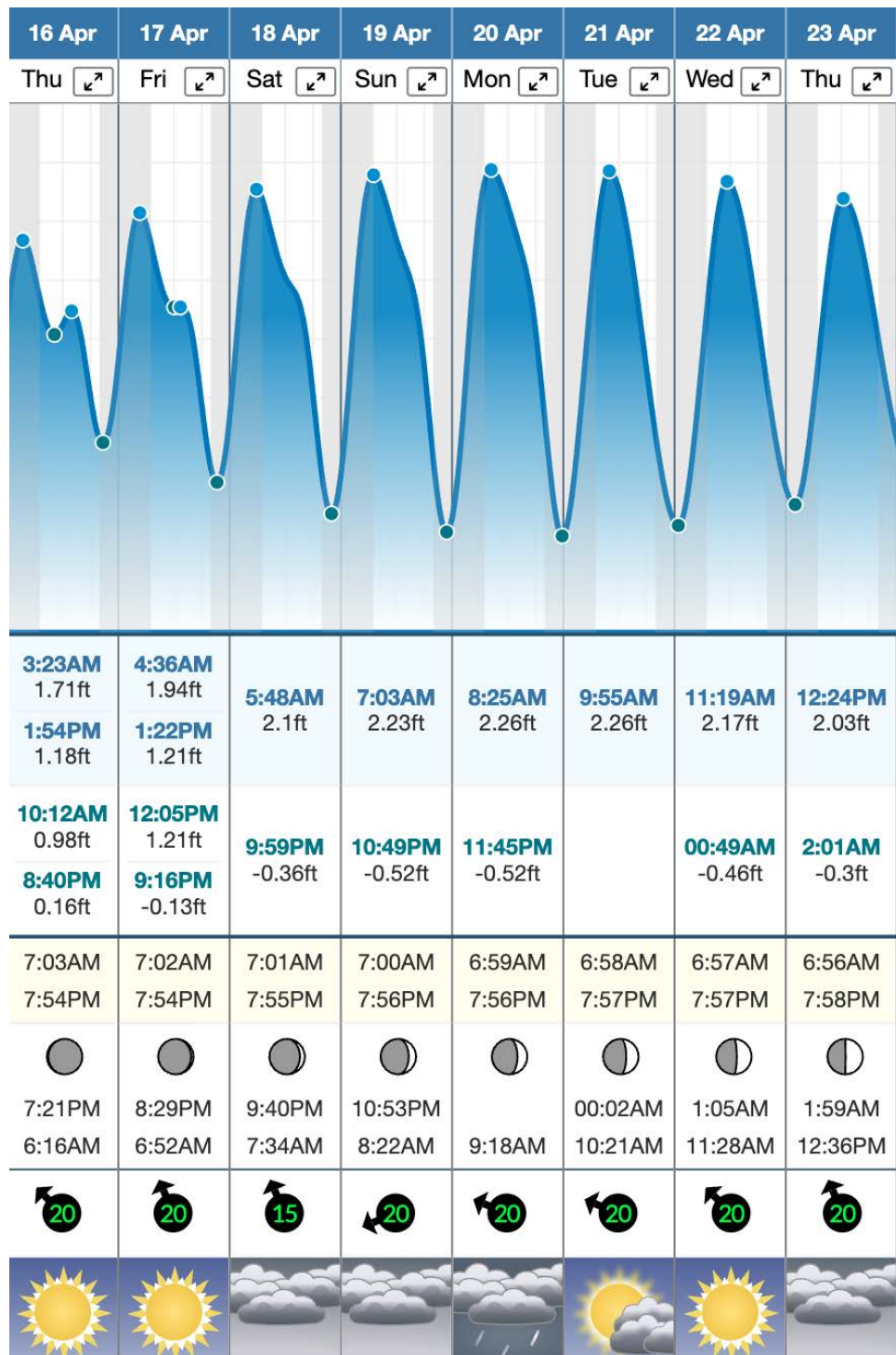
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Friendly chat between the Summer Tanager and Baltimore Oriole  
 Photo By Riekie Roncinske

