



Beachcombing Report A7

Backwater Adventures A6

On the Rocks A6

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Nature Notes A7

Issue 1150

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The Island Moon

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April 30, 2026

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Take the risk or lose the chance. Orchard Orioles By Riekie Roncinske

Around The Island

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NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

By Dale Rankin

Watery beaches and overcast skies have been the norm *Around The Island* this week. It's been a rather slow week as we wander through the seasonal nether land between Spring Break and Memorial Day. Beach driving has been dicey in parts and underwater in others, a mixed bag of loose sand and salt-water on our little sandbar.



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth
Speaking of saltwater...desalination has taken a back seat at city hall this week as the particulars of water conservation come into focus as the rules now expected to kick in this September are being hashed out. The original draft proposal called for cutbacks across the board for residences and as citizens began to actually look at their water bills to see how many gallons they use above the 7000 gallon per month ceiling, which will be reduced by 25% to 5250 gallons under the proposed restrictions, and the outcry has begun. A couple of questions arose at the Corpus Christi City Council meeting this week leading to a tabling of a decision while the devil in the details is worked out.

First, the new restriction calls for a \$500 fine for each infraction, going over the 5250 gallon limit. If that plateau is exceeded by the twentieth day of the month does that mean there is a \$500 fine for each day until the end of the month? Quien sabe?

Further, getting below the 5250 gallon ceiling won't be a burden for some households with only

Around cont. on A11

Summer crackdown on unlicensed riders

Writing tickets to parents is "a last resort"

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Full graphic on A3

By Dale Rankin

The message from Police Chief Mike Markle regarding the enforcement of rules for electric bikes and other two-wheel vehicles this week was straightforward.

Markle told the Corpus Christi City Council on Tuesday, and repeated to the Island Moon Wednesday, that any two-wheeled vehicle that is not powered by

Ebike cont. on page A3

Radio Show gets a Fly-by



Dodson Lewis, Frank Floyd, Kim Erwin, and Jacob Augs pause for the airshow during the Radio show



Jason Towns in his Bowing Stearman, a World War II Plane that Pilots trained on at Corpus Christi Naval Air Station.

Riding Waves of Impact



Volunteers help a Happy camper conquer the surf.

The Waves of Impact group hosted a camp on the beach on North Padre Island with a special group of campers last Sunday. Waves of Impact provides individuals facing exceptional challenges with the opportunity to experience riding waves, while also focusing on building and rebuilding confidence in those who need it most.

Photos By Debbie Noble & Jan Rankin

Waves cont. on page A4



A little Island history

The Droughts of 1894 and 1897

How early ranchers survived in the Wild Horse Desert

Editor's note: As we face what looks to be a dry summer across the Wild Horse Prairie we take a look back more than 100 years at a time when ranchers battled dry conditions to raise livestock reminding us that lack of water is nothing new in South Texas.

The following comes to us from a book called Early Tejano Ranching by Andres Saenz written in 1999 recording the history of two found-

ing ranch families in Duval County.

By Andres Saenz

A drought occurred about 1894. All the members of the Lopez family who had livestock suffered greatly and came very close to losing all they had worked so hard to obtain. They gathered their stock and drove them towards the open land west of Freer, near Bruni.

At the end of the first days' ride, they camped for the night. At midnight it started to rain. All were soaked. The next morning, they continued their drive west toward Freer. Rain continued to fall all day. They camped that night in the rain, and the next morning they turned around and started home.

History cont. on A5

By the numbers

How many people live here?

Island, Flour Bluff, Port Aransas

The Texas Demographic Center this week issued population and housing numbers by school district and zip code. Here are the numbers for the two school districts that cover Padre and Mustang islands and the 78418 Zip Code.

Flour Bluff Independent School District

30,483 people live in FBISD
16,434.00 Total Housing Units
12,491 Occupied Housing Units
76% Occupancy Rate
55.95 square miles
544.85 people per square mile
115.5 average people per square mile in Texas

78418 Zip Code Padre Island and Flour Bluff

29,790 total population
16,221 total housing units
12,292 Occupied Housing units
3,929 Vacant housing units
75.8% Occupancy rate
73 square miles
406 people per square mile
115 people per square mile in Texas

Numbers cont. on page A3

Island Real Estate Roundup



By Apryl Noles

Pricing is the Key

Even with the local water issues affecting our area, the Padre Island real estate market has not slowed down. This week, we continued to see steady activity across multiple property types.

In the detached home sector, there are currently two homes in the option period and five detached homes that sold. In the townhome sector, one townhome is currently in the option period. In the condominium sector, one condo is in the option period and one condo sold.

As we near the end of April, the numbers continue to show strength in our local market. The median home price is up 5.7% from last

Real Estate cont. on page A8

The Traveling Moon



A group of friends visited Grand Turks, St. Martin, and St. Thomas. Those included were Tom and Sue Stull, Lee and Greta Elledge, Butch Stosberg and Janita Herrin, Mark and Deb Hall, Brenda and Flo Pena, Drew Ligda and Leora Pimentel.



A group of Islanders took a trip to Cozumel with Ascuba Ventures dive shop out of Corpus Christi. Brendan Churchman, Denise Hawkins, Amy and Cameron Allen, and Nick O'Rourke.

Yard of the Month

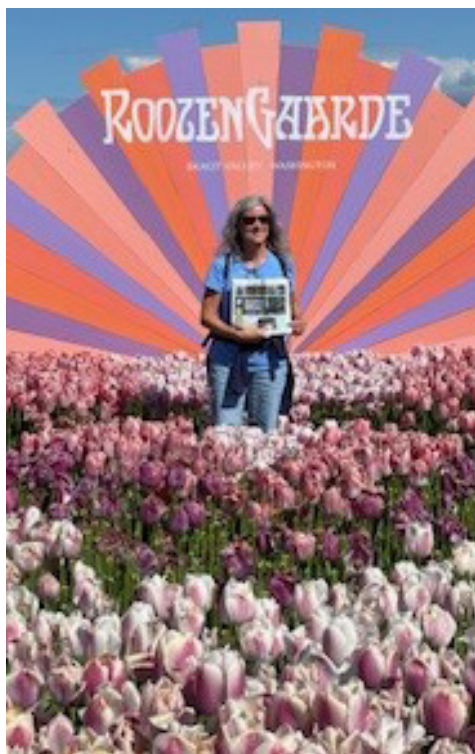


This month's Island Gardeners "Yard of the Month" is the home of Kathleen and Hector and their cute dog, Cocoa. They have a very colorful yard, with not only blooming Plumeria, "Katie" Ruellia, and hanging flower baskets, but green accents provided by Decorative Kale. Star Jasmine is popular on the Island and a great hummingbird attractor, but I have never seen it used before as an understory plant for palm trees. Another Island favorite, the Bottle Brush, was showing off its red brushes. It's clear this yard, front and back has had much attention and love. Members of the Island Garden club visited and were impressed.

We even came away with a tip on how to grow giant peppers, use bone meal. Just look for the "Yard of the Month" sign on Reales, just off Camino de Plata Court. Marilyn Knapp Litt



Island local, Terri and her sister Lisa visiting family Ted & Lourdes in Vilamoura, Portugal. Picture at Silves Castle.



Dori Hestand took the Island Moon to the annual tulip festival in Skagit Valley, Washington



Summer Tanager By Jim Gilmore

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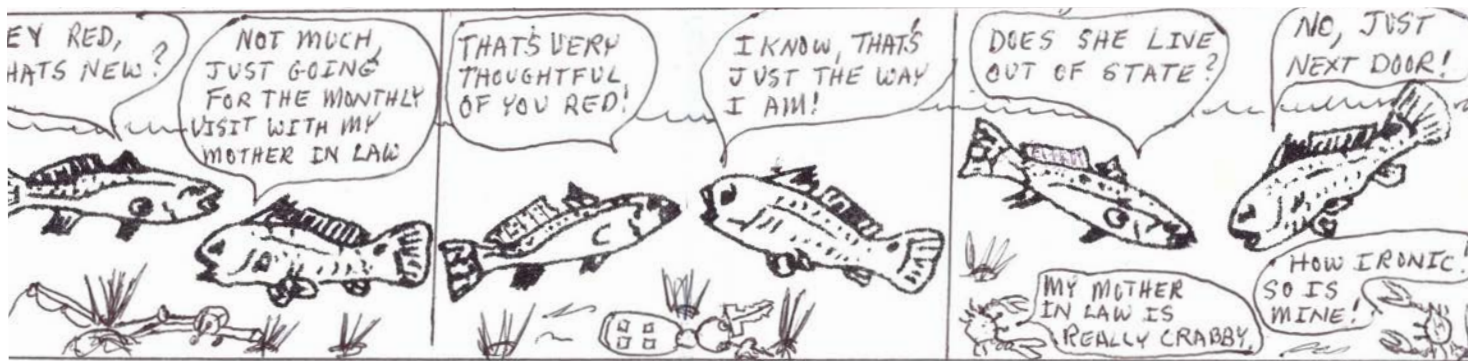
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The Adventures of Bull Red and Trophy Trout

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.



Subscribing

In reference to the high cost of the Caller-Times, thank goodness the Island Moon is cost free. I subscribe to the Caller-Times because I like to do the crossword puzzle and read about what happened on that day in history, which is printed every day. Which also gives me something to do to help pass the day.

