



Three Chords and the Truth A12



Beachcombing Report A7



Backwater Adventures A6



Nature Notes A7



On the Rocks A6

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Beach to Bay Runners By Debbie Noble

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By Dale Rankin

It's almost Buckle Up Season *Around The Island* as we roll on into the Memorial Day Weekend which marks the kickoff of the annual 100-day sprint we call Tourist Season followed by Hurricane Season 2026. We've had a little early taste of the stormy season hereabout as we've had big winds and rain with enough velocity to knock the sand off our trucks and fill up the buckets in the last few weeks with more in the forecast. There was good news on the water front this week as the Corpus Christi Water Department pushed back the expected kickoff date for the draconian Level 1 Water Emergency that goes into effect 180 days ahead of "supply not meeting demand." The previous projected date was September which has now been pushed back to December 2026 – one month after city council elections. The recent rains and inflow into surface lakes along with water-producing projects currently in the pipeline were given as the reason for the delayed need for moving to Level 1 restrictions.

Restricted restrictions...

One of the questions that has arisen as the Level 1 restrictions loom is whether they would apply to the smaller cities that rely on the Regional Water System. We put the question to the Corpus Christi Water System with regards to the City of Port Aransas and received the following: *Contractually, they would follow guidelines set by the San Patricio Municipal Water District* so that would appear to be a definite maybe. We will pursue a more definitive answer if it looks like the restrictions will become a reality.

Veteran's Memorial



Around cont. on A7

Site Plan approved for key Island property

Zoning change clears the way for infrastructure on 81 acres at intersection of Gulf Beach and Packery Channel

By Dale Rankin

A plan that allows for the construction of infrastructure on a crucially located 81-acre tract of land at the intersection of Packery Channel and the Gulf Beach on Padre Island was approved by the Corpus Christi Planning Commission in its May 13 meeting. The property's boundaries include the land from Packery Channel on the north to the Gulf Beach on the east, the channel along Granada Drive on the south, and Lake Padre on the west making it

Gulfshores cont. on A4



The property is on the South side of Packery Channel

By the numbers

City Taxes by year

The following numbers come from a presentation by staff to the Corpus Christi City Council this week.

Property Tax

The amount of Property Tax paid by taxpayers to the city's General Fund by year.

- \$97 million 2023
- \$102.1 million 2024
- \$103.7 million 2025
- \$107 million 2026 (estimate)
- \$108.2 million 2027 (projected)

Sales Tax

- 6% growth in 2023
- 1% growth in 2024
- 2% growth in 2025
- 0% growth in 2026

The Art of Island Life

David Sikes, Wildlife Photographer: A Life Devoted to Finding Wonder

By Melissa Mitchell



Great Blue Heron with Nesting Material by David Sikes

Art cont. on page A5

Some people move through the world without noticing what is happening just beyond the edges of their daily routines. David Sikes notices.

For nearly three decades, David invited readers of the Corpus

Plastic bottles from nearly half of the United States end up on San Jose Island

Volunteers picked up 4500 containers in two hours

By Dale Rankin

When a plastic bottle finds its way in the waters of the rivers which drain 41% of the United States through the Mississippi River and its tributaries it stands a good chance of ending up on the North Jetty on San Jose Island across Aransas Channel from Port Aransas.

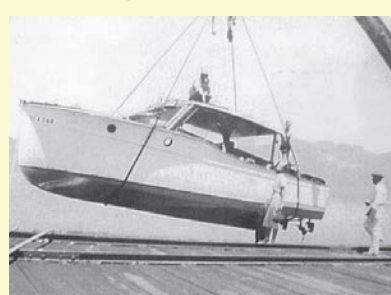
San Jose cont. on page A2



A little Island history

Do You Love Fishing Enough... To trailer a big boat 2,750 miles?

Editor's note: The following was written by J. Guthrie Ford longtime Island Moon contributor and former teaching and research professor at Trinity University in San Antonio from 1972-1999. He wrote extensively about Port Aransas before he passed away in 2018 after many enlightening and entertaining conversations with the Island Moon.



Olita hoisted to her custom trailer.

By J. Guthrie Ford and Mark Creighton

Do you love fishing enough to fight off a raging hangover to be on the flats at dawn? Keep smiling despite having to take your obnoxious brother-in-law along? Do you love fishing enough to trailer a big boat 2,750

History cont. on A5

Property Tax Questions and Answers



By Brian McCabe, Taxpayer Liaison Officer

Every year, property owners receive appraisal notices and immediately have questions. Some

are frustrated, some are confused, and some simply want to understand how the process works.

As Taxpayer Liaison Officer, I hear many of the same questions every year. Here are a few of the most common, along with straightforward answers that may help you better understand the process.

Q: Why did my appraised value go up when nothing changed with my house?

A: This is probably the question I hear most often.

One confusing part of Texas property tax law is the word "improvement." In appraisal language, it simply refers to structures on the property—like the house itself—not necessarily to new upgrades or remodeling.

The short answer is that your house may not have changed, but the market around it probably did. Your home may still have the same roof, the same paint, and the same squeaky back door—but if nearby homes sold for more last year, your value may go up too.

Property cont. on page A3

Beach to Bay 2026

Photos by Debbie Noble



San Jose cont. from A1

The jetty rocks and windblown sand that line the north side of the channel become home to plastic containers from the Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Mississippi, and Red river basins where they remain until removed by human hands.

So Saturday morning 53 volunteers brought together by the Texas Coastal Bend Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation rode the jetty boat from Port Aransas to San Jose Island where they filled 287 bags of trash, made up almost entirely of 4592 plastic water bottles. The collection area did not include the last 1000 feet of the north jetty due to a lack of time.

"We certainly didn't get everything that has washed up there," said Neil McQueen, Co-Chair of the local Surfrider Foundation and organizer of the event. "But we did make a dent."

McQueen and the Surfrider Foundation pushed for legislation in the last session of the Texas Legislature which would have placed a deposit on each plastic bottle purchased across the state with the goal of achieving a 75% recycle rate for plastic and glass containers by 2035. The plan, which was introduced through House Bill 2048 and Senate Bill 728 called for consumers to pay a small and yet undetermined fee at the point of purchase with a refund when containers were turned in at designated recycling centers. The bill garnered bipartisan support but did not make it to a floor vote in either body. Similar bills are expected to be introduced when the Texas Legislature convenes in January, 2027.

In the meantime, the inventory of plastic water-borne containers continues to accumulate in the rocks and sands of San Jose Island.



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The Traveling Moon



Macky Ward took the Moon traveling to the Sleeping Giant Garden in Fiji with Rick and Clare Adams, Janis Moore, Raymond and Shirley Gallagher.



Henry and Janice Jackson took the Island Moon with them on a 5400 mile trip to three beaches in three weeks starting at Whitecap to Ocean City, Maryland and then the Maya Key in Roatán

Yard of the Month



This month's Island Gardeners "Yard of the Month" belongs to Carolyn Chester Coe and Bradley Coe on Emerald St. Just look for the "Yard of the Month" sign. What a yard! It is drought tolerant and beautiful. The front has xeriscaping and large decorative rocks. There is a Mountain Laurel in bloom. Setting off the landscaping is Blue Porterweed and Blue Daze. The Kalanchoe plant is not usually found outdoors, but theirs is thriving. You will see many Island favorites, such as Vinca, Plumeria, and Cana Lillies, but I wonder if there is another Oak Tree with a treehouse on the Island!

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Letters to the Editor

The TWIA Board of Directors met in Austin on May 19 for its second quarterly meeting of 2026.

2026 Hurricane Season Funding

The Board received an update on reinsurance funding for the 2026 storm season. TWIA will secure \$2.2801 billion total reinsurance coverage, comprising \$300 million in existing catastrophe bonds originally issued in 2025 and \$1.9801 billion in new traditional reinsurance and catastrophe bonds.

The Board also voted to secure a \$500 million line of credit – with an option to increase the line by an additional \$200 million – to allow for an immediately available source of funds to pay claims in the event of a catastrophic storm impacting the Texas coast this year. If needed to pay claims, the line of credit would be repaid from the proceeds of state financing arrangements that are part of TWIA's catastrophe funding structure under legislation enacted last year.

Hurricane Beryl Losses

Staff provided a briefing to the Board on recent loss developments from Hurricane Beryl, which struck the Texas coast near Matagorda in July 2024. To date, TWIA has received more than 33,000 claims from this storm and estimates total losses (including loss adjustment expenses) at \$545 million.

TWIA intends to request permission from the Texas Insurance Commissioner to withdraw \$3.6 million from the Catastrophe Reserve Trust Fund (CRTF), the amount that was remaining in the CRTF in TWIA's 2024 catastrophe funding structure.

Other Actions

The Board directed staff to issue Requests for Proposals for reinsurance broker services and catastrophe modeling services, consistent with the Association's practice of reviewing these services about every five years.

The Board reviewed and accepted the annual audit report and the annual investment plan for Association funds.

The Board directed its Actuarial & Underwriting Committee to make a recommendation related to TWIA's required annual rate filing, which the Board will consider at its August meeting.

The Board received other routine operational updates from staff.

Aaron Taylor
Media Liaison & External Affairs Lead
[Texas Windstorm Insurance Association](http://www.texaswindstorminsurance.com)

Property cont. from A1

The Appraisal District reviews sales in your neighborhood and nearby areas. If similar homes sold for more last year, your appraised value may increase, even if you did not remodel or improve your home.

