



Three Chords and the Truth A12



The Art of Island Life A5



On the Rocks A6



Nature Notes A7



Backwater Adventures A6

Issue 1149

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# The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

April 23, 2026

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Sandfest sculpture by Debbie Noble



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



NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

By Dale Rankin

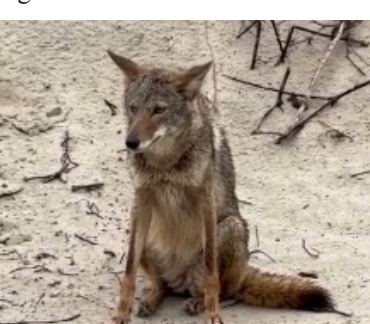
Water was in the news *Around The Island* this week as some came from the sky and some washed up on the beaches. It was the height of irony Sunday afternoon as water fell on SandFest in Port Aransas but not in the recharge zone of our water supply to the north. It even rained in the Wild Horse Desert but missed the twin lakes of dry and dryer up north.

Island beaches have been wading pools this week as the daily tide has pushed up to the Michael J. Ellis Seawall on a daily basis and the movement of sand has left lakes where sand should be. Keeping the beach along the seawall wide is a never ending wrestling match with Mother Nature and she always wins, even though Packery Channel was dug specifically for that purpose. The notching system used by the City of Port Aransas seems to work best as the beaches there are wider than those on the Padre end and the dune structure is higher. Maybe there is a lesson there.



Ellis Beach at the Island House. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

The water drove enough humans off the beach that this wily coyote was seen checking out the parking lot on the seawall. However, no roadrunners were sighted...



Around cont. on A7

## Routes for new Island causeway narrowed to two

One route would land near Sea Pines Dr. second would run along JFK Causeway

By Dale Rankin

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) this week announced that the potential route for a new causeway across the Laguna Madre to Padre has been narrowed to two choices.

The reduction in the number of possible routes is part of a three-year \$3 million Environmental Impact Study (EIS) due to be completed in 2026.

The announcement this week eliminated the three routes that would have landed on Padre Island in Kleberg County and instead proposes only two potential routes moving forward, one which would land on The

Causeway cont. on A4



Location of the previous Seagate by the 361 Bridge.

## Beachcombing Report

By Jace Tunnell

What is it? A creature from the Dinosaur age arrives on the beach



Beachcombing cont. on page A7

## Plans for new area at Whitecap NPI Opening set for summer 2026



The Early Activation Center layout

Developers of the Whitecap NPI project this week released plans for the activity area now under construction at the site.

Phase I of what is called the Early Activation Area the site along Compass Street will include outdoor and marina amenities, a large event lawn, ships store with boat fueling, boat rental and sales offices, kayak and paddle board

Whitecap cont. on page A5

## Water Restrictions

What will be the rules under a Level 1 Water Emergency?

The City of Corpus Christi this week issued the first look at what a Level 1 Water Emergency will look like come September when the new rules are expected to take effect. Under the city rules Level 1 is activated when we are 180 days from demand exceeding supply and we begin daily taking more from the system than is being replenished. A complete list of the new rules are available on the city website but here are some highlights:

- Homes (including Port A) will have a fixed baseline allocation of 7000 gallons per month. A surcharge will be placed on usage above that amount, residential users will be charged \$4 per 1000 gallons over 7000 gallons
- Irrigation and car washing remain prohibited but watering plants by hand is allowed
- Flushing of boat motors is allowed
- The filling, refilling, or adding of water to swimming pools, wading pools, Jacuzzi-type pools, and hot tubs is prohibited except to maintain structural integrity
- Outdoor swimming pools must be covered when not in use. A request for an exemption or variance from this provision for pools that have a water-saving feature may be submitted by applying for exemption/variance
- A violation of the Water Emergency Rules will be a Class C misdemeanor
- Fine will be up to \$500 per violation per day
- A second conviction results in the possibility of discontinuance of service for one billing cycle

## Commodores Park Construction



Phase 1 of construction is set to be completed around November.

## A little Island history

### The Mansfield Cut

Fresh water and the blue crab invasion

By Bobbie Kimbrell

In reference to the story in the *Island Moon* about Mansfield cutting Padre Island in half, it brings back memories of when the Naval Air Station was built in Flour Bluff in 1941.

After the base was built a channel was dug from the NAS to Padre Island. (The Crash Channel), so that the Coast Guard based at the NAS

History cont. on A5



Mansfield Channel Jetties

# Sandfest Winners 2026

Photos by Debbie Noble



Master Duo 1st Place Greg Grady and Abe Waterman "Pawns"



Master Duo 2nd place and sculptors choice Chris Guinto and Melineige Beaugard with "Spirit of the Dragon Tribute to Chuck Norris"



Master Duo 3rd place Bouke Ateama and Joon Park with "Tapeworm"



Master Solo Winner First Place Ilya Filimontsev and Mermaid



Master Solo Peoples Choice Scott Dodson "Sand Castle"



Master Solo 2nd place Damon Langlois The Great Law



Semi Pro 3rd place Resa Wohlrabe with "Atlas Reimagined"



Semi Pro 1st place Dean Murray with "Space Cowboy"

### Master Solo Winners

- 1st place & sculptor's choice: Ilya Filimontsev with "Mermaid"
- 2nd place: Damon Langlois with "The Great Law"
- 3rd place: Marie-Line Gagné with "Love Under Pressure"
- 4th place: Benjamin Probanza with "Bird Heart"
- People's Choice: Scott Dodson with "Sandcastle"

### Masters Duo Winners

- 1st place: Greg J Grady and Abe Waterman with "Pawns"
- 2nd place and sculptor's choice: Chris Guinto and Melineige Beaugard with "Spirit of the Dragon Tribute to Chuck Norris"
- 3rd place: Bouke Ateama and Joon Park with "Tape Worm"
- People's Choice: John Gowdy and Matthew Deibert with "United We Stand"

### Semi Pro Winners

- 1st place: Dean Murray with "Space Cowboy"
- 2nd place: Cliff Vacheresse with "Veiled Vortex"
- 3rd place: Resa Wohlrabe with "Atlas Re-imagined"

# The Traveling Moon



Gratitude Sally took the Moon traveling to the High Desert Wildlife Sanctuary in Bend, OR. The heat suit is for volcanoes



Preston and Kim Wyatt took the Moon traveling to Paris



Allison and Steve Brito took the Moon traveling to the Pantheon in Greece.



Female Baltimore Orioles are master architects, weaving intricate, hanging basket nests almost entirely on their own to protect their young.

Photo By Riekie Roncinske

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The Adventures of Bull Red and Trophy Trout

By Gene Saegert



Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



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Riley P. Dog

About the Island Moon

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| Kody's                        | CVS                                |
| Coffee Waves                  | Dollar General                     |
| Moby Dicks                    | Doc's Restaurant                   |
| IGA                           | Hometown<br>Seafood                |
| Treasure Island               | Snoopy's Pier                      |
| San Juan's Restaurant         | Isle Mail N More                   |
| Wash Tub                      | Island Italian                     |
| Shorty's Place                | Ace Hardware                       |
| Gratitude                     | Texas Star (Shell)                 |
| The Gaff                      | Spanky's                           |
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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



11 Facts You Didn't Know About Corpus Christi

1. The popular Texas burger chain, Whataburger, opened its first location in Corpus Christi in 1950.
2. The city's name, Corpus Christi, translates to "Body of Christ" in Latin, a name given by Spanish explorer Alonso Álvarez de Pineda in 1519 when he discovered the bay on the Catholic feast day of Corpus Christi.
3. Singer Selena Quintanilla-Perez was from Corpus Christi.
4. The Bayfront Seawall, a prominent feature of Corpus Christi, was constructed in 1928 by Gutzon Borglum, who later gained fame for sculpting Mount Rushmore.
5. The Port of Corpus Christi is the fifth-largest in the United States, handling over 6,000 vessels and more than 80 million tons of cargo annually.
6. The USS Lexington Museum is as tall as a 19-story building and as long as three New York City blocks.
7. The Laguna Madre is one of only six hypersaline lagoons in the world.
8. Off the coast of Corpus Christi lies Padre Island, the largest undeveloped barrier island in the world.
9. Corpus Christi is recognized as "America's Birdiest City," attracting birdwatchers with over 450 recorded bird species, including the endangered whooping crane.
10. NASCAR Hall of Famers the Labonte Brothers were born and raised in Corpus Christi.
11. The city hosts the annual Beach to Bay Relay Marathon, one of the largest relay marathons in the United States.

City Manager Appoints New Director of Animal Care Services

The City of Corpus Christi announces the appointment of Dr. Antonio Caldwell, DBA, CAWA, as the new Director of Animal Care Services, effective Monday, May 18.

Dr. Caldwell has over 20 years of executive and operational leadership experience in animal welfare, procurement, budgeting, and organizational management in both the public and private sectors.

Previously, he served as the Assistant Director of Animal Care Services for the City of San Antonio, where he managed an annual budget of \$34 million and led a diverse team of 245 staff members. His responsibilities included overseeing enforcement, field services, veterinary care, animal placement programs, marketing, and communications. During his tenure in San Antonio, Dr. Caldwell was part of the city's community-wide

initiatives that successfully increased the Live Release Rate from 88% to 93%.

Before his position in San Antonio, Dr. Caldwell served as the Deputy Director of Health, Wellness, and Animal Services for the City of Brownsville, where he significantly improved the Live Release Rate from 26% to 78% within 12 months.

