



On the Rocks A6

The Art of Island Life A5

Nature Notes A7

Backwater Adventures A6

Three Chords and the Truth A12

Issue 1161



The Island Moon

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Surfers take to the waves at Texas Surf Camp. By Jacob Augs



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NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

By Dale Rankin

Between the Mexican smoke and the Saharan Dust it's been a hazy week here on our little sandbar. Watery eyes and runny noses are the order of the week but in the Island Moon Glass Half Full Department we are hurricane free so far as we enter what is usually the business part of the season so here we go.



Covered and overgrown gardens at Douden Park

Our story last week about the community gardens at Douden Park drew much reaction from readers. The question is what to do with the gardens moving forward to prevent the weed factory from continuing. A check of the gardens finds that about 70 of the plots are abandoned, 20 are covered in plastic to prevent weeds from growing, and about ten are in use. Their future has fallen to the Padre Isles Property Owners Association which is looking for volunteers to help out but as of this writing their future is literally out in the weeds.

A change in the turtle rescue network

Word came this week that the role of State Coordinator for the Texas Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network has passed from the hands of Dr. Donna Shaver and the National Park Service at Padre Island National Seashore after

Around cont. on A8

Contractor selected for new Briscoe King Pavilion

\$8 million and one year to complete



Briscoe King Pavilion Rendering

By Dale Rankin

Nueces County Commissioners on Wednesday approved an \$8 million construction contract for the new Briscoe King Pavilion at Padre Balli Park. The approval will require some additional minor design changes to fit in the \$8 million budget, a process that is not expected to take more than a few weeks, according to Precinct 4 Nueces County Commissioner Brent

Briscoe cont. on A4

Packery Channel Park Upgrades

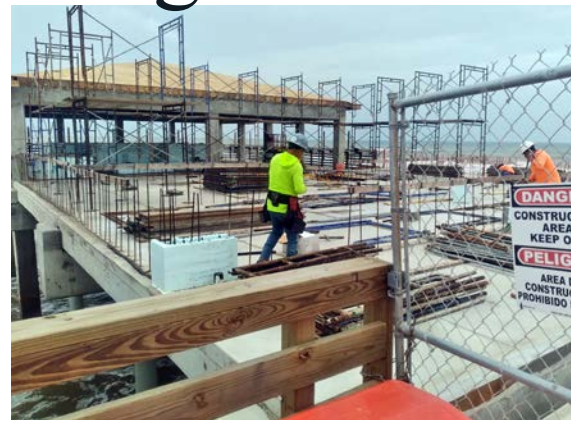


The Packery Channel Park fishing pier, boardwalk and living shoreline are well under construction. The nature park includes more than 1000 plants and trees, construction should be completed by the end of the year. More photos on page A2

Bob Hall Progress



The new admission building is up at Bob Hall Pier but not yet in operation.



Work continues on the new restaurant facility at Bob Hall Pier.

A little Island history

Can Padre Island De-Annex from the City of Corpus Christi?



North Padre Island

By Dale Rankin

Every few years we receive questions regarding whether Padre Island can remove itself from the City of Corpus Christi through de-annexation. The short answer to the question is yes...but...no. The answer is complex and based on a Freedom of Information request to the city asking for the Annexation Agreement between The Island and the City of Corpus Christi and here is the long answer.

Let's start at the beginning

How did we get annexed? Annexation of The Island could only come about after the annexation of Flour

History cont. on A5

By the numbers

New Pier Rates

The following was presented to the Nueces County Court this week for their consideration. These rates will remain the same when admission for the pier begins within the next two weeks.

- \$3 Per Person Admission
- \$1 Seniors, Active Military, Veteran and Disabled Veterans Admission
- \$4 Per Pole (limit 4 per person)
- \$1 Per Pole (limit 4) Seniors, Active Military, Veteran and Disabled Veterans
- \$2 Cast Net
- \$20 72 Hour Fishing Pass w/2 poles
- \$50 Annual Walk on Pass (Does not include fishing poles)
- \$299 Annual Pass w/2 poles
- \$399 Annual Pass w/4 poles
- All Passes Expire at 5 AM
- Age 12 and under - free entry

Nueces County and Coastal Parks Department

Nueces County officials released their financial report for 2026. The numbers are as follows and show income and assets for 2026 year to date.

- \$109.5 million assets Nueces County
- \$1.7 million Coastal Parks assets
- \$1.8 million Coastal Parks revenue
- \$1.6 million Coastal Parks expenses
- \$117 million total county revenue

Beachcombing Report

Messages from the Sea



Jace Tunnell with some of his messages in a bottle found over the years.

By Jace Tunnell

One of the most exciting discoveries during my weekly beachcombing surveys is finding a message in a bottle. After nearly a decade of surveying Texas beaches, I've found more than 60 of them, and each one carries a story.

The most memorable may be a bottle that traveled from Brazil. It was tossed into the Atlantic by an 11-year-old girl sailing around the world with her family aboard a catamaran. To celebrate crossing the equator off the Brazilian coast, they launched the bottle.

Beachcombing cont. on page A7

The Traveling Moon



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth took the Moon the the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin.



Scott Graeme In Chicago, with friends Dan and Peggy Gire, and Tammy went to "SUFFS" and brought "The Island Moon".



Islanders Sarah and Jimmy Pena took the Island Moon on their fishing trip to Mazatlan.



The Merrill's took the Moon to Glacier National Park and hiked it up to Logan Pass.

Packery Channel Park Work Continues



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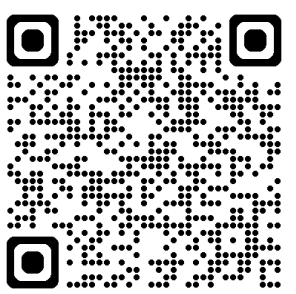


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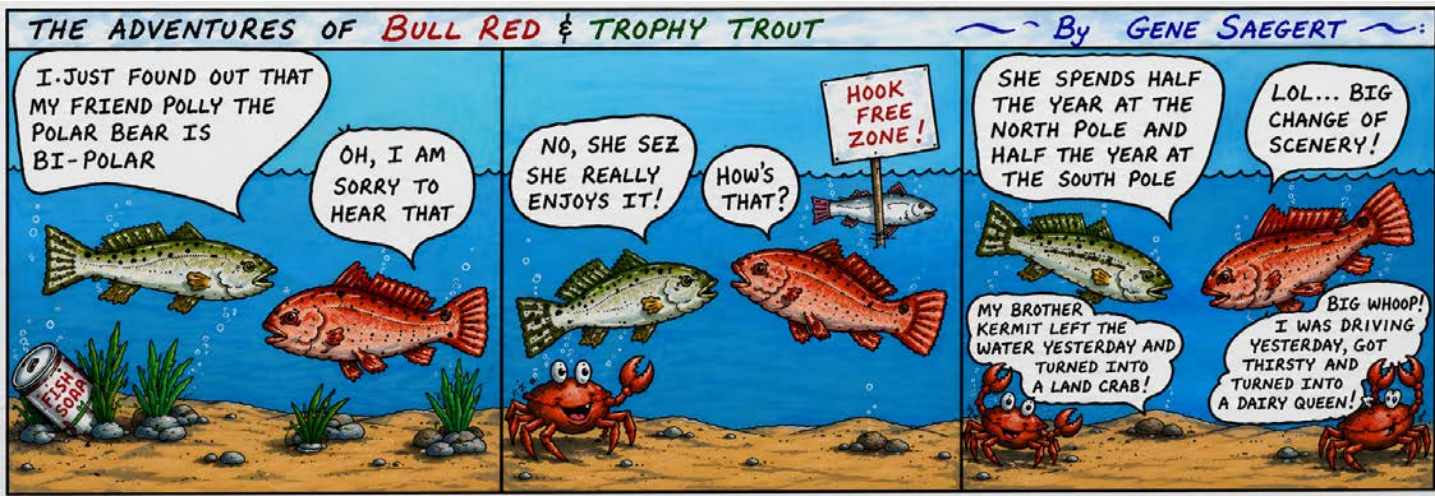
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Letters to the Editor

⌓ AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Health Advisory: Public Health District Reports Increase in Cyclosporiasis Cases in Nueces County

The Corpus Christi-Nueces County Public Health District (CCNCPHD) is reporting a significant increase in Cyclosporiasis cases in 2026. According to current provisional data, Nueces County has confirmed 20 cases of Cyclosporiasis from January through July 2026, marking an increase of more than four times the total reported cases in 2025.

