



Three Chords and the Truth A12



Beachcombing Report A7



Backwater Adventures A6



Packery Flats Cleanup A2



On the Rocks A6

Issue 1159

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The Island Moon

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July 2, 2026

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American Legion Flags on Park Road 22. Photo by Debbie Noble



ISLAND MOON LIVE THURSDAY'S FROM 11-12 AND 1-2 ON 1440 KEYS AM, 98.7 FM, AND YOUTUBE AT ISLAND MOON LIVE



NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

By Dale Rankin

It's been a week of Air You Can Wear and red skies in the morning Around The Island this week as we slog our way through the end of the first month of Hurricane Season 2026. The Island has been doing the skeeter dance in the key of B as in buzz as the standing water makes for multiple mosquito parties. The Saharan dust has been greeting early beachgoers and continues to roll in at a steady pace punctuating the buzzing with crescendos of coughing and producing our own version of the 1812 Overture as July 4 rolls in.

The number of vehicles lining up for the left turn from SPID to Whitecap Blvd. and the beach has continued to rise on Saturday afternoons as the new businesses along the Michael J. Ellis Seawall have given people a reason to come OTB later in the day on the weekends.



Saharan dust arriving Monday morning. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth.

Island land

We feature stories this week regarding potential new developments Around The Island. The two that look to have the most impact in the near future are the Coastal Dunes development just south of the Port Aransas City Limits which got final zoning approval this week and looks to have momentum. The second is the zoning for the 83-acre tract at the intersection of the gulf beach and South Packery Jetty which has shown little signs of development since 2006 but the owners there are pushing forward with plans

Around cont. on A9

Three parcels of vacant Island land move toward development

Two projects received zoning approval
83 acres near Packery Channel go up for sale



The land for sale between Zahn Road and Packery Channel

By Dale Rankin

Three large parcels of land on Padre Island moved toward development this week including two separate tracts totaling 95 acres of empty land bordering both sides of Packery Channel.

The Corpus Christi City Council approved Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning which allows for resort commercial development and residential use on an 81-acre tract located between the South Packery Jetty, gulf beach, Bartholomew Avenue and Lake Padre. According to city

documents the land is owned by California based Gulfshores Joint Venture and is valued for taxes at \$1.5 million. The PUD zoning allows for unified planning of mixed residential, commercial, office, professional, retail, or institutional uses. The approval by the council is the final step in the zoning process and clears the way for the land to be platted.

On the north side of Packery Channel near the intersection of State Highway 361 and Zahn Road a 14-acre tract has been put on

Land cont. on page A3



The Gulfshores Joint Venture plan for the area near Packery Channel

Bob Hall Pier admission charge set to begin

Request for restaurant operators expected by August
Road work to begin this month



By Dale Rankin

An admission charge at the new \$28 million Bob Hall Pier is expected to take effect by mid-July, Troy Adler, Chairman of the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board said this week.

"We may have a guard post up in the next week and we have already selected the operator," Adler said.

The pier has been free since its opening in February.

Previously approved pricing was \$3 general admission, \$4 for each fishing pole (four pole limit), a \$1 discount for seniors, active military and disabled veterans, annual passes for \$50 (walk on), \$299 (two poles, and \$399 (four poles).

Bob Hall cont. on page A11

A little Island history

Sixteen years ago this week Hurricane Alex came calling

By Dale Rankin

Photos by Miles Merwin

On the evening of Monday, June 28, 2010 a hurricane warning was issued for the area of North Padre Island to the mouth of the Rio Grande River with Baffin Bay in the crosshairs of what was soon to become Hurricane Alex.

The residents of the gulf coast still had the recent memory of Hurricane Katrina fresh in their minds, but officials were reluctant



History cont. on A5 High water floated a boat to the Island Stripes store on Whitecap Blvd.

Canal closure for Fireworks



The Island Blast fireworks show request that boat owners avoid the channel on Saturday, July 4 around sunset in order to create a safe zone for the launching of the fireworks show at the west end of Whitecap Boulevard.

By the numbers Work on Island Bulkheads

The Padre Isles Board of Directors release the following numbers regarding work on bulkheads at its June meeting.

- 75 linear feet of TruLine sheet piling installed
- \$149,550 cost of sheeting piling work
- 179 linear feet of cap installed
- \$17,900 cost of caps
- 13 washouts repaired
- \$6070 cost of foam to repair washouts

By the numbers Crossings at Port Aransas Ferry June 26-28

(*Source: Texas Department of Transportation)

Friday June 26

- From Port Aransas
- 3585 cars
- 169 trucks
- 7666 passengers
- 119 walk-ons

Saturday June 27

- 4063 cars
- 140 trucks
- 8666 passengers
- 133 walk-ons

Sunday June 28

- 4199 cars
- 124 trucks
- 9028 passengers
- 97 walk-ons

Total all directions

- Including to and from Aransas Pass/Port Aransas
- June 26-28
- 24,250 total vehicles
- 88,638 total vehicles

Citizen Science in Action!



Jace Tunnell and his Harte Research team showed a group of high schoolers how to conduct a nurdle control last Friday on Newport Beach.

Packery Flats Cleanup was a success

Thank you to everyone who joined us to remove trash and debris from Packery Flats this weekend! Your time and dedication continue to make a lasting impact. Volunteers spent the morning removing over 1,000 pounds of litter from the area, helping protect wildlife and keep this important coastal habitat beautiful for everyone who enjoys it. By removing trash we're creating a healthier environment for fish, birds, sea turtles, and countless other species that call our coast home. We'll see you all again at the next Packery Flats Cleanup!



The Traveling Moon



Chris and Lucy Coons, Ken and Kathy Merchant, Kathie and Roy Coons in front of the Ritz Paris where Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed dined in their private suite before the fatal crash.



The Merrill's took the Moon to Yellowstone National Park and hiked it in to Fairy Falls.

Yard of the Month



This month's Island Gardeners "Yard of the Month" belongs to Susan and Frank Jackson on Seafarer Drive. Just look for the "Yard of the Month" sign. This is a beautiful yard where nestled among the green foliage and palms are fabulous original mosaic art pieces. The owners moved in 5 years ago. Two years ago they planted a fruit bearing guava tree which is now as tall as the house. It is never too late to start your Yard of the Month!

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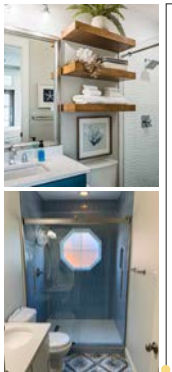
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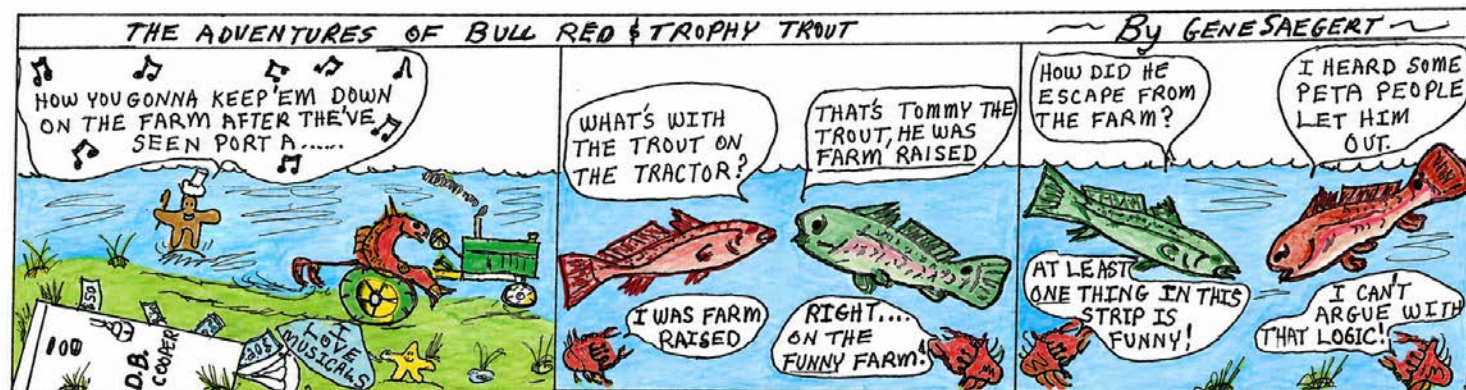
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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Corpus Christi International Airport Clarifies Status of Frontier Airlines Service

Flights to Denver Remain Available for Booking

Corpus Christi International Airport (CCIA) is issuing a clarification regarding recent media reports concerning the status of Frontier Airlines' service at the airport.

Initial reports published this past Friday and again yesterday, including an article on the online aviation news site *Simple Flying*, suggest that Frontier Airlines would immediately terminate service and leave the Corpus Christi market.

CCIA leadership confirmed directly with Frontier Airlines that the airline is not immediately withdrawing from the market. Frontier remains under contract with the City of Corpus Christi through August 17, and nonstop flights to Denver, Colorado, remain available for booking up until that deadline.

During a discussion with Frontier representatives on June 29, the airline indicated that negotiations with CCIA are ongoing. While Frontier Airlines is currently undergoing a broader nationwide network reshuffle, which has included the reduction of 61 routes over the past year, a final decision regarding the future of the Corpus Christi-to-Denver route has not been reached. To date, Frontier's operational schedule at CCIA remains unchanged.

Airport officials continue to work closely with Frontier Airlines to discuss the current route and potential alternate route options.

CCIA is committed to keeping the public informed and will provide updates as these conversations progress and formal decisions are made.