## Tides of the Week



## Crossword Solution

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

# Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon

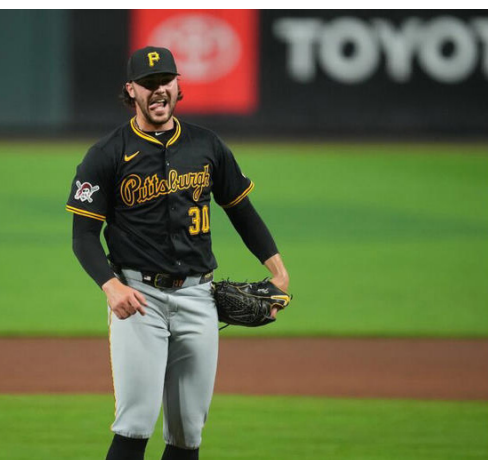


## The Rule Changes in Major League Baseball for the 2026 Season Explained

*Dotson's Note: For the first time in more than 25 years, Major League Baseball is swinging back to NBC Sports with the upcoming start of the 2026 MLB season. From Opening Day right on through the postseason pennant race, NBC and Peacock will be right in the middle of America's pastime with a stacked broadcast and streaming slate headlined by weekly Sunday Night Baseball games. Thanks to Fox 1 for many of the facts and photos contained in this report.*

Every year, the league introduces a handful of new rules changes at the start of the season — and for 2026, there's a pretty seismic rules shakeup on deck that takes a big cue from cutting-edge technology. The introduction of the new ABS Challenge System will lend a dose of real-time computing power to human home-plate umpires' strike-calling judgment, but it's only one of the changes that fans are sure to notice as a new MLB season gets underway.

What rules changes are in store for Major League Baseball as a new season steps out of the batter's box? Keep on reading for the full rundown!



By far the biggest MLB rules change for 2026 is the new addition of the Automated Ball-Strike (ABS) Challenge System (or ABS for short). Adapted from the minor leagues where it's been tested since 2022, ABS allows players to challenge an umpire's subjective strike call by requesting a computer-based review of the pitch — but it comes with a few conditions that will limit its intrusion into the overall flow of a game.

The league isn't changing up the traditional strike-calling function of the home-plate umpire, who will continue to call balls and strikes just like always. But for the first time ever in the big leagues, each team will start the game with two ABS challenge opportunities that they can use to confirm or overturn an umpire's strike call — and if a challenge is successful, it will not count against their two-challenge total.

On top of the two-challenge limit, there are a couple of additional wrinkles that affect a team's strategic use of their ABS challenges. Team managers can't issue a challenge to an umpire's strike call — only challenges by the batter, the pitcher, or catcher are allowed.

ABS challenges "must be made immediately after the umpire's call, without assistance from the dugout or other players," MLB states, with the batter's official challenge signal represented by a tap on his batting helmet within approximately two seconds of the umpire's call at the plate. In cases where a play unfolds because of the pitch, the challenge may still be made at the immediate conclusion of the play.

What happens if a game is tied after nine innings? For any game that goes into extra innings, a team may carry one of its remaining unused ABS challenges into the 10th inning. If that challenge is used, the team will continue to receive a single additional challenge for every extra inning thereafter until the game is finished.

### Keeping Base Coaches in Their Box

Also debuting in 2026 is a new guideline for base coaches that is intended to limit their often broad range of movement on the field.

"If the umpires observe a base coach outside the box between pitches while the pitcher is on the rubber," MLB explains, "the coach will receive a warning and be instructed to return to the box. Subsequent violations of the rule can result in an ejection of the coach."

Base coaches are positioned at 1st and 3rd base in MLB games, and the stricter enforcement of the box rule comes as a response to some coaches' tendency to range away from their designated box area. As the league puts it, it's an "answer to an increasingly prevalent trend in which coaches would move out of their designated boxes to get better angles to steal signs by reading pitchers' grips... This gamesmanship has caused consternation between clubs and compelled MLB to more proactively monitor base coach positioning during the 2025 World Series, alleviating concerns. Now, that proactive monitoring will occur all season."

### Intentional Obstruction Rule for Baserunners

Beginning with the 2026 MLB season, a baserunner can earn an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty if an umpire determines that the runner has intentionally made contact with a fielder on the defensive team in instances when the defensive player doesn't have the ball.

The change is meant to curb some runners' use of intentional contact as a strategy for drawing an obstruction call against the defensive team, and will result in an instant out for any runner who draws an intentional contact call. Additionally, all baserunners who advanced during the offending play will be sent back to the base they occupied before the play began.

*Dotson's Other Note: The upcoming season is going to inject new names into the public consciousness, and that prospect is exciting. Players like New York's Nolan McLean, Pittsburgh's Konnor Griffin and Kansas City's Carter Jensen all stand to announce themselves on a national level. Nothing marks the passage of time like baseball, and the season ahead will continue the change-of-the-guard theme that has marked the last few years. It's bittersweet to see a new crop of stars emerge as guys like Bryce Harper, Mookie Betts, Freddie Freeman and Mike Trout begin their trots off into the sunset.*

Thanks For Reading

# Gene's Corner



By Gene Saegert

## Collected Thoughts on Growing Old

*Aging seems to be the secret to long life.*

The older I get, the less I care what people think, I am just happy that I can still think.

