



Three Chords and the Truth A12



Beachcombing Report A7



Nature Notes A7



Backwater Adventures A6



The Port A Cookbook A4

Issue 1157

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June 18, 2026

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By Dale Rankin

It's been a week of high tides and green grass *Around The Island* this week as the saltwater has found its way to the dunes on many days and fresh water has fallen from the sky and greened things up. In a passage we never thought we would write a Tropical Storm named Arthur formed over Falfurrias this week... a tropical storm formed over Falfurrias! That will give the *Jerseys* something to fight about...

The good folks at the National Weather Service office say the rain that has been falling across Texas is a collision of a tropical wave wafting in off of the Caribbean that collides with upper level lows blowing up from Mexico and full bar ditches in Falfurrias are the result. They say things are likely to dry up through the summer then El Nino makes an appearance in the early fall and any late season storm will have to contend with wind shear which hurricanes don't like. The good news is that for at least the next few weeks we will continue to get free overnight car washes followed by the cleaning of the chassis by speeding through standing pools of fresh water. It's a good time to be an Island car!

Riley P. Dog Park



This week while gathering files to be uploaded soon on the Islandmoon.com website we came across this notice for the Riley P. Dog Park from a decade ago and it reminded us of all the good people that have volunteered over the years to make the park the beautiful space it is today. The park has far exceeded the expectations we had when we first began the process and has been a great addition to our island and it has all been done through private fundraising and volunteer work. The folks at the Corpus Christi Water Department have been a great help and the park now has a steady supply of recycled water for irrigation

Around cont. on A3

Island at a Crossroads

What is the plan for the SPID/Commodores/ State Highway intersection?

By Dale Rankin

The roadway between the busiest intersection on Padre Island and Packery Channel is in the process of undergoing rapid change as more entrances and more development is added which will impact traffic patterns, flow, and accessibility.

The area falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Corpus Christi and the Texas Department of Transportation with each developing plans for altering and expanding the right of way. But development is not

Crossroads cont. on A3



Park Road 22 at HWY 361 Intersection

By the numbers

How Padre Island voted

The following are the results of voting on Padre Island for the May 26 runoff elections for the Republican and Democrat parties.

Republican

12,028 (4.91%) of 218,368 registered Nueces County registered voters cast ballots

8481 registered voters on Padre Island

14.5% (1241) votes cast by registered Island voters

U.S. Senator

29.5% (367) John Cornyn

70.5% (870) Ken Paxton (winner)

Attorney General

60% (723) Mayes Middleton (winner)

40% (723) Chip Roy

Railroad Commissioner

46.5% (534) Bo French (winner)

53.5% (624) Jim Wright

Democrat

6191 (2.84%) of 218,368 registered voted countywide

195 (2.3%) of 8481 votes cast by registered Island voters

Lieutenant Governor

81% (155) Vikki Goodwin (winner)

19% (36) Marcos Isaias Velez

Attorney General

51% (99) Nathan Johnson (winner)

49% (87) Joe Jaworski

County Chair

20% (40) Alejandra Rubio

80% (153) Connor Rice (winner)

Restaurant Building Going Up!



Work has begun on the structure for the new restaurant operation on Bob Hall Pier. Requests for Proposals for operation of the restaurant are expected to be issued by county officials by August with opening of the restaurant scheduled by summer 2027.

Shade for Commodore Park



The roof is going up over the new basketball court at Commodore Park as work on Phase I of \$3.4 million in improvements continues. The first phase of the work also includes two tennis courts and four pickleball courts, a playground, bird observation blind, walking trail, picnic area, parking and lighting. Completion is set for November 2026.

A little Island history

Fourth of July Island style

A look back at how Islanders celebrated the holiday over the years

By Dale Rankin

With July 4 just around the corner for the next few weeks we are going to take a trip through the Island Moon archives to see how Islander have celebrated the holiday over the years.

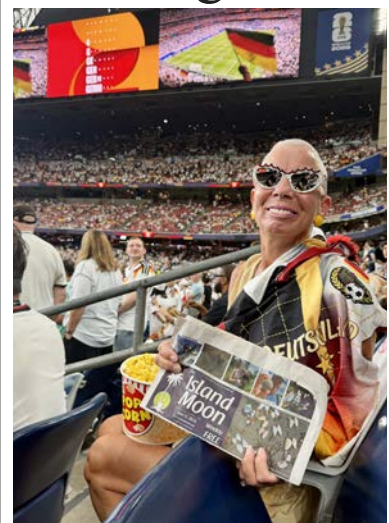
If ever there was a holiday made for The Island is has to be the 4th of July. Second Island homes that sit vacant for most of the year come to life as owners arrive from OTB

History cont. on A5



Fire in the dunes in 2010

Island Moon makes it to the World's largest stage!



The Island Moon traveled to the FIFA World Cup 2026 in Houston with Island resident and Germany native Evelyn Pless-Schuberth where Germany beat Curaçao 7-1.



Snowy Egret at Salt Island By Roy Frette



After the rain, the sun will reappear. Dove in the rain By Riekie Roncinske



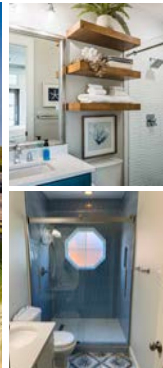
The Merrill's hiked the Moon into Cascade Canyon in Grand Teton National Park



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Cattle egret in Flour Bluff
By Riekie Roncinske



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Around cont. from A1

even in dry times and even has palm trees. Palm trees! It's a monument named after a stray wandering around in Olmos Park after a thunderstorm who made The Island his home. It's good to be an Island Dog!

A park by any other name

Not to be splitting hairs here at the Word Factory but well, let's borrow from The Bard...

*What's in a name? That which we call a park
By any other name would smell as sweet;
So Commodores would, were it not Commodore call'd,
O Commodore Commodores! wherefore art thou clarity?*

So the new *Commodore* Park is coming along nicely and it's going to be a great addition to our Island. It is located on *Commodores Drive* which includes the *Commodores Drive Mobility Bridge*. . . A check of the street sign finds no apostrophe so the drive doesn't belong to a single *Commodore* but rather to a group of *Commodores* (possibly known as a fleet). The new park is named for a single *Commodore* who is nameless but on a street named after a fleet of *Commodores*...

The moniker of *Mobility Bridge* also seems wordy and nondescript at best, especially for a bridge under which the water is not currently mobile so maybe the bridge needs a new name and while we are at it maybe we can resolve the singular-plural controversy in the names. Once we are done with that we can start on deciding when/if South Padre Island Drive ends and Park Road 22 picks up and reconciles the current contradictory street signs. And don't forget to get to South Padre Island from here you must go north on South Padre Island Drive... Yup...trying explaining that to a lost tourist...

Island Blast

The Island Blast 4th of July Fireworks Show is but a few weeks away (thank you Nick Colosi) and we will have more of the history in the next few issues. There is still time to donate on GoFundMe at Island Blast.

This year marks the 14th version of the show (minus a Covid year) and the 250th for our country and our Island will once again throw the Mother of All Deck Parties. We'll see you there and in the meantime say hello if you see us *Around The Island*



Jerry Watkins at the launch site the first year of the show.

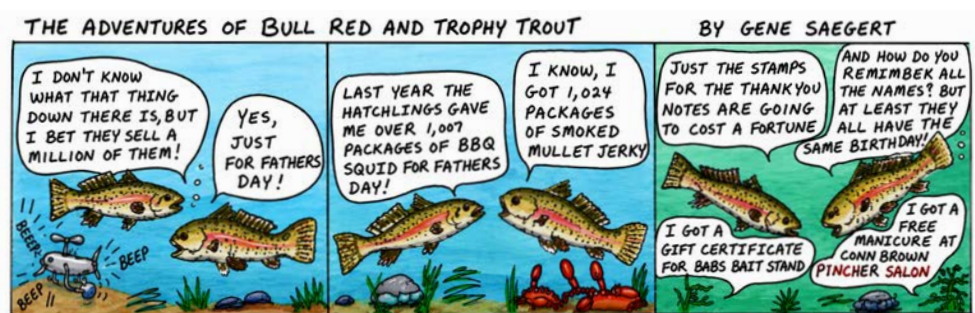
Crossroads cont. from A1

waiting for those plans to move forward as a new entrance to the roadway is being added by the development of the Speedy Stop store on the south side of the highway right of way and AEP Texas last week announced plan to build a new electrical substation on a recently purchased ten-acre site on the north side of the roadway. The City of Corpus Christi is also at 60-percent design on a plan to pave Sand Dollar Ave. which runs north from SH 361 to Verdemar Dr. bringing more vehicular traffic to the crucial intersection.

The Padre/Mustang Island Mobility Plan approved by Corpus Christi City Council in February, 2026 lists the area as an Active Transportation corridor interconnected by a 15-foot wide multimodal path for carts, pedestrian, and bicycles running along the south side of State Highway 361 that would connect the SPID corridor to Zahn Road separated from the traffic lanes by a concrete barrier.

A portion of the Mobility Plan reads: Plan recommendations could be impacted by ongoing Texas Department of Transportation study of SH 361, including a possible bridge replacement project."

