



Nature Notes A7



Backwater Adventures A6



The Art of Island Life A5



Three Chords and the Truth A12



On the Rocks A6

Issue 1152

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The Island Moon

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May 14, 2026

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By Debbie Noble



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NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

By Dale Rankin

It's been rather slow on our little sandbar this week but things will pick up Saturday morning with the onslaught of runners for the annual Beach to Bay run which usually clears out by noon or shortly thereafter. Why it isn't the Bay to Beach run is still a mystery as it seems runners might have an incentive to run faster if a trip to the beach was at the end of the run rather than at the start.

The topic of water well drilling continues to be a top of mind item as we Islanders start to think about the possibility of water rationing by year's end and many of readers have begun or are contemplating digging wells. On most areas

Around The Island there is a layer of clay about nine feet below grade and another, thicker, layer of green clay about thirteen feet below sea level so most of the wells we have seen dug are about twenty feet and can produce up to six gallons per hour of brackish water suitable for irrigation and even swimming pools with some treatment. We've noticed that some dogs even seem to like it but some do make funny faces.

The question of whether boaters would be able to wash their boats after use got clarity this week when the Corpus Christi City Council approved rules that will allow boat washing with a hose with a nozzle. The previous plan called for the use of buckets but it was pointed out that filling a five-gallon bucket and throwing water on a boat would really be more a nuisance than a water saving activity and fortunately the rules were altered.

A meeting to update Islanders on all things water was held this week but one item that was not mentioned was the possible use of recycled water for irrigation. Around the city industry is going to recycle 16 million gallons per day of water discharged from treatment plants but recycling the three mil-

Around cont. on A2

Water Restrictions would have limited effect on Island users

"Whatever you are doing now you can keep doing"

Boat washing with water hose to be allowed

By Dale Rankin

City Manager Peter Zanoni spoke to a full room of Islanders on Monday as part of the city's informational outreach program that will include eight stops around the city in the next few months.

The message from Zanoni was that recent rains have improved the water outlook across the region and the earliest anticipated date for the onset of Level One Water Restrictions will likely be pushed

Restrictions cont. on A3



Padre Island Water Tower touch-up from February 2024

By the numbers

How much water do we have?

How much water do we need?

Where will it come from?

The first of eight Water Workshops to be held around the city was held on Padre Island Monday night.

City Manager Peter Zanoni spoke to a full house of Islanders and several members of the Corpus Christi City Council at the Seashore Gym. He began with a summation of the current state of the city's water supply and what the region's water future looks like. These numbers were taken from that presentation.

130 million gallons per day current use by all of Corpus Christi Water System

260 million gallons per day in sustainable supply is the long-term goal

76 million gallons per day of water from newly created sustainable sources

Water cont. on page A3

Beachcombing Report

Buffalo Gourds Beach Travelers

By Jace Tunnell

Walking the high tide line after a stretch of calm weather, I recently noticed something unusual mixed in with the wrack. Among the debris were several small, hollow, pumpkin-like objects, lightweight, woody, and oddly familiar. These weren't marine at all. They were buffalo gourds.

Buffalo gourds come from a native vine (*Cucurbita foetidissima*) that grows across Texas and much of

Beachcombing cont. on page A7



Jace with Buffalo Gourds

Repeat Winners!

The Flour Bluff ISD Challenge Team defended their title winning the KEDT Challenge Cup for the second year in a row. Twelve schools from around the area compete by answering questions on a variety of topics.

Team Members: Mason Evans (Captain), Dallas Lizcano, Luke Schlesinger, Stephen Jin, Gloria Harris.



A little Island history

Digging Wells in the Wild Horse Desert

A mule, a pickax, and a long rope

With water wells in the news of late we take a look back more than a century to the dry land west of Padre Island where ranchers began scratching out an existence and the first piece of business was the digging of a well for people and cattle.

The following is the second story that comes to us from a book called Early Tejano Ranching by Andres Saenz written in 1999 recording the history of founding

ranch families in Duval County and how they dug for water in the Wild Horse Desert.

By Andres Saenz

One of the most pressing needs on the ranch was obtaining fresh drinking water. About 1904 the family dug a fourth well about three quarters of a mile west of their ranch in Duval County. Rancher Pedro Saenz hired help to

tend his flock, to clear the land, and to help dig the wells. The fourth well, about 45 feet deep, had a bell shape at the bottom of the shaft. A round pool rose in the middle, surrounded by a raised ledge. Family members who dug the well said that, from the bottom, one could see the stars during the day. One night, as the well was being finished,

History cont. on A5

City Council Approves Updates to Level 1 Water Emergency Policies

The Corpus Christi City Council this week approved several updates related to the proposed Level 1 Water Emergency following weeks of workshops, operational review, and residential-focused planning.

Rules cont. on page A3

Time to Vote!

Early Voting begins Monday

Early Voting in the runoff elections for both the Republican and Democrat parties begins Monday, May 18.

On the Republican side there are races for U.S. Senator, Texas Attorney General, Railroad Commissioner, and a seat on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals which is the highest court in the state's criminal justice system.

On the Democrat side there is a race for Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and the Nueces County Party Chair.

Voting cont. on page A4

million gallons per day that is pumped from the Whitecap Water Treatment Plant each day to locations OTB isn't practical. The water is currently used for irrigation at the Riley P. Dog Park and at the Whitecap NPI site and is in fact very good water. At some locations around the city the recycled water has been made available for pickup in tanker trucks for irrigation use and a similar system at the Whitecap plant would give Islanders with thirsty summer yards a good option. Maybe that is a topic for the Island Strategic Action Committee at its next meeting. Speaking of ISAC the roof at the conference center at Gulfstream Condominiums which is the site for ISAC meetings was blown off by the Big Wind that hit us Sunday night but hopefully will be ready for the meeting in early June.



The meeting on the City's water situation was held at the Seashore gym, and was well attended.

Time to reason with Hurricane Season

Speaking of June... Hurricane Season 2026 is but a few weeks away and prognosticators are calling for nine named storms which isn't a lot but then again a bad hurricane season is when one hits us and a good season is when one doesn't. It appears we will enter Hurricane Season 2026 with our canal system blocked by sand dams but whether we end the season with the dams in place will be up to Mother Nature.

If you call the Island Moon office this weekend you will have to speak loudly because we are headed down to Concrete Street for a dose of *Cat Scratch Fever* from Ted Nugent Saturday and he is known for his decibels. Sometimes you just have to get in touch with your Inner Rocker. We'll see you there and in the meantime say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.

Lone Star Surfing series at Bob Hall Pier

The Lone Star Surf Series 2026 returned to Bob Hall Pier for a competition on Saturday, May 9, 2026, marking a return to the recently completed and improved pier. The event featured dozens young surfers, with a large number of the surfers under 10 years old. Photos by Debbie Noble



2026 Atlantic Hurricane Predictions

	2026 Prediction	Probability Range	Median Since 1981
Hurricanes	9	7-11 (67%)	7
Major Hurricanes	4	3-5 (67%)	3
Named Storms	20	17-23 (71%)	14
ACE	155	114-196 (69%)	110

Commodores Park Update

Work continues on Commodores Park, with the cover for the basketball courts and the walking path taking shape. Aerials by Augs



The Traveling Moon



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth took the Moon to Saguaro National Park.



We will rebuild. The beach was left with spilled trash cans and scattered debris after a storm blew through with over 60 mph winds. By Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

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Riley P. Dog

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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Here is the latest on the section of SH 361 from Port Aransas to Zahn Road.

Planning efforts for long-term improvements along the SH 361 corridor are ongoing and would include additional travel lanes, turn lanes, center medians, and other safety improvements. Construction of these improvements would require the acquisition of additional right of way as well as environmental mitigation.

TxDOT has identified short-term safety improvements that are being developed and scheduled for bid in the summer of 2027. These improvements will include the construction of a raised center median with left turn and U-turn opportunities for a four-mile section starting at Beach Access Road 1 and extending south to the new beach access road. Continuing south to Zahn Road, a nine-mile section will be improved to include a four-foot center buffer with additional rumble strips. These short-term improvements are intended to increase separation between opposing directions of travel.

As always, TxDOT continues to ask the traveling public to obey all traffic laws, including staying within the speed limit, wearing a seat belt, and not driving while distracted or under the influence.

Rickey Dailey
Public Information Officer
Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Rules cont. from A1

These measures will only go into effect if and when the City officially declares a Level One Water Emergency, which is currently projected for September 2026.

Approved changes include:

Water Baselines & Allocations

- The residential monthly baseline has been increased from 7,000 to 8,000 gallons per month.
- The residential water allocation is set at 6,000 gallons per month, calculated by applying a 25% curtailment to the 8,000-gallon baseline.
- Commercial account baselines are based on the average monthly usage for each account from 2021 through 2023, excluding the lowest monthly value for each calendar month.
- Large volume account baselines are seasonal, determined using average monthly usages from 2022 through 2024 (excluding the lowest monthly value) as follows:
 - Summer: average of monthly usages from June through September
 - Spring/Fall: average of monthly usages from April–May and October–November
 - Winter: average of monthly usages from January to March and December
- Wholesale customer baselines are also seasonal and follow the same methodology (averages from 2022–2024).
- During a Level 1 Water Emergency, the curtailment percentage is 25%. Each customer's water allocation equals their baseline, reduced by the curtailment percentage.