The older you get, the better the stories from your youth get.

At my age getting lucky means having a friend that can drive at night.

The older you get, the more fun acting immature can be.

At my age it is an accomplishment when you walk into a room and remember what I came in for. Luckily that usually means I walked into the bathroom.

When your mind says I can do that, but you make sure you are wearing your emergency call button.

The problem with growing old is.....oops sorry, lost my train of thought.

Getting old is when you reach down to pick up something and look around to make sure there isn't anything else to pick up while you are down there anyway.

When you get older you have a wealth of memory in your memory bank. The problem is your mind becomes a penny pincher and will not let you withdraw any of it.

Some things heal with time; just don't look in the mirror while you are on that train of thought.

You know you are getting old when you are cooking and you have to pull the directions back out of the garbage can several times.

The older you get good stories that never happened come to light.

I don't use my phone when I make grocery lists, I write them on paper. I forget and leave them at home and then I wander aimlessly up a down the aisles thinking I will remember them. But on the up side I meet a lot of new people doing the same thing.

How do you know how to act your age, when you have never been this age before?

I am so old that my "use before..." time stamp is totally unreadable.

All seniors goal is to outlive your extended warranty.

My train of thought usually gets wrecked because I usually leave the station without the conductor.

Be thankful that you don't have to grow old twice.

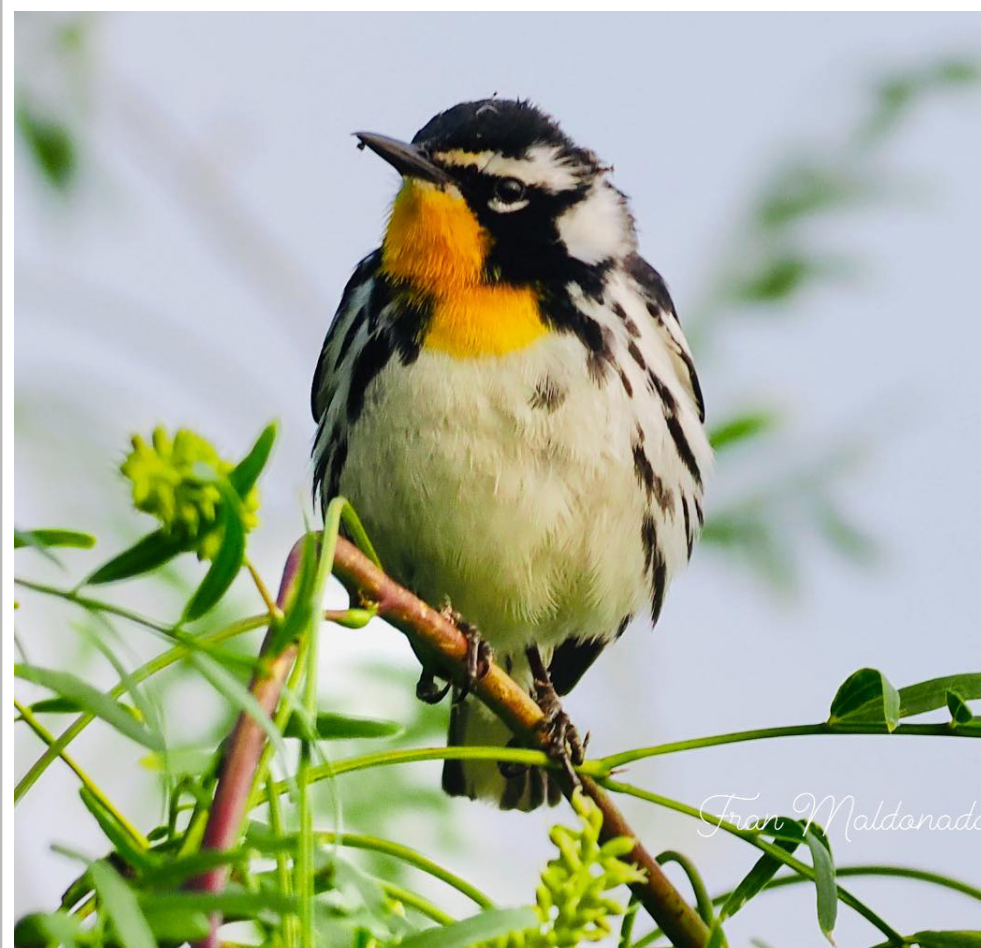
When old age gets me down I always hope I am close to a step stool.