Dr. Caldwell holds a Doctor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship and Business Management from California Intercontinental University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from The University of Texas at Dallas. Most recently, he earned the Certified Animal Welfare Administrator (CAWA) designation from the Association of Animal Welfare Advancement, a credential held by only about 25 individuals in Texas.

Texans Expected to Save More Than \$2 Million During Sales Tax Holiday for Emergency Supplies, April 25-27

Texans can purchase certain items tax free during the state's Emergency Preparation Supplies Sales Tax Holiday, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 25, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 27. The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts estimates shoppers will save about \$2.4 million in state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015.

There's no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include: household batteries; fuel containers and flashlights priced less than \$75; hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced less than \$300; and portable generators priced less than \$3,000.

For purchases made online, note that delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are part of the sales price. If the emergency

preparation supply being purchased is taxable, the delivery charge is also taxable. Consider these charges when determining whether an item can be purchased tax free during the holiday. For example, if you purchase a portable generator online for \$2,999 with a \$50 delivery charge, the total sales price is \$3,049. Because the total sales price of the portable generator is more than \$3,000, tax is due on the \$3,049 sales price.

Purchases that do not qualify include: batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles; camping stoves and camping supplies; chainsaws; plywood; extension ladders and stepladders; and tents.

A complete list of emergency preparation supplies that may be purchased tax free can be found on the Comptroller's website.

Best regards,  
Jennifer Ethetton

Crab Hunt

By Norah Ethetton  
It's dark because it's night  
There's Sand beneath my toes My hand holds the flashlight  
On the crab goes  
I see the lights of the beach house Far behind me  
The crab scurries like a mouse and struggles to stay free  
The cold breeze is chilling.  
The crabs are on the run  
Tension is spilling  
The crab hunt has begun

Salt Life

By Norah Ethetton  
Live the salt life  
When there is no stress  
When you can do whatever you think is best  
The salt life has no limits, no arguments, no worries.  
No accidents, incidents, tardies, or hurries.  
Living the salt life, people are nice  
They smile and greet you and wave once or twice.  
The salt life is when you have no excessive needs  
Nobody complains, cries, or pleads.  
The salt life will set you free from all troubles and hardships So when you want a trip away from strife  
Go down to the beach and live the salt life.

To whom it may concern,  
My family and I have been visiting Port Aransas two to three times a year since our children were young—we previously lived in Corpus Christi, so the area has always held a special place for us. My daughter, Norah Ethetton (14), has developed a strong interest in pursuing a career in writing. Each time we visit Port A, she finds inspiration in the coast and often writes what she calls her "beach poems."

I wanted to ask if your paper has a section that features community submissions, particularly student writing, where her work might be considered for publication. I've attached a few of her poems for your review. It would mean a great deal to her to share her writing with others who appreciate the area as much as she does. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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# Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

There was a lot of stuff to hear on The Island this week so we go in scattershot fashion...

## Rookie police officer invasion

They recently turned out a new batch of police officers from the training facility OTB and it seems a good many of them have found their way to The Island. The complaints started coming in about three weeks ago and have continued apace. The most common offenses identified by the new recruits seem to be the lack of turn signals in the turn lanes from SPID onto Whitecap Blvd., desperadoes rolling through stop signs at Leeward Dr. and Whitecap Blvd., and...oh the humanity...even jaywalking! Now while each one of these transgressions are in fact a violation of the law none threaten to end civilization as we know it. The newly minted officers have also developed the habit of asking where drivers are going after they are pulled over. While we all try to be respectful of our city's finest, where we are going isn't really any of their business... For years Islanders asked for more police officers...be careful what you ask for...

## City Hall turnover

While the filing deadline for seats on the Corpus Christi City Council is still two months away there is starting to be some noise in the system with regards to the races set for the November ballot. The District 5 councilmember Gil Hernandez is termed out in his current seat but this week made a public pronouncement that he is interested in a run for Mayor where Paulette Guajardo is eligible to run again. Current, first-term District 4 Councilmember Kaylynn Paxson also suggested this week she may also be interested in a run for the Mayor's seat. Dan Herrington has already begun a campaign for the District 4 seat and certainly will be a strong contender no matter who else may jump in over the next two months.

Given that we are currently on schedule to go into Level 1 Emergency Water Restrictions in September, six weeks before Early Voting begins in the city elections it could be a tough year for incumbents. When the campaign season kicks off at city hall look for a lot of finger pointing. Which finger remains to be seen...

## Water flow in Island canals

There is still no definite word on when the sand dams will go away and water will once again flow through the Island canal system. As we reported here last week a study on the subject of how wide to make the passageway from Packery Channel into Lake Padre is due to be turned in at city hall in May with options ranging from about 50 feet up to 170 feet which is about the current width after the removal of the old sea gate there. The question is how the various widths of the opening may affect the speed and volume of water flowing through the Island canals downstream.

I searched through the Moon archives and found a story from 2016 when the final plans were being done for the building of the Don Patricio Bridge. By that time the width of the canal under the bridge had been set at 44 feet and the 2016 story described a similar study which was done in anticipation of the removal of the old sea

gate which was eventually taken out. That study found that the width of the opening had little impact on the speed and volume of water flowing out under the Don Patricio Bridge. Keep in mind that at that time there was no canal nor bridge being contemplated for Commodores Drive where flow under the completed bridge is currently blocked pending the approval of a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Current agreements call for the dam on Lake Padre to be removed when the dam at Commodores is removed which is expected to relieve pressure on the bulkheads along the Island canals to the south. We will find out what the new study says in May but if the 2016 study was correct the width of the Lake Padre opening may be of small consequence.

Meanwhile, maybe at the first meeting of the new Board of Directors of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association on Tuesday, April 28, we will get a feel for what the plans are moving forward. I'm hearing there is some discussion of placing a dam on PIPOA property once the two current dams to the north are removed to block water flow presumably somewhere around Whitecap Blvd. Where the high water would go in case of a tidal surge and whether a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be required are to be determined. A reading of the Corps permits all the way back to 1993 finds that getting water from the gulf flowing through the Island canal system has been a prime directive so if a Corps permit is required it could take a while to get, not to mention pushback from downstream Island residents who seem impatient for the water to flow once again.



Location of the old sand dam

Historically, in both Hurricane Harvey in 2017 and Hurricane Allen in 1980 the water flow came from behind The Island. Allen destroyed 1100 feet of bulkheads along the Gypsy Canal at about the same location where an inbound surge did damage during Tropical Storm Alberto so any dam, no matter the location will face peril from both directions.

The new board has its work cut out for it.



The old sea gate was removed in 2022.



The old sea gate location as it stands today.

## Causeway cont. from page 1

Island near Sea Pines Drive and a second that would cross the Laguna Madre near the current JFK Causeway. The two routes left in contention had previously been ruled out in a 2014 presentation to the Island Strategic Action Committee by the Metropolitan Planning Organization for separate reasons. The MPO did the original planning for the new causeway as part of the Regional Parkway which is designed to connect the western portion of Nueces County to the Port of Corpus Christi.

At that time the Sea Pines route was eliminated after MPO officials determined the right of way was not wide enough to accommodate a roadway needed for the new causeway. That route, without running along the current road right of way, would need to pass through adjacent areas which currently includes homes, or move south of the Kleberg County line on privately owned land.

The route along the JFK Causeway was previously eliminated since it would not meet the stated objective of relieving traffic congestion on the crucial stretch of South Padre Island Drive between Laguna Shores Road in Flour Bluff and the Crosstown Expressway. The statement released by TxDot this week narrowing the possible routes to those alternatives did not address either of those obstacles.

One of the three routes eliminated from consideration would have run through the tract of private land in Kleberg County, the other two would have reached Padre Island south of that tract on the 3680 acres of land located in Kleberg County but owned by Nueces County.

According to the TxDot statement the northernmost (Purple) route which would have connected to Yorktown Blvd. in Flour Bluff was removed from further consideration because:

*Improvements along this alternative would have resulted in numerous residential, business and community displacements. In addition, this alternative would have potentially impacted a fire station, several churches and parks as well as a power substation. These issues would have made it difficult to advance this alternative in a way that balanced transportation needs with community values and constructability.*

The two southernmost routes (Blue and Pink) which would have run through the land owned by Nueces County were eliminated due to *"the impact on undeveloped, highly environmentally sensitive areas of the Laguna Madre and North Padre Island... and were "removed from further consideration due to potential impacts to the historic King Ranch and their operations. The King Ranch is protected under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.:"*

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 requires federal agencies *"to consider the effects of their projects on historic properties before funding, permitting, licensing, or approving them. It compels agencies to consult with stakeholders and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to identify, assess, and mitigate adverse effects on properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places."* Section

106 gives the ACHP, interested parties, and the public the chance to weigh in on these matters before a final decision is made.

## What is next?

According to the TxDOT statement: *"The Green and Orange alternatives passed the preliminary screening process, were found to be reasonable, and are being advanced. A reasonable alternative is one that is technically and economically feasible, meets the purpose and need for the proposed project, and meets the overall transportation goals. The project team will continue to evaluate and refine these two alternatives. A major consideration will be evaluating potential connections to the island within the updated study area. While no new alternatives have been added at this time, additional options may be considered as the study progresses. Any option advancing will continue to be compared to the No Build or "do nothing" alternative. Although a No Build alternative does not meet the project's purpose and need, the No Build alternative may be selected if a build alternative has unacceptable costs or environmental consequences... This process may include shifting routes, modifying layouts or adjusting footprints to better meet the project's purpose and need while avoiding or minimizing impacts to communities, natural resources and the natural and human environment."*

Once the EIS portion of the plan is complete, scheduled for the end of 2026, the second of three phases would begin which is the design of the project which is anticipated to take about three years, followed by the beginning of construction which is expected to take another three years. Under that timeline construction would begin in 2029 with the opening to public traffic in 2032.