Monday's crossword is the easiest with Sunday the hardest. I hardly ever finish one of the puzzles. In the past my subscription cost about \$100 per year but this year it has increased to \$140 per year and there is no paper on Saturdays or national holidays. The cost of the Caller-Times at HEB or a convenience store is three dollars for the paper and \$4.50 for the Sunday paper. About 90% of the cost of the paper goes to the delivery person and the other 10% going to the Caller-Times. There is hardly any papers for sale at the convenience stores or HEB, maybe two or three per day at the convenience store or maybe six or seven at HEB which means hardly anybody is buying the paper because of the high cost which means the paper is read mostly, if at all, by the subscribers.

I believe for a happy medium if the cost of the paper at the stores was reduced more people would buy it and read it which at the same time would encourage them to become subscribers and the more informed and in the long-term produce more dollars for both the delivery boy or girl and the Caller-Times.

The cost of the Caller-Times reminds of a quite by Samuel Clemens, a one-time river boat captain and author of Huckleberry Finn. "Never shall the Twain meet." Clemens was a flamboyant, adventurous talented, historical legend who portrayed early American life.

Catch a fish and eat for a day, become a fisherman and eat forever.

Bobbie Kimbrell

Appealing your property tax valuation
What Evidence Wins a Protest?



By Brian McCabe

Taxpayer Liaison

Nueces County Appraisal District

Editor's note: Islander Brian McCabe is the Taxpayer Liaison for the Nueces County Appraisal Administration (formerly the Nueces County Appraisal District). This is the third in a series of articles on how the process works and how best to approach and appeal of your appraised value.

Many taxpayers show up for a protest with little more than frustration. The strongest cases are usually supported by documents and photographs.

Helpful evidence may include photos of needed repairs, contractor estimates, engineering reports, roof damage, foundation problems, drainage issues, flooding or deferred maintenance. Comparable sales can also be important if similar nearby homes sold for less than the district's value.

Homeowners should also review the appraisal district's property record card. If it lists a larger house, extra bathrooms, a pool or other features that do not exist, correcting those errors may reduce value.

At an Appraisal Review Board hearing, the appraisal district presents its evidence first. The homeowner then has the opportunity to explain why the value should change. Hearings are less formal than court, but preparation still matters.

Taxpayers who cannot attend in person may still have options. Many districts allow telephone hearings, video hearings, affidavits or written submissions. A homeowner may also authorize a family member, tax consultant or attorney to appear on their behalf.

If the homeowner disagrees with the ARB's decision, Texas law may allow an appeal through binding arbitration, district court or, in larger cases, the State Office of Administrative Hearings

Numbers cont. from A1

Port Aransas
Independent School District

Editor's note: This includes the area north of Corpus Christi Pass to the Port Aransas City Limits
3,348 Total Population
5,776 Total Housing Units

1535 Occupied Housing Units
26.6% Occupancy Rate
4241 Vacant Housing Units
25.49 square miles
131 people per square mile

Ebike cont. from A1

pedals on city streets must have a license plate, turn signals, and a licensed driver.

"We are asking parents to be parents and help with enforcement, it has to start with them," Markle said. "But if that doesn't work the next step is to begin issuing tickets and fines to the parents of the kids riding the bikes illegally. We will begin stepping up enforcement in the next few weeks as the school year ends. One way or another we have to get these bikes off the street before someone gets seriously hurt."

The city council was briefed on the status of enforcement of the state law which applies to ebikes and other similar motorized vehicles which have sprung up in large numbers on Padre Island and around the city in the past few months. Markle said Corpus Christi Police have impounded many of the bikes around the city, primarily on busy streets

where they interact with traffic posing a danger to both bike riders and other motorists and that enforcement by CCPD will pick up through the summer months as the school year winds down.

"Once again we need parents to be parents," Markle said on Wednesday. "If a bike is not pedal-assisted then the driver must have a driver's license and the bike must have lights and a license plate. Some of these electric bikes have 80 horsepower. The people driving these things when they don't have pedals must have a driver's license."

According to information presented by CCPD officers to the Corpus Christi City Council on Tuesday:

- Pocket Bike/Mini Motorcycles Defined in Texas Transportation Code 551.351, Electric or gas engine of not more than 50 cubic cm, not designed for highway use, cannot be registered Per Texas Trans. Code 551.353, cannot be driven on highway, road, street, sidewalk or bike path. Anything 50 cc's or more must be registered as a motorcycle and may be driven on roadway with license plate and valid license with motorcycle endorsement
- Any electric bike with power output of more than 750 watts is not street legal.

The Texas Legislature is expected to take up the issue in their session which begins in January, 2027.

"The technology has outrun the current legislation" Markle said. "We went through this with golf carts and Off Road Vehicles a few years ago and it took action by the state legislature to clear it up. It looks like that is what is needed now for these bikes."



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">  HAS FULLY FUNCTIONAL PEDALS Must be able to propel the bike by human power.  MAX MOTOR ASSIST SPEED 28 MPH or less on level ground (Class 3 e-bikes).  MOTOR POWER 750 watts or less.  WHERE YOU CAN RIDE May be used on roads, bike lanes, and most bike paths.  MEETS THE LAW When it meets these requirements, it's considered a legal e-bike. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  NO FUNCTIONAL PEDALS Not capable of being propelled by human power.  CAN EXCEED 28 MPH Often much faster than allowed for e-bikes.  MOTOR POWER Often more than 750 watts.  WHERE YOU CAN RIDE Not allowed on public roads, sidewalks or bike paths.  NOT LEGAL Considered a motor vehicle. Requires registration, license, insurance and helmet.

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PARENTS CAN BE HELD RESPONSIBLE.



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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

This week the Texas Center for Demographics issued its latest report on who lives where across the state. We include the numbers in this issue and there is something in them that jumps out, namely the number of vacant homes on Padre Island in contrast to Port Aransas.

It is true that figures sometimes lie and liars sometimes figure, it is also true that numbers coming from the state are reported along two lines; school districts and zip codes of which Padre Island has neither exclusively. Census numbers also follow zip codes and state numbers also include school districts but isolating just Padre Island is not possible through these sources. With that said, compare the Occupancy Rates of Padre Island to those in Port Aransas. Note that the numbers for Padre Island include Flour Bluff so the comparison between Padre Island and Port Aransas is not exact and it is likely the number for Padre Island would be higher if left to stand alone.

76% versus 26%

The listed rate of 76% Occupancy Rate for Padre Island is likely too high since there are more second homes on Padre Island than in Flour Bluff. But the comparable number in Port Aransas (which has its own Zip Code and school district) is only 26.6%. That number includes the high-rise condominiums north of Corpus Christi Pass whose economy is more closely tied to Port Aransas even as they pay their Hotel Occupancy Tax of more than \$2 million annually to the City of Corpus Christi. The listed Occupancy Rate in Port Aransas is roughly one-third of that on Padre Island which raises the question of why?

Tax rate: 6 cents versus 2 cents...

Two major things come into play. First, the Median Effective Property Tax Rate in Port Aransas is 0.201612 per \$100 of property value, on Padre Island that rate for Corpus Christi is 0.599774. You can do the math. The tax rate on Padre Island is almost three times that of Port Aransas even for those whose house is homesteaded and/or frozen. The owner of a second, non-homesteaded house on Padre Island is paying a tax rate almost three times higher than the same owner in Port Aransas, including the school tax in a district where their children do not attend.

Short-Term Rentals

The second thing that pushes the occupancy rate in Port Aransas down is the Short-Term Rental rule. About 80% of Port Aransas allows STR, while on the Padre end our residentially-owned areas do not allow them (at least legally). Port Aransas passed its STR ordinance before Hurricane Harvey which pushed many residents out because they could not afford to rebuild. The math is simple. When a house which allows STR goes on the market the cash flow from the property is baked into the sales price that pushes it north. That sales price becomes the comp for the neighbor who is not doing STR, and the full-time resident sees their property tax rise to reflect his neighbor's cash flow which he is not receiving. Home prices in Port run about \$415 per square foot and up while on Padre Island that number is around \$250 per square foot.

So speaking in rough numbers the cost per square foot of a home on Padre Island is about 60% lower than a comparable home in Port Aransas but the property taxes are roughly three times as high. That makes Port Aransas a much more attractive buy for a second home owner and that accounts for the discrepancy in the Occupancy Rate. Further the owner of a second home is using less services—water, streets, schools—and is subsidizing those services for permanent residents putting downward pressure on property taxes across the board as prices rise. But the proof is in the pudding, the lower cost of city services in Port Aransas, and the lower taxes, is not enough to offset the increased cost of real estate which works to push out permanent residents who sell their homes to new owners who turn them into STR.

Working the angles

When the City of Corpus Christi passed its STR ordinance in 2022 it outlawed renting a single-family dwelling in RS6 Residential Zoning for less than thirty days. The previous rules for Bed and Breakfast operations were rolled into the new ordinance as well. Since that time we can all identify homes in our neighborhoods that are being leased out as STR rentals, so how is this happening? There are some wrinkles in the ordinance which are being exploited.

While the ordinance disallows leasing less than thirty days it is silent on how many thirty day leases can be signed in any thirty days. Sign a thirty day lease on the first of the month, cancel it on the fourth (after the weekend) and sign another one, and so on...

As for Bed and Breakfast operations the last time I checked none had been approved in the city. They require a vote by the Corpus Christi Council and they also require that the owner of record lives on the property—not a hired manager. Only one B&B application on Padre Island has gone to the council for approval and it was denied yet some are currently in operation.

Enforcement

I submitted an Open Records Request with the City of Corpus Christi for the year 2025 and found that no citations for STR violations were issued on Padre Island in 2025 yet we see that there are some in operation in residential areas (note that multi-family dwellings in residential areas can allow STR based on their own ownership rules). So why is this?