Sand Dollar Ave., which is currently unpaved, connect to SH 361 on the north and is also usable by golf carts, with a crosswalk across SPID at Verdemar Dr. to allow cart access to Jackfish Ave. on the west side of the roadway. South of the intersection the



It's Time Our Citizens Knew the Truth about Our Water Crisis: From Its Origins to Its Possible Solutions

By Kaylynn Paxson
City Council District 4

As one of the five council members elected last year to tackle Corpus Christi's water challenges head-on, I want to set the record straight. Our community deserves transparency about where we stand, how we got here, and the decisive steps this council is taking to secure reliable water for our families, businesses, and future.

How We Got Here

When our council took office, the city had placed nearly all its focus for years on a single project: the Inner Harbor marine desalination plant. That was essentially the only option on the table for new water supply. We quickly realized there wasn't a satisfactory ecological study for placing it in our closed bay system. That raised legitimate concerns about potential impacts. In January 2025, reports showed we could face a shortfall as early as winter 2026. The Inner Harbor project, even if fully pursued, wouldn't deliver water until around 2028, the updated report from the city manager forecasts it to 2029, late 2030, and at only about 30 million gallons per day (MGD). Our peak demand reaches 135 MGD. There was a clear gap, and previous strategies left us vulnerable.

This wasn't just about drought, though we've certainly faced that. It was about long-term planning that hadn't diversified enough for growth, industry, and resilience.

What This Council Has Delivered

Far from "kicking the can down the road," this council has taken unprecedented action in the last 18 months. We've secured immediate and near-term supplies totaling around 76 MGD through projects already coming online or within the next 12-24 months. That's real water hitting our system now. We've invested in two major groundwater projects, one up to 36 MGD and another up to 24 MGD. We're advancing effluent reuse, recapturing treated wastewater in partnership with helpful industrial partners who are taking some directly to offset demand and speed delivery. Recent rains have also helped, pushing back potential curtailment from as early as this fall to December 2026 or even into 2027. But we aren't pausing, we're accelerating. Why we're Moving Carefully on Inner Harbor, and Pursuing Bigger Options

The Inner Harbor project is one of four marine desalination efforts we're evaluating. Marine desalination is drought-resistant and critical for our coastal future, the Gulf isn't going away. But we must do it responsibly. After receiving the technical ecological study, we're now involving marine and biology scientists to fully understand the impacts before committing. This is prudent stewardship, not delay. Meanwhile, we're pursuing larger-scale solutions that better match our needs and benefit the broader region:

- A major desalination project by the Nueces River Authority and the port. We've placed a \$2.7 million reservation for 50 MGD of that capacity.
 - Converting the Barney Davis power plant (owned by CPS Energy) into marine desalination, we're in positive conversations and designing this now.
 - Exploring capture from a smaller existing plant at a polymers facility.
- These larger plants (100+ MGD) offer far greater impact than Inner Harbor's 30 MGD alone. Even if we don't take the full volume, their scale helps the region and state.

Addressing Concerns and the Path Ahead

I hear from constituents on all sides, those wanting faster desalination and those concerned about costs, brine, and ecology. Everyone wants the same thing: the ability to turn on the tap with confidence. That's what drives our decisions.

We're not anti-desalination. We're pro-responsible, diversified, and sustainable water security. Groundwater and reuse provide immediate relief while we build drought-proof capacity. No single project was going to solve this overnight, which is why diversification matters. I'm confident that continuing on this path will prevent the shortages some predicted. Our city is too vital to the state and national economy to fail, and this council is treating it with that seriousness.

Citizens, stay engaged. We'll have more updates, including at upcoming meetings. Support conservation, back balanced growth that matches infrastructure, and hold us accountable. Together, with transparent leadership and practical action, we can secure South Texas water for generations. This is the truth from the work we've done. Let's move forward with facts, not fear.



The Speedy Stop Property looking North to the JFK Causeway. This area has been under review for a redesign by TXDOT to accommodate the growing Island traffic.

plan calls for a connection to the Don Patrio Bridge which would allow for crossing under SPID.

West of the intersection the Mobility Plan recommends reducing the speed limit to 30 mph along with the width of the vehicular lane and adding a cart land with a separated sidewalk

Moon Monkeys



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Riley P. Dog
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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

Word came this week at the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) that there will be no bond election from the City of Corpus Christi this year. Historically the city has issued bonds every two years somewhere in the neighborhood of \$170 million and Padre Island got more of the debt service than we got bond money but this year looked to be different.

ISAC members over the past several months concentrated on forming a short list of projects to push to the bond package, but as the city's bond rating continued to take hits the amount of the package continued to drop as the cost of floating bonds continued to rise until finally the numbers hit critical mass and it made no sense to do bonds until likely two years from now....maybe.

The list from ISAC included the ongoing effort to do something about the malaria factory under the JFK Bridge which has been home to the Twin Lakes of Muddle and Puddle for two decades in spite of two successful previous bond projects which dedicated money to clean up the area and finally finish paving the parking lot. The problem, at least as I have observed it, is that there are numerous overlapping governmental jurisdictions at play leaving no one really in charge. The city has made a gallant effort in recent years to move the project forward but the area continues to see boaters wading through muddy water after parking their trailers and I am beginning to wonder if the mosquitoes have a lobby group buzzing around city hall to stall the project.

The Intersection

That said, my concern here is that the trouble under the bridge is a harbinger of what is coming at the increasingly busy intersection at SPID/Commodores Dr./State Highway 361. We have seen in this early part of the tourist season continued daily stacking of traffic trying to turn left from SPID to Port Aransas even in the middle of the day in the middle of the week and things are only going to get more congested as time goes by. There is work going on to improve the ferry landings in Port Aransas but the traffic load of 600 vehicles per hour is all the system can handle and the statistics show that an *average* of 32,000 vehicles per day transit the JFK Causeway – you can do the math.

There are several different governmental entities which are addressing the traffic stress on the Island Road between the SPID intersection and Port Aransas. The first is Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) which has held hearings on improving the roadway from Packery Channel north, and there is the City of Corpus Christi which approved the Mustang/Padre Mobility Plan (see the story in this issue). It is a good plan and there is \$17 million in match funding through the Metropolitan Planning Organization to improve the corridor between the JFK Bridge and The Intersection but release of that money is contingent on the city moving the project forward through the Mobility Plan and the money to do that was bond money some of which was, according to the ISAC recommendations, going to be used to pave Sand Dollar Avenue from SH 361 north to Verdemar Drive. In the original street layout of Padre Island this crucial stretch of roadway was to be a release valve from heavy SPID traffic and also was the gateway to what was to be the Island's retail district – the closest thing we will ever have to a downtown but which is now a weed patch.

Private interests are not waiting

Without the bond money I suspect improvements to The Intersection will stall but private interests are not waiting around. Last week it was announced here that AEP Texas has purchased a ten-acre tract between Sand Dollar Ave. and Packery Channel and

is putting a substation there. There is also an existing permit to put a development on a 38-acre tract that runs along the western shore of Packery Channel from the bridge and includes access to SH 361. Across SH 361 the driveway for the new Speedy stop which will connect to the highway is already under construction and the entrance to the development around Lake Padre is already in place. Somehow there also needs to be a road to access the western shore of Packery Channel south of the Packery Bridge.

On top of all that recently announced plans for a new causeway to Padre Island call for two possible routes with the most likely being parallel to the existing JFK Causeway and where that flyover will land has yet to be determined but no matter where it connects to SH 361 it is sure to impact traffic patterns at The Intersection.

This is not a case of *if we build it they will come* it is a case of *they are coming whether we build it or not* and inaction will lead to congestion (sounds like a laxative commercial and in some ways there is a parable there).

The solution

The initial plan was to fund improvements to The Intersection with funds from the Island Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ #2) but that fund is tapped out through at least 2030 and that is where the bonds were to come in. Now funding for planning and design at The Intersection will have to come either through the city's Capital Improvement Projects budget, which is now going to be under stress due to lack of 2026 bonds, or through a 2028 bond package which would likely only include funds for design which would then take another two years to start building anything. By 2030 Sand Dollar Ave. will likely be paved (the underground utilities have been in place for decades), the Speedy Stop driveway will be open, there may be development around Lake Padre, and local traffic turning west onto Commodores Drive off of SPID is only going to increase. The Mobility Plan calls for the possible replacement of the aging bridge over Packery Channel at which time more lanes would likely be added but when that might happen is unknown. Somewhere along that stretch another traffic light is likely to be needed but cannot be placed at the Sand Dollar intersection because it is too close to The Intersection.

The elements that have to converge here are the TXDOT plan for SH 361, the Island Mobility Study, the route for the new Island causeway, with funding for everything coming from state and federal sources along with city funding from sources yet to be identified. It sounds easy if you say it real fast.

But if the analogy is the area under the JFK Bridge then what is likely to happen is that in 2030 traffic from The Intersection to Packery Channel will be alternately a speedway and a parking lot, a new route for a causeway will be set, and there may or may not be a plan for expanding SH 361 and replacing the Packery Bridge. The solution I think is through the subcommittee that has been formed by ISAC to push the Mobility Plan through and ISAC will have to drive this process because someone is going to have to herd the cats. A holistic approach has to include everything from the JFK Bridge to the Packery Bridge and beyond or nothing will ever happen and if it develops piecemeal, dare I say it, that could actually make things worse than doing nothing.

The way I figure it, the fuse is lit and we have about three years at most to have a plan in place and doing nothing is an option...but not a good one.

The Port A Cookbook

Nothing is not on the Menu

New cookbook is on the way...