The TxDOT statement indicated further public hearings will be held but did not give dates.

*Editor's note: We sent the following questions to officials at the Texas Department of Transportation. Here are the questions and answers in their entirety.*

*Do we know where or where the orange route would connect to the Regional Parkway?*

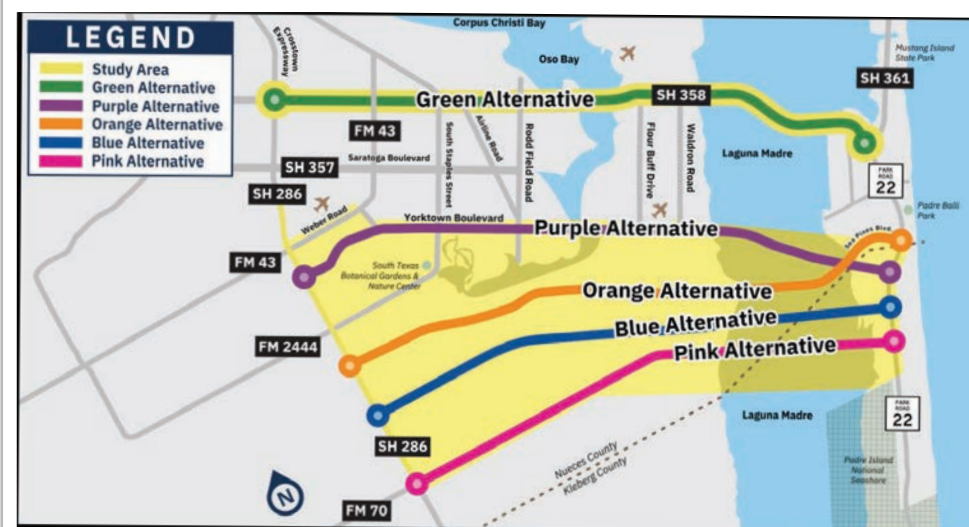
The orange alternative is one of the options being considered to become regional parkway. Additional information on previous planning studies can be found on TxDOT's Regional Parkway North Padre Island project website <https://www.txdot.gov/regional-parkway/project-history.html>

*Also, how would the increased traffic load on SPID from Laguna Shores to the Crosstown be handled? Would there need to be a second tier added above the current roadway or could the current road be widened?*

The green alternative would include improvements to the existing corridor. This could include widening of the existing roadway, elevated lanes above the current roadway, or a combination. The current alternatives are conceptual, and the design would be developed in more detail as the process moves forward.

## Timeline of new Laguna Madre causeway

- June 2024: TxDOT held an Agency Scoping Meeting with its cooperating and participating agencies.
- September 2024: Environmental Impact Statement kicked off with a Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register.
- October 2024: TxDOT held a Virtual Public Scoping Meeting with an in-person option. The purpose of the meeting was to explore potential route options across the Laguna Madre, to North Padre Island to address "the lack of resiliency in the existing transportation network; limited routes for traffic traveling to/from Corpus Christi and the Islands, especially during emergencies, incidents, and hurricane evacuations; operational and safety issues in the existing SH 358/PR 22 corridor; and seasonal congestion in the SH 358/PR 22 corridor and other major east-west routes, especially during peak-season travel demand." The meeting was attended by 70 people and generated 82 public comments.
- Calendar Year 2025: The study team evaluated the proposed alternatives based on environmental and engineering constraints along with public and agency input. The evaluations resulted in reasonable alternatives advancing.
- TxDOT released a statement eliminating the three southernmost routes – Purple, Blue, and Pink routes.



First map of proposed causeway routes 2024

History cont. from A1

would have a means to get to Padre Island to patrol for German U-boats in the gulf or other German ships that might try to make a fortified invasion on the uninhabited coast. That is why the Mansfield Channel and Port of Redfish Landing was built for the World War II war effort.

I was at Port Mansfield only once in about 1953 and it was still a very small place with a big fish market and a lot of commercial fishermen. The fishermen and the game warden often played poker together when the weather was bad or on the weekend when the fishermen didn't fish. At the time there were hardly any sport fishermen except those that came from out of town like Raymondville and Harlingen and nearby small towns.

**Gill netting in Port Isabel**

At that time in history gill netting was legal there and in Port Isabel in the winter months and most of the fishermen from Flour Bluff moved there to fish. A couple of years later all of that was closed to gill net fishing, whereas most of the fishermen moved back to Flour Bluff. I fished one winter at Port Isabel and sold mostly trout and drum to Garza's Fish Market which gave you a slip of paper for the weight of the fish and you could let it ride for as long as you wanted to then ask for a check when you wanted to get paid, which made for a bigger payday. If you cashed the check at the store in Port Isabel a fee was charged even if you bought something, otherwise you had to go to Los Fresnos to the bank.

A fisherman named Alpin Johnson made a record catch of pompano one day, about 100 pounds. Garza bought the fish and shipped all the pompano he bought to New York City by air to the Fulton Fish Market on Manhattan Island which sold the pompano to the highest restaurant bidder. Pompano brought the highest price of all fish in the Laguna Madre, with drum selling for about 10-cents per pound. Quite a few years later the water in the Lagoon got so fresh that it was invaded by blue crabs and about that same time Chesapeake Bay got so polluted that the blue crabs there left which resulted in some of the crabber moving to the Lagoon and making record catches and air lifting them back to Chesapeake until laws were passed that stopped the pollution.

Later on fish laws were passed for the inland coastal water of Texas which resulted in better conditions for both sport and commercial fishing. Spoil island cabins, houseboats and other laws that helped, which resulted in the users of the Laguna Madre to become more satisfied and hopeful they will all live very happily ever after.

There was a Coast Guard station in Port Isabel in the 1950s and I assume it is still there and also I assume it was there during World War II, but I don't know if they patrolled that part of Padre Island during the war.

My first time in the Lagoon was sport fishing with my dad in 1941. There have been so many changes concerning fishing between then and now I think that is why both my great-grandfather and my grand-father, and my father turned over in their grave!



Mansfield Channel and Port Mansfield

Whitecap cont. from A1

rental, the marina harbor with floating docks and slips and pickleball courts. It will also feature an incubator including food and bar concepts, live music and entertainment, and outdoor activities.

Phase Two scheduled for Spring 2027, will include a rollout of dining options, including

curated fast casual dining concepts, fast food restaurant concepts, a full-service bar, a craft beer tavern and a live music stage.

Terence Johnson, General Manager of Whitecap NPI, along with the marketing firm Avison Young, are currently working on securing tenants to begin operations for this summer's kick off of events.



The Early Activation Center construction site

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**The Art of Island Life**

By Melissa Mitchell



**More Than Just a Beauty**

Some things catch your eye because they're beautiful. Others earn your admiration because they offer far more than first impressions suggest. The cranberry hibiscus does both.

With its deep burgundy leaves—often compared to a red Japanese maple—and crimson blooms, it brings striking color to the garden. But beyond its beauty, this hardy plant offers flavor, usefulness, and an easy generosity that makes it one of my favorites.

In our warm coastal climate, cranberry hibiscus grows quickly through the heat of summer and can reach impressive heights when happy. Delicate red blooms begin in spring and last through late summer and into fall. But the real star of the show is the foliage itself—bold and beautiful with its colorful leaves.

Early risers may enjoy them most. Individual blooms usually open in the morning and begin to close by noon or early afternoon, with each flower lasting only a few hours in a single day. But what one bloom lacks in longevity, the plant makes up for in generosity, producing fresh flowers daily throughout the blooming season. Mine grows on the south-facing side of my home, where it receives plenty of sun and Texas heat. Year after year it thrives with very little attention.

One of the things I love most about cranberry hibiscus is how easily it multiplies. A healthy cutting placed in water will often root quickly. But even more impressive, a fresh cutting can often be planted directly into the ground about two inches deep and take hold on its own. It has a remarkable will to live—an eager determination to grow, adapt, and begin again. I've always admired anything that meets difficult conditions with that kind of quiet strength.

That simple resilience is what inspired me to propagate several rooted plants to share with my friends.

**Easy to Grow, Easy to Share**

And this plant is not just a pretty face—its beauty goes far deeper. Cranberry hibiscus is also edible, with usefulness woven throughout the entire plant. The leaves, flowers, and calyxes can all be enjoyed in different ways, making it as practical as it is striking.

The leaves have a pleasantly tart flavor and can be added to salads or used in stir fry. The calyxes—the fleshy red part left after flowering—can be dried and used for tea. Even fresh petals can be steeped in hot water for a beautiful ruby-colored drink.

Add a little honey and enjoy it warm, or let it cool and pour it over ice with a splash of sparkling water for a refreshing summer treat—full preparation instructions are on my blog. The flavor of the tea is bright and tart and the color is stunning.

Often, the simplest pleasures are the ones we appreciate most. A beautiful plant, a cup of tea, and a quiet moment to enjoy it—and sometimes, that's enough.

This plant can become "leggy", so if you'd like a fuller plant, pinch or trim the tips of long stems during the growing season to encourage branching and a bushier shape. Pruning can also help manage height, espe-

cially since these plants can grow quickly in warm weather.

