

The Art of Island Life A5



Nature Notes A7



Three Chords and the Truth A12



On the Rocks A6



Backwater Adventures A6

Issue 1154

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# The Island Moon

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May 28, 2026

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A Parchment Tube Worm and Friends. Photo by Jace Tunnell

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**NEWS • TALK • SPORTS**

By Dale Rankin

It's been a Weather Week here on our little sandbar as we alternate between sunny days and rainy nights. The Memorial Day Beach crowd was tempered somewhat by a drenching Saturday rain which created ample opportunities for drive through car washes in the bar ditches south of Whitecap Blvd. on SPID with puddles just asking for two wheels to wash the sand off the tires. Just as we are forbidden to wash our cars due to a water shortage, Mother Nature opens another door...

Now school is out and the 100-day Island tourist season is upon us so as long as the weather is good traffic will kick up on Thursday afternoon and wind its way OTB by checkout time on Sunday. Just a reminder that what happens *Around The Island* leaves on Sunday.

### Election Runoff

The following are the totals from the May 26 runoff election for Nueces County. The turnout and results for Precincts 40 and 81 on Padre Island are not yet available

18,230 total votes cast both parties

218,007 total registered voters in Nueces County

39 ballots rejected or pending review

11,981 Republican ballots cast in Nueces County

6074 Democrat ballots cast in Nueces County

8425 Registered Island voters

### Billish Skate Park



Billish Park

Around cont. on A3

## Work on Island seawall set to begin after Labor Day

### Shade, public plaza, repair of structure

By Dale Rankin

By the end of 2027 the Michael J. Ellis Seawall on Padre Island will have a facelift to shore up the structure, built in 1968 and reconstructed in 1983, and add shade structures and additional steps for beach access.

The first stages of the \$17 million project, inspecting the existing structure to determine the scope of repair work needed, has already begun and the heavy construction work is scheduled to begin after Labor Day 2026.

Seawall cont. on A4



Planned shade structures

## Hornets Take to the Skies



The aircraft built by the Hornet Aviation Program

Barrett Matthews capped off his senior year by flying over the school he is about to graduate from in an airplane he helped build with the Flour Bluff Aviation Program. He and the rest of the students worked with CCAD, Splendid Aviation, and Tango Flight to build the aircraft and it was recently certified by the FAA and ready to fly. Although he got to be the first, his teammates also get to take turns flying in their

Plane cont. on page A2

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grader wins Film Festival award

### Features Sea Pines Clean Up Crew

By Laurie Lyng

We are so proud to share that our daughter, Lyla Lyng, received the Best 18 and Under Filmmaker Award for her short film *Cleaning the Coast* at the 11th Annual Water, Texas Film Festival held on May 12, 2026, at the Bullock Texas State History Museum IMAX Theatre in Austin, Texas. Hosted by the Texas Water Foun-

Movie cont. on page A2



### A little Island history

## The Island makes the Saturday Evening Post

A desolate sandbar off the Texas Gulf coast has lured treasure hunters for 400 years. Despite the rattlesnakes and savage hurricanes they come still, seeking fortunes in flotsam and dreaming about the lost galleon of Cortez

### Isle of Plunder

Editor's note. The following story appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post* on January 3, 1948. We thank Islander Brud Jones for sending it our way. This is part 1.

By Lewis Nordyke

Padre Island, which lies off the Gulf coast of Texas almost within sight of bright



The article in the Post

lights and traffic jams, is one of the most untamable spots in this country. What the storms don't blow away, the sifting sands cover up. Man has been bucking the island for some 400 years. But today it is uninhabited, and its chief attractions are things which have been lost at sea, and which have somehow turned up on Padre.

With possibly a few exceptions, Padre

History cont. on A5

### By the numbers

## How many people visit The Island each day?

One of the common questions regarding Island traffic is what is the average daily traffic volume? Here are the numbers from the traffic counters operated by the Texas Department of Transportation.

### Padre Island Average Daily Traffic

28,726 average daily vehicles arriving/departing Padre Island over JFK Causeway

18,974 vehicles turn north off SPID onto State Highway 361 toward Port Aransas

7,746 vehicles drive to the beach South of Corpus Christi Pass

9568 vehicles continue south past Commodores Dr. on SPID (Park Road 22)

1352 vehicles drive down Leeward Dr.

3092 vehicles access the gulf beach through Padre Balli Park and/or Beach Access Road 6

799 vehicles continue south to Padre Island National Seashore

11,228 vehicles cross Corpus Christi Pass and continue north to Port Aransas

10,802 vehicles drive past Palmilla Beach Resort on SH 361

13,188 vehicles enter Port Aransas

13,282 vehicles drive through the Avenue G/Alister St. Intersection

5,616 vehicles cross on the Port Aransas ferry system.

### By the numbers

## North Padre Island Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone #2

\$3 million fund balance as of March 31, 2026

\$8 million Total revenue 2026 year to date

\$6.1 million total expenditures 2026 year to date

\$4.4 million funds raised by Property Taxes from City of Corpus Christi year to date

\$1.5 million funds raised by Property Tax from Nueces County year to date

\$2.1 million paid out to capital projects year to date

\$22,453,596 Total liabilities and fund balance as of March 31, 2026

Numbers cont. on page A3

Plane cont. from A1

new two-seater prop with the licensed pilot.

Matthews, a Seashore Middle Academy alumni, built his own flight simulator and hopes to fly for the Coast Guard after college. Photos and story by Debbie Noble



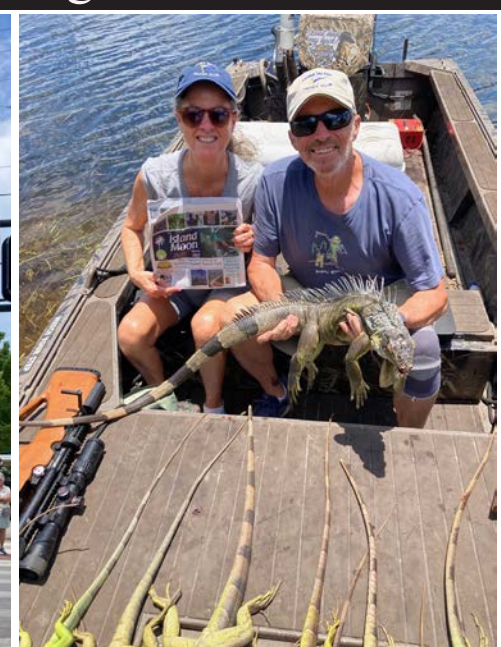
### List of Hurricanes for 2026 Season

- Arthur
- Bertha
- Cristobal
- Dolly
- Edouard
- Fay
- Gonzalo
- Hanna
- Isaia
- Josephine
- Kyle
- Leah
- Marco
- Nana
- Omar
- Paulette
- Rene
- Sally
- Teddy
- Vicky
- Wilfred



Satellite image of Hurricane Harvey

### The Traveling Moon



Paul and Dori Hestand took the Island Moon to Key West and on an iguana hunt in Ft Lauderdale, Florida



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Movie cont. from A1

dition, the sold-out event welcomed more than 300 attendees and showcased winning films in documentary, narrative, and organizational categories. The festival also featured a panel of respected filmmakers, including Ben Masters of Fin and Fur Films, the team behind acclaimed documentaries such as *Deep in the Heart*, *The River and the Wall*, and their latest release *Hope for the Guadalupe*, which premiered at the festival.

Lyla's short film, which we worked on together, shares what the beach means to her,

where much of the trash in our Gulf waters comes from, and the impact pollution has on our coastal environment and community. The film also highlights the beach cleanup group that Lyla and her friends started (The Sea Pines Beach Clean Up Crew) and the work they are doing to help protect the coast they love.

This recognition is such a huge achievement, and we could not be more proud of Lyla not only for her creativity and storytelling she helped with on this, but for her heart for helping make a difference and representing our coastal community in such a meaningful way!



Sea Pines Clean Up Crew Photo By Debbie Noble

# Vacation

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# Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



A new [PropertyShark analysis](#) of the latest Census long-distance migration data found that most of South and Central Texas' largest cities followed the dominant national pattern between 2019 and 2024: owners moved less while renters moved more. San Antonio led with one of the sharpest renter mobility increases among the 100 largest U.S. cities (+3.66 pp), while Houston bucked the trend with both groups moving more.

Nationally, renters were moving at nearly four times the rate of homeowners in 2024, with renter mobility rising in 64 of the 100 largest cities and owner mobility falling in 61.

### Key findings:

- San Antonio renter mobility increased +3.66 pp, while owner mobility ticked down slightly (-0.15 pp).
- Austin (-0.76 pp owner, +1.90 pp renter) and Corpus Christi (-1.22 pp owner, +0.49 pp renter) followed the same pattern.
- Houston saw both groups move more (+0.31 pp owner, +1.17 pp renter) — one of just 23/100 cities nationally where movement increased across both groups.

## CCRTA's Port Aransas Express Returns for the Summer

*The easiest trip to the island is back!*

Headed to Port Aransas for work or play? Skip the stress and let Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) take you there on Route 95, Port Aransas Express, now providing daily service through September 13, 2026.

Beginning after Memorial Day weekend, families, tourists, and guests can ride with ease to Port Aransas. The Port Aransas Express offers priority boarding, helping riders bypass long holiday lines and get to the sand faster. The route begins at Staples Street Station across from Corpus Christi City Hall and travels to Port Aransas, with convenient stops at HEB location in Ingleside and Aransas Pass. Passengers can also enjoy free Wi-Fi onboard.