At this time, no common source for the outbreak has been identified, and the reported cases do not indicate a widespread community outbreak. The increase in cases is being closely monitored through ongoing disease surveillance and collaboration with state and federal public health partners.

Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by the microscopic parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. Infection occurs when a person consumes food or water contaminated with the parasite. The peak transmission season typically occurs from May through August.

Symptoms generally develop 2 to 14 days after exposure and may include:

- ☐ Prolonged watery diarrhea
- ☐ Loss of appetite
- ☐ Fatigue
- ☐ Weight loss
- ☐ Abdominal cramps and bloating
- ☐ Nausea and vomiting
- ☐ Low-grade fever

Illness may persist for several weeks, and symptoms can recur after temporary improvement.

CCNCPHD is encouraging residents to take simple precautions to reduce their risk of illness, including:

- ☐ Thoroughly wash fresh fruits and vegetables before eating or preparing them.
- ☐ Practicing good hand hygiene, especially before handling food and after using the restroom.
- ☐ Seek medical care if experiencing prolonged watery diarrhea or other symptoms consistent with Cyclosporiasis.
- ☐ Follow healthcare provider recommendations and avoid preparing food for others while experiencing diarrheal illness.



Courtesy CDC

Rain barrels

After seeing that city-sold rain barrels can be hooked up with an overflow hose, I believe if the overflow water was collected in gallon-sized containers it could be used in the kitchen instead of using tap water. Rainwater is the softest and cleanest water there is and is excellent for washing your hair since it is so soft.

Rainwater can be used in the kitchen when water is boiled for whatever dish you are cooking. If every house in the Coastal Bend were refitted to use a rain barrel, just think how much water could not be drained from the lake and how much less groundwater would not be used.

It has the possibility of not making it necessary for a desalt plant to be put in. Using larger and more rain barrels per house would make it unnecessary to use city water for watering the lawn. If you are skeptical about using rainwater for drinking, all you have to do is just boil it, let it cool, then put it in the fridge. No additives would be needed, just brush your test with fluorine tooth paste. And since it has already been announced that the city will go up on the water rates to pay for the desalt plant, if every civic minded person acts properly, the water rates won't increase and remember, where there is a will there is a way.

In 1946 I was commercial fishing in the Laguna Madre and experienced the last salt run there ever was in the Lagoon. The salt run in that summer ran all the fish out of the lagoon and Baffin Bay. There was a few trout in the Crash Channel near the NAS. The trout were so weak you could catch them with a minnow seine, which makes me believe if a desalt plant ever dumps the brine discharge in Corpus Christi Bay, it will eventually end all commercial and the \$billion sport fishing industry.

Rainwater is the answer since we have been blessed with it this last month. If brine discharge from a desalt plant is discharged into the bay instead of the gulf it will return the Laguna Madre to the status it was before the Intracoastal Canal was dug, one of the two saltiest seawater bodies of water there is in the world.

Bobbie Kimbrell



Rules for Parking lot on Michael J. Ellis Seawall From the Corpus Christi City Charter

Sec. 33-16. - Seawall Parking Lot on Windward Drive hours of operation.

In this section, Seawall Parking Lot on Windward Drive means the City of Corpus Christi parking lot that is adjacent to the Padre Island concrete seawall, and is located in the 14900 block of Windward Drive.

(b) A person commits an offense if he enters or remains on the Seawall Parking Lot on Windward Drive from midnight to 6:00 a.m.(c)

A person commits an offense if he allows a vehicle under his control to remain on the Seawall Parking Lot on Windward Drive from midnight to 6:00 a.m.(d)

It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the person:(1) Was a government employee in perfor-

mance of official duties at the time the person entered or remained on the Seawall Parking Lot on Windward Drive;(2)

Entered or remained on the Seawall Parking Lot on Windward Drive because of an emergency which affected the physical well-being or property interests of himself or another; or(3)

Entered or remained on the Seawall Parking Lot on Windward Drive at the direction of a peace officer.

(4)

Entered, remained, or allowed a vehicle under his control to remain on the Seawall Parking Lot on Windward Drive when any portion of the Gulf of Mexico Beach seaward of the concrete portion of the Padre Island seawall is closed to vehicular traffic. (Ord. No. 027704, § 1, 5-20-2008; Ord. No. 028537, § 1, 3-30-2010)



The Michael J. Ellis Seawall Parking Lot

Moon Monkeys



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Riley P. Dog

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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

I attended the sendoff for Paul Fain last Sunday in Port Aransas and it took me back to a time when it was a different town. 2017 was a watershed year for Port Aransas when Hurricane Harvey did two decades of urban renewal in one day.



Paul Fain

It was only a few years after the town threw open the doors for short-term rentals and when the hurricane finished its work many of the old, mostly wood frame, houses that were home to the long-time residents were gone and soon replaced by newer elevated structures used mostly by visitors. The storm facilitated the move from a community that had its share of locals to one that is now largely a weekend destination.

We drove north up State Highway 361 the day after Harvey and it was obvious where the eye wall had passed over Mustang Island, just north of the #16 Fire Station. Boats blocked streets and the marina area was devastated. I saw the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and it was a larger version of what I saw that day in Port Aransas. The biggest difference was that the French Quarter in New Orleans escaped a direct hit from Katrina while Port Aransas took a direct hit from Harvey. The center of the eye passed over St. Jose Island about six miles north of the channel and took out the dune structure at a point that came to be known as Ground Zero. Much of the damage done by Harvey was caused by out-bound water trying to get from the Laguna Madre to the gulf and it piled up behind the dune line causing flooding above the level of the storm surge.



Stevie Start and others playing at the sendoff



The sendoff was well attended

Briscoe cont. from A1

Chesney. Once that is done the contract will go back to the county commission for final approval and construction will begin. No time line for the start of construction was announced.

Barcom Construction was the low bidder and their submission states the construction will take 395 calendar days. A total of three companies submitted bids with the highest at \$9.8 million.



Briscoe King Pavillion Rendering

In 2008 prior to Harvey Paul opened Tarpon Ice House on Alister Street in a small, two room set up and eventually a stage out back and featured live music seven nights per week. It gave local singer-songwriters a place to ply their trade and also became a gathering place for locals and winter Texans in particular.

You could tell the impact Paul and the Tarpon had on the Port Aransas music community by the number of players who showed up at the event for Paul this week. Many of them lived in Port Aransas prior to Harvey but now most if not all have left as the lack of affordable housing has pushed them OTB to Flour Bluff, Aransas Pass, and beyond.

One of the benefits to the music scene there is the arrival of the Sip Yard which has brought in a venue the likes Port Aransas has not seen before with a much larger capacity than any before it. There is a plan to bring a similar venue to Padre Island which will bring in touring and local acts that we currently do not see here and if things go according to plan it will be up and running by the next summer season.