Because cranberry hibiscus is soft-wooded and full of lush foliage, the strong winds here can sometimes snap stems near the base. If that happens, simply remove damaged branches, trim it back, and let it regrow. It usually rebounds beautifully.

**Many Gifts**

Another gift this plant offers is its ability to attract pollinators. Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds are often drawn to its blooms and nectar, bringing even more life and movement to the garden.

I appreciate anything that serves more than one purpose. This plant adds beauty to the landscape, offers flavor for the kitchen, supports pollinators, and creates an easy way to share with others. Once established, mine receives no supplemental watering at all. It gets what it needs from occasional rainfall and the natural moisture in our coastal air—a welcome benefit during drought conditions and a perfect choice for this area.

That kind of abundance feels meaningful in a world where so much is rushed, discarded, or overlooked.

I've always believed the best things in life tend to multiply when shared—kindness, encouragement, creativity, and sometimes even plants.

Cranberry hibiscus happens to offer all of that in one beautiful package.

If you'd like to grow one of your own, for a limited time I'll have free rooted cranberry hibiscus propagations available at Evoke Studio & Gifts—[14646 Compass Street, Suite 10](https://www.evokestudioandgifts.com)—while supplies last.

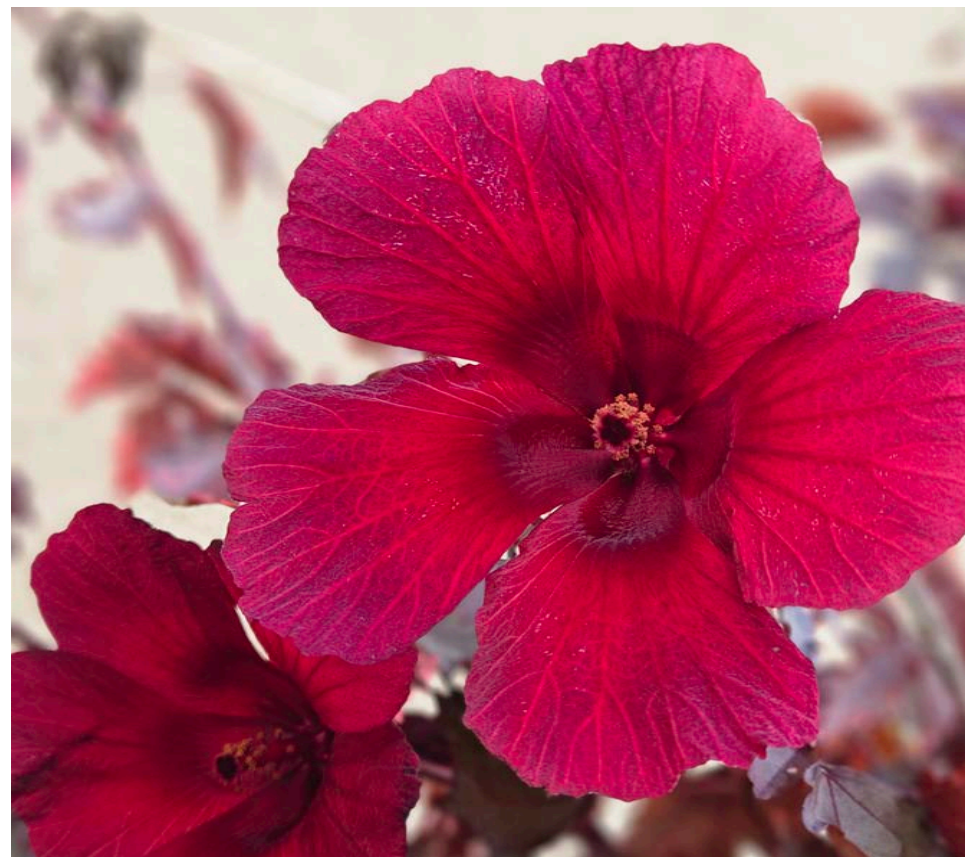
**A little community news to share**—many island businesses were recently named among the Top 5 in the Coastal Bend in The Local's List 2026 by The Bend Magazine. It's exciting to see our corner of the coast so well represented. Final voting is now open for those who'd like to participate. Scan the QR code or use the link to cast your vote and support your local favorites. Evoke Studio & Gifts was honored to be included in the Art Gallery/Center category.

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)



<https://vote.thebendmag.com>

The Local's List Voting Link



Cranberry Hibiscus Blooms

# Island Outdoors

## On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

### Water Independence

We've gotten some good rains lately, but not in the right places; mainly right on top of us. Rainfall capture has huge potential to becoming more personally water independent. To calculate the rainfall volume on a roof, multiply the roof's surface area (a common number on the Island is around 2,700 sq. feet) by the rainfall amount in inches, and then multiply that number by 0.623 gallons per square foot per inch of rain. An example would be that we have received about a half inch of rain over the past couple of days, so that would be 2700 x 0.5 x 0.623 is 841 gallons. Folks, that's a LOT of water that could be captured from one rain almost-non-event! Living alone, without a pool, I average about 3000 gallons a month (on the heavy side, less during the winter). That's 36,000 gallons a year. Last year's rainfall total in our area was about 30 inches, but my gauge was more like 28 inches. So, 2700 x 28 x 0.623 is 47,100 gallons. I'm receiving more rainfall on my roof that drains away than I'm using from the Lake Corpus Christi and Mary Rhodes (36,000 from the faucet vs. 47,000 off my roof), if I could capture and store that much rain when it falls.

There are several businesses in town that sell the water tanks and totes that can be used to capture rainwater. You can get them in 200 to 400 gallons, or you could go loco and get a stock-sized water tank up to 2,000 gallons and beyond. You can use a 12V bilge pump from a boat or a 110V pump to move the water about your yard. The only limitation is getting it in place where it's not in the way and doesn't break any neighborhood covenants.

You could also re-route your downspout into your pool to keep it full, although you might have to monitor the level as you go and don't over fill it. You will need to add salt/chemicals to balance out the rain though. It's a sure-fire way to keep the pool filled, at least lately. Hey, we've going to have to come up with ideas to meet the new Stage 1 Emergency measure here sooner than later.

People are going to start looking a little more seriously about using graywater to keep their landscaping green and healthy. I have a washing machine (and dryer) on a side porch at my house, and I'm able to put my washing machine hose through a wall, attach another hose to it, and collect my graywater. The barrel it goes into is simply a trash can (it was new) that I drilled a hole through and put a boating through-hull fitting near the bottom that I can screw a garden hose on. The barrel is up on blocks, and I can then gravity feed the graywater into a bucket or my trees or plants if I need to. This also helps with drip irrigating my foundation so the doors and windows will all close and open correctly.

There is also a category for alternative onsite water, which includes rainwater, air-condi-

tioning condensate, stormwater, swimming pool backwash, and other drain water (sinks, dishwasher, etc). Both graywater and alternative onsite water can be used for foundations, gardening, composting, landscaping, and in a pinch, to flush toilets. Every little bit counts

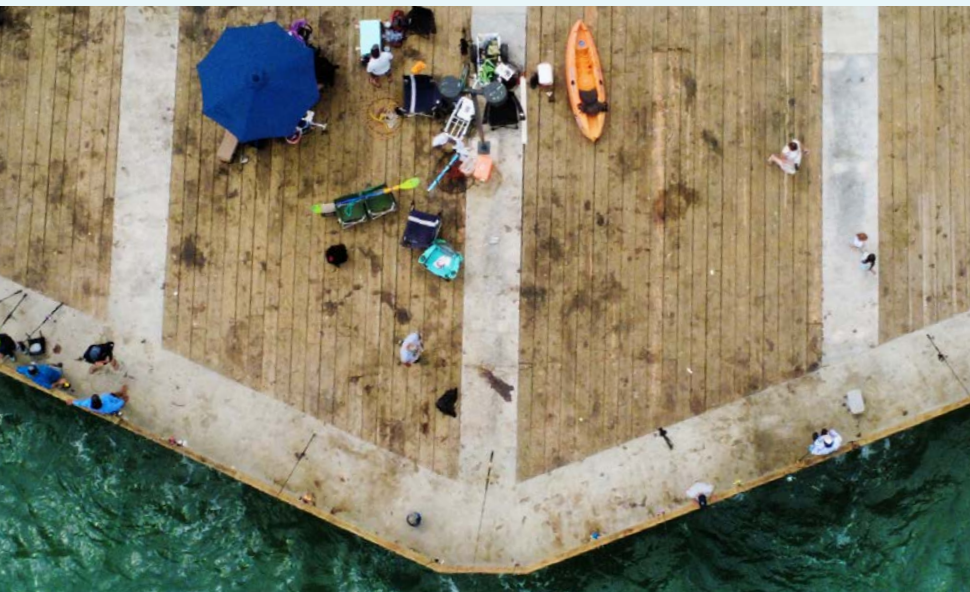
Atmospheric water generators are becoming more talked about, although I don't think they're the panacea that people might think. You can get one off the interwebs for around \$2 grand, but it won't make enough to fill your pool and is energy expensive. I've heard a rumor that there are some being produced locally that will make a bit more water and aren't quite as expensive. More later.

In any event, if you're using alternative water, you'll need to get some kind of sign attached to your mailbox. I recently went through that process as I rehabbed an old well on the property and got it cranked up just in time for it to rain. The city process was super simple online, and I was registered with a sign in less than a day.

