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The Art of Island Life A5



Beachcombing Report A7

Issue 1158

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The Island Moon

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June 25, 2026

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NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

By Dale Rankin

We've had a bit of a break when it comes to traffic from OTB this week as things let up during the week. Stacking in the Port Aransas turn lane let up mid-week and area beaches had some elbow room from Kleberg all the way up to Port A. Maybe it's the Air You can Wear we've had *Around The Island* this week. The tides have turned beaches into ponds on many days as we now officially enter Summer 2026.

So long John



We bid a fond farewell to the long-time Meteorologist in Charge at the Corpus Christi National Weather Office this week with the retirement of John Metz after 34 years. John was a guest on the Island Moon Live radio show last week and gave an encouraging update on Hurricane Season 2026 as an El Nino event bears down on us late in the season. Not to jinx things but the season is looking favorable hereabouts as wind shear is expected to tamp down storms in the Atlantic. John likened the presence of wind shear atop a developing storm to a lemon in a tailpipe which brought back fond memories of high school. There are few things in life funnier than a potato or a lemon that comes shooting out of a tailpipe...as long as it is not your car of course.

And speaking of cars...



Around cont. on A2

Work at Packery Channel Park



Work on the \$8 million project to improve Packery Channel Park continues. The work on the 38-acre park includes a 3500-foot long boardwalk, fishing pier, and living shoreline along Packery Channel. The work is being paid for by grant money through the Nueces County Coastal Parks Department and is expected to be complete by September, 2026. Aerials by Augs.

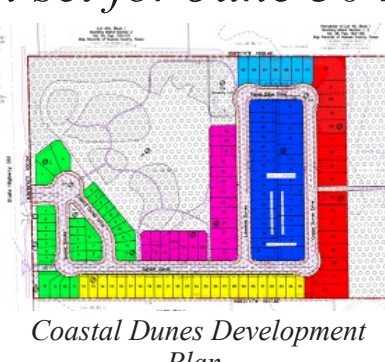
Council delays action on zoning of 34 Acre development on Mustang Island

Decision set for June 30 meeting

By Dale Rankin

The Corpus Christi City Council this week delayed action on a request for rezoning of a 34-acre tract of land at 6753 State Highway 361 where developers plan to build a homes and townhomes.

The owners of a new development called Coastal Dunes, LLC, have applied for rezoning of the property from the "RM-AT" Multifamily



Coastal Dunes Development Plan

Apartment Tourist District to the "RM-AT/PUD" Multifamily Apartment Tourist District with a Planned Unit Development (PUC) Overlay.

The proposal was approved by the Corpus Christi Planning Commission during its June 11 meeting and includes 138 lots developed in a single phase consisting of 131

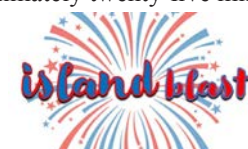
Dunes cont. on A3

Island Blast fireworks show set for sundown July 4th



No Boat Traffic after 8 PM

The organizers of the eleventh annual Island Blast fireworks show request that boat owners avoid the channel between the Padre Island Yacht Club and the Intracoastal Waterway on Saturday, July 4 in order to create a safe zone for the launching of the fireworks show at the west end of Whitecap Boulevard. The show will begin at sunset and last approximately twenty-five minutes.



A little Island history

The Island Blast Fourth of July Fireworks Show has grown over the years

By Dale Rankin

Last week we covered the first several years of the annual Island Blast Fireworks show on Padre Island. It began as an idea and in short order became a full blown Island tradition.

When the show started the largest of the 1304 tubes that were used were three inches in diameter arranged in wooden racks lined up in rectangular and S patterns to keep them from falling over and the tubes held in place with short piec-



Fire in the Sky and fire on the ground in 2017.

es of wood. Once the tubes were in place workers, about half a dozen in all, would go from tube to tube jamming a stick with a nail down the tubes to make sure there was no cardboard residue leftover from the previous show.

The show is was production of the Zambelli Fireworks Company in Philadelphia cost \$15,000.

The launch crews were volunteer firefighters from Boerne who paid \$25 per year for a permit to

History cont. on A5

Backwater Adventures



By Capt. Joey Farah

Boiling Hot!



Katie, Grady, and Kolton had a great day fishing soft plastics in the Upper Laguna Madre along the flats close to Bird Island!

Farah

We are now at the end of June and water temperatures are high and our tides are falling out. This does a few things to our bay system that create a turning point in fishing. Dropping tides pull baitfish and food sources out of the back bays that have now hatched and grown into the size that they can group up and migrate. Shrimp are moving in the deeper natural guts and canals, towards the tidal zones close to the Gulf passes. Look for good action in the deep flats of the Laguna Madre out in 4-5' of water at dawn and noon. Small soft plastics like the DOA 3" CAL SHAD WORK WELL HERE FOR ACTION. The wells out in Corpus Christi Bay

Backwater cont. on page A6

JFK bridge work ends for summer on Tuesday

Work shifts to Park Road 22 eastbound where bridge leaves mainland

The final day of scheduled bridge work on the JFK Causeway for the summer will be Tuesday, June 30. After that date, no additional lane closures are planned for the remainder of the summer, according to the Texas Department of Transportation.

Road Work cont. on page A8

Rookery Islands Restored Across the Laguna Madre

Two major coastal restoration milestones have officially crossed the finish line with the completion of the Benny Shack and Tern Island projects. These efforts increased the available habitat, improved resilience to erosion, and enhanced nesting conditions for coastal bird species along the Coastal Bend.



Around cont. from A1

This motorist decided to drive the jetty in Port Aransas this week much to the dismay of his vehicle. It has been a while since we have had a car take the plunge in Packery Channel but alas, the summer is young.

Our friend Kent

Long-time Islander Kent Ullberg got a much deserved shout out this week when a documentary of his career as a sculptor aired on Public Television. The work is called *Wind in the Sails* and was done by Griffyn Productions. Among many other works Kent's work welcomes visitors to The Island at the base of the JFK Bridge and can also be found in the Island park that bears his name.

Radio show

Don't forget to tune in to the Island Moon Live radio show each Thursday at 11 a.m. on KEYS Radio and for video on YouTube at Island Moon Live. Gabe Guerra, Chairman of the Port of Corpus Christi Commission is scheduled for June 30 and Congressman Vicente Gonzalez is in on July 9. You can always stop by the show at Doc's Seafood & Steaks where the radio magic happens each week.

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

The Traveling Moon



Chris and Marty Killian took the Island Moon on safari at the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.



Islanders Jay and Renee Schroeder took The Island Moon on a three-week cruise from Amsterdam to Scotland, Iceland, and Norway.



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Traffic Safety – Crash Analysis and Heat Map



Suspected Minor Injury, Suspected Serious Injury, and Fatal Injury Crashes (2019 – 2023)

This map plots the concentration of incidents on Highway 361 between Padre Island and Port Aransas. The information comes from the records of Texas Department of Transportation

Moon Monkeys



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Bernie's Beach House	Island IGA
	Island Fitness
	Ridleys
Flour Bluff	My Coastal Home
H.E.B.	
Ethyl Everly Senior Center	

Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Bikes on The Island

Can you make a post asking parents of these motorcycle riders out here to stop speeding by our house and shooting us a bird at our security camera on Cuttysark? I have the video and a still photo of it. But I don't see an option to send to you. It happens all the time, Island Moon. We are being terrorized. We never had any problems out here until 2021 and Covid. I'm shaking I'm so scared. Not to mention, my mother just died and I'm very sick right now. They are going to cause me to have a heart attack or a stroke. Same kid that shot us the bird speeding past our house today kicked our door in with that kicking door challenge so hard that the lock is now jammed and we can't even open our front door. We are being terrorized by these children, who I no longer consider to be innocent children after this very disgusting and disturbing behavior. My husband served 21 1/2 years in the Army honorably and faithfully. He still teaches school at age 67 while on a walker with two bad hips to pay our bills. He's a very good man and doesn't deserve this at all. I was in healthcare and education until I became too sick to work. So I volunteered my time in education alongside my husband after my health took a dive trying to give back to society. We have both done everything right in life, and have done absolutely nothing to deserve what's been happening with these motorcycle kids the last two years. I now consider these children adults, since they are acting like no account adults. Brad and I are good Americans. Good Texans. And good neighbors. We've lived on the island since 2015, and we are good honest people who have always helped and given back when we can. We don't deserve this. I'm asking you to please make a post asking for this behavior to please stop. I know I'm not the only one it's happening to. I have video and a still shot of it. Thank you. Brad and Tina Walker

Corpus Christi Water Provides Update on Level 1 Water Emergency Projections

Corpus Christi Water (CCW) provided the City Council with an update today on the projected date of a Level 1 Water Emergency, revised from December 2026 to September 2027. The projected date of a Level 1 Water Emergency is when the water supply is 180 days away from meeting demand. The primary factors that have contributed to the improved outlook is the production from the Nueces Groundwater Program and recent beneficial rain in the watershed. CCW will continue to monitor conditions and provide monthly updates to the water data dashboard.