By Chris Jordan



I really do love my job. All of it. The grocery shopping, the prep, and then of course there's showtime. I love it all. Sure, cleaning the commercial kitchen trailer and washing all the pots and pans gets a little tiresome, but there is reward when everything's finally clean. One of my favorite parts of work is when I get a DM, an email, a text, or the phone rings - and it's the call of duty. Whether it's a new client or someone with whom we've worked many times, it's always fun to develop a new menu.

We have a menu of sorts for people to look at. Really, it's just an ongoing list I keep of everything we have ever prepared. It was only created a couple of years ago, so there are probably some things missing. At present there are 258 individual dishes on it. As you can imagine, some folks are overwhelmed at the sight of it. I am often asked what our greatest hits are. It's astonishing to me that out of that many dishes to choose from, old and new clients alike gravitate toward a few items.

A menu of our greatest hits would begin with appetizers: blackened rare tuna on a tortilla chip with fire-roasted red bell pepper aioli, brie-stuffed porcini mushroom caps, and bite-sized crab cakes with remoulade. The main course would feature a tableside carving station with seared medium-rare beef tenderloin served with horseradish sour cream sauce and a yeast roll. Sides would typically be roasted garlic-rosemary tri-color baby potatoes and haricot verts with bacon and onion. People ask for our key lime pie over and over again. It's a radical departure from the traditional canon of recipes in that ours is not made with sweetened, condensed milk but rather key lime curd.

Sometimes a new client will ask me to put a menu together for them. I'm always happy to work with them so we end up with something they are excited about. Naturally, some people have notions before they even reach out. Sometimes it's a theme, a few ideas, or even a fully formed menu - and I'm 100% behind it no matter what. It's always fun to prepare a new dish for the first time.

For one of the first such meals we did, I was asked to prepare dishes from the legendary Galatoire's in New Orleans. This joint is the standard-bearer for traditional New Orleans French-Creole cuisine. To be asked to prepare some of their signature dishes was as flattering as it was challenging. Fortunately, The Galatoire's Cookbook exists so I had a leg-up on preparing their shrimp remoulade, crab mignon, stuffed eggplant, and trout meunière. This was a two-night stand with the same group. The other dishes were standards or my own creations with the exception of Guy Carnathan's excellent pan-seared oysters in shallot-sherry cream sauce on toast points.

Another time, one of our more adventurous clients asked for a meal to be exclusively food-on-a-stick. I love this sort of thing. It was a bunch of fun to do this themed meal for sixty-five guests. We had caesar salad, chicken-scallion yakitori with miso glaze, shrimp-shishito skewers with cilantro-lime crema, pork belly with sweet soy glaze, ribeye cap with chimichurri, grilled vegetables with toum, and grilled Fredericksburg peaches with wildflower honey whipped cream. Yes, it was all served on a stick - even the salad and the dessert.

This very same client had us cook for them again recently and it was just as interesting as the first time. We were asked to prepare an Italian-Mediterranean wine-paired



Caprese salad made with burrata, campari tomato, Sicilian extra virgin olive oil, Balsamic vinegar glaze, and basil from the author's garden

tasting menu: oysters casino, whipped ricotta crostini, fried baby octopus with basil aioli, world-class Italian fries with truffle salt, crudo di dentice con carciofi, burrata and campari caprese salad, mussels in saffron-tomato broth, herb-crusted lamb lollipops, wild mushroom risotto, blistered asparagus, and Sicilian olive oil cake. It was important to the host that I introduce each course and its respective wine and talk a little about each and how they work together. It was gratifying to be asked to put so much thought and effort into a meal.

Another fun client we cook for simply likes to throw a great party. It's as casual an affair as they come. We just put the food out in waves on the kitchen island and people graze. Obviously, with this many items, the portions are minute: spicy salmon in nori cup, fried quail legs with nước chấm, fried shrimp with dill and caper tartar sauce, fiesta deviled eggs, spinach-artichoke dip with pita chips, handmade butternut squash ravioli with sage brown butter, boneless quail breast teriyaki skewers, mac and cheese, mashed potatoes, Gulf-shrimp poppers, baked mont d'or with charcuterie and crusty bread, fried quail legs with pho reduction, world-class french fries, charred broccolini with lemon, chili flake, and garlic confit, and lastly that decadent hold-out from the 1960s, Tunnel of Fudge Cake.

I've got a lot of help to make things happen. My partner Andrea takes care of all things front-of-the-house and she's got help from old friends Lila, Maddie, and Ann. My pals Jaime, Blake, and Andy jump in as needed to help me in the kitchen. We like to buy meat from Boarri Craft Meats & Goods and we get our produce from Fruit King. For adult beverages we go to Liquid Town. Owner Eddie Buhidar is extremely knowledgeable and will go to the ends of the earth to get you what you need.

Folks have been asking me about the actual cookbook a lot lately. We have a draft manuscript completed. We are going to self-publish and fund it via Kickstarter. There will be a lot of fun and interactive ways for you to get in on the cookbook, so y'all stay tuned.

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History cont. from A1

and take to the water and their back decks for a celebration of all things American. Traditionally the 4th of July holiday is one where Islanders both permanent and temporary either make their way to jam-packed beaches, launch their boat, or take to their decks to avoid the crowds.

2000-2012

From 2000-2012 we had a semi-annual brushfire in Kleberg County caused by the myriad of impromptu private fireworks shows on the Kleberg Beaches that rode the wind into the beaches and headed toward the homes on the south end of Padre Island often lighting up the night sky with an eerie red glow that often continued into the early hours of July 5. For more than a decade Island residents gathered at two homes along Three Fathoms Bank Drive to watch the boat parade and avoid the crowds elsewhere. The parade and party were both open-ended affairs as the parade made its way down the main canal past the judges where they tied up and joined the party. It was a cousin to the La Posada Lighted Boat Parade only usually with better weather.

2013

But things changed in the summer of 2013 with the arrival of the Island Blast 4th of July fireworks show. Jerry and Sharon Watkins returned from a trip to South Padre Island in 2012 where they saw a fireworks show and came home with the idea of starting a show there. Port Aransas had staged a show for several years funded by Charles Butt, of grocery store fame, who owned and still owns the Lydia Ann Lighthouse. Downtown also had a show funded through corporate sponsors but Padre Island had never had a show of its own so a move began in late 2012 to raise the \$16,000 needed to pay for the first show in 2013 and the show was on!

The first site considered was on or near Bob Hall Pier but there were several problems with that plan. First, we had all witnessed the dune fires over the years that resulted from fireworks in Kleberg County and moving the source of the flames nearer to Island homes didn't seem like a good idea. The next location was the 6.8 acres of open land at the far west end of Whitecap Blvd. between the Whitecap Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Padre Island Yacht Club. That land was and is owned by the Corpus Christi Water Department and had never been used for anything, there was no Riley P. Dog Park yet, and after some challenges permits for the show were secured and a group of fireworks shooters from the Boerne Volunteer Fire Department were hired through the Zambelli Fireworks Company in Philadelphia, portable restrooms were set up along Whitecap Blvd., county constables agreed to provide security and traffic control and the first show was on for July 2013.

That same year we hired the band Statesboro Revue to play on the patio where the annual party was held and as the show went up we blasted the 1812 Overture out across the water in a way that would have made Mr. Tchaikovsky proud and an Island tradition was born.

By the summer of 2014 Nueces County had purchased 3680 acres of land in Kleberg County and Nueces County Constables began patrolling the beaches there and the outlaw shows were less frequent, but not en-



Boat Parade 2011

tirely extinct. But 2014, the second year of the Island Blast show, the law of unintended consequences took hold and the number of boats in the parade dropped precipitously. When the first show was done in 2013 boats began lining up along the canals close to the Intracoastal Waterway near the launch site and by the time the boats in the parade made their way there to watch the show the best spots were taken, so in 2014 skippers skipped the parade and headed straight to the fireworks site to get a good spot. Over the years the parade stopped parading and has been replaced by a parade early in the day by the Padre Island Yacht Club but the event has scaled down over the years. But as one tradition waned others waxed and the 4th of July Island Blast along with the La Posada Lighted Boat Parade and the Barefoot Mardi Gras Beach Parade, founded just a few years before the fireworks show, have become the three-legged stool of the Island event calendar.

I'm not sure this is a good idea...

The first year of the show as Jerry was helping with the setup the fireworks shooter asked how Jerry wanted to light the show. There were two choices; the first was to string a wire back a few hundred feet and push a button, the second was to walk up the array of firework pods and light a fuse with a burning road flare.

"Jerry doesn't want a button, that's for wimps," I said. And a few minutes later Jerry was suited up in a bombardier jacket, helmet, and face shield while approaching hundreds of pounds of gunpowder with a lighted road flare.

"I'm not so sure this a good idea," Jerry was heard to say but the show must go on. The next year our City Council members Coleen McIntyre did the honors and the third year Jerry volunteered me.

"Keep your head back," Jerry said. "Because when you touch that fuse with that torch that thing goes up immediately," and he wasn't lying. That year also marked the first year that the spoil island adjacent to the launch site wasn't burned prior to the show and the fire in the sky was followed by a fire on the spoil island. While it is true I did set The Island ablaze the statute of limitations has now run with no charges filed and the burning of the spoil island has become a bit of a tradition in itself over the years. We will have more on the show and the rules for where to anchor up to watch it in the next issues but there is still time to donate to the show by going to GoFundMe and searching for Island Blast.

It's almost time for some fire in the sky on the 4th of July.