The birds have been off the chain lately with the fall out earlier this week, get out and look around and see them while they're here. The McMorran boys will be in town in the next week, say hi if you see us at the birdy spots. Bob Hall pier is starting to regain some of it's prior reputation. Drop me a line at [jaygardner1032@gmail.com](mailto:jaygardner1032@gmail.com) and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Zep with a nice red



The end of Bob Hall looked like a crime scene last week. By Jeff Coym

## Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

### Topwater Time!!



Flounder are moving back up into the bays, and are a blast to catch on soft plastics. Vary your colors and jig head weights to find your magic combo

Water temperatures are comfortable all over the back bays, bait is everywhere, and we are at a pinnacle time for fishing. Spring tides are high, pushing bait up into shallow flats and scattering schools of bait out. This situation of high tides is when topwater plugs really excel. I like to use large topwaters that I can see and focus on out at the end of a long cast. Being able to stay focused on the lure allows me to see strikes, rolls, and tail slaps that I may miss with darker lures. I always simulate a wounded baitfish crashing back from an attack. A nervous few twitches, a pause and then steady cadence of movement. Allow the gamefish to have a clear strike. Don't wait until the winds are dead and the sky's are blue, most folks pick up topwaters when nothing else is working anyway. Dedicate a half of your day on the water to just using and gaining confidence in using topwaters.

With braided line one must use a long monofilament leader to produce soft and realistic actions. Braid has no stretch and produces hard unrealistic action unless you have a good 2-3' of mono leader 20-30lb. The explosion of white water under your plug will grab you back out of your imagination of being a baitfish dancing upon the waves. Caution is always a must when landing fish caught on treble hooks, so take your time and don't get hooked up yourself!

Flounder are migrating back into the bays from the deeper winter hide outs along with a varied mix of different kinds of bait sources. Food options are not confined to the baits that are available at local bait stands. So many times fishermen miss out on the gamefish that are feeding on species of baitfish like Shad, mud minnows, Killie fish, ballyhoo and more. Throwing lures allows anglers to throw a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors to match or simulate an assortment of food options to gamefish. Combining different weights of jig heads can also make a big difference in the way your lures are received by gamefish. A strait tided bait rigged with a 1/4 ounce jig head worked along the bottom might get eaten as a sand

eel, 1/8th ounce mid level might fool a trout into thinking it's a swimming baitfish, or a lighter 1/16th oz rigged bait skipped over the waves in a erratic way has been having redfish and big trout exploding on the bait as they do striking ballyhoo on an incoming tide. Drift fishing across the traditions in the flats of the Laguna Madre has been incredible! Green clear water and a steady wind is a recipe for a day full of catching. Anchoring up with shrimp has been good in the deeper waters of the land cut and Baffin for drum and redfish but that way of fishing is full of hard heads and tiny trout. Casting into sand pockets and watching trout and redfish strike out of predicted hide outs is what stays in your dreams long after you're off the water.



Topwater action is hot on reds and trout across the Laguna Madre. Watching topwater strikes is exiting, and is a great way for any angler to test their patience and timing.



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## Nature Notes

# Animal Intellect and Animal Instinct

By Caleb Clarkson



Great-tailed Grackle by Celeste Silling

Frequently, I find myself being surprised by the behaviors of animals while exploring the natural areas of the Gulf Coast. Whether its grackles waiting patiently at Buc-ee's to feast on a buffet of car-crushed lovebugs, or a Reddish Egret using its wings to shade the sun for better visibility in the water, I find myself wondering... how does it know how to do that?

As humans, it's easy to say, "that's smart!" when we see these kinds of interesting and successful tactics. And for some animals, that's true. Crows, for example, use problem solving, planning, experience, and a fair amount of insight to inform their behavior when securing food, territory, or mates. Plenty of creatures along the Gulf Coast show signs of intelligence. But "intelligence" is not always the case. Sometimes, these behaviors come from a much older source.

Over many years of evolution, animals have developed clever tactics for surviving and thriving that don't require intelligence or problem solving at all. Some behaviors are automatic and don't require any thought. When certain small mammals, like bats or rodents, get cold, they reduce their metabolism and energy expenditure to conserve valuable resources during cold snaps, when food is less available, entering a state called torpor. Torpor isn't something the animal is actively choosing to do. It's hardwired into their physiology. Behaviors like this are instincts and don't require learning or planning, only the conditions to trigger them.

There are other behaviors that fall somewhere between instinct and high intelligence. These behaviors, while not instinctual and known from birth, still originate from generations up the family tree. They are learned and passed down, shaped by experience rather than built directly into the animal from the start. We may never know where behaviors like these first began, but it continues from one generation to the next. Many birds are born without knowing their song, but as they grow and spend time with adults who do, their song develops into the familiar notes we recognize. Coyotes aren't born knowing how to hunt and scavenge, they learn over time from their parents.

Humans, intelligent as we are, often overvalue the importance of intelligence in nature. Jellyfish in the Gulf lack a brain, yet they continue to thrive, securing food effectively and reproducing constantly. An ant on its own may seem simple, but as part of a colony, it contributes to a larger system that is surprisingly efficient and organized. Colonies can defend territory, compete with rivals, and even cultivate resources to support the group. When a behavior increases an animal's chances of surviving and reproducing, it tends to stick around. It doesn't have to make sense to us. It just has to work for them!



Sandfest sculptor hard at work on larger than life artwork last weekend. Photos by Debbie Noble

## Beachcombing Report

Beachcombing cont. from A1



This gar looked mean, and smelled meaner.

This week's beachcombing turned up something unusual, a five-foot alligator gar lying along the wrack line. It's not the kind of fish you expect to see on the open beach, and its size and armor-plated body immediately stood out.

I tried to take a closer look, slipping on a pair of latex gloves before lifting the fish, but they didn't stand a chance. The gar's sharp, armor-like scales shredded them almost instantly. And the smell? Powerful enough to knock you over. This one had clearly been dead for a while, likely drifting in the Gulf or sitting along the shoreline for a couple of days before I found it.

Alligator gar are often called "living fossils," and for good reason. They've been around for more than 100 million years, sharing waters with dinosaurs long before our barrier islands took shape. Even at five feet, this one was just a youngster. These fish can reach 8 to 10 feet in length and weigh over 300 pounds, making them one of the largest freshwater fish in North America. I've come across a few smaller gars washed up over the years, but never one this large.

Up close, it's easy to see how they earned their name. The broad snout and rows of sharp teeth look more reptilian than fish-like. Though typically found in rivers and lakes, alligator gar can tolerate brackish and even salty water, which likely explains how this one ended up on the beach.

While they may look intimidating, people do eat alligator gar, and many say it's surprisingly good. Actually, in college I caught and ate one, and with enough salt it tasted pretty good. The meat is firm, white, and mild, often compared to chicken or alligator. Cleaning them takes effort due to their tough scales, so most people remove the backstraps. The eggs are toxic and must be discarded, and larger fish should be eaten in moderation.

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).

Around cont. from A1

### Water restrictions

We included a synopsis of what life will look like under Level 1 Emergency Water Restrictions in this issue. We have until September under the current prognostications before they kick in, but all things considered they aren't as bad as they might seem at first blush. They limit homes to 7000 gallons per month and that is a very manageable number for most homeowners *Around The Island*. They do require the covering of Island swimming pools which is not that onerous. There is a way to use a groundwater well for pool filling which is looking like a better option every day. Our groundwater levels are so close to the surface that many of the pools *Around The Island* are actually sitting in groundwater that can push the pool structure upward if it is empty. The remedy for the problem, believe it or not, is to sometimes actually drill holes in the pool floor to equalize the water pressure. Maybe if the

### A Selfie moment...

As Islanders travel about the country and the world we often send home photos of us holding up the Island Moon and also when available we take a Selfie in front of a giant sign that identifies where we are and most every tourist destination has one except Padre Island. An attempt to place one in the traffic circle at the beach end of Whitecap Blvd. was met with some headwinds so the proposed location was moved to the Ellis Seawall in front of the parking lot where the property is owned by the City of Corpus Christi. It was reported at the last meeting of the Island Strategic Action Committee that for reasons unknown the requirement for the sign there is that it must be made of concrete. That is where things stand and given that rule written in concrete it looks to be a good while before we get a sign. Sometimes we like to Corpus things up *Around The Island*.

### It's getting Birdy Around The Island

The Ninth Annual Birdiest Festival in America is on for this weekend at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center. They also have their Water-Smart Plant Sale with Blooms & Birds. It's located at 8545 S. Staples St. and runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The weather is set to clear, the temperatures are moderate, there is enough pollen in the air to host the Sneeze Olympics but we still have a month before the annual Tourist Invasion along with Hurricane Season 2026. Life is good on our little sandbar so say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



holes are small enough they can be plugged with wine corks later on, quien sabe? But there is one provision in the new rules that seems pretty cut and dried, if you get too many citations they will cut off your water for the next billing cycle. As it turns out, the power to tax the power to cut off water is the power to destroy!

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# Island Real Estate Roundup

Apryl Noles



## The Spring Season

As we near the end of April, activity across the Padre Island market picked up in a big way last week, showing strong momentum as we head into the spring season.

In the detached home sector, we currently have four homes in the option period, one home pending, and three homes that successfully closed. This continued movement highlights steady buyer demand, especially for single-family properties on the island.

The townhome market also saw solid activity, with two townhomes in the option period and one that sold, reflecting consistent interest in this segment.

In the condominium sector, we have one condo currently in the option period and one that sold.