Land cont. from A1

the market by the owner, listed in Nueces County Records as John Scott Fleming with an address in New Braunfels. The land is listed for sale by NAIExcel and valued for taxes at \$2.557 million. The listing does not include a sales price but sources close to the deal put the asking price at \$21 million. City records do not show current zoning for the property.

The council on Tuesday also gave final zoning approval for a 34-acre tract located at 6753 State Highway 361 listed at Coastal

In reference to a story I wrote a while back about UFOs, aliens, and outer space, plus stories lately in the *Caller-Times* and on TV about the government releasing information they have on what they call UAPS. This is proof that the government has nothing to hide or make known and is further proof that aliens have ever visited earth.

They (the government) talks about it as if we are ever visited by aliens from outer space, and to avoid panic, it should be approved by the U.N. First, is pure hogwash, since if it happened it would be headline worldwide news the second it happened, even if first discovered by the government or scientists. Photos of sightings of UFOs that even the government cannot figure out what it is is not evidence since evidence of any kind must be made known as to what it is.

UFOs'

There is no proof or evidence of any kind anywhere in the world that earth was ever visited by aliens from outer space and no UFO sightings were ever reported until after World War II ended and the skies started filling up with weather balloons, supersonic jets, airplanes, missiles, and today drones. With the earth and the rest of the universe being millions and millions years old I believe we are alone in the universe and that eventually earth will be the seed that puts human life on other planets.

In the not near future I believe a telescope will be developed that will prove if there is or is not life of any kind on other planets. If life is ever discovered on another planet it will probably be near doomsday on earth before enough knowledge is handed down and gathered for earthlings to make it another planet. Don't panic about anything the government says, just eat more fish and live longer and leave UFOs to fantasy.

Bobbie Kimbrell

Windstorm Insurance Rates

Greetings from the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association! TWIA's Actuarial & Underwriting Committee met on June 30 and recommended that the Association make a rate filing with the Texas Department of Insurance requesting no change in residential or commercial rates for 2027 policies. The recommendation, by a 4 to 1 vote, will be considered by the full TWIA Board of Directors on August 4.

The recommendation came after the Committee reviewed the 2026 TWIA Rate Adequacy Analysis prepared by the Association's actuarial staff.

The 2026 Analysis found rates to be adequate by 9 percent for residential coverage and 4 percent for commercial coverage. If TWIA collects more from policyholder premiums than it spends on losses and operating expenses, the net gains from operations will be deposited in the Catastrophe Reserve Trust Fund for use after major storms.

The Analysis shows significant improvement in TWIA's rate adequacy since the Texas Legislature enacted a law last year that reduced the minimum level of catastrophe funding TWIA is required to maintain, resulting in lower reinsurance costs. The

Legislature also exempted TWIA from certain taxes, which contributed to the improvement in TWIA's rate adequacy.

The Committee also received written comments and heard public comment at the meeting.

The TWIA Board will consider the Committee's recommendation, the Rate Adequacy Analysis, and stakeholder feedback when voting to decide the content of the Association's annual rate filing, which is required to be made on or before August 15 with the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI).

More information and a timeline on TWIA's annual rate filing process is available here.

Anyone wishing to provide public comment on TWIA rates or any other issue before the Board may email PublicComment@twia.org. TWIA will publish more information about the August 4 Board meeting and how individuals can participate in late July.

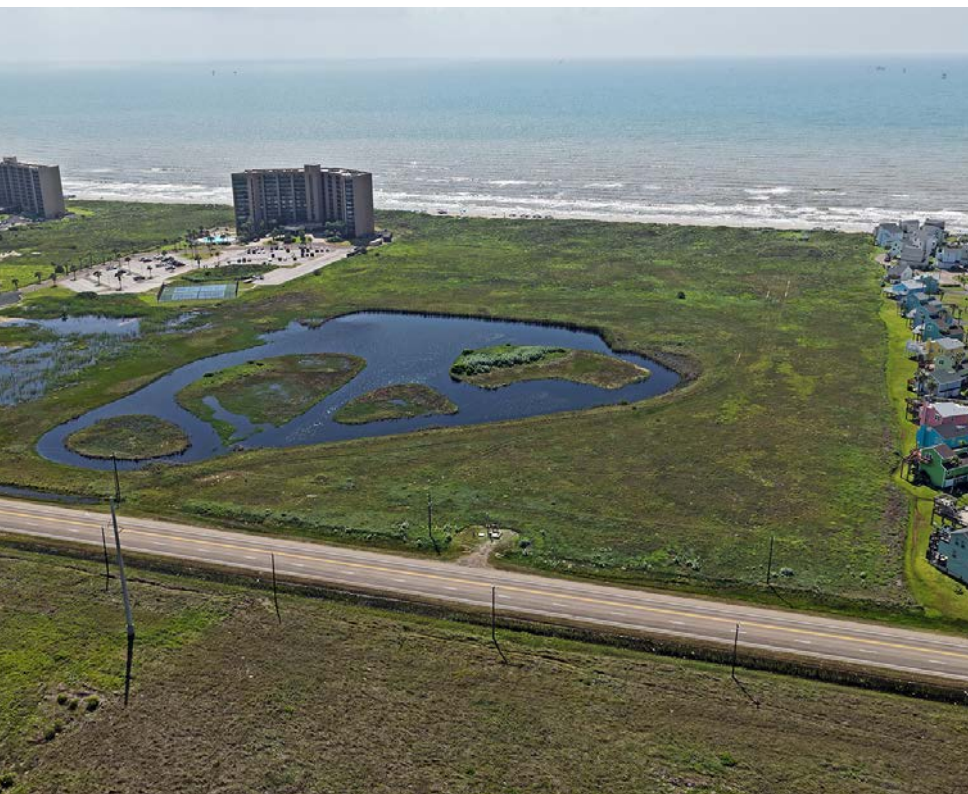
The meeting materials and archived recording for the Committee meeting are available on our Meeting Library page.

Best,
Aaron Taylor
Texas Windstorm Association

City documents show development plans that include 138 lots developed in a single phase consisting of 131 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 townhome lots that are at least 1,700 square feet in lot area. All have a reduced height restriction to under 35 feet. 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.

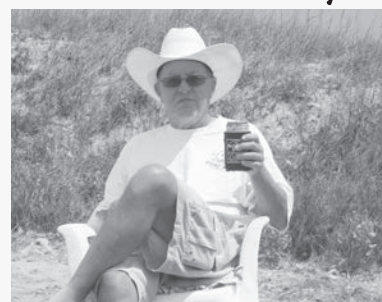
County tax records show the property owned by San Antonio-based Coastal Dunes, LLC, and valued for taxes at \$451,608. The zoning approved by the council this week is for a PUD allowing for multifamily apartments.

No timeline for development on any of the three properties was listed.



The Coastal Dunes LLC Property on Hwy 361. Aerial by Augs

Moon Monkeys



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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

Once upon a time ownership of local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations was local. When I started work at KIII television in 2000 all three local television affiliates were under local ownership, now all are owned by large chains. The same is true for the *Caller-Times* which for decades was owned by Harte-Hanks Communications which was Texas based and who I worked for twice, once at the *San Angelo Standard-Times* and once at KENS Television in San Antonio where it was based at the time and where at one time it owned the *San Antonio Express-News*.

The trend toward local ownership was tied to requirements by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which prohibited the ownership of a daily newspaper and local television license by a single owner in a market, and more than a single radio station which kept ownership of media properties in local hands. Without getting too far in the weeds, that rule was eliminated and the result is the much lamented change in local programming and print content we see in Corpus Christi today.

National television networks were allowed to own up to five local stations which they concentrated in the top five markets where the audience and money were. There were large ownership groups in Texas in both television and radio but each provided local content generated from local newsrooms with each station taking on the personality of its respective city. But that all changed and now a national chain can own television stations that cover up to 39% of the national market, a number which is currently under consideration for elimination.

In print, television, and radio there is an economic incentive to chase economies of scale for cost savings that go right to the bottom line. As digital formats have crowded the traditional market especially in less experienced reporters on local news broadcasts and that trend is exacerbated in small markets like Corpus Christi which sits at the 130th largest market between La Crosse-Eau Claire (that's in Wisconsin) and Salisbury (which is in Delaware). There are a total of 210 Designated Market Areas (DMAs) across the country, Dallas-Fort Worth is #4, Houston is #6, San Antonio is #31, Austin is #34, Waco is #83, Lubbock is #140, Odessa-Midland is #144.

Many of the reporters we see on local stations don't stay long as they get experience and move to larger markets, usually in the same ownership chain. The Assignment Editors that once were holders of local knowledge have been mostly eliminated. Reporters now get many, if not most, of their story ideas from Facebook or from local publications like the *Island Moon*. Notice how many stories on local news stations on Thursday and Friday match those in that week's edition of the *Moon*. Both KIII and KRIS do an admirable job of trying to stay on top of local government doings but the *Caller-Times* has pretty much thrown in the towel on that score. The result of the changes is that the watchdog role of local media is gone and has shifted to social media where unedited content runs amok and in fact, in some cases social media outlets operate as shakedown operations where public officials pay for their silence.

By the numbers

Changes in Nueces County Population 2025

The Texas Demographic Center this week released final numbers for population change in Nueces County in 2025.