Surcharges

Surcharges are optional and apply only to customers who exceed their water allocation or baseline.

They will be approved as a separate action from the City Council by resolution.

- Residential accounts:
 - \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons over the 6,000-gallon allocation
 - \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons over the 8,000-gallon baseline
- Commercial accounts:
 - \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons over the individually assigned allocation
 - \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons over the individually assigned baseline
- Large volume accounts:
 - \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons over the individually assigned allocation
 - \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons over the individually assigned baseline
- Wholesale customers:
 - \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons over the individually assigned allocation
 - \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons over the individually assigned baseline

Enforcement

- Residential customers will not be subject to violations, penalties, or enforcement actions for exceeding their water baseline or allocation.
- Citations will apply only to prohibited uses. Landscape watering remains prohibited during a Level 1 Water Emergency.

Vehicle & Boat Washing

- Boat, vehicle, motorbike, trailer, and other vehicle washing will be permitted on any day when washing with a water hose with a positive shutoff valve.
- Commercial car washes will be permitted to continue operating with City water and must comply with all Drought Contingency Plan measures applicable to commercial customers.

Restrictions cont. from A1

back from the previous September date to later in the fall. Further, if the restrictions are put in place they will not be draconian for residential users.

"Whatever you are doing now you can keep doing," Zanoni said.

One of the questions raised by Islanders was whether the washing of boats will be allowed if water restrictions are put in place. Under the proposed restrictions approved this week allow for the flushing of boat motors after use. Boat, vehicle, motorbike, trailer, and other vehicle washing will be permitted on any day when washing with a water hose with a positive shutoff valve.

Zanoni said Monday car washes will remain open under the restrictions and boat owners could wash boats with the use of buckets. However, he said that could change once the Corpus Christi City Council finalizes the guidelines for the water cutbacks. The first draft of the rules presented to the council a week ago also called for swimming pools to be covered when not in use to prevent evaporation.

Under the current proposed restrictions residential users across the city would be allowed to use up to 6000 gallons per month, he said, well above the average use for households which is from 2500 to 3500 gallons per month.

He also outlined several changes to the billing system for city water aimed at making it easier for users to track their water usage in real time through the billing cycle through a new application created by city staff. The application will track water use at each residential water meter and allow customers to track their usage and compare it to the previous month's use.

For residential users who need more than the 6000 gallons per month allowed under the restrictions a process will be set up to allow them to apply for exceptions, he said.

"We are not going to cut off people's water and we are not going to fine them or charge them with anything," Zanoni said Monday. "We are going to work with them."

He said the long-term goal is to move away from relying solely on surface water for the city's water supply to a combination of sustainable ground wells and eventually desalination plants.

"We want to get to a place where surface water is the last source we use," he said.

One of the short-term moves that is underway is to recycle 16 million gallons per day of recycled water from water treatment plants that currently is not being used. That water will be used by heavy industry to free up the same amount from other sources for residential use, Zanoni said.

The Island stop was the first in the series with another scheduled in Council District 4 on Wednesday, July 15 at Ethel Eyerly Senior Center at 654 Graham Road.



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Water cont. from A1

2013 marked the end of the last sustained drought in South Texas but the city's water supply lakes never fully recovered when the current drought began in 2021

78% current capacity in Lake Texana

49% capacity of Lake Texana prior to recent rains

4 million gallons per day currently coming in to O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant from recently dug ground wells

45 million gallons per day expected to arrive at O.N. Stevens plant once wells currently under development are complete

36 million gallons per day currently expected from recently dug wells in Nueces County

24 million gallons will be available from the Evangeline aquifer from 24 wells (final design is 60% complete, pipeline is under construction)

16 million gallons of reuse water, from treated wastewater, will be sold to industry, freeing up that amount for residential use. The water will be treated through a reverse osmoses facility at the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant

4-5 desalination plants currently under consideration, online in three to five years

October/November is now the projected date for Level One Water Restrictions (with no rain)

6000 gallons per month, amount of water available to each residence under Level One Restrictions (there will be exemptions)

\$4 per 1000 gallons will be the surcharge for residential water use over 6000 gallons per month

Dale Rankin

Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

There is a proverb that postulates “it is truly an ill wind that blows nobody any good” and in a backhanded way that seems to apply to our current water situation, or projected lack thereof.

The word that has gone out to the nation is that Corpus Christi is running, or has run, out of water which is news to those of us who still have it coming out of our taps. It has made celebrities out of some local water wonks and one lady who lives over near the refineries who has been interviewed everywhere from NBC News to the New York Times explaining how a desal plant is ruining her neighborhood which is located across the street from a refinery. When the plan for a desal plant there, not currently under construction, was first hatched the Port of Corpus Christi paid \$14 million in shut up and go away money to residents but some decided to stay.

I have also heard stories from Island real estate agents that home sales are being impacted by the fear that our little burg down here on the Big Water is in fact going to, or already has, run out of water. After listening to City Manager Peter Zanoni at the water update on The Island this week I came away much more optimistic about our water future but as we know good news travels fast and bad news travels faster and the bad news that we are already out of water has made it from the great Atlantic Ocean to the wide Pacific shore.

This has prompted calls. I am slow to respond to Facebook inquiries, from friends from various parts of the country, some located in areas traditionally much drier than ours. I tell them that yes, we are in a drought, and yes, our city signed take or pay water contracts with big users in anticipation of desal plants that never got built. It’s dry alright but some of our problems are self-inflicted because, after all, that is the Corpus Way.

A call from Robert Bob

One of the calls was from my friend Robert Bob up in Oklahoma the other day to inform me that he had effectively dodged the recent spate of tornados that blew through the square states “I just run into the nearest bar,” he said. “Stay away from churches and trailer parks when there are tornados around. They always hit those but when’s the last time a tornado ever hit a bar? See what I mean?” As I contemplated that he also offered to bring down his machine for digging wells.

“I’ll set it up and drill right there in your front yard,” he said. “With all that sand down there I can do it in a day.” I thanked him and told him that well drilling in these parts didn’t really require much machinery, just a water hose and an air compressor. But as it turned out the real reason Robert Bob rang was to pick my brain for his latest writing project as yet untitled, but having to do with the vastly different meanings of sayings by the changing of a single word.

“Just think of the difference between a hiccup and hick down,” he said. “And there is a big difference between a mile stone and a millstone.” I teased him about having too much time on his hands up there in Bypass Oklahoma but I had to admit I liked his idea much better than his last literary endeavor entitled *How to buy a French Fry* which was not about food at all but rather about the selection of a single-wide house trailer, a subject Robert Bob undertook after his third ex-wife drove off with his leaving nothing behind but his septic tank.

“If she had a shovel she would have got that too,” Robert Bob said, and knowing his third ex-wife I had to agree because after hauling off his French Fry she bought a stump digger and embarked on a career as a stump removal specialist through a process which apparently involved diesel and a fairly bad attitude.

“She was a mile stone and a mill stone,” Robert Bob said.

So once the dust settles after our drought, maybe some of the publicity we are getting will turn positive and keep us on the map OTB. I’m just waiting for another call from Robert Bob about whether turning salt water into drinking water will drain the gulf but I did give him something to think about when I told him my suggestion for water conservation through my *Pee in your Backyard Thursday Plan*.

“I already do that,” Robert Bob said. “Except when there’s a tornado then I go to the *Do Drop Inn*.”

I have in fact been to the *Do Drop* a few times and as I recall the Men’s Room sign is posted over the backdoor so my Backyard Plan is in fact already in effect in Bypass.

And speaking of water...there is in fact a big difference between *Waste Water* and *Waist Water*...I’m going to call Robert Bob.

Voting cont. from A1

Voters who cast ballots in the March Primary Election can only vote in the runoff in the same party as they voted in the first election. Voters who did not vote in either can vote in either, but not both, party run-offs.

The 8429 registered voters in the two precincts on Padre Island can vote from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Island Presbyterian Church, 14030 Fortuna Bay Dr., the Ethel Eyerly Senior Center at 654 Graham Rd., in Flour

Bluff, or at Ellis memorial Library, 700 W. Ave. A in Port Aransas. Early voting runs through Friday, May 22, and Election Day is Tuesday, May 26.



Isander Athletics Supporters gathered at Doc’s Seafood & Steaks this week.

By Debbie Noble.



Sea Pines Beach Clean Up Crew did a great job last weekend and was rewarded with some shaved ice! Photos by Debbie Noble



Rose-breasted grosbeak Padre Island By Riekie Roncinske

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History cont. from A1

water broke through the well wall and rose to 35 feet. All the digging tools had been left inside the well for the night, and no one wanted to go underwater to retrieve them, so the tools remained at the bottom of the well.