But the Padre end of The Island has never had a place like the Tarpon Ice House where musicians regularly gather in enough numbers to produce a robust music scene that allows musicians to have a place to develop a local sound. It is something we have needed for a long time and a decade ago I thought the clubhouse at the waterpark might be that spot but it did not materialize.

Music scenes are ethereal and organic organisms. You can't really plan them, they just happen, most where there are enough venues to keep musicians working and living is affordable.

My fondest memory of the Tarpon was a sunny afternoon when Paul was cooking steaks on the patio. Suddenly there was a commotion as three beefy men who were all sitting on one side of a picnic table got up at the same time and the table tipped, dumping six steaks on the concrete floor. Riley P. Dog was sitting next to me and took off like a shot and had wolfed down one of the steaks before things calmed down and was working on the second when I found him. I started running toward him and he grabbed a third steak and disappeared under the elevated stage where he had a dog feast. From that day on every time he went there he went out back and sniffed the pavement where the greatest three-steak day of his life had occurred.

Thanks for the memories Paul on behalf of Riley P. Dog and myself. Paul may be gone but the memories of another time and place linger. Maybe one day we will have a spot like the Tarpon Ice House on Padre and develop a local music community with its own sound.

Padre Sound has a nice ring.

The Port A Cookbook



By Chris Jordan

Does the pedestrian — if not downright lowly — patty-melt deserve meticulous attention to detail from a chef? Yes, it most certainly does.

The menu we show to our clients is really just an ongoing list of every dish we have ever prepared. I do occasionally slip a new idea in there. It's fun when a client chooses one of those. What continues to astound me is that customers both new and old gravitate toward one item in particular: a beef tenderloin carving station. It's just what it sounds like. We sear a whole beef tenderloin to a perfect medium-rare, place it on a giant, end-grain cutting board, slice it with a ceremoniously large knife, and serve it with horseradish sour cream sauce.

As a consumer of beef tenderloin, there are some fatty parts of it you never see because they are trimmed away: lymph nodes, the “chain” — a fatty strip that vaguely resembles rope or chain, and various other bits and bobs. We buy whole, untrimmed beef tenderloin so there is always vac-bagged tenderloin trim around here. And that is what we grind to make hamburgers — and patty-melts. Needless to say, a tenderloin hamburger patty is some kind of wonderful — especially with all that delicious fat in there.

Now to prepare the most delish patty-melt possible, a proper sear must be achieved — and the following technique works for searing anything. The food must be dry. If the item you're searing is wet, you won't be searing it — you'll be steaming it. And steam doesn't brown food. Salt your food immediately before placing it on a ripping-hot cooking surface. The salt immediately draws some moisture out of the food and that moisture brings amino acids and dissolved sugars to the surface. As soon as that scant moisture has evaporated and the surface of the food reaches 280°F, the browning begins! Salt that has migrated below the surface binds with the remaining water and greatly reduces water activity on the surface. You've heard the showbiz chefs refer to the Maillard reaction — well, this is it.

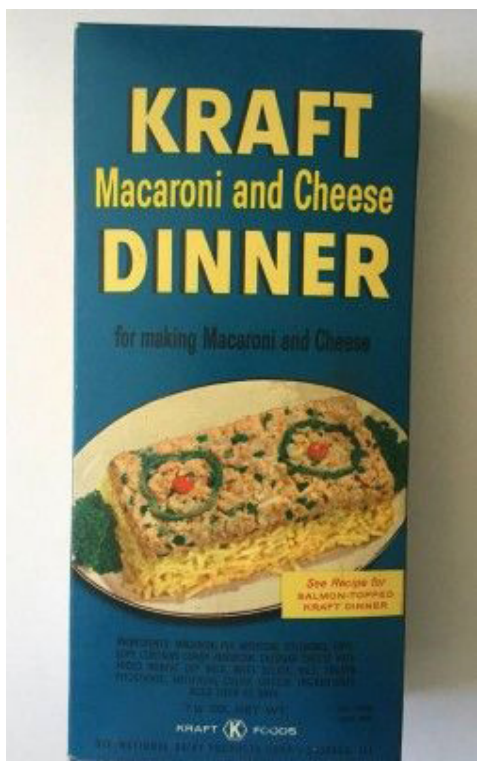
We form our tenderloin hamburger patties by hand, season them generously with kosher salt, and sear them on a griddle at a temperature that a smoke detector can really appreciate. The patties get a sprinkle of just-ground black pepper after the sear because the griddle is so hot, it would burn the pepper. And really, heat is the bugaboo of black pepper: high temps evaporate pepper's yummy volatile oils and turn its main flavor compounds acridly bitter. High temps + black pepper = bad.

My absolute insistence on doing a hamburger right isn't just a matter of professional pride, though. It was born out of pure, unadulterated childhood trauma, courtesy of a nanny I had as a four-year-old. Maria watched over me and my little sister, Claudia, on weekdays while our parents were at work. Mom would make us breakfast and dinner, of course, but Maria was in charge of lunch. My very most favorite meal was a hamburger patty, macaroni and cheese (from the Kraft box), and canned spinach. Mom had the pantry and the fridge stocked well enough I could eat that same lunch every day if I wanted to. Despite this bounty, the lunch situation at the Jordan household in the summer of '72 would take an immediate and grim turn for the worse.

Maria was about to prepare my favorite lunch for the very first time. Anything that could go wrong did — and it started with the Kraft Mac & Cheese. Maria brought some water to a boil in a small saucepan and dropped the elbow macaroni in there. *When was she going to set the timer?* Newsflash: she wasn't. I was deep in the throes of flabbergastery when she abruptly dumped the canned spinach straight into another saucepan. She didn't drain the liquid first, much less gently wash the spinach of its brine. I had eaten canned spinach prepared this way by the hands of menfolk and knew to expect it to taste metallic and salty. I was woefully unprepared for what I would bear witness to next.

The fresh ground beef in the fridge had recently been acquired from New Braunfels' very own Wuest's Supermarket. In her frantic effort to make patties, Maria mauled that meat into a misshapen mass that resembled a gravid flying saucer. She then put a small frying pan with some water in it on

A Calamity of Comestibles



An unopened box of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese from 1972

the stovetop over medium heat, unceremoniously plopped the beefy UFOs into it, and covered the pan with a lid. I was aghast, grievous, and could faintly hear a bugle blowing Taps in the distance.

Maria then returned her meal-making malice to the macaroni. *Was it done?* *Oh, yeah. DONE.* Barely any water was left in there — which, it turns out, suited her purpose just fine. Trigger warning: what follows may conjure traumatic memories of camping trips or barren refrigerators. Maria dumped the cheese powder directly into the watery, gelatinous mass of former elbows — with neither butter nor milk. The neon-orange lump of science-cheese caused a lump to form in my throat that precluded vocal protestation. I opened the fridge and pointed up to where I knew the butter and milk lived. Maria was oblivious to my frenetic gesticulation.

I couldn't eat that meal — nor could I explain to Maria why — decorum dictated that. I told Maria I didn't feel good — which was true — and asked to be excused. There was so much noontime horror in the breakfast nook that day, I wasn't even processing the fact that there was not a single Kraft single on that gray, bloated blob of beef. I could no more sit in front of that plate of unglamorous gloop than I could watch my sister heedlessly devour it. Bless her little heart.

And thus that very night I came to press upon my mother the urgency with which I needed to learn how to prepare my own lunch. Other meals would follow: grilled cheese and tomato soup, scrambled eggs and toast, and eventually a lunchtime litany of other kid-approved victuals.