The Art of Island Life

By Melissa Mitchell



Kaylee's Light Foundation Toy Drive

Last year, we were honored to participate in the toy drive for Kaylee's Light Foundation. It has been inspiring to watch this mission grow and bring together so many people throughout our community. Together, they donated 1,341 toys. What began as one family's way of celebrating Kaylee's life has become something much larger—a community coming together to bring comfort, joy, and hope to children and teens receiving care at Driscoll Children's Hospital. After losing their daughter, Kaylee's family wanted to find a way to continue sharing the joy she brought to others. They kept coming back to one simple thing that always made Kaylee smile.

Toys. Kaylee rarely went anywhere without one in her hand. They brought her comfort, happiness, and a sense of security. It seems fitting that something so simple—and so important to Kaylee—would become the inspiration behind a mission that now brings comfort and joy to so many others.

From that simple idea, Kaylee's Light Foundation was born. Today, the foundation's mission reaches far beyond one family. It supports individuals and families facing medical challenges, raises awareness about epilepsy and SUDEP, and hosts its annual toy drive benefiting children and teens receiving care at Driscoll Children's Hospital. Kaylee Culvahouse was born with a rare genetic condition called 1p36 Deletion Syndrome and lived with epilepsy, developmental disabilities, and heart conditions that required lifelong care. Despite the challenges she faced, Kaylee had a joyful spirit and an incredible ability to bring happiness to those around her.

She taught her family to slow down, appreciate the simple moments, and find joy in everyday life. In March 2024, Kaylee unexpectedly passed away at the age of 15 from SUDEP, or Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy, a condition her family had never heard of.

Part of the foundation's mission is helping raise awareness so that other individuals and families have access to information that Kaylee's family wished they had known.

More Than a Toy Drive

Every toy represents more than a gift. It represents a moment of comfort, distraction, hope, and happiness for a child or teen during a difficult day. Those receiving medical care often face long days filled with appointments, procedures, treatments, and time away from friends, family, and the activities they enjoy.

A toy, game, craft, book, or gift card can provide comfort, distraction, and something to look forward to during an otherwise difficult day. This toy drive serves children of all ages—from infants to teenagers—because every child deserves to feel remembered. Teens are often overlooked during toy drives, which makes their inclusion especially meaningful. What means the most to Kaylee's family is watching their community come together to help children and families they may never meet. Every donation becomes a reminder that people care. Last year, two of the children who received toys held special significance for the family. One was a student at the same school Kaylee attended, and another was a little girl with the same rare genetic condition.



Parents have also reached out to share how much a toy meant to their child during a hospital stay and how touched they were to learn about Kaylee's story. Those messages serve as a reminder that this toy drive is about much more than collecting toys.

A Ripple Effect of Kindness

One of the most beautiful things to emerge from Kaylee's Light Foundation is watching children help other children. Recently, a young boy named Nate and his two younger brothers set a personal goal of collecting 125 toys for the drive. They organized a lemonade stand and worked hard to help children they have never even met.

Another special example comes from Kaylee's brother Colton's baseball team. Most of these children never knew Kaylee, yet they have embraced her story and chosen to honor her through acts of kindness. Watching young people collect toys, spread the word, and support one another has become one of the foundation's greatest gifts. For Kaylee's mom, these moments are especially meaningful because they are a reminder that Kaylee's impact did not end with her life. Seeing children who never met her choose kindness, generosity, and service because of her story gives her family hope and reassurance that her legacy continues to live on.

This year, Kaylee's Light Foundation hopes to collect 2,000 toys in honor of what would have been Kaylee's 18th birthday. But beyond the number itself, the goal is much simpler. To help every child and teen receiving care at Driscoll Children's Hospital experience a moment of comfort, joy, and encouragement. And to remind families that their community cares.

Because if Kaylee's story inspires someone to help another person in need, then her light continues to shine. If you'd like to support this year's toy drive, donations can be made by dropping off new items at participating collection sites throughout the Coastal Bend, or through Kaylee's Light Foundation's Venmo account by purchasing items directly from their Amazon Wish List. The toy drive runs through July 19, with donations being delivered to Driscoll Children's Hospital on July 22.

Collection sites on Padre Island include: Evoke Studio & Gifts, Gage Dental, Beach'n Blooms, and Snoopy's Pier. *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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Kaylee Culvahouse and Family

Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

Changes in the weather

We really like the rain, but geez, the weeds in the Back 40 are starting to resemble the jungle in Costa Rica. Hopefully the city's code enforcement will let us slide a little until it dries out for a day or two otherwise I might be headed for a ticket. At least the rain keeps washing the mosquito larvae away, but they will get a foot hold soon enough. Make sure to stock up on OFF! before it's all GONE! The rains and weird winds have brought around a few birds, as I actually saw a hooded oriole at my work in town the other day.

We made it out fishing the other day, and I think we need to be throwing bigger lures, as everything we caught was small. While it was nice to be able to call a certain area as holding flounder and getting there and fishing it, all we could catch was shorts. Augs even threw in a nice rat redfish for good measure. Maybe towards July we can get out and try it again.



All smiles from Augs with a rat red.

High water and sargassum

The beach continues to be a mess, with high water and sargassum still rolling in, although it's not in epic proportions. The conditions are actually improving, and the fresh water inflows and rain have caused the water clarity to clean up a bit. I continue to be chained to the desk, but hoping to get out for a few minutes at some point in time this next week. Beach combing continues to be good, as reported by fellow Moon Monkey Jace Tunnell (see his columns).

From over our heads to the Carolinas

Offshore, things are beginning to calm down after our tropical storm formed over our heads and took off for the Carolinas. The water temperature is still pretty warm down in the Bay of Campeche, and it wouldn't surprise me if we got another low at some point soon. The gyres spinning off of the



Hooded Oriole

Loop Current continue to keep us from getting whacked with sargassum, and the gulf should be calming down as we switch into our summer time pattern over the next couple of weeks. People fishing offshore are starting to see some signs of life, and the blue water will be calling soon enough.

Sea hare in the first gut

Our friend Tess found a sea hare the other day in the first gut and got some video of it. These fun little sea snails (gastropods) have a very small fragile shell inside and actually use siphons to pump themselves up and "fly" through the water. They are herbivorous and are all over in the grass flats surrounding Packery. Which reminds me, snorkeling in the seagrass can actually yield some surprising finds if you get out there this summer on a clear day. They get washed out during rain events and high tides when they recede. They can live at the beach for a while, picking at small things. Once washed up though, that's pretty much it.

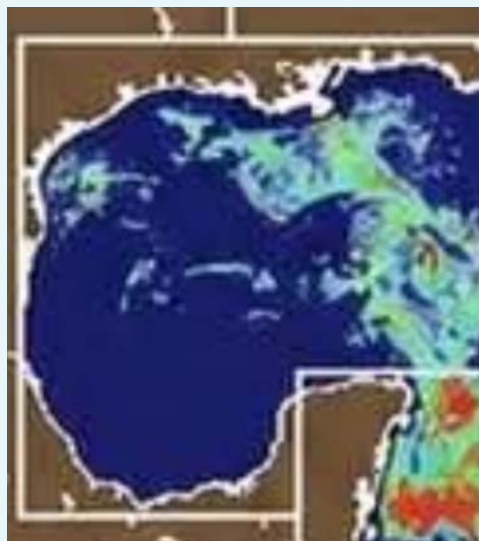
Hard heads on the Packery

Our buddy Nick also filmed a school of small hard heads next to the Packery jetties. Hard heads are actually mouth brooders; after the momma hard head lays her eggs in the sand or on the flat, then the male hard heads fertilizes them and then picks them up in his mouth and carries them around. True story. He will carry them around for up to a month when they hatch and then will let them come and go as they please until they leave. We've caught hard heads in shrimp nets before that will spit up fifty small hard heads all over the place. I'm not a big fan.

Scholars at HRI

I would like to congratulate Kelley Savage of Harte Research Institute for her PhD dissertation presentation regarding oysters and carbon sequestration and Miranda White of Conrad Blucher Institute on her dissertation regarding the Texas Marine Coldwater Response Collaborative (TRTC) that I've been a part of for a few years that keeps an eye on turtle and fish cold-stunning events. Both of your efforts are helping accentuate and protect fisheries' resources. Great job!

Well folks, I gotta run this week. Wednesdays are always absolutely crazy, with the doors opened on all the squirrel cages, phones ringing off the hook with Ted Koppel calling about a deadline. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks!



Ripcharts shows a calm Gulf

Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah



Mr Mike Cramer fought this multi spot redfish from the flats along the King Ranch.