Packery Flats Summer Cleanup Saturday, June 27 9 a.m.-Noon

The bi-annual Packery Flats Cleanup will be held Saturday, June 27, from 9 a.m. to Noon. It will start at the Packery Flats Parking Lot, on the left about 1 mile north of Zahn Rd. on Hwy 361.

The event is to remove litter, trash, and debris from the sensitive marsh habitat along Highway 361 on Padre Island.

Starting at 9:00 AM, the drive-through check-in at the main Packery Flats Parking lot begins where volunteers will pick up supplies and cleaning instructions. Volunteers will then go to designated areas, picking up trash using Up2U litter bags and leaving them along Highway 361 or bringing it back to the parking lot.



Dunes cont. from A1

residential lots, 32 detached townhomes. The property will include single-family developments ranging from 2,900-square-foot minimum in size to 4,900 square feet, and townhomes lots that are at least 1,700 square feet in lot area. All have a 35 foot height restriction. The zoning would change the current "RM-AT" Multifamily Apartment-Tourist District To: "RM-AT/PUD" Multifamily Apartment-Tourist District for development as a Planned Unit Development.

The property is located on the east side of State Highway 361 (SH 361), north of the Beach View Estates subdivision and Beach View Drive, and south of Beachcomber Drive. The site lies approximately 1.5 miles south of the Port Aransas city limit line and is bounded to the east by the Gulf of Mexico. Because the property is on a barrier island, it is subject to the Open Beaches Act, the Dune Protection Act, the Coastal Public Lands Act, and related provisions of the Texas Natural Resources Code.

The rezoning has brought opposition from neighboring property owners who this week objected the height requirements which allow for structure up to thirty feet on the now vacant property.

The properties to the north of the subject parcel are zoned "RM-AT" Multi-family Apartment Tourist District and "FR" Farm Rural District and are vacant. Those to the south are zoned "RM-AT" Multi-family Apartment Tourist District with High- and Medium-Density residential uses, some vacant parcels, and Conservation/Preservation land uses.

The case drew opposition from 96 individual owners (approximately 28.75%), with primary concerns focused on impacts to dunes and wildlife, drainage. In late 2024, prior to the first zoning amendment hearing, the developer submitted a proposal to remove the public access road for concerns

similar to the public's, and that request was not approved by the Planning Commission.

Council members this week requested that the matter be brought back to the council in its June 30 meeting.



Coastal Dunes location just south of the Sandpiper Condominiums

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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

I had the occasion this week to attend a sendoff for an old newspaper friend in San Antonio and as we relived the salad years I began relating the visits of newspaper mogul Rupert Murdoch to the Express-News office each year during the Christmas season. He arrived each year with his wife and kids who were very young, and he would bring his Exacto Knife and blue line marker and hold court with the copy editors explaining new trends in newspaper design.

As I told the story I looked around the room and noticed a lot of confused, even doubting, faces and I realized I was the only one left who was there when Murdoch paid his visits – I'm now the Old Guy! Fortunately another old timer showed up and verified that I was not telling tall tales but it was a close thing for a while there.

The first question I was asked by every single person I talked to was "Are you guys out of water down there? We are thinking about coming down to the beach but don't want to have to carry our own water." Like it or not folks that message is out there and is going to take a while to live down. But it started me thinking about the things that have changed here on The Island over the years, and the things that haven't, and the things that we just take for granted. Here are a few...

Changes at the Port

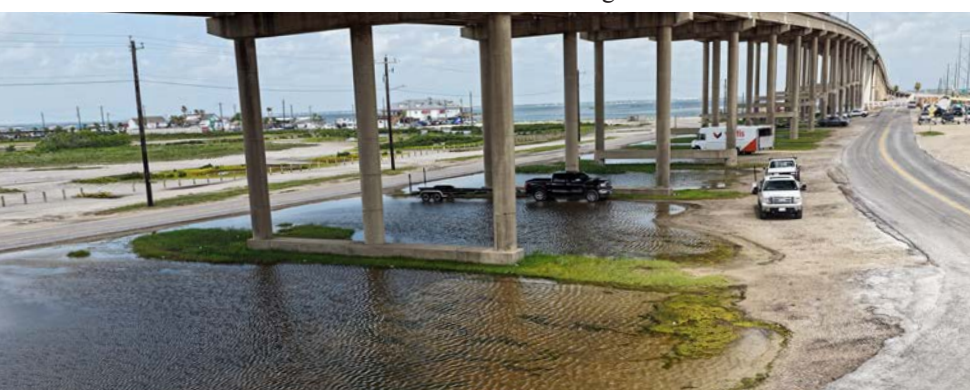
A story that flew under the radar last week was the signing of an agreement between the Port of Corpus Christi and a company called DP World which is one of the largest shipping container companies in the world. That may not seem like a big deal but our port has never been a container port, instead concentrating on oil and gas exports which have been very good for the port and the Coastal Bend. Maybe it is coincidence but that agreement to move toward containers comes at a time when an offshore oil loading platform is now online in 110 feet of water 18 miles offshore from Port Fourchon Louisiana. It is called LOOP and can offload tankers too large to enter U.S. ports and it handles 13 percent of the country's foreign oil, 1.2 million barrels per day. I don't know what that will ultimately mean for our port but the recent deepening of the ship channel and raising of the Harbor Bridge was done to accommodate larger boats and in fact the local port attempted to get the offshore loading platform here but instead it found a home in Louisiana. I don't know if or how the local port will be impacted by this development but I sense there is some change in the wind here and it's hard to see how it will be positive.

Non-changes on The Island

Closer to home as I look around the Island I see things that don't change that we just take for granted. For instance, regular readers of these pages know that for the past nineteen years I have been writing about the Paper Streets here, so called because they exist only on paper. They were part of the original design of Padre Island but have never been built, with the only exception being the extension of Aquarius Drive which now runs along the west side of the Whitecap NPI site. But the remainder which are located between State Highway 361 and Verdemar Drive and in the original layout of The Island were intended to be our downtown. There are more than twenty square blocks which were designed to be retail space and where the underground utilities are already in place which have been nothing but weed patches since the Karankawas built wickiups there. Why we can't fix this problem I'm not sure but on an island which accounts for more than one-tenth of the tax base and only about three percent of the population of our city it seems like we could get our streets paved.



Crowd at the Island surf pier in the 1970s by David Wallace



Muddle and Puddle this week.

Beach facilities



A friend in town from the Hill Country last week mentioned that he had to walk back to his condo every time he needed to go to the bathroom and it reminded me that we have nothing but a few hot and smelly port-o-johns to accommodate the beach visitors that make up one of our top industries here. When Packery Channel was first conceived more than twenty years ago one of the reasons for establishing the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 was to raise money to build restrooms on both sides of the channel. Now all these years later we are still either wading into the water, opening both doors on our trucks, or bringing portable pop-up outhouses to answer the call of nature, or in some cases dodging rattlesnakes in the dunes. We've been doing it so long we just take it for granted.

The facilities we do have along the Michael J. Ellis Seawall were accidental as they were part of an agreement in 2004 that would have removed vehicles from the beach along the seawall; that agreement was never consummated but the restroom did go up. But an attempt to build restrooms on the beach more than a decade ago returned cost estimates of \$300,000 per toilet seat and the plan was abandoned leaving us standing between open car doors hoping to not get arrested. We take the situation for granted but it is a bit ridiculous when you think about it.

Surf Pier

We just built a nice new Bob Hall Pier and now return to the days when surfers dodge fishing weights to catch waves. The structure of the pier was altered from a single row of pilings to a double row in order to provide better breaking waves for surfers with the full knowledge that there is going to be friction between those fishing from the pier and those surfing under it.

Not so long ago our island had a surf pier which attracted as many as ten thousand people from all over the country to surfing events but it was a causality of Packery Channel. I recall speaking to the contractors building the channel in the early aughts and asking them if they could leave the surf pier in place. The problem was the removal of the pier was required in the contract to build the channel because it was believed that it would be in the way of the crews as they built the jetties. However, the pier was still standing when the jetties were complete but the contractor would not be paid until it was removed. Due to this oversight Island surfers now dodge fishing weights and we take it for granted.

Under the bridge

Each time I drive under the JFK Bridge I am reminded of the twenty years of futile efforts to pave the parking lot there and fill in the twin lakes of Muddle and Puddle. There have been two successful bond issues passed to fix this problem and there is currently more than \$1 million in the bank for the project but every day boaters park in the sunny dirt parking lot rather than in the shade of the bridge because there is a foot of dirty water standing there. The area has now passed from Muddle and Puddle to Malaria Flats as the mosquito population there has found a fertile breeding spot.