It's the noon hour now on this Tuesday, fifty-four years later. This story was just written in one sitting, fueled by a single cup of coffee made from medium-roasted and freshly ground Chiapan beans — all of which has left me hankering for a patty-melt, some mac & cheese, and spinach. These days I make mac & cheese from scratch using Gruyère, white cheddar, and Parmigiano-Reggiano. I gently sauté fresh spinach. And am blessed with a continuous supply of the best possible meat for patty-melts. But just now reliving the first meal I ever learned to cook has me going to Lowe's Market here in Port Aransas where I can pick up the commonplace comestibles that I learned to work with way back in the summer in '72. Does a patty-melt deserve meticulous attention to detail from a chef? No, not necessarily.



Patty Melt

History cont. from A1

Bluff which was annexed in the 1960’s and according to the records provided by the City of Corpus Christi annexation of The Island began in earnest in 1980. Development on The Island began in the early 1970’s and by the 1980’s Island developers were desirous of city services and began the process of requesting annexation. Island developers paid to have the water line to The Island increased from 16 inches to 24 inches. They also paid to have the height of the bridge over Packery Channel raised from a clearance of 13 feet to 20 feet to allow large boats to pass underneath.

The city began annexing The Island in chunks and by 1983 the city limits touched the north end of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall – Packery Channel did not go all the way through to the gulf – Cane Harbor was swallowed up in 1983 after developers agreed to pay for a sewer lift station, and by the end of 1984 everything north of Whitecap and West of the SPID was in the city except for the area covered by Lake Padre and County Parks.

The progress of the city’s southward expansion reads like a general taking a city; a few blocks at a time as city services were extended outward annexation soon followed. The standard agreement in Texas, according to the city annexation documents, is that city services will be extended to the newly annexed areas within ten years or the area can petition for de-annexation.

The big grab was in 1987 when the City of Corpus Christi signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Padre Island Investment Corporation and the Padre Isles Property Owners’ Association. That eight-page document calls for the city to help lower premiums for Windstorm Insurance on The Island and support legislation to restrict the impact of rules regarding construction on barrier islands as well as to help in the effort to raise the JFK Causeway. The memorandum also called for the city help in passing rules to stop vehicular traffic on the beach in front of the seawall.

However, none of those issues were binding, the city only agreed to help - not deliver. There are some gaps in the paperwork supplied by the city so far so it is unclear what – if any – other agreements may have been made as a condition of annexation. A cover letter to the introduction to the Memorandum of Understanding mentions a “Service Plan” between the City and the Padre Island Property Owners Association but so far no

From the Texas Local Government Code

Sec. 43.148. REFUND OF TAXES AND FEES. (a) If an area is disannexed, the municipality disannexing the area shall refund to the landowners of the area the amount of money collected by the municipality in property taxes and fees from those landowners during the period that the area was a part of the municipality less the amount of money that the municipality spent for the direct benefit of the area during that period. (b) A municipality shall proportionately refund the amount under Subsection (a) to the landowners according to a method to be developed by the municipality that identifies each landowner’s approximate pro rata payment of the taxes and fees being refunded. (c) A municipality required to refund money under this section shall refund the money to current landowners in the area not later than the 180th day after the date the area is disannexed. Money that is not refunded within the period prescribed by this subsection accrues interest at the rate of: (1) six percent each year after the 180th day and until the 210th day after the date the area is disannexed; and (2) one percent each month after the 210th day after the date the area is disannexed.

St. Jose annexation statute

Sec. 43.902. ANNEXATION, EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION, AND EMINENT DOMAIN ON INACCESSIBLE GULF ISLAND. (a) Land on an island bordering the Gulf of Mexico that is not accessible by a public road or common carrier ferry facility may not be annexed by a municipality without the consent of the owners of the land. (b) The extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality does not include land on the island unless the owners of the land consent. (c) A municipality may not take property on the island through eminent domain.

Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 149, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

copy of that plan has been located. The last bit of Island land to be annexed was in the late 1990s when the strip along State Highway 361 was the subject of a race between the Corpus Christi and Port Aransas to see who could gobble up the property tax and Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue from the high-rise developments that had sprung up there. The finish line was about halfway up The Island where the city limits of the two met and which is the common city limits today.

What is the process to de-annex?

The answer is very complicated. The Island was annexed under Home Rule – cities with less than 5000 population were General Rule – and in Home Rule annexation city services must be provided to new areas within a reasonable time. Case law has found ten years to be a reasonable time.

What is clear is that for any area to leave a municipality after being annexed those who would leave the city and those who would stay behind in the incorporated area must both be in favor of the split. There are some cases where areas have been able to remove themselves from annexation but only after showing the city which took them in failed to live up to contractual agreements – like providing sewer service and street maintenance.

Special conditions also apply if the de-annexation of the area wishing to de-annex would cause an undue economic hardship on those who remain. Given that The Island is 4% of the city’s population and makes up 14% of the property tax base it is safe to say this provision would likely apply. While it does not appear from the annexation documents at the city that a vote of citizens citywide would be legally required to allow an area to de-annex it is highly unlikely that any Corpus Christi City Council would allow de-annexation by a simple majority vote of the council, nor vote to put it on a ballot. According to Home Rule a de-annexation item could be placed on a city ballot by petition, however, it would then have to be approved by voters across the city. So while it is not impossible for The Island to be released from the City of Corpus Christi and become its own city, the chances of it happening are very slim.

Once we got in, there is almost no way out.

Next Week: How Padre Island almost escaped annexation into the City of Corpus Christi.

The Art of Island Life



By Melissa Mitchell

The Sweet Taste of Summer

Melissa’s Strawberry Pie

Ingredients
1 baked 9-inch pie crust, cooled
1 quart fresh strawberries, stems removed and quartered
1½ cups water
¾ cup sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 (3-ounce) package strawberry gelatin
Whipped cream for topping
Directions
In a saucepan, whisk together the sugar and cornstarch.
Slowly add the water, whisking until smooth.
Bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook and stir until thickened, about 2 minutes.
Remove from heat and stir in the strawberry gelatin until completely dissolved.
Refrigerate 15–20 minutes, or until slightly cooled.
Arrange strawberries in the baked, cooled pie crust.
Pour the gelatin mixture evenly over the berries.
Refrigerate until set.
Top with whipped cream or garnish with whipped cream around the outer edge before serving. Keep refrigerated until ready to enjoy. Makes one 9-inch pie.

A Quick Community Reminder

Speaking of things that bring people together, we’re preparing for another event that has become a favorite tradition in our community.
A few weeks ago, I shared a call for artists for the upcoming Incognito Art Show benefiting Kaylee’s Light Foundation. Since then, artwork has been arriving at the gallery, and I’ve been delighted by the creativity, talent, and generosity of the artists participating this year.
The concept is simple. The artwork is displayed anonymously, allowing visitors to choose the work that speaks to them rather than selecting based on an artist’s name or reputation. The artist’s identity remains a mystery until after the artwork is purchased. The show opens July 17 and continues through July 31 at Evoke Studio & Gifts. Every piece of art will be available for purchase, with 100% of proceeds benefiting Kaylee’s Light Foundation and helping provide toys and comfort items for children receiving care at Driscoll Children’s Hospital. If you find a piece you love, you’ll leave with more than artwork—you’ll help brighten the day of a child facing challenges no child should have to endure. Visitors are also invited to participate in our *Guess the Artist Challenge*. If you correctly identify an artist in the show, your name will be entered into a drawing on July 31 to win a piece of the remaining artwork from the exhibition. You do not need to be present to win.
I hope you’ll join us for the Opening Reception on July 17 at 6 p.m. If you can’t make the reception, the exhibit will be open during regular business hours at Evoke through July 31. Come discover some incredible artwork, enjoy the mystery of not knowing who created it, and help support a truly beautiful cause.
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