Elderly people in the area remember the hand digging of the well. The ones on the San Jose ranch are round, from eight to ten feet in diameter providing enough space for two people to work inside at a time. It was best for them to work in pairs, so if something happened to one of the diggers, the other could secure him to the rope to be pulled out. Fortunately, at San Jose there was no loose sand that could cause the wells to cave in.

The family used various methods to determine where to dig. Some people used a Y-shaped peach tree twig to locate water. When Pedro dug his first well Don Pedrito Jaramillo, the healer from Los Olmos near Falfurrias, told him the direction and approximate distance from this house to go. He told Pedro to bury a tin can upside down and check it the next day, if there was moisture inside, he should dig his well there.

The well digging implements included a mattock, a *talache*, pick shovels, called *palas*, and metal crowbars. The crowbars had a wide, flattened cutting edge on one side and a sharp pointed edge on the other side for cutting into the white limestone on each side of the well. The workers set two heavy, forked posts upright to secure the crossbeam that held the pulley. The pulley lowered the men into the hole and lifted them out. It was also used to lower the tools and take out the buckets of dirt. In the San Jose Area, near Falfurrias, they did not dig very deep before they struck the white limestone layer, so most of these wells are solid rock from top to bottom. The men chipped the rock and shoveled it into a large cowhide container secured with ropes at the four corners. A heavy rope at the central point on the cowhide threaded through a pulley that was attached to the crossbeam over the well opening. A man leading a mule raised and lowered the load on the rope.

There was discussion about whether the ideal time to dig a well was winter or summer. In fact, it did not matter once the hole was

deeper than ten feet. At that depth, the surrounding dirt was cool in the summer and warm in winter. The many stories about the challenge of digging wells reveal the hardships and hard work that the people faced to survive. But water was a basic necessity on the ranch and the well they dug provided good water.

Another structure that helped provide water for the ranch was the made-made earthen dam, or *presa*, along one of the many stream beds, or *arroyos*. An earthen dam was built near the last deep well Pedro dug. When the family worked the field about three-quarters of a mile west of the ranch they passed near this *presa*. When digging the well, workers used dirt from the well hole to build a levy on the east and west side. They used the rest of the dirt to block the passage of a creek to divert the flow of water to the reservoir. This *presa* always had water for the cattle in times of drought, and it had fish when it was flooded from an upstream body of water. Pedro made fish hooks for the family out of wire, and, on the way back home in the afternoon, they fished and took home the catch to be prepared for a meal.

When heavy rains came, the *presa* overflowed on the west side. The creek continued on its way, taking some of the fish through the *arroyo* to properties downstream where there were also some round holes, *tinajas*, beside the creek to divert some of the floodwater. These *tinajas* held water for their cattle and trapped fish that followed the currents. When the holes were half full of water, the people gathered the fish in burlap sacks, carried them in buckets and tubs to the *presa*, and threw them in.

Around the 1930s these creeks still held water year-round, but the water had become stagnant. It developed yellow foam, called *lama*, on the surface which was thought to come from the leaves of the tall trees that grew beside the creeks. Some lagoons retained water for a long time after a rain - those at lower elevations were fed by water running in gullies or ravines, from the higher ground. By 1950 all these creeks had dried up.

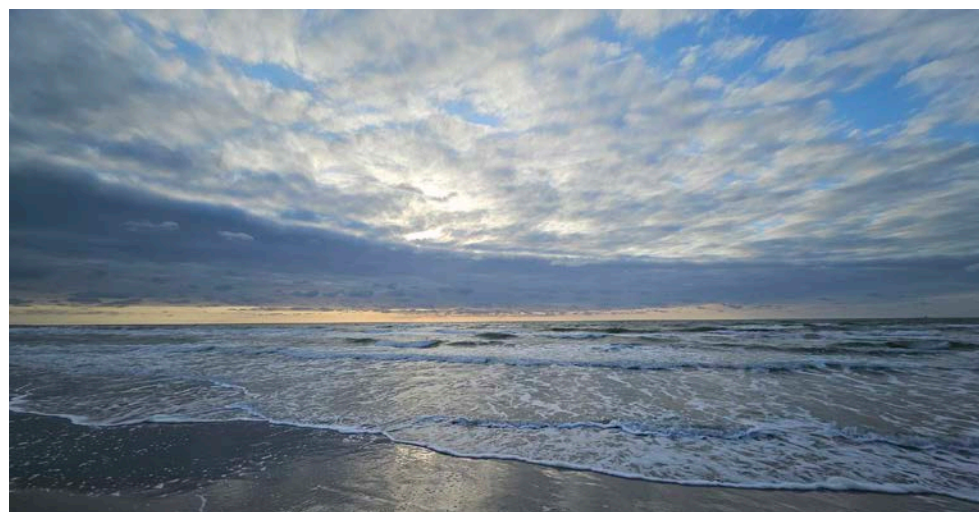
The drought was on.

The Art of Island Life

By Melissa Mitchell



The Power of an Open View



Padre Island horizon-sunrise

One of my favorite things about growing up in West Texas was the wide open space.

You look out, and your thoughts follow. The open view has a way of putting things in place.

We spent a lot of time at Comanche Trail Park exploring the trails, chasing horned toads, watching prairie dogs scurry in and out of their little colonies—and trying to catch the tumbleweeds rolling through, traveling with the wind. It was simple, unstructured time—spent outside, moving, noticing the little things.

When nothing is visually crowding you, it becomes easier to sort through what's been weighing on your mind. Thoughts feel less tangled. Problems don't disappear, but they tend to feel more manageable.

It affected me more than I realized at the time.

It's not something you have to work at—it just happens.

At the top of Scenic Mountain, the state park offered 360-degree views that seemed to stretch forever. You could stand there and see for miles—nothing blocking your line of sight, nothing closing it in.

We spend so much of our time surrounded by walls, screens, and constant input. The brain is constantly processing what's right in front of us—edges, movement, noise, decisions. It stays in a kind of low-level alert mode, even when we don't realize it. An open horizon changes that.

That's where I first fell in love with the horizon. I didn't have the words for it at the time, but I understood the feeling.

When you're looking out at something far away, your eyes relax. You're not focused on details just inches from your face. That shift alone can ease mental fatigue and help you feel more settled—that's the power of an open view.

On one trip to New Mexico as a child, I remember riding the chairlift up the mountain—my mom and I on a single seat, open air, with nothing but sky around us. I sat there swinging my legs, probably making it rock more than I should have. My mom was terrified. I loved it.

With fewer visual interruptions, the brain doesn't have as much to sort through. That constant scanning slows down. Your breathing often follows. Your shoulders drop a little without you thinking about it.

At the top, everything was spread out below us. I remember being in awe of standing in a cloud for the first time. I expected something dramatic—thick and soft. Instead, it felt like nothing at all. Just air, quiet and still, nothing like what I had imagined from below. That wide open space left an impression I never forgot.

It's a natural reset.

It's interesting how something so simple stays with you.

Not being able to see the end of the view makes ideas feel less limited. Decisions don't feel as boxed in. There's a quiet sense that there's more beyond whatever is right in front of you.

Those early experiences—the open land, the quiet, the distance—they didn't feel significant at the time. But looking back, they shaped the way I respond to things now.

The best part is how little it takes. A few minutes standing at the water's edge. A walk along the shoreline. Even just sitting and looking out for a moment without distraction.

When life begins to feel a little too busy or overwhelming, it's usually a sign I've taken on too much—and that's when I seek space. A moment to reevaluate. To look out. More often than not, that shift in perspective is enough.

It's often enough to clear your head and start fresh.

It's a simple shift in perspective—making it easier to take our next steps with a clearer mind.

So the next time life starts to feel a little loud, take advantage of the horizon just outside your door—and let it bring you back to a place of clarity and calm.

A Clear View

Living here on the island, it's the water instead of the mountains—but the experience is much the same. That long, uninterrupted line where the sky meets the distance has a quiet way of settling the mind.

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

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

Changes in the weather

The severe weather we've experienced lately has caused some hard conditions on our migrating birds. The winds have been whipping around from 30 mph out of the south to 65 mph out of the north in a matter of a few hours. Some of these birds weigh mere ounces, and winds like that can literally toss them around, knock them out of the air, or push them into hard structures. They boys from Cali and I made it to the beach last week and found more than a few birds that were washed up in the surf; the birds literally flew all the way across the gulf but died in the tide line when they hit the north wind.

I also witnessed birds striking windows the other day during migration. I work in a four-story business building in town that is half large windows on the façade. These windows, of course, have a reflective coating on them to cut down on the sun. This makes them just as reflective as polished glass, and the birds see reflection of what's behind them, not the solid structure of what's in front of them. I was watching some American redstarts and common yellowthroats around in a mesquite tree by the office, and a southerly gust came up and they took off; right into the windows of the building. They all thumped the glass, and a common yellowthroat went down. I walked up near it and saw that it was still alive but dazed. I left it alone and wished for the best. I came back down later and it was gone, but there was a stray cat lurking around. You loyal readers know how I feel about stray cats.