I was able to lay a hand on this massive trout this week that struck a DOWN SOUTH LURES Bone DIMOND in the flats along the spoil islands of the Intracoastal Canal



Roseate Spoonbill by Irene Christensen

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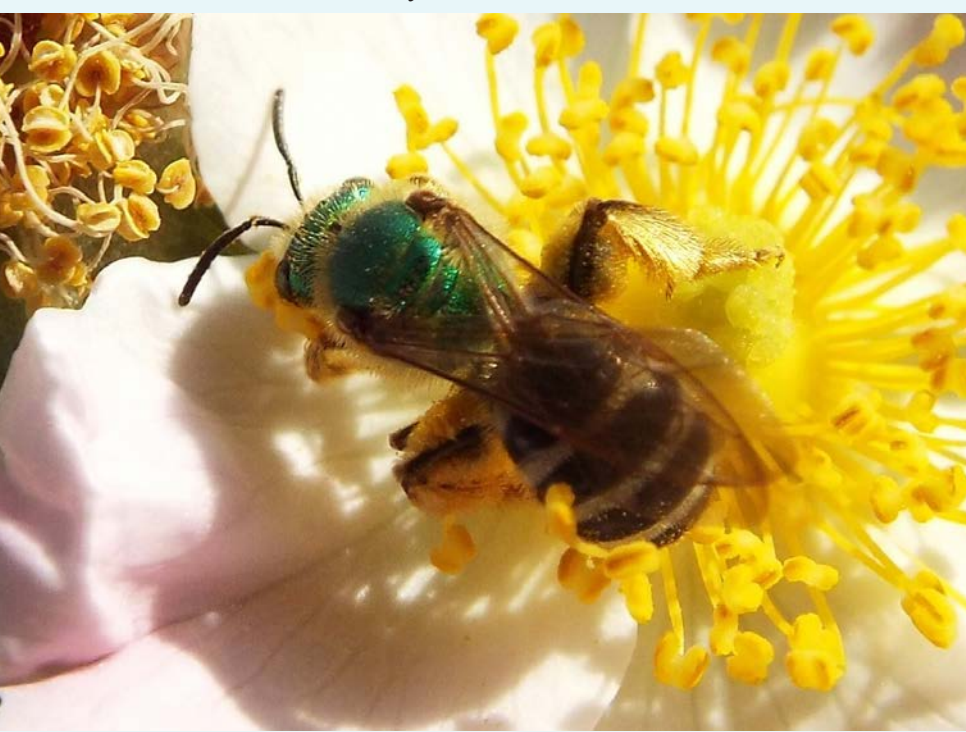
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Nature Notes

Pollen...it's food...it's a car coating... it's life...

By Evan McGuire



By David Whelan via Wikimedia Commons

What exactly is pollen? Many of us know the basics; it comes from plants, causes allergic reactions in a lot of people, and covers my car in a yellow powdery coating in the spring. But what is its ecological purpose?

Pollen is the substance that most plants create to transfer genetic material. It is the male component of plant sexual reproduction. Pollen is released from a structure called the anther in flowers, or the microsporangia in conifers. Each grain of pollen has a protective coating and a handful of cells that produce the male gametes (sperm cells) inside the coating. It also produces/elongates a pollen tube once it reaches the female structure called the stigma, which allows the grain of pollen to deliver the sperm cells to the female gametes.

Large pollen releases happen in the spring, causing hay fever or allergic reactions to spike. These often coincide with the plants beginning to grow and reproduce for the season, such as shortly after the trees leaf out when the weather starts to warm up.

Wind-pollinated plants produce pollen that needs to float on the wind to find a stigma on another plant. This pollen is produced in large quantities and released into the air, hoping that at least a small portion of the cells reach another plant of the same species.

Plants such as grasses, goldenrod, ragweed and many other plants are all wind pollinated, and can cause allergic reactions in some humans when they inhale it. This is because the human immune system confuses

it for something harmful. Inflammation, runny eyes and nose, and sneezing are all commonly reported symptoms of hay fever and other pollen allergies. Unfortunately, as the climate changes, the pollen season, and therefore allergy season, has lengthened.

Pollen is also a food source for many organisms, including bees, wasps, beetles, hoverflies, and others. Meanwhile, bats, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and others will help distribute the pollen between plants by feeding on the nectar within the flower.

Flower shape and structure can provide clues as to what pollinators are visiting specific flowers. Hummingbirds like red tubular flowers, as their long beaks and tongues can reach inside easily. Fly-pollinated flowers typically smell bad to us humans, and are small and often white. Moths like small, complicated white flowers, butterflies like purple, and so on. Plants that need to be pollinated by animals do not produce the wind-borne pollen that causes allergies, because they have living carriers instead. Their pollen is heavy and sticky, designed to cling to the chins, feet, or other body parts of the visiting pollinators.

Pollen is present in our lives for a reason, plants need it to reproduce and keep our ecosystem thriving! While it can be a true nuisance during those spring pollen fallouts, and even more so for those with pollen allergies, just remember that pollen is beneficial too.

Beachcombing Report

By Jace Tunnell



320,000 Nurdles in 10 Minutes! Tracing Plastic Pollution in San Antonio Bay



Jace Tunnell collected a 5 gallon bucket of nurdles in 10 minutes.

This week's Beachcombing Report is a little different. Instead of documenting what washed up on a Texas beach, we followed what could be one of the sources of the plastic pollution that eventually reaches our coastlines.

I have found a lot of nurdles over the years, but nothing prepared me for what I saw along the Victoria Barge Canal in San Antonio Bay. Within just 10 minutes of searching, I filled an entire five-gallon bucket with plastic pellets known as nurdles. We estimate that a bucket that size can hold roughly 320,000 nurdles.

Nurdles are small plastic pellets used as the raw material for manufacturing plastic products. They are one of the most common forms of plastic pollution found in coastal environments and are frequently mistaken for food by fish, birds, and other wildlife. Nurdles can also absorb toxic chemicals from the surrounding water, creating additional risks for animals that ingest them.

After volunteers reported unusually high concentrations of nurdles to the Nurdle Patrol database, I joined the San Antonio

Bay Partnership and the Gulf Trust to investigate the area by boat. What we found was unlike anything I had ever seen. Along the shoreline were deposits of nurdles inches thick. Thousands of pellets floated on the water's surface, while a dense line of nurdles extended nearly 20 feet into the shoreline vegetation and stretched at least 200 feet along the bank.

As we traveled up the canal, we observed a continuous trail of floating nurdles extending for miles. Based on the varying colors, shapes, sizes, and degrees of weathering, this pollution has likely been accumulating for a long time and may even represent multiple releases or sources.

At the Harte Research Institute, the Nurdle Patrol project values reliable data. The extraordinarily high counts reported by volunteers at this site proved to be accurate. Our hope is that identifying the source of this pollution will prevent further harm to these sensitive bay habitats. This discovery demonstrates exactly why NurdlePatrol.org exists: to empower communities to document pollution, verify concerns, and provide the data needed to drive meaningful environmental action.

Jace Tunnell is the Director of Community Engagement for the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His Beachcombing series appears in newspapers, as a weekly video on YouTube and KEDT PBS, and as a weekly feature on KEDT NPR.

Follow Jace at harterresearch.org, Facebook (@harterresearch) and Instagram (@harterresearch).



Nurdles along the Victoria Barge Canal



Jay Kleberg, of the Gulf Trust, holding a handful of nurdles from along the barge canal.



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Why Your Appraisal District Doesn't Control Your Tax Bill



By Brian McCabe, Taxpayer Liaison Officer. During my five years serving on the Nueces County Appraisal Review Board, I participated in several thousand property tax protest hearings. Today, as Taxpayer Liaison Officer, I continue to answer questions from property owners about the appraisal process and property taxes.

One thing I have learned is that many taxpayers are confused about who does what in the Texas property tax system. In fact, one of the most common misunderstandings I hear is that the Appraisal District raises taxes.

In reality, the Appraisal District does not set tax rates and does not collect property taxes. Its job is to determine the market value of property as of January 1 each year. The various taxing entities—including cities, school districts, Nueces County, hospital districts, water districts, and special districts—set the tax rates later in the year based on the budgets they adopt.

Think of it this way: the Appraisal District determines the size of the pie. The taxing entities decide how large a slice they need. One of the easiest ways to understand the Texas property tax system is to think of it as four separate jobs performed by four different groups. The Appraisal District determines the value of your property.

The Appraisal Review Board (ARB) resolves disputes when property owners disagree with those values. The Taxing Entities set the tax rates needed to fund their operations. The Tax Assessor-Collector calculates the tax bill, mails the tax statements, collects the taxes, and distributes the revenue to the taxing entities. Many taxpayers assume all of these functions are performed by the Appraisal District, but they are not.

In fact, by the time your tax bill arrives in the mail, several different governmental bodies have already played a role in the process.

For readers who would like a more detailed explanation of when each step occurs, please see the accompanying sidebar, *'The Texas Property Tax Calendar.'*

That distinction is important because many property owners receive their appraisal notice and immediately assume their taxes have increased. Over the years, I have heard countless variations of the same statement: "Nothing changed on my house, so why did my value go up?" The answer is usually that the market changed.

Property values rise and fall because of market forces. If buyers are willing to pay more for homes in your neighborhood, market values increase. If the market softens, values can decrease. Each year, the District studies

sales throughout Nueces County to determine what the market is doing. That is why a property owner may see an increase in value even when nothing has physically changed about the property. According to the Nueces Central Appraisal District's 2025 Annual Report, the District was responsible for approximately 217,000 property accounts in 2025 throughout Nueces County. With that many properties, it is impossible to appraise each one in the same manner that a realtor might evaluate a single home. Instead, the District uses mass appraisal techniques, property inspections, aerial photography, geographic information systems, market analysis, and sales studies to develop values that are accurate, fair, and uniform.

That does not mean the process is perfect. In fact, one of the lessons I learned while serving on the Appraisal Review Board is that no mass appraisal system can know every detail about every property. Maybe the roof needs replacement. Maybe the foundation has problems. Maybe the air conditioner is nearing the end of its life. That is why taxpayers have the right to protest.