List of attributes and values

Population Estimates, 2025	352,992
Population Estimates, 2024	352,925
Population_Change, 2024 - 2025	67
Natural Change, 2024 - 2025	880
Net Migration, 2024 - 2025	-838

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The Port A Cookbook



By Chris Jordan

The Root of Some Evil

When I was growing up in the Texas Hill Country, we'd forage a few of the many wild edible plants that could be found there. I specifically remember gathering prickly pears, mustang grapes, agarita, sumac, dewberries, mulberries, persimmons, pecans, bull nettle seeds, watercress, mint, purslane, cattail shoots, chile tepin, and wild onion. My interest in, knowledge of, and pursuit of these wild foods was cultivated by my maternal grandmother. Mum—as all us grandkids called her—often asserted she had missed her calling as a pioneer woman and should have been born a few decades earlier. She managed a damn fine impersonation anyway, having been born into the modern world of 1908.

The ripening fruit of mustang grapes, mulberries, and persimmons could be smelled in passing, which often alerted us to their presence. In the case of mulberries and mustang grapes, there was climbing involved. One summer in New Braunfels, when we had just started summer vacation, my little sister and I climbed a mulberry tree and didn't come down until we had stuffed ourselves sick with fully ripe, purple-black berries. Mustang grapes, on the other hand, didn't ripen until very late summer and there was absolutely no eating them raw. Even fully ripened, they were too tannic, acidic, and generally bitter. But if one were up to the trouble and had plenty of sugar on-hand, jam, jelly, or wine could be made with them. The native persimmons are smaller than a ping pong ball and delicious when fully ripe. They would remind you of a plum. They only ripen on the tree, so you wait. Once picked, something had to be done with them in a hurry. The usual methods of preservation were common: jams, jellies, wine, cordials, and Texas persimmons could even be dried successfully. The only other way I ever ate them besides raw or preserved was in a fruitcake type of thing that was misnomered "persimmon pudding."

Natural defenses

Agarita has pointy leaves like holly. Dewberry has thorns like its cousin the blackberry. And we're all familiar with the defenses of the prickly pear cactus. However, bull nettle is in a class of its own and may not be worth the three seeds one can harvest from each pod. My first memories of it are neither culinary nor pleasant. Ironically, I was traversing a pasture that contained a few cows and exactly one bull. The pasture was just about grazed to the nub and I was glad because it meant one of my favorite shortcuts would be considerably less dangerous once the cattle were moved. Except for the occasional stone, I didn't need to watch where I was walking and could keep an eye on that bull. He had a well-deserved bad reputation, plenty of priors, and already one dust-up with yours truly that left me with a few barbed wire cuts in my efforts to avoid a proper goring. On this day, I was almost safely across this otherwise barren pasture when I stumbled into a patch of Texas bull nettle. That patch of nettle was the only thing uneaten in the entire pasture. The cows knew better. The bull knew better, too, and opted not to charge me.

This damned plant seems to have been put on the earth for no reason other than to inflict pain upon other lifeforms. And that pain comes fast and hard. No nettle encounter could have been worse than this one. I was in shorts, of course, and the fact that I was barefoot and shirtless as well is really no surprise because that was S.O.P. for me as a kid. The thing is, each of the thousands of hairs on bull nettle is like a miniature hypodermic needle that injects histamine for the swelling and redness, acetylcholine for the burning, and—in an over-the-top cruelty that seems beyond the purview of mother nature—the neurotransmitter serotonin to amplify the unpleasantness of it all. The worst of it was over in less than an hour and I was left with only some welts and the conclusion that getting gored by a bull might have been the preferable outcome.

Watercress

Most of my time outdoors was spent hiking and exploring—often around springs, creeks, and rivers. I was a rockhound as well, and those were the places you'd find the good stuff. Fossils, too. But also some forage-worthy plants. Watercress grows in spring water proper and is easy to spot.



True scallions from the author's garden - weeks old, months old, and years old.

That stuff is so delicate, you'd better count it as washed by the spring where you found it. Better put it in a salad forthwith, lest it spoil right in front of your eyes. And don't even apply dressing until it's en route to your mouth for the same reason.

Wild mint

Wild mint grows near the water and I would often be alerted to its presence by smell. Compared to the various domestic mints, wild mint is—um—more untamed. It is pungent, with more menthol that makes it lean into peppermint territory. It was fun to find and often grew in dense rhizomatous colonies. We didn't need to harvest much to kick a jug of sun tea up a notch.

Wild onions

Wild onions, too, grow close to water, and like mint, their smell would lead me to locate the plants from which it emanated. Where you found one, you often found many. Talk about being more pungent than their domesticated cousins—whew, boy! Wild onions are strong. Too strong to eat raw so we always cooked them. Anyone brave enough to deviate from the cooking program was invariably rewarded with a bellyache.

And this brings me to a recent onion-related experience. The other day I ran across an Instagram video produced by one of the shops I've bought an artisanal Japanese knife from. The video featured a chef demonstrating his knife skills chopping green onions with—you guessed it—an artisanal Japanese knife. Whoever does the social media for the shop posted this initial question in the comments: "Do you call them green onions or scallions?" What a great way to start a conversation and drive social media interaction! I responded with "News flash: green onions and scallions are two different alliums." My comment was an incontrovertible fact, but it nonetheless ignited a fierce debate.

The widespread conflation of the two lies in their nearly identical appearance. And trust me, you have most likely never eaten a scallion.

The ubiquitous white onion is one of several varieties called 'storage' onions by the onion people. They are cured to develop that dry skin that gives them a shelf-life up to four months. This distinguishes them from 'sweet' onions that have higher water content and less sulphur—such as vidalias—rendering them less viable for storage. It is the plain ol' white onion that can be harvested as an adolescent with a small bulb, scapes intact, and sold fresh as a 'spring onion'. But it can also be harvested even earlier, when it has formed only a little or no bulb at all, and sold as 'green onions'—and that's what you buy in the grocery store. Here's the problem: since the two are stinky little fraternal twinkies, people tend to use the terms interchangeably.

Bottom line: scallions (*Allium fistulosum*) and green onions (*Allium cepa*) are different species. Scallions have a subtler, yet more complex taste. Furthermore, unlike the common white onion, scallions will never form a bulb and are capable of reproducing by clonal division (as well as by seed)—whereas the common white onion can only be grown from seed. In the end, green onions are just poor little tots that were denied the opportunity to grow up.

History cont. from A1

to order the evacuation of major cities after the unnecessary evacuation of Houston during Hurricane Rita later in 2005 costing millions of dollars and jamming freeways. On Padre Island residents boarded windows and wrestled with a decision on whether to run or hide. At the heart of the decision was the familiar adage to hide from wind and run from water, Alex looked to be more of a water-driven storm and was making its way across water that had recently been the site of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

The highest winds recorded by June 30 were 51 mph but of most concern to Padre Islanders was a storm surge of four feet and with the eye headed for Baffin Bay the dirty, northeast side of the storm would bring the highest water to the north end of Padre Island. The storm also was producing up to nine inches of rain and as the storm made landfall over the next few days dumped up to a foot of rain in same locations along the coast.

In the end Mexico took the brunt of Alex as the storm became a Category 2 Hurricane as it turned south but still brought heavy rain, high tides, and a series of tornados which moved across parts of Padre Island damaging buildings as far inland as Beeville. A number of funnel clouds touched down in the area between North Padre Island and Brownsville. Peak winds on The Island reached just over 60 mph but Padre Island got heavy rain and enough wind to damage structures.

But the 2010 Hurricane Season turned out to be the most active since 2005 with Alex being the first June hurricane since Allison in 1995. Padre Island took a glancing blow from Tropical Storm Hermine late in the season which remained active into early November with two storm names being retired by the World Meteorological Organization due to their strength.

Hurricane Alex also marked the end of a long series of storms which arrived in the Coastal Bend late in the season but early in the alphabet, Carla (September 1961), Beulah in (September 1967), Celia – the Big One – (August 1970), and Allen (August 1980). The pattern had begun to change when Hurricane Ike struck Padre Island in September 2008 pushing water to the top of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall and continued in 2026 when Arthur, the first named storm of the season formed over Falfurrias.

The Corpus Christi office of the National Weather Service predicts that the 2026 season will get less active as the summer wears on due to the formation of an El Nino pattern in the Pacific Ocean which tends to produce wind shear in the Atlantic Ocean which works to reduce the number and severity of storms.

But sixteen years ago this week The Island held its breath as we played chicken with the storm called Alex.



Hurricane Alex sent high tides to Bob Hall Pier



Hurricane Alex storm track courtesy of accuweather.com



Hurricane Alex destroyed a few lifeguard stands

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The Art of Island Life

By Melissa Mitchell



The Stories on Our Walls



Mirrors reflecting light, artwork, & expanding the space

One of my favorite conversations in the gallery usually begins with the same question. "I love this piece... but will it work in my home?"

It's a fair question. But before we talk about color palettes, scale, or hanging height, I think it's important to talk about something else.

Connection.

Just recently, a couple stopped by the gallery to visit. They reminded me that they had purchased one of my mixed media blue heron pieces a couple of years ago. Since then, I've had several people come into the gallery hoping to purchase that artwork, only to discover it had already found its home. While I've recreated the image on cards and notebooks, they alone own the original.

When I shared that story, they laughed and immediately replied, "We don't want to sell it."

The artwork includes layers of vintage papers and fragments of history woven throughout the composition, and they enjoy sharing those details with visitors. The painting has become more than something hanging on a wall. It has become part of their memories and conversations.

The moment they both saw it, they knew.

Not because it matched the furniture.

Not because it fit a decorating trend.

Simply because it spoke to them.

I think that's one of the most overlooked aspects of selecting artwork. While good design principles certainly matter, the pieces we treasure most are often the ones that create an immediate connection. Something about the subject, the colors, the memories it evokes, or the story behind it resonates with us.