Those looking to skirt the city prohibition on STR have discovered that city inspectors scour the two major STR websites but if those are avoided through direct communication with renters through other means they stay under the radar. The only way to catch these scofflaws is by sending out inspectors during busy weekends and those inspectors, in practice, only respond when alerted by citizens. That is where we are.

When the STR ordinance was written the intent was to keep STR out of residential areas on Padre Island to avoid the exodus of permanent residents seen in Port Aransas after the rebuild of residential property that followed Hurricane Harvey in 2017. It has worked reasonably well to this point but there is a slippery slope at work. If we keep doing what we are doing we are going to keep getting what we are getting and that is more STR in Padre Island neighborhoods. The State of Texas has been tracking this more closely than the City of Corpus Christi and while failure to pay the city's Hotel Occupancy Tax results only in the paying of back taxes (at most), failure to pay the state HOT is in fact a criminal act and the Texas Comptrollers' Office is tracking that and they are tracking it because they see a discrepancy between the number of STR offered online and the number paying state HOT. They are seeing numbers that the City of Corpus Christi is not tracking.

Why does it matter?

The question of writing rules for STR is a matter of public debate. But if the goal in banning some STR on Padre Island was to keep them out of residential areas it is working...but there are loopholes that are being exploited and the longer that continues the more STR there are going to be and sooner or later that will begin to push out permanent residents. We all know some long-residents who have left Padre Island due to high taxes and the more STR we have the higher valuations and therefore taxes are going to be. The pattern in Corpus Christi for the past decade has been to raise the Property Tax levy each year while blaming higher taxes on the appraisal district. If the current patterns continue a decade from now our Occupancy Rate will be closer to the current 26% in Port Aransas than the 76% rate we see now as rising housing costs will drive out permanent residents. All we have to do is look at what has happened in Port Aransas.

The camel's nose is under the tent.

A Very Birdie Festival

Photos By Debbie Noble



Birders descended on Packery Channel Park this week for the Birdiest City in America Festival. The Park, located on Park Road 22 close to e the Texas Sealife Center, is a great place to see a huge variety of migratory birds.

Waves cont. from A1

Families with children who have special needs often encounter extraordinary obstacles, resulting in social isolation. The surfing and beach experiences cater to the entire family, providing an opportunity for individuals and families to connect and form supportive friendships.

Waves of Impact also provide surfing experiences for wounded veterans, recognizing the healing power of the ocean and the importance of serving those who have served our country.

All surf camps are provided at no cost to participants.



Waves of Impact Campers learning the basics before heading out to the surf



Volunteer Jack Tunnell helping guide a camper



Volunteers headed out with a camper

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History cont. from A1

Another drought occurred about 1897. Again the Lopez brothers, Francisco, Pedro, Jesus, and Margarito, gathered the stock and headed out for different pastures in the same direction as in 1894. The land was open range owned by the state. When they began pasturing their livestock, some of the people in the area started staking out the land claims in the public domain. Through a state program parcels of land were being sold. Francisco acquired enough land to provide for their livestock. He staked his land on a ridge that separated the high rocky terrain from the lower land to the north and called his ranch El Bordo.

The first thing they did on the new land was to establish a camp. They built a shaded area, or *portal*, to provide protection from the hot sun. Then they enclosed the dies to build a *jacal*, using the wood in the area. Here they slept and cooked meals for the cowhands and shepherds who tended the flock and for themselves.

There was one problem with water for the livestock, so they decided to bring some men from San Jose to dig a well. They dug the well but found no water. In their plight, Pedro asked advice from a local wise man. He knew there was a wedding the next day at El Guajillo and that his *tocayo*, or namesake Don Pedrito Jaramillo, would attend. After greeting him, Don Pedrito asked Pedro what he was doing there. Pedro told him the problem they were having finding water where they had settled. Don Pedrito described a nearby lagoon and directed them to ride from the lagoon in a westerly direction until they arrived at a place where deep trails crossed. Near the trails they would see a mesquite grove, and there they should dig for water.

Pedro left early the next morning to go to El Bordo. There he got the men to start digging close to the mesquite trees. They had been digging for a few days when Camilo Palacios put his head close to the wall of the well hole and heard a noise behind the wall. He became curious and hit the spot with the crowbar he used for digging. The water gushed out, widening the hole as it poured through. He became frightened and yelled, "Pull me out, pull me out. I'll drown!" The men, not knowing the depth of the water table, had already dug beneath it, and the water vein, *venero*, poured into the well. This turned out to be a very good well. Using a horse to pull a bucket tied to a rope, they developed the well so it produced plenty of water. They were even able to share the water with their neighbor at El Rancho Solo, with whom they became good friends. Beginning in 1906, Rosendo, Francisco's son, worked as a foreman on the ranch for several years.

Later, Jesus bought 2500 acres to the north, or the lower section of land from Francisco's El Bordo Ranch near Freer, for 25 cents an acre. His grandchildren remembered an incident that happened to Mauricio, Jesus's son, and Samuel, a son of Mauricio. It seems that while carrying the money to Laredo to pay for the land, they stopped to eat and rest. After resting, they got on their horse and rode off. A few miles down the road, one asked the other, "Do you have the money bag?" When he answered no, they returned as rapidly as they could to where they had rested. Fortunately, no one had come along; the bag of money remained where they had left it.

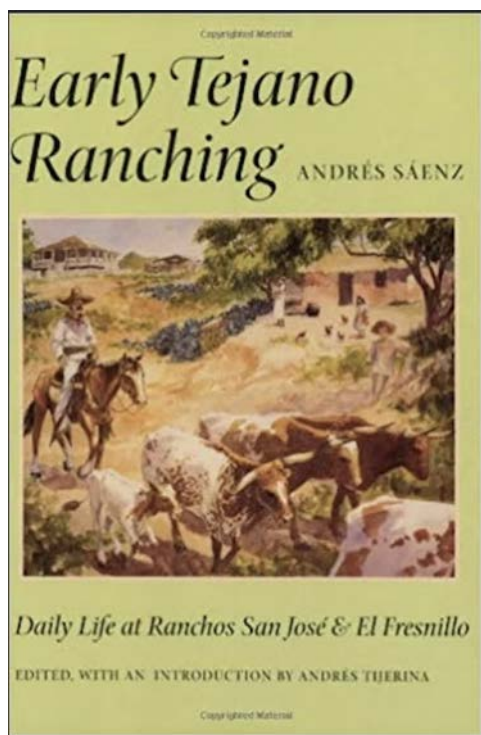
The brothers went through many hardships living in the camp. Francisco set up another small *jacal* with a kitchen and brought his oldest daughter, Gumecinda, to do the cooking.

Once, when Rosendo was about nine years old, he was tending a goat herd on horseback. They had some good dogs to help them take care of the herd. Rosendo related to Alejo, his son, an incident involving a rabid full-grown bobcat, *un gato tigerio*. The bobcat approached the flock, and the dogs tried to chase it away. Rosendo moved quickly on his horse to scare away the cat, but the cat came toward his horse instead. Rosendo turned the horse around and rushed toward the camp, calling for help. As he was still calling for help, his sister came out to pull him off the saddle, but his foot got stuck in the stirrup. He could not pull his foot out, so his sister uncinched the saddle and pulled him and the saddle off together. They tried to chase the bobcat away, but it ran into the kitchen. Then Camilo Palacios came to rescue them. He grabbed a hoe with a heavy handle, *azadon de ojo*, and killed the animal. Rosendo recalled that many times they saw mountain lions in the pastures.

Family members would travel back and forth from their camp on El Bordo to San Jose, where the families stayed. After the drought ended and the pastures of San Jose had recovered, Pedro and Margarito were the only ones to bring their livestock back to San Jose. Francisco fixed a permanent residence for himself at his El Bordo Ranch. Jesus remained on his property to the north and improved it. Later he and his family moved near El Bordo to take care of the stock at his ranch there. Rosendo went back to San Jose to work the fields and cultivate the cotton.

When cotton became a good cash crop, the ranchers concentrated on clearing land for fields. The main tools they used were a mattock, or *talache*, a good axe, or *hacha*. The people working to clear the land, *desentraiz*, also carried files to keep the tools sharp. The first cotton gin opened at Crestonio or Realitos. The hauling of the cotton bales to the gin took a long time. Later there was a gin in Benavides, a town nearby.

When the railroad came to the area, people from the ranches would go to a ranch called La Palangana to cut wood for the trains. The wood was mainly dried mesquite wood that burned quickly to heat the water to drive the steam engines.



The Art of Island Life

By Melissa Mitchell



Building Creative Confidence

In the gallery, I hear it often.

*"I can't draw a stick figure."
"I don't have a creative bone in my body."*

I usually smile and say, "I'll have to disagree. I think you just haven't discovered that bone yet." Because the truth is, we were designed to create. It lives in all of us. A blank canvas doesn't always come on paper.

Creativity may look like painting for one person and planting a garden for another. It may show up in cooking, decorating a home, solving problems, starting a business, custom-styling a hat, writing a story, raising children, or finding a new way forward when life changes. For me, it's a mix of all of the above.

And creativity does not belong only to artists. It belongs to anyone willing to imagine something new. Children create freely. They draw, build, sing, color outside the lines, and rarely stop to ask if they are "good enough." Somewhere along the way, many adults become cautious.

We compare ourselves. We worry about being bad at something. We tell ourselves it is too late. We become so focused on productivity that we forget the value of joy, curiosity, and exploration. What holds many people back is rarely a lack of creativity. More often, it is fear. Self-doubt. The belief that if we cannot do something perfectly, we should not do it at all. The person who limits us most is often the one in the mirror.