What started as a pilot program is now a seasonal route, permanently adopted in 2022. This service is fully accessible and remains an affordable option at just \$1.75 from Corpus Christi or \$1.00 from Ingleside or Aransas pass.

Rita Patrick,  
Managing Director of Public Relations

### Around cont. from A1

The Board of Directors of the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 this week got an update on the skate park planned for Billish Park. The design for the \$850,000 park is now 60% complete and includes shade structure, seating area and lighting. The next step calls for a 90% design submittal due by the beginning of July.

### Hurricane Season has arrived

As Hurricane Season 2026 kicks off on June 1 forecasters with NOAA's National Weather Service are predicting a below-normal season for the Atlantic basin with a prediction of a 35% chance of a near-normal season, a 10% chance of an above-normal season, and a 55% chance of a below-normal season with a total of 8-14 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). Of those, 3-6 are forecast to become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 1-3 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5 with winds of 111 mph or higher). An average season has 14 named storms with seven hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

El Niño is expected to develop and intensify during the hurricane season, while ocean temperatures in the Atlantic are expected to be slightly warmer than normal and trade

## What is widest and deepest that Packery Channel – by any name – has ever been?



Corpus Christi Pass When it was Open

Sam Dotson

*Editor's Note: First off it is not possible to say exactly where Corpus Christi Pass has been located over the years. The current location near Fish Pass is relatively new and is not the same location indicated in writing from Spanish explorers in the 1700's. On a sand island a big blow or a small hurricane can move a pass quickly and often.*

*Traditionally any pass located near the current location of Packery Channel was referred to as Corpus Christi Pass. That pass, between Padre and Mustang Island has been reported as much as 30 feet deep and one mile wide. A chart of the Texas coast in 1908 showed it to be at least one-half a mile wide and from 25 to 30 feet deep. What is now known as Packery Channel has been open intermittently subject to tides and hurricanes.*

*At various times when Mother Nature closed it attempts were made to reopen and dredge the pass but Mother Nature always won. The pass that eventually became the ski basin – adjacent to the east side of the 361/Packery Bridge was*

*dredged in 1874 and it was this route which was just to the north of Corpus Christi Pass eventually became the route for Packery Channel. However when Corpus Christi Pass was at its widest and deepest it encompassed the area that included both what is now Packery Channel and Corpus Christi Pass as well.*

*The tidal flow from the Hurricane of 1919 affected tidal flow along this part of the coast and Corpus Christi Pass began to close. It was still used by smaller boats and fishermen and was completely closed by 1933. Only once since then was an attempt made to open it until the building of the Packery Channel.*

*That was in 1938 when a large suction dredge was put to work but workmen discovered that the pass could fill in as fast as they could dredge it. Finally, according to those who were around at the time, it was the opening of the Intracoastal in the 1940's that changed the water flow in the bay and closed the passes. They were re-opened by various hurricanes over the years but Mother Nature closed them again.*

### S&P Ratings Affirms City's 'AA' Rating

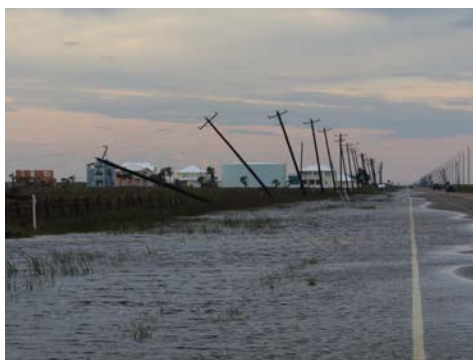
S&P Ratings notified the City of Corpus Christi this week that it has affirmed its 'AA' rating on the City's debt for our General Obligation (GO) bonds, certificates of obligation, and limited-tax notes outstanding. This rating is in the high-grade category.

S&P Ratings has revised its outlook on the City's debt rating for the aforementioned debt from "stable" to "negative" due to drought and water-level concerns.

S&P Ratings could revise the outlook back to stable if the City maintains balanced operations and reserves above its policy level, and after water supply increases that avoid or allow us to emerge from a Level 1 Water Emergency with no significant long-term deterioration to the City's economy.

winds are likely weaker than average. El Niño conditions tend to support less tropical storms and hurricanes, while warmer ocean temperatures and low winds support a more active year. We enter the 2026 season with water circulation into Island canals from the Lake Padre side blocked and impeded water flow under Encantada Ave., both until further notice. It will be a below normal season *Around The Island* if we don't play chicken with any storms.

That's all for now everybody, it's time to reason with hurricane season so get ready to hunker down, in the meantime say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



Power lines down after Hurricane Harvey in 2017

### Numbers cont. from A1

#### Capital Improvement Projects funded

(Prior to and including 2026)

**\$7.3 million** Don Patricio Bridge

**\$2.4 million** Packery Channel restoration (Hurricane Harvey damage)

**\$15.8 million** total budgeted for Packery repairs

**\$4.2 million** Packery Dredging

**\$17 million** Michael J. Ellis Seawall Improvements (budgeted)

**\$2.1 million** Briscoe King Pavilion (total \$8 million budgeted)

**\$18 million** Expenditures to date

#### Totals estimated funds available for Island projects

**\$1 million** 2026

**\$247,946** 2027-2030

**\$1 million** 2031-2035

**\$9 million** 2036-2040

**\$12 million** 2041-2042

## Moon Monkeys



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Riley P. Dog

**About the Island Moon**

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# Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

This week brought a sad note announcing the end of the annual Edward George Bulwer-Lytton writing contest. It began in 1983 with a professor at San Jose State University in honor of the scribe of the famously terrible opening line of Lytton's novel... "It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents--except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the streets (for it is in London that our scene lies), rattling along the housetops, and fiercely agitating the scanty flame of the lamps that struggled against the darkness."

The idea was to write the worst first line to a novel and the last winner of the contest is...

For the first month of Ricardo and Felicity's affair; they greeted one another at every stolen rendezvous with a kiss--a lengthy, ravenous kiss, Ricardo lapping and sucking at Felicity's mouth as if she were a giant cage-mounted water bottle and he were the world's thirstiest gerbil.

That's pretty good. And second...

He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream, and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish, but as fish tend to live in the sea rather than in a skiff, he really had only himself to blame. Sam Wallington, London, England.

Staring unblinkingly into the pleading, tear-filled eyes of yet another dame looking for me to solve all her problems, I sighed, stretched, scratched my whiskers, stuck my hind leg in the air and bent my spine at a 45-degree angle to reach down and lick my posterior clean, then donned my fedora—Taco, Cat Detective, was officially on the case. Gwen Simonalle, Grenoble, France.

And finally...

She walked into my office wearing a dress that would make a man write bad checks, but in this paperless age you would first have to obtain her ABA Routing Transit Number and Account Number and then disable your own Overdraft Protection in order to do so.

### Peano to Bad Novels

My entries into the final contest were a couple of days late so they did not make it into the actual contest. I blame the delay on my friend Robert Bob up in Bypass, Oklahoma who I called for help in my contributions but found little purchase.

"Do you own your own trailer, and is it a doublewide?" he said. "No, Robert Bob, it's first bad lines in a novel, not novel bad

pickup lines." "No, no," he said. Instead of a doublewide go with a singlewide – you know a French fry. One day we'll get out of this French fry and get us a doublewide." He was no help.

It needed to be something Islandcentric: *It was an Island so small you didn't lose your girlfriend, you just lost your turn.* That's not bad but I think I may not have made that up. "*It was an Island so small we had to take turns being the town drunk.*" Now I'm almost sure I saw that on a gimmi cap. "*It was an Island so small if the whole thing caught on fire you couldn't roast a marshmallow over it.*" But that's just not true we've had some doozies especially after the annual Fourth of July fireworks show.

"When Milford launched his dingy into the turbid water the color of the bilge after he had forgotten to put the plug back in before paddling across Dead Man's Hole he thought to himself 'I wonder if I remembered to put the back plug in? I'll check when I get out of Dead Man's Hole'."

"While trying to reason with Hurricane Season Absentminded Stu threw all his Jimmy Buffet records into the trunk forgetting that he had used his record player as an anchor after his wife got the boat in their third divorce. 'Well,' he thought, 'maybe I can make a pontoon boat with 'em when I get to the Nueces River'."

"As he launched at Bird Island Basin Nearsighted Nick noticed he didn't see any birds and wondered if he was in the right place. He didn't see any naked men so he knew he wasn't in Kleberg County. Then he remembered he was nearsighted, he couldn't see anything except bad trouble down the ditch."

"As Shovelhead Sid worked his rattle bomb way up at the front end of the ditch he thought to himself, 'I'll dig hard. I'll learn, I'll be the best digger of holes any man ever was, and one day I'll work my way to the back of the ditch where the soft dirt's at.' For Sid was a driven man."

"That's one foamalicious fracazoid Larry thought as he used his cigarette lighter to check the level in the six hundred gallon gas tank at Loud Refinery and soon found himself propelled over the yard by the unseen hand of Isaac Newton who whispered in his ear, "the landing's not going to go well for you."

Ah, so long Mr. Lytton, we hardly knew ye...