Choosing artwork isn't just about finding something beautiful. It's about creating a space that feels balanced, inviting, and uniquely yours. Professional designers don't necessarily choose the most expensive artwork or follow the latest trends. They think about how each piece contributes to the feeling of a room and how it works with the story already being told within the space.

Fortunately, anyone can do the same.

Before considering colors, sizes, or styles, ask yourself one simple question:

How do I want this room to feel?

Calm?

Bright and energetic?

Cozy?

Sophisticated?

Artwork often establishes the emotional tone long before we notice the furniture or accessories surrounding it. Once you identify the mood you're hoping to create, selecting artwork becomes much easier.

Creating Harmony

Over the years, I've noticed that many people spend a great deal of energy trying to make everything match perfectly. A room filled with soft blues, for example, can come alive with a few touches of warm orange or coral in a pillow, vase, or floral arrangement. Colors positioned opposite one another on the color wheel often work beautifully together, creating interest and

balance without feeling forced.

Artwork often becomes the bridge that ties those colors together naturally. I've also learned that scale matters more than many people realize. When someone brings a painting home and it doesn't quite feel right, size is often the reason.

As a general guideline, artwork above a standard sofa should occupy roughly two-thirds to three-fourths of the sofa's width. For an average sofa, that often translates to an arrangement somewhere between 56 and 63 inches wide.

Of course, a single large statement piece isn't the only option. For an even more personal collage display, artwork can be combined with family photographs, travel memories, a decorative mirror, or even a wall sculpture surrounded by an open frame, creating a gallery wall.

I've seen beautiful arrangements that incorporate children's artwork in antique frames along with family heirlooms collected over the years. When displayed with intention, those pieces can work together beautifully. My daughter, for example, loves collecting wildlife photography by David Sikes. Over time, she has gathered several of his images and arranged them together above her sofa. Individually, each photograph tells its own story. Together, they create a focal point that reflects her love of nature.

Gallery walls are often my favorite because they create opportunities for connection and conversation.

Bringing It All Together

Placement can make just as much difference as size.

In most homes, artwork and mirrors feel most natural when displayed near eye level. Beyond reflecting our image, mirrors can make a space feel larger while reflecting light, views, artwork, and the details we enjoy most. I often encourage people to think about what a mirror will reflect before deciding where to hang it. A beautiful view, a favorite painting, fresh flowers, or even changing sunlight can become part of the design.

One of my favorite mirrors was purchased on a trip from a small shop in Hot Springs, Arkansas. I fell in love with it immediately. Getting that six-foot, carved-wood mirror home turned out to be quite an adventure, eventually involving a weekend road trip, a rental truck, and a little help from my son and his family. Years later, it still hangs on my wall, carrying memories that extend far beyond its reflection.

Over the years, I've helped people choose artwork for beach cottages, family homes, vacation rentals, offices, and everything in between. No two collections have ever looked alike. That's exactly as it should be. The most beautiful homes aren't designed around perfection or trends.

They're built around stories that become a reflection of the people who call that place home.

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

We all deserve a nice break...

Summer is in full swing here on the Sandbar, and the beaches are packed and there is lots of fishing going on.

Coach Elwood from FBISD has had family in town and has been taking the kids fishing in the evenings. They have a hot spot somewhere (no, they won't invite me or tell me where it's at for obvious reasons) and they have been catching a good mixed bag of fish this past week. Wherever it is, they are pulling up in the truck and wading out to about waist deep and throwing dead shrimp on the bottom. That takes me back to the days when we first moved here to Texas in the early 1980's, and fishing was always pretty good just off the side of the JFK Causeway doing the same thing. The youngest at 11, Brynlee, has really taken to wade fishing and has been putting some great fish on the stringer. Goes to show, you gotta get out there and give it a shot if you want to catch fish!



Brynlee Elwood with a nice redfish

Beach access road goes away

My morbid curiosity got the best of me the other day, and I looked on the city council agenda for what all they were going to cover. No, I'm not going to write about water. One of the decisions that they took up was to actually remove a planned beach access road from the Roadway Master Plan. This beach access was supposed to be just south of the Twin Towers (Seagull and Sandpiper) on Mustang Island. There must be some ulterior motive for this, because it typically take two decades to get a beach access road platted, and another two decades to get it built around here. Why would you remove a potential road before another one is built? We are supposed to get Beach Access Road 3 from Bond 2020 built about a half mile south of that, but it's been stalled for almost two years. This begs questions as to why there was opposition; I'm thinking it was misguided. In addition, why would you remove a potential road as it could be made a private drive to the beach? That would be

a heck of a marketing tool. I'm scratching my head why folks would put so much time and money into actually removing a platted beach access road. We'll never get it back.

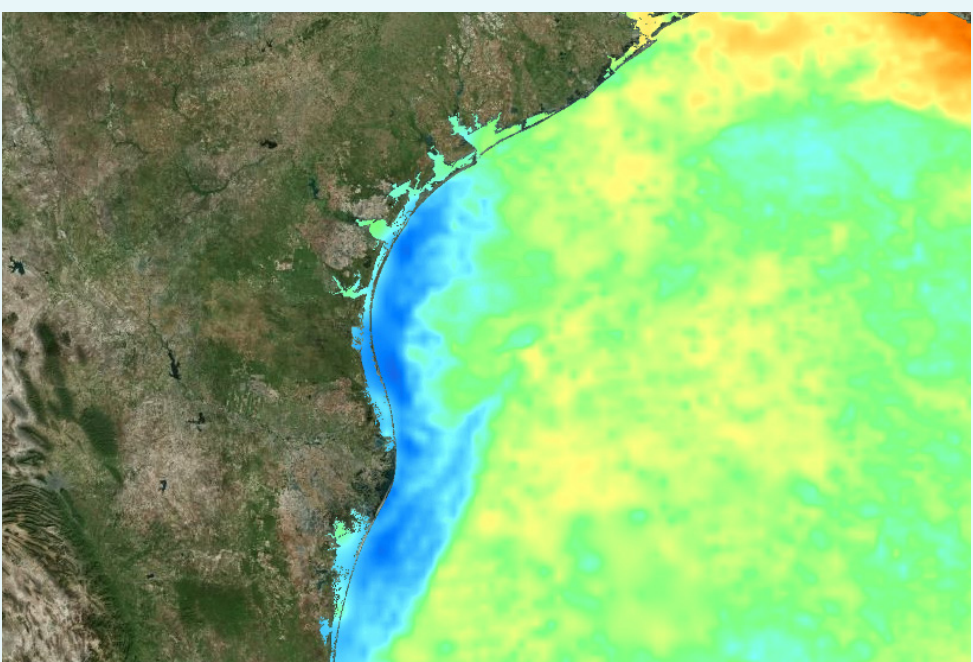
The brown menace and dropping water temps

The sargassum forecast continues to be hit or miss, but still running fairly light. Places like Belize, the Mayan Riviera, and the Florida Keys continue to take the brunt of the brown menace. Not that I'm complaining, I haven't been to the beach in weeks anyway. What I'm keeping an eye on is the water temperature in the nearshore currents coming up from Mexico. The upwelling has started in earnest with our steady south-east winds. You can see direct evidence of the temperatures dropping if you get on the NOAA Tides and Currents site and look at the station information for physical oceanography at the South Padre Island station. The incoming tide there at the Coast Guard Station shows temperatures dropping from 84 on the outgoing tide to 78 on the incoming tide, which is that nearshore cooler water. It's headed our way, and even though it messes up the fishing some, it sure feels good to get out in the water and cool off.

ISAC cancelled for July

It's that time of season where everyone is traveling and it's hard to make quorum at meetings. The Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) scheduled for next week has been cancelled due to a few factors. The agenda was light anyway, the Encantada Ave. culverts was slated to be on there (again). I think we've beat the Seagate and Encantada culverts issue into the ground, it's time for action from the PIPOA. The funding for the culverts in the street portion of the project was available in the Island Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone #2 (TIRZ #2) at this time last year but got swept into the Michael J. Ellis Seawall fund. Arguably, the TIRZ #2 funds being spent on the Seawall will protect many more properties landward of the gulf from storm surges than the Encantada culverts would have, but lo and behold, the city recently identified another funding source for Encantada. So the project is back on except for, you guessed it, dredging the canals. Full circle and still waiting yet again.

Well folks, that's going to wrap this edition up. This weekend's celebration of our nation's 250th or semiquincentennial commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Simply put, the dogs will be hiding under the furniture as we have the Mother-of-All Island Blasts this weekend. Y'all be safe on the water, keep all your fingers, drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Cold water upwelling from Ripcharts.

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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

The Flags Fly



For hundreds of years people have traveled to Padre Island seasonally to bond with the Sea, and harvest eats from it. Ancients believed that if they brought their loved ones here that they could travel back and connect with them as the sun opened and closed the day at the water's edge. This is still true, all of it. This weekend we welcome many footprints upon the sand in celebration of our Nation's 250th Birthday! More importantly to celebrate all that have sacrificed, lived, and built our freedom. So while you are on the beach or having the best fishing trip of your life, look at those beautiful flags and remember to never take our freedom for granted.

MONSTER TROUT FRENZY!!
In the last three weeks we have boated an incredible amount of giant trophy trout on lures in the Laguna Madre! A combination of factors are to thank for this unbelievable run of over twenty trout over 28" in just a few weeks, and many more between 25-27". Higher water temps and diminishing tides have moved mature trout out from the far back bays and out towards the tidal areas that offer cooler water, as well as lots of varied bait sources that are on a migration themselves.