Seven businesses have been paying taxes in that area for decades yet the parking lot goes unpaved and the space under the bridge fills with saltwater at high tides and fresh water every time it rains. Apparently this is the best we can do here in the Sparkling City by the Sea and we continue to take that for granted.

I have run out of space before I have run out of incomplete projects but you get the picture. Sometimes you just have to back up to see the forest instead of the trees and somehow I got there by starting with a story about Rupert Murdoch.

And so it goes.

The Port A Cookbook

This is How We do it



By Chris Jordan

You've heard the jambox blaring too-loud—and often inappropriate—music from the kitchen at the restaurant where you were trying to enjoy dinner. Sometimes it's even louder than the easy-listening background music playing in the dining room. This is an all-too-common failure of management. While this sort of thing is unthinkable in a fine-dining restaurant, some chefs take the matter a bit further. The list of distinguished chefs that do not allow music in the kitchen during service is long, but a few names you'll recognize are on it: Thomas Keller, Eric Ripert, and his late, great protégé, Anthony Bourdain.

But none has taken the matter to such extremes as the greatest chef of all time, Joël Robuchon. Monsieur Robuchon not only forbade music in the kitchen; no one's voice was allowed to be heard clearly but his own and that of the expediter. Calling out orders to their respective stations from the tickets being spit out by the printer is the initial—and single-most important—communication that will be done throughout the service.

Chef Robuchon didn't stop there. The man considered extraneous noise to be the enemy of haute cuisine. He topped most work surfaces with silicone mats. Any surfaces required to be stainless steel were dampened with a mat of rubber underneath the steel surface. Every single appliance had vibration-dampening feet. The exhaust system—whose air-moving fans were located far from the kitchen—used high-volume and low-velocity suction so as to be as quiet as possible. Making any unnecessary sound was a cardinal sin.

Monsieur Robuchon's kitchen vibe was built upon three pillars:

- **Heightened Sensory Perception:** He believed that when auditory distractions are eliminated, a chef's remaining senses—taste, smell, and sight—become vastly more acute.
- **Psychological Focus:** Silence forced cooks to turn completely inward, channeling 100% of their mental energy into the task at hand, whether it was passing potatoes through a tamis or perfectly searing a scallop.
- **Dignity and Order:** Robuchon hated the traditional, chaotic clatter of typical kitchens. He felt a quiet room commanded respect for the ingredients and the craft.

In a Robuchon kitchen, if a cook made a mistake, the chef would not yell. Instead, he would walk up to the line cook and berate them to their face—quietly and devastatingly. Just such an occasion famously arose when a young Gordon Ramsay was working in Robuchon's Parisian restaurant, Jamin. One night, Ramsay failed one too many times to make the ravioli langoustine correctly. Chef Robuchon was dressing the dude down over it, face to face, when Ramsay gave him some lip instead of responding with a demure "Oui, chef." It was the first and last time in his entire storied career that Joël Robuchon threw anything in the kitchen: he hurled the plate of ravioli at Gordon Ramsay's head. If anyone was going to be disrespectful enough to actually push Chef Robuchon to violence, it was going to be Gordon Ramsay—and a plate to the face couldn't have happened to a nicer guy.

So you see, the matter goes well beyond simply not having AC/DC blaring from the local classic rock station on a Bluetooth speaker. It's about focusing on your task and—most importantly—being able to communicate. I don't run a brigade de cuisine traditionnelle in my kitchen. Hell, we aren't even a restaurant. But when it's go-time and the finishing touches are being put on the food, the stereo damned sure gets turned off.

But that's not to say music is forbidden in my kitchen during the long hours that precede that last critical preparation of the food. We listen to music. And it turns out, there is an art to pairing music to food not unlike one would with wine.

Slathering dry rub on some St. Louis-style pork spare ribs calls for a certain genre of tunes. Especially the next day when you're tending the smoker for hours while simultaneously making jumbo batches of beans, potato salad, coleslaw, and sauce—a vinegary, true-to-Texas concoction served strictly on the side, mind you. In this situation, there is nothing better than Texas Outlaw Country from the likes of Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, Billy Joe Shaver, Guy Clark, and Townes Van Zandt. And there's plenty of it to sustain you through a long cook. That's how we do it at The Port Aransas Cookbook.

So much of what we cook here in Coastal South Texas is an ode to the food of Louisiana. As such, it guides our music choices. For gumbo, you'd want something funky, possibly by The Meters. "Hey Pocky A-Way" and "Cissy Strut" will put the gunk in your funk. But after the gumbo is made, the lid is on the pot, and the slow simmer is on, you'd want to slow down with something more soulful—like Aaron Neville's "Tell It Like It Is." Conversely, while you're tending to the blonde roux of

crawfish etouffee, it's nice to have something lively to keep your feet and hands moving, like "Big Chief" by Professor Longhair or "Ya Ya" by Lee Dorsey. There is one unexpected outlier: when we are making chicken and sausage jambalaya, we listen to a Justin Wilson record, waiting for him to inevitably say, "I like to cook with wine... sometimes I even put it in the food! I guar-on-tee!" And that's how we do it at The Port Aransas Cookbook.

Now, this magical synergy between the prep kitchen and music first became clear to me at Chef Guy Carnathan's ground-breaking Port Aransas restaurant, Beulah's. I wasn't there from the very beginning, but close enough, having come onboard in the new year after the place had opened in October of '92. Guy started doing a brunch that spring. I don't recall if it was specifically billed as a "blues brunch," but that's pretty much what it was. The restaurant had a nice sound system with JBL speakers placed throughout the dining room and porch. We had Jim Atwill to thank for it, as he'd put that system in during his tenure as proprietor of The Tarpon Inn and The Silver King restaurant—where Beulah's then resided. As it turns out, the blues and maybe a little gospel is exactly what you'd want to listen to while prepping for Sunday brunch. Buddy Guy's record *Damn Right, I've Got the Blues* was in heavy rotation, along with Irma Thomas and The Staple Singers. And that's still how we do it at The Port Aransas Cookbook.

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History cont. from A1

launch fireworks. It took two days to put the launch tubes in place and once the work began no one was able to enter the area around the site which was not a problem because at that point the adjacent Riley P. Dog Park did not exist.

Delicate work

Once the tubes were in place the delicate work began. The first shows consisted of four pods of tubes; two smaller ones on each end and two larger ones in the middle. The smaller pods made up the opening salvo and the closing salvo and the large ones in the middle constituted the meat of the show.

One of the surprising things about big fireworks shows then was that they were ignited pretty much the same way we all lit fireworks as kids; with an open torch. But instead of a small “punk” that you blow on to keep lit, in this case they used a traffic flair – the kind you see on the ground at accident scenes.

Once the fireworks were in their individual tubes their individual fuse was taped to the side of the tube then a single long fuse was run completely around the pod linking every tube to the next by the common fuse. When the time came to fire, the long fuse was lit at the downwind side of the pod and as the long fuse burned its way around the pod from tube to tube its burn rate determined the pace of the show. In the early years the entire show took place between 300 and 500 feet in the air. As a result of the smaller tubes some of the short rounds found their way to the ground while still aflame which caused grass fires on the spoil island to the west and sometimes even around the launch site.



The Ski Basin 2018.



Boat Parade 2020

One torch at a time

The largest fireworks out there would fill up twelve inch tubes and had to be fired by wire but the crews advised against the extra cost which they deemed not worth the additional cost. But as the years went by the relative cost of the larger rounds came down and this year’s show will have the largest tubes ever used in the Island show. One of the benefits of the larger tubes, as we saw in the 2025 show, is that the larger rounds rise to a height sufficient to avoid having the live rounds come back to ground with the result that grass fires are much less likely. As the event has evolved over the years the boat parades have begun earlier in the day so that boaters can be finished in time to get a good watching spot near the launch site.

We want to thank Jerry and Sharon Watkins for starting the show, and Nick Colosi for picking up the torch after the show missed a year due to Covid. Nick took over in March, 2021 when there was no money in the fund and still managed to get a show up in the air. The cost of the show has increased over the years but Island have always answered the call through donations. Last year the show had its first corporate donor in Valero who is also helping this year. We thank them and we thank all the Islanders who each year step in to make this great show happen.



101 uses for the Island Moon.

OLD Island Moons were used to house fish-n-chips at a private event at Island Gatherings. Photo By Romeo Galindo



Fireball By Lu Ann Kingsbury

The Art of Island Life

By Melissa Mitchell

The Return of the Incognito Art Show



Last years Incognito Art Show Reception

One of my favorite gallery events is returning this July, and I couldn’t be more excited. The Incognito Art Show is back for its second year, and we’re officially inviting local artists to participate. Last year’s exhibition was a tremendous success, bringing artists and our community together in a unique and meaningful way while raising funds for an incredible cause.