What Courage Has Taught Me

A few years ago I created a little turtle sticker with the words: Fear Ends Where Courage Begins. That little turtle came from one of my own watercolor paintings. Watercolor was the first medium I truly chose to explore in a serious way. I had always expressed myself creatively in different forms, but watercolor felt like both an invitation and a challenge.

It does not always do exactly what you expect. It moves, blends, blooms, and sometimes surprises you. It requires guidance—but also a willingness to let it become what it wants to become.

So much of creativity works the same way. We can guide it, nurture it, and show up for it—but we also have to loosen our grip enough to let something beautiful unfold. People have asked where that saying on the sticker came from. It came from a life lived.

That little turtle carries a lesson. It is not the fastest or the largest creature. It is not the loudest. It does not race through life demanding attention. And yet, it keeps moving forward with quiet determination. Sometimes courage looks like that. Not grand gestures. Not having every answer. Not feeling fearless.

Courage is simply taking the next step anyway. That is why this quote by Georgia O'Keeffe has always resonated so deeply with me: "I've been absolutely terrified every moment of my life and I've never let it keep me from doing a single thing that I wanted to do."



What wisdom in that. Confidence does not always arrive before we begin. Most often, it is built in the doing.

It Is Never Too Late

Within the past several years, I have watched people of all ages begin creating in new ways. Some picked up a paintbrush for the first time, while others finally chose to pick it up again. Many discovered creativity through gardening, baking, writing, music, handmade goods, or reinventing their lives in seasons they never expected.

Some discovered talents they never knew were there. Others simply rediscovered joy they had not felt in years. And now, some of those artists have work hanging in my gallery.

I have also seen many artists find their strongest voice later in life. Sometimes that happens when the noise quiets. When careers have ended, children are grown, and the constant pull of daily demands begins to ease. In that space, people can hear themselves more clearly—and create from a deeper, more honest place.

They did not all begin with confidence. They began with willingness. So if you've ever found yourself thinking, I'd love to be able to do that, consider this your sign.

Do it. Start today. We are not promised tomorrow. What do we really have to lose?

You may just discover something beautiful was waiting in you all along. And if you're local, stop by Evoke Studio & Gifts and say hello. Let's talk creativity. I'll even give you one of my little turtle stickers as a reminder that you can.

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



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Island Outdoors



By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks

Smoke and Sargassum

Tyler and I made it out to the beach the other day to see what was going on. We turned right there at Beach Access Road 6, and almost immediately put the truck into 4-wheel drive. The tide was up, and people were parked parallel along the water's edge. Driving had to be done up by the base of the dunes, where it always gets a little "dusty" due to the amount of traffic. We had plans to go all the way to the north sticks, but the crowds thinned out very quickly, and we found a nice space around the 248 marker.

Spitting sargassum and sea dragons

The sargassum is starting to come in a bit thicker even though the two gyres from the Loop Current have faded away. The Loop Current is doing something crazy in the middle of the Gulf right now, as it looks like it's making some seasonal adjustments I'm not familiar with. It appears to be forming several large gyres in the main current, and it is pulling water from the Caribbean and the Mayan Riviera. This is likely pulling a massive amount of sargassum into the Gulf, but hopefully it spits it back out in the Atlantic into the Gulf Stream.

We wanted to see all the goodies that were washing up with the sargassum, but alas, I still haven't found a sea dragon yet this year still. I only noted one Portuguese man-o-war, and a small one at that. There were the usual bits and pieces of things; pieces of plastic with turtle bites taken out of them, a turtle grass rhizome, a mole crab carapace, and a clove of garlic? Weird. What surprised us was the amount of sea beans that we found in such a short distance, especially on a weekend beach.

Everyone's favorites are the sea hearts, *Entada gigas*, that comes from a vine in Golfo, Costa Rica, central and northern South America, and also from Africa. They also have the common name, "monkey-ladder" and are the largest seedpods in the family Fabaceae. Supposedly the seeds are viable for up to two years, but I don't know of anyone that has tried to grow one. They wouldn't survive our winter as they are tropical in nature though. There were also a couple of hamburger beans, *Mucuna sloanei*, that is from tropical places in the Americas and Africa. Fun stuff, and you can easily find tools online to help you identify your beach finds.

Mexican smoke

The smoke coming up from Mexico is getting to me, as it does every year. It reminds me of one of the first times we went to Mexico, specifically the Yucatan, and it seemed there were fires all over the place. What's

erie is that you never hear a fire truck and no one seems to care that virtually half of the landscape is on fire. We had seen people burn sugar cane fields in The Valley here before, but not of this scale. The reason people burn the sugar cane is to get rid of the leaves and undergrowth before the harvest. The wet stalks holding the sugar product survive the fast-moving fire and make it easier to harvest and transport, but it's a terrible practice. NASA has a photograph up now that shows all the fires down there.

ISAC cancelled

The Island Strategic Action Committee that was slated for next week has been canceled due to lack of quorum and action items. There has been some movement on a few projects at the subcommittee level, but nothing ready to hatch yet. I'm sure that staff is itching to get the Ebike situation in from of ISAC to get a recommendation back to the city, but that will have to wait. This is the very definition of unintended consequences, as there has been a push all along to get multi-modal paths constructed or defined on The Island to encourage non-vehicle use. However, the kids that are destroying property and evidently running rogue wasn't supposed to be part of the plan.

Commodores Park

The contractor at Commodores Park is cranking it, and hopefully the skate park at Billish gets kicked off soon too. Now if we can just get the contractor selected and mobilized for the Bond 2018 JFK Causeway parking improvements, we might actually feel like we're getting somewhere. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Interesting beach finds spread out on the tailgate



Improvements to the area around and under the Island side of the JFK Causeway have been in the works for more than a decade. This picture were taken in 2009 nine years before the 2018 bond package was passed to fund the improvements which are still a work in progress.



By Joey Farah

Backwater Adventures

Trout Green Water

We have had a good spring tide pushing for weeks, and now just about all the reaches of our back bays are enjoying good water quality. I took a drive down to Baffin and beyond yesterday, stepping over rock piles that I spend years memorizing as a young man and youth. Each rock was right in its place, bringing me back to the days before Brown Tide and dredge dumping. Trout green water is not totally clear; it's green but a little cloudy from the richness of plankton, and tidal flow. Whether you are sliding through the bay on a boat or kayak, walking into public access spots, or fishing the beach, searching out pockets of TROUT GREEN WATER, are going to land you more than just in the right spot!

I remember one of my first trips to Baffin; we made a drift outside of THE POINT OF ROCKS. Today there are a few maps that label this famous place wrong, maybe misled by some Old Protective Salt. The Point was once marked with a big wooden pole, nailed full of old shoes. I thought it was weird and asked Mr. Joe why they did that.

"That's so when you lose your shoe when your wading you can come get one off of the pole, and leave them when you're done", long before we had wading boots. I managed to borrow a pair or two before the pole and all those salty shoes melted into the bay. Our first drift I stood on the front of that old tri-hull staring down into the green, watching baitfish swarm around the grassy rock formations down in five foot of water. I remember it was like an aquarium, I watched my silver spoon flutter down into a sandy crevice in the rocks. I fluttered it up and over the top, danced a two step and as it fell again a flash came from under the rocky edge. I saw the Yellow Mustard Mouth open and the flash of my spoon disappeared. She turned and shook her head and busted the water, showing me her black back as she dived under the boat and deep into the Deep Green Depths. Exploring these rocks now will lock memories in your mind just the same. Whether your drift and use a trolling motor to pick through them with soft plastics, dance topwaters over their jagged tops, or use live bait under a cork, it is time to go ROCK HOPPING.

We have been enjoying one of the best spring seasons here in the Coastal Bend in fishing history. Port Aransas Jetties are full of trout chasing the tide and all



My Friend Manford stuck his limit of nice specks and a good redfish along the Rocks of Baffin Bay this week with me on live shrimp and popping corks, at 86yrs old!

the Shad and Rain minnows. Speck Riggs and deep diving hard baits have been what the best anglers are using to catch those big ole surf trout. Live shrimp under a cork drifting the rocks will bring the up on the rocks as well. Higher tides have spread out redfish in the back sloughs behind Mustang Island State Park. Walking in or using a kayak will find redfish hunting along the mangroves. Throw a gold weed less spoon and you won't have to worry about getting hung up or changing out the lure, just keep casting and hang on!

This is the MAJOR TROUT SPAWN OF THE YEAR! This next week's days before the full moon are going to be the absolute best! I postponed a surf trip just to stay and hunt monster trout! MAY 5, 6, 7& 8 I am booking last minute trophy trips to Baffin Back Reaches hunting the Biggest Ole Mustard Mouths on earth! Get out and enjoy all of this Spring Tide, and Green Water! Grab a partner and call me for one of those incredible Trout Hunting Days! Follow all of our Fishing on Facebook at Joey Farah's Backwater Fishing! 361-442-8145



When the sun is high in the sky, darker baits stand out to mature predatory gamefish. This DOA 5.5 Jerk Bait in BLOODSHAD, was the bait at noon this week.



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Nature Notes

Great Blue Herons

Anything they can catch and swallow...