And finally I am on a quest to find a medication that says "Caution, may cause extreme youthfulness"

Old age doesn't always mean you grow wiser, sometimes it just means you are getting older.

*Thought for the day: A shark can swim faster than me, but I could probably outrun a shark so it all comes down to who would be the better cyclist.*

Aging seems to be the secret to long life.



Yellow Throated Warbler By Fran Maldonado



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# Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
ronnienarmour@gmail.com  
**SandFest 2026 is here...**



It's time to get your SandFest on.  
Photo by Mark Landrum

This coming weekend on April 17, 18 and 19, Port Aransas will host the 29th annual *Texas SandFest*, the largest master sand sculpting competition in the United States. An estimated 100,000 people will descend on Mustang Island for this three day family event along with dozens of master sculptors (amateurs too) from such far away points as Europe, Canada and all over the U.S. These artists will arm themselves with shovels and spray bottles loaded with watered down Elmer's glue to create masterpiece sculptures right on the beach. Texas SandFest was an idea generated years ago when some Port Aransas locals were watching their kids bury themselves in the sand and form mermaids and fish around their bodies. Little did they know that the festival and competition that spawned from their idea would eventually become the premier sand sculpting event in the US. The immense scale and intricacy of these sand sculptures are absolutely mind blowing. For a period of 21 hours these artists create visionary themes that range from silly to dramatic, but always artistic. The event was born in 1997 when a gathering of locals were watching their kids build sandcastles at the beach and thought, "hey, we could do this every year!"... and they did. The event has grown and grown and out grown the locals only demeanor and eventually found corporate sponsors to kick it up several notches. What started out at a \$2 admission is about 30 bucks now. When it's all said and done, *SandFest* will donate many thousands of dollars back into our community in the way of charitable donations to PAISD scholarship funds and local non-profits. This festival is a good, good thing for Port Aransas... a very good thing. We always go on Sunday when the sculptures are finished, the winners are announced and the crowds are smaller and mostly locals. Oh and here's a prop... traffic is a nightmare and they will have the traffic on the beach going *One Way* south usually starting around Pole 9. Carpooling is advised and finding an alternate way of getting there without having a car to park. And be sure to look for me and my *Mermaid Gal* manning the *Nurdle Patrol* booth sponsored by *Harte Research* at TAMUCC. **Jace Tunnell** will be there *Beachcombing* on Friday morning. The gate opens at 9:00 AM and close at 7:30 PM. Here's the music line-up:

- Friday, April 17**  
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Cruise Control  
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM: Clay Hollis
- Saturday, April 18**  
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM: VHS  
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Kelo McKane  
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM: John King
- Sunday, April 19, 2026**  
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM: Sergio Espinosa  
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Nick Taylor  
5:45 PM – 7:30 PM: Josh Abbott Band

## Earth Day Human Peace Sign...



Earth Day is on Wed, Apr 22. Human Peace Sign on the beach at 4 PM

Mark it down! Coming this Wednesday on April 22 is *Earth Day*, which in Port Aransas means we, the **Greenies** and **Peaceniks**, will gather at the pier at 4:00 and form a *Human Peace Sign* right on the beach. We'll wear our finest tie dye and shoot the peace sign a bunch and try not to start any wars while we're there. This is a tradition that was born on *Earth Day 2016* by the efforts of our (then) resident hippie and children's book writer, **Diana Aston** and carried on now largely through the efforts of **Cara Rose** and **Stacey Bartlett**...resident hippies and founders of *Port A For Peace*. Come join us. It's good clean fun and nobody gets hurt and nobody gets arrested... or starts any wars. We'll need **Steve Coons** or **Augs** out there with their drones. Peace yall!

## Scattered shots...



The Groove 2.0 will play the VFW on Saturday

*Shorty's 80th Anniversary* dominated most of my time last weekend with a two nighter. It was an excellent lineup with California boys **Mitch Polzak** and the **Royal Deuces** leading the charge with some great country and bluegrass music. Mitch Polzak is a bonafied entertainer and when they showed up wearing fancy cowboy shirts and pointy boots, I knew they would fit right in... and they did. Also **Ty Dietz** and his **Corpus** pals got the party rocking like the pros they are. I did also make it over to the *Sip Yard* on Friday to see the wild crew from DFW, the **Ahhfugyeahs**, a banger band playing the likes of **Nine Inch Nails**, **Radiohead**, **Alice In Chains**, **Foo Fighters**, **Nirvana**, **Pearl Jam**, **TOOL**, etc. It was loud, very loud and I really dug 'em. Also, on the side of way cool, our psychedelic jam monsters, **Triptonite**, played the *Yard* on Saturday and I basically bounced back and forth all weekend. My ears are still ringing

## Coming this week...



Dreaming in Color will play Bron's on Friday.