But what I love most about this show is its simplicity. No signatures. No clues. Just art. And the opportunity to create without expectations. For artists, this may be one of the most enjoyable parts of the entire show. Incognito isn’t about creating what an artist is known for. In fact, that’s part of the fun. Last year, artists embraced the opportunity to break out of the norm, experiment, and try something entirely new. Some created pieces that were playful. Others took creative risks they may not have taken otherwise. That’s part of what makes this event so special.

Without a signature attached to the work, artists are free to explore with a little more freedom and a lot less pressure, and sometimes the greatest surprise is discovering a new creative direction along the way. The exhibition is also juried, with awards presented for First Place, Second Place, and Best of Show.

The magic of Incognito

Guests were surprised by the pieces they gravitated toward, and artists enjoyed seeing their work appreciated without any preconceived expectations attached. Every piece is displayed anonymously, allowing guests to connect with the artwork before they know who created it. Artists remain completely unknown until after a piece is purchased. It’s interesting to see what happens when guests are invited to connect with the artwork first and simply allow the art to speak to them. Without realizing it, we all carry assumptions. We gravitate toward familiar names and recognizable styles. This exhibition gently removes those barriers and invites us to trust our instincts instead. Some of my favorite conversations from last year’s show happened after artist identities were revealed. Guests will also have the opportunity to participate in our “Guess the Artist” activity throughout the exhibition. They’ll choose one artwork, submit their guess, and if they’re correct, they’ll be entered into a drawing to win an available show piece of their choice. Participants must be present at the opening reception to win. The gallery will cover the cost, ensuring the artist is still compensated for their work.



Art With Purpose

As fun and unique as this show is, there is an even bigger reason behind this event. One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit Kaylee’s Light Foundation, where every dollar donated helps purchase toys for children and teens receiving care at Driscoll Children’s Hospital. If you read last week’s article, you already know why this mission means so much to our community. What began as one family’s way of celebrating Kaylee’s life has grown into something beautiful—a community coming together to bring comfort, joy, and a little extra light to children and their families. Art has a remarkable way of doing that. In this case, it also becomes a way to give back.

Artist Information - Who Can Participate

- Professional artists within 100 miles of Padre Island.
- Submit up to two original completed artworks
- Maximum size: 10 inches in any direction
- No prints or previously exhibited work

Entry Fees:

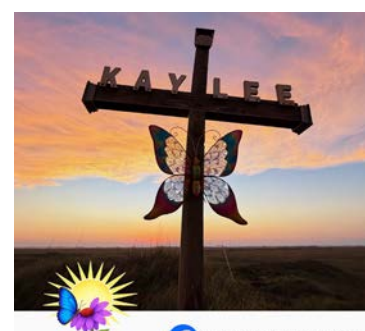
- Gallery Members: Free
- Non-Members: \$10

Important Dates:

- Online submissions: Now through July 13
- Artwork drop-off: During regular business hours through July 15
- Opening Reception: July 17, 6pm
- Exhibition dates: July 17–31

To participate, email office@evokebyme-lissa.com with your name and location to receive the private submission link and complete entry details. Let’s make something mysterious, meaningful, and full of heart.

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



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Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

World Cup Fever and the Summertime Blues

The FIFA World Cup has taken North America by storm. We were in Miami a couple of weeks ago, and there were thousands of people flooding into the city, workers getting things set up, and people wearing team jerseys everywhere. The matches are being held all over the place, and the money that is flowing into these cities is off the charts. I was in Houston earlier this week for leadership training again, and the Marriot that I stayed at downtown went from zero to 60 on Monday in anticipation of the week's matches. I felt out of place, as even the bell hop from Cuba was wearing a USA shirt, and at one point the lobby was jammed with Saudi Arabia airline stewardesses all dressed alike. FIFA just makes a city feel different. Hopefully the USA can hang in there for a few more rounds.

You might as well stay home and watch futbol, as the tides are to the dunes. While driving back from Houston, the recent rains had all the rivers (up north) running, standing water in the crop fields, and the back bays of Mission River over their banks up to near historic levels. When I drive up north on Hwy 77, I always look for this certain dead tree out in Lake Texana to gauge the water level and figure out if it is getting lower or higher. I was pleased to see that my dead tree was well into the water, and it appeared that both the Lavaca and Navidad Rivers were flowing healthily into the lake. The lake level is approaching 100%, which I don't need to tell you loyal readers that we desperately need.

It appears that the obligatory high pressure that we get is moving into place on our heads over the next week. This will bring those 25-30mph winds that we all love so much through the end of June into the beginning of July. I can't believe that weekend after this one is July 4th with the sanctioned Island Blast Fireworks show, and then the resulting Kleberg County Illegal fireworks show along the beach. While we have gotten some rain, I'm not sure that the Island needs a giant grass fire at this point in time. While it's legal to purchase fireworks, it is illegal to shoot fireworks in the city of Corpus Christi, and I can't figure out about Nueces County.

It is legal to shoot fireworks in Kleberg County; however you have to have the owner's permission. I'm not sure where the State of Texas stands on fireworks in Kleberg, but I can tell you the Jones Family and Nueces County, who has the 3800 acres south of that, doesn't appreciate the yearly grassfires resulting from people shooting them on the beach.

The Summer doldrums are upon us, which can mean a variety of things. Typically, it meant that the winds slack off and left ships stranded around the equator, but these days mean other things. Some businesses slow down, mainly because people are traveling, but that just means other places are busier, so that doesn't apply. The stock market always flat lines as some investors basically just tune out. And then I read that summer doldrums can also cause Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). I typically associate SAD's with the winter solstice, as it gets dark at 4:30pm and the weather leaves some to be desired. I can't imagine getting bored to the point of depression during the summer, but to each his own.

Pool season is in full swing. If you don't have a pool but your friends do, make sure to offer to bring charcoal and things to burn. There is a set of rules and etiquette that ensure that you get invited back to folks' pools. You don't have to lug in a bucket of chlorine tablets (although it might help!) but there's a few things you can do beyond the No Glass and get out to use the restroom. Bring enough supplies to share, hang up wet towels, don't be a slob, don't get the cloth chairs wet (unless they're designed for it) and don't overstay your welcome. Just a few tips from your Uncle Larry.

Well folks, the rain has the mosquitoes buzzing all over the place, the temperatures have the humidity up, and the construction has the traffic backed up on the causeway. There is a faint signature of the upwelling down south (Ha! I had to sneak that in Lily and Nick). Relax into the summer doldrums, drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Crazed FIFA fan Jozy climbs wildly on table after a bad referee call



Rotary Club President Ken Ritchie installing Ingrid Spear as President-Elect this week



New flags this week for the CC Beach Operations carts. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Backwater Adventures

Backwater cont. from A1

will be a great place when the winds are light to use live shrimp. Long drops u see popping corks, or free looking with a light weight.

Redfish will head to the stream shallows now, spending their summer nights foraging for grass shrimp, crabs, and small baitfish. Anglers walking or drifting the shallows at dawn will see tailing redfish that are digging for their kill. At dawn their heads are down and they kinda forget the sun is

coming up, until the shadows of the sea gulls start to roll over them. When those birds start spooking them they will melt down sub surface. As the sun starts to climb and light the flats, anglers will be able to see into the water after about 9:30am and sight cast to swimming redfish. A good rule is for beginning anglers to cast at most any big fish they see, and learn to distinguish redfish from mullet. Practice leading the fish, bringing the lures across their view. As your skills grow, look for color of redfish, red, orange, maroon, and blue tips of the tails. I never stalk against the wind, they feel you. Move cross wind and with, using a slow speed so that the fish are moving faster that you are.

Drift fishing the deeper flats will be where most of the best action for trout will be as we are in the HOT ZONE. Picking through the scattered sand pockets on the east side of the Laguna Madre south of Bird Island will be a great place to get away from crowds and into some good fishing. The islands and spoil bars along the channel will also be full of great sports fish.