By Hannah Beckett



Great Blue Heron with Captured Fish, Beaver Brook Open Space, Wethersfield, CT USA

Paul Danese, Public Domain

Great Blue Herons are considered to be apex predators in most North American wetland systems. While it may seem like the Great Blue Heron moves slowly, as it wades with long deliberate steps, this bird can strike like lightning to spear a fish or snap up a mouse. Its uniquely shaped neck vertebrae allow this quick strike from a distance. Their diet is diverse and they will eat just about anything they can catch and swallow. Food is swallowed whole, and unfortunately, Great Blue Herons have been known to choke on prey that is too large.

Great Blue Herons are socially monogamous. Every year, individuals will choose new mates and remain with them through a single breeding season. Nesting can occur in single pairs, but more commonly as nesting colony of single species or multi-species called rookeries. Males arrive first at the nesting site to claim a space and court the arriving females.

Nests are built up to 100 feet or more in trees or other elevated areas and consist of big bulky stick platforms 20 inches in diameter. Previously constructed nests are reused each year. With repeated use and additional construction, the nests can grow to more than 47 inches across and 35 inches deep. If trees are unavailable, herons will nest on the ground or on predator-free islands. Their nests will be found in areas surrounded by large swaths of forest or on isolated islands as they prefer undisturbed nesting areas free of noise and human activity.

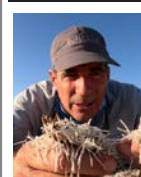
During the late 19th and early 20th century, Great Blue Herons were hunted aggressively for their plumage. They are now protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and their population has recovered from the devastating losses. In recent years, the Great

Blue Heron faces loss of valuable wetland habitats, impacts from pesticides and other chemical toxins. Wetlands are being drained and filled for development and the water quality is declining. Nest sites are facing increased disturbance from human activity leading to herons abandoning historic colonies. Great Blue Herons are adaptable, but the widespread development and increase of toxins poses a significant ongoing threat to the species.



Blue Heron By Nicole Scofield

Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

Ivory Tusk Snail

Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest once used them as currency



Jace Tunnell holding an Ivory Tusk Snail shell with tweezers.

They didn't look like much at first, just a scatter of white slivers along the tide line. At a glance, they could've passed for fish bones or bits of plastic, the kind of debris beachcombers often overlook. But a closer look revealed something far more interesting: ivory tusk shells.

Within minutes, I had gathered nearly 40 of them from a short stretch of beach. Meanwhile, people walked all around me, completely unaware of what lay at their feet. A few stopped to ask what I was picking up, surprised to learn these curious fragments were actually the shells of marine animals.

Ivory tusk shells, also known as tooth shells, belong to a group of mollusks called scaphopods. There are around 350 species worldwide, living both in shallow coastal waters and the deep sea. Their smooth, white shells resemble miniature elephant tusks, gently curved and open at both ends. Most only grow to about 2.5 inches long.

Unlike most mollusks, tusk snails have no gills and no eyes. Instead, they rely on tiny hair-like structures called cilia to pull water in through the narrow end of the shell and push it back out after extracting oxygen. Their head and foot extend from the

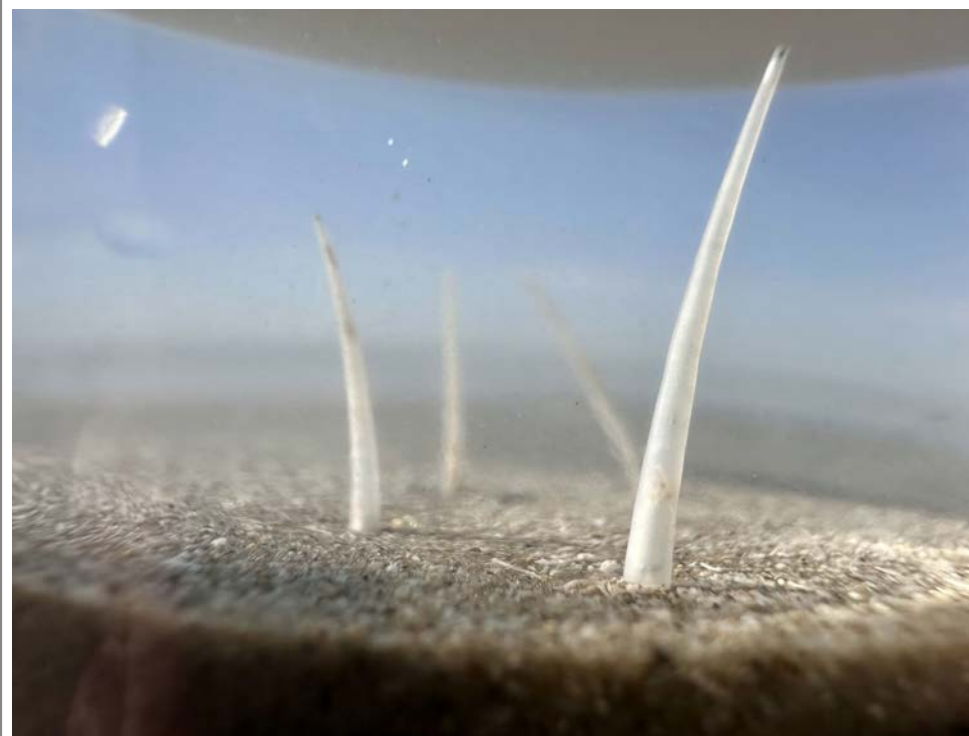
wider end, where delicate tentacles capture microscopic prey, primarily foraminiferans, single-celled organisms drifting in the sediment.

These animals spend nearly their entire lives buried in sand or mud, making them rarely seen alive. Over time, the shell grows at the larger end while the narrow tip gradually wears away.

Though easy to miss, tusk shells have a rich history. Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest once used them as currency and for jewelry. Storms and shifting currents likely unearthed these shells offshore and delivered them to the tide line, where wave action sorted and concentrated them into tidy drifts at low tide.

Next time you're scanning the shoreline, take a closer look. You might just spot one of the ocean's most overlooked treasures.

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/harterresearch), and Instagram (@harterresearch).



Ivory Tusk Snails in the sand under water.



Handful of Ivory Tusk Snail shells found along the beach in Texas.

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Island Real Estate Roundup

Real Estate cont. from A1

year, currently sitting at \$401,734. We are also seeing more homes go under contract, which has helped bring inventory down 8.5% compared to last year. Closed sales are also up 4.4% from last year.

Days on market are still averaging around 131 days, which is a great reminder of how important proper pricing and strategic marketing are. Homes are still selling, but pricing correctly from the start makes a major difference.

Below is a detailed list of the homes in these categories. Stay tuned for next week's update as we close out April and head further into the spring market!

Detached Homes In Option Period:

- 15345 Yardarm Ct (Listed for \$1,050,000)
- 14221 Sand Dollar Ave (Listed for \$650,000)

Detached Homes That Sold:

- 14325 Emerald St (Listed for \$699,999)
- 15814 Gypsy St (Listed for \$630,000)
- 14165 Palo Seco Dr (Listed for \$549,900)
- 13829 Jolly Roger St (Listed for \$599,900)
- 15926 Cabo Blanco Dr (Listed for \$485,000)

Townhome In Option Period:

- 15410 Grass Cay Ct (Listed for \$460,000)

Condominium In Option Period:

- 15010 Leeward Dr Unit#706 (Listed for \$159,000)

Condominium That Sold:

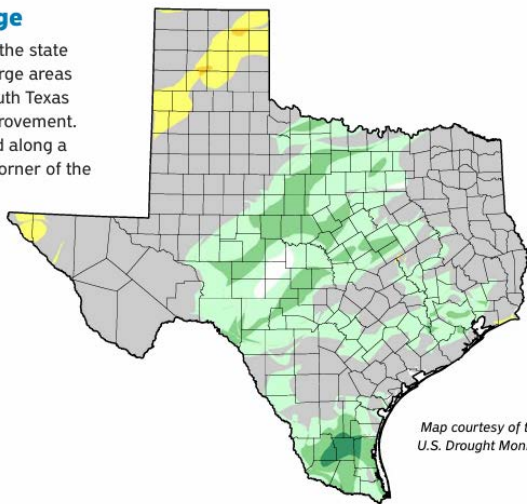
- 14300 S Padre Island Dr Unit#214 (Listed for \$175,000)

Drought Update

Three-week drought change

Since the end of March, drought area in the state has contracted 13 percentage points. Large areas of the coastal plains and Central and South Texas experienced one or more classes of improvement. Meanwhile, drought conditions degraded along a strip from West Texas to the northeast corner of the Panhandle.

- Key**
- 5 Class Degradation
 - 4 Class Degradation
 - 3 Class Degradation
 - 2 Class Degradation
 - 1 Class Degradation
 - No Change
 - 1 Class Improvement
 - 2 Class Improvement
 - 3 Class Improvement
 - 4 Class Improvement
 - 5 Class Improvement



Map courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor

By Dr. Mark Wentzel, Hydrologist, Office of Water Science and Conservation

www.twdb.texas.gov

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

Is there golf in heaven?

Hearts are easily troubled for so many reasons. Fear, uncertainty, technological changes, and aging are among prime sources of troubled hearts.

There is a preacher story about golf fanatics Carl and Sam. They agreed that whoever died first, would try to return and tell the other if there is golf in heaven. One night, Sam died in his sleep.

A few days later Carl heard what sounded like Sam's voice. He was amazed that Sam was able to return for a brief visit. Carl wondered if there was golf in heaven. Sam began, "I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that there is golf in heaven. The bad news is that you have a tee time tomorrow."

All of us have an appointment with death. Even A.I. can't change that. While some billionaires try to spend their way out of death, the truth is brutally honest. George Bernard Shaw was attributed to say, "I did an exhaustive study of death and discovered one out one people die." This can really trouble our hearts.