A protest is not a complaint. It is simply an opportunity for the property owner to provide information that may not be reflected in the appraisal record. The protest process usually begins with an informal meeting with an appraiser. If an agreement cannot be reached, the property owner may proceed to a formal hearing before the Appraisal Review Board. And if you think you're the only one protesting, you're not. According to the District's 2025 Annual Report, approximately 39,000 protests were filed during 2025. That number surprises many people. It shouldn't. The protest process exists because the Texas property tax system recognizes that property owners should have an opportunity to be heard. No one enjoys paying property taxes. But after years on the Appraisal Review Board and now serving as Taxpayer Liaison Officer, I have learned that many frustrations come from misunderstanding how the system works.

The Appraisal District determines value. The taxing entities determine tax rates. The Tax Assessor-Collector sends the bill. And property owners have the right to challenge their value through the protest process. When each part of the system works as intended, the result is a property tax roll that is as fair and accurate as possible. If you have questions about the process, my office is available to help explain it. The more informed property owners are, the better the system works for everyone.

Thoughts from Reverend Ken



By Rev. Dr. Ken

The Age Old Question Who is In and Who is Out?

A man arrived at the pearly gates ready to greet St. Peter. He had asked Jesus into his heart; he had prayed the appropriate prayer; he believed all the right things. So, he was a bit surprised to learn that before he could talk to St Peter, he needed to enter his username and password. He would have preferred to offer his birthdate. He could remember that. However, the system is the system.

He knew all the right things to say as a Christian. So, he clicked away. Unfortunately, the username and/or the password he entered were incorrect. He had two more chances until the account would be frozen. At that point, he would need to call customer service. Imagine how many numbers he would need to press on that call.

This is the age-old question of who is in and who is out? Who is a true Christian and who is not? Humans being humans, we love to compare ourselves favorably against each other. Faith is no different, except we seem to assign more eternal consequences to that comparison. We see ourselves as the ones in. We see those who challenge us as the ones out.

Who is a true Christian? The question, in one form or another, has been asked throughout the ages. It is being debated with a bit more intensity in our day because of the influence of Christian Nationalism and its grab for power and dominance. We are going to hear a lot about this issue in the coming months.

The story of Nicodemus visiting Jesus at night is a story often used to teach the importance of a decision of faith. When I was young it went something like, "Have you been born again?" We cradle Presbyterians always felt uncomfortable with that question. It's a question that goes to the heart of the anxiety about being a true Christian.

Within the story most think Jesus told Nicodemus that one must be born again. True. However, the word translated as 'again' can also be translated, 'anew,' or 'from above.' Nicodemus immediately saw the absurdity of the comment. How can one be born again? We can't. But we can be born from above.

I have gone back to this story many times over the years. I think we have it wrong. This is not a story about believing the right things or saying the right prayer. Nicodemus

was challenged to think differently about his faith because of what God has chosen to do, is doing, and will do. The story of Nicodemus is a story of the gift of God's love, born from above.

A famous verse in the Bible gets twisted around to become an individualistic entrance test. It was never meant to be that. For God so loved THE WORLD that he gave his only Son . . . We are challenged to faith in Jesus Christ because of God's choice of universal love for not only us, but the entire world.

We live in a bad news world of war, violence, abuse, greed, injustice, and lies. Justifiably so, the world is under condemnation because of sin and evil. Yet, it is this world, our broken world, in

which Jesus himself was born. Born not to condemn but to save. Mysteriously, God loves this world.

Christianity is always prone to grow comfortable and cozy with power and strength. It baptizes the ways of the world in exchange for a seat at the table. This is the error of Christian nationalism. It worships power in the name of Christ. It seeks domination in the name of God.

God's love is best understood in the person of Jesus. Looking at Jesus' life, God's love was never meant to separate, leave out, subdue, or exclude. It was meant to reconcile, welcome, and include. God's love is an expansive love. There is no username or password required.

Nicodemus was challenged to live in God's love, as are we. Our day living in this love includes compassion for immigrants and migrants. It includes serving the poor and loving our enemies. This love views racism as immoral, and that all people deserve dignity and equality.

Who is a true Christian? The answer must always begin with the love born from above.

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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Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Across

1. Fathers' offices
11. Old head
15. Salmon, vis-à-vis Omega-3
16. ___ signum
17. Hesitant
18. First name in exploring
19. Half a comedy duo
20. Shepherd-turned-prophet
21. It's better when they meet
22. Go cautiously
23. It's usually left on the table
24. Toledo tidbit
26. Cut corners?
28. No longer covers
31. Reach the limit of, slangily
35. Serve one's tour
37. Brown, for one
39. Teens time, maybe
40. Lays down the law
41. Mound
42. Hardly a welcoming word
44. Hosiery item
46. Unlikely Oscar nominee
47. LPGA star Karrie
51. Khalid's successor
53. "___ of No Importance": 1994 film
55. "Butterfield 8" author
56. Pope during Attila's time
57. Tried to improve
59. "Artaxerxes" composer
60. Sanctioned
61. Homer Simpson's favorite bar
62. They're taken from dictators

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								

Down

1. Rate in the news
2. Put on
3. Beanpole
4. "Put 'er ___!"
5. Thessaly peak
6. Pal of Piglet
7. Café order
8. Rap without merit
9. Plasm prefix
10. Dost observe
11. Brain picking?
12. Possible outcomes
13. Etcher's medium
14. Ring bosses
23. Largest moon of Saturn
25. Late-'70s FBI sting
26. Rolled oats dish
27. Preschoolers?
29. Slaughter of Cooperstown
30. Capital of Manche department
31. "The ___": '50s-'60s Yankee hero
32. Romance publisher
33. Its first notable orchestral use was in Saint-Saëns' "Danse Macabre"
34. Girlfriends, informally
36. Shillong's state
38. Beetle juice?
43. Jeannette ___, first woman elected to Congress
45. "A Natural Man" Grammy winner
47. Maker of the Hula-Hoop and Hacky Sack
48. Bother no end
49. Shiny, in product names
50. "Misery" Oscar winner
51. Deception
52. Start for space?
54. Champagne name
55. Rider of Sleipnir
58. WWII command

PADRE ISLES PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

Regular Board of Directors' Meeting

Tuesday – 23 June 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

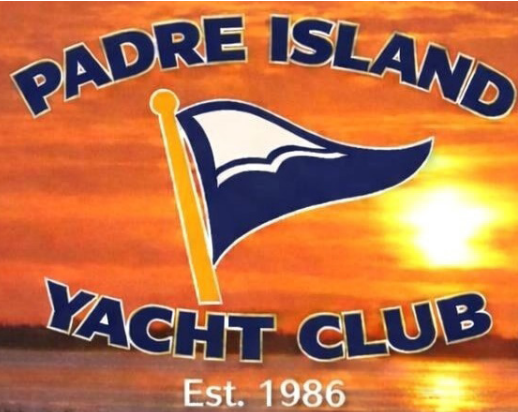
Or, copy and paste into your browser for immediate access:

<https://zoom.us/j/4394510087?pwd=Lm0yKMYxcWsFdYhzjuiWaF-bLo6a00N.1>

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

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. President's Comments and Introductions
4. Approve Minutes from previous meeting
5. Presentations (5-Minutes each)
 - a. Bulkhead Report
 - b. ACC Report
 - c. Executive Director's Report:
 - i. 3-Boats Removed from the canals this month
 - ii. Well Project – System Online
 1. Fixing and repairing sprinkler heads in progress
 2. Art contest results by the end of June
 - iii. Canal Flow Controls – Moved to Executive Session
 6. TREASURER'S REPORT: Financial reporting updates
 7. Next Meeting: 28 July 26 5:30 PM
 8. Executive Session
 9. Adjourn



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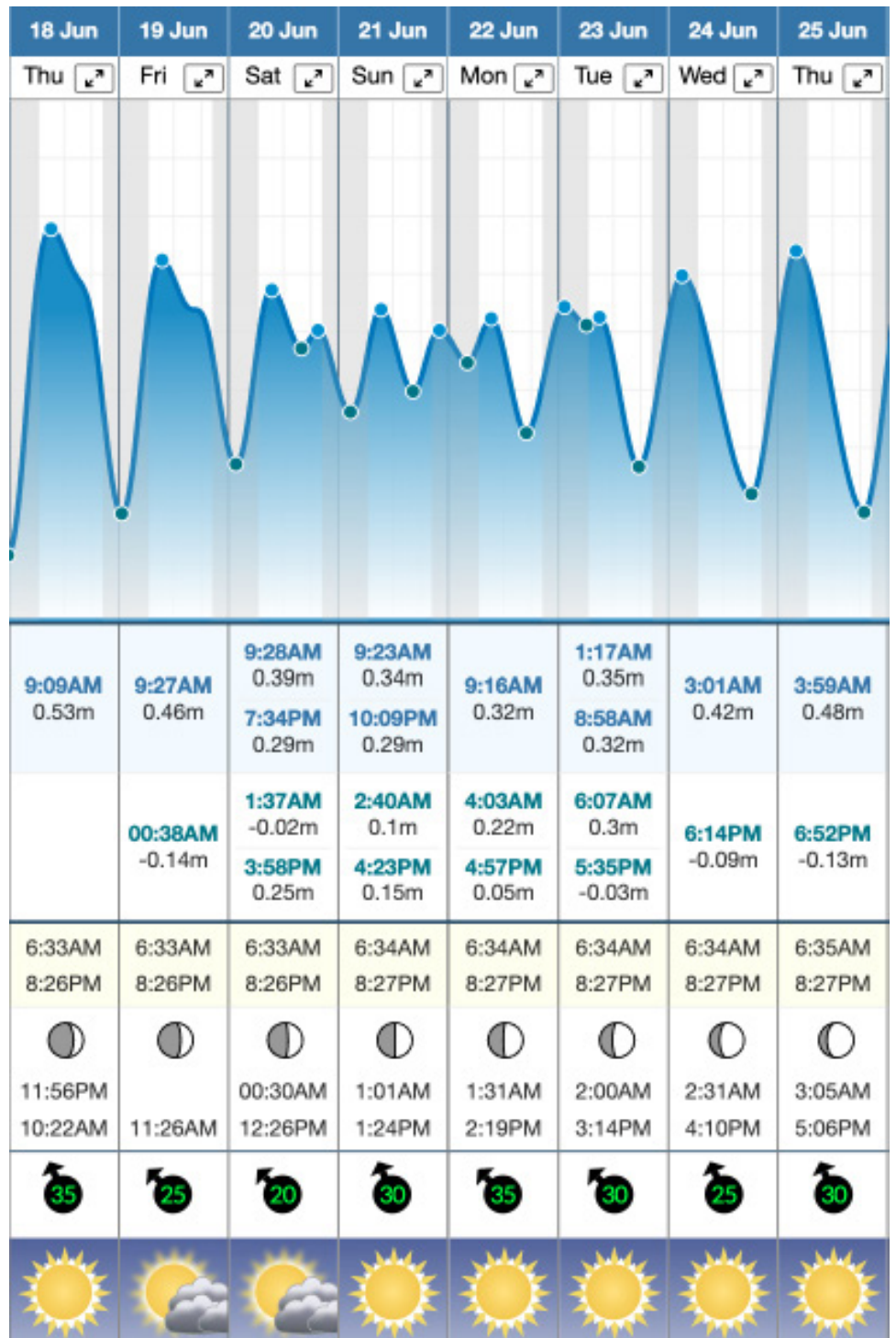