I am really excited to see what next week brings as we close out April and fully step into the spring market. Stay tuned for next week's update! Below, you can find a detailed list of these properties along with their list prices.

### By the numbers

**Detached Homes In Option Period:**  
 -14813 Aquarius St (Listed for \$1,150,000)  
 -15906 Palo Seco Dr (Listed for \$814,000)  
 -13849 Doubloon St (Listed for \$585,000)  
 -15414 Dyna St (Listed for \$369,000)

**Detached Homes That Are Pending:**  
 -13837 Flintlock (Listed for \$349,000)

**Detached Homes That Sold:**  
 -13637 Catamaran Dr (Listed for \$679,000)  
 -14350 Aquarius St (Listed for \$469,000)  
 -15658 Cumana Dr (Listed for \$440,000)

**Townhomes In Option Period:**  
 -15418 Grass Cay Ct Unit A (Listed for 449,999)  
 -15102 Dory Dr (Listed for \$199,999)

**Townhomes That Sold:**  
 -15110 Leeward Dr Unit 102 (Listed for \$275,000)

**Condominium In Option Period:**  
 -15310 Bonasse Ct Unit C (Listed for \$495,000)

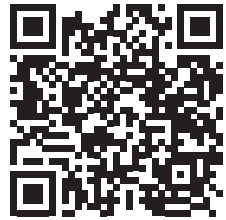
**Condominium That Sold:**  
 -14810 Windward Dr Unit 222 (Listed for \$325,000)



Coyotes in the dunes By Marvin Orellana

## 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



Island Moon Live

# Thoughts from Reverend Ken



By Rev. Dr. Ken

## The Bible and Culture Wars

Jayson Bradley posted an article on Patheos.com a few years ago entitled, "Biblical Illiteracy Is a Big Problem – for Christians." It can be.

We tend to only digest morsels of Scripture. We like to pull out those verses that confirm or champion our position on a particular issue or current event. However, if the Bible always agrees with us, we might actually be biblically malnourished. As Bradley suggests, familiarity with Scripture should lead us to deeper self-reflection. Unfortunately, we often rely on cherry-picked verses to fuel our us-vs-them worldview or culture-war construct.

During this week's America Reads the Bible event, one of the readings was 2 Chronicles 7:11-22. Included in this reading is one of the most misused verses of Scripture, 2 Chronicles 7:14. ...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

It is frequently misused by applying a specific, ancient covenant promise to modern nations, particularly the United States. Often it is used to suggest that if the people of a country, or the Christians in that country, pray to God and repent, God will heal the country's political and/or social problems. The verse has become a rallying cry in support of Christian Nationalism and the Prosperity Gospel. Context is crucial. After King Solomon dedicated the temple he had built, God appeared to him and gave him some warnings and reassurances. The immediate context suggests that God would punish disobedience with judgment in the form of drought, locusts, or pestilence. If they turn away from God and serve other gods, there would be further and greater judgment. In many ways, it mirrors the promises and warnings of another book of the Bible, Deuteronomy. The people are promised blessings if they obey and curses if they disobey. In context, 2 Chronicles 7:14 is a promise to ancient Israel (the people of God) that, if they would repent and return to God, God will rescue them. It was a reminder of the people's identity as the people of God. It was also a reminder of the steadfast promises of God.

The United States, or any nation in the modern context, does not have the same covenant relationship with God that ancient Israel enjoyed. In fact, the Bible does not promise the political, cultural, or economic salvation of any nation. The Christian faith centered in Jesus Christ transcends all human created borders and boundaries, nations and states. Therefore, these words come to us as the people of God.

The call to humility, repentance, prayer, and healing are therefore still very relevant to us. We live in days of great uncertainty, fear, and turmoil. It's as if we are constantly flying through rough and heavy turbulence. It is much better to open, read, and study the Bible rather than the pages of social media, or isolating ourselves in our chosen echo chambers of partisanship. In a cultural cacophony of lying voices, hubris, and the naked will to power, Scripture can teach, correct, and train us as followers of Christ to seek the good, to love kindness, to do justice, to make peace, and follow in the self-giving ways of Jesus.

It is good to pray for our country and our leaders, that we and they would receive the wisdom of God. It is good to pray that our leaders would be people of humility, prayer, repentance, and healing. It is good to pray that our leaders would lead us in actions of reconciliation, compassion, healing, forgiveness. It is good to pray that our leaders would seek the good, love kindness, do justice, make peace, and follow in the ways of Jesus. It is good to pray that we would be people of humility, repentance, prayer, and healing. It is good to pray that the fruit of love would be evident to all.

### Beach services

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. pastor@islandpresby.com

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*Going Easy On You...*

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

*Knuckle-Cracker*

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

*Mind-Numbing Frustration*

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

*Brain-Buster*

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# Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

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58							59					60			
61							62					63			
64							65					66			
67							68					69			

**Across**

- Result of a punch in the face, perhaps
- Ticker tapes?
- "6-pack" muscles
- Procession
- Literary sleuth Wolfe
- "\_\_\_ Clown" (Cole Porter tune)
- Quote, part 1
- Op or Pop follower
- Approaches
- Vocal quality
- 1952 Winter Olympics site
- Baby's second word?
- Quote, part 2
- Quartet minus one
- Spotted
- Obtain by flattery
- Bar, legally
- "Agnus \_\_\_"
- Quote, part 3
- "\_\_\_ Como Va" (Tito Puente favorite)
- It pours from pores
- Star golfer from South Africa
- Some necklines
- "Lemme \_\_\_!"
- Quote, part 4
- Tabletop sculpture
- Deli side
- Attire
- Shaping machine
- "Silent" Coolidge, familiarly
- Casino owner/speaker of quote
- Lend a hand
- Rice-shaped pasta
- Short sock
- Golf teacher
- Exam for high-school jrs.
- Medicine givers

**Down**

- Stimulate the economy
- "\_\_\_ nice day!"
- "\_\_\_ you loud and clear"
- Tell
- Rival of Ben and Jerry's
- Confederate soldier
- Finish with
- Macroeconomics pioneer John Maynard \_\_\_
- Dolphins Hall of Fame QB Bob
- "Mayday!" relative
- Put to shame
- Comedian called "the thief of bad gags"
- Didn't use, as a news story
- "Lawrence of Arabia" star Peter
- Has title to
- Like a piccolo's range
- \_\_\_-weenie
- Thelma of film fame
- Superegos inhibit them
- Just out
- Contend (for)
- Katrina's or Wilma's center
- Single digit
- Popeye's Olive
- Footlike part
- In an unpleasant mood
- Entry fee for a poker hand
- Declare bluntly
- Builds a levee
- Lawn-care tools
- Piece of poetry
- Tin Pan Alley org.
- Special talent
- Nick \_\_\_ (rival of 44-Across)
- "Believe It \_\_\_"
- Worth having
- Blacksmith, at times, or a farrier
- Portable shelters
- Floor covering, in Britain
- Dizzy's jazz
- Ill-behaved

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*Juvenile female hooded warbler  
 By Riekie Roncinske*

PADRE ISLES PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION, INC.  
 Combined Annual and  
 Regular Board of Directors' Meeting

Tuesday – 28 April 26 5:30 PM

**Location:**  
 Island Presbyterian Church – Annex  
 14030 Fortuna Bay Drive  
 Corpus Christi, TX 78418

**Attend in person or login via Zoom**  
**Browser:** zoom.us  
**Personal Meeting ID:** 439 451 0087  
**Participant Passcode:** xqxKy6

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

Zoom participants may use the chat function to ask a question. Zoom chat questions will be addressed time and content permitting. If you wish to address the board, please sign in prior to the meeting with your name, physical address, email address, and the subject to be addressed. The agenda for this meeting primarily addresses the election results since the annual meeting was officially adjourned until the electronic poles closed. As you may recall the poles were extended to ensure we got a quorum for this important election.

**Meeting Agenda**

- Call to Order
  - Pledge of Allegiance
  - President's Comments:
  - TREASURER'S REPORT:
    - Financial reporting updates
  - MEMBERS' COMMENTS (3 minutes per member)
  - Next Meeting: 26 May 26 5:30 PM
  - Optional Executive Session
- ADJOURN