Birds that succumbed to the pressures of migration

Community Survey

Meanwhile, back at the farm the city launched a community survey the other day regarding the budget for Fiscal Year 2027 and what the constituents deem as priorities for the upcoming biennium. The

survey showed a graph of their total budget (\$1.4 billion, I think, but once you take it, you can't take it again or go back, so take notes at https://tamucc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9AhcwawVBusttpY) The questions, while basic in nature, make you rank the top services you would like to see prioritized, and also the services you deem lower on the totem pole. One of the best questions was, what four services do you use the most? That made me stop and think about it for a minute. The fun thing was that they left water and wastewater off of the survey – yes, I noticed.

Welcome rain

Speaking of water, and no, I'm not going to talk about the squirrel cage known as city council, but I will talk about the rain that we've been getting down here on the coast. My rainwater tanks are full, despite heavy use, thanks to the few sprinkles that we've had recently. I also saw a commercial on the TV's that the city has gotten a new batch of rainwater collection barrels. I think you have to pay \$47 downtown at city hall (avoid the squirrels) and then take your receipt and go pick them up over at the Holy Road location (actually Civitan Drive, Building 6). I believe that after emergency curtailment begins that you may have to get an exemption from the city if you hook it up to a sprinkler system in your front yard. Hand watering isn't regulated yet, at least I hope not? I also heard a rumor about backflow preventer inspections.

Beach water

The water at the beach is starting to look a lot better now that the cold fronts are starting to slow down, although we are likely due to a few more weak ones as we shift from La Nina to El Nino. The water in the northern gulf is still fairly cool, but it is warming up in the Bay of Campeche. This will start up the wind machine in earnest as we head into the famous "3 months at 30 mph" that will rip the toupee right off your head. The upwelling hasn't started yet this year and will be a few months out if/when we get it. I don't need to tell you that the sargassum is coming through in waves, and the gyres that the loop current is calving are spinning the stuff our way. It's a mess out there in the gulf right now and slowly moving this way.

Well loyal readers, things are cranking along at a high rate of speed. Beach to Bay is this weekend, so if you're not running it, get your supplies Friday and hunker down for a bit. The kids have about another week of school, and they will be roaming the streets at all hours. Vacations will be starting, the stock market will hit the summer doldrums, and daylight will soon be stretching till 9 pm. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Jay, Dr. Michael Starek, Jam Master Scott, and Jimmy and Bobby

Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Summer is on the way!



Bright soft plastics with a fast retrieve have been bringing redfish to strike in the flats of the Laguna Madre in 3' of water around the King Ranch Shoreline. Farah

Savor these days, for the storm is coming! Weekends are busy but the weekdays are still quiet here on our Island. In just a few short weeks the rush of SUMMER MADNESS will rain down upon us all! This invasion will last until the week of July 4th, then we will roll into the dog days of summer and a more relaxed peace here on the sand. Fishing is full blown fireworks right now! We are catching limits of trout every single day on soft plastics, along with some great redfish. Live bait fishermen have been doing well on trout with croakers, and live shrimp has been catching boxes of trout reds and black drum. Get out and clean your soul before the crowds get here, even if it's just a walk down the jetties.

I had an interesting pair of anglers last week from Louisiana. They were predominantly bass fishermen and brought tackle boxes full of stuff and big thick stiff rods. Right away I explained to them that they would catch more fish with a loose and more flexible rod. The stiff fishing pole makes your lure and bait move in hard angles, fast jerky moments, and swim in an unnatural way. When choosing a rod for bay fishing keep it in the zone of MED/LIGHT- Med/heavy. I experiment every day with my crew and find that the loose rod always catches more fish, even when skill level is switched up. Light line also plays an important role, light line dances your lure much easier, and with more grace. I use 15lb test braided line on my spinning rods with 30lb mono leader. With this lighter line you can cast so far you reach the fish before they have any idea the boat is coming at them. Even the length of your mono leader will change your action and catching, long leaders soften your presentation as well. Balancing your rod and reel combos will bring you better success and fish catching.

You can always come up to Marker 37 Marina during the week and hang out, have a drink or **AWSOME SMASH BURGER FROM THE MARKER 37 MARINA BAR AND GRILL!** I promise to have some time to show you my set-ups and a little insight into how we are using lures to bring fish to hand.

The sun is peaking over the dunes each morning a little sooner than the day before. Just as my evenings are getting stretched out farther around the clock. Those first few moments of the day are magical, on and off the water. Clearing one's soul, watching the shades of pink and purple rise in the east, wondering what great catches and smiles will see on my boat each day help anything that stands in my way. As the boat fades to a slide, the first cast seems to break the silence of the morning, I feel every eye under the sea looking at my bait as it splashes down. My top water plug launched out of sight and

only a splash and slash over the waves told me where it was. I had zoned out into the purple clouds and the rays of golden light starting to break though the dawn when I heard the pop. The sound of thrashing water and a tail slapping the surface followed. I reeled the line tight and she rose with thrashing foam coming from her gills as she tried to throw the plug. The topwater lure was strapped with hooks to the side of her face when she rolled and darted past the boat on her first run. When the fight was over and she stared into my eyes, I could feel fear come over me thinking she was almost planning to stick those treble hooks into my hand! For the rest of the morning, we all kept imitating those first sounds of the trout blasting the surface bait. It's a sound that you will never forget and brings your eyes to see these incredible fish and how acrobatic they are. Walk down to the Sea this week with a pole in hand, tie a topwater plug on and dare to see, feel, and hear a beautiful predator attack your tool of imagination. I promise you will walk away a better person even if it's only for that day, whether you catch a fish or not. Losing ourselves in fishing is a great escape and passion, don't forget why you came to this island, GET WET.

Follow all our fishing on Facebook, Instagram, and ticktock at [Joey Farahs Backwater Fishing!](#)

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We have been taking turns walking topwaters over the flats on my boat, and it has been delivering some explosive results! This nice trout busted the plug along the edge of the Land Cut this week!



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Nature Notes

Hidden Gems:

The Secrets of Nesting Birds

By Rebecca Bracken



Wilson's Plover chicks camouflaged in the sand by Taylor Bennett

It's hard for me to believe it's almost summer, but here we are. Some of my favorite spring wonders – like the annual bluebonnet emergence – have already passed. Yet there are still many surprises to be had, even as the season changes. Spring and summer are a time of viewing the amazing feats of nature, including the return of our migratory birds to their nesting grounds.

Over the centuries, humans have learned to create magnificent structures that can withstand many destructive forces. But animals have long been able to build nests that seem to survive almost anything. Over time, animals, driven by evolutionary fitness, have adapted to the everchanging conditions to increase their chances of survival and reproduction. So why do some birds, such as the small but gregarious Wilson's Plover, choose to nest in what seems like an unsafe manner and environment?

The Wilson's Plover, known for its heavy bill when compared to our other, similar-size plover species, is a species of high conservation concern here in Texas. With its sandy brown coloring, the plover darts back and forth across the beach, seemingly invisible at times, feeding on insects and crustaceans gleaned from the mud or sand along our shorelines and in coastal lagoons. Generally thought to be monogamous, the male makes several scrapes, or circular depressions, in the sand, fanning his tail and extending his wings in hopes that his mate will choose a particular scrape for her eggs. These scrapes are bare; sometimes the edges will be decorated with shells, algae, pebbles, or gravel, but the interior remains smooth and empty. The female will lay three buffy eggs, carefully incubating them for 25-32 days.

Can you see why the plover's way of nesting might be an issue? While these nests are designed to blend in to the environment,

providing camouflage for protection, this poses challenges for researchers and beachgoers alike. Most Texas beaches are legally designated as public highways, meaning hundreds if not thousands of people are out driving on the beaches on pleasant days. As plovers are known for choosing areas along dunes and above the high tide line, in a perfect world there would be little interaction between nesting plovers and beachgoers. However, there has been a sustained loss and degradation of nesting, and foraging, habitats along beaches, pushing plovers to create their tiny scrapes closer and often into areas that are frequented by vehicles and people.

It is incredibly easy to accidentally run over a plover nest given their ability to blend in. Plovers are also known to nest in the middle of tire tracks, possibly thinking that the divots created by the tires on sand would provide protection. Once the eggs hatch, the chicks are just as likely to be invisible. With their pale brown or buffy coloring, chicks often lay flat on the sand to appear inconspicuous, leaving them vulnerable to the unsuspecting person passing by.