Their faces were glowing as I crossed the flats. I could see these young anglers staring into the clear waters watching the grass and sand bottom roll past like an old flickering movie. The boat stopped and I started to command orders and throw rods into everyone's hands. The nerves were high as I was giving them a crash course in casting, lure presentation, and ideas of imagination of



HOOK UM HOLLY caught this beautiful big Speck this week on a DOWN SOUTH LURES bone dimond along the King Ranch Shoreline. Farah

what might be going on under the sea. They were casting and learning with every stroke of the rod, and caught a few fish on the first drift, but by the second pass everyone was in the zone! Long casts and their rods bending with each strike. We were dancing our baits to the tunes on the radio. Pass after pass we picked up trout, Holly dipped and bent back the pole with a heavy fish; the trout came to the surface and threw her mouth to the sky. We had to run around to tame her to the net, her spotted flanks sparkled blue and silver in the sun. Then, BOOM!! REDFISH tore drag off of the reel and Grady started the battle with a giant redfish! He clenched his teeth and his hands turned red straining to turn the handle against the 27" redfish. Time and time again he thought about giving up, but his brother's watchful eyes were pushing him to win! The fish surfaced and tail splashed, ran for the motor, dived and finally came to the net. The orange and gold sides glowed in the sun, as bright as the faces of our group. Don't let these days pass, they are the best days of our lives out in the sun, over the sea, and beside those that mean the most in your life. It is definitely getting hot, but staying close to deeper cool water that has tidal flow will keep the rods bent and the smiles beaming.

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Nature Notes

Spend a Day with C5

The hardest working Plover on the Peninsula

By Caleb Clarkson



A Wilson's Plover, surveys her territory by Caleb Clarkson

The morning sun finally clears the dunes of Matagorda Peninsula, casting long shadows across the windswept sand. As humans yawn, stretch, and amble off to work, the day has already started for a hard-working Wilson's Plover.

She is known simply known as "C5", after the code etched onto a band placed on her leg by researchers. She scours the sandflats, the wrack, and the dunes, watching and listening for any invertebrates who might be available for breakfast, until she spots one of her favorites, a plump fiddler crab. In an upright posture, she tiptoes merrily down the beach towards the crab, feigning complete indifference towards the asymmetrical crustacean. That is, until she's within striking distance. In a burst of speed, the crab is caught and held firmly between the halves of her thick beak, an adaptation perfectly suited for cracking the hard shells of the crustaceans that make up much of her diet.

After the excitement, she pauses to meticulously preen, cleaning and carefully arranging her feathers before making her way back home. Home for C5 is not marked with a mailbox or address, and it doesn't have set borders or fences like the homes that we have. Instead, her "home" flexes and shifts with the seasons and tides, its boundaries expanding and contracting with the availability of food, space, and shelter.

While her home might look different than ours, the experiences of C5 and humans alike overlap greatly when it comes to pesky neighbors. Recently, a new pair of Wilson's Plovers had moved in, and they were already getting dangerously close to stealing C5's favorite crabbing spot. For now, however, the coast is clear, and she reunites with her mate in the shady vegetation of her cozy dune.

While she was away, her mate had been hard at work excavating sediment and forming scrapes. A multitude of divots pepper their territory, each one a potential spot for her

to lay her eggs. To some, the scrapes may look identical, but to C5, the differences are obvious. In a posture akin to pride, her mate leads her past the scrapes he's labored to make. One by one, C5 passes them up. Perhaps not enough sand, or too wet. Maybe it's too windy, or this time, there's way too much sand! Whatever it is, they're just not "right".

Finally, she finds the one. A scrape that's not too shallow or too deep, tucked away in the mingling tendrils of beach morning-glory. There, hidden under the flowering vines, the sun doesn't shine so hot, the wind doesn't blow so hard, and the prying eyes of potential predators seldom give a second glance. Slowly, she lowers herself onto the manicured bed of crushed seashells, shifting and settling until it feels just right. Soon enough, there will be eggs.

But first, of course, they chase off their pesky new neighbors. C5 and her mate spring into action, parading around the invaders, barraging them with aggressive peeps and pips. Before migrating to Texas, the pairs might have been acquaintances on their wintering grounds, foraging and moving together. However, this is the summer breeding season, and an encroachment on C5's favorite crabbing spot is more than just the threat of sharing. Resources are finite, and C5 and her mate are going to need all the resources they can get if they want to successfully raise their eggs and subsequent chicks to fledge.

C5 and her mate defend their territory as if their lives depended on it, because, well, they do! The invaders, wisely, fly off over the dunes; what good is a crabbing spot when being pestered

and pecked at by the militant landlords? They'll find a peaceful spot to eat and nest, too, as long as it's far, far away from C5's cozy little dune.

Beachcombing Report

By Jace Tunnell

Ram's Horn Squid Shell



Jace with a Ram's Horn Shell

During my beachcombing survey this week along the Texas coast, I was excited to find three Ram's Horn shells washed ashore among the sargassum seaweed. Although these tiny white shells are often overlooked, they are among the most fascinating treasures that can be found on Gulf beaches.

The Ram's Horn shell belongs to a deep-sea cephalopod called *Spirula spirula*, commonly known as the Ram's Horn Squid. Unlike most seashells, this shell was never exposed on the outside of the animal. Instead, it served as an internal buoyancy chamber, helping the squid maintain its position in the water column. The shell is divided into a series of gas-filled chambers and forms a distinctive spiral shape that resembles the horn of a ram.

The living squid inhabits tropical and subtropical oceans around the world and spends most of its life hundreds of meters below the ocean surface. Because of its deep-water habitat, living specimens are rarely observed. Most people encounter *Spirula* only through the shells that occasionally wash up on beaches.

Along the Texas coast, Ram's Horn shells are considered uncommon finds. They are often discovered after periods of strong currents, storms, or when floating mats of sargassum seaweed are pushed ashore. The lightweight shell can float for long distances after the animal dies, eventually becoming stranded along the beach.

Finding three Ram's Horn shells during a single survey was a surprise. I've found these shells before with live gooseneck barnacles attached to them, which tells me they had been floating in the ocean for some time. For beachcombers, the Ram's Horn shell remains one of the Gulf Coast's most intriguing and memorable discoveries.

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 harteresearch.org, Facebook (@harteresearch) and Instagram (@harteresearch).



Spirula spirula
(Ram's horn squid)



Internal shell
(located at rear of mantle)

Mantle (transparent)
The shell is inside the mantle cavity, not visible from the outside.



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Island Real Estate Roundup

Apryl Noles

Two good weeks of market activity

This week's update includes **two weeks of market activity** on Padre Island, and June continues to show strong and consistent buyer demand across multiple property types. While the market has settled into a steady summer rhythm, buyers are still actively searching and making moves as relocation season remains in full swing.

In the **detached home sector**, we saw **four homes enter the option period, two homes go pending, and five homes successfully close**. These numbers reflect continued confidence from buyers and sellers alike, with activity occurring across various price points. The **condominium sector** also remained active, with **three properties entering the option period and one condominium closing** during this reporting period. In the **townhome sector**, we saw **one property go pending and one close**, demonstrating that demand remains steady for buyers looking for low-maintenance island living.

As summer progresses, we continue to see people relocating to the Coastal Bend and taking advantage of everything Padre Island has to offer. The consistency in market activity is a positive sign as we move deeper into the season.

Here are the detailed properties referenced in this report. Stay tuned for next week's update!

Detached Homes In Option Period:

-15950 Punta Espada Loop (Listed for \$699,000)
-15857 Cuttysark Dr (Listed for \$449,000)
-15221 Main Royal Dr (Listed for \$389,000)
-13514 King Phillip Ct (Listed for \$775,000)

Detached Homes That Are Pending:

-14834 Highland Mist Dr (Listed for \$679,999)
-14849 Dasmarrinas Dr (Listed for \$369,000)

Detached Homes That Sold:

-14125 Coquina Bay Ave (Listed for \$720,000)
-15345 Yardarm Ct (Listed for \$1,050,000)
-13901 Eaglesnest Bay Dr (Listed for \$674,000)
-15414 Cuttysark St (Listed for \$594,900)
-16118 Broomsedge St (Listed for \$425,000)

Condominiums In Option Period:

-14825 Windward Dr #118 (Listed for \$119,000)
-15401 Fortuna Bay #104 (Listed for \$275,000)
-15209 Leeward Dr #6 (Listed for \$189,000)

Condominium That Sold:

-15002 Windward Dr #406 (Listed for \$430,000)

Townhome That Is Pending:

-15001 Harbor View Dr (Listed for \$495,000)

Townhome That Sold:

-15401 Gun Cay Ct #502 (Listed for \$409,900)

Road Work cont. from AI

To complete remaining work on the bridge deck, TxDOT's contractor will implement these lane closures:

Thursday, June 25

The outside eastbound lane and shoulder on Park Road 22 will be closed on the West Laguna Madre Bridge, beginning at the east end of the bridge. This will be a single-lane closure.

Monday and Tuesday, June 29, 30

The eastbound outside lane and shoulder will be closed at the entrance ramp onto the

bridge from the mainland. Motorists using this ramp will merge into mainlane traffic.

The West Laguna Madre Bridge is the point where Park Road 22 leaves the mainland in Flour Bluff.