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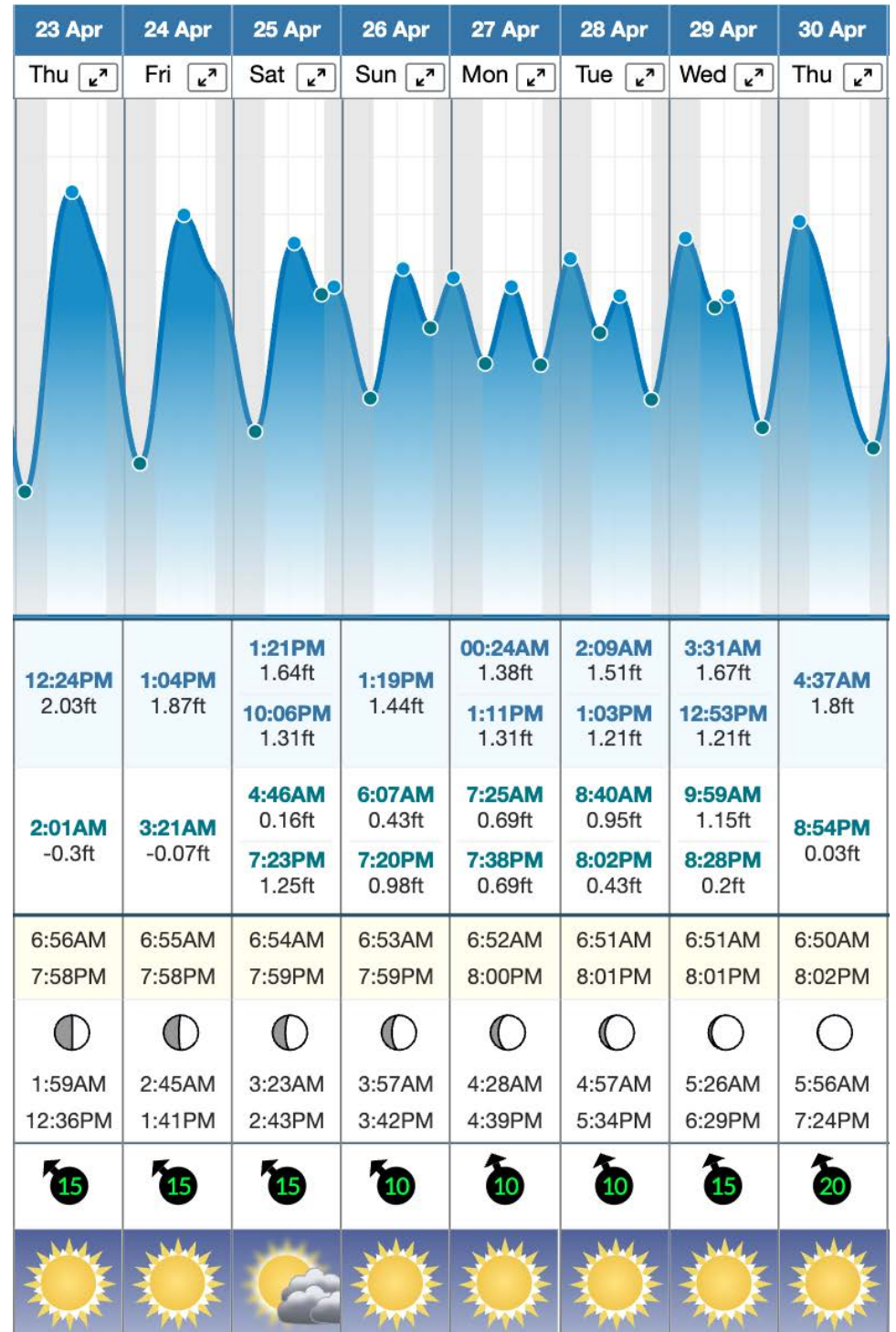
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## Tides of the Week



## Crossword Solution

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

# Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



## Snooker

*Named after a term for military newcomers*

*Dotson's Note: Snooker (pronounced UK: /'snu:kər/ SNOO-kər, US: /'snəkər/ SNUUK-ər) is a cue sport played on a rectangular billiards table covered with a green cloth called baize, with six pockets: one at each corner and one in the middle of each long side. First played by British Army officers stationed in India in the second half of the 19th century, the game is played with 22 balls, comprising of a white cue ball, 15 red balls and six other balls—a yellow, green, brown, blue, pink and black—collectively called 'the colors'. Thanks to my high school friend and army buddy,*



Using a snooker cue, the individual players or teams take turns to strike the cue ball to pot other balls in a predefined sequence, accumulating points for each successful pot and for each foul committed by the opposing player or team. An individual frame of snooker is won by the player who has scored the most points, and a snooker match ends when a player wins a predetermined number of frames.

In 1875, army officer Neville Chamberlain, stationed in India, devised a set of rules that combined black pool and pyramids. The word *snooker* was a well-established derogatory term used to describe inexperienced or first-year military personnel. In the early 20th century, snooker was predominantly played in the United Kingdom, where it was considered a «gentleman's sport» until the early 1960s before growing in popularity as a national pastime and eventually spreading overseas. The standard rules of the game were first established in 1919 when the Billiards Association and Control Club was formed. As a professional sport, snooker is now governed by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

Top professional players compete in regular tournaments around the world, earning millions of pounds on the World Snooker Tour—a circuit of international events featuring competitors of many nationalities. The World Championship, the UK Championship and the Masters together make up the Triple Crown Series and are considered by many players to be the most highly valued titles. The main professional tour is open to both male and female players, and there is a separate women's tour organized by World Women's Snooker. Competitive snooker is also available to non-professional players, including seniors and people with disabilities. The popularity of snooker has led to the creation of many variations based on the standard game but with different rules or equipment, including six-red snooker, the short-lived "snooker plus" and the more recent Snooker Shoot Out version.

### History

Snooker originated in the second half of the 19th century in India during the British Raj. In the 1870s, billiards was

popular among British Army officers stationed in Jubbulpore (now Jabalpur), India, and several variations of the game were devised during this time. A similar game, which originated at the Officers' Mess of the 11th Devonshire Regiment in 1875, combined the rules of two pool games: pyramids, played with 15 red balls positioned in a triangle, and black pool, which involved potting designated balls. Snooker was further developed in 1882 when its first set of rules was finalized by British Army officer Neville Chamberlain, who helped devise and popularize the game at Stone House in Ootacamund on a table built by Burroughes & Watts that had been sent to India by sea. At the time, the word *snooker* was a slang term used in the British Army to describe new recruits and inexperienced military personnel; Chamberlain used the word to deride the inferior performance of a young fellow officer at the table.

Chamberlain was revealed to be the inventor, 63 years after the fact, in a letter to *The Field* magazine published on 19 March 1938. Snooker became increasingly popular across the Indian colonies of the British Raj and in the United Kingdom, but it remained a game played mostly by military officers and the gentry. Many gentlemen's clubs with a snooker table would refuse entry to non-members who wished to go in and play snooker; to cater for the growing interest, smaller and more open snooker clubs were formed. The Billiards Association (formed in 1885) and the Billiards Control Club (formed in 1908) merged to form the Billiards Association and Control Club (BA&CC) and a new, standardized set of rules for snooker was first established in 1919. The possibility of a drawn game was abolished by the use of a *re-spotted black* as a tiebreaker. These early rules are similar



Full-Size Snooker Table Set Up for A Game

Snooker declined in popularity in the post-war era; the 1952 World Snooker Championship was contested by only two players and was replaced by the World Professional Match-play Championship, which was also discontinued in 1957. In an effort to boost the game's popularity, Davis introduced a variation known as "snooker plus" in 1959, with the addition of two extra colors, but this version of the game was short-lived. A world championship for top amateur players, now known as the IBSF World Snooker Championship, was founded in 1963, and the official world championship was revived on a challenge basis in 1964.

To Be Continued

# Gene's Corner

## Proper and Improper Names.



By Gene Saegert

Just going to throw out some of the names we call things here in America and question them. Some of you probably know the technical names of what I will be talking about, but the last time that I checked I was about two quarts low on technical. I may have touched on some of these before, so just bear with me. Some words just leave me confused. For instance why can something be underneath, but not over neath, and where actually is neath located? I just don't know. That being said here are some questions about sports and other items of note.

Here is this: Most countries call Soccer, football. America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are with us all calling it soccer. Where does this name come from? No one is socking each other or at least they are not supposed to be. The players all do wear big socks, I don't know, maybe that has something to do with it.

Now, consider boxing, now that should be called soccer because there are two people out there socking each other unmercifully. That would make sense. And then there is the boxing ring? Actually should be called a boxing arena. Three ring circuses actually have the rings, that makes sense. Boxing rings are square, not a ring. Now workers that work in factories who put their products in boxes, that makes since. They are boxing. And some of them may possibly be putting rings in boxes, therefore boxing rings.

Ok then there is rugby where did that name come from? Should it be played on a rug? But seriously folks I have never understood that game, much less the name. I don't think that will ever catch on here. As far as Rugby

is concerned in my opinion a much better name would just be "Hog the ball."

Then there is pickleball, I have discussed this before, nothing to do with pickles. Even spell check has trouble with that one. And then why is hitting a ball with a club called golf? Nobody knows! Should be called club ball and they do always have a clubhouse, not a golf house.

Playing pool on a pool table??? A fun game, but no water involved. Should be called pocket ball. Then there is fencing, a fun sport but don't get the name. Should be called limp sword stabbing. Roller skating makes sense, you are on rollers. Although I don't know where the name Rodeo came from, it could be I rode a bull and O am I sore. What they do there makes a lot of sense. There is bull riding, calf roping barrel racing by cowboys and cowgirls all common sense. A good name for that could be Cowboy competition. Then there is American football. Well this one is up in the air. A more accurate name would be "run and pass ball" You get to kick the ball much less than run or pass.

Then there are Lawyers and Doctors who practice Law and Medicine. How long do they have to practice to be done with practicing and be fully qualified? That is kind of scary. Football players practice, Bands have practice, Baseball has practice, but they then do the real thing. Oh well some things will always just be weird.

*Thought for the day: Have you seen the new tax forms this year? They are much more realistic. Where your spouse signs it says "Accomplice"*



Outside of the breeding season, Summer Tanagers are usually solitary, although they sometimes follow mixed-species flocks of fruit-eating birds on their wintering grounds. Riekie Roncinske

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# Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

*Let's regroup, shall we?*



Photo courtesy Texas SandFest

Let's regroup, shall we? *Spring Break* and *SandFest* are both in our rear views but not without incident. There was an altercation during *Spring Break* at the *Festering Den of Sin* between two families from Central Texas and a 17 year old opened fire injuring five people. And the big culprit during *SandFest* came in the way of rain and gale force winds. Several of the musical acts were cancelled on Saturday and Sunday and the beauty of art formed on a dissolvable palate turned into a big sloppy mess. Most of the sand sculptures survived and the event was a success in spite of the elements. Next year *SandFest 2021* will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary so get ready to load for bear. And the following Wednesday was *Earth Day* and we all gathered to form a giant human peace sign on the beach. It was magnificent!