The last spring trout spawn just passed with our big full moon this week. Trout populations will take a break from spawning in most areas because of the extreme heat and have another spawn in the fall. With these factors I focused in on some really giant trout that were in shallow gravel pockets, surrounded by thick grass. The next few weeks will find great trout action up shallow along shorelines and spoil areas at dawn, but the heat will quickly shut them off from feeding by mid morning. Move mid day to deeper drop offs and corner edges of channels, canals, and deep grass lines where tide and deep water will hold cool and shaded cover. Scan through some of my posts on Facebook to see the long list of giant trout we boated this last month mostly all on DOWN SOUTH LURES Soft plastics from the boat.

The Jetty and Beach fishing is great right now with fishermen catching lots of small sharks, jackfish, whiting, and trout. When we get clean conditions and green water look for everything to live in close to the beach at high tide. Dawn and dusk are prime for lures like spoons, topwaters, and heavy weighted 1/4-1/2oz jigs with soft plastics. Use a 40-60lb mono leader so that mackerel and such do not break your line. Grab some dead shrimp, or FISHBITES and fish the first two guts of the surf for lots of whiting! This is easy and fun fishing with no size or bag limit on the whiting, and very good to eat.

The back side of Mustang Island is a great place to wade into some great fishing. Keep it simple with a few lures or soft plastics under a cork. Walking the shallow marshes between North Padre and Port Aransas, can open up unlimited free fishing zones. Watch out and don't get stuck! Cast netting live finger mullet and finding funnels coming out of the back sloughs will prove very effective for redfish.



Stan introduced his grandson to saltwater fishing this week, and watched him build skills and catch this magnificent True Trophy Trout on soft plastics.

JULY IS PRIME TIME TO HIT SUMMER REDFISH! We drift the shallow flats after hunting trout at dawn for schools or redfish in the clear waters of Baffin and the Laguna Madre. When the winds pick up the redfish turn on! When everyone is headed for the dock the best redfish on the day is just kicking in. Some folks wait until 10am to go out hunting for redfish. The slack winds make it just about impossible to catch reds from the boat. They are super sensitive to vibration and boat presence. With a stiff wind blowing anglers can slide across the flats undetected, casting DOWN SOUTH LURES BURNER SHADS on a 1/8-1/4 oz jig head with a quick retrieve over the endless carpet of grass. The vibration and movement will bring redfish hiding under the mat of grass up and charging your bait. Topwater plugs have also been intense when you can find a flat without floating grass. Sometimes I dance and skip a very light 1/16th oz jig head and strait tailed bait like the BIG SMOOTH by down south lures to imitate a skipping ballyhoo or needle fish on the surface to bring explosive topwater redfish strikes too.

This summer had a slow start with tourism but has filled the beach the last few weeks. Usually the crowds start to slow down and we enter the DOG DAYS OF SUMMER after July 4th. The weather patterns repeat every day, and folks kind of just get a bit easier going and chill. Take some advice and slow down to an Island Crawl, you will enjoy this sliver of sand a bit more at a slow pace GOD BLESS AMERICA! Follow all of our hookups on Facebook at JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING AND TICKTOK AT CAPTJOEYFARAH72!! [361-442-8145](tel:361-442-8145)

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Nature Notes

Flying Kites

A bird hovers as if tied to a string

By Celeste Silling



White-tailed Kite by Celeste Silling

Above a coastal prairie, a bird hovers as if tied to a string. This bird is called a Kite, named for the way it stays in place in the sky as it hunts for prey. Here in Texas, we have three main species of Kite: the Mississippi Kite, the Swallow-tailed Kite, and the White-tailed Kite. All three of these birds exhibit the kite-like flying behavior, and all three are gorgeous birds.

The Mississippi Kite is a small, gray raptor, with a sleek and angular silhouette in flight. Its face is quite distinct, with a dark red eye lined with black. They winter in South America and breed here in the U.S., including the Upper Texas Coast. I have seen them flying over Lake Jackson and Clute, and some even nest in trees in residential neighborhoods. They feed on insects, rodents, bats, small reptiles and other birds. While they do exhibit the kite-flying behavior while hunting, I have most often noticed them as they swoop to catch prey, sometimes even taking a nibble in midair.

The White-tailed Kite is a similar size to the Mississippi, but with white feathers instead of gray. It's wing-tips are dark in flight, and it looks very sleek and sophisticated (in my opinion) as it soars. Bright red eyes stand out starkly against white feathers, lined with black. These birds tend to prefer grasslands and marshes, and I see them most often along Bluewater Highway on Follet's Island. White-tailed Kites aren't migratory, unlike the Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites, so you can see them year-round here. I usually see them perched up, resting, or hovering in search of small mammals to eat.

Finally, the Swallow-tailed Kite is perhaps the most distinctive of the bunch. As you might guess, it has a long, forked tail that plays out beautifully in flight. Its body is white, like the White-tailed, but there's no

mistaking them with those tail feathers. Unlike the other two, the Swallow-tailed Kite has small dark eyes, which kind of remind me of those on a Beanie-baby. We don't see White-tailed Kites around the Upper Texas Coast much, but they travel through here during migration. They nest in the South-Eastern U.S., from Louisiana to Georgia, and winter in South America. If you want to see them here, keep an eye on the skies in the fall. I've seen them soaring overhead, along with Mississippi Kites over Lake Jackson.

I've been lucky enough to see several Kites the past few weeks, and I'm always happy when I spot them. Keep an eye on the sky and hopefully you'll see them too!



White-tailed Kite Photo from eBirdr

Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

Cuttlefish Bone

It's not actually a bone it is the internal shell of a cuttlefish



Jace with a cuttlefish bone

One of the highlights of this week's beachcombing survey was finding my very first cuttlebone washed up along the shoreline. Although it was broken at the upper end, there was still enough of it intact to immediately recognize what it was. After years of searching Texas beaches, I was excited to finally add this unusual find to my list.

Despite its name, a cuttlebone is not actually a bone. It is the internal shell of a cuttlefish, a marine animal related to squid and octopuses. Unlike the shells of clams and snails that are found on the outside of the animal, the cuttlebone is completely enclosed within the cuttlefish's body along its back.

The cuttlebone serves a remarkable purpose. It acts as a buoyancy-control device, allowing the cuttlefish to rise, sink, and hover effortlessly in the water. Inside the cuttlebone are hundreds of tiny chambers filled with gas and liquid. By adjusting the amount of liquid in these chambers, the cuttlefish can control its position in the water column much like a submarine uses ballast tanks.

When a cuttlefish dies, its soft body decomposes, leaving behind the lightweight cuttlebone. Because it is buoyant, the cuttlebone can float at sea before eventually washing

ashore. Most are white or cream-colored and have a chalky texture with a distinctive layered structure on the underside.

Cuttlebones are not commonly found on Texas beaches, making this discovery especially exciting. In fact, this was the first one I have encountered during my years of beachcombing. Their rarity along our coast adds to the thrill of finding one among the more familiar shells, driftwood, and marine debris.

Beyond the beach, cuttlebones have been used for centuries as calcium supplements for pet birds and even by jewelers for metal casting. For me, however, this cuttlebone represents something even more valuable, the excitement of discovering something new and unexpected on the beach.

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).



A cuttlefish bone washed up in the seaweed



AI generated cuttlefish and the cuttlefish bone.


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Island Real Estate Roundup

Apryl Noles

June Market picks Up



What a way to wrap up the month of June! The Padre Island real estate market finished strong, showing renewed momentum as we head further into the summer season.

In the detached home sector, we saw two homes go into the option period and eight homes close. The townhome sector had two properties move into the option period, while the condominium sector had two homes in the option period and one closed sale.

After a slight slowdown at the beginning of June, the market has picked up once again. Buyers remain active, and the strong finish to the month is an encouraging sign for the weeks ahead. If this trend continues, summer is shaping up to be a busy season on Padre Island.

Below you'll find the detailed statistics and properties featured in this week's report. Stay tuned for next week's update!

Detached Homes In Option Period:

- 13849 Hawksnest Bay Dr (Listed for \$587,111)
- 15705 Dyna St (Listed for \$519,900)

Detached Homes That Sold:

- 15525 Escapade St (Listed for \$309,900)
- 13633 Camino De Oro Ct (Listed for \$730,000)
- 13558 Carlos Fifth Ct (Listed for \$716,500)
- 13901 Eaglesnest Bay Dr (Listed for \$674,000)
- 15230 Isabella Ct (Listed for \$718,000)
- 13853 Topsail St (Listed for \$487,000)
- 16118 Broomsedge St (Listed for \$425,000)
- 13714 Captain Kidd Dr (Listed for \$365,000)

Condominiums In Option Period:

- 15425 Fortuna Bay Dr (Listed for \$227,500)
- 14721 Whitecap Blvd #193 (Listed for 158,000)

Condominium That Sold:

- 14300 South Padre Island Drive #207 (Listed for \$119,000)

Townhomes In Option Period:

- 15306 Bonasse Ct #20 (Listed for \$449,000)
- 14878 Granada Dr #103 (Listed for \$436,900)

Where Hurricanes Are Worse in an El Niño Year

A quieter Atlantic forecast does not mean the danger went away. It moved. NOAA declared El Niño officially present in June, and this one may strengthen into one of the most powerful on record. El Niño adds wind shear over the Atlantic and the Caribbean, which tears storms apart before they can organize. The same pattern does the opposite in the Pacific, where warmer water and calmer upper winds feed more storms and stronger ones. And El Niño is a global pattern, not a regional one. It reshapes rain and heat across continents, driving heavier rainfall and flooding in some parts of the world while leaving others in drought.