No other lanes on the JFK Causeway will be affected and no weekend closures are planned. All closures are weather permitting and subject to change without notice.

Work will take place daily between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken



How do we Know?

There is a classic communication exercise that starts with a message given to one person. That person shares the message with another person, who shares it with another. After the message has been shared with several people the last person to hear the message shares the message to the rest of the group. It will seldom resemble the original message.

I think of this lesson as I continue a sermon series on Revelation, a prophetic vision from John to the church. The Bible is full of prophetic messages. Yet, history is also littered with false prophets.

This is important because there are Christians on all sides of most of the polarizing issues of our day. When someone claims to know what God thinks, or what the Bible means, how do we know?

There is a story in the Old Testament about Jeremiah and Hananiah, two prophets who disagreed on an important issue affecting the people of their day. How did the people know who was speaking the word from God? Jesus and the religious leaders of his day often disagreed on what God thought about various issues and people. How did people know who was speaking the word from God?

How do we know?

In the story of Jeremiah and Hananiah, Hananiah essentially told the people what they wanted to hear. When we humans are anxious and fearful in a time of great chaos, like today, we will anxiously jump at any message that promises quick hope. We will gravitate towards the message we want to hear. We want to think that we are on God's side, or that God is on our side.

Hananiah's message sounded strong, energizing, encouraging, patriotic. The tough time the people were experiencing would be short he stated. He probably could win an election in our time. Jeremiah's message was more sobering. There would be a long time of exile and suffering ahead for the people. I know which message I would prefer to hear.

It is hard to hear a word that challenges and disorders our preferred understandings. We like to hear words that assure us of being

within the circle of the redeemed. We prefer that the perspectives that differ from ours are understood to be wrong and must be defeated or excluded.

How do we know?

Prophets challenge us, because we need to be challenged. It's how we grow in faith. The Christian journey is a journey of transformation. That transformation will often involve disconcerting reorientation by letting go. It's in those times that we can either find new meaning or shut down in bitterness and anger.

Yet, how do we know?

Secret Service recruits are trained to recognize counterfeit money not by memorizing the infinite number of fake bills. Rather they are taught to completely master the look, feel and precise construction of genuine bills. When they memorize the perfection of genuine notes counterfeit money immediately stands out as flawed.

Jesus is the one we memorize. He welcomed the diversity of all people into his presence. His motivations were compassion and kindness. He chose to exhibit self-giving love that was sacrificial and inclusive. He enlarged the table. His ways fulfill the prophecies that bring peace and equity. All competing truth will look tawdry by comparison.

Beach worship continues this Sunday, as we bless the animals during the service. Bring your pet and 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.

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

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Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

- 1. National Geographic inserts
- 5. Competent
- 10. Shapeless mass
- 14. "Night" writer Wiesel
- 15. Euripides heroine
- 16. Fall short
- 17. Relief for thirsty livestock
- 20. MBA's interest
- 21. Capitol call
- 22. Southwest sights
- 23. Comedian Mort
- 25. What pitchers hate to give up
- 27. Fight for supremacy
- 31.
- 34. Turnpike entrance
- 35. D.D.E. predecessor
- 36. Speed away (with "out")
- 37. Indications of decay
- 38. Railroad beam
- 39. Oil, watercolor, etc.
- 40. Mt. Olympus ruler
- 41. Teensy
- 42. Unhappiness
- 43. Top-notch ending
- 44. Not entirely joking
- 46. Got ripped
- 47. Enjoys a loopy craft
- 48. Criminal's creation, perhaps
- 51. Travel term
- 53. Suffix for suffering body parts
- 56. Picnicker's worry
- 60. Circular snack
- 61. He was Santa in "Elf"
- 62. Kind of school
- 63. Hunter's quarry
- 64. Cluttered
- 65. Fiery Sicilian

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			

Down

- 1. Kittenish response?
- 2. First "A" of A.A. Milne
- 3. Crying shame
- 4. Tours Hollywood?
- 5. Jack Horner's last words
- 6. Alaska Range attraction
- 7. On tenterhooks
- 8. Hall of Fame wannabe
- 9. Pit contents, perhaps
- 10. Type of music
- 11. Fireplace supply
- 12. Fed. workplace monitor
- 13. Gershwin heroine
- 18. Domains
- 19. Exclude
- 24. In the know
- 26. Word of exception
- 27. Firewater
- 28. High points of a South American trip?
- 29. Speckled swimmer
- 30. Recipient of a stop order?
- 31. "Don Quixote" role
- 32. What's lined up in
- 33. Hammer features
- 36. View enhancer
- 38. Air
- 39. Deadly
- 41. General assembly?
- 42. Land's end
- 44. Place for a run
- 45. Phases
- 46. Lake near Carson City
- 48. Enthralled
- 49. Pasternak heroine
- 50. Two stars dating, e.g.
- 52. Hostelries
- 54. Smart
- 55. Plot in Genesis?
- 57. Zodiac creature
- 58. "Eureka!" for one
- 59. Whirlpool

Kate's Hole Oyster and Living Shoreline Restoration



Kate's Hole is a storied stretch of habitat on Mustang Island that has grown to be a popular location for public access and recreation. Situated on the edge of seagrass meadows, tidal flats, and mangrove lined shores, the area is also a thriving coastal habitat for life both above and below the water's surface. Like many areas along the coast, impacts of erosion are threatening the long-term stability of the landscape if not stopped.

To address this issue, a plan was put in place to protect the eroding shoreline, secure safe public access, and improve the habitat with the construction of a 300-linear foot oyster reef that will both slow wind and wave energy, and provide valuable habitat for aquatic life. Partnering with researchers at Sink Your Shucks, recycled oyster shell was placed in biodegradable mesh bags before being staged for placement. In order to effectively move the bags from the shore to their resting place in the water, volunteers formed a chain and passed the bags over 100 feet in some stretches to construct the breakwater.



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 Sunday 8 am at Padre Balli RV Park Open Pavilion
 15820 Park Rd 22.
 (In bad weather, the Sunday meetings will be indoors at IPC)

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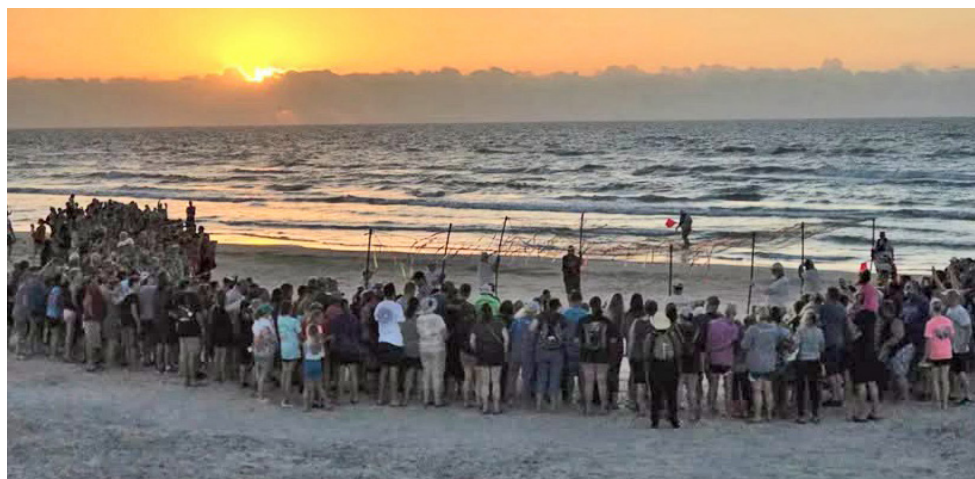
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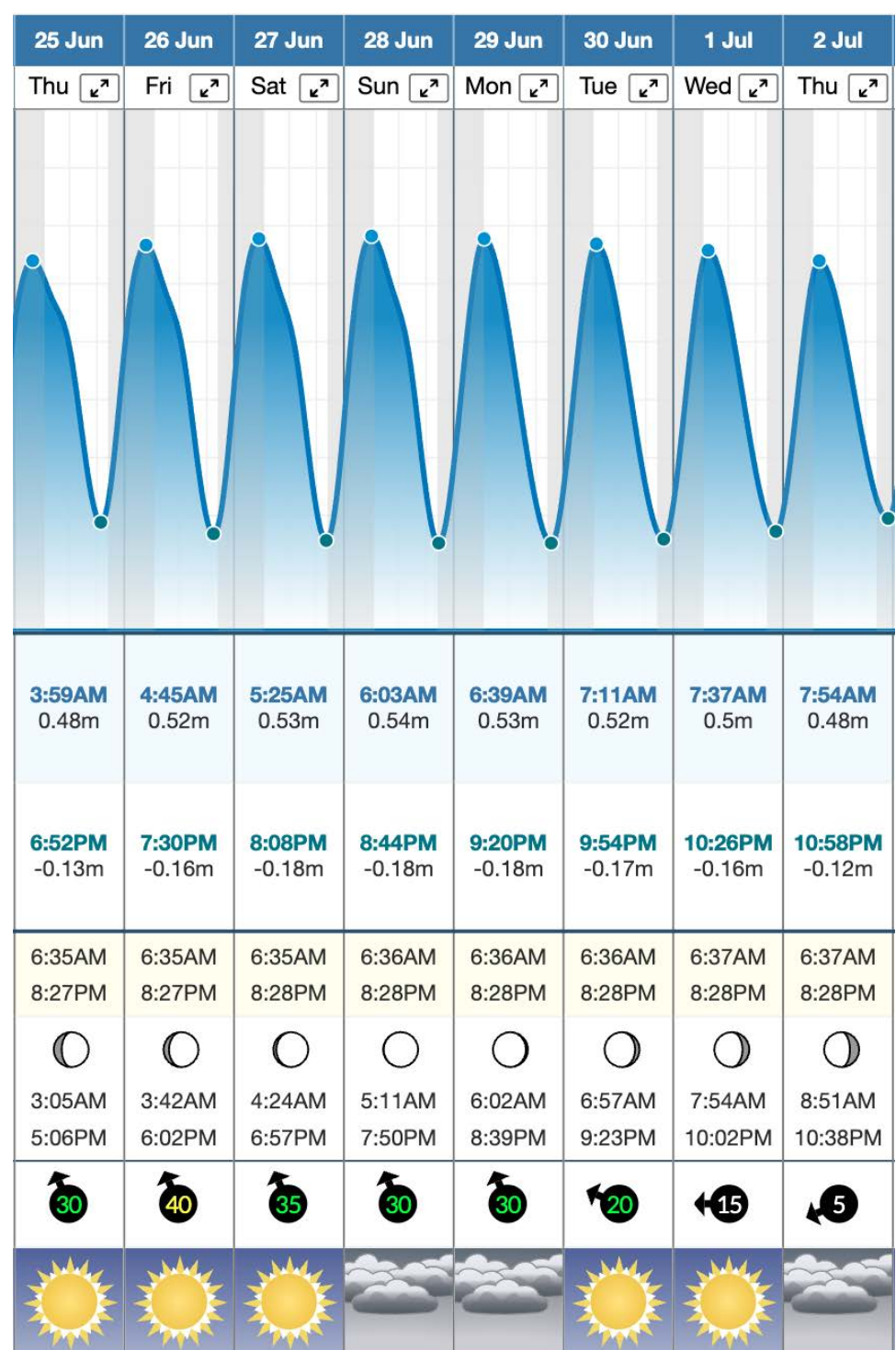
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PINS Turtle release