### Another sweet spot...

So what now? From now until the last week of May we have another little reprieve from *tourist mania*. If history serves us right, this little sweet spot should last until *Memorial Day* when school lets out on May 21<sup>st</sup> and summer begins on the calendar. So what does that mean for us? In a perfect world the "norm" would be for the crowds to be much smaller and gentler. We should see our share of day trippers, second homers and fishermen... a more family oriented array, if you will. This also means less traffic and a little less attention to the "right turns only" survival routes and a little more freewheeling. Plus, being that May is the gateway to summer, the weather should go from warm to hotter than the hinges on the gates of hell in a heartbeat... a situation all Texans south of Waco know all too well. Also keep an eye out for the *Parks and Rec Dept* for their eclectic events including the summer concert series in the park, *Sunset Sounds* featuring the likes of **Jesse Stratton**, **John Elijah**, **Carbonlily**, **The Models**, **Rae-Ann and the Ride**, etc. Also *Beach Walks*, *Making Waves Water Aerobics*, *Family Crafts Time*, *Birding on Boardwalk*, *Nature Walks*, *Yoga on the Beach* and the *Great Cardboard Boat Float*.

### Scattered shots...



My Mermaid Gal working the Nurdle Patrol booth at SandFest

I made it out to *SandFest* last Saturday to help my **Mermaid Gal** with her *Nurdle Patrol* demonstration in the "Kid's Corner" tent. I get to be her support team with various plastic pollution presentations at elementary schools and other public events from time to time... and I really enjoy it. On Friday I made it around our little island to see the mighty **Palacios Brothers** from Hebbronville play a variety of genres at *Shorty's*. Also on Friday I made it over to *Bron's Backyard* to see the dynamic rock cover band **Dreaming in Color** led by the charismatic **Debra Scott Brown**... that gal was born to entertain. On Saturday we wanted to stick around to hear **Clay Hollis** at *SandFest* but the weather started getting sketchier and sketchier as the day wore on and we headed back into town and I'm glad we

did because *Shorty's* had **Todd Dorn and the Sea Drifters** from San Antonio playing his country-western originals until the wee hours. I'm a big fan of **Mr. Dorn**. And I also hit the *Sip Yard* on Friday to see the hilarious **B-Flat Dueling Pianos** show. I kept wondering what roadie they hired to move those baby grands around from stage to stage, night after night. He must be a hulk. On Saturday the *Sip Yard* had the rock solid **Diamond's Edge** on stage featuring **Rick Pro** on hard driving vocals playing hits from the 70's and 80's.



Brandon Michael will play *Bron's* on Friday.

Coming this week...



The John Elijah Band with Matt Perez and Joseph Sota will play every Monday at Shorty's.

The **John Elijah Band** began their Monday night residency at *Shorty's* last week and it was a stellar debut. John has some of the best sidemen anywhere with **Joseph Sota** on bass and drummers **Matt Perez** or **Cody Strong**. These fellas are making a strong name for themselves and Johnny Boy keeps getting better and better. His jazz trio, **Los Locals** with **Miguel Cantu** and **Charlie Traeger** is also a keeper. On Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> the *Gaff* will have our Cajun coon asses par excellent, **Boudreaux and Pousson** and the **Johnson All Starz** with **Art Galvan**, **Antone Perez** and **Ray Ray Summy** by demand. On Friday *Shorty's* has a great little variety band, **Mantle Jennings** on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> and our resident blues man **John Cortez** on Saturday. John and I are doing our best to put together a little blues fest at *Shorty's* in the coming months. Stay tuned. Also on Friday **Brandon Michael** will play *Bron's*, **Carson Miller** will play *Treasure Island*, **Garry Mitcham** will play the *VFW* and the red hot rock cover band, **Young Klassics** will play the *Sip Yard*. Also on Friday the *Harbor Listening Room* in Rockport/Fulton will have great **Jay Boy Adams**. Keep an eye on those cats in Rockport... they have a very cool deal going over there. On Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> we will have young **Timothy Noel and the Smoking Guns** playing some classic country and playing it well. Also on Saturday the **Lucky Dogz** will play the *VFW*, **Coach Big Jim Dugan** will play the *Gaff*, Americana stud **Isaac Jacob** will play the *Sip Yard* and the **Back Pew Revival** will play *Treasure Island*. Also on Saturday **Tyrone Vaughan**, son of **Jimmy Vaughan** and nephew of **Stevie Ray Vaughan** will perform the *Rialto Theater* in Aransas Pass with **Josh Knight** and the **Klocks** are at *Rockit's* downtown. Y'all be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Carson Miller and the Coastal Cowboys will play *Treasure Island* on Friday.



The Young Klassics will play the *Sip Yard* on Friday.



Boudreaux and Pousson will play the *Gaff* on Friday.

# LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

### Thursday, April 23

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's  
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Gaff  
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach  
Josh Weathers @ Brewster Downtown  
Nathan Allen @ Brewster Island  
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside  
Ruben Limas @ Perrin's on the Water  
Los Guys, Damon Scott @ Rockit's  
Eric Graham @ Executive Surf Club  
Mattman @ Fifth & Elm Portland  
Jay Boy Adams @ Harbor Listening Room Fulton

### Friday, April 24

Mantle Jennings @ Shorty's  
Young Klassics @ Sip Yard  
Brandon Michael @ Bron's  
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Gaff  
Carson Miller @ Treasure Island  
Garry Mitcham @ VFW Port A  
Dickie Delight @ Salty Dog  
Jay Boy Adams @ Harbor Listening Room Fulton  
National Nobodyz @ Pelican Lounge  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach  
Groove 2.0 @ South TX Ice House  
Michael Burtt @ Brewster Island  
Trisum @ Brewster Southside  
Shania Twang @ Brewster Downtown  
Indiglow, Flatbroke @ Rockit's  
Scarecrow People @ Executive Surf Club

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<b>JIM BUSH</b>	<b>APR 30</b>
<b>JOE MARTYN RICKIE</b>	<b>MAY 2</b>

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JOHNSON ALL STARZ EVERY THURS  
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN**

<b>MANTLE JENNINGS</b>	<b>APR 24</b>
<b>JOHN CORTEZ</b>	<b>APR 25</b>
<b>BOONE HOLDING</b>	<b>MAY 1</b>
<b>LUCKY DOGZ</b>	<b>MAY 2</b>

<b>CARSON MILLER</b>	<b>APR 24</b>
<b>BACK PEW REVIVAL</b>	<b>APR 25</b>
<b>RAUL AYALA</b>	<b>MAY 1</b>
<b>JAM BAND</b>	<b>MAY 2</b>
<b>PALACIOS BROS</b>	<b>MAY 8</b>
<b>CATHOUSE</b>	<b>MAY 9</b>

<b>GARRY MITCHAM</b>	<b>APR 24</b>
<b>LUCKY DOGZ</b>	<b>APR 25</b>
<b>BRAD ETHRIDGE</b>	<b>APR 28</b>
<b>COASTAL BENDERS</b>	<b>APR 29</b>

<b>YOUNG KLASSICS</b>	<b>APR 24</b>
<b>ISSAC JACOB</b>	<b>APR 25</b>
<b>CASEY CHESNUTT</b>	<b>MAY 1</b>
<b>CASE HARDIN</b>	<b>MAY 2</b>
<b>LOS LOCALS</b>	<b>MAY 7</b>
<b>LOGAN SAMFORD</b>	<b>MAY 8</b>

<b>BRANDON MICHAEL</b>	<b>APR 24</b>
<b>TIMOTHY NOEL</b>	<b>APR 25</b>
<b>HARMONX</b>	<b>MAY 1</b>
<b>RUBEN V</b>	<b>MAY 2</b>
<b>GROOVE 2.0</b>	<b>MAY 8</b>
<b>PALACIOS BROS</b>	<b>MAY 9</b>

Rod Stewart Tribute @ Fifth & Elm Portland

### Saturday, April 25

John Cortez @ Shorty's  
Timothy Noel & Smokin' Guns @ Bron's  
Lucky Dogz @ VFW Port A  
Isaac Jacob @ Sip Yard  
Back Pew Revival @ Treasure Island  
Jim Dugan @ Gaff  
Tyrone Vaughan, Josh Knight @ Rialto AP  
NEF @ Pelican Lounge  
Bad Suns @ Brewster Downtown  
Peter Salas @ Brewster Island  
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards Too  
Groove 2.0 @ Sugar Shack  
The Klocks, Jerry Ward @ Rockit's  
Mike Perez, Alley Catz @ Executive Surf Club  
Jon Wolfe @ Fifth & Elm Portland  
Philip Dean @ Hideout 35

### Sunday, April 26

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's  
Sonny Salinas @ Executive Surf Club

### Monday, April 27

GRAND OPENING NEW PAPD  
BUILDING 3pm  
John Elijah @ Shorty's  
Ejey Red Feather @ Pelican Lounge  
Chuck Almaraz @ Blackbeard's on the Beach

### Tuesday, April 28

Brad Ethridge @ VFW Port A  
La Santa Cecilia @

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