Here at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, we are trying to bring awareness to the issues facing many of our shorebird species. We have monitored nesting Wilson's Plovers for many years, and frequently see nests destroyed because of human activities. Even something as simple as walking along the edge of the dunes or along the small pools created by rain and high tides can inadvertently cause a plover nest to fail, by direct physical destruction or by opening it up for predation. So next time you're out, please keep an eye for nesting shorebirds – stay out of fenced of areas, watch from a distance, keep dogs on leash, don't drive in the dunes, and enjoy your time on the beach!

Beachcombing Report

Beachcombing cont. from A1



Buffalo Gourd on the beach.

the Southwest. When the vine dies back, it leaves behind hard, durable fruits roughly three to five inches wide. Over time, these gourds find their way into creeks, rivers, and floodwaters, eventually being carried all the way to the coast.

What makes buffalo gourds such effective travelers are their buoyancy. Once dried, they float extremely well and can drift long distances before washing ashore. Fresh gourds start out green or yellow, but the ones found on beaches are usually pale tan, beige, or light brown, often sun-bleached and mottled from weeks or months of exposure. Their tough shells allow them to persist on beaches long after other organic material breaks down.

Finding several buffalo gourds clustered together often tells a story. It can be a sign of a recent freshwater pulse, heavy rains upstream flushing river systems and carrying inland plants out to sea. Look closely and you'll often find them tangled in wrack

alongside driftwood and other vegetation.

Historically, Indigenous communities made practical use of buffalo gourds, crafting utensils, containers, rattles, and even soap from the plant. The seeds inside were once used for food and oil extraction. I chopped one open with an axe and the seeds were dry and greenish in color.

One important note for curious beachcombers: buffalo gourds are not edible. They contain saponins, a natural soap-like compound that can upset your stomach. Best to admire their journey, without taking a bite.

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 and you can follow Jace at harteresearch.org, or Facebook (facebook.com/harteresearch), Instagram ([@harteresearch](https://instagram.com/harteresearch)) and X ([@HarteResearch](https://twitter.com/HarteResearch)) (the platform formerly



Inside of a Buffalo Gourd



The Snowy egret is the American counterpart to the very similar Old World Little egret, which has become established in the Bahamas.

By Riekie Roncinske



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Island Real Estate Roundup

Apryl Noles



Real Estate market picks up after end of the school year

As we kick off the month of May, the Padre Island real estate market continues to show strong activity across multiple sectors. In the detached home market, we currently have four homes in the option period and three homes that have officially sold. In the townhome sector, there are two properties currently in the option period, while the condominium market has one condo in the option period and one that has sold.

This time of year is always an important season for real estate activity as schools begin letting out and many families start planning relocations before the next school year begins. With the consistent momentum we've continued to see throughout the spring market, I anticipate a very active summer ahead. Even with the unforeseen water situation locally, buyers and sellers are still making moves and the market continues pushing forward.

It will be exciting to see what the coming weeks bring as we move deeper into the summer season. Stay tuned for next week's update, and below are the homes discussed in this week's report.

Detached Homes In Option Period:

-15222 Isabella Ct (Listed for \$959,999)
-16025 Cuttysark St (Listed for \$899,900)
-15365 Bowsprit Ct (Listed for \$655,900)
-13853 Topsail St (Listed for \$487,000)

Detached Homes That Sold:

-14746 Aquarius St (Listed for \$975,000)
-13849 Doubloon St (Listed for \$585,000)
-15614 Escapade St (Listed for \$399,999)

Townhomes In Option Period:

-13918 Mingo Cay Ct Unit 1 (Listed for \$479,000)
-14001 Fortuna Bay Dr Unit 3 (Listed for \$342,000)

Condominium In Option Period:

-15201 Leeward Dr Unit#A-1 (Listed for \$249,900)

Condominium That Sold:

-14428 Compass St #210 (Listed for \$89,000)

Gulf Shrimp Season Closes May 15

Commercial shrimp season for both Texas and federal waters in the Gulf will close 30 minutes after sunset Friday May 15, reopening on a still-to-be determined date in July. The Texas closure applies to gulf waters from the coastline out to nine nautical miles. The National Marine Fisheries Service has announced that federal waters out to 200 nautical miles will also be closed to shrimping to conform to the Texas closure.

While July 15 is the statutory opening date for the gulf season, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries Division will sample shrimp populations this summer to determine the optimum opening date. The Texas shrimp fishery is closed annually to allow brown shrimp to reach a larger and more valuable size prior to harvest.

"The goal of this closure is twofold," said Robin Riechers, TPWD's Coastal Fisheries Division Director. "Allowing shrimp to migrate into gulf waters gives them time to mature and grow before commercial fishermen begin the summer season in July. This also helps ensure Texas' shrimp stocks are sustainable not just for the season, but for upcoming seasons as well."

The closing date of May 15 is based on samples collected by biologists using trawl and bag seine along with information gathered from the shrimping industry. Data include bag seine catch rates of brown shrimp, mean lengths of shrimp in April 2026, percent of samples containing shrimp and the timing of peak nighttime outgoing tides.



Necessity is the mother of invention. By Debbie Noble.

Thoughts from Reverend Ken



By Rev. Dr. Ken

Turn the other Cheek

I was watching a couple of talking heads last week. One of them in an off-hand manner mentioned that Pope Leo was not turning the other cheek.

One of the more challenging teachings of Jesus is the call to turn the other cheek. This teaching is included in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:39). It is in a section where Jesus is challenging the accepted norms of retaliation. The premise of retaliation is simple. Do unto others as they have done unto you. This is why the call to turn the other cheek is one of the most misunderstood teachings of Jesus.

Turning the other cheek is often mistakenly thought to be a call to passive submission. The implication is that followers of Jesus should allow a bully to continue bullying, an abuser abusing, a war-maker warring, the violent to be violent, etc. Critics then dismiss, rightly so, the teaching as cowardly and complicit in the face of injustice. So those critics continue, to understand Jesus' teaching in this manner is simply the invitation to wipe up the floor with supine Christian victims. I agree with those critics.

However, Jesus never displayed that kind of passivity. Whatever the source of the misunderstanding, such distortion is clearly neither in Jesus nor his teaching. This mistaken understanding has caused great suffering to those who have experienced violence, abuse, and bullying.

When Jesus spoke these words he very clearly used "right" cheek. Honor and shame were huge guiding principles in the days of Jesus. There are only two ways to strike the right cheek of another who is facing you. The first is with the left hand. However, using your left hand for any public function in those days was a source of shame. I will leave it to your imagination as to why. (It involves unclean acts)

The only way to strike the right cheek, without bringing shame to yourself, is with the backhand of the right arm. However, the backhand is not for injuring persons. It's for humiliating people. In that day it was how socially superior persons humiliated socially inferior persons.

Jesus was talking to people who would have been considered socially inferior. If immediately after being struck on the right cheek the person presented their other cheek to the aggressor, it would indicate that the first blow didn't work. To not bring shame on yourself there is no physical way to strike

the left cheek, except with the forehand or the blow of a fist. In either case, in that day, only equals would use such a response. If the socially superior person did this it would establish the underling's equality, as well as bring shame on themselves. This act of defiance renders the socially superior person incapable of asserting their dominance or humiliating the other.

Such defiance was not a way to avoid trouble. In the first century such a response as Jesus taught could bring flogging or worse, death. But the point had been made. The powers that be have lost their power to make people submit.

Jesus never intended this teaching as calling for passive acquiescence to brutality and violence. He is urging hearers to stand up for themselves. To take control of one's responses. Don't answer the oppressor in kind but find a way that is neither cowardly submission nor violent reprisal. Theologian Walter Wink called this teaching, a "third way."

It redefines power through active resistance and nonviolent responses. Jesus is providing a way forward for resisting injustice without becoming like the oppressor. This teaching formed the foundation for the civil rights ministry of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Christians are called to nonviolence in a world of violence because we cannot imagine anything else as faithful followers of Christ.

Speaking the truth of peace, justice, and love to the will to power through war, violence, and lies is turning the other cheek. It is answering lies with truth. Pope Leo apparently knows this lesson well.

Beach worship services have returned! Begin your Sunday on the beach in worship! 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.