That is why the 2026 outlooks split the way they do. NOAA expects an above normal eastern Pacific season of 15 to 22 named storms, 9 to 14 hurricanes, and 5 to 9 major hurricanes, and a 70 percent chance of an above normal central Pacific season. El Niño

roughly doubles central Pacific activity, and the peak risk for Hawaii runs from August through October.

Closer to home, the risk is rain. El Niño tends to push wetter conditions across the Gulf Coast and the southern states. Fewer named storms in the Atlantic can still mean more rainfall, higher water tables, and flash flooding inland, far from any coastline. And it only takes one. Hurricane Andrew formed during an El Niño year and remains one of the most destructive storms ever to hit Florida.

The takeaway is simple. Whether you are protecting a property on the Gulf, a site in the Caribbean, or a facility in the Pacific, the safe move is the same. Have your barriers staged and your plan ready before the water rises.

Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken



American Christianity 250 years of independence! Wow! Let's hope we celebrate safely!

One of the refrains I hear often is that our country was founded as a Christian nation. However, this would come as a surprise to the signers of Declaration of Independence. It would also come as a surprise to the senators in office in 1797 that voted unanimously to approve the Treaty of Tripoli. Article 11 of that treaty explicitly stated that the United States was not founded on the Christian religion.

Yes, the signers of the Declaration were mostly Christians. However, their personal beliefs varied significantly. Many of those who are most vocal about Christian nationalism today would not recognize or even agree with the Christianity of many of those signers. Like today, there was not a monolithic Christian faith of 1776. Christianity in America has been diverse and splintered from the start.

Some historians have described the first 150 years of life in the colonies as a series of experiments in a Christian nationalist approach. In early Jamestown, the failure to observe the sabbath, after the third offense, was punishable by execution. Oh my! That would take care of the church attendance problems. The Puritans thought the best form of government was theocracy.

However, the Founding Fathers soundly rejected such an approach. In fact, historians have pointed out that 18th-century evangelicals were the driving force behind that rejection. They thought, along with James Madison, that such a marriage of church and state would fail. A Baptist petition noted that a state sanction of Christianity would lead to a church over-run with error and immorality.

In the years leading up to 1776, many Baptist pastors in Virginia were routinely jailed. James Madison fumed about the violence against the Baptists in a 1774 letter. He said, "That diabolical, hell-conceived principle of persecution rages." Anglicans (Episcopalians) reigned in those days in Virginia. Catholics were banned from voting in five of the colonies. Throughout this period the distinctive Black Christianity was also being birthed.

Part of being human is our need to remember. We need to know our place in a bigger story. We have a spiritual need to make sense of our own lives by glimpsing a larger history. However, sometimes, that remem-

bered history is an idealized form of what we want it to be.

Many signers had traditional Christian beliefs. John Witherspoon was a Presbyterian minister. Benjamin Rush was heavily involved in establishing early Sunday schools. However, some of the signers were Deists and Rationalists. These people identified as Christian, like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. However, they emphasized reason and natural law over church dogma. Jefferson famously created his own version of the New Testament that omitted references to miracles and the supernatural. Franklin questioned the divinity of Christ. John Adams rejected the doctrine of the Trinity.

This begs a question for me. If the United States was founded as a Christian nation, whose Christianity?

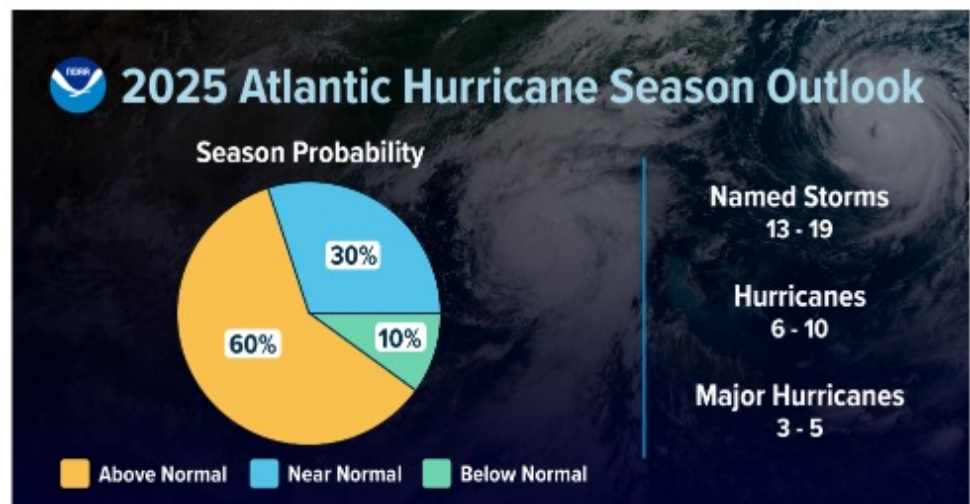
The Founders thought religion was profoundly important. However, they did not want the state to promote Christianity. They actually thought the best way to encourage Christianity was to keep the government away from it. I agree! Attempts to push the Christian Bible into public schools and the Christian nationalist movement are misguided and destined to fail.

One of the greatest strengths of our country is our diversity and pluralism. One of the greatest strengths of Christianity in our country is also its diversity. I think this something to celebrate!

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.

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Around cont. from A1

for a development that includes residential and commercial elements. North of Packery Channel a 14-acre site along Zahn Road has also been put on the market but seems much further down the line as far as development.

Crews also continue to extend utilities down SPID south of Whitecap Blvd. in anticipation of new development around the Sea Pines area and south. There are also some stirrings on a couple of large tracts which have yet to become public but development hereabouts is showing signs of life with more to come with the anticipated reopening of the Island canal system.

Island Zip Code

One thing The Island needs but does not have is its own Zip Code. We can say that the permanent population of Padre Island is about 10,000 souls but more detailed demographic information is difficult to come by since U.S. Census data is compiled by Zip Code and The Island Zip Code includes areas located OTB. We have District 34 U.S. Congressman Vicente Gonzalez coming on the *Island Moon Live* radio show on July 9 and will ask him about it, as we did for the other candidate in the race Eric Flores some weeks ago.



Packery Channel and the Gulfshores Joint Venture Land

After January, 2027 Padre Island will no longer be in the district of our current Congressman Michael Cloud and will be represented in Washington by either Gonzalez or Flores in District 34 due to recent redrawing of district lines. If Moon readers have questions for either Gonzalez or Flores email them to editor@islandmoon.com and we will get them answered.

Island Moon website

The new Islandmoon.com website is almost ready for launch and will include access to thirty years of Island Moon archives. A lot has happened *Around The Island* since 1996 and it is all in the old issues of the Moon so stay tuned.

July 4

It is the 4th of July folks and that means it's time for some fire in the sky courtesy of the Island Blast Fireworks show. It kicks off at sunset on Saturday, just look west and you can't miss it. We want to thank Nick Colosi and all the Islanders who donated to make the show happen.

We'll see you there and in the meantime say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

1. Chubby love child
5. Diamond rubber?
9. Take a shine to?
14. Margot Fonteyn, among others
15. Sport for mallet-swingers
16. Ceremonial garments
17. Blue-white element
18. A snap
19. Kind of angle
20. Mexican revolutionary
23. Proves troublesome
24. Favorite
25. It features fast service
28. Plate cleaner
30. Existence, to Caesar
34. Fugard's "A Lesson From ___"
35. First name of a famed plane
37. Weigh station figure
38. Follies were his specialty
41. Flatfoot's badge material
42. Calcutta wraps
43. Martini addition
44. Visionist
46. Beer source
47. Went on and on ...
48. Play subdivision
50. Some neck pieces
51. Bebopper extraordinaire
58. Mellifluous Mario
59. Sea of Kazakhstan
60. MacLaine role
61. Inspire wrath
62. Court defense
63. Handy to
64. Hoe target
65. "60 Minutes" name
66. Pep rally sites, often

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

Down

1. Lumberjack's tool
2. Incapacitate
3. Front of a bus?
4. Easy chair
5. Vocalizes
6. Shark's concerns
7. To boot
8. "___ N the Hood" (1991)
9. Soda selection
10. Put in place
11. Juxtapose
12. Salonikan's sixth letter
13. Japan closing
21. Van Gogh opus
22. It's big in NYC
25. White House residents, 1909-13
26. Jock Ewing's wife
27. "There's ___ here but us chickens!"
28. Expand, as a compressed file
29. Juillet et Mai
31. Pilsner holder
32. Puzzlers do it!
33. Drew to a close
35. Book before Nehemiah
36. Greek gathering places
39. Dressed to the nines
40. Brushing partner
45. Made fun of
47. First Lady Madison
49. Bygone leaders
50. Lacking a kick
51. Jutland citizen
52. "Picnic" creator
53. Strip in the Middle East
54. Monopoly token
55. Hares, to hounds
56. Prayer leader in a mosque
57. Where to find anvils
58. Legal field

Turtle Nest Count

On 28 June, 1 Kemp's ridley and 1 green turtle nest were located in Texas on North Padre Island at Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS).

On 27 June, 1 Kemp's ridley nest was located on South Padre Island and 1 green turtle nest was located on North Padre Island at PAIS.

On 26 June, 1 Kemp's ridley and 2 green turtle nests were located on North Padre Island at PAIS.

On 25 June, 2 Kemp's ridley nests were located including one on South Padre Island and one on Boca Chica Beach.

Including these, the total numbers of nests found in Texas this year, by species and area, are updated below.