More Than Just a Pie

This year, I find myself sharing that same appreciation with my granddaughter. Exploring gardens with a grandchild tends to slow the process considerably. Every leaf becomes interesting and every bug requires investigation.
One day Claire won’t be nearly as fascinated by tiny berries, garden bugs, or helping me search for ripe fruit hidden beneath the leaves.
For now, though, she still is.
And that makes the extra time worthwhile. Our family’s strawberry pie recipe isn’t fancy. Aside from the crust, nothing is baked. There’s no need to heat up the house baking a pie for an hour. The only baking required is the crust, and that can be done the night before.
Growing up, strawberry pie was the unofficial dessert of summer.
The filling comes together quickly and chills until ready to serve. From baby showers and birthdays to family cookouts and holiday weekends, this pie seemed to appear wherever people gathered. It’s the kind of recipe that gets pulled from a box year after year because everyone would notice if it didn’t make an appearance.
Homemade whipped cream was either piled high on top or carefully arranged around the edge of the crust for a more elevated presentation, but one thing never changed—there was never a crumb left behind.
It was also the dessert most likely to appear when someone needed a little comfort. Showing up with a strawberry pie has long been one of the sweetest ways to lift someone’s spirits.
What everyone loves most is the strawberries. Because they are added fresh, each slice is cool and crisp—like a sweet taste of summer itself.
With very little cooking involved, it’s the perfect dessert for a hot summer day.
If you’re looking for a simple summer dessert that has stood the test of time in our family, here’s the recipe.

INCOGNITO ART SHOW

One Lucky Winner!

EXHIBITION DATES
July 17–31

OPENING RECEPTION
July 17 | 6pm

GUESS THE ARTIST & WIN
One artwork • One guess • One lucky winner
Drawing held at opening reception.
Must be present to win.

100% of proceeds benefit Kaylee's Light Foundation, where every dollar donated purchases toys for children receiving care at Driscoll Children's Hospital.

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Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

Upwellings and Groundswells

My sister Olivia and I managed to escape the chores and head out to the beach this past Sunday for a few hours for a little fishing. As we turned the corner at the North Sticks, I knew immediately that the upwelling is indeed in control of the nearshore waters. The upwelling starts down in Mexico around Tampico and stretches all the way north to Port Aransas. This is why the water is brown and chilly and has the color of the Brazos River at flood stage coming in the passes during the incoming tide. It stretches for almost 35 miles off of the coast of South Padre and appears that it will be with us for a few more weeks.



Olivia and I at an undisclosed location

Needless to say, the fishing was as slow as I expected. Olivia caught a small hard head, one of the smallest I've seen, and that was the only bite of the day. I slung some mullet out to the second gut, just to reel it in an hour later looking as fresh as when I cast it out. Thankfully Tyler and Roadkill Willie joined us and provided some entertainment. I relaxed in a chair under the umbrella most of the time but still managed to burn the tops of my feet, which made wearing shoes and socks to the office the next day a bit uncomfortable. You'd think I would learn after all these years, but evidently not.



This time of year shade is valuable territory at the beach.

Augs has been on a tea kick lately, and I remembered that my mom used to make "sun tea" all the time. Brewed or steeped tea is the best, but you can use the power of the sun to make some really good tea. Those plastic jugs from the store work really well if you don't have a glass jug with a spigot (which are the best, unless they leak). Take the lid off, pour a little water out, and push four or five tea bags in the jug and set it out in the sun. It takes about an hour but makes some strong tea. You can cheat and put a half cup (or a full cup) of sugar in at the same time, and it will brew it up. Next I'll be giving you the recipe for Texas Sheet cake. Sheesh.



Texas Surf Camp kids at Bob Hall Pier this week. Aerial by Augs

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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Mermaids



The thing about Mermaids is that they pop up when you least expect, and maybe when you need them the most. In ancient times the sight of a breasted creature stretching up from the ocean was enough to break insanity. To give hope of land, civilization, wealth, life and survival. We realize now that because sailors were so desperate that the sight of a hairy faced, female manatee was probably the reality of such an exciting sighting. In today's world of fishing, women have brought ladies angling far and beyond what it was or was ever expected to become. I can tell you something for sure, girls are GOOD LUCK, and they look a lot better in pictures than a couple of ugly dudes!

Ladies that have no experience at all with fishing should go to a tackle store like Roy's Bait and Tackle, walk some piers, read magazine articles, watch YouTube videos and learn as much as possible. Most fishermen at piers will gladly help and make suggestions to new anglers, much more often than boat fishermen. Light action rods are easier for small hands and will be easier on the moving parts of the body after a long day fishing. Pre-rigged leaders can be an easy way to start, smaller hooks and some dead shrimp. You can pull up anywhere and throw that out and catch fish. The jetties and beach are another good place to try. The first two guts of the beach is full of whiting, along with a long list of fish that swim up to the edge of the ocean within reach of a long cast. Here the push of the waves can be hard to contend with. Walk out to waist deep water and cast down the beach instead of out, this makes it easier to feel the bites and helps you fight the waves. When you are around others pay close attention to how they are rigged up, bait they are using, etc, and ask questions!

I find often ladies learn much faster to fish with lures than men. A soft and romantic play of the rod to create a lifelike presentation is easier for a woman than a hardheaded man, especially with years of bad habits. When you are trying to get your lovely Mermaid to join you in falling in love with fishing, remember a few things.

Explain why, not just what to do. If someone knows the reason often they can come up with their own way of doing something or even a better way. Take your time, it's not a fishing competition every time out. Keep yourself in the right place for action, it's hard to learn when you're not getting



Trout and Drum Combo trips have been Hot as Beach Sand at 4 p.m.!



Ms. Colby Cotton found her big trout along the shallow grass beds of the Laguna Madre this week. She was using a DOWN SOUTH LURES Pink Panther paddle-tailed soft plastic lure.

bites. If you feel like they just want to relax and sit a while that's ok too! When the lunar feeding tables are prime, and the fish are biting, get excited! Rig up several rods so if you get a tangle you can just hand them a different pole. It's better to take your lady out and have her have fun and catch a few fish, than reel in a bunch and feel like want shared time on the water.

Finding a forever fishing partner would be a dream come true to many, just as the sighting of those mermaids were to lonely sailors adrift at sea. Just clean the salt from your eyes before you jump in on a hairy faced sea monster. If you find yourself clutched with a lady that's interested in fun upon the ocean, get a guide and take her out a few times with some help. The third person will lighten up everything and actually lead to better learning. Years of lessons can come from one day in the water with an experienced guide. As time goes on you may find yourself out-fished often, that is something to be proud of.

THE LAGOON

The Laguna Madre is full of mature grass growth right now, normal summer seasonal conditions. Soon the high-water temps, high salinities, and low tides will start to make the taller Manatee Grass break off about halfway up and float into mats. Look for leeward shorelines to have less grass afloat. We have been catching some monster trout in that thick grass! They explode out of the water as they jolt out of their grassy hides! The shade and cover are perfect places to hide and wait for my soft plastic bait to swim over the top of them. Heading south to Baffin Bay will get you into more open water with less grass around. The fish down south are hot and have often moved towards nighttime feeding! Fishing bait around the big rock piles in Baffin has yielded a lot of good trout and redfish on live bait. The land cut has also been a nice plan to catch fish of all kinds dropping into cooler more tidal places. It's a long drive but my goodness it's peaceful.