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20				21				22	23				
24							25						
26	27	28				29				30	31	32	
33						34				35			
36						37				38			
39				40						41			
42				43					44	45			
46							47						
48	49	50					51				52	53	54
55							56	57			58		
59							60				61		
62							63						

Across

- 1. Barrel staves
- 5. Comparable to a beet?
- 10. Commoner
- 14. Bit of a spread
- 15. Many of that
- 16. Money in Iran
- 17. Famous home
- 19. Otherwise
- 20. Yen fraction
- 21. Roast beef request, sometimes
- 22. Displayed publicly
- 24. "___ I a stinker?" (Bugs Bunny quote)
- 25. "Pretty Woman" star
- 26. Type of arrow or wire
- 29. Former D.C. nine
- 33. Parisian lady friend
- 34. Tourist stopover
- 35. Part of a vamp's costume
- 36. Imbibes slowly
- 37. Side dish
- 38. Calm and controlled
- 39. Suffix with serpent or elephant
- 40. Transept neighbors
- 41. "Casablanca" character
- 42. Formal assembly
- 44. Hearty meals
- 46. Away from the wind
- 47. Word with ran or known as
- 48. Photographer's stand
- 51. Without delay, in a memo
- 52. It looks good on paper
- 55. Scratchy sound
- 56. Mall locale
- 59. Double-curved molding
- 60. Spirit in "The Tempest"
- 61. Cousin of "Oy!"
- 62. Property document
- 63. Time spans
- 64. Insect repellent ingredient

Down

- 1. They're on the books
- 2. Word with head or heart
- 3. Do this and bear it
- 4. Word with head or mind
- 5. Imminent
- 6. One way to be caught
- 7. Skirt-chaser
- 8. Beginning or end of "Spartacus"
- 9. Grew, as friendship
- 10. Like car-radio buttons
- 11. Pleasant tune
- 12. Facilitate
- 13. Ran, as colors
- 18. Canal from Albany
- 23. Word with history or hygiene
- 24. Lincoln and Vigoda
- 25. Hokkaido sandals
- 26. Fundamental
- 27. Kind of acid
- 28. Age
- 29. Cobbler's concerns
- 30. Silver coins of ancient Greece
- 31. Fowl place?
- 32. Casa contents
- 34. Tricky billiard shot
- 37. Racing site
- 38. Turin farewell
- 40. Woody's son
- 43. Like some front teeth
- 44. Gives a thrashing
- 45. Armchair athlete's channel
- 47. "My Name Is ___ Lev"
- 48. Stepped on
- 49. Fury
- 50. Words of understanding
- 51. Market for U.S. exports
- 52. "___ Jury" (Spillane novel)
- 53. ___ of the above
- 54. Granny, for one
- 57. "___ we having fun yet?"
- 58. Word on all U.S. coins

Kemp's Ridley Turtle Nest Count

- 3 Galveston Island
- 1 Brazoria County, N. of Sargent Beach
- 7 San Jose Island
- 15 Mustang Island
- 157 North Padre Island, including 136 at Padre Island National Seashore
- 62 South Padre Island
- 9 Boca Chica Beach



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.



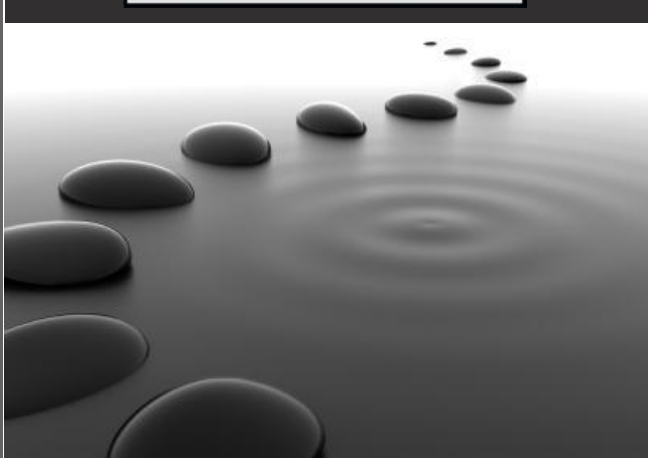
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Bob Hall Pier has some interesting sandbars developing on each side.

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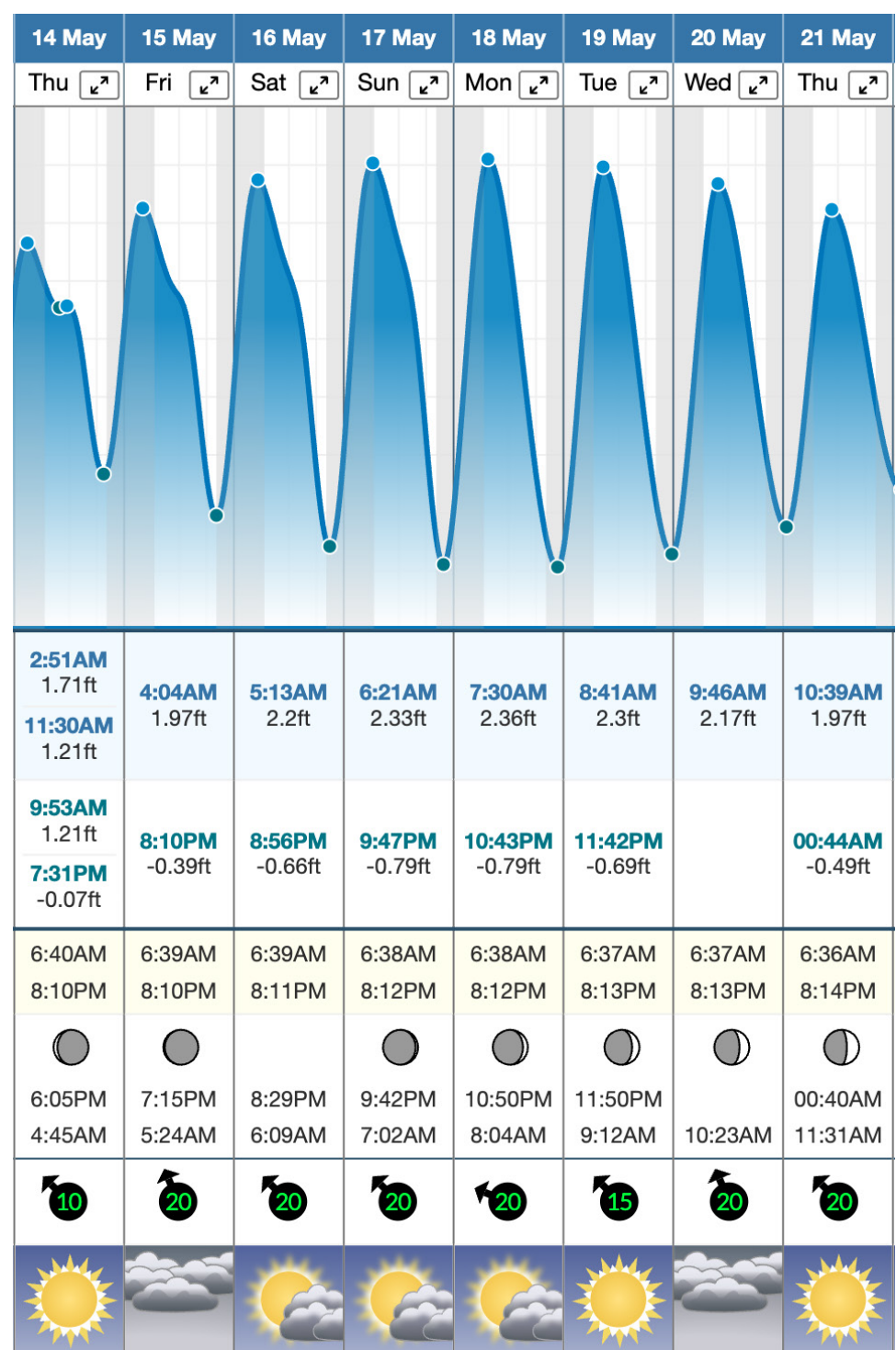
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Summer Tanager Photo By Jared Markgraf

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

L	A	G	S		A	S	R	E	D		P	L	E	B	
A	C	R	E		T	H	O	S	E		R	I	A	L	
W	H	I	T	E	H	O	U	S	E		E	L	S	E	
S	E	N		R	A	R	E		P	O	S	T	E	D	
				A	I	N	T		G	E	R	E			
B	A	R	B	E	D		S	E	N	A	T	O	R	S	
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S	I	P	S		S	A	L	A	D		C	O	O	L	
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				A	L	E	E		A	L	S	O			
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Senior moments Special to the Island Moon



Military career of Elvis Presley

By Dotson Lewis

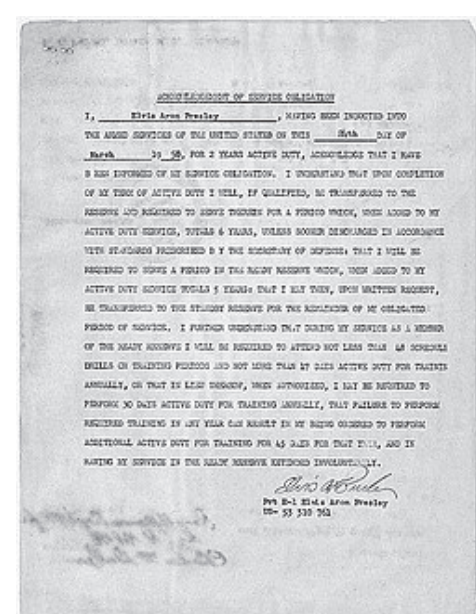
Dotson's Note: American singer and actor, Elvis Presley, served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1960 after being drafted to serve in the military as an active duty soldier for two years. At the time of his enlistment, he was widely regarded as the most well-known name in the world of entertainment. Thanks to Bill Morgan and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in the report.