The District appraises hundreds of thousands of properties every year, so it uses mass appraisal methods instead of individually inspecting every home. There simply are not enough hours in the day—or enough coffee in the building—to inspect every property one at a time.

That is why the protest process exists. Your home may have issues the District is unaware of. Maybe the roof is old. Maybe the air conditioner is near the end of its life. Maybe there are foundation problems, old windows, or repairs needed.

Those things matter because buyers consider them when determining a house's value. If you think your value is too high, gather evidence. Take clear pictures. Get repair estimates. Look at sales of similar homes in your neighborhood. The better your evidence, the stronger your protest will be.

The goal is not just to lower values. The goal is to make the value as accurate as possible.

Q: I paid off my mortgage. Why do I still have to pay property taxes?

A: Paying off your mortgage means you no longer owe the bank money for your house. Property taxes are different. Property taxes are a little like Texas weather—they tend to keep showing up whether you invite them or not.

Property taxes help pay for local services such as schools, roads, police and fire departments, and drainage systems. As long as you own taxable property, property taxes still apply, even if your home is completely paid off.

There are exemptions that may help lower taxes, including homestead exemptions and over-65 exemptions. Those can reduce your property's taxable value or limit increases in certain situations.

It is also important to understand that the Appraisal District does not set tax rates. The District determines property values. Cities, Nueces County, school districts, and other taxing entities decide the tax rates later.

So, paying off your mortgage removes the house payment, but it does not remove property taxes.

Q: Am I penalized for protesting my property value?

A: No.

You have a legal right to protest your value, and there is no penalty simply for filing a protest.

The protest process is there because mass appraisal is not perfect. Filing a protest does not put you on a "bad list," and nobody at the District is sitting around with a dartboard and your property account number on it.

That said, evidence matters.

The best protests are based on facts: pictures, repair estimates, comparable sales, and clear explanations of why the value may be too high.

Arguments like "my taxes are too high" usually are not persuasive because they do not establish market value.

The process works best when property owners focus on evidence and stay professional.

Being organized generally works much better than being loud.

Q: Since the Appraisal District only determines values, who actually sets the taxes?

A: That is another very common question.

The Appraisal District's job is only to determine the market value of property. It does not decide how much money will be collected in taxes.

The actual tax rates are set later by the various taxing entities. These may include school districts, cities, the County, hospital districts, water districts, and other special districts.

Each of those entities prepares a budget every year and adopts a tax rate based on the revenue it needs.

Your final property tax bill is based on two things:

1. The appraised value of your property
2. The tax rates set by the taxing entities

One important thing to remember is that the Appraisal District does not keep the tax money. It simply provides the property values that taxing entities use to calculate taxes.

Q: What is the difference between an informal hearing and a formal hearing?

A: When you file a protest, there are usually two stages where you can discuss your value: an informal hearing and a formal hearing.

The informal hearing is normally your first step.

In an informal hearing, you meet with an appraiser from the Appraisal District and discuss your property value. This is usually less formal and more conversational. You can show your pictures, repair estimates, comparable sales, or other evidence and explain why you believe your value should be adjusted.

Many protests are resolved at this stage because the appraiser may agree that changes are warranted based on the evidence presented.

If the issue is not resolved informally, the next step is a formal hearing before the Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent panel that listens to both sides. At the formal hearing, the appraisal district presents its evidence, and the property owner presents theirs.

A formal hearing is more structured than an informal hearing, but property owners should not be intimidated by it. Nobody is going to pound a gavel and yell at you like a courtroom television show. Most hearings are actually pretty calm and usually over faster than a trip to the DMV.

The most important thing is to stay calm, organized, and focused on evidence.

Q: What if I am still not happy after the hearing? What are my options?

A: If you have gone through the protest process, met with an appraiser, and appeared before the Appraisal Review Board but still disagree with the result, you do have additional options.

One option may be binding arbitration.

Another option is filing an appeal in district court.

Both options can involve filing fees, time, and expense, so property owners should realistically evaluate whether further action makes financial sense. Sometimes the legal costs can start looking like a second property tax bill of their own.

Not every disagreement justifies arbitration or a lawsuit.

Sometimes the better approach is to review the evidence presented and consider whether stronger documentation, more comparable sales, or clearer repair estimates could improve the case in the following year.

As Taxpayer Liaison Officer, I cannot change the method of appraisal or the value determined by the Appraisal Review Board, but I can help explain the process and help property owners better understand their options.

Property taxes are never anyone's favorite subject, but understanding the process can make it a lot less frustrating. The more informed property owners are, the better the process works for everyone.

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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

Each week I take a trip down memory lane by going back through the Island Moon archives looking at what was in the news ten and fifteen years ago and this week it was a look at Memorial Days in years gone by. Some things seem to stay the same, like crowds and sargassum, but others change from year to year. Here's a look back.



Memorial Day 2011 saw beachgoers wading through sargassum weed.



On Memorial Day 2011 the seaweed was here. By Patrick Lewis



This was Michael J. Ellis Beach on Memorial Day 2017. Note that the sand is piled to the top of the seawall.

Turtles everywhere!



I found this story from Memorial Day 2018 when crews from the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownville saw a sight not seen before in recorded history when they witnessed an estimated 8000 nesting Kemp's ridley sea turtles throw the Mother of All Turtle Parties at Rancho Nuevo, Mexico about

two hundred miles south of Brownsville in Tamaulipas. The previous year the program at Padre Island National Seashore had recorded a record number of Kemp's ridley nests at 353 which was a record at that time with a previous record of 209 in 2016. They call it an Arribada but it looks like a big old turtle party to me.

The Olson Stink Factory

This shot taken in 2012 records an Island



holiday ritual that went on for several years. As the east side of The Island filled up with holiday visitors the sewer pump station at Whitecap Blvd. and Cruiser Street was habitually overloaded which resulted in an odiferous cloud of foul-smelling air that lingered for days as drivers waited at the traffic light. The station pressures up the line to get the contents over the bridge and on its way to the Whitecap Wastewater Treatment Plant but when it got behind to avoid an explosion of the most catastrophic kind the sewer gas was vented out of a stack producing the odor. It was rumored that smokers rolled up their windows while waiting at the light... just in case. Islanders complained for years about the problem which required a fix of \$80,000 but the smell persisted until the Island Moon renamed the station the *Ron Olson Stink Factory*. Mr. Olson was the then City Manager and lived on Dasmariñas Drive and passed through the intersection on his way home each day. Of all the things the city manager might have liked to have named after him, apparently a Stink Factory was not on the list and while waiting for the permanent fix these trucks showed up to collect the overflow and prevent the Stink Factory from venting gas. A short time later the problem was miraculously fixed and the Island Olfactory Environment improved. But through the miracle of cross sensing the mere site of these trucks brings back the odor of the day...

Everyone have a memorable Memorial Day and get ready for a hopefully non-memorable hurricane season.



A reminder of why we remember.

New Addition along State Highway 361

Drivers traveling along State Highway 361 on Mustang Island may have noticed a new addition along the west side of the roadway just inside the Port Aransas City Limits. The building for a Valero store has begun to rise out of the terrain to go along with the clump of cottages already built across the entryway to a 35-acre development, named Spoonbill Bay.

Developer Alex Harris said plans call for a water park with water supplied by onsite wells, on-site pickleball and tennis courts, and eventually golf cart access to the gulf beach.

Harris said the Valero store is expected to open in June, 2026.



The new Valero in front of Spoonbill Bay



Pieces of the Waterpark are already staging



A rock wall will border the Waterpark

Gulfshores cont. from A1

a keystone location for development around Lake Padre where infrastructure is already in place. The property, which is currently vacant, also includes the land on the east side of the opening from Packery Channel to Lake Padre.

The Nueces County Appraisal District map lists the address of the 81-acre parcel as 14902 Bartholomew Avenue, and Gulfshores Joint Ventures as the property owner at an appraised value for taxes of \$1,502,758 on a total of 3,572,921 square feet. Gulfshores Joint Ventures shows a mailing address in Los Angeles, Ca. Currently property taxes on the property before exemptions are listed at \$33,527 per year. Prior to the approved change by the Planning Commission the 81 acres was zoned CR-2/IO" Resort Commercial District with the Island Overlay which was changed to the "CR-2/IO/PUD" Resort Commercial District with the Island Overlay and Planned Unit Development Overlay. The "CR2" Resort Commercial District permits the following uses: commercial parking; indoor and outdoor recreation; office uses; overnight accommodations; restaurants; retail sales; auto rental; water-oriented uses; multifamily dwellings; community service uses; educational facilities; government facilities; medical facilities; and places of worship, according to city documents.

According to the city documents submitted with the application for the zoning change the approval of the Planned Unit Development (PUD) allows for construction of multi-family housing, single family dwellings on lots a varying size, and mixed-use areas. City staff told Planning Commission members the zoning change clears the way for site work to begin on streets and

drainage. The zoning application states the development planned there includes commercial and hospitality uses, and residential including detached houses, townhouses, and cottages. This range of housing options is intended to provide diverse sizes and price points for future residents. Cottage housing, which is already permitted in the base zoning district, will also be incorporated.

It reads in part: *The intent... is to facilitate development of a mixed-use project that incorporates commercial uses and various residential options. Multiple housing types including detached single-family houses, townhouses, and cottages to provide a range of size and pricing options to potential homeowners. ... To create scenic pedestrian corridors, walking and bike paths, amenities and public open spaces.*

By incorporating short term rentals without limitation and locating commercial uses along the tract's periphery, the development functions as a premier destination that serves both year-round residents and the island's essential tourism sector. The development also connects to the banks of Packery Navigation Channel and to the beach to the east.