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 South Texas Chapter

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Buoy on PINS By Lindsey Crane
Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Marty Marion-Baseball Shortstop-Part 2

Moving easy as a bank of fog...

Dotson's Note: In 1943 the Cardinals won 105 games and another pennant, in a runaway, but lost the World Series to the Yankees. Marion hit a Series home run and made the first of seven All-Star teams. The club duplicated its record in 1944: another 105 wins, another runaway pennant. That fall's World Series was one of a kind: St. Louis vs. St. Louis. The Browns, the American League's poor relations, won their only pennant when their draft rejects outplayed those of their rivals. Thanks to Bill Morgan, Warren Corbett and Wikipedia for the facts contained this report, and thanks to Bill Morgan, for the photos.

"We took the Browns very lightly, which was a mistake," Marion recalled. The Browns won two of the first three games before the Cardinals righted themselves and put away the championship with three straight victories. Marion was sick the whole time with flu symptoms and a fever that reached 104, subsisting on orange juice, but he played every inning.

There was no Series MVP award then, but National League president Ford Frick and several sportswriters said Marion was the best player on the field. An Associated Press writer credited him with "seemingly impossible stops." While Marion was already recognized as an elite glove man, his high-profile Series performance changed the conversation. "I've looked at a lot of shortstops in my day," said Connie Mack, whose days in the majors spanned nearly 60 years, "but that fellow is the best I've ever seen.... Of course, Honus Wagner, was a better hitter, but I don't think he could cover more ground than Marion." Now the issue was not whether Marion was the best shortstop of his time, but whether he was the best of all time. The ancient umpire Bill Klem said he was Wagner's equal. Braves manager Bob Coleman, who had been Wagner's teammate, commented, "It seems humanly impossible to be better than Marion defensively."

Danny Litwhiler, a celebrated college coach who played left field behind Marion, marveled, "Balls would be hit that I just knew were going to be base hits, and I'd go in to make the play, and his arm would come over and grab it and give it the flip to first base. He just had fantastic hands." Marion played shallow, trusting his quick reactions and long reach. He made the toughest chances look ordinary, "movin' easy as a bank of fog," the broadcaster Red Barber said.

Marion accomplished all this while playing on what was, by popular acclaim, the majors' worst infield. With the Browns and Cardinals sharing Sportsman's Park, the everyday assault of spikes wore the grass to a nub and St. Louis's hellish summers baked the dirt to lumpy concrete. Marion was the park's best groundskeeper, obsessively picking up pebbles and grooming the surface around his position.

Despite Marion's glowing reputation, it was a surprise when sportswriters named him the National League's Most Valuable Player. He batted .267 with a .362 slugging percentage — both figures still the lowest for any MVP. RBI was traditionally the voters' favorite stat; Marion had just 63.

Nicholson's Cubs finished fourth with a losing record. As the writers saw it, Marion was the MVP of the league's best team. Even though Musial batted .347/.440/.549, he finished fourth in the balloting with 3 first-place votes. Catcher Walker Cooper hit .317/.352/.504 and finished eighth. His brother Mort, 22-7, 2.46, was ninth. (The writers voted before the World Series, but the results weren't announced until November.)



Marion, the first shortstop to win the award, led the league in fielding percentage, but his .972 mark was not extraordinary. He did not lead in putouts, assists, or double plays, the other fielding statistics available in that era; Cincinnati's Eddie Miller swept all three categories. The voters probably didn't know any of that; fielding stats usually weren't published until after the season. Marion won because he aced the writers' eye test. (Modern sabermetric fielding stats, estimated from incomplete data, rate him very high.)

Owner Sam Breadon offered the MVP a \$1,000 raise to \$13,000. Marion wanted \$15,000. Breadon, like his former deputy Rickey, was a notorious cheapskate; his club was among the lowest paying in the majors. He explained that the Cooper brothers were making \$13,000 apiece and he had promised them they would be the highest-paid Cardinals. "I don't care what the Coopers are making," Marion said. "I won't play for \$13,000." He got the \$15,000 and so did the Coopers. Mort bought Marion a new hat to say thanks. Breadon called his shortstop the toughest businessman he had encountered among the players, and he meant that as a compliment.

With only four core players left from the '42 Swifties, St. Louis won 95 games in 1945 and wound up just three behind the pennant-winning Cubs. If not for the war, Marion believed the Cardinals could have won at least six pennants in a row.

The spring of 1946 brought renewal in baseball, but also anxiety. The war veterans had to find out whether they could still play, while the wartime replacements were struggling to hold onto their jobs. For most of the fill-ins, it was a losing battle.

Dotson's Other Report: Two outside forces stirred this pot of uncertainty. The Mexican League brandished suitcases full of cash to lure major leaguers to the outlaw circuit. Only a few accepted. A Boston lawyer, Robert Murphy, founded the American Baseball Guild, a union that, he asserted, would protect players from the tyranny of the owners. Murphy's organizing drive failed, but it was a sign of the times; 1946 saw strikes in dozens of American industries as workers demanded relief from wartime wage restrictions. Even a whisper of unionization scared baseball owners into radical action: They agreed to meet with player representatives for the first time since the 19th century, to discuss their employees' complaints.

Thanks For Reading-To Be Continued

Coastal Bend presence in DC



By Dan Herrington



Last week, I had the honor of representing the Padre Island Business Association on the annual Coastal Bend to Washington, D.C. trip. The "CB to DC" trip is hosted by the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with Visit Corpus Christi and the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation, with the goal of bringing a unified voice to our region's priorities before Congress. Leaders from organizations throughout the Coastal Bend came together to bring attention to some of the biggest issues facing our region. It wasn't surprising that no matter whose office we were in, or what topic was being discussed, everyone wanted to know what was going on with water in Corpus Christi. Congressman Michael Cloud has already been instrumental in removing the previous \$30 million federal funding cap per project, allowing larger water infrastructure projects to compete for and receive federal assistance above that threshold. Beyond that, however, the message from Washington was clear: Corpus Christi must collectively get behind a single project before the federal government can do more.

Military presence in our region was another major focus. Our military installations, including CCAD (Corpus Christi Army Depot) and NAS Corpus Christi, are in need of continued investment and attention. Members of the delegation spent time both at the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill advocating to secure and expand jobs, improve infrastructure on our bases, and grow the Coast Guard's presence in our region.

Other areas of focus included tourism and small business, infrastructure and transportation, and ensuring Washington understands the impact and importance of the Port of Corpus Christi to both the nation and the world.

People often ask, "What does the Business Association actually do for my business?" Among other things, advocacy is a big part of that. Having a seat at the table and discussing issues that matter to our island, city, and region makes a difference.

While our city has been in the news for the wrong reasons lately, I believe this trip proved that our business community is more unified than ever. By showing up together in Washington, we demonstrated that the Coastal Bend

is ready to face its challenges head-on, secure critical infrastructure, and build a stronger, more resilient future for Corpus Christi and the entire region.

Dan Herrington is the President of the Padre Island Business Association and is Senior Vice-President & Branch Manager at First Community Bank on the Island.



Island Moon Live

Our Thursday radio show is on 1440 KEYS and 98.7 fm as well as streamed live on YouTube and Facebook! We record the show on Thursdays live from 11 am to 1 pm. We have an enormous amount of different friends and guests, telling stories about how the Island used to be, and where we are heading. All of the videos are free to watch, and can be found on YouTube at Island Moon Live via this QR Code.



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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Raccoon debriefing...



The baby raccoons are safe now. Here they are coming out of the wall.