Death reveals our ultimate lack of control in and over life. Aging has the same effect. Every doctor seems to have the same basic message. It's either something we must live with, or something must live without.

Aging erodes what we can accomplish. Sickness and disease shrink what we can do. Caregiving changes retirement plans, opportunities, and dreams. We live in the mystery of God's unfolding plan for creation's salvation and the harsh and challenging realities of human experience.

We are not totally passive when it comes to aging. There are lifestyle adjustments we can make that allow us to age gracefully and in a healthy manner. We can focus on nutrition, maintain consistent physical activity, prioritize sleep, nurture social connections to combat isolation, and manage our health through disease management and screening.

Tending to our faith life is also vital.

Jesus spoke to his disciples on the eve of his death about troubled hearts. His death would inevitably trouble the hearts of the disciples. Death does that. It is hard and painful to let go of the ones we love. They would also know that trials of struggle lay ahead for them without Jesus. It is hard and difficult to make our way when a source of inspiration dies.

Jesus talked about many rooms in his Father's house, that he was going ahead to prepare. We envision heaven, a spiritual destination in the great beyond. Our destiny is secure in Christ. However, Jesus was describing the relationship between he and his followers. Where he is, we will be. Jesus was promising that both here and hereafter, he and his followers will be together.

Jesus was pointing to the defeat of death, resurrection, not the denial of death. Jesus wanted his followers to find peace in his dwelling presence with them, despite the gathering storm clouds.

This is the presence we receive. When the waters of aging and decline rage and feel as if we are being swept away, we still belong – body and soul – to Jesus. When we are stripped of accomplishment and we're diminished, we still belong to God in Christ. Even when we feel out of faith, we still belong. Nothing separates us from the love of God in the presence of the living Christ.

This is the honest and whole hope that enables us to live deeply in the day before us. Faith and trust in Jesus Christ have everything to do with tomorrow as well life in the here and now.

We know we control very little. However, we can choose faith, hope and love. We can choose to love fiercely, generously, and lavishly in our context. We do not need to shy away from grief and fear. We will have troubled hearts. We are human. However, we can embrace the hope that love will survive because Christ lives. this frees us to live deeply in the moment.

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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Sudoku

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Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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Mind-Numbing Frustration

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				7				2
					9	6	5	

Brain-Buster

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Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

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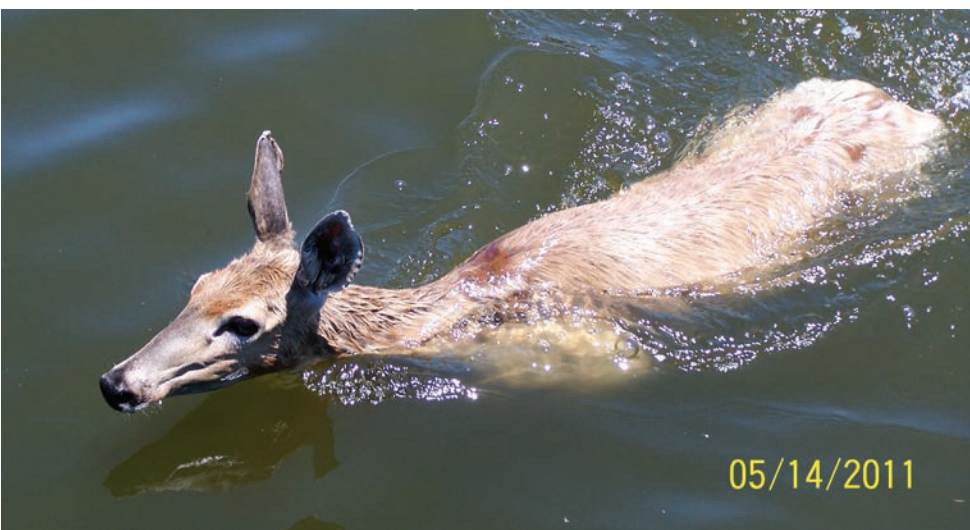
Across

1. Trial town
6. Char or burn the surface
10. Place for a pat?
14. Plato's marketplace
15. Introduction to Chinese?
16. "The African Queen" screenwriter James
17. Three-masted vessel
18. Desolate
19. Emulate Gabriel
20. Tombstone hotel?
23. Grammy winner Braxton
24. Watch chains
25. Start of a Horatio Alger plot
28. Breakaway group
30. Chain of hills
34. A Warner Bros. brother
35. Leaning tower city
36. Excise
37. Deal-making apparel?
40. Fifth or Lexington
41. Words with step or sleep
42. They've got your #
43. Gives it to the judge
44. Ken or Lena of Hollywood
45. Surveys
46. Desirable to a dieter
48. Give the boot
50. Agenda for a "Giant" star?
56. Unshut
57. Drew Carey's foil
58. Lit
60. Turbine part
61. Rite answers
62. Clobbered, old-style
63. Removed ruthlessly
64. Like sour grapes
65. More than unpopular

Down

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Getz's instrument | 21. In a legal line position | 44. Central New York lake |
| 2. Like high-quality wine or cheese | 22. Short, but not necessarily sweet | 45. The scarlet letter, e.g. |
| 3. Timber wolf | 25. Traffic tool | 47. Let in or on |
| 4. Builds up | 26. ___ and beyond | 49. Cut drastically |
| 5. Stallone-esque | 27. Hereditary factors | 50. Starbucks wares, informally |
| 6. Most slaphappy | 29. Channing of Broadway | 51. Trojan War hero |
| 7. Compound with a doubly linked carbon atom | 31. Throw water on | 52. Simba's pride? |
| 8. Unrestrained, as a ship | 32. Pretext | 53. Love, to Ovid |
| 9. Recurring-theme composition | 33. James and Jones of music | 54. Type of machine |
| 10. Tends tots | 35. Assets | 55. Carryall |
| 11. Unattractive fruit that sounds that way | 36. Low grade | 59. Hitched, so to speak |
| 12. Gas discovery of 1898 | 38. Like caribou | |
| 13. In stitches | 39. Local member | |

Fifteen years ago in the Island Moon



A deer fell into an Island canal and was herded to a boat ramp where it was rescued.



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G|L|G



The new restaurant space at Bob Hall Pier was nearing completion.

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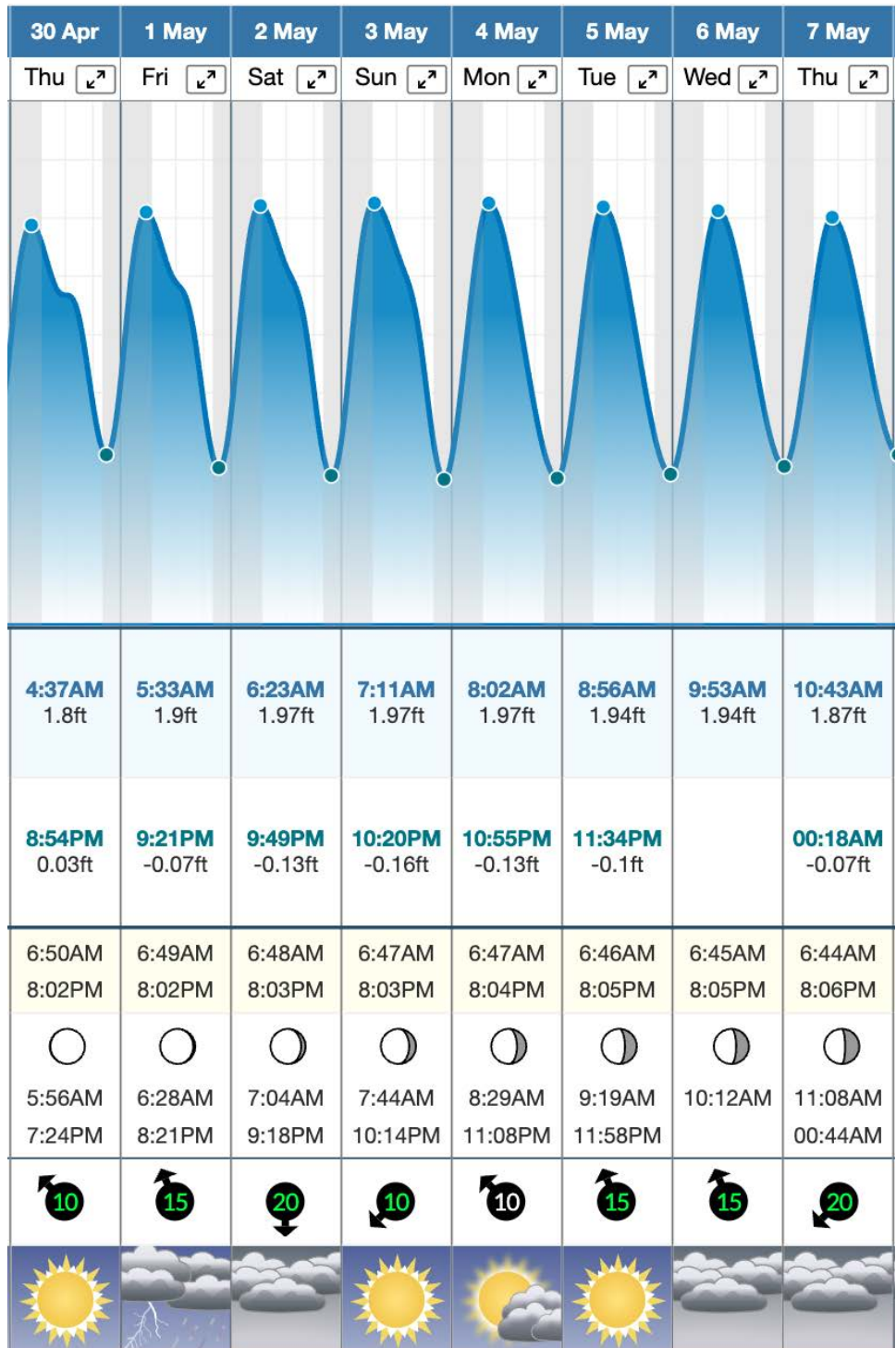
T E X A S



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Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Dotson's Note- At the end of 1968, the World Snooker Championship reverted to a knockout tournament format, with eight competitors; the tournament concluded in 1969 with John Spencer winning the title. The BBC had first launched its color television service in July 1967.