### Seawall cont. from page 1

Phase I of the work will consist of placing six inches of concrete on top of the existing structure for support and to project it from erosion which has set in over the four decades since it was last rebuilt after being heavily damaged by Hurricane Allen in 1980. The current surface of the seawall is six-seven inches thick, according to a recent inspection. The lower steps of the seawall which have been covered with sand for the past two decades were found to be in good condition.

Later phases of the project will include three new beach ramps to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA), a total of eleven stairways from the seawall to the beach, and lighting. Also part of the project are shade structures from 10-14 feet high located along the eight-tenths of a

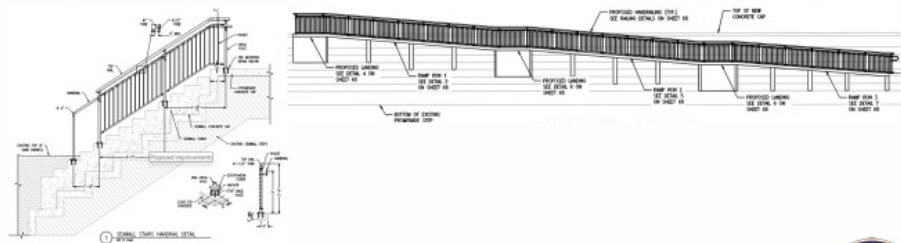
mile-long structure, and a plaza for public use on the seaward portion of the seawall parking lot.

The shade structures will be located in front of private property in accordance with the owners wishes, and will not be constructed in front of private building where owners have requested it not be included to avoid blocking line of sight views.

The first phase of construction is expected to go out to bids by summer 2026, according to a presentation at a public hearing on the project this week. The total work time will be seven to eight months spread over a twelve-month period to reduce impact during busy tourist season, according to a presentation made by city staff and private contractors working on the project.

## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- Additional stairs w/ handrails down the front of the seawall steps for easy pedestrian access
- Additional accessible ramps and replacement of the current ramp in front of the City's parking lot



Planned seawall walkway to Ellis Beach



Seawall Promenads planned for seawall parking lot



Michael J. Ellis Seawall after Hurricane Allen in 1980



High winds and high tides have been around at Packery channel and the Michael J. Ellis Seawall. Aerials by Jacob Augs

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History cont. from A1

is the world's richest territory for beachcombers. Because of the crescent arc of the coastal bend and the currents that swish near shore, anything adrift in the Gulf of Mexico or the Caribbean is likely turn up eventually on Padre. World War II, with dozens of ship sinkings, made the beach a bonanza. Often, after choppy seas, it is littered with commercial valuable like heavy timbers and drums of gasoline. Offshore, in the Gulf, and under the sands of the island, are storied hulls and precious cargoes. Beachcombers find coins and enough other plunder to keep them walking with lowered eyes and digging, sore-muscled, in the dunes.

Goading them on is the exciting knowledge that a man named Singer once found an \$80,000 treasure by walking the beach and gouging around in the sand. Another man took a fistful of gold from a tin can, and a woman found a box of jewels. But the most attractive treasure remains undiscovered. It is a Spanish galleon laden with gold, silver and gems that Cortez captured in Mexico. Many a man combs the island for this one rich ship. There is substantial reason for believing that it is there, somewhere.

There is plenty of space for fortune seeking. Padre is the longest of the Gulf islands. It is a finger of shifting sand that curves along the coast for 117 miles between Corpus Christi and Brownsville at the mouth of the Rio Grande. The width varies from 1400 feet to four miles. Marine scientists say it is an overgrown sandbar from 15,000 to 20,000 years old.

The north end is eighteen miles southeast of Corpus Christi. There a narrow pass divides it from Mustang Island, which has several hundred inhabitants, all living at Port Aransas, a shipping and fishing village. Occasionally the pass fills with sand and joins Padre and Mustang into one island 132 miles long. Laguna Madre, a lagoon of varying depth, but generally pretty shallow, lies between Padre Island and the mainland.

The island, with the inside of its arch to the sea, is the perfect target for storms every person who has stayed on Padre has been virtually blown off, ultimately. It is no place to be in a bad storm. After a hurricane a few years ago a pilot flew over the island and counted forty-three places where Gulf waters were pouring across into the lagoon.

Padre is dotted with constantly shifting dunes that send up windy sprays of fine dust. Tasseled stems of seaside oats grow bravely out of the sides of dunes. Here and there are motes of mesquite, and wild-chili pepper plants are sprinkled about. The peppers are violently hot. Almost anywhere there is apt to be a rusty-colored rattlesnake. Packs of scrawny coyotes roam the island. The first white man on the island were beachcombers; they were Spanish sailors who landed more than 400 years ago to salvage cargoes of ships that been blown ashore. In later years there have been a few ranching enterprises, but they had more downs than ups. More than a century ago a Spanish padre, Nicholas Balli, founded a ranching colony on the southern end. The island, then known as Santiago, took its present name from the padre, but got little else from



Sometimes ancient coins are uncovered by wind, but jewels have been found by digging holes.



Louise, the beachcombers daughter, draws fresh water from a well on Padre at Rawalts camp.

his venture. Much of the central portion is across the lagoon from the million-acre King Ranch. Kings owns a large acreage on Padre also, and at various times have run cattle on it. The descendants of an Irishman named Pat Dunn have been ranching from time to time on the northern parts for more than sixty years, although there isn't very much grass there.

The main attraction of the island – tales of treasure – lured me to Padre not long ago. I had heard of the Devil's Elbow, a long, sweeping bend midway of the island. Here is where the sea has been disgorging derelict cargoes for centuries; it is where an enterprising beachcomber, Louis Rawalt, found a fortune in raw rubber. I wanted to do a little beachcombing, and I looked up Rawalt.

It wasn't too easy to get to Padre. Although the island is only a short distance from some of the lushest parts of the Texas coast, it is practically inaccessible. The narrow lagoon is too shallow for much boating, and is unsafe for fording. Light planes can land on the beach and take off with safety if the beach happens to be right, but only airmen who know the tricks will try it. The wet sand may happen to be as level and firm as an oak floor, or it may be full of holes or strewn with half-buried logs and flotsam.

Beachcombers Rawalt, who lives in Corpus Christi, has a stripped-down military weapons carrier – a four-wheel drive- which is the thing for island travel. It wasn't difficult to talk him into a trip. We went to Aransas Pass, which is about eighteen miles north and east of Corpus Christi and a place where the fish are supposed to bite every day. There we took a narrow causeway across Red Fish Bay to the north end of Padre.

Rawalt was a good man to go along with. He has roamed the Padre beach for twenty years. He know the island, its feel and its sound. Not long ago he and Mrs. Rawalt were on Padre, sleeping in a tent. They had no radio and knew nothing of storm warnings that were flying fast. At midnight, Rawalt awakened his wife and said, "There a sort of pop to the surf. Think we better hike it." They loaded up and rolled out. They got off the island a few hours before a blow struck. Rawalt had read the sound correctly.

Next Week: Roaming The Island with Louis Rawalt.

## The Art of Island Life

By Melissa Mitchell



### The Art of Island Pride: A Community Mural Project "It takes an Island"

Some of the best ideas come about through collaboration.

I've always loved the unexpected beauty that happens when people create something together—the conversations, the exchange of ideas, the laughter, the sense of connection that forms somewhere in the middle of the process. Often, the finished piece becomes more meaningful because of the people behind it.

That's exactly the spirit behind "Tank You for the Art," a new community mural project that will transform the fence surrounding the new water tank at Don & Sandy Billish Park into a colorful reflection of Island life. This isn't just an invitation to observe something beautiful when it's finished. It's an invitation to be part of creating it. The idea began when the Padre Isles Business Association approached organizers about adding some color and creativity to the fence surrounding the new tank at Billish Park. Instead of leaving it plain and forgettable, they saw an opportunity to turn it into something welcoming—something that reflects the personality and spirit of the Island itself.

#### Creativity for Everyone

One of the things I appreciate most about this project is that it isn't about perfection. It's about participation. Families, individuals, children, friend groups, beginners, experienced painters—Island residents of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate by submitting designs inspired by "Island Life." Think beach scenes, sea life, gardens, sunsets, palm trees, fishing, dolphins, birds, boats, or anything else that captures what living here means to you. And before anyone says: "But I'm not an artist..."

That's the beauty of this project. You don't have to be. So gather the kids around the table.

Invite a few friends over. Sketch something on notebook paper.

Paint together on the patio one evening. Turn it into a family project. This is one of those rare opportunities where the goal isn't to create a perfect masterpiece. It's creating something together.

#ItTakesAnIsland is the mantra behind Island Pride, the group helping champion the project. To them, Island Pride means taking pride in the place we all share—from homes and businesses to parks, palm trees, and public spaces. It's about neighbors working together to leave things better than they found them.

Their small core team, along with volunteers throughout the community, works on projects year-round—from holiday lighting events to new patriotic tributes honoring veterans and first responders. And now, they're turning a fence into a canvas.

#### Island Spirit

What makes this project even more special is that it has already been fully funded through community support. That tells you everything you need to know about this Island.

People here show up. Not just for the big things—but for the meaningful things.

Painting days are planned for August, and community members will be invited to help paint the mural, even if they didn't submit a design themselves. Because this project

isn't just about selecting a winning piece of artwork. It's about participation. Connection.

Community Pride. And creating something together that people will enjoy for years to come.

But I have a feeling the real reward will be seeing something you helped inspire become part of the Island itself. And if you've never entered an art contest before, Marguerita has simple advice: "Just do it—you never know what you can achieve until you try."