Elvis at Ray Barracks West Germany, 1958

Before entering the Army, Presley had caused national outrage with his rock and roll music. Many parents, religious leaders, and teachers' groups welcomed his draft into the military. Despite being offered the chance to enlist in Special Services to entertain the troops and live in priority housing, Presley was persuaded by his manager, Colonel Tom Parker, to serve as a regular soldier. This earned him the respect of many of his fellow soldiers and people back in the United States who previously viewed him in a negative light. During his service, Presley's life was affected in many ways. Not long before he was transferred to West Germany, his mother, Gladys Presley, died of a heart attack brought on by acute hepatitis and cirrhosis at the age of 46. While he was living in Bad Nauheim, he met his future wife, Priscilla Beaulieu. He also became reliant on barbiturates and stimulants.

The Draft



Elvis Presley's two-year active duty service obligation, March 24, 1958

On January 8, 1956, his 21st birthday, Presley became eligible to be drafted into the military. Colonel Tom Parker, Presley's manager, was well aware of his client's draft status and how it could affect his career. In the summer of 1956, Parker wrote to the Department of Defense requesting that Presley be considered for Special Services, which would allow him to do only six weeks of basic training and then resume life as normal, performing several times a year for the armed forces. However, Parker had no intention of allowing Presley to sign up for Special Service, each performance would have been recorded and filmed for sale to television stations worldwide and the armed forces would own the exclusive rights to these recordings, meaning all of the profits would be retained by the government. Parker was unwilling to allow anyone to effectively enjoy Presley's talents for free, let alone profit from them. Over the next twelve months, Parker led Presley to believe that it was still possible to avoid the draft completely, while secretly planning to allow it. In his eyes, after a year of negative publicity, this was the perfect

opportunity to change the view that older Americans had of him. Parker explained to Presley that this was a situation neither of them could refuse. When Presley was told that he would have to serve as a regular soldier, he was furious that Parker failed to get him out of the draft. Parker promised Presley that if he worked hard and served as a regular GI for two years, he would return "a bigger star" than when he left.

On January 4, 1957, Presley visited Kennedy Veterans Hospital in Memphis for a pre-induction physical exam. On January 8, Presley's twenty-second birthday, he was declared 1-A by the Memphis Draft Board, meaning he was physically fit for service and likely to be drafted sometime in the next eight months. On December 16, 1957, it was officially announced that Presley would be receiving his draft notice, which he physically received on December 20. While fans around the country were upset by the news, parents and teachers' groups were ecstatic; they viewed Presley as a menace to society.

The Navy offered to create a special *Elvis Presley Company* made up of men from Memphis and Presley's closest friends, and offered him the chance to perform in Las Vegas and have his own private quarters. The Army offered Presley the chance to tour the world and visit army bases to boost morale among soldiers and encourage other young men to enlist. Presley politely told both parties that he would consider their offers. The Pentagon, too, had been in touch to offer Presley the opportunity to join Special Services, entertaining the troops without having to train as a regular soldier; this option was known by many soldiers and veterans as «the celebrity wimp-out». After discussing each offer with Parker, Presley eschewed any special treatment and decided to serve as a regular soldier. In Parker's words, «Taking any of these deals will make millions of Americans angry.»

King Creole

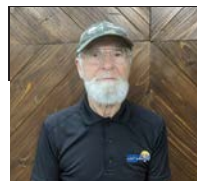


Presley in the 1958 film *King Creole*

Presley was originally scheduled to be inducted on January 20, 1958. However, due to commitments at Paramount and the filming schedule of his latest film, *King Creole*, Presley had to personally write to the Memphis Draft Board to request a deferment. He explained to them that Paramount had already spent up to \$350,000 on pre-production of the film, and that many jobs were dependent on his ability to complete filming, which was due to begin on January 13. They granted him an extension until the middle of March. When news of the extension broke, angry letters were sent to the Memphis Draft Board complaining about the "special treatment" that Presley was receiving. According to Milton Bowers, head of the draft board and angered by the public outcry, Presley "would have automatically gotten the extension [anyway] if he hadn't been Elvis Presley the superstar".

Worried that rock and roll was a passing fad, Presley wanted to make *King Creole* the best role he had ever acted. He knew that two years out of the limelight would mean hard work when he returned, and so he gave his all in that film to show the world that he had the potential to return as a serious, dramatic actor. To this day, many critics and fans consider *King Creole* to be Elvis's best acting performance.

TO BE CONTINUED...



By Gene Saegert

Gene's Corner

My Writing Milestone

If I'm Out of Order do you think that's funny?

I just realized today that the month of May of 2009 is when I began my writing career. It was at the age of 67.

I never wrote for any publication of any type. In high school English my teacher never liked any of my writing and I was lucky if I made a passing grade on my writing assignments. My first writing job was for the Ingleside Index and the Aransas Pass Progress as a fishing columnist. I did that for around four years and for a while it was just straight fishing news. I finally soon got bored with that and started injecting humor into my articles and started drawing a comic strip to go along with it. My wife reminded me that we moved down here to retire and I finally agreed. Started back here again and enjoying it once again. I guess I have just always been a humorist at heart. As a kid (and young adult) I was one of those who always saw humor in most situations especially all those that were supposed to be serious. Unfortunately I carried that to a fault and went through life hearing the phrase "so you think that is funny?" more times than I can count.

Unfortunately a familiar phrase coming from parents, teachers and later in life also bosses. When I was called out on that, my mouth naturally said no, but inside I was saying "no it's not funny, it is hilarious." I was that person that always had a friend that when something serious was going on if we could not make eye contact across the room for fear if we did, we would burst out laughing.

Out of Order

Have you ever had a saying that you have seen or used most of your life and always

accepted it and suddenly you see it and this time it doesn't make any sense? Well, that happened to me this week! The stamp machine at the Post Office had a big sign on it that said "Out of Order". Now after contemplating on this sign, I wondered exactly how did that phrase come to apply to machines? I do know that if you are in a meeting and were not supposed to speak, or if you are otherwise unruly or just causing trouble the one in charge might pound his gavel and declare loudly "OUT OF ORDER." Now that makes sense because there is a whole book of rules about that called Roberts Rules of Order. Now this particular machine was not in a meeting, nor was it unruly and didn't seem to be causing any trouble. Furthermore, I have a really thick book at home that shows the origin of sayings and phrases, and it was not included in that book so, no clue there. In my way of thinking when it comes to machines that are not working, the sign should say its busted, broken, broke, kaput, not working, or don't use this you will lose your money.

By now you are probably thinking, this guy has too much time on his hands. Not so, I just feel obligated to check out some of the things I have accepted all my life without thinking about it. Well now that I've gotten that off of my chest, oops I just heard two ladies call someone a "penny pincher." I'm not sure exactly what that means, but I do know two girls named Penny, maybe they can "shed some light on the subject....."

Thought for the day: If a grenade landed on a kitchen floor in France, could it result in linoleum blown apart?

Federal Red Snapper Season to Open May 22



The private recreational angler red snapper season in federal waters will open May 22 rather than the typical June 1 opening. This change was made to provide a longer window for saltwater anglers to enjoy coastal fishing and include the Memorial Day holiday.

"As always, our goal is to give Texas anglers as many days as possible to fish in federal waters for red snapper while still maintaining our traditional yearlong fishery in Texas state waters," said Robin Riechers, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries Division Director. "State management in recent years has allowed us to have longer seasons and this year we have included the opening before Memorial Day to give that opportunity over the holiday weekend as well."

Red snapper fishing is open year-round in Texas state waters, and Gulf states have the unique benefit of managing state bag and size limits of the red snapper fishery. Bag and size limits for federal and state waters will remain unchanged. Regulations for red snapper in federal waters consist of:

- ☐ Two fish per person per day with a 16-inch minimum size limit.
- ☐ Red snapper caught in federal waters count as part of the state bag limit of four fish.
- ☐ No more than two red snapper per person can be in possession while in federal waters.

Regulations for red snapper in state waters:

- ☐ Four fish per person per day with a 15-inch minimum size limit.
- ☐ No more than four red snapper per person can be in possession in state waters while fishing.

The TPWD Coastal Fisheries Division will provide public notice of the private recreational season closing date before the state's allotted catch limit has been reached. TPWD will update all communication platforms, including the [Outdoor Annual, news release website](#) and [social media accounts](#), when it determines that closing date.

The federal charter for hire season is managed by the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) and will still open June 1.

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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronniennarmour@gmail.com

Moon Monkey for the win...



And it's the Moon Monkey for the first place win at the Gaff's Belt Sander Races last Saturday.