In 1969, David Attenborough, then the controller of BBC2, commissioned the snooker tournament television series *Pot Black* primarily to showcase the potential of the BBC's new color television service—the green table and multi-colored balls provided an ideal opportunity to demonstrate the advantages of the new broadcasting technology. The series became a ratings success and was, for a time, the second most popular show on BBC2 after *Morecambe and Wise*. Due to these developments, the year 1969 is taken to mark the beginning of snooker's modern era. The World Snooker Championship moved in 1977 to the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where it has been staged ever since, and the 1978 World Snooker Championship was the first to receive daily television coverage. Snooker quickly became a mainstream sport in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and much of the Commonwealth, and has remained consistently popular since the late 1970s, with most of the major tournaments being televised. In 1985, an estimated 18.5 million viewers stayed up until the early hours of the morning to watch the conclusion of the World Championship final between Dennis Taylor and Steve Davis, a record viewership in the UK for any broadcast on BBC Two and for any broadcast after midnight.

As professional snooker grew as a mainstream sport, it became heavily dependent on tobacco advertising. Cigarette brand Embassy sponsored the World Snooker Championship for thirty consecutive years from 1976 to 2005, one of the longest running deals in British sports sponsorship. In the early 2000s, a ban on tobacco advertising led to a reduction in the number of professional tournaments, which decreased from 22 events in 1999 to 15 in 2003. The sport had become more popular in Asia with the emergence of players such as Ding Junhui and Marco Fu, and still received significant television coverage in the UK—the BBC dedicated 400 hours to snooker in 2007, compared to just 14 minutes 40 years earlier. However, the British public's interest in snooker had waned significantly by the late 2000s. Warning that the sport was “lurching into terminal crisis”, *The Guardian* newspaper predicted in 2010 that snooker would cease to exist as a professional sport within ten years. In the same year, promoter Barry Hearn gained a controlling interest in the World Snooker Tour, pledging to revitalize the “moribund” professional game.

Over the following decade, the number of professional tournaments increased, with 44 events held in the 2019-20 season. Snooker tournaments were adapted to make them more suitable for television audiences, with some tournaments being played over a shortened duration, or

Snooker Part II

the Snooker Shoot Out, which is a timed, one frame competition. The prize money for professional events increased, with the top players earning several million pounds over the course of their careers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the professional tour was confined to events played within the United Kingdom and Ireland. In the 2022-23 season, only two professional ranking tournaments were played outside the UK, the European Masters in Fürth and the German Masters in Berlin, while lucrative Chinese events remained off the calendar.

Snooker referees are an integral part of the sport, and some have become well-known personalities in their own right. Len Ganley, John Street and John Williams officiated at seventeen of the first twenty World Snooker finals held at the Crucible Theatre. Since 2000, non-British and female referees have become more prominent in the sport; Dutch referee Jan Verhaas became the first non-Briton to referee a World Championship final in 2003, while Michaela Tabb became the first woman to do so in 2009. Tabb was the only woman refereeing on the professional tour when she joined it in 2002, but tournaments now routinely feature female referees such as Desislava Bozhilova, Maike Kessler, and Tatiana Woollaston.



Above, a shot using a *rest*, allowing the player to reach farther down the table. A standard full-size snooker table measures 12 ft × 6 ft (365.8 cm × 182.9 cm), with a rectangular *playing surface* measuring 11 ft 8.5 in × 5 ft 10.0 in (356.9 cm × 177.8 cm). The playing surface is surrounded by small *cushions* along each side of the table. The height of the table from the floor to the top of the cushions is 2 ft 10.0 in (86.4 cm). The table has six *pockets*: one at each corner and one at the center of each of the two longer side cushions. One drawback of using a full-size table is the amount of space required to accommodate it, which limits the locations where the game can easily be played. The minimum room size that allows space on all sides for comfortable cueing is 22 ft × 16 ft (6.7 m × 4.9 m). While pool tables are common to many pubs, snooker tends to be played either in private settings or in public snooker halls. The game can also be played on smaller tables, with variant table sizes including 10 ft × 5 ft (305 cm × 152 cm), 9 ft × 4.5 ft (274 cm × 137 cm), 8 ft × 4 ft (244 cm × 122 cm), and 6 ft × 3 ft (183 cm × 91 cm).

Thank You For Reading



Feeling Frisky Reddish Egret (white morph) at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center. By Tricia Peck Scow

Gene's Corner



By Gene Saegert

Tips for senior citizens On the Carbon Dating Service you don't have to worry about meeting their parents

The older I get the more fun I have thinking of some of the ways to use age for my advantage. You can do it too, it can become a game. I did make one mistake this morning though. When I got up the first thing I did was give myself a good hard look at myself in the mirror....I will not be doing that again.

There are a lot of perks out there for seniors and you just have to use your imagination to come up with new things and seize the opportunity as it arises. Grandkids provide some of the best resources around. Buy things you want to play with “for the grand kids.” That new drone with all the bells and whistles. Why did I get that? Easy one “The grand kids will have a lot of fun with it.” The new electronic chess set that moves by built in computer control. “The grandkids will love it” Then there is that new BB gun that can be used in full auto mode and looks like a real gun. My personal favorite. This ploy is only limited by your imagination.

Socializing at the grocery store

Make being a senior a lot of fun. Shopping for groceries can be fun. Once you find a grocery cart with wheels that will let you go in a straight line you can meet other seniors that have forgotten their grocery lists. You can bond and wander up and down the aisles looking for stuff that might have been on your lists. I have made a lot of new friends when doing that. You may even

meet a potential date for those of us who are single. Better than hunting for an online dating service for seniors when you are so old that the only dating service available is one called “The Carbon dating service” There are perks you look for at my age and getting lucky means meeting some one that can drive at night and also to put it close to home someone who doesn't mind driving in Corpus Christi, that is a treasure of a find. There are so many dating perks for those my age (really old) and one is you don't have to worry about meeting their parents.....

I have noticed another good trick for seniors that works real good at the grocery store is when you see that the lines are long just buy two or three items and the person in front of you with a lot of items will nearly always say “go ahead of me.” I always say no you don't have to do that and then do it and thank them profusely. It helps you and it make them feel really good about themselves. The one drawback I have noticed about this is that it will not work if there are lines at the self-check. Shout out for the seniors, work that age thing! Look for more tips to come.

Thought for the day: I saw an old lady crying at Walmart today. She said she lost her stimulus check from the government and couldn't pay her rent. I felt so bad that I gave her \$100 because I had just found a check for \$1,400 in the parking lot.

Around cont. from A1

two residents, while others with several kids simply can't cut their usage that much and how to deal with this conundrum is now back in the hands of city staff. For Islanders with swimming pools the new rules call for their covering to reduce evaporation and if that is the worst we have to endure to get through we will be alright. As we move through the process we are reminded that we do in fact live on the edge of the Wild Horse Desert and water wells are getting as precious as oil wells.

Trash cleanup

There will be a trash cleanup on Saturday, May 2, hosted by the Coastal Bend Council of Governments. It runs from 9:00 a.m. to noon and starts at Padre Bali Park. It is part of a statewide effort hosted by the Gulf Trust with the goal of preventing 45,000 pounds of trash from reaching the gulf.

Electricians wanted!

Word came from Austin this week that homebuilders across the state are having difficulty finding enough electricians to build new homes. Texas has added 2.6 million residents since 2020 so the demand for new homes is high but so is the demand for data centers to service the increasing demand for artificial intelligence. With 300 centers already operating in Texas and about 100 new projects planned the demand for electricians has jumped – you might even say has electrified! Between 45% and 70% of the entire budget for data center construction

goes to electrical subcontractors, according to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, a labor union that represents electricians, and those jobs often pay higher rates than those in the construction side. It is something to consider when building a new home and a problem that looks to get more acute as Texas grows.

PIPOA

The first meeting of the new Board of Directors of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association was held this week and it marked the first time the board has been at the full seven members in over a year. The city-backed report on water flow through the opening between Packery Channel, Lake Padre, and beyond is expected in mid-May and is expected to address the optimal width of the opening there. The report comes just a few weeks ahead of Hurricane Season 2026 so time is of the essence. There is still no firm word on when the permit from the U.S. Corps of Engineers to allow for the opening of the canal under the Commodore Dr. bridge will be done. We are about to have to reason with hurricane season and there are still a lot of moving parts.

That's all for now everybody we'll see you at the belt sander races and in the meantime say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com
RIP Bob Reed



Rest in Peace Bob Reed

“Colorado Bob” Reed died of cardiac arrest in Corpus at the age of 75. Born in Denver and survived by his wife **Carolyn** to whom he was married for 38 years. Bob received a BS in Psychology from *Colorado State University* and a Masters degree in Telecommunication from the *University of Denver* in 1994. Bob would often refer to retirement as the “the best job he ever had” when he could concentrate on his music. He played in bands in his home town of Westcliffe, but his proudest achievement was performing with the **PA Rockers**, especially their weekly shows at *Bernie’s*. Bob loved photography and despised golf. When Bob and Carolyn hit town in August 2010 we called them “Winter Texans” but on his departure we call them “family”. Bob was one solid dude and we’re sure going to miss him.