We have been on drift! Drifting over the marbled bottoms of sand and grass mix, casting soft plastics with a 1/8th oz jig head. Light actions and small twitches of the rod tip while swimming the jigs across the tops of the grass beds have delivered so many big trout this month. Float and stall the bait over any and all sand pockets.

Follow all our hookups on Facebook Instagram and TICKTOK at Joey Farah's Backwater Fishing!

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Nature Notes

Let’s soar together
Watching them like hawks



A Northern Harrier soars by Smith Point Hawk Watch by Tony Leukering

By Rebecca Bracken

Let’s talk hawks! No, not the Atlanta Hawks basketball team or the Seattle Seahawks football team, but the amazing birds flying overhead each fall. Watching birds migrate through our area is an exciting moment, but seeing a large swirling kettle (flock) of these migrants circling through the sky is a spectacle that can’t be missed.

Hawks nest high up in neighborhoods or in singular trees in fields, so observing them can be tricky. But once their young fledge and start venturing out on their own, watching them can get a bit easier. Fall is by far the best time of year here in the US to observe hawks, eagles, falcons, and other birds of prey. Millions of individual birds start their yearly journey south for the winter, in search of better food supplies.

Many songbirds and other bird species migrate at night, moving under the cover of darkness and using the stars to navigate over large expanses of water. But raptors migrate during the day and generally soar over land. This is because they use thermals, rising currents of air, to help them gain lift without having to spend energy flapping their wings. This provides us as bird enthusiasts a chance to observe them during these months long travels.

Here in Texas, we have only a handful of hawks during the summer months. But come fall, we are lucky enough to observe many more species. Birds like Broad-winged Hawks that breed largely in the eastern US and into the southern portions of Canada, pass through coastal Texas en masse each fall. Others, like the Sharp-shinned Hawk, come through Texas after breeding in largely Canada and Alaska, and may even spend the winter with us. The Swainson’s Hawk, a western US breeder, passes through on its way to vast pampas grasslands in Argentina, undertaking one of the longest migrations of any American raptor.

Each of these species is unique, with different habits and characteristics that can help us

spot them in the skies. But each also faces challenges along their chosen route. When we think about what can affect hawks during their flights south, we commonly think about land-based changes. As coastal areas become more and more developed, raptors may have a harder time finding food. Declining insect and rodent populations in many areas may lead to an inability to find adequate food sources during their arduous journey. But the weather during the fall may play an even more important role.

Migration requires immense physical exertion. During fall migration, raptors rely on thermals and ridge updrafts for soaring. If the conditions are poor, with unfavorable wind directions and few thermals because of the air temperatures or sun exposure, hawks have to spend more time flapping and may become exhausted more quickly as their energy stores are rapidly depleted. To help our feathered friends during the southward migration, we can drive cautiously near open fields where hawks might be hunting, and use window markers to help reduce window collisions. Remember to secure your trash and waste, and not litter our highways, to prevent small mammals and other rodents from scavenging, which in turn can lead to vehicle-hawk collisions.

At the same time, be sure to pop in on your local hawk watch! If you’re in the greater Houston area, please join us out at the Smith Point Hawk Watch sometime this fall. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory will be counting migratory hawks as they pass by, contributing to a long term, nationwide dataset that helps researchers working to conserve our amazing raptors. The hawk watch runs August 15th through the end of November, with the best times to observe hawks often occurring in mid to late September and early October. Want to learn more? Check out gcbo.org for more hawk fun!

Beachcombing Report

Beachcombing cont. from A1



Ten of the same bottles were found in one year.

About 18 months later, I found it on a Port Aransas beach. Inside were two pages: a colorful hand-drawn map of their journey and a letter written entirely in French. After getting it translated, I wrote back. A month later, the family replied from a small island off the coast of France. We still hope to meet someday to talk about the bottle and their remarkable voyage.

Another bottle contained a surprise: a dollar bill. The message had been thrown overboard during a couple’s 30th birthday cruise in the Caribbean. Eleven years later, it washed ashore near Port Aransas. I contacted the couple through the address included in the note and learned they now have children and live near Austin. The dollar, they explained, was included to cover postage, proper message-in-a-bottle etiquette.

Not every bottle inspires romance. One plastic bottle contained a typed note asking the finder to send an email and report a hand-

written number: 27,762. After I replied, the sender explained he had launched the bottle from a pier in Destin, Florida, a year earlier. He then revealed that the number represented how many bottles he had released while tracking ocean currents and that he had filled 52 books with records. I jokingly told him I ought to report him for littering.

Every bottle has its own story. And knowing another one may be waiting beyond the next dune keeps the adventure alive.

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



A message in a bottle with money in it to pay for postage of a letter.



Tri-colored heron feeding time is quite entertaining to watch, not so much for the mama tho By Lu Ann Kingsbury

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Island Real Estate Roundup

Apryl Noles



The summer season slowdown

After a busy first week of July, the market has settled into a more typical summer pace as many buyers and sellers take time to enjoy the season following the holiday. While activity has slowed slightly, the market continues to see steady movement across all property types.

In the detached home sector, we have two homes in the option period, one pending, and four that sold. The condominium market has one property in the option period, while the townhome sector recorded two properties in the option period and one that sold.

This seasonal slowdown is common for mid-summer, but activity is expected to increase again as we move closer to the end of summer and families begin preparing for the upcoming school year. Historically, we see buyers and sellers become more active during this transition.

Here you'll find the statistics that reflect this week's market activity. As always, thank you for following along, and stay tuned for next week's Padre Island market update!

Detached Homes In Option Period:

-13821 Flintlock Dr (Listed for \$549,900)
-16045 Treebine Dr (Listed for \$339,000)

Detached Home That Is Pending:

-15313 E Chesapeake (Listed for \$384,900)

Detached Homes That Sold:

-13746 Tajamar Ct (Listed for \$487,000)
-14126 Coquina Bay Ave (Listed for \$449,900)
-15857 Cuttysark St (Listed for \$449,000)
-15221 Main Royal Dr (Listed for \$389,000)

Condominium In Option Period:

-15340 Leeward Dr Unit 203 (Listed for \$289,000)

Townhomes In Option Period:

-14911 Village Beach Dr (Listed for \$325,000)
-13997 Ports O Call Dr Unit C (Listed for \$210,000)

Townhome That Sold:

-15306 Bonasse Ct Unit 201 (Listed for \$449,000)

Around cont. from A1

thirty years there to Texas Parks and Wildlife which takes over the job. The network kicks into action each winter when cold weather rolls in and cold-stunned turtles need help.

Of plastic bags and cigarette butts

A few years ago there was an attempt to ban use the use of single-use plastic bags on Padre Island which was cut short by a law passed in the state legislature taking away the ability of cities in Texas to regulate their use. But as far as we know there has never been an attempt to regulate the disposal of cigarette butts on area beaches, not that it seems to be major problem.

It came to mind after it was announced that up in Galveston they are holding a Down-

town Cigarette Butt & Trash Cleanup as part of a Plastic Free July. Last year they removed 1500 cigarette butts to keep them from washing into the gulf. Maybe the good news is that bags can be used to haul off the butts.

City election

The filing period for elections to the Corpus Christi City Council and Mayor opens on Monday, July 20 and runs through August 17 and after that the campaigning begins for the next two months. We will have a list of candidates as they file and from the sound of things it will be a long list so stay tuned.

That's all for now everybody, watch out for the Mexican Smoke and say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.

TPWD Hosting Role of State Coordinator for the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network

As of July 1, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) officially began hosting the role of State Coordinator for the Texas Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) established the STSSN in 1980, which documents sea turtle strandings along the coastal areas from Maine to Texas and in parts of the U.S. Caribbean.