I think that applies to more than art. It actually reminds me of one of my youngest son's favorite sayings when he was little. Anytime he tried convincing his siblings to taste something new or do something outside their comfort zone, he'd proudly announce:

"Don't be afraid to try new things!" That's pretty good advice for all of us. Sometimes all it takes is one little idea, one rough sketch, or one evening spent creating together to spark something special. And that's exactly what's happening at Billish Park—one panel at a time.

#### How to Participate

Island residents of all ages and skill levels are invited to submit a design inspired by "Island Life" and what makes this community special to them. Organizers kindly ask that submissions avoid logos, advertising, and political references.

Email entries to: [islandpridepadreisland@gmail.com](mailto:islandpridepadreisland@gmail.com) Subject line: "Tank You for the Art" Contest

Along with your sketched design attachment, be sure to include the artist's name (or group name), phone number, email address, and concept name. And don't let the idea of painting a large mural intimidate you. Even rough sketches and simple concepts are encouraged.

Professional artists Debbie Kastner of It's Art Time and Brittany Milem of The Brittany Taaylor Boutique will help guide the process and bring the winning design to life during community painting days in August. Contest entries are due June 30th, and the winning design will receive a \$100 gift card donated by fellow islander Rick McGinley, Executive Director of the PIPOA. For contest rules, submission details, and updates, follow Island on Facebook: [Island Pride- Padre Island](#)

The Art of Island Life will return next week with more stories and coastal reflections. Have a story to share or a cause close to your heart? I'd love to hear from you at [contact@melissamitchellart.com](mailto:contact@melissamitchellart.com).



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# Island Outdoors

## On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

### Rains and Tides are Moving!

Well loyal readers, it's been a sporty ride in the weather department lately. The Memorial Day weekend before was picturesque weather, and it officially opened up the Ski Canal season with water temps in the low 80's before this latest front. We bombed down to the cabin and enjoyed a couple of afternoons with the kids and burned a few hot dogs on the grill. School will be over this week, and folks will be scattering to the four winds as summer gets underway.

#### *A nepheloid layer in the turbid zone*

The currents down south along the Mexican shoreline are cranking up and pushing a lot of water against the southern beaches. This does a couple of things; one, it brings in a lot of sargassum and other floatie things along the beaches. So, if you want to go do some beach combing, the next week should be really good down the National Seashore. I am going to try and make it down there, but the timing just stinks. There could be some really good treasures in the sand. Unfortunately, I've heard that the workers are still dredging the Mansfield Cut, and the last five miles of the Seashore remains closed.

The other thing that the hard nearshore current does is start the upwelling mechanism. So not only will we have the things that float, we will also get the things pulled from the bottom washing up on the beaches. Unfortunately, this will also bring colder, dirtier water in from the bottom that contains the nepheloid layer (a distinct, turbid zone in the ocean water column that contains higher concentrations of suspended particulate matter.) This includes all the things that die and disintegrate, broken bits of jettyfish, the things that wash down our river, beer cans from the 1970's, Jimmy Hoffa, and whatever else is floating around on the bottom of the gulf.

#### *A use for sargassum*

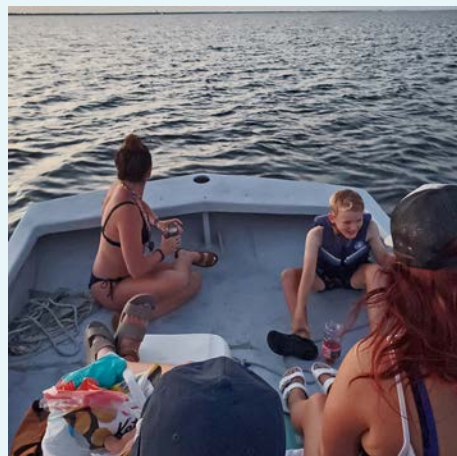
The sargassum will also be pushed up on the beaches, which is always fun. When we were traveling down in Belize, they had an interesting use for the massive amounts of sargassum that were washing in on a daily basis. The entire island of Caye Caulker is around +5.0 of elevation, so even small tropical storms will wash over and through it. They were collecting sargassum and piling in lots that were lower to try and build them up.

While sargassum is mainly organic, over time it can build up soils that can provide a base for vegetation to take a hold and grow up. Literally building the land up with the material that washes in anyway.

#### *Island Strategic Action Committee*

The Island Strategic Action Committee will not meet next week, but the week after on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be some updates on Island engineering projects (hopefully they will announce the commencement of construction for Muddle and Puddle!), update on Commodores Park, and maybe we'll see some plans for the intersection near the new Speedy Stop. I have a feeling we are also going to get an update on some other projects that involve some waterways, but that remains to be seen this far out. I also have a feeling that we will have Parks and Recs meeting the next day, so it will be a week of meetings for me. I missed the TIRZ #2 meeting last week, I was in Houston in training, and on my birthday to boot.

Well folks, I have to bounce out early this week. These rains will be flowing out of the passes for the next week or so, and the tarpon should be lined up around Port Aransas and Packery Channels. The freshwater attracts menhaden and other preferred bait fish that tarpon like. They have also been at Bob Hall, but you can't tell if it's going to be open or not. Hopefully I can get out there and check it out. Drop me a line at [jaygardner1032@gmail.com](mailto:jaygardner1032@gmail.com) and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



*Rockstars on the way to the cabin.*

## Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

### Hot Summer Nights!



*These girls have been fishing and having fun with me for years. We always seem to call the big ones in laughter. This trout we found along the shallows of the King Ranch Shoreline.*



*Ashton Soto with a Queen Snapper he caught last week. General snapper season started a little early this year on May 22, when the seas are down go get um!*

There is a lot of Action that happens on these summer nights that most of us don't see or even think about! The extreme temperatures, boat traffic, and sun all keep a lot of the party hidden until after the sun sets. Schools of tiny baitfish have hatched and are grouped together in our precious Mother Lagoon, and backwater bays. Daytime is full of aggressive pin perch and other threats to these snack sized meals. At night they emerge from the thick grass beds and flow with the tide. Gamefish are not always ready to eat when you're ready to catch them because they have been eating the best at the best time of the 24-hour day. Countering the late-night feed times can be almost as productive as fishing all night under the moon when the party is roaring.

Late night partyers hit the hay at sunrise, but at midday you seem to find them crawling out into the sun and getting a meal and stretching out. Same holds true for our gamefish. Look for midday lunar peaks to produce FISH SLICKS in areas holding mature gamefish. As these trout and reds wake up and start moving position, striking at food, and getting towards the end of their digestive cycle. They poop when they get up and move around, the fish oil in their diet comes to the surface as small oily slicks on the surface. This tells me where the best food source is, bait that is high in oil is always their preferred prey. Shad, (we have about five kids in the bay), glass minnows, ballyhoo, and more all will be in these zones. That doesn't mean gamefish won't be feeding in other locations on pin perch, mullet, shrimp, etc, it tells me that the biggest and smartest gamefish are sitting where the best food is. WHERE THE PARTY IS AT UNDER THE SUMMER MOON!

Beach fishing has been good for those who love sandy feet! Sharks on cut bait in the

first few guts, and giant sharks out deep on big baits and rods. Jackfish have been a hit for anglers throwing silver spoons in the surf when the waves are down. Not good to eat but about the strongest fish we have. Lots of whiting, drum, and redfish for folks using shrimp and fish bites. Trout action along the jetties has been excellent when the surf is small. Our two big beach piers are going to be a zoo now that school is out, but a great place to go out and catch some fish. High tides have made walk in fishing a mess! Rain makes all the trails behind Mustang Island a mud hole, and the high tides scatter fish up in all pockets. This makes sight casting hard, use topwaters and mauler style corks with soft plastics to cover water and attract scattered fish. Wade shorelines where gamefish can push bait up against a barrier, narrow passes, and small bridges have been good fish funnels as well.

The morning was still blue and purple before the first Summer Sunrise broke free. We had spent the night on my parents' back porch balcony and slipped into the Jon boat in the dark. All night I could hear the mullet jump in the channel and was so excited for that summer of fishing to start. I wouldn't know for decades how special those endless summer days would be in my youth. Glassy reflections over the water sent us to one of our favorite flats, and our first cast were filled with dreams of trophy fish. I remember poling Robby over our little shell pad, casting at redfish that would pull the small boat in circles. Cast netting bait for hours was just as fun, and we would peddle mullet around for SNOOPY's lunch! This is just the start of someone's magical summer, lifetime memories. Take your kids, grandkids, kids down the street, neighbors, friends and loved ones out for even small adventures. We would count down the days of summer back then, now we just count down the days of our lives. Make them all count and enjoy life like we were all out on a Hot Summer Night!

Follow all our fishing on Facebook and tick tock at  
Joseph Farah & Captjoeyfarah72,  
361-442-8145



*Sunset over the Laguna Madre. Photo by Jay Gardner*



*Power Team Kristi and Joe caught a few GIANT TROUT like this one last week on soft plastics while drifting the flats of the Laguna Madre near Bird Island. Down South Lures Bone/Diamond with 1/4oz jig heads were on fire!*



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## Nature Notes

### Poison Ivy

By Celeste Silling



*Poison Ivy by James St. John, via Wikimedia Commons*

As an aspiring naturalist, there aren't many organisms that I dislike. Bats, rats, weeds, and spiders are all cool in my book, but there is one plant that this tree-hugger actively hates. Poison Ivy, for those of us who are reactive to it, is a perpetual menace on the Upper Texas Coast. But, as always, it is important to know thy ivy enemy, so let's take a closer look at this infamous plant.