The diagram submitted for the zoning changes also shows a walkover from the property across the 150-foot city-controlled easement between the property and Packery Channel. Minimum lot size is listed as 4500 square feet for detached single-family houses with a maximum height of 35 feet. Entry to the property will be through two streets entering from Bartholomew Avenue and Leeward Drive. No timeline for the beginning of construction was listed.



The Gulfshores property submitted to the City's Planning Commission.

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Time to Vote!

Election Day is Tuesday

Early Voting in the runoff elections for both the Republican and Democrat parties runs through Friday, May 22nd. Election Day is Tuesday May 26.

A total of 3250 voters cast ballots on the first two days of Early Voting across Nueces County with 311 of those being at the Island polling place – 51 Democrats and 260 Republicans – making it the fourth highest voting spot in the county. The highest turnout was at the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center where 654 Early Votes were cast. Across the county a total of 1012 Democrats voted in the first two days of balloting and 2238 Republicans.

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.

History cont. from AI

miles? That is worth repeating: a trip where you pull a 28 foot, twin-engine (inboard) fishing machine 2,750 miles; a distance, by the way, 300 miles farther than it is from LA to New York City.

No way? Way. A local fellow made just such a trip not once, but *four times*. His name was Byrd “Red” Minter, and his may be about the best fishing story I ever heard.

Red was riding out the Great Depression running a shrimp boat for his family’s seafood business in Aransas Pass and being a part time fishing guide out of Port Aransas. He was well versed in taking parties to the jetties to tarpon fish, but his real passion lay farther offshore. From his shrimp boat, Red fortuitously hooked a few sailfish while dolphin fishing, and that handsome billfish with the flamboyant dorsal fin found a place in Red’s heart. By 1936, Byrd Minter had laid out his life goal: he would be Port A’s first charter boat captain to specialize expressly in sailfishing.

To accomplish that, Red needed to learn the art and science of catching *Istiophorus ablicans*. A bit of research focused him on the experts in Guaymas, a sailfishing village of high repute on the Mexican coast across from the Baja peninsula. (Guaymas is on the Gulf of California.)

Red Minter shared his life goal, and the role Guaymas played in achieving it, with a man whose boat he ran when the fellow came to the coast to tarpon fish. Mr. G.A.C. “Gaucho” Haiff, a wealthy San Antonian, approved of Red’s learning trip to Mexico; so much so, he offered to grubstake it...with this caveat. Red was to tow his (Mr. Haiff’s) fishing boat, the *Olita*, to Guaymas so that when he came down to see what Red had learned about sailfishing, he could do so aboard a familiar fishing platform. The two men shook hands on this “go-and-tow” arrangement in early 1939.

Olita was not a small machine. She was a twin-screw, wood hull 28’ Chris Craft for which Red had to fabricate a trailer. Red Minter’s great fishing adventure began in April 1939 when, accompanied by a helper, he pointed *Olita* west, stopping at sunset to build a food fire and put out sleeping bags. The boat haulers crossed into Mexico at Nogales, Arizona, where any semblance of a paved road ended. *Olita* and her tenders traversed the Sonora badlands by compass and the help of whatever indigenous people crossed their path. Half a month after leaving the Texas coast, *Olita*’s propellers were pushing water in the sparkling Gulf of California.

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

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 of the party primaries can vote in either, but not both, of the party runoffs.

During the Early Voting period 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. Election Day voting is from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the same locations as above on Padre Island and at the Port Aransas Community Center 408 N. Alister St.

Red hired Guaymas sailfishermen to teach him how to prepare and present baits, build hook inventories, tie off terminal rigs, and how to handle *Olita* so to win a sailfish fight. Guaymas was a Hollywood hideaway in 1939—actors brought their clandestine women to this isolated place. Whenever Gaucho Haiff was in town, any and all were welcome aboard his beloved *Olita*. John Wayne and Errol Flynn—the presence of girlfriends unspecified—were among those accepting invitations from the rich Texan with the red hair boat captain.

At the start of August, Red’s boss told him to wrap it up and head home. The Mexican sailfishing odyssey ended when *Olita* motored into Port A’s Turtle Cove, and the tow truck odometer had advanced 2,750 miles.

What became of these two fanatical Texas fishermen? Impressed by the Guaymas fishing and social scene, Gaucho Haiff stayed the course by having Red transport *Olita* there in ‘40, ‘41, and ‘47 (a four trip total of 11,000 miles). When not fishing Guaymas, Red was realizing his dream. He became the Port Aransas charter boat captain who pioneered taking parties offshore in search of that handsome billfish with the flamboyant dorsal fin. Byrd “Red” Minter expired in 1997 at the age of 91.

Herb: Red’s first sail charter was right after his return from MX. In August of ‘39, he convinced two sports newspaper writers from San Antonio that he could bring ‘em back “from over the horizon.” Red returned to the dock that day with six sails. He had been a good student de la escuela pesca en Guaymas!

The vessel for that trip was Red’s Lucile boat, her keel laid in Aransas Pass by “One Arm” Farley, a relative of our Farley Boat Works crew. Another “Farley” boat: a history gem Mark and I did not know!

This information about Red Minter from an interview I did, and Mark videoed, with Red’s son, Byrd Lee Minter, Jr. (78 years old)...two hours of some great Port A fishing (and other) stories. I expressly asked Byrd if there were offshore charters before the ‘39 trip described above. He confidently said no, but of course I need to confirm that with my sources at the Boatmen’s. Personally, I am reasonably confident that Red Minter is the father, and Aug. 1939 is the anniversary of, offshore fishing in Port Aransas, Texas! (BTW, the offshore charter fee in 1940 was \$25.)

Art cont. from AI

Christi Caller-Times to look a little closer at the natural world around them. Through his writing and photography, he shared not only the beauty of South Texas but also the importance of protecting the places and wildlife that make this region so special.

I have enjoyed having David’s photography in the gallery for years, and I have always admired the patience and dedication behind his work. Wildlife photography requires a willingness to wait—sometimes for hours—for the right light, the right movement, and the right moment. That patience is evident in every image he captures.

Rooted in the Outdoors

David’s connection to nature began almost as soon as he could walk.

“When I was in diapers,” he told me. “My dad photographed me as a toddler fishing in the Bayou Teche with a cane pole.”

Growing up in South Louisiana, fishing and hunting were simply part of life. Time spent with his father and grandfather, along with years in the Boy Scouts, shaped both his love of the outdoors and his respect for conservation. One lesson from childhood left a lasting impression. After David shot a blackbird with his first BB gun, his father made him cook and eat it. “That’s when I learned why nobody eats blackbirds,” he said.

The lesson was clear: wildlife was never meant to be treated as target practice. That respect for nature became a guiding principle throughout his career. When David took over the outdoors column, he stepped into a role that traditionally focused on hunting and fishing. But David’s love and appreciation for wildlife led him to broaden that conversation.

Over the years, his columns expanded to include camping, scuba diving, wildlife photography, and conservation issues—helping readers see the outdoors through a wider lens.

“I considered myself a recruiter of future anglers and hunters, which in turn results in more conservationists,” he said. He understood that people are far more likely to protect what they know and love.

The Joy of Discovery

Although David has spent decades outdoors, his sense of wonder remains intact.

“Since retirement, I’ve probably discovered dozens of birds I’d never heard of or seen,” he said. He describes his curiosity as a childlike fascination with wildlife, animal behavior, and the endless variety of plants and animals.

When I asked what keeps him going back out into the field, his answer was simple. “I know there is so much out there that I’ve never seen, even in my own backyard. I cannot stop searching.” That curiosity is easy to see when you view his photographs. His images capture both beauty and behavior—moments that most of us would overlook entirely. “What most folks miss are the endless variety of wildlife and the tiniest creatures that inhabit the land,” David said.

Places once dismissed as wastelands—swamps, deserts, and Texas brush country—are, in reality, thriving ecosystems supporting countless species. His work reminds us that nature is not limited to the obvious or dramatic. Sometimes the most remarkable discoveries are the ones hiding in plain sight. Whether he is photographing a white-morph reddish egret in breeding plumage, or a coyote in the dunes, David brings the same sense of curiosity and respect to every encounter.

David also served on the board of Wildlife in Focus, a nonprofit organization dedicated



to conservation through photography and education. By showing landowners what was living on their property—often species they didn’t even realize were there—the organization has helped foster a deeper appreciation for the diversity and value of Texas landscapes and has encouraged the preservation of wild spaces for future generations.

Connection and Purpose

After a lifetime spent observing the natural world, David says nature continues to teach him the same lesson.

“Everything is connected and has a purpose in the grand scheme of things. We can only remove so many links in the chain before it all collapses.”

It is a simple truth, but one worth remembering. In a world filled with distractions, his words encourage us to look more closely and consider the impact our choices have on the world around us. When I asked what makes the Coastal Bend and South Texas landscapes so special, his answer was brief. “It’s my home.”

Sometimes the shortest responses carry the greatest meaning. Those three words say a great deal about David’s affection and respect for the Coastal Bend and the wildlife that inhabits it. Padre Island National Seashore remains one of the places that inspires him, revealing something new no matter how many times he returns.