The Texas STSSN consists of several partner organizations across the Texas coast that respond to and rehabilitate stranded sea turtles. TPWD will work to support these organizations while continuing to partner in sea turtle conservation and recovery efforts in Texas during large scale stranding events such as winter freezes.

TPWD and NOAA will work closely together to ensure a smooth transition and provide ongoing support to the STSSN. As the Texas State Coordinator, TPWD will lead and facilitate statewide matters pertinent to sea turtle management and recovery that are connected with sea turtle strandings and incidental captures, including inter-agency cooperation, emergency response and pre-

paredness, and support of law enforcement.

This role also serves as the STSSN point of contact for notifications and other aspects of permits/authorizations under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) jurisdiction that have historically involved the State Coordinator. NOAA will continue to provide data management and record verification for the TX STSSN, facilitate necropsies, and support the Texas Coordinator in key areas such as emergency response and training.

Special thanks to Dr. Donna Shaver and the National Park Service for their many years of service to the STSSN and to NOAA staff for fulfilling interim coordinator roles over the last several months.

Sea turtle nesting-related issues remain outside of the STSSN and are the purview of the USFWS.

To report an injured, stranded, entangled, or dead sea turtle, please call: (866) TURTLES5 (866-887-8535).

To report a stranded or injured marine animal, please visit: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/report>

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Snowy Egrets are famous for their contrasting black legs and bright yellow feet, often called golden slippers. By Riekie Roncinske

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Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

1. Back talk
4. First Vice President to become President
9. Sudden movement
14. Plastic ___ Band
15. Junta
16. Title holder
17. Play the part
18. Flea market item, perhaps
19. 1967 chart-topper by the Association
20. 1968 film with Katharine Hepburn?
23. Wagner of baseball
24. Start of summer?
25. Rip off
27. Beg
30. Experience again
33. Insurance claim
36. Ran in the Indy 500
37. 1978 film with Robert DeNiro?
42. Hip to, with "of"
43. Win, place, or show
44. El ___
46. Kitchen appliance
52. Source of college funding?
53. ___ Moines
56. The Velvet Fog
57. 1990 film with Kevin Costner?
62. 2:1, e.g.
63. ___ Hawkins Day
64. Cambridge univ.
65. Checking (someone) out
66. Burstyn of "The Exorcist"
67. "___ you serious?"
68. Politican Kefauver
69. Requirements
70. Nancy Drew's boyfriend

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18						19				
20			21						22					
23							24				25		26	
27					28	29		30	31	32				
					33		34	35		36				
	37	38	39	40					41					
42						43								
44					45		46		47	48	49	50	51	
52					53	54	55		56					
	57		58	59				60	61					
62						63						64		
65						66						67		
68						69						70		

Down

1. More than dislike
2. Site of MacArthur's Korean War tour de force
3. Like a Mickey Finn
4. Point the finger at
5. Cover with mud
6. Dugout
7. Home of Acadia National Park
8. Hits the brakes
9. Scattered, as seed
10. Pain in the neck
11. Lestat's creator
12. Playground game
13. "Give it the old college ___"
21. Mangy mutt
22. Syr. neighbor
26. Fourposter, for one
28. ___ king
29. It's larger than a village
31. End of a direction?
32. Opposite of long.
34. ___-cone
35. Word preceding up or down
37. Training camp regimen
38. Like those participating in 37-Down
39. Cenozoic or Paleozoic
40. Served up dinner
41. Numero ___
42. Total
45. Work by Pindar
47. Site of the 2004 Summer Games
48. Bribe
49. A sign on his desk read "The buck stops here"
50. Nations ruled by a sovereign
51. Took a breather
54. Birthplace of Big Bertha
55. Low spot
58. Band of Pirates?
59. Bit players
60. Eric of Monty Python fame
61. Like a game heading into overtime
62. Pawnee cousin

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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Corpus Christi Water Presents Proposed 2027 Water and Wastewater Rates

Today, Corpus Christi Water provided the City Council with an overview of the FY 2027 Operating and Capital Improvement Program Proposed Budget, including water and wastewater rate adjustments.

The proposed rate adjustments would apply to all customer classes, including residential, commercial, wholesale, and large volume users starting January 1, 2027. The rates were presented 30 to 60 days before the usual budget process, as a standalone presentation, to proactively inform all customers about the proposed changes.

Despite continued significant investments in new water supply projects and infrastructure improvements, the proposed combined water and wastewater rate adjustment for the residential customer remains lower than the adjustment adopted for the previous fiscal year. For FY 2027, the proposed combined water and wastewater monthly increase for an average residential customer is \$4.35.

The City's proactive approach to rate setting and long-term financial planning is viewed favorably by credit rating agencies including Moody's, S&P, and Fitch Ratings. These agencies recognize the City's willingness to adjust rates when necessary as an important factor in maintaining the

financial stability of the water and wastewater enterprise funds and supporting the City's strong credit profile.

- Below is the FY 2026-2027 Water and Wastewater Rate Presentation Schedule.
- July 16: Council Workshop
 - July 21: Council Meeting – First Reading
 - July 28: Council Meeting – Second Reading



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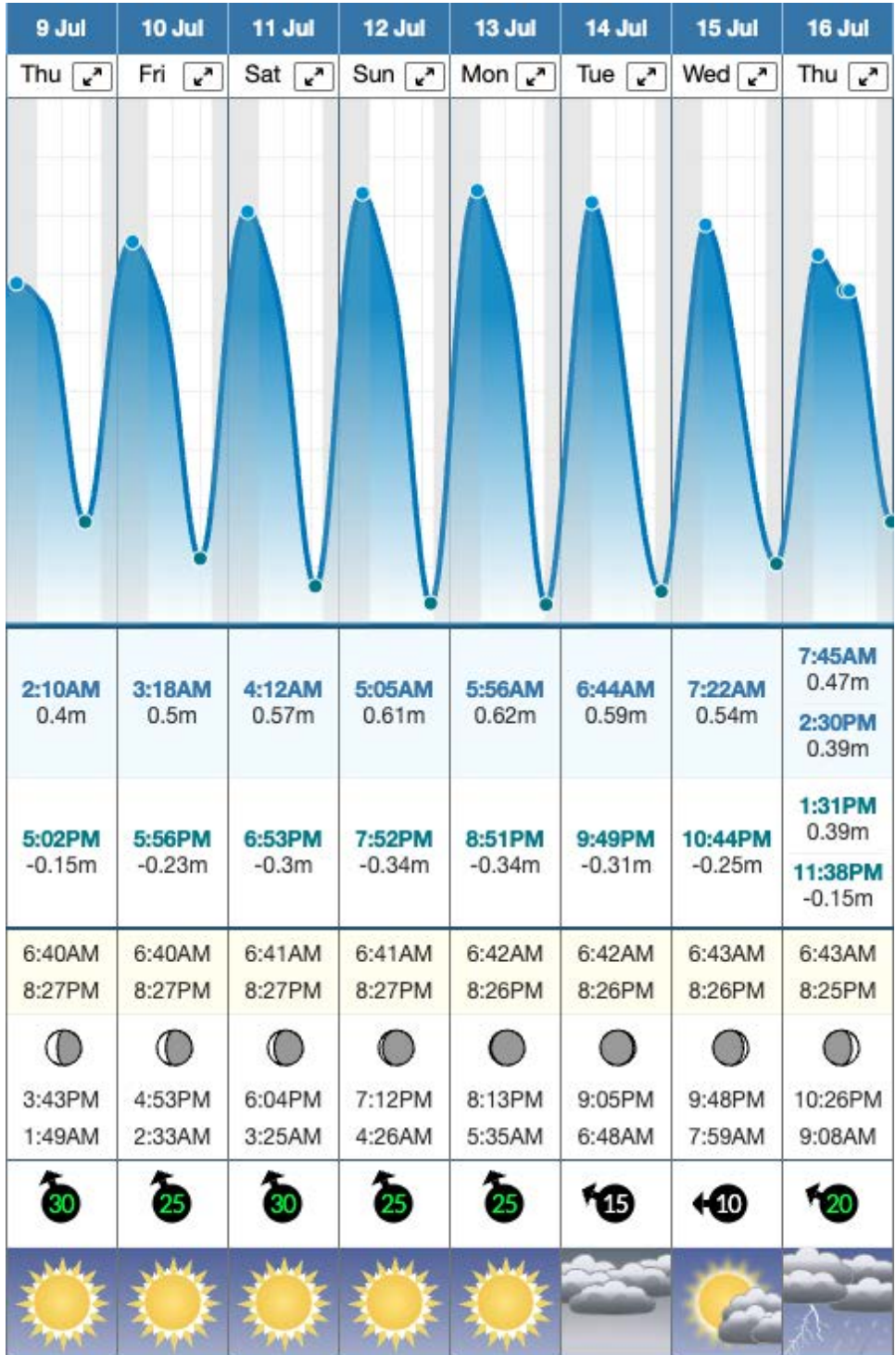
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The restaurant on Bob Hall Pier is getting rebuilt almost completely.