There are three species of Poison Ivy: *Toxicodendron orientale*, which is found in East Asia, *Toxicodendron radicans*, which grows throughout eastern Canada and the United States, Mexico and Central America, and *Toxicodendron rydbergii*, which is found throughout Canada and much of the United States. Sometimes these three are grouped together as subspecies of *Toxicodendron radicans*, which shows you how closely related they are.

Poison Ivy, despite its name, is not actually in the ivy family. Instead, it is in the Anacardiaceae family, with cashews, mangos and pistachios. Poison Ivy can grow in a variety of ways; it can be a climbing vine (hence the Ivy name), a small plant, or shrub. I have seen it growing in all three of these forms here, sometimes all in the same small area.

There is some variation in the appearance of Poison Ivy across its range, but a few things remain consistent. The most recognizable feature is the plant's clusters of three leaves, arranged in a certain way. Usually, the left and right leaves resemble mittens, while the center leaf is relatively symmetrical. The margins vary, but are usually somewhat toothed.

Of course, what Poison Ivy is most famous for is not its appearance. It is best known for causing irritation and even serious rashes. Poison Ivy sap contains an oil called urushiol, which can be found on the leaves, vines, and other parts of the plant. Urushiol is not a poison, but it is an allergen, and most humans have at least a minimal reaction to it. The itchy, painful skin reaction caused by urushiol is called Urushiol-induced contact dermatitis.

Unfortunately, repeated exposure to urushiol can actually cause increased and worsened reactions. When I first moved here, for example, I barely reacted to Poison Ivy at all. Now, after years of walking the trails and brushing against the stuff, my skin reacts with horrible, painful rashes.

Urushiol can easily be transferred from the plant to your clothes, a pet's fur, shoes, skin, and so on. The urushiol oil can also last for years, so even dead poison ivy plants aren't safe to touch. Cutting or mowing the plants can also release the allergen into the air, so be very careful when tending your lawn.

But Poison Ivy isn't all bad. Birds are able to eat its seeds, and other animals and insects can eat its leaves. Urushiol lacquer can also be made from the sap, which has been used in lacquerware in Asia for millennia. It's nice to know that this delinquent plant is at least helpful in some ways.

Be careful out there this summer, and watch where you walk! We've got plenty of Poison Ivy lurking here on the Texas Coast.



## Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

### Parchment Tube Worms

*Thin, waterlogged paper, and each one has a gentle curve, almost like a scroll that's been softened by the sea*



*Jace holding a Parchment Tube Worm*

Pedaling my ebike along forty uninterrupted miles of beach this week, I expected the usual treasures like driftwood, shells, and the occasional piece of curious flotsam. Instead, the tide delivered something far stranger: clusters of fragile, tan-colored tubes that looked almost handmade. These were parchment worm tubes, created by the parchment worm (*Chaetopterus variopedatus*), an unassuming but remarkable resident of our coastal mudflats.

The tubes themselves are tough but flexible, built from secretions the worm hardens into a parchment-like sheath. Most tubes I found were eight to fourteen inches long, though they can grow even longer when buried undisturbed. Their texture feels like thin, waterlogged paper, and each one has a gentle curve, almost like a scroll that's been softened by the sea.

Inside these tubes lives the parchment worm, a pale, segmented creature stretching five to ten inches in length. These worms never leave the tubes they build. Instead, they fashion an ingenious mucus net within the tube that works like a living filter. As waves or tidal currents push water through, the net traps tiny suspended food particles like plankton, detritus, and organic matter swirling in the water column. When the net fills, the worm rolls it up like a fishing cast and eats it, then simply spins a new one. It's

a beautifully efficient system, and one of the many hidden feeding strategies shaping our coastal ecosystems.

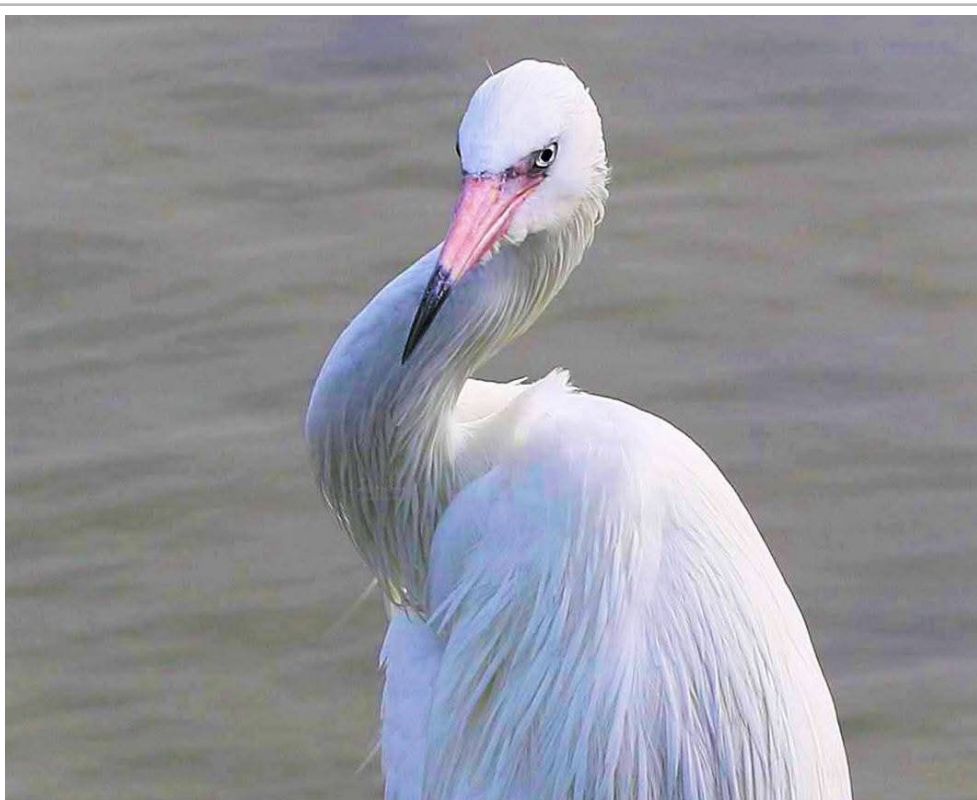
But the real surprise comes from the worm's housemates. Nestled inside many parchment tubes lives the tube pea crab, a tiny, soft-bodied crab often no larger than a fingernail. These crabs are obligate symbionts, meaning they rely on the worm's tube for survival. They slip between the worm's body segments, stealing bits of food from the filtering net or scavenging leftovers. They don't typically harm the worm; it's more like a one-sided roommate agreement where the worm pays the rent and the crab enjoys the amenities.

Finding these tubes scattered along the beach reminded me how many lives are lived just beneath our feet. Even on a fast-moving ebike ride, the shoreline still finds a way to slow me down and reveal something extraordinary.

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](http://harteresearch.org), or Facebook ([facebook.com/harteresearch](https://www.facebook.com/harteresearch)), Instagram ([@harteresearch](https://www.instagram.com/harteresearch)) and X ([@HarteResearch](https://twitter.com/HarteResearch)) (the platform formerly known as Twitter).



*Parchment Tube Worms are generally about 8 to 14 inches long.*



*During the mating season, both reddish and white morphs develop neon pink bases on their bills, with a black tip and bright cobalt blue lores, the skin patch between the eye and the bill. Photo by Riekie Roncinske*



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## Island Real Estate Roundup

Apryl Noles

### Nearing Summer with Steady Momentum!

As we near the end of May and head into the summer season, the Padre Island real estate market continues to hold steady with activity across multiple price points.

This week in the detached home sector, we saw four homes enter the option period and three homes successfully close. In the townhome sector, two townhomes sold this week, while in the condominium sector, we had one condo pending and two condos close.

One thing that continues to stand out in our market is that buyers are not focusing on just one specific price range. We are seeing movement in both higher-end properties as well as homes within the median price ranges, showing that demand remains consistent across the board.

As summer approaches, it will be exciting to see how the market continues to evolve with increased tourism, relocations, and second-home buyers making their way to the Island. Below you'll find a breakdown of the properties mentioned in this week's report. Stay tuned for next week's update!

#### Detached Homes In Option Period:

-13966 Ketch St (Listed for \$445,000)  
-16118 Broomsedge St (Listed for \$425,000)  
-15313 E Chesapeake (Listed for \$409,900)  
-13981 Jacktar St (Listed for 315,000)

#### Detached Homes That Sold:

-15222 Isabella Ct (Listed for \$959,999)  
-15366 Sabre Dr (Listed for \$539,900)  
-16121 Broomsedge St (Listed for \$419,000)

#### Townhomes In Sold:

-13901 Mingo Cay Ct Unit F (Listed for \$350,000)  
-14910 Packery View (Listed for 229,000)

#### Condominium That Is Pending:

-14300 South Padre Island Drive Unit 221 (Listed for \$175,000)

#### Condominiums That Sold:

-15002 Windward Dr Unit 406 (Listed for \$430,000)  
-15010 Leeward Dr Unit 706 (Listed for \$159,000)



Ten years ago in the Island Moon. Work continues to repair and open the water exchange tubes under Encantada.