For anyone interested in learning more about the wildlife around us, he recommends visiting as many state and national parks as possible and perhaps even becoming a Texas Master Naturalist. And for those who feel disconnected from nature, his invitation is simple: “Come with me. Simply follow me for a day. I’ll open their eyes to endless fascination.”

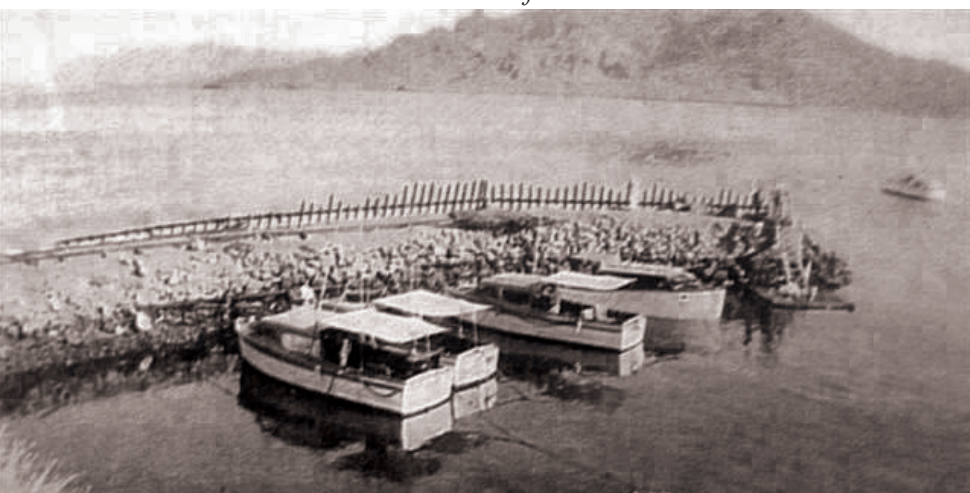
I suspect he would. And perhaps that is David’s greatest gift. Not just sharing the extraordinary images he captures, but inspiring others to see the wonder that has been there all along.

If you’d like to see more of David’s work in person, stop by Evoke Studio & Gifts on Padre Island, where a selection of his wildlife photography is on display for purchase throughout the year.

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

Currents and Current Events

The recent rains and thunderstorms have been both awesome and destructive. The north winds are making migration very difficult for many species of birds trying to cross the gulf with these temperamental winds. I can't seem to nail down everything in my yard, because every time we get a storm, my grill cover is hanging on the neighbor's fence and a plumeria pot has blown over and snapped another branch.

The rains that have been dropping are also making my task of keeping fresh sugar water in the hummingbird feeders a bit tougher. We like the rain, but when it rains on the hummingbird feeders, it dilutes the mixture and introduces dirt and grime into the feeder, turning it yellow and gunky (yes, it's a word, look it up). This is the time of year when you make a large batch but only put smaller amounts in the feeder. A plastic pitcher kept in the fridge makes life a lot easier.

A buzz and a burn...

There's still a pretty strong north-to-south near-shore current along our beaches, which brings things from up the coast. If it's not already out there, we should start seeing trees from flooding, and fun stuff like water hyacinth from the Guadalupe River area. The long rodders at the beach always curse at this time of year because it fouls fishing lines so bad that it makes line maintenance mandatory, or you just reel your lines up and get a buzz and a burn. (Billy Sandifers term).

The currents will be shifting as we keep getting these late season cool fronts that are being steered by the El Nino oscillation that we are enjoying. Hopefully this keeps up and shifts just a bit north into the watershed. We are drowning down here on The Coast in the middle of the worst drought on record. This is extremely frustrating. I had to spend a few days in Houston doing some training earlier in the week, and it rained solidly the whole time I was there. My dad had to put a sump well and pump in the yard to keep his house from flooding yet again. Some people's problems are another one's wishes.

That being said, as we move into El Nino, we will be a little more protected from hur-

ricanes here in the northwest corner of the Gulf, but unfortunately that means the other side of the gulf may see more of an active season. My friends Emily and Randy over in Tampa may see a bit more action in their area.

The Valley

A buddy sent me an interesting article about The Valley, the Port of Brownsville, and Space-X the other day. In some ways, the Port of Brownsville and surrounding areas are building faster than our own port is building. The idea of a new oil refinery that can crack our crude oil from the Permian basin makes you wonder if we couldn't be completely energy independent here in Texas. They are also planning a desal plant, expanded rail yard, and a new power plant to go along with their LNG plant. People are moving to the Valley in droves, but one of the comments from the article got me thinking about the change of culture.

Through the years of travel in The Valley, it always mystified me when driving through a neighborhood, you would see average homes on streets all over, and then suddenly you see a big villa on two lots in the middle of it with a pool. Word around the campfire was that those were members of the cartels mom's house, but no one really said much about it. The reporter mentioned that now those homes are being bought by the engineers of Space-X. That would seem to check out.

Certified Manatee Observer

I want to congratulate the Augsburgers for their concerted efforts on buckling down and studying, and then aceing their Manatee Observer classes. Now they are trained in identifying and observing manatees in the future. While Jozy and Finny are not yet old enough to be employed, keep their names in the hat for any future work involving manatees. School is almost out and award ceremonies are rampant. Y'all make sure your windows are rolled up at any point in time, drop me a line at jay-gardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week *On the Rocks*.

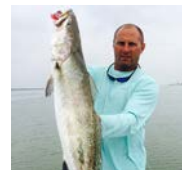


The Augsburgers girls studying for, and taking their Manatee Observer Tests

Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Tides and Critters!



This Young Man caught a limit of big redbfish this week drifting 3' of water on soft plastics. Thick grass is where these redbfish are spending their day. Burning paddle



Lots of 25-27" trout are being caught in the Laguna Madre right now. Have everything ready to snap a picture and release these bigger fish so that they will survive.

Weather patterns have definitely changed in the last two weeks. We have gotten some great rainfall and tidal movements. The amount of rain will not affect our bays salinities much as we are a hyper saline environment, five times saltier than the surf. The rain does do some very important things to the environment other than watering the grass and hatching mosquitoes.

Crustatons and mollusks, all depend directly on fresh water influx. This means that the years that we are very dry, the shrimp, crabs, clams, and scallops, along with many tiny species of both are few. These are the foundation of life and will directly affect the bait and gamefish numbers. We are in some of the best years of sports fishing in decades, now with this rainy pattern upon us, things look to be excellent for the years to come.

Recent changes to bag limits of sports, mostly trout in Texas after the freeze and increase in resource usage has put us in a great place in our fishery. As of now, trout slots are 15-20" with the oversized trout tag of over 28". I believe that the oversized tag should be for any over length trout so that each angler has the chance to retain their biggest trout to date, or tag a fatally hooked fish rather than throwing it back to float off. As of now I'm seeing some of the young guides allowing their clients to keep and tag oversized trout only to fillet them. Most of the fish are not measured correctly and are not 28" anyway. To be able to catch and release a mature fish and have it live you must be ready at all times. When I see a good trout on the line, we net the fish and keep it in the water and/or secure in the net so she doesn't thrash around and hurt herself and remove slime, or contact hot boat surfaces. She is slid directly into a live well with air going. I let her catch her breath and prepare to take pictures. We then bring her up snap some pics then return her directly back to the Mother Lagoon. It only takes 20seconds for them to reach the

point of no return after a good fight. Imagine wrestling someone with all you have, then getting held under water when your out of breath!?

Wouldn't take long would it?

The topwater bite has been great the first few hours of each day both in the Lagoon and Baffin. Larger trout and redbfish will be mostly what grabs them, and the heart attack they give you will be the best part of your day. Throw plugs that you can see at the end of your cast? Fish will be paying more attention to the action not color. The angler should be able to see the plug so one can focus on every strike and slap.

We have been having our best days on large fish on those windy trips! The flow and oxygen as well as length of cast and more bring great fishing in these windy days. When the winds lay down we have been doing best in deeper water that offers fish more tidal flow, oxygen, and shade. This is when my MINKOTA Trolling motor saves the day! Technology now is amazing, I can see fish 100ft to each side of the boat, at a tap of a finger hold or move the boat into position and make unlimited casts to deep water fish. This summer this MINKOTA SYSTEM will allow us to follow and catch schools of black drum after we catch our limits of trout on soft plastics. When you're giving life to your older boat, upgrades like new electronics can make you fall in love with your old boat all over again. I've also done some beautiful and useful upgrades to my boat this spring with a non-skid rubberized SAFE-FLOOR all over my decking and floor. This is not an adhesive foam pad that pulls up and gets scratched. This is a rubberized floor that pads my legs, secure grip, and ultra quiet! Come up to Marker 37 and check it out! It's better than getting your boat's gel coat redone, and it's permanent. Mr. Bo does it in just two days and you get to pick whatever color combo you wish to match your boat. Everything washed right off of it! Safe Floor Bo 361-799-9151.

Everyone brace yourselves, SCHOOL GETS OUT SOON so enjoy the outdoors and lack of weekday traffic while you can before we all have to tread lightly. Don't forget why you are standing on this strip of sand we call Padre', get out and GET WET!

Let's find your summer fishing date to build memories with family, friends, and clients!

[361-452-8145](tel:361-452-8145) and follow all of our fishing on Facebook at Joseph Farah, Joey Farah's Backwater Fishing!



This beautiful Windy Day Trophy Trout came to hand mid day during a lunar feeding period. Down South Lure's Purple Reign!