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

Senior moments Special to the Island Moon

T-6 Texana Air Plane (Part 1)

By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: The World War II-era trainer T-6 Texan, is an American single-engine advanced trainer aircraft, which was used to train pilots of the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF), United States Air Force (USAF), United States Navy, Royal Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force and other air forces of the British Commonwealth during World War II and into the 1970s. Thanks to Jerry Plemons and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in this report.



Designed by North American Aviation, the T-6 is known by a variety of designations depending on the model and operating air force. The United States Army Air Corps (USAAC) and USAAF designated it as the AT-6, the United States Navy the SNJ, and British Commonwealth air forces the Harvard, the name by which it is best known outside the US. Starting in 1948, the new United States Air Force (USAF) designated it the T-6, with the USN following in 1962.

The T-6 Texan remains a popular warbird used for airshow demonstrations and static displays. It has also been used many times to simulate various historical aircraft, including the Japanese Mitsubishi A6M Zero. A total of 15,495 T-6s of all variants have been built.

The Texan's ancestry goes back to the North American NA-16 prototype which was first flown on 1 April 1935. In 1935, NAA submitted this design for the U.S. Army Air Corps Basic Trainer Competition. NAA also targeted the export market.

Modified as the NA-26, it was submitted as an entry for a USAAC "Basic Combat Trainer" aircraft competition in March 1937. Based on the NA-18, but with a foot longer wingspan, it was the first of the NA-16 series with retractable gear. It was similar to the BT-9, but with a larger engine, the 550 hp (410 kW) Pratt & Whitney R-1340 Wasp, and could accommodate two .30 in (7.62 mm) guns.

With minor alterations, 177 unarmed NA-36s would enter service as the BC-1 with a R-1340-47 engine from 9 June 1937. Roughly 30 were modified as BC-1-I instrument trainers. The BC-1A (NA-55-1) followed as an armed version, primarily for Air Corps Reserve and National Guard units, and the

83 built could be equipped with a .30 in (7.62 mm) machine gun on the nose, and a flexible gun in the rear cockpit.

The US Navy received 40 NA-28 aircraft based on the BT-9, which it designated the NJ-1, as well as 16 NA-52s, designated the SNJ-1, 36 NA-65 as SNJ-2s, and 25 NA-79 also as SNJ-2s.

According to Dan Hagedorn, aviation historian, "the BC-1A series may be regarded as the true beginning of the modern AT-6 series". In December 1938, the British Commonwealth started receiving the first of 400 Harvard Mark Is (NA-49), for use in the Central Flying School. They were powered by the 600 hp (450 kW) Pratt & Whitney R-1340-S3H1 Wasp. In May 1939, the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) ordered 30 Harvard Mark Is (NA-61). Then in November 1939, the British Purchasing Commission ordered the first of eventually 1275 Harvard Mark IIs (NA-66, NA-75, NA-76, and NA-81) for the Royal Air Force and RCAF.

The AT-6B (NA-84) was built for armament training, and could mount a .30 in (7.62 mm) machine gun on the right nose cowl, right wing, and in the rear cockpit, and could carry a light bomb rack. The aircraft was powered by the 600 hp (450 kW) R-1340-AN-1 engine. The US-AAC received 400.

The NA-88 design was used to build 2970 AT-6Cs (747 of which went to the British Commonwealth as Harvard IIs), 2401 SNJ-4s, 2604 AT-6Ds (537 of which went to the British Commonwealth as Harvard IIIs), and 1357 SNJ-5s. The first AT-6C aircraft was delivered on 12 February 1942. The 12-volt electrical system was changed to a 24-volt system in the AT-6D, for standardization amongst the service. The AT-6D, which was also armament capable, and early versions included a wing gun camera, and a high-pressure oxygen system. The AT-6D used two toggle starter switches, rather than the foot pedal starter, and the first AT-6D was delivered on 22 July 1943.

Dotson's Other Note: The Navy received an additional 630 AT-6Ds direct from the USAAF, redesignating them SNJ-5s, for a total of 1987. Similarly, the NA-121 design was used to build the final wartime Texans, and included 800 AT-6Ds (of which 211 went to the Navy as SNJ-5s), and 956 AT-6Fs (of which 411 went to the Navy as SNJ-6s). They were capable of carrying a 20 US gal centerline drop tank.

TO BE CONTINUED

Shorty's Art Faire

Photos by Ronnie Narmour



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.



Live Streams



PIBA Mixes it up!

The monthly Padre Island Business Association Mixer was held on Tuesday, June 23rd at Lively Beach. The monthly event gives Island business owners a chance to network with other businesses and customers. Photos By Debbie Noble



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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

On the local front...



Sammy Joe threw Ace a great Graduation Party last Wednesday at the Sip Yard

My old friend **Sammy Joe**, who is the bar manager at the *Sip Yard* threw a magnificent graduation party for her son **Ace** at the *Yard* last Wednesday. It was very well attended. I've watched Ace grow up. We used to play baseball in Sammy's front yard when Ace was just a tyke. To this day I still chant, "they batter batter" when I see him. Sammy Joe should be very proud of her son, he's grown up to be a delightful adult with strong ethics. Ace will be going back up to Pittsburg with his grandmother **Coco**, where the family is from, to go to nursing school. I expect great things from this young man. Go get 'em Ace, make us proud! Also on the local front, *Shorty's* had their yearly *Art Faire* last Saturday. In spite of all the rain coming and going, I'd say it was a rousing success. Local artisan **Nikki Ikonomopoulos** organizes the event each year and its fun to see all the cool art being created in our community. Soloist **Melissa Ann** supplied the music and a merry time was had by all. And finally on the *Local Front* I want to remind yall *Tarpon Ice House's* founder **Paul Fain's** send off is coming up on July 12th in the pavilion behind *Trinity by the Sea* church on Trojan Street in the late afternoon/early evening.

Scattered shots...