Kemp's Ridley

So far this year, **628** Kemp's ridley nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast, exceeding the previous annual record of 449 nests, set in 2025. Consistent nest record keeping began in 1980.

The 628 nests found this year include (north to south in state):

- 5 Galveston Island
- 2 Surfside Beach
- 1 Brazoria County, N. of Sargent Beach
- 1 Matagorda Peninsula
- 14 San Jose Island
- 39 Mustang Island
- 347 North Padre Island, including 314 at Padre Island National Seashore
- 176 South Padre Island
- 43 Boca Chica Beach



Green Turtles

So far this year, **13** nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast, including (north to south in state):

- 12 North Padre Island, including 10 at Padre Island National Seashore
- 1 South Padre Island

Loggerheads

So far this year, **4** nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast, including (north to south in state):

- 3 North Padre Island, including 3 at Padre Island National Seashore
- 1 Boca Chica Beach

Moon Classifieds #1159

Here's how to place a Classified Ad

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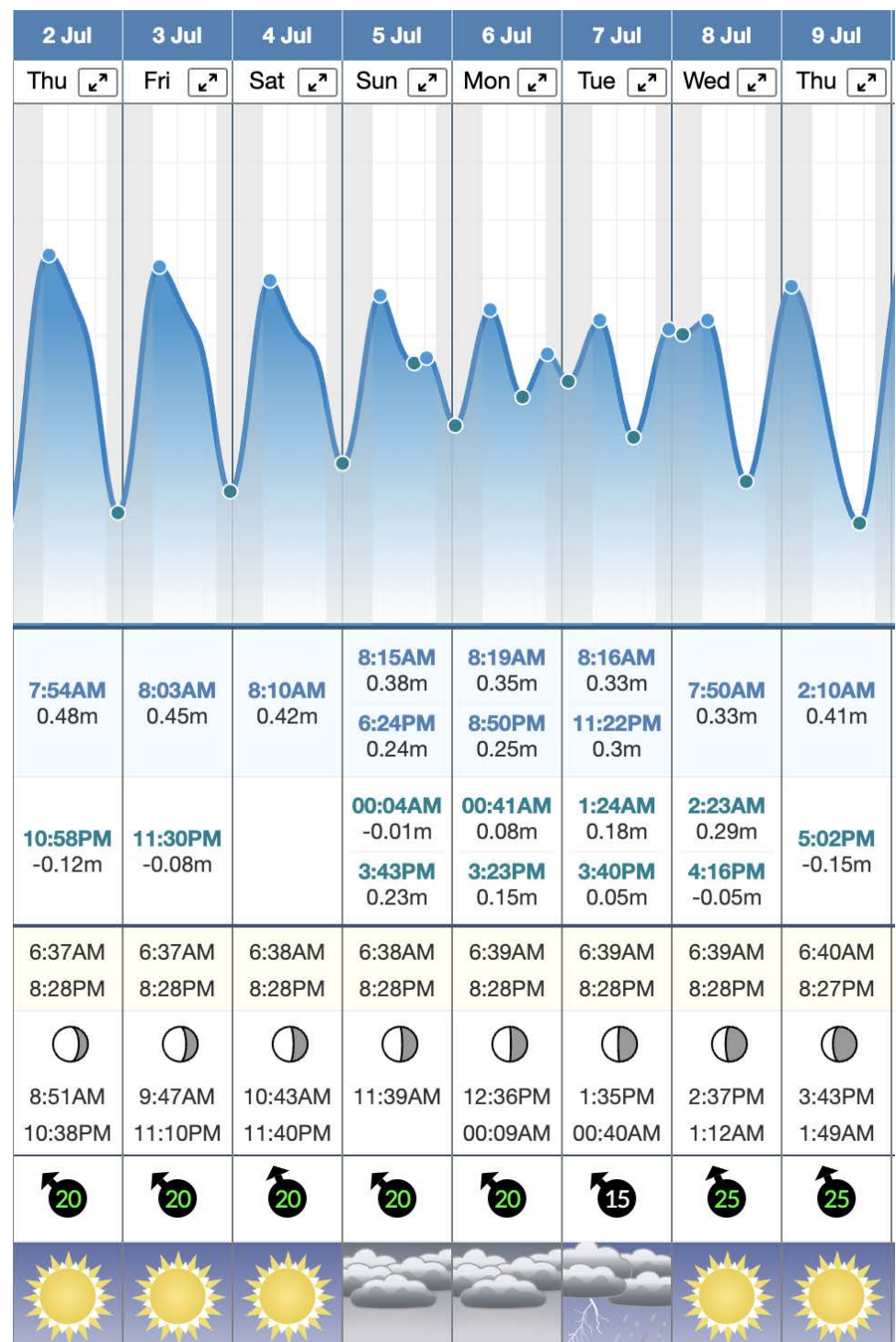
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The beach was full by eight o'clock Saturday morning.

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Marty Marion Baseball Player Part 3

Dotson's Note: Marion, though only 29, was worrying about his future. His chronic back problems had become so painful that the team's trainer, Harrison "Doc" Weaver, roomed with him on the road to give him treatment. Marion called the Doc "probably the best friend I ever had in baseball." Weaver, who had played tackle on coach Branch Rickey's Ohio Wesleyan football team 40 years earlier, was old enough to be thinking of retirement. He and Marion began talking about a pension plan for ballplayers.



Neither man knew an actuarial table from a pool table, but they crafted a detailed proposal. "I discussed the pension plan with Doc Weaver at great lengths most every day," Marion wrote, "and as I would talk Doc would put it down on paper."

National League player representatives chose Marion, [Dixie Walker](#), and [Billy Herman](#) as their delegates to the August meeting with owners. The player reps from both leagues asked for, among other things, a guaranteed minimum salary; an expense allowance for spring training (their paychecks didn't start until Opening Day); expanded postseason barnstorming, an important source of extra income; and a pension plan.

The owners, likely stifling smug smiles of relief, granted most of these modest requests, too modest to be called demands. The sports-writer Red Smith scoffed that the owners were "tossing the help a bone" and ridiculed players who thought they were getting steak.

The player reps didn't raise the issue of the reserve clause that prohibited them from playing for the team of their choice. Marion said later, "We didn't think baseball could operate without the reserve clause." They also knew that troublemakers could be released or demoted to the minors with no right of appeal. But the package of changes, meager as they were, added up to the greatest concession by owners in the history of professional baseball.

After actuaries ran the numbers, owners and players adopted a pension plan that provided \$50 a month at age 50 for a player who had spent five years in the majors and \$100 for a 10-year man. (Those who waited until they were older got bigger checks.) The plan was funded by contributions from players and owners plus a share of broadcasting rights fees for the All-Star Game and World Series. That was very close to Marion's original proposal.

The pension became the players' prize benefit and a continuing source of friction with the owners. Twenty years later, when [Marvin Miller](#) was elected executive director of the Players Association, he found that the pension plan was the members' number one concern. As big TV money swelled the fund, the ballplayers' pension grew to be the most generous outside of a corporate executive

suite, although latter-day players refused to share the increases with those of Marion's generation who had laid the foundation.

On the field, there was a pennant to be won. The 1946 National League race, again featuring the Cardinals and Dodgers, ended in a tie for the first time. St. Louis won two straight games to take the best-of-three playoff and defeated the Red Sox in the World Series for the Cards' third championship in five years. In Marion's later years, when anyone asked him how it felt to win a World Series, he would say, "Just like Christmas."

Marion faced a challenge off the field during the World Series. Several of the Red Sox didn't want to give up a portion of their Series money to seed the new pension fund. Marion went into the opposing team's clubhouse to try to persuade them to go along. Boston owner [Tom Yawkey](#) won the day by pledging to reimburse any player who felt shortchanged.

Another outsider roiled baseball in 1947. The arrival of Jackie Robinson thrust Marion and his teammates into the role of racist villains in the integration drama. The *New York Herald Tribune* reported that some of the Cardinals had planned to strike rather than play against Robinson and the Dodgers but backed off after NL president [Ford Frick](#) threatened to suspend them. While the *Tribune* writer, Stanley Woodward, named no names, he blamed the team's many southerners – "boys from the Hookworm Belt" – for fomenting a strike.

Other writers have fingered Enos Slaughter, [Terry Moore](#), [Harry Walker](#), and Marion as possible ringleaders. In the decades since, every Cardinal who was asked has denied that there was a plot to strike, although several acknowledged some angry talk. There is no hard evidence that any plot existed.

Marion always insisted he knew nothing of a strike threat: "I never heard such a stupid thing in my life." A few years later Robinson himself wrote that Marion "was always nice to me." He remembered one incident when he slid hard into Marion and the shortstop helped him up and asked if he was okay.

St. Louis reeled off three straight second-place finishes from 1947-1949, coming within one game of the pennant in '49. But the Swifties were aging, and the farm system was no longer churning out quality replacements. They dropped to fifth in 1950. Marion suffered torn cartilage in his right knee during spring training and played only 106 games. The injury effectively ended his career at 33, bringing the reign of Mr. Shortstop to a premature close.

Manager [Eddie Dyer](#) was forced out, and the club's new owner, [Fred Saigh](#), named Marion to replace him. Some of the players thought the job should have gone to Terry Moore, their former captain who was now a coach. Marion had impressed Saigh, just as he had won Sam Breadon's respect, with his personality and intelligence.

Dotson's Other Note: The 1951 Cardinals were dragged down by injuries and a flu outbreak that tore through the clubhouse. Marion, after knee surgery, couldn't play at all. His team finished 81-73, in third place but 15 1/2 games behind the Giants, who won the pennant with "The Shot Heard 'Round the World." Marion riled Saigh by spending his days off with his family and business interests instead of talking to the owner about how to improve the club. Saigh fired him at the end of the season, citing poor communication.