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Nature Notes

Building a Family as a Bald Eagle



Two fledgling Bald Eagles in the nest

By David Menke, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Almost everyone is familiar with *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, otherwise known as the Bald Eagle. They are our national symbol and one of the greatest success stories in conservation history after they were brought back from the brink of extinction. As these birds continue returning to their original range, more and more people are seeing these birds in person for the first time and are becoming more invested in their lives.

At five years old, Bald Eagles reach adulthood and are ready to begin searching for a mate. When a pair is interested in each other they will perform a courtship display involving aerial acrobatics known as the death spiral. The two will soar to dizzying altitudes before locking talons with each other and freefalling together, somersaulting towards the ground. If all goes well and the female is impressed by the male's performance, the two will separate before they hit the ground. Luckily, most eagles will only need to partake in this high-stakes first date once in their life. Bald Eagles will typically mate for life, however if one partner dies (or they are simply not doing their part around the nest) the other will seek out a new mate.

Building the nest is also no small undertaking. Bald Eagles build exceptionally large nests, and even hold the record for the world's largest bird nest ever recorded at over nine feet wide, twenty feet deep, and estimated to weigh over two tons. These hefty nests can take up to three months to make, and are built with the combined effort of the male and female eagle, typically at the tops of tall coniferous trees. Most eagles will return to the same nest year after year, and will continue adding onto it when the pair reunites at the nest each season.

When the nest is ready, the female can begin laying her eggs; she can lay up to four eggs, but two or three is the most common number. It takes a little over a month for the eggs to incubate and hatch into hungry little eaglets. For the first couple of

weeks, one parent, usually the female, will stay with the newly hatched babies while the male hunts for them. But after those first weeks the female will start hunting as well once the eaglets are able to start feeding themselves.

Unlike some other bird species, Bald Eagles won't regurgitate food for their young, but they will help rip their food (usually fish) into smaller pieces and feed it to the chicks when they are too young to do so themselves. Parents will typically feed the largest chick first as they have the greatest chances of survival long term, but if there is not enough food to go around this chick may be the only one who survives to adulthood. Food scarcity isn't the only threat eaglets: things like other birds of prey or storms can also cause nests to fail.

If all goes well the little eaglets won't stay little for very long. It only takes about three months for Bald Eagles to replace all their gray down feathers with dark brown flight feathers and grow to their full size. At this age the young eagles will begin exploring outside the nest, branching and taking small flights. In just a month or two these Bald Eagles will be ready to leave the nest for good and seek out their own territory, and in five years, they'll be ready to start this process all over again with young of their own.

Hailey Burrows is a biology intern at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, a non-profit organization dedicated to saving the birds and their habitats along the entire Gulf Coast and beyond into their Central and South America wintering grounds.



Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

Following the Trails of the Lettered Olive *A small but fascinating hunter is moving just beneath your feet*



Jace holding a Lettered Olive

If you've been walking the beach at low tide lately, you may have noticed long, winding trails etched across the smooth sand, some stretching close to a foot in length. These trails aren't left by ghosts or dragging seaweed, but by one of our most elegant shoreline residents: the lettered olive snail.

At first glance, the trail looks like a shallow groove, almost as if someone slowly pulled a pencil through the sand. Follow it carefully to the end and you'll often find the creator still at work, just beneath the surface. A gentle scoop of sand usually reveals a smooth, shiny shell slipping forward as the snail burrows with surprising speed.

The lettered olive gets its name from the beautiful brown zig-zag and script-like markings that decorate its cream-colored shell. Adults typically reach two to three inches long and are common in sandy, shallow waters along the southeastern U.S. coast, including our Gulf beaches. In fact, this striking snail is so admired that it's the official state shell of South Carolina.

Despite its polished appearance, the lettered olive is a predator. It hunts beneath the sand for small clams, other snails, and even carrion, using a long proboscis to capture and swallow its prey. This active lifestyle explains why they are among the fastest burrowing snails in their family.

Lettered olives spend much of their lives just below the surface, emerging most often during low tide when conditions are right. Females lay egg capsules in the sand, and the young spend time drifting as plankton before settling down to begin life on the bottom.

While they aren't eaten, their shells are frequently collected, often already polished smooth by tumbling in the surf. So next time you're beachcombing, keep an eye out for those winding trails, they're a sign that a small but fascinating hunter is moving just beneath your feet.

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) and X (@HarteResearch) (the platform formerly known as Twitter).



The trail of a Lettered Olive

Around cont. from A1

Mona Singleterry is organizing the Veteran's Memorial at Island Presbyterian Church. The memorial has become a tradition *Around The Island* for Memorial Day. The good news is that the number of veteran suicides has dropped from 23 per day to 17.5 as more awareness has been brought to the problem. The memorial will remain up through the weekend.

Riley P. Dog Park

Riley P. Dog Park, Inc.
a 501(c)(3) corporation



rileypdogpark.com

This week marks the tenth anniversary of the push to open the Riley P. Dog Park. The park is now open and in the best shape ever with irrigation from recycled water and the addition of palm trees. Thanks to Nick Colosi and the army of Dog Volunteers who have worked to make the park what it is over the last decade. Riley P's spirit is alive and well.

Sinking hole...



A Memorial Day sink hole.
By Miles Merwin.

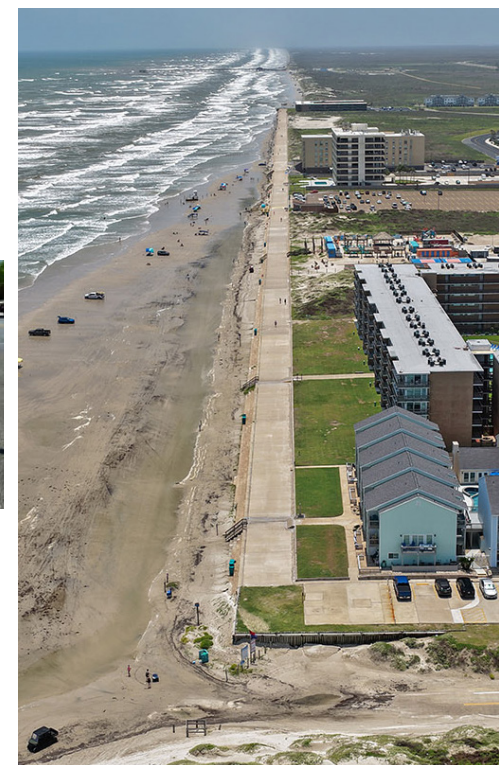
We came across this photo of a Memorial Day more than ten years ago when the intersection at Whitecap Blvd. and Gypsy Street was the site of a memorable sink hole. The hole was first discovered by a passing police officer when it was the size of a pizza and by the time he stopped his car it had begun

to swallow the entire intersection. It took a week to fill back in and looked like something out of a horror film!

Seawall project

As we went to press mid-week there is a mid-week meeting scheduled to bring the public up to date on the \$17 million in repairs and improvements currently underway at the Michael J. Ellis Seawall. Plans call for the addition of shade structure along the seawall as well as additional stairs. The project is expected to go out to bids this summer with work to begin immediately after Labor Day. We will have more on the project in the next edition.

That's all for now everybody, have a peaceful Memorial Day and get ready to reason with hurricane season. In the meantime, say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



The Michael J. Ellis Seawall with recent high tides. Aerial by Augs

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Island Real Estate Roundup

Apryl Noles

Mid-year Momentum Builds



As we hit the middle of May and move closer into the summer season, the Padre Island real estate market continues to show steady momentum week after week. Activity has remained consistent, and we are seeing buyers continue to make moves as families prepare for summer and coastal living opportunities.

In the detached home sector, we currently have one home in the option period and six homes that sold this week. The townhome market also stayed active with one property in the option period and four townhomes that sold. In the condominium sector, we saw one condo sale this week as inventory continues to move at a steady pace.

With school letting out soon and summer travel beginning, we anticipate continued activity across all sectors of the market. Buyers are still looking to secure properties before peak summer, while sellers who are priced correctly are continuing to see strong interest.

Stay tuned for next week's update, and below are the homes featured in this week's report.

Detached Homes In Option Period:
-14125 Coquina Bay Ave (Listed for \$720,000)
Detached Homes That Sold:
-15906 Palo Seco Dr (Listed for \$814,000)
-13762 Cayo Cantiles Ct (Listed for \$769,000)
-14862 Cobo De Bara Circle (Listed for \$694,900)
-14221 Sand Dollar Ave (Listed for \$650,000)
-15825 Cozumel Dr (Listed for \$484,100)
-13837 Flintlock Dr (Listed for \$349,000)
Townhomes In Option Period:
-14422 Verdemar Dr Unit 301 (Listed for \$229,000)
Townhomes In Sold:
-15418 Grass Cay Ct Unit A (Listed for \$449,999)
-14901 Windward Dr Unit 704 (Listed for \$385,000)
-15402 Fortuna Bay Dr Unit 2806 (Listed for \$365,000)
-15102 Dory Dr (Listed for 199,999)
Condominium That Sold:
-15002 Windward Dr Unit 502 (Listed for \$450,000)



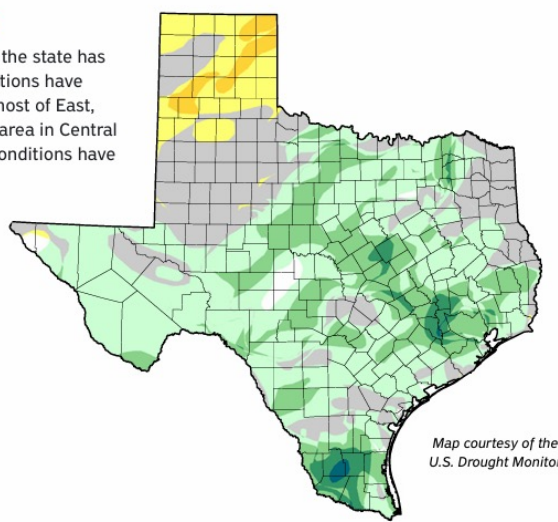
The white morph reddish egret and reddish egret By Lu Ann Kingsbury

Drought Update

Six-week drought change

Since the end of March, drought area in the state has contracted 24 percentage points. Conditions have improved at least one category across most of East, Central, South, and West Texas. A large area in Central Texas is now drought free. Meanwhile, conditions have degraded across 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

Thoughts from Reverend Ken



By Rev. Dr. Ken

Soul Injury and Memorial Day

Memorial Day weekend! It's the beginning of our summer season on the island. However, more importantly Memorial Day is the day we mourn and honor military personnel who died while serving our country, making the ultimate sacrifice.