I am pleased to announce my **Moon Monkey** came in first place at the WORLD FAMOUS BELT SANDER RACES held bi-weekly at everybody's favorite pirate bar, da *Gaff*. I counted up my medals and have made it to the winner's circle 25 times since 2014... not too shabby I suppose. It's a wonderful way for fully grown adults to play with their power tools and sometimes get paid a little bit for it. The real prize is in the bragging rights. The owner, **Kip Shannon's** idea when he took over the *Gaff* in 2005 was to provide an adult playground where patrons can drink beer and do goofy stuff... works for me. And trust me; it gets plenty goofy over there with events such as *Chicken Poop Bingo*, *New Year's Day Black Eyed Pea Off*, the annual *Turkey Bowl*, and on and on. We all love our pirate bar and all the fun times and great memories we've had there. I want to give our resident pit boss, **Rusty Daniels** a righteous shout out for selflessly building most of our racers and keeping them running in tip top shape. Anyone interested in racing with us should show up at the *Gaff* on the second or fourth Saturday and get the scoop. There are only two rules; the racer has to be electric and has to fit on the 12" track. It's a lot of fun and anyone can do it.

Please help Sabine...



No, this is not a baby belly, this is a 20 pound tumor in Sabine Ellison's abdomen.

One of the musicians who has played the clubs in Port Aransas is in dire need of our help. **Sabine Ellison** who was the bass player and ex-wife of **Ulrich Ellison**, a talented musician on the international scene and guitar teacher from Austria. They played *Giggity's* and *Shorty's* many times in past years and became friends for life. Well, the lovely Sabine has a twenty pound tumor in her abdomen and has set up a GO FUND ME account to help with her treatment. These are beautiful people and Sabine is running out of time. You can donate to help this sweet lady at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/sabine-ellison>.

On the local front...



High winds blew down the new tent at Shorty's

Wind and rain, that's what's happening on the local front. Man, did we know that storm was

gonna rock our worlds last Monday morning? Well it did. To be honest, I had NO idea there was a major thunderstorm coming at us until the wee hours when it hit. And brother, it hit fast and hard. My rain gauge is at just under an inch. And the wind gusts were in the 60's and blew the new tent at *Shorty's* into submission. Don't get me wrong, we desperately needed the rain and my garden thanks the powers that be. I gotta pay more attention to the weatherpersons, I guess. And if the view of the empty trailer park on the other side of my back fence is any indication of the ebbs and flows of our tourist season, then we are right on time. It's been predictable slow lately. Enjoy it while you can, *Memorial Day Weekend* is only two weeks away and we go back to controlled bedlam. Also on the local front, we had **Tim Burdick's** send off last Saturday at the pavilion in the park, complete with tearful tributes from his friends and family. Plus, at Timmy's request, there was a mariachi band performing. Adios old friend, hope to see you on the flip flop.

Scattered shots...



Dreaming in Color will play *Bron's* on Friday, May 15.

did make it around to see a few shows last week. I really enjoyed the **Los Locals** jazz show at the *Sip Yard* last Thursday. The "Locals" consist of **John Elijah** on guitar and vocals, **Charlie Traeger** on tenor sax, **Miguel Cantu** on stand-up bass and **Matt Perez** on drums. I'm not a huge jazz fan but it was a delightful change of pace. I also caught opener **Kaleb Michaels** also at the *Sip Yard* with **Logan Samford** from north Texas. Samford was on fire. He's a tough hombre and full of high energy. I could actually hear him from my house on *Farley*. I also made it a point to see the ever so grungy **Left Right Left** from Corpus last Friday at *Shorty's*. Expect to see more of those guys. They are very good in a low down and dirty sort of way.

Coming this week...



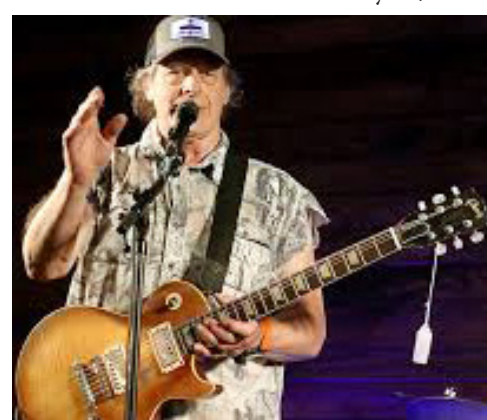
Silver Corvette will play the *VFW* on Saturday., May 16.

Coming this week we have a bunch of goodems to watch for. On Thursday, May 14th the hilarious **B-Flat Dueling Pianos** will return to the *Sip Yard*. Those cats are gathering more and more traction every time they play. On Friday, May 15th the **Mo-Dels** will play the free *Sunset Sounds* summer concert series at the park put on by the *Port Aransas Parks and Rec Department*. It's a very casual setting overlooking the ferry landing. Also on Friday **Bo Luna** will play the *Yard*, **Mantle Jennings** will play *Shorty's*, the **Lucky Dogz** will play *Treasure Island* and the great **Dreaming in Color** will play *Bron's*. On Saturday, May 16th **Heavy Soul** will play *Shorty's*, **Jerry Ward and the Dirty Birds** will play *Bron's*, the hot rocking **Diamond's Edge** is back at *Treasure Island* and Americana stud **Mario Flores** will play the *Sip Yard*. Also coming to *Concrete Street* on Saturday, May 16 the hard rocker **Ted Nugent** will bring the 70's back to life. **John Cortez** will open the show. It appears that **Dale** and I will be attending this show. I'm not quite sure what to expect. It should be interesting...and loud.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Heavy Soul will play *Shorty's* this Saturday, May 16th.



Ted Nugent will play *Concrete Street* on Saturday, May 16th.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, May 14

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's
B-Flat Dueling Pianos @ Sip Yard
Randall Hunt @ Sandbox NPI
Orlando Herrera @ Commercial Street AP
Ruben Limas @ Perrin's on the Water
David Martinez @ Brewster Island
Michael Burtts @ Brewster Southside
JonMiikael MREZ @ Brewster Downtown
Kat & the Nat 20's @ Executive Surf Club
Alley Cats @ Nucky's

Friday, May 15

The Mo-Dels @ Sunset Sounds PA
Bo Luna @ Sip Yard
Mantle Jennings @ Shorty's
Dreaming in Color @ Bron's
Lucky Dogz @ Treasure Island
Dickie Delight @ Salty Dog
Aaron Boultinghouse @ Fajitaville N. Beach
Lisa Sullivan @ Anchor Beach Bar
Rip Tide Cowboy @ Sandbox NPI
Philip Dean West @ Commercial St. AP
Michael Burtts @ Pelican Lounge
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach
Eric Graham @ Brewster Southside
Jim Dugan @ Brewster Island
Eli Young @ Brewster Downtown
Kat and the Nat 20's @ Exchange
Fuzion @ Executive Surf Club
Alley Catz @ So. Tx

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BRAD ETHRIDGE	MAY 17
BOUDREAUX & POUSSON	MAY 22

**JOHN ELIJAH BAND EVERY MONDAY
JOHNSON ALL STARZ EVERY THURS
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN**

MANTLE JENNINGS	MAY 15
HEAVY SOUL	MAY 16
GROOVE CHILI	MAY 22
THE GROOVE 2.0	MAY 23

LUCKY DOGZ	MAY 15
DIAMOND'S EDGE	MAY 16
CATHOUSE	MAY 22
FIVE CARD DRAW	MAY 23
JONMIKAEL MREZ	MAY 24
NATIONAL NOBODYZ	MAY 29

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SILVER CORVETTE	MAY 16
LISA SULLIVAN	MAY 22
LUCKY DOGZ	MAY 23
BRAD ETHRIDGE	MAY 25
COASTAL BENDERS	MAY 27
THE GROOVE 2.0	JUNE 6

B-FLAT DUELING PIANOS

BO LUNA	MAY 15
MARIO FLORES	MAY 16
CRU ISE CONTROL	MAY 21
CLAY HOLLIS	MAY 22
LARRY JOE TAYLOR	MAY 23

**DREAMING IN COLOR
JERRY WARD & DIRTY BIRDS
FLYING FREE
TIMOTHY NOEL
DARREN MCGILL
JOHN CORTEZ**

MAY 15
MAY 16
MAY 22
MAY 23
MAY 24
MAY 27

Ice House
Brad Ethridge @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Mike Guerra & Trisum @ Pier 99

Saturday, May 16

Ted Nugent, John Cortez @ Concrete Street
Heavy Soul @ Shorty's
Jerry Ward & Dirty Birds @ Bron's
Diamond's Edge @ Treasure Island
Mario Flores @ Sip Yard
Silver Corvette @ VFW
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Dorado's AP
The Groove 2.0 @ Pelican Lounge
Kelly Kenning Band @ Sandbox NPI
Redfeather @ Anchor Beach Bar
Orlando Herrera @ Dorados AP
Headcase Band @ Fajitaville N. Beach
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards Too
Alley Catz @ Brewster Southside
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Island
Smells Like Nivana @ Brewster Downtown
Wicked Project @ Exchange
Victoria Cantu, Flying Free @ Executive Surf Club
Love Street @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Just Cuz, US! Music @ Pier 99
Melissa Ann @ Rockport Market Days

Sunday, May 17

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
William Skrobarczyk @ Executive Surf Club
Redfeather @

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