The table for the missing veteran at the Padre Island Yacht Club on Memorial Day. By Debbie Noble.

## Thoughts from Reverend Ken



By Rev. Dr. Ken

### Understanding the Revelation

The preacher began, "Beloved ones, know what is true: this world is in haste, and it is nearing the end."

Given the chaos of our world today, these words could have been preached in many a church. However, they were spoken at the beginning of a sermon by an Anglo-Saxon bishop in 1014.

Throughout the history of the Christian church speculation about end times has been a constant topic. In times of greater chaos, that chatter intensifies. Are various biblical prophecies and signs being played out before us?

When I was in high school in the early 1970's, another time of great chaos, one of the more popular Christian authors was Hal Lindsey. He wrote *The Late Great Planet Earth*. It was a book about end times, eschatology, and the rapture. It was a book interpreting the biblical book, Revelation. Lindsay and other books talked about maps, charts, and timelines, speculation and predictions. They were the books that promised to decode Revelation, especially all those apocalyptic images and signs.

I must admit, it scared me. Their speculations made it sound like the end of the world was close, maybe tomorrow. Do I look up? Will I be lost? Would I be left behind? Will the whole world burn? What about the great ordeal? Is war in the Middle East a good thing? Who is the anti-Christ? It was so overwhelming.

These days I wonder, what if all of this is one big speculative Christian conspiracy theory?

Revelation has often been understood as a book predicting the future. Many have viewed it as a roadmap of who does what and when. This is how cults are born. However, so many of those predictions have been wrong. When we read and interpret Revelation as speculation its message is one of escapism. One theologian remarked that this type of understanding about Revelation has led to the book being a paradise of fanatics and sectarians. Such interpretations lead to arrogance, demonization of others, fatalism, and the desire to violently annihilate enemies.

Revelation is not a prediction of the end of the physical world. Scot McKnight suggests it is a book for all times because it is about all times. Revelation is an imaginative letter

written to seven churches in Asia Minor at the end of the first century that pulled back the veil on the evils of the Roman Empire. It was a message of encouragement and empowerment to those churches. It was not meant to be a message about rapture out of this world but about faithful discipleship in a world racked by violence, power, exploitation, arrogance, injustice, and evil.

The writer of Revelation, John, was a dissident, a person of hope, who imagined a vision of renewal. His hope was based in God and God's actions. The world is God's world, and God has continuing plans for it. When that future arrives, it will not mean the abandonment of the present world, but rather its fulfillment.

Revelation speaks a timeless truth for followers of Jesus in the face of evil in our present age. We are to confront and resist corruption and systemic abuses in the place where we find ourselves. Revelation gives us a new lens to view our contemporary world for what it is and what it is not. It reminds us about what God has done, is doing, and will do.

Some of the images in Revelation are hard to understand and interpret. Yet, these images convey truth and speak God's deeper reality. This is why we must read Revelation with imagination. Revelation's literary genre bears great resemblance to fantasy. This is not to imply it's fiction. On the contrary, like J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, Revelation is a lens for the gospel of God's love, justice, and peace. Our chaotic world needs dissidents who live out this hope.

Sounds like a great sermon series for this summer! Understanding Revelation.

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! Let's understand Revelation together.

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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# Sudoku

Sudoku answers are not available.

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Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

# Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21						22				
			23					24						
25	26	27			28	29	30		31		32	33	34	
35					36				37			38		
39				40							41			
42				43							44			
45			46			47				48				
			49		50			51						
	52	53				54	55	56				57	58	59
60						61					62			
63						64					65			
66						67					68			

**Across**

- 1. Burn, in a way
- 5. Flake-filled
- 10. Existed
- 14. Speak highly of
- 15. "As You Like It" character
- 16. Emulated
- 17. Break \_\_\_ (inspirational phrase)
- 18. Overflowing
- 19. Certain tow job
- 20. Foes at Reichenbach Falls
- 23. Wrong prefix
- 24. Kind of bran or meal
- 25. Word of welcome
- 28. "CSI" network
- 31. Abu \_\_\_, U.A.E.
- 35. Desolate
- 36. "Friends" character
- 38. Word with boat or smith
- 39. Foes on Mongo
- 42. Start of a promise
- 43. Made money
- 44. Vocal range
- 45. Leans toward
- 47. Perpetually, poetically
- 48. "\_\_\_ my case" (courtroom quote)
- 49. F1 neighbor
- 51. Part of a vamp's costume
- 52. Foes in Metropolis
- 60. First name among gymnasts
- 61. Eagle's nest
- 62. Jewish wedding dance
- 63. Island named for a figure in Hindu myth
- 64. Renders senseless
- 65. Was beholden to
- 66. Prev. cited in a footnote
- 67. Stuffs to the gills
- 68. Well-known loch

**Down**

- 1. Prepare for exams
- 2. Seraphic light
- 3. Swear up and down
- 4. Dietary courses
- 5. Certain battle trophies
- 6. Its eye is used in spooky recipes
- 7. Oil of \_\_\_ (cosmetics brand)
- 8. It's often made with the eyes closed
- 9. "Gulliver's Travels" savage
- 10. Personable quality
- 11. Blunt sword
- 12. Delegates
- 13. Old Tokyo
- 21. Melodic tune
- 22. Full to the hatches
- 25. Like a sprite
- 26. \_\_\_ prosequi (court-record entry)
- 27. Refrain part
- 28. Pulling the weeds, e.g.
- 29. Supported
- 30. Ceremonial dinner
- 32. Nimble
- 33. Some diamond ploys
- 34. Metal bar
- 36. Links letters
- 37. Physique, slangily
- 40. "Steppenwolf" author
- 41. It may be a little over 26 miles
- 46. Settled a loan
- 48. Promissory note
- 50. Unrefined
- 51. Word of grace
- 52. Chunk of bacon
- 53. West Indies citrus fruit
- 54. Intro to physics?
- 55. In \_\_\_ (bogged down)
- 56. Comfy cloud
- 57. Hockey great Gordie
- 58. Mine finds
- 59. X-ray units
- 60. Kimono piece

## Turtle Nest Count

So far this year, **446** nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast including (north to south in state):

**Kemp's Ridley**

- 4 Galveston Island
- 1 Surfside Beach
- 1 Brazoria County, N. of Sargent Beach
- 1 Matagorda Peninsula
- 10 San Jose Island
- 30 Mustang Island
- 258 North Padre Island, including 230 at PAIS
- 123 South Padre Island
- 18 Boca Chica Beach

**Green Turtle nests**

- So far this year, **1** nest has been confirmed on the Texas coast, including (north to south in state):
- 1 North Padre Island, including 1 at PAIS



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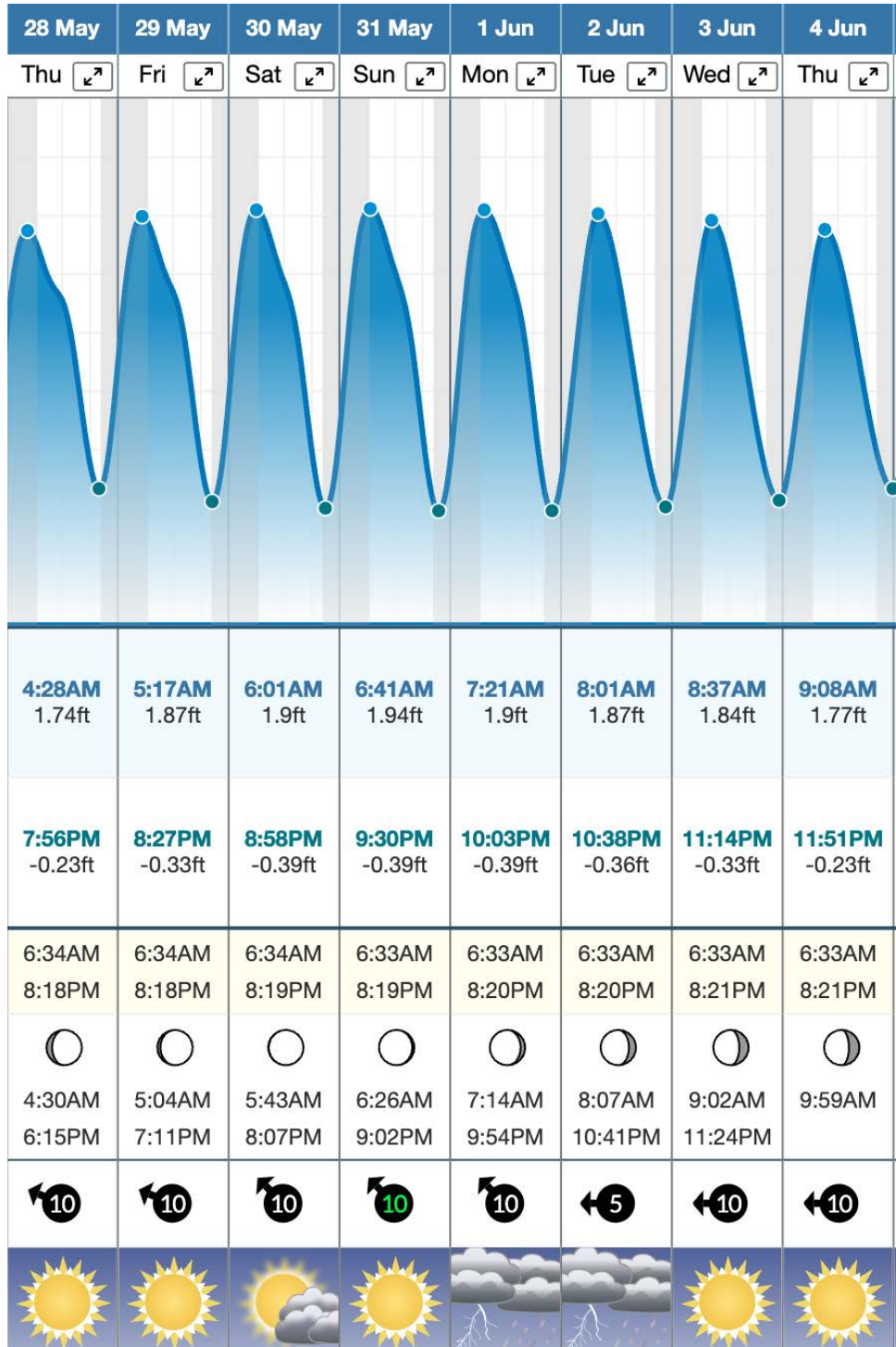
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During the breeding season the adult White Ibis's bills, legs, and facial skin turn to brilliant, vivid scarlet or geranium red