Additionally, although it may be difficult, we must also remember the brave individuals who lost their lives to psychological wounds after returning home. Honoring veterans who died by suicide on Memorial Day involves bringing their silent struggles out of the shadows.

Overall, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in our country. Approximately 49,000 Americans die by suicide annually. So many people have been touched by suicide, including our neighbors.

Veterans die by suicide at a rate significantly higher than the general adult population in the United States. The rate is 50% higher than other civilian adults. According to the 2025 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, veteran suicides average roughly 17.5 per day.

Suicide is an attempt to escape from pain. For many veterans, the pain is associated with soul injury.

Soul injury is a deep psychological wound that separates a person from their real self. Often the person feels a haunting sense of inadequacy, emptiness or brokenness. This can be driven by unmourned loss and unforgiven guilt or shame. Traditional PTSD impacts the brain's sense of safety. Moral injury affects one's values. Soul injury damages a person's core sense of inner goodness.

There are many important ways to remember and honor the fallen on Memorial Day. Some will decorate graves. Flags will fly at half-staff. A tradition since World War I is the wearing red poppies. There are also many official ceremonies. Another powerful and poignant memorial is the display of empty combat boots, lined up in formation. It is a powerful visual display of the heavy toll of war.

The empty boots display is also a powerful memorial to raise awareness about the high rate of suicide among veterans. Each pair

of boots represents a life lost to suicide. The purpose of these displays is to reduce the stigma around mental health, honor those who have died, and to urge veterans and active-duty service members to seek help. To seek help is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength.

This year an empty boots display will occur in front of Island Presbyterian Church. God desires healing and restoration. Jesus brings healing to the broken, freedom to the captive, forgiveness to the guilty. By the grace of God, the authentic self, created in the image of God, can be reclaimed. The promise of Jesus is that nothing separates us from the love of God. There is hope.

The display is a way to acknowledge the invisible wounds of war and the need for healing and restoration. These wounds are real. We must break the stigma surrounding mental health and soul injury. The display is also a way to support surviving families. The loss of a loved one to suicide leaves complex grief. They need to know they are not alone.

Perhaps the best way to honor those lost to suicide is to actively help those who are still fighting against the invisible wounds of soul injury. Check in with the veterans in your life. There is help and confidential support available 24/7. Call or text 988 and press 1, text 838255, or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net. Healing and restoration are at hand. There is hope.

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.

Choose kindness, compassion, and love; do justice and make peace; welcome the stranger.

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Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

1. Sandbar
6. Takes the bull by the horns
10. Portent
14. First in a series
15. Fingerboard ridge
16. Hemingway, for one
17. Profit
18. Memorization by repetition
19. Canyonlands locale
20. Home cook's low-cal staple?
23. System starter?
24. It often comes to a stop
25. A guy on the green
26. Landmark Supreme Court name
29. Home cook's salad choice?
33. Albanian coin
34. Join forces, in a way
35. Chihuahua snack
36. Revise
39. Word with cap or coat
40. Country on the Irish Sea
41. TV's Roseanne
42. Honorarium
43. Tropical garland
44. Home cook's entree?
48. Title in India
49. Ward workers
50. Peachy keen
51. Historical period
54. Home cook's breakfast enhancement brand?
58. School visitor of rhyme
60. White wader
61. Aspirin targets
62. Jim Davis mutt
63. German actress Sommer
64. Tune for the unhip
65. Candlelike
66. Core element?
67. New drivers, often

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
		54	55					56			57	
58	59				60					61		
62					63					64		
65					66					67		

Down

1. Sci-fi setting
2. Ruinous damage
3. Elocutionist
4. Quarreling
5. Sadie Hawkins Day originator
6. From the top
7. Gator cousin
8. On a short leash
9. Braced (oneself)
10. Numbered piece
11. Kind of witness
12. Fed. regulator since 1970
13. "Ixnay"
21. Thick, messy stuff
22. Double switchback
27. Without repetition
28. Things that may become bruised
30. Trouble indicator
31. Nerdish guy
32. Prepare a slide
36. How-to stuff
37. Co-star of a 1939 classic
38. Backpacker's fare
39. Fit for repeated service
40. Achilles' heel
42. Likes
43. Role for 37-Down
45. Work or energy unit
46. Upped the ante
47. Make fun of
52. Argument
53. Nave endings
55. Mind
56. Armstrong transport
57. Common ground for Bush and Kerry
58. Contemptible
59. Decay-fighting org.

Ten years ago in the Island Moon



Starting line at Beach to Bay.



Lake Padre May 2016 before the Don Patricio Bridge. By Dale Rankin.

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G | L | G

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Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Moon Classifieds #1153

Here's how to place a Classified Ad

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 15820 Park Rd 22.
 (In bad weather, the Sunday meetings will be indoors at IPC)

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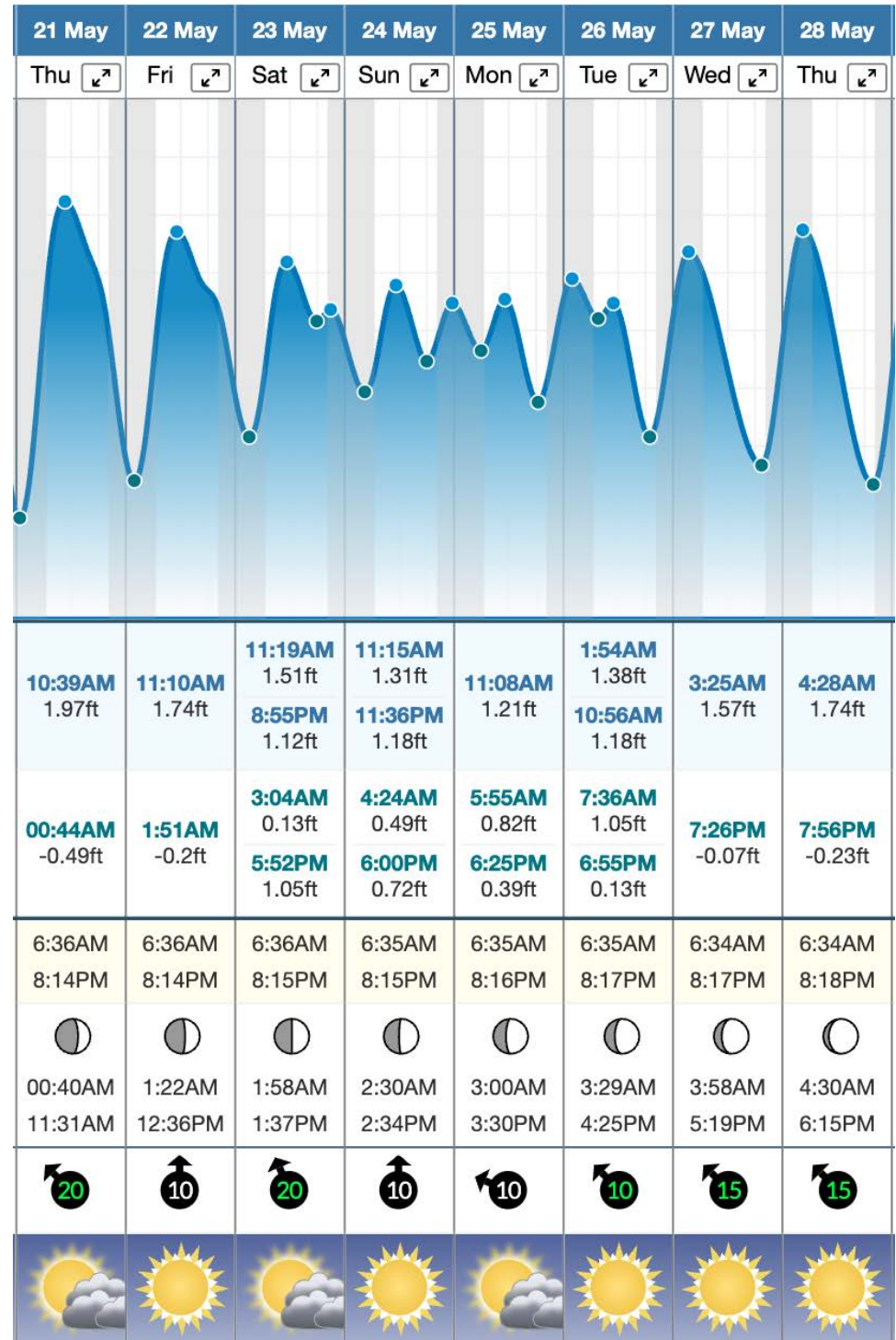
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 South Texas Chapter

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Fifteen years ago Sea Pines got new palm trees. By Miles Merwin.