Tim Burdick Memorial...



The Memorial for Tim Burdick will be on Saturday, May 9 @ 4PM by the pier in Port A.

Local friend of the island, **Tim Burdick**, died at the age of 42 on May 9 last year after a long struggle with esophageal cancer. His memorial will be held exactly one year later on this Saturday at the beach in Port A. Originally from Salt Lake City, Tim was a very talented photographer, white water rafting guide and loved to surf and snowboard as well as Captain his sailboat charter. I knew **Timmy** well and valued our friendship. Happy trails and full sails old pal. I hope to see you on the flip flop.

On the local front...



Port A Peaceniks celebrating Earth Day 2026 last week in Port A.

Last Wednesday was *Earth Day* and the local hippies, peaceniks and greenies of Port A gathered at the pier to form their yearly “Human Peace Sign” on the beach. It was a respectable turn out with *Port a for Peace* queso grande, **Cara Rose** calling the shots. Next up we have *Memorial Day* and *School’s Out* coming at the end of May. In the mean time, try to soak up this warmer weather and the absence of battalion sized tourist’s crowds. I want to also mention that Saturday, May 2nd is the *International Plastic Pellet Count Day* when environmentally charged activists all over the globe will dedicate their day to plastic pollution and conduct nurdle surveys all day long. Also Sunday, May 3rd, will be the *Port*

Aransas Farmer’s Market from 10 AM until 2 PM at *Roberts Point Park*. This annual event showcases everything from local agriculture as well as artisans of many art forms displaying their crafts. We go for the oysters.

Scattered shots...

Last week was another goodern here on our little island. I saw the great **Mantle Jennings** at *Shorty’s*, country artist **Brandon Michael** at *Bron’s*, plus the *Sip Yard* featured the hard rocking **Young Klassics** on Friday and a country artist we’re all familiar with, **Issac Jacob** on Saturday. The weather held and the music was flowing. I have NO complaints.

Coming this week...



Casey Chesnutt will play the Sip Yard on May 1st.

It’s THAT time of the year for our annual BUC Days and Rodeo to run through May 10th at the *Hilliard Center* featuring such artists as the **Marshall Tucker Band**, **Switchfoot**, **David Lee Garza**, **Midland** and **Shane Smith and the Saints**. On Thursday, April 30th the ever present **Johnson All Starz** will play their weekly residency at *Shorty’s* plus **Jim Bush** will play the *Gaff*. On Friday, May 1st we have the man with the biggest heart in the whole state of Texas... **Boone Holding** will bring his endearing songs to the stage at *Shorty’s Place*. Trust me, this man is special. Also on Friday Americana stud **Casey Chesnutt** will get the cowgirls wiggling at the *Sip Yard*, the fiery **Raul Ayala** will play late night at *Treasure Island* and **Chris Lancaster** will play the *VFW*. On Saturday, May 2nd the **Lucky Dogz** with bring their variety of classic rock, blues and soul to *Shorty’s*, guitar god from San Antonio, **Ruben V** will play *Bron’s*, the **Jam Band** will perform their variety show at *Treasure Island*, **Joe Martyn Rickie** will substitute for **Coach Big Jim Dugan** at the *Gaff* and the classic rockers, **Groove 2.0** will rock out the *VFW*. On Sunday, May 3 original singer-songwriter **Ty Dietz** will play *Shorty’s* on his lonesome because **Jim Dugan** will be in Arkansas visiting his daughter **Jenny** who’s away at college... they grow up SO fast. And on Monday everybody’s favorite **John Elijah** will play his weekly gig at *Shorty’s*. John will be with **Los Locals** at the *Sip Yard* on Thursday.

On the horizon...

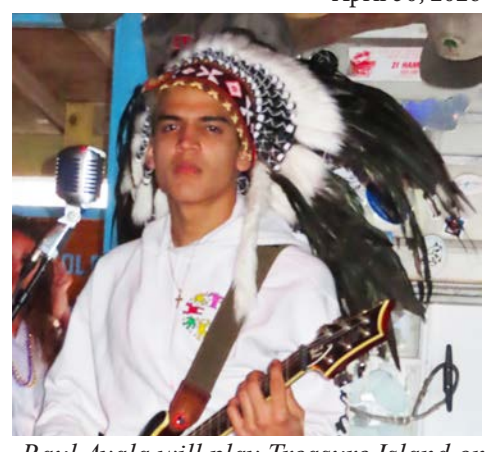


Harmonx will play *Bron’s* this Friday On Friday, May 8th look for the grungy, alt rockers **Left Right Left** to play *Shorty’s*, the **Groove 2.0** will play *Bron’s*, our Cajun coon ass pals **Boudreaux and Pousson** will play the *Gaff*, **Logan Samford** with **Kaleb Michaels** opening will play the *Sip Yard* and the hard driving **Palacios Brothers** will play *Treasure Island*. On Saturday, May 9th **Love Street** featuring vocalist **Lisa Sullivan** will play *Shorty’s*, classic rockers **18 Hours** will play the *Sip Yard* and hard rockers **Cathouse** featuring **Rafael Davila** on lead guitar will blow the roof off *Treasure Island*. Also look for such artists as **Willis Allen Ramsey**, the **Mo-Dels**, **Bo Luna**, **Heavy Soul**, **Jerry Ward** and the **Dirty Birds**, **Mario Flores**, **Groove Chili**, **Darren McGill**, the **National Nobodyz**, **Clay Hollis**, **Off the Railz** and the always charismatic **Thomas Michael Riley** who will launch his *Music Festival* at *Lukenbach* on May 1-2 featuring **Dallas Moore**, **Tejas Brothers**, **Kim Carson** and many, many more. That’s it for now. Yall be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that’s the truth ♪♪♪



Boo and Poo will play the Gaff May 8



Raul Ayala will play Treasure Island on Friday May 1st.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, April 30

Buc Days/Rodeo thru May 10 @ Hilliard Center Johnson All Starz @ Shorty’s Jim Bush @ Gaff Brad Brown @ Blackbeard’s on the Beach Wade Forester @ Brewster Downtown Michael Burts @ Brewster Island Wade Forester @ Brewster Downtown Ruben Limas @ Perrin’s on the Water Carson Miller @ Rokit’s Left Right Left @ Executive Surf Club Melissa Ann @ Fifth & Elm Portland

Friday, May 1

Boone Holding @ Shorty’s Casey Chesnutt @ Sip Yard Harmonx @ Bron’s Aaron Boultinghouse @ Gaff Casey Chesnutt @ Sip Yard Raul Ayala @ Treasure Island Chris Lancaster @ VFW Dickie Delight @ Salty Dog 8 Bit Serenade @ Pelican Lounge Shawn Camp @ Harbor Listening Room Trisum @ Brewster Island Easton Corbin @ Brewster Downtown Knife Party @ House of Rock Ruben Limas @

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BOO & POO MAY 8

SHORTY’S
JOHN ELIJAH BAND EVERY MONDAY
JOHNSON ALL STARZ EVERY THURS
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
BOONE HOLDING MAY 1
LUCKY DOGZ MAY 2
LEFT RIGHT LEFT MAY 8
LOVE STREET MAY 9

Treasure Island
RAUL AYALA MAY 1
JAM BAND MAY 2
PALACIOS BROS MAY 8
CATHOUSE MAY 9
LUCKY DOGZ MAY 15
DIAMOND’S EDGE MAY 16

MOORE-MCDONALD VFW POST 8967
CHRIS LANCASTER MAY 1
THE GROOVE 2.0 MAY 2
BRAD ETHRIDGE MAY 4
CLEARTONES MAY 6
CARSON MILLER MAY 8
SILVER CORVETTE MAY 16

Sip Yard
CASEY CHESNUTT MAY 1
CASE HARDIN MAY 2
LOS LOCALS MAY 7
LOGAN SAMFORD MAY 8
18 HOURS MAY 9
B-FLAT DUELING PIANOS MAY 14

Bron’s BACKYARD
HARMONX MAY 1
RUBEN V MAY 2
GROOVE 2.0 MAY 8
PALACIOS BROS MAY 9
DREAMING IN COLOR MAY 15
JERRY WARD & DIRTY BIRDS MAY 16

Blackbeards on the Beach
National Nobodyz @ Boneshakers Portland

Saturday, May 2
INTERNATL PLASTIC PELLET COUNT DAY

Lucky Dogz @ Shorty’s
Ruben V @ Bron’s
Jam Band @ Treasure Island
Case Hardin @ Sip Yard
Joe Martyn Rickie @ Gaff
Groove 2.0 @ VFW
Fuzion @ Pelican Lounge
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards Too
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Southside
Alley Catz @ Brewster Island
Scorpions Tribute @ Brewster Downtown
National Nobodyz @ Cassidy’s Pub
Rip Tide Cowboy @ Hideout 35

Sunday, May 3
PORT A. FARMER’S MARKET
10-2@ Roberts Point
Ty Dietz @ Shorty’s
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Cradle of Filth @ House of Rock

Monday, May 4
John Elijah @ Shorty’s
Brad Ethridge @ VFW
US- Penny & Joe @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday, May 5
Marshall Tucker Band @ CC Rodeo
Ruben Limas @

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