I am happy to report that **Mama Coon** and her five little baby raccoons have been safely removed from inside the walls and attic of my house. Me and my **Mermaid Gal** had been listening to the entire family rustle around in our attic for several months and knew they would come crashing through our ceiling any time, which happened once before a couple of years ago. So enough was enough and I went after them. But, I wasn't aware of all the politics dictating this process nor the pecking order of all those involved in the procedure who did or didn't have the correct authority to be handling and/or transporting a raccoon. They got rules. But thanks to some friends who do have those credentials, we sent all the babies packing to a rehab place where they will be cared for. The local animal shelter officer first released Mama Coon a few miles down the island leaving the babies to root around in my walls, on their own. I thought separating the mama from the babies was a bad move and it left me with the burden of trapping the little buggers myself. The babies had found a little crawl space inside my bathroom walls. I had to first take down a bunch of paneling to get to them and finally found them under the concaves of my bathtub all huddled together and scared to death. But with the help of my buddy **Brad** and an old fishing net we finally got them. They are now in rehab and will be released after they grow up a little more. The end.

Moon Monkey for the win...



And it's the Moon Monkey for the 1st place win over Boomer and the Grease Monkey.

If you are a reader of my weekly column you more than likely know that I race power tools every other Saturday at our favorite pirate bar, the **Gaff**. Well my **Moon Monkey** has been on a roll lately landing me in the winner's circle for the last three races. The queso grande pit boss, **Rusty Daniels**, builds the majority of our races and I finally beat him... he races under the moniker of **Boomer**. BTW Rusty, who is a manager at **Tractor Supply**, had three brand new, never used belt sander racers for sale at the races last week and they looked mighty pretty. And anybody can do it. There are only two rules; the racers have to be electric and they have to fit on the track... that's it. I've been strongly addicted to this hobby for years and it has become part of my being. It's a blast and winning is a bigger blast. And when the **Winter Texans** show up, the competition gets fierce and the crowds are ginormous. Come check it out every second and fourth Saturday of the month. The times fluctuate with the seasons. Right now through the summer the races will start at 6 PM. Pro tip: *smart money's on the Moon Monkey.*

Scattered shots...

As usual I saw a *plethora* of live music acts last week... a plethora I'm telling you. Last Friday it was our Cajun buds at the **Gaff** and the extremely talented **Groove Chili** at **Shorty's**. I mean they look like a bunch of delightfully

tuggish hoods (actually just the keyboardist and all kidding aside, he's a sweetheart) and their product is airy and quite delightful and their musicianship is spot on. I thought they'd be trashing the stage and getting a mosh pit going... but NO. I'd actually classify them as *jazzy and harmonic*. Also on Friday the hilarious **B-Flat Dueling Pianos** show played the **Sip Yard**. Their banter is rapid fire where comedy meets music and it seems to fit the audience at the **Yard** very well. I used to work next to the **Howl at the Moon** club in San Antonio and this concept is a bonafied winner. On Saturday I was most pleased to catch **Diamond's Edge** at **Treasure Island**. They've been out of the loop until recently and it's a real treat to hear them again. The late night folks at **TI** were whoopin' it up plenty. Catch these guys whenever you can. I like 'em. Also on Saturday the **Toman Brothers** from San Antonio played **Shorty's** and drew a respectable crowd. Actually the crowds were huge everywhere last Saturday. The **Sip Yard** easily had a 1000 people in there for the **Casey Chesnutt** show but the ten foot television with the **Spurs** game playing didn't hurt. BTW **Bron's** has beefed up their calendars with live music six nights a week. So far it's been a busy summer.



Texas icon Gary P. Nunn will play the Sip Yard on June 18th.

Coming this week...



Left Right Left will play Shorty's on Friday

Gary P. Nunn... that's who's coming this Thursday the 18th to the **Sip Yard**. Yep, he's taking us home to the country yet one more time. Actually his string of hits takes *Texas to the Country* and *Home With the Armadillo*, will give you those *London Homesick Blues*. Since 1972 Nunn has recorded 17 albums with artists such as **Jerry Jeff Walker**, **Michael Martin Murphey** and **Ray Wylie Hubbard** and his songs have been recorded by the likes of **Robert Earl Keen**, **Lyle Lovett**, **Kevin Fowler**, **Cody Johnson** and **Red Steagall**. Nunn is also considered the father of the progressive country scene that started in Austin in the early '70's. At the ripe young age of 80, he's the real deal and I'd get there early if I were you. Also on Friday I'd recommend **Austin Forrest** at **Bron's**, **Left Right Left** at **Shorty's**, the **Palacios** at **TI** and **Seattle Rising** at the **Sip Yard**. On Saturday you gotta catch **Red Feather** featuring **Eddie (E.J.) Cantu** at **Shorty's**. Trust me. Also on Saturday the 20th **Issac Jacob** will play the **Sip Yard**, **Heavy Soul** will play **Bron's** plus the **Groove 2.0** at **Treasure Island**. On Sunday the 21st **Austin Forrest** will play the **Yard** and **Brandon Michael** will play **Bron's**. Also, Sunday the 21st is the **FIRST DAY OF SUMMER**. Stay cool and be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Heavy Soul will play Bron's on Saturday. Photo by Cassandra Beth

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, June 18

Cory Morrow @
Billfish Pachanga
Johnson All Starz @
Shorty's
Gary P. Nunn, Tom
McElvain @ Sip
Yard
Brad Ethridge @
Bron's
CJ Sparks @ Gaff
Ruben Limas @
Perrin's on the
Water
TCBBS Blues Jam
@ Sandbox NPI
Michael Burtt @
Brewster Island
Nathan Allen @
Brewster Southside
Randy Hopper @
Fajitaville
TCBBS Blues Jam
@ Sandbox NPI
David Martinez @
Surf Club
Carl Hayes @
Anchor Bar
Jerry Ward @ Doc's
Melissa Ann @ Pier
99

Friday, June 19

Carbonlily @ Sunset
Sounds PA
Austin Forrest @
Bron's
Left Right Left @
Shorty's
Revelation @ Gaff
Seattle Rising @ Sip
Yard
Jim Dugan @
Beer Haus
Matt Rodd @ Port A
Beer Hut
Art Barrera @ Pier
88
Mantle Jennings @
Exchange
Pentagram @ House
of Rock
Sammy Arriaga,
Tristan Roberson @
Brewster Downtown
Love Street @
Pelican
Dreaming in Color
@ South Texas Ice
House
Jerry Ward & Dirty
Birds @ Sandbox
NPI
Aaron
Boultinghouse @
Anchor
Michael Burtt @
Doc's Waterline
Alley Catz @
Brewster Southside
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeards on the
Beach
Lucky Dogz @
Executive Surf Club
Raul Ayala Band @

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JIM DUGAN JUNE 27**

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

**LEFT RIGHT LEFT JUNE 19
RED FEATHER JUNE 20
JOHN CORTEZ JUNE 26
CHRIS BOSS JUNE 27**

**PALACIOS BROS JUNE 19
THE GROOVE 2.0 JUNE 20
BACK PEW REVIVAL JUNE 26
DREW BROWN BAND JUNE 27
DIAMOND'S EDGE JULY 3-4
JONMAIKAEL MREZ JULY 10**

**BRAD ETHRIDGE JUNE 23
CLOSED PRIVATE EVENT JUNE 25
CHRIS LANCASTER JUNE 27
BRAD ETHRIDGE JUNE 30
THE GROOVE JULY 4
BRAD ETHRIDGE JULY 7**

**GARY P. NUNN JUNE 18
SEATTLE RISING JUNE 19
ISAAC JACOB JUNE 20
CRUISE CONTROL JUNE 25
8-BIT SERENADE JUNE 26
CHAINLINKS JUNE 27**

**BRAD ETHRIDGE JUNE 18
AUSTIN FORREST JUNE 19
HEAVY SOUL JUNE 20
BRANDON MICHAEL JUNE 21
TY DIETZ JUNE 23
JERRY WARD DUO JUNE 24**

Sugar Shack RP
Eli Villareal @
Commercial St. AP
Raul Ayala @ Sugar
Shack RP
RINKINKAYA @
Fajitaville N. Beach

Saturday, June 20

Red Feather @
Shorty's
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Isaac J acob @ Sip
Yard
Heavy Soul @
Bron's
Groove 2.0 @
Treasure Island
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeards Too
Art Barrera @
Roosevelt's PA
Billy Snipes @ Bier
Haus PA
Rockaholics @
Lulu's Landing
Jerry Ward & Dirty
Birds @ Pelican
Dave Salinas, Lisa
Sullivan @ Anchor
Bar
Trisum @ Sandbox
NPI
Randy Hopper @
Hideout 35
Darren McGill @
Doc's Waterline
Dave Salinas @
Anchor Bar
Jus Cuz @ Pier 99
Kelly Kenning @
Island Retreat
Slam Master Fest +
13 @ House of Rock
Alley Catz @ South
TX Ice House
Dreaming in Color
@ RETRO
Meza @ Brewster
Southside
Patty Dee, Aaron
Boltinghouse @
Market Days RP
Katt & Matt @
Market Days RP
Billy Snipes @
Sunflower Resort
Robin Blue @ Firefly
RV
Mikey Rivera,
Diamond's Edge @
Surf Club
Pryme @ Sugar
Shack RP
Peter Salas @
Commercial St. AP

Sunday, June 21

FIRST DAY OF
SUMMER
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz
@ Shorty's
Austin Forrest @ Sip
Yard
Brandon Michael @
Bron's

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA
Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
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THE GAFF LIVE MUSIC
COLD BEER OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM HOT PIZZA