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

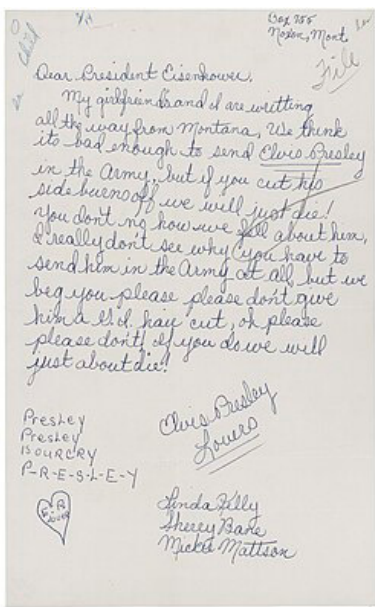
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C	O	T	T	A	G	E	C	H	E	E	S	E			
E	C	O		B	U	S		E	L	S		R	O	E	
			R	A	N	C	H	D	R	E	S	S	I	N	G
				L	E	K		W	E	D		T	A	C	O
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B	A	R	R		F	E	E		L	E	I				
C	H	A	T	E	A	U	B	R	I	A	N	D			
S	R	I		R	N	S		A	O	K		E	R	A	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

Senior moments Special to the Island Moon



Military career of Elvis Presley Part 2

By Dotson Lewis



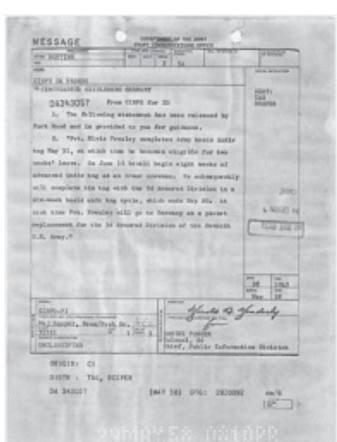
Dotson's Note: Above, letter sent to President Dwight D. Eisenhower by three Elvis fans from Noxon, Montana, pleading with him not to have Presley's hair cut short. The letter is preserved in the Library of Congress. Two weeks after finishing the movie King Creole, Presley reported for his induction on March 24, 1958, a day dubbed "Black Monday" for his fans by the press. Thanks to Bill Morgan and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in this report.



Above, Presley being sworn into the Army on March 24, 1958, at Fort Chaffee. Presley was given a medical examination and assigned service number 53310761, before being sworn in and made leader of his group. Parker, with the permission of the Army, had arranged for news crews from around the world to be on hand to report Presley's entry into the Army. After his final goodbyes to family and friends, Presley and his fellow Army recruits were taken by bus to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

Fort Hood

Presley spent four days at Fort Chaffee before being transferred to Fort Hood, Texas. After being assigned to Company A, 2d Medium Tank Battalion, 37th Armor, Presley completed basic training by June. He had become a pistol sharpshooter, and expressed his enjoyment at the «rough and tumble» of the tanks obstacle course. To friends back home, however, he was less upbeat. In letters to friend Alan Fortas, Presley described his homesickness and insisted that he hated the training. Eddie Fadal, another of Presley's friends, remembers that Presley would worry about his career, fearing it was all over. One of Presley's instructors, Bill Norwood, who let Presley use his phone to call home on many occasions, recalls Presley breaking down in tears during many of these phone calls.



Above, message from the United States Army Public Information Division releasing information about Elvis Presley's basic and advanced training, with approximate date of assignment to the 3rd Armored Division in West Germany. After a short break to record new material for RCA Victor in June, Presley returned to Fort Hood to finish his tank training. He was now living off post, in his own house, with his mother, father, grandmother, and friend Lamar Fike; soldiers who had dependents living off post were allowed to live with

them. Having his family close by cheered him up immensely, although he still spoke to friends about his fears for his career. Parker, who was often a visitor to Presley's home, would attempt to reassure his client. Parker had arranged for enough material and merchandise to be available to keep Presley's name in the public arena during his two years in the service. Although Presley nodded along in agreement with his manager, he was not really convinced that he could return to what he had known previously.

In early August, while in Texas with her son, Gladys Presley took ill. She had recently increased her alcohol intake to cope with her son's fame and army commitments, and she had also begun using diet pills to attempt to lose weight. This, coupled with a poor diet, had led to the deterioration of her liver function. One afternoon, after a heated argument with her husband Vernon, Gladys collapsed from exhaustion. Presley arranged for her and Vernon to return to Memphis on August 8th. The next day, Gladys' condition worsened so rapidly that she was rushed to a hospital. On August 11th, after calls from her doctor, Presley requested emergency leave to visit with his mother. After initially being turned down and threatening to go absent without leave, Presley was eventually given permission to leave on August 12th. The officer who initially denied Presley his emergency leave was later disciplined for his actions.

On August 14th, Gladys died from cirrhosis; her official cause of death was listed as a heart attack, but the Presleys refused an autopsy to verify it. Elvis and Vernon were both devastated by her death. Her funeral was held on August 15th, and Presley collapsed with grief several times before, during, and after the service. His mother had always been the most important person in his life, and now he felt as though everything he had worked for had been for nothing. Presley's leave was extended by five days on August 18, and when he finally left to return to Fort Hood, he left instructions that nothing in his mother's room was to be altered.

West Germany 1958



Presley shortly after his arrival. After training at Fort Hood, Presley was reassigned to the 1st Medium Tank Battalion, 32d Armor, 3d Armored Division, at Ray Barracks, West Germany, where he served as an armor intelligence specialist. He left Fort Hood on September 19th, headed for Brooklyn Army Terminal in New York where he would ship out to West Germany on September 22nd. After a short press conference arranged by Parker, which also involved Presley walking up and down the plank of the USS *General George M. Randall* eight times for cameras, the ship set sail and Presley would spend the rest of his service overseas.

During the crossing Presley became a friend of a fellow soldier named Charlie Hodge. Hodge, who had enjoyed some success as an entertainer himself before being drafted, encouraged Presley to help him put together a show for the troops. Presley accepted his request, but only agreed to play piano in the background; Parker had drilled into him that there would be no public performances of any kind during his service. Hodge would become a close friend to Presley during their time in the army, and he was invited to work for him when they were both discharged.

Dotson's Other Note: On October 1st, the USS General George M. Randall arrived in West Germany. Presley was once again offered the chance to join Special Services, but politely refused. He was instead given the task of being the chauffeur for the commanding officer of Company D, a Captain Russell. Russell, however, did not take kindly to the attention surrounding Presley, and he was transferred to driving duties for Reconnaissance Platoon Sergeant Ira Jones of Company C.
TO BE CONTINUED

Sales Tax Holidays for Water-Efficient Products Set for May 23-25

Texans can save on the purchase of certain products during the state's Water-Efficient Products and ENERGY STAR sales tax holidays.

include soaker or drip-irrigation hoses; moisture controls for sprinkler or irrigation systems; mulch; and plants, trees and grasses. These items can be purchased tax free for residential use only.

Created by the Texas Legislature, both holidays take place Saturday, May 23, through Monday, May 25. The Texas Comptroller's office estimates shoppers will save \$15.7 million in state and local sales tax on purchases made during these holidays.

There's no limit to the number of water-efficient or water-conserving products that can be purchased tax free. For more information on the [Water-Efficient Products Sales Tax Holiday](#), visit the Comptroller's website.

During the Water-Efficient Products Sales Tax Holiday, products displaying a Water-Sense label or logo can be purchased tax free for personal or business use. These include showerheads, bathroom sink faucets and fixtures, and landscape irrigation controls.

During the ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday, certain products displaying the ENERGY STAR logo can be purchased tax free, including air conditioners priced at \$6,000 or less, refrigerators priced at \$2,000 or less, ceiling fans, fluorescent light bulbs, dishwashers, dehumidifiers and clothes washers.

The sales tax holiday also applies to lawn and garden products that help conserve water outdoors. Items qualifying for the exemption

PADRE ISLES PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting

Tuesday – 26 May 26

5:30 PM

Location:
Island Presbyterian Church – Annex
14030 Fortuna Bay Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78418
Attend in person or login via Zoom
Browser: zoom.us
Personal Meeting ID: 439 451 0087
Participant Passcode: qxqKy6

Or, copy and paste into your browser for immediate access:
<https://zoom.us/j/4394510087?pwd=Lm0yKMYxcWsFdYhZjuiWaFbLo6a00N.1>

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

Zoom participants may use the chat function to ask a question. Zoom chat questions will be addressed time and content permitting. If you wish to address the board, please sign in prior to the meeting with your name, physical address, email address, and the subject to be addressed.

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. President's Comments:
4. Approve Minutes from previous meeting
5. Presentations (5-Minutes each)
 - a. Bulkhead Report:
 - b. ACC Report:
 - c. Executive Director's Report:
 - i. Staff Re-Alignments _ Executive Session if held
 - ii. Well Project – System Online
6. TREASURER'S REPORT:
 - a. Financial reporting updates
7. OLD BUSINESS
8. NEW BUSINESS (with motions)
9. MEMBERS' COMMENTS (3 minutes per member)
10. Next Meeting: 23 June 26 5:30 PM
11. Optional Executive Session
12. ADJOURN

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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

I'm Still kickin'...