To Be Continued

Bob Hall cont. from A1

Adler also said the pier will be closed for about two days in early July for the installation of lighting.

Access to the pier by vehicles has become difficult due to deep beach sand on both sides of the approach to the pier and Adler said work on a paved roadway is expected to begin within the next two weeks.

The pier will be closed on Thursday, July 9 for the installation of lighting.

Work on the 5000 square-foot restaurant structure at the pier continues, Adler said he expected Requests for Proposals from po-

tential operators of the restaurant operation are currently under review by county attorneys and are expected to be issued within the next month followed by a 30-45 day period for submission of application by potential operators. The restaurant facility is expected to be open by Spring Break 2027.

A paved parking lot is planned for the pier in order to meet requirements by the City of Corpus Christi for access by emergency vehicles and for ADA parking but will be considerably reduced in size from the previous lot due to a narrowing of the beach due to erosion.



Deep sand has made it difficult to travel between Bob Hall Pier and Billy Sandifer Way.

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
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Happy 4th yall...



Flippin burgers on the Fourth of July.

Hot enough for ya? In my humble opinion, it's hotter than the hinges on the gates of Hell. It's hotter than a blister bug in a pepper patch. It's so hot chickens are laying hard boiled eggs. You get the picture. It's hotter than Georgia asphalt on the Fourth of July!!! Which could only mean one thing boys and girls... we are smack dab in the middle of summer in steamy south Texas. The mosquitoes are maintaining a strong presence being the blood sucking little parasites that they are. Speaking of which, our 100 day Summer Tourist Season is in full swing. The traffic is predictably heavy and the ferry lines are ridiculous on the weekends. The short term rental owners are making fortunes right now as are the restaurants around town. Just remember that old island saying, "make your money in the summer and save it for the winter"...although our Winter Texan population does get bigger each year. Our beaches are packed and the weather's been sporadically good. Our grocery store, the souvenir shops, liquor stores and lodges are all raking it in. It seems all the dots are connecting nicely. The Fourth of July is here and all the live music venues are ready to do this thing. The Island Moon is hitting on all cylinders with the new You Tube channel and my Mermaid Gal is doing great with her new job at TAMCC! I joined her and her boss Jace conducting educational presentations at Newport Beach last week. Me and my Mermaid Gal live within spitting distance of the Port A fireworks display which is done off a barge in the channel at Roberts Point Park. I'll be grilling burgers in my traditional grass skirt and watching the fireworks show from our backyard. Ahhh... it's the simple pleasures ain't it?

Scattered shots...



Dreaming in Color will play Shorty's on July 3rd. Photo by Cassandra Beth

The live music venues are in full swing here on our little island and with all the heavy traffic, getting around from show to show was a bit of a challenge, especially during the dinner rush. Starting last Thursday the 25th I caught the big ten piece party band Cruise Control with the dynamic vocalist Lisa Lehman, who also plays a mean flute. Also on Thursday, Brad Ethridge played Bron's and Phillip Dean played the Gaff. On Friday the 26th I caught the 8-Bit Serenade



The Groove 2.0 will play the VFW on the Fourth of July

at the Sip Yard who are a bonafied trip. It's heavy handed rock and a definite tribute to the 80's. Also on Friday the reggae/ska creatures, the Chanklas, played Bron's Backyard. Plus, I really wanted to go to the Jak Payne Waterfront Blues Fest last Saturday to see SRV's nephew and Jimmy Vaughan's son; Tyrone Vaughan plus locals John Cortez, Reno Perez, John Elijah and several others. I was with an entourage of artists on the Antone's Record Label with Tyrone, Lazy Lester, Storyville, Paul Orta and Eddie Stout at a festival in Sao Paulo, Brazil honoring their 440th birthday. That was back in the mid-nineties. Yep, I'm old and proud of it and the memories I have. Where was I... oh yeah, and then on Saturday I saw the Drew Brown Band at Treasure Island, Chris Lancaster at the VFW and Austin Forrest at Bron's. But for my money the two best shows of the weekend were the Chainlinks at the Sip Yard and Chris Boss at Shorty's. The Chainlinks are driven by the dynamic Celeste Torrez on lead vocals and brother does she ever put on a high energy, no holds barred classic rock show. And Chris Boss hit the stage hard with a perfect rendition of Jimi Hendrix' Purple Haze and then blew into amazing guitar riff after amazing vocal riff. He was loud and proud and the hottest musician I saw on stage in a very long time. I'm not blowing smoke here... this cat is the real deal. On Sunday there were a few shows like Bret Axelson at the Sip Yard and young Tate Mitchell at Bron's. Oh and BTW, arguably the greatest songwriter in the history of Americana, Mr. Bob Dylan, played the fabulous Whitewater Amphitheater in New Braunfels having played the Moody Auditorium in Austin the night before. I sort of met Dylan one slow Sunday night at Antone's in the mid-seventies when he and Joni Mitchell came bopping in after a show. They were staying at the Driskill Hotel across the street from Antone's and the Fabulous Thunderbirds were playing their weekly gig. Joni fluttered around the room like a little bird and even got on stage and sang Stormy Monday in her falsetto voice (which didn't work at all) and Dylan sat at a table in the corner chugging Diet Cokes and chain smoking cigs. I was the only bartender on duty and kept thinking, "who's gonna believe this."

Coming this weekend...



Diamond's Edge will play Treasure Island on July 3 & 4.

Fireworks, grilling hamburgers and lots of great music... that's what's coming this weekend so saddle up boys and girls, it's gonna be a good one. On Thursday the 2nd the Sip Yard will have Carson Jeffries and Gavin Johnson, Beto and the Cavemen will play the Gaff, the Johnson All Starz are at Shorty's and Brad Ethridge will play the Bron's. On Friday the 3rd the great Dreaming in Color will play Shorty's, Todd Dorn will play the Gaff, the really great Kin Faux who often played the Back Porch will play the Sip Yard and Tallula Junction will play Bron's. Plus the party animals, Diamond's Edge, will play a two nighter at our favorite late night joint Treasure Island. On Saturday the FOURTH OF JULY proper the Port A VFW will host their annual Pub Crawl and the Groove 4.0 will provide the tunes. Also on the 4th, David Flores will play Bron's, Clay Hollis will play the Sip Yard, Jim Dugan will play the Gaff and John Elijah will play Shorty's... and don't forget the fireworks show. Yall be safe out there!

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



The magnificent Kin Faux will play the Sip Yard on Friday the 3rd.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, July 2

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's
Carson Jeffrey, Gavin Johnson @ Sip Yard
Beto & the Cavemen @ Gaff
Brad Ethridge @ Bron's
Aaron Boultinghouse @ Trout Street
Dale Watson @ House of Rock
Cruise Control @ Brewster Downtown
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Southside
Emma James @ Brewster Island
Fuzion @ Surf Club
Randy Hopper @ Marker 37
Randall Hunt @ Sandbox NPI
Melissa Ann @ Pier 99

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JIM DUGAN JULY 11

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JOHNSON ALL STARZ EVERY THURS
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
DREAMING IN COLOR JULY 3
JOHN ELIJAH JULY 4
GROOVE CHILI JULY 10
TOMAN BROS JULY 11

Treasure Island
DIAMOND'S EDGE JULY 3-4
JONMAIKAEL MREZ JULY 10
MARIO FLORES JULY 11
THE GROOVE 2.0 JULY 17
DREW BROWN BAND JULY 18
BILL AYERS BAND JULY 24

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PUB CRAWL JULY 4
THE GROOVE JULY 4
BRAD ETHRIDGE JULY 14
CARSON MILLER JULY 25

Sip Yard
CARSON JEFFREY JULY 2
KIN FAUX JULY 3
CLAY HOLLIS JULY 4
B-FLAT DUELING PIANOS JULY 9
MARIO FLORES JULY 10
FIVE CARD DRAW JULY 11

Bron's BACKYARD
BRAD ETHRIDGE JULY 2
TALLULA JUNCTION JULY 3
DAVID FLORES DUO JULY 4
BRANDON MICHAEL JULY 5
TY DIETZ JULY 7
JERRY WARD JULY 8

Rockoholics @ Lulu's Landing
Alley Catz @ Sandpiper

Saturday, July 4

PUB CRAWL @ VFW
John Elijah @ Shorty's
Clay Hollis @ Sip Yard
Diamond's Edge @ Treasure Island
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
The Groove @ VFW
Austin Forrest @ Roberts Point Park
Young Klassics @ Pelican
Fuzion @ Rockits
Star Spangled Disco @ House of Rock
Max DeBoard @ Brewster Southside
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Island
Blood Red Sky: Tribute to U2 @ Brewster Downtown
Whiskey Down @ Exchange
Philip Dean @ Island Retreat
Phillip Dean, Rip Tide Cowboy + 4 @ Anchor Bar
Jam Band @ Fajitaville
US Music @ Pier 99
Randall Hunt @ Sandbox NPI
Soaries @ Sugar Shack

Sunday, July 5

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Tyler Jordan, Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Jerry Ward Trio @ Sip Yard
Robin Blue @ Anchor Bar
Alley Catz @ Sandbox NPI

Monday, July 6

John Elijah @ Shorty's
Alonzo Cruz @ Pelican

Tuesday, July 7

Brad Ethridge @ VFW
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach
BluJaz Band @ Fajitaville
Red Feather @ Sandbox NPI

Wednesday, July 8

Open Jam @ Gaff

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