Options... you got options. Coming this week the eight piece horn band from San Marcos, **Ton of Brass**, will play the *Sip Yard* on Thursday and the raucous **B-Flat Dueling Pianos** will play there on Friday and **Diamond's Edge** will be there on Saturday. *Shorty's* will have the **Palacios Bros** on Friday and our country music buddy from San Antonio, **Todd Dorn** on Saturday, *Bron's* will have the classic rock **Dreaming in Color** on Friday and the **National Nobodyz** on Saturday. The *VFW* will have **Lisa Sullivan** of *Love Street* fame on Friday and classic rock band **Groove 2.0** on Saturday. And finally *Treasure Island* will have **Splendiferous** on Saturday. Yall be safe!

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Splendiferous will play Treasure Island on Saturday.



Josh Abbott will play SandFest on Sunday.



Ton of Brass will play the Sip Yard on Thursday.

# LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

## Thursday, April 16

- Ton of Brass @ Sip Yard  
Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's  
Aaron Boultinghouse @ Gaff  
Dave & Al @ Salty Dog  
Joseph Martinez @ Rokit's  
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Island  
Damon Scott @ Brewster Southside  
Heath Owens @ Brewster Downtown  
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach  
Ruben Limas @ Perrin's on the Water  
Navarro & the Creatures @ Executive Surf Club  
Michael Perez @ Fifth & Elm  
Portland

## Friday, April 17

- Cruise Control, Clay Hollis @ SANDFEST  
X Factory @ Sunset Sounds PA  
Palacios Bros @ Shorty's  
B-Flat Dueling Pianos @ Sip Yard  
Dreaming in Color @ Bron's  
Lisa Sullivan @ VFW Port A  
Boo & Poo @ Gaff  
National Nobodyz @ Treasure Island  
Dickie Delight @ Salty Dog  
Carson Miller Band @ Pelican Lounge  
18 Hours, Meza Band @ Rokit's  
Pecos & Rooftops @ Brewster Downtown  
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Southside  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach

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JIM BUSH APR 30

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JOHNSON ALL STARZ EVERY THURS  
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN  
PALACIOS BROS APR 17  
TODD DORN APR 18  
MANTLE JENNINGS APR 24  
JOHN CORTEZ APR 25

**Treasure Island**  
NATIONAL NOBODYZ APR 17  
SPLENDIFEROUS APR 18  
CARSON MILLER APR 24  
BACK PEW REVIVAL APR 25

**MOORE-MCDONALD VFW POST 8967**  
LISA SULLIVAN APR 17  
THE GROOVE 2.0 APR 18  
BRAD ETHRIDGE APR 21  
CLEARTONES APR 22  
GARRY MITCHAM APR 24  
LUCKY DOGZ APR 25

**Sip Yard**  
TON OF BRASS APR 16  
B-FLAT DUELING PIANOS APR 17  
DIAMOND'S EDGE APR 18  
YOUNG KLASICS APR 24  
ISSAC JACOB APR 25  
CASEY CHESNUTT MAY 1

**Bron's BACKYARD**  
DREAMING IN COLOR APR 17  
NATIONAL NOBODYZ APR 18  
BRANDON MICHAEL APR 24  
TIMOTHY NOEL APR 25  
HARMONX MAY 1  
RUBEN V MAY 2

- Matt Hole @ Executive Surf Club  
Stoney LaRue @ Fifth & Elm  
Portland  
Shenandoah, Emma James @ Post OG  
Philip Dean @ Fajitaville

## Saturday, April 18

- VHS, Lelo McKane, John King @ SANDFEST  
Todd Dorn @ Shorty's  
Splendiferous @ Treasure Island  
National Nobodyz @ Bron's  
Diamond's Edge @ Sip Yard  
The Groove 2.0 @ VFW Port A  
Jim Dugan @ Gaff  
Raul Ayala @ Pelican Lounge  
The Max @ Rokit's  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards Too  
Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard's on the Beach  
Alley Catz @ Brewster Island  
Michael Burttis @ Brewster Southside  
Emo Karaoke @ Brewster Downtown  
Los Guys, 8  
Bit Serenade @ Executive Surf Club  
Elton John Tribute @ Fifth & Elm  
Portland  
Melissa Ann Grothe @ Hideout 35

## Sunday, April 19

- Sergio Espinosa, Nick Taylor, Josh Abbott @ SANDFEST  
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's  
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog  
David Martinez @ Executive Surf Club

## Monday, April 20

- John Elijah @ Shorty's  
Michael Burttis @

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