How I spent my weekend.

I had an interesting weekend recently. It didn't involve any music or community events. I'm reluctant to tell this story because it's highly personal, but then my life is an open book. I have reached the age where health has become a daily issue. I ran hard during my early years and always knew I'd have to pay the piper eventually. Well, this past weekend was a real eye opener. My doctor has been giving me a battery of tests to see specifically how my tired old organs are wearing. I've had a bunch of x-rays and blood tests and have been examined by specialists who decided I needed an immediate heart procedure. They had me plenty scared, telling me I was on the verge of a heart attack. This became dreadfully obvious when I initially tried to get an appointment with a cardiologist and they said the only appointment they had open wouldn't be until next November. So after the results came in that all changed and they had me come in THE VERY NEXT DAY to do a heart cath and was told to do my best not to have a heart attack in the mean time. It was all so sudden. I was told it was a "serious" situation and needed immediate attention. So my **Mermaid Gal** packed a bag and off we went to the out-patient surgery place. I had tubes and needles coming out of various ports in both arms and was super happy when they finally gave me the "goofy shot" so I was unconscious for the procedure. That's when it got trippy. Everything went dark and then it was over and when I came to, my mind was cloudy and confused. The cardiologist then told us that I had a 40% blockage but they didn't put in a stent. All this is because my diet for the past 50 years was pretty much double cheese burgers and fried chicken with a side of butter. Who knew? So they sent me home and said to carry on as usual except I had to cut out the grease in my diet and only eat mostly fresh fruit, veggies and fish. Talk about dig a hole and fill it up! I kept thinking, "how much is this gonna cost me?"

On the local front...



Brad Ethridge will play the VFW every Tuesday.

I guess you've figured out by now that I don't have any scattered shots to throw at you this week. There were a lot of great shows that I missed such as the **Dueling Pianos**, **Bo Luna** and **Mario Flores** at the *Sip Yard*, **Mantle Jennings** and **Heavy Soul** at *Shorty's*, the **Lucky Dogz** and **Diamond's Edge** at *Treasure Island*, **Dreaming in Color** and **Jerry Ward** and the **Dirty Birds** at *Bron's*. I also didn't get to go with **Rankin** to the big show in town to see the rock star, **Ted Nugent** at *Concrete Street*. I hope you were able to see some of these shows and rest assured, I'll be out there this coming **Memorial Day Weekend**. Yup boys and girls, it's that time of year when we officially welcome in our *Summer Tourist Season* and celebrate that age old event when

the school kids of all ages will all be singing, "♪♪ School's out. School's out. Teacher let the fools out.♪♪" All you locals better get you affairs in order because here they come, ready or not. Start figuring your "no left turn" routes and look hard to dig out what little patience you might have left. The next three months WILL be challenging. All the short term rentals in my neighborhood have been packed all spring so just multiply that by tenfold and you get the picture... bedlam meets the entire population of hell on an already crowded beach in south Texas. They will all be driving golf carts (many for the first time) and for the most part, have no idea what they are doing. So suck it up buttercups, and not to sound like the grumpy old man that I am but, ready or not, the day has come and the fools are out and on the way.



Larry Joe Taylor will play the Sip Yard this Saturday.

Coming this week...



Groove Chili will play Shorty's on Friday.

People get ready, there's a train a comin'. Don't need no ticket. Jus' climb on board... We got a big holiday weekend upon us and live music is abound. Coming on Thursday, May 21st we have the big ten piece horn band, **Cruise Control** with the lovely **Lisa Lehman** on lead vocals and flute. They've been around for a lot of years and for good reason. Also on Thursday trop-rocker **Billy Snipes** will play the *Gaff* plus our very own **Johnson All Starz** featuring **Art Johnson**, **Ray Ray Johnson** and **Antone Johnson** will play their regular Thursday slot at *Shorty's*. Coming this Friday, May 22nd the ever so grungy **Groove Chili** will rock out *Shorty's*, popular Americana stud **Clay Hollis** will play the *Sip Yard*, **Flying Free** with the training coach **Anna Wilson** at the helm will play *Bron's*, our Cajun pals **Boudreaux and Pousson** will have the girls wiggling at the *Gaff* on downbeat and the raucous **Cathouse** will play *Treasure Island*. On Saturday, May 23rd look for the **Groove 2.0** to play *Shorty's*, the great country band **Five Card Draw** will play *Treasure Island*, and another up and coming county act **Timothy Noel & the Smoking Guns** will play *Bron's*, **Coach Big Jim Dugan** is at the *Gaff* and last but not least, a man who needs no introduction, **Larry Joe Taylor** will play at the *Sip Yard*. Y'all be safe! Plus we have shows all week long for the holiday. Check the LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT box for more listings.

♪♪♪ *And, that's the truth* ♪♪♪



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

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, May 21

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's
Cruise Control @ Sip Yard
Billy Snipes @ Gaff
Ruben Limas @ Perrin's on the Water
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Island
Peter Salas @ Brewster Southside
Locals Only @ Executive Surf Club
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Middle of the Road @ Pier 99
Blues Jam @ Sandbox NPI
Aaron Boultinghouse @ Commercial St. AP
Blues Jam @ Sandbox Beach Bar
Open Mic @ Exchange
Carl Hays Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin
Michael Perez @ Cassidy's

Friday, May 22

Groove Chili @ Shorty's
Clay Hollis @ Sip Yard
Flying Free @ Bron's
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Gaff
Cathouse @ Treasure Island
Derek Flores @ Salty Dog
Cathouse @ Pelican Lounge
Dreaming in Color @ Executive Surf Club
Young Klassics @ Rockits
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach
Michael Perez @ Brewster Southside
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Island
Margarita Fest @ BUS
Mike Guerra & Trisum @ Pier 99
Ruben Limas w/ Emily @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Splendiferous @ Fajitaville
Blevin's Band @ Sandbox
Marty J @ Anchor Beach Br

Saturday, May 23

BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
The Groove 2.0 @ Shorty's
Five Card Draw @ Treasure Island
Timothy Noel & Smokin' Guns @ Bron's

THE GAFF
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OPEN MIC EVERY WED WITH BRAD E.
BILLY SNIPES MAY 21
BOUDREAUX & POUSSON MAY 22
JIM DUGAN MAY 23
DUNEBILLIES MAY 24
BRAD ETHRIDGE MAY 25

SHORTY'S
JOHN ELIJAH BAND EVERY MONDAY
JOHNSON ALL STARZ EVERY THURS
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
GROOVE CHILI MAY 22
THE GROOVE 2.0 MAY 23
BILLY SNIPES MAY 25
ART BARRERA MAY 26

Treasure Island
CATHOUSE MAY 22
FIVE CARD DRAW MAY 23
JONMIKAEL MREZ MAY 24
NATIONAL NOBODYZ MAY 29
MARIO FLORES MAY 30
RAUL AYALA JUNE 5

MOORE-MCDONALD VFW POST 8967
EVERY TUES
BRAD ETHRIDGE MAY 30
GARRY MITCHAM JUNE 3
CLEAR TONES JUNE 6
THE GROOVE 2.0 JUNE 13
GARRETT SMITH JUNE 27
CHRIS LANCASTER

Sip Yard
CRUISE CONTROL MAY 21
CLAY HOLLIS MAY 22
LARRY JOE TAYLOR MAY 23
BRODIE LANE MAY 24
NICK LAWRENCE MAY 24
THOMAS MICHAEL RILEY MAY 30

Bron's BACKYARD
FLYING FREE MAY 22
TIMOTHY NOEL MAY 23
DARREN MCGILL MAY 24
JOHN CORTEZ MAY 27
BRAD ETHRIDGE MAY 28
CRUISE CONTROL MAY 29

Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Larry Joe Taylor @ Sip Yard
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog
Chainlinks @ Pelican Lounge
Max Stalling @ Palmilla Beach Resort
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Perrin's
Cruise Control @ Sugar Shack
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards Too
Meza @ Brewster Island
Beto Ramon, John Elijah @ Executive Surf Club
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside
Metallica Tribute @ Brewster Downtown
Texas Bloodline @ Fifth & Elm Portland
Cruise Control @ Sugar Shack
Randall Hunt @ Sand Box
JonMikael MREZ @ Riley's Pub
Alley Cats @ Tannins South
Corpus Creeps @ Exchange
Trisum @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Paul Montoya @ Pier 99
Funk Rock Stereo @ Headliners Fulton
Dave Salinas, Phillip Dean @ Anchor Beach Bar
D-Soul Davis @ Fajitaville
Machin3 @ SandBox
Blues Jam @ Bay Area Brewing RP

Sunday, May 24

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Darren McGill @ Bron's
Jonmikael MREZ @ Treasure Island
Dunebillies @ Gaff
Nick Lawrence, Brodie Lane @ Sip Yard
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog
Diamond's Edge @ Pelican Lounge
Sonny Salinas @ Executive Surf Club
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Melissa Ann, Cody Gonzales @ Pier 99
Rick Hoefel, Michael Burtt @ Anchor Beach Bar
Reno Perez @ Sandbox
Orlando Herrera @ Doc's
Memorial Day, May 25
Billy Snipes @ Shorty's
Brad Ethridge @

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