## Tides of the Week



## Crossword Solution

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

# Senior moments Special to the Island Moon



## 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Ready to Jump

By Dotson Lewis

*Dotson's Note: The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne is an infantry division that specializes in parachute assault. In January 2006, the division began reorganizing from a division-based organization to a brigade combat team-based organization. Activated elements include a 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division (1-508<sup>th</sup> INF, 2-508<sup>th</sup> INF, 4-73<sup>rd</sup> Cav (RSTA), 2-321<sup>st</sup> FA, 782<sup>nd</sup> BSB, and STB, 4<sup>th</sup> BCT) and the inactivation of the Division Artillery, 82<sup>nd</sup> Signal Battalion, 307<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, and 313<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Division Support Command (DISCOM) was redesignated as the 82<sup>nd</sup> Sustainment Brigade. A pathfinder unit was reactivated within the 82<sup>nd</sup> when the Long Range Surveillance Detachment of the inactivating 313<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion was transferred to the 2d Battalion, 82<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Regiment and converted to a pathfinder role as the battalion's. Thanks to my Jump Master friend Ronald Smith, US Army Retired and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in this report.*



### Some Previous Actions by the 82<sup>nd</sup>

Global Response Force, was alerted and deployed forces to Haiti later that same day for the mission to provide humanitarian assistance following the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Paratroopers distributed water and food during the 2010 Haiti earthquake relief.

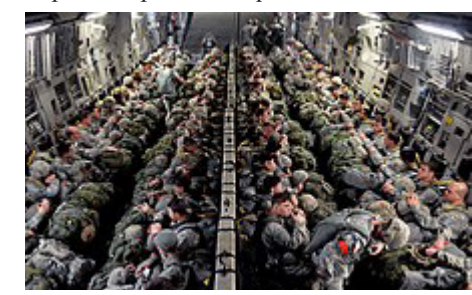
Just two months following redeployment from Haiti in 2010, elements of 2d BCT (Red Falcons) deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to serve as trainers for the Afghan National Security Forces. In October 2011, the Division Headquarters returned to Afghanistan, where they relieved the 10th Mountain Division as the Headquarters of Regional Command-South.

In February 2012, 4th BCT deployed to Kandahar province. Taliban commander Mullah Dadullah, formed an overwhelming force in Kandahar. Zhari district in southern Kandahar is where Dadullah was recruiting a high number of jihadists. 4th BCT of the 82nd held the 5-month siege from March 2012 to the end of July, witnessing some of the most intense combat since the initial deployments since 2001, 4th BCT inflicted massive casualties among the Taliban. Performing with an almost perfect strategic plan, 4th BCT drove Dadullah and his men out of Kandahar to the Northeastern province of Kunar, where Dadullah was killed by airstrikes.

As of April 2012, the 1st BCT was deployed to Afghanistan, operating in Ghazni Province, Regional Command-East. The paratroopers took control of Ghazni from the Polish Armed Forces, allowing the Polish Task Force White Eagle (pl:Polski Kontyngent Wojskowy w Afganistanie) to consolidate around the provincial seat in northern Ghazni.

In June 2012, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team deployed as part of the Global Response Force (GRF) in support of heavy combat operations conducted by the 1st Infantry Division. The Brigade was spread across much of RC-East Afghanistan.

In December 2013, elements of the 4th Brigade deployed again to Afghanistan and they were joined by the 1st Brigade in spring 2014. Since 11 September 2001, the division has lost 106 paratroopers in Afghanistan and 139 paratroopers in Iraq.



Above, 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers boarding a C-17 at Pope Army Airfield, January 2015.

On 19 December 2014, *Stars & Stripes*, a daily military newspaper, announced 1,000 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne's 3rd Brigade Combat Team would deploy to Iraq to train, advise, and assist Iraq's Security Forces.

On 3 November 2016, it was reported that 1,700 soldiers from the 2d Brigade Combat Team will deploy to the US Central Command area of responsibility in Iraq, to take part in Operation Inherent Resolve. They will replace the 2d Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division and will advise and assist Iraqi Security Forces currently trying to retake Mosul from ISIS fighters.

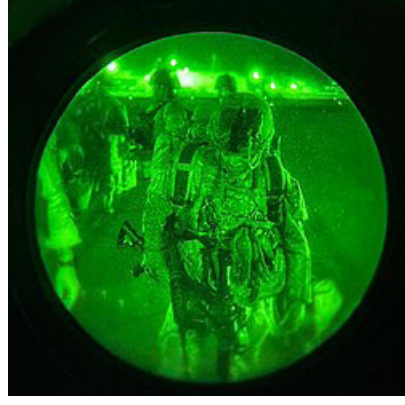
On 27 March 2017, it was reported that 300 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne's 2nd Brigade Combat Team will temporarily deploy to northern Iraq to provide additional advise-and-assist combating ISIS, particularly to speed up the offensive against ISIS in Mosul.

On 31 December 2019, approximately 750 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne's Immediate Response Force were authorized to be deployed to Iraq in response to events which saw the United States' embassy in the country stormed.

From the start of January 2017 to September 2017, the division suffered the loss of five paratroopers killed in action. It was confirmed in July 2020 that the 82nd Airborne Division did in fact have combat deployments in Syria.

The 1st BCT deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel from June 2017 to March 2018. Two soldiers were killed in action when their convoy was purposefully hit by a vehicle filled with explosives. The 3rd BCT deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel from July 2019 to March 2020. In February 2020 soldiers from the 1st BCT, 10th Mountain Division were deployed to Afghanistan to replace the 3rd BCT as part of a unit rotation.

The 82nd Airborne was called to deploy in Iraq upon after rioting civilians outside of the US embassy in Baghdad, Iraq breached the outer gates of the Green Zone. On 1 January 2020, the first 750 troops began mobilizing to Kuwait and bases in the Baghdad area. On the direct orders of Donald Trump, Iranian general and Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani was killed in a US airstrike at the Baghdad airport. Iranian influence on Iraqi militia groups was believed to play a part in the rioting at the US embassy. Actions by the Iranians and the US have increased tensions in the region not seen since before the invasion of Iraq in 2003. The 82nd Airborne was among the first military units to be mobilized in response to this escalation and tensions. An additional 3,500 to 4,000 troops were ordered to deploy to Kuwait in response to Iranian threats in the region.



Above, Paratroopers departing Hamid Karzai International Airport during the 2021 Kabul Airlift.

In August 2021, elements of the 82nd Airborne Division, particularly the Immediate Response Force, deployed to Afghanistan to secure the evacuation of American diplomats and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa applicants as the Taliban seized land and converged on Kabul. Throughout Operation Allies Refuge, the 82nd Airborne Division served as the Operational Command, Task Force 82.

### Operation Epic Fury, 2026

It was announced on 24th March 2026 that the Pentagon had ordered the commander of the 82nd Airborne Division and his headquarters staff to the Middle East, ahead of a potential deployment of a brigade combat team of around 3,000 troops to support operations against Iran.

Thanks for Reading

# Beach Cleanup set for Saturday, May 30

Trash Free Gulf is wrapping up its statewide cleanup campaign on Saturday, May 30 with cleanups on Padre Island, Baffin Bay, Redfish Bay Causeway, and Tranquitas Creek in Kingsville.

in conjunction with the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi in partnership with H-E-B grocery.

Additional cleanup events are planned through the end of May, including a volunteer cleanup this Saturday at Padre Bali Park. More information and registration details are available at [trashfreegulf.com](http://trashfreegulf.com).

On Padre Island the event runs from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Saturday at Padre Bali Park.

The Saturday events are the latest in a series of more than 60 projects across the state in which volunteers hope to remove 45,000 pounds of trash from reaching the coastline. by removing it from green spaces across the Coastal Bend. The event is organized through The Gulf Trust non-profit organiza-



Reddish egret keeping its feet dry. By Lu Ann Kingsbury

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## Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

### Prayers for Paul...



Island treasure Paul Fain is going through a rough patch.