Nikki Ikonomopoulos shows off her wares at the Shorty's Art Faire last Saturday

The big new last week was the **Gary P. Nunn** show at the *Sip Yard* last Thursday. Gary P. was on his 80th Birthday tour and believe me, all of his facilities are still intact and working well. He played all his Texas hits such as *What I Like About Texas*, *London Homesick Blues*, *Home With the Armadillo*, etc. I was glad to see such a big crowd on a Thursday and for a higher profile act with a higher cover charge. He is truly a Texas icon. Also on Thursday I got a call from my pal, **John Paul** at the *Gaff* to get over there and check out **C.J. Sparks** and then again on Friday to check out a young 17 year old singer-songwriter named **Tate Mitchell**. Thanks **JP**, you were spot on with both these acts. Mitchell was a stand out. And *Shorty's* also had it going on with cool, interesting acts. On Friday they had a ska meets grunge show with **Left Right Left** and the uber cool **Red Feather** on Saturday. *Red Feather* is led by **Eddie E.J. Alaniz** who is very popular on North Padre Island. This cat can put his stink on any and every song he sings. He can make **Brittany Spears** sound country and **Willie Nelson** sound reggae. He



Cruise Control will play the Sip Yard on the 25th

makes every song his own. I dig this cat. Also on Friday, I caught **Seattle Rising: A 90's Tribute Band** from Corpus. They did their tribute justice with hard rocking songs from that era. And finally I caught some late night tunes at *Treasure Island* with the **Groove 2.0** classic rock band. You can catch these guys at many different venues around Port A and beyond most every day of the week.

Coming this week...



Chris Boss will play Shorty's this Saturday.

Summer is now in FULL swing both musically and temperature wise. The *Fourth of July* is only a couple of weeks away. The live music schedules are packed with *A-Team* performers and the cannons are loaded. In a word: HYDRATE. If the weatherpersons are right this time, you'll be able to fry an egg on the dashboard of your car every day of the week. Starting this Thursday the 25th we have our resident the big ten piece horn band, **Cruise Control** featuring lead vocalist and flutist, **Lisa Lehman** leading the charge. Also on Thursday the great *House of Rock* in town will have the *Haus of Dolls* drag queen show. That ought to be good for a few laughs. Coming on Friday the 26th we have veteran blues man **John Cortez** playing at *Shorty's* as he's done over 80 times in the last 13 years. I think they like him a lot over there. Also on Friday watch for the **Back Pew Revival** at *Treasure Island*, the rock cover band **8-Bit Serenade** will play the *Sip Yard* and the reggae/ska outfit the **Chanklas** featuring **Justin Estes** will play *Bron's Backyard*. Coming this Saturday the 27th you've got options...for starters the *Gaff* will have yet another showing of their bi-monthly **BELT SANDER RACES** of which the **Moon Monkey** has placed in the last three winner's circles. Not to brag, but through the years I have accumulated 9 first place, 7 second place and 11 third place medals. Yay me! Also coming on Saturday the blues cat in Aransas Pass are putting on their **Jack Payne Waterfront Blues Festival** and the *Port A Parks and Rec Dept* will have their *Crazy Cart Crawl* scavenger hunt. We did the hunt a few years ago and it's a blast. Back to music on Saturday, **Coach Big Jimmy Dugan** will perform the *Gaff*, singer-songwriter **Forrest Austin** will play *Bron's Backyard*, **Chris Lancaster** will play the *VFW*, the **Drew Brown Band** will play at *Treasure Island* and the big news on Saturday will be the **Chris Boss** show. Chris is an old friend from San Antonio and can sing the phone book. He often sings the National Anthem at the *Spurs'* games. If there ever was, this is the show you DO NOT MISS. Trust me!!! And on Sunday we have **Coach Big Jim Dugan** and his buddy **Ty Dietz** playing their weekly gig at *Shorty's*, **Brett Axelson** will play the *Sip Yard* and **Tate Mitchell** will play *Bron's*. You won't be able to see it on this LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT schedule but the greatest songwriter in history, **Mr. Bob Dylan** is playing the *Whitewater Amphitheater* in New Braunfels on Tuesday, June 30th. I'm gonna try and go. Be safe yall!

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



The Chanklas will play Bron's on Friday.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, June 25

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's
Closed Private Party @ VFW
Cruise Control @ Sip Yard
Brad Ethridge @ Bron's
Phillip Dean @ Gaff
Billy Snipes @ Black Marlin PA
Ruben Limas @ Perrin's on the Water
Randall Hunt @ Sandbox NPI
Melissa Ann @ Fifth & Elm Portland
Love Street @ Cole Park
Los Guys @ Rockit's
The Haus of Dolls @ House of Rock
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Island
Damon Scott @ Brewster Southside
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Downtown
Brittany Andrews @ House of Rock
Crucial Riddums @ Surf Club
Randall Hunt @ Sandbox NPI

Friday, June 26

John Cortez @ Shorty's
Back Pew Revival @ Treasure Island
8-Bit Serenade @ Sip Yard
Chanklas @ Bron's
NEF @ Pelican
Art Barrera @ Pier 99
Indiglow @ Rockit's
Randy Hooper @ Sandbox NPI
Fuzion @ Exchange
Scarecrow People @ Surf Club
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Southside
Emma James @ Brewster Island
Rich O'Toole @ Brewster Downtown
Entheos, Crystal Lake @ House of Rock
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach
Zrenditionz @ Sugar Shack RP
Michael Vara @ Commercial St. AP
Texas Bloodline @ South TX Ice House
Reno Perez @ Sandbox NPI
Trisum @ The Pearl CC
NEF @ Pelican Lounge
Brian Banks @ Angry Marlin

Saturday, June 27

BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
JAK PAYNE
WATERFRONT

THE GAFF
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OPEN MIC EVERY WED WITH BRAD E.
BOO & POO JUNE 26
BELT SANDER RACES JUNE 27
JIM DUGAN JUNE 27
BRAD ETHRIDGE JUNE 28
LOS LOCALS JULY 2
JIM DUGAN JULY 4

SHORTY'S
JOHN ELIJAH BAND EVERY MONDAY
JOHNSON ALL STARZ EVERY THURS
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
JOHN CORTEZ JUNE 26
CHRIS BOSS JUNE 27
DREAMING IN COLOR JULY 3
JOHN ELIJAH JULY 4

Treasure Island
BACK PEW REVIVAL JUNE 26
DREW BROWN BAND JUNE 27
DIAMOND'S EDGE JULY 3-4
JONMAIKAEL MREZ JULY 10
MARIO FLORES JULY 11
THE GROOVE 2.0 JULY 17

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CHRIS LANCASTER JUNE 27
BRAD ETHRIDGE JUNE 30
PUB CRAWL JULY 4
THE GROOVE JULY 4
CARSON MILLER JULY 25

Sip Yard
CRUISE CONTROL JUNE 25
8-BIT SERENADE JUNE 26
CHAINLINKS JUNE 27
CARSON JEFFREY JULY 2
KIN FAUX JULY 3
CLAY HOLLIS JULY 4

Bron's BACKYARD
BRAD ETHRIDGE JUNE 25
CHANKLAS JUNE 26
AUSTIN FORREST JUNE 27
TATE MITCHELL JUNE 28
BRANDON MICHAEL JUNE 30
JERRY WARD DUO JULY 1

BLUES FEST @ Dorados
CRAZY CART CRAWL @ Port A
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Austin Forrest @ Bron's
Chris Boss @ Shorty's
Chris Lancaster @ VFW
Drew Brown Band @ Treasure Island
Chainlinks @ Sip Yard
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards Too
Randy Hopper @ Commercial St. AP
Klocks @ Rockit's
Ty Dietz @ Sandbox NPI
Eros Garcia, Jacob Cole Band @ House of Rock
Jackie Venson, Matt Hole @ Exchange
Jesse Joe & the 96ers @ Brewster Downtown
Michael Burts @ Brewster Island
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside
Emma James, Flying Free @ Surf Club
Hair Factory @ Sugar Shack RP
Alee Velazco @ Commercial St. AP
Will Rhodes @ South TX Ice House
Aaron Boultinghouse @ Trout Street PA
Rip Tide Cowboy @ Hideout 35
Art Barrera @ Anchor Bar
Ty Dietz @ Sandbox NPI
Rip Tide Cowboy @ Hideout 35 RP

Sunday, June 28

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Brett Axelson @ Sip Yard
Tate Mitchell @ Bron's
Robin Blue @ Trout Street
Jules Taylor, Darren McGill @ Sandbox NPI
Lisa Sullivan @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Rip Tide Open Mic @ Hometown
Darrell McCullough @ Surf Club
Michael Burts @ Anchor Bar

Monday, June 29

John Elijah @ Shorty's
Billy Snipes @ Pier 99
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Jerry Ward @ Pelican

Tuesday, June 30

Bob Dylan @ Whitewater Amphitheater
Brad Ethridge @ VFW

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