When I first moved to Port A in 2008 I lived and worked at the historic *Tarpon Inn*. That's back when it was owned by my old boss, **Bart Simpson** who I ran clubs for in San Antonio. The inn keeper back then was **Dana Spinks** and her husband **Mike** was the maintenance guy. My job was to turn what is now *Roosevelt's* into an upscale martini and cigar bar. One day Dana came to me and said that we were getting a bunch of phone calls for some new place called the *Tarpon Ice House* and she wanted to know what the deal was over there. It was only a few blocks away so I walked over there and found a man crouched down working on some gas lines. I said, "Is the manager or owner around?" to which he replied, "I'll go get him" as he twirled around the opposite way, stood up and shook my hand, "**Paul Fain** at your service" which cracked me up and we were great friends ever since. I spent many, many days and nights at the ice house and Paul and I considered each other family. Fast forward 18 years and we're both still here (barely), but Paul is currently in a world of hurt. He's spent the last six years bravely fighting cancer and lately has been having really struggling with it. As of this writing on Tuesday, he is in ICU on life support. I report this because I know Paul and his wife **Dede Smith** have many friends here who would want to know about his situation. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers... he's a good man.

### Critters in the attic...



Groove Chili played Shorty's last weekend

It was a super fun weekend with TONS of great music all over town. The weather was periodically dismal followed by beautiful evenings enjoyed by the thousands of raucous holiday revelers. Traffic sucked for the most part. The beaches were a sloppy mess and by Monday the line of cars leaving the island were long... very long. And over at our house we dealt with raccoons in our attic. We've deduced there's a family unit up there scratching around and we've seen their little paw prints in the mud. My **Mermaid Gal** won't let me remove them and I'm surprised she hasn't started feeding them. We had an incident a few years ago when an entire family of raccoons fell through our bedroom ceiling right at the foot of our bed. That was a mess. So at this point I'm pretty sure **Tracy** will give them names. Never a dull moment around here I'm telling ya.

### Scattered shots...



Larry Joe Taylor with Davin James on bass and Dave Perez on accordion played the Sip Yard last Saturday

It was a bit hairy getting around through all the holiday traffic last week but I made it. I made my rounds with slight trepidation and saw a solid handful of shows. For starters I really enjoyed the **Groove Chili** show at *Shorty's* last Friday. These guys are bonafied musicians who played an array of jazz infused bluesy reggae sounds. It came across as very sophisticated stuff. Probably not for everyone, but I really liked them though. It was a nice change from all the cover bands out there. On Saturday I dug out my **Moon Monkey** and went racing at the *Gaff* and placed a respectable second. Oh well, there's always next time. Later on Saturday I hit several shows with **Larry Joe Taylor** taking the lead at the *Sip Yard*. The place was super packed and the show was quite wonderful with **Davin James** on bass and **Dave Perez** of the **Tejas Brothers** on accordion. I got into a conversation with one of the owners, **Daniel Johnson** who was absolutely on fire and convinced me that he wasn't in it for the money and only wanted to present shows at affordable prices with only his audiences in mind. I felt like he was sincere. I went back to the *Yard* on Sunday and saw another outstanding show with **Nick Lawrence**. This cat has got some chops. I really dug his high energy show and hope to see more of him. Also on Saturday I stopped in *Shorty's* to see a bit of the **Groove 2.0** and also spent some time at *Treasure Island* to hear the country boys, **Five Card Draw** and went back on Sunday to hear the highly visible **Jon Mikael MREZ** absolutely rip it up. This cat is off the charts and had the gals wiggling hard core. Also, I did run by the *Gaff* for my mandatory check in on Friday to see my Cajun buddies **Boudreaux and Pousson** who are real deal zydeco masters. Plus *Bron's* had some noteworthy players going on with cover rockers **Flying Free** featuring workout trainer **Anna Wilson** on lead vocals on Friday and **Timothy Noel and the Smoking Guns** on Saturday. Pro tip: watch for young Timothy Noel... I see him going places.

### Coming this weekend...



And the Moon Monkey returns to the winner's circle with Sooner and the Flying Flamingo.

Coming this Thursday the 28th **Flatbroke** will play the *Sip Yard*, my friend **Chadwick "Catfish" Hunter** is at the *Gaff* and the **Johnson All Starz** with maniac **Ray Ray Summy** leading the charge. On Friday the 29th looper **Darren McGill** will play *Shorty's*, the big ten piece horn band **Cruise Control** will play *Bron's*, the rocking cover band **National Nobodyz** will be at *Treasure Island*, **Off the Railz** will play the *Sip Yard* and **Phillip Dean West** will play the *Gaff*. Coming on Saturday the 30th look for a strong country music showing with the toastmaster of a *swaller and a holler*, **Thomas Michael Riley** playing the *Sip Yard*. We haven't seen much of TMR since the *Back Porch* closed and are delighted he and his lovely bride **Courtney** will be honoring us with their presence. Also on "country music" Saturday **Todd Dorn** will play *Shorty's*, **Brandon Michael** will play *Bron's*, **Mario Flores** will play *Treasure Island*, **Garry Mitcham** will play the *VFW*. Y'all be safe!

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Thomas Michael Riley will play the Sip Yard on Saturday.

# LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

### Thursday, May 28

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's  
Flatbroke @ Sip Yard  
Chadwick Hunter @ Gaff  
Ruben Limas @ Perrin's on the Water  
David Martinez @ Brewster Southside  
Jim Dugan @ Brewster Island  
Latin Talk @ Brewster Downtown  
Trisum @ Executive Surf Club  
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach  
Alonzo Cruz, Orlando Herrera @ Pier 99  
Billy Snipes @ Commercial St. AP  
Randall Hunt @ Sandbox

### Friday, May 29

Darren McGill @ Shorty's  
Cruise Control @ Bron's  
National Nobodyz @ Treasure Island  
Off the Railz @ Sip Yard  
Phillip Dean West @ Gaff  
Dickie Delight @ Salty Dog  
Jam Band @ Pelican Lounge  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach  
Young Classics @ Exchange  
Michael Burttis @ Brewster Southside  
Trisum @ Brewster Island  
Triston Marez @ Brewster Downtown  
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Lulu's Fulton  
Scarecrow People @ Executive Surf Club  
Art Barrera, Bedford Ave @ Pier 99  
Funk Rock Stereo @ S. TX Ice House  
Ruben Limas w/ Emily @ Blackbeard's on the Beach  
Alee Velazco @ Fajitaville  
Redfeather @ Sandbox

### Saturday, May 30

Thomas Michael Riley @ Sip Yard  
Todd Dorn @ Shorty's  
Brandon Michael @ Bron's  
Mario Flores @ Treasure Island

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PHILIP DEAN MAY 29  
JIM DUGAN MAY 30  
BRAD ETHRIDGE MAY 31  
JIM BUSH JUNE 4  
BOO & POO JUNE 5

**SHORTY'S**  
JOHN ELIJAH BAND EVERY MONDAY  
JOHNSON ALL STARZ EVERY THURS  
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN  
DARREN MCGILL MAY 29  
TODD DORN MAY 30  
TIMOTHY NOEL JUNE 5  
MANTLE JENNINGS JUNE 6

**Treasure Island**  
NATIONAL NOBODYZ MAY 29  
MARIO FLORES MAY 30  
RAUL AYALA JUNE 5  
SPLENDIFEROUS JUNE 6  
JON CAR JUNE 12  
DIAMOND'S EDGE JUNE 13

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**Sip Yard**  
FLATBROKE MAY 28  
OFF THE RAILZ MAY 29  
THOMAS MICHAEL RILEY MAY 30  
CALEB YOUNG JUNE 5  
DIAMOND'S EDGE JUNE 6  
GARY P. NUNN JUNE 18

**Bron's BACKYARD**  
BRAD ETHRIDGE MAY 28  
CRUISE CONTROL MAY 29  
BRANDON MICHAEL MAY 30  
RIPTIDE MAY 31  
AUSTIN FORREST JUNE 2  
BRANDON MICHAEL JUNE 3

Garry Mitcham @ VFW  
Jim Dugan @ Gaff  
Clark Bros @ Beer Haus  
Splendiferous @ Pelican Lounge  
JonMiikael MREZ @ Doc's  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards Too  
Peter Salas @ Brewster Island  
Trisum @ Brewster Southside  
Eclipse: Journey Tribute @ Brewster Downtown  
Dreaming in Color @ Exchange  
Victoria Cantu, Harmonx @ Executive Surf Club  
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach  
Just Cuz, US! Music @ Pier 99  
Billy Snipes @ Sunflower Resort PA  
Bayside Electric Band @ Sandbox  
Melissa Ann Grothe @ Anchor  
Aaron Boultinghouse @ Island Retreat  
Kelly Kenning @ Hideout 35 RP

### Sunday, May 31

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's  
Riptide @ Bron's  
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff  
Clark Bros @ Salty Dog  
Autism Fundraiser @ Pelican Lounge  
Sonny Salinas @ Executive Surf Club  
Lisa Sullivan @ Blackbeard's on the Beach  
Kelly Kenning @ Hideout 35

### Monday, June 1

John Elijah @ Shorty's  
Alonzo Cruz @ Pelican  
Billy Snipes @ Pier 99

### Tuesday, June 2

Austin Forrest @ Bron's  
Brad Ethridge @ VFW  
Open Mic w/ Matman @ House of Rock  
Michael Burttis @ Sandbox NPI

### Wednesday, June 3

Open Jam @ Gaff  
Brandon Michael @ Bron's

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