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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



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 others for the facts and photos contained in this report.



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.

In March 1937, the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation of Australia purchased an NA-32 (NA-16-1A, with fixed undercarriage) and an NA-33 (NA-16-2K with retractable undercarriage) along with a manufacturing license. The first CAC Wirraway, based on the NA-33, flew on 27 March 1939, of which 755 were built.

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 war-bird 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

On 23 April 1939, NAA received a contract for 251 BT-14s and 94 AT-6s. The BT-14 (NA-58) was a fixed gear aircraft with a metal skinned fuselage 14 inches longer than the BT-9. In 1941, 27 BT-14s were refitted with the 400 hp (300 kW) R-985-11, and designated as BT-14A-NAs. In June 1939, NAA received an order for 94 AT-6-NAs (NA-59), powered by the wright R-1340-47 and able to mount two .30 in (7.62 mm) machines guns.

The USAAC AT-6A, and the U.S. Navy SNJ-3, were based on the NA-77 and NA-78 designs. Pratt & Whitney R-1340-49 Wasp radial engine powered the USAAC aircraft, while R-1340-38s powered the Navy aircraft. The USAAC received 1847 AT-6As, and the Navy received 270 SNJ-3s.

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.

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

Do you know what trash items are most common on Texas beaches?

**From the Texas General Land Office*

Plastic bottle caps are at the top of the list followed by broken pieces of plastic and foam other waste (metal, paper, etc.) cigarettes plastic beverage bottles other plastic waste metal bottle caps derelict fishing gear (lines, nets, traps, etc.) beverage cans.



Trash collection at the Big Shell Beach Cleanup

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Turtle Nest Count

Note that the last Kemp's ridley nesting on the Texas coast this year was June 28. All Kemp's ridley nests found after that have been weeks old, discovered during or after emergence or predated, at missed nest sites or marked and monitored nester track sites where nests could not be found at egg laying,

On 13 July, 3 Kemp's ridley nests were located, including 3 on North Padre Island at Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS). Additionally, 2 green turtle nests were located, including 1 on San Jose Island and 1 at PAIS.

On 12 July, 2 Kemp's ridley nests were located, including 1 on North Padre Island at PAIS and 1 on South Padre Island.

On 11 July, 5 Kemp's ridley nests were located, including 1 on North Padre Island at PAIS and 4 on South Padre Island. Additionally, 2 green turtle nests were located at PAIS.

On 10 July, 1 Kemp's ridley nest and 1 green turtle nest were located on South Padre Island.

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

KEMP'S RIDLEY TURTLE

So far this year, **676** 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 676 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
- 16 San Jose Island
- 40 Mustang Island
- 363 North Padre Island, including 330 at PAIS
- 201 South Padre Island
- 47 Boca Chica Beach

GREEN TURTLE

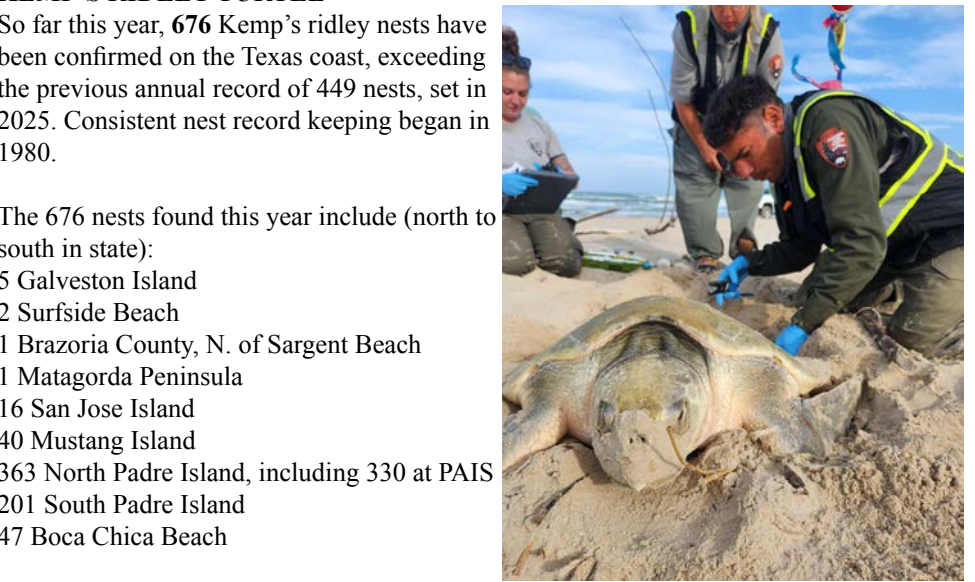
So far this year, **26** nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast, including (north to south in state):

- 2 San Jose Island
- 22 North Padre Island, including 20 at PAIS
- 2 South Padre Island

LOGGERHEAD TURTLE

So far this year, **5** nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast, including (north to south in state):

- 3 North Padre Island, including 3 at PAIS
- 2 Boca Chica Beach





Grumpy George the Great Blue Heron @ Padre Island, TX By Riekie Roncinske



Territorial flights are still going on above Rockport's oak trees By Lu Ann Kingsbury

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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Paul's send-off...



Brad Brown, Dennis Sullivan, Stevie Start, Ronnie Narmour, Billy Snipes, Uel Jackson, Dale West, Andrea Goldstein, Steve Goldstein, James Derkits

You're probably getting tired of me talking about **Paul Fain** and his send-off, so this will be the last installment. As you know, Paul was the owner of the famed *Tarpon Ice House* back in 2008. It was the center of the universe for many locals who made it a point to check in every day. I was one of those guys. Paul had a unique knack of making everyone feel at home. And live music was one of the cornerstones of the *Tarpon*. I was very close to Paul and his family and spent a lot of time with him until his passing in May. He had fought esophageal cancer bravely for six years and the writing was on the wall that he was looking death in the eye. I checked on him daily and I asked him what he'd like us to do when he croaked. He didn't want a lot of fan fare but to be cremated and to throw a little party for his friends and family with music. So that's what we did. His wife **Dede** arranged the setting for the event with **Father James Derkits** to use their amazing facilities at his church, *Trinity by the Sea*, where they had built an open air pavilion and amphitheater on the church grounds. And it was as much a *Tarpon Ice House* reunion as it was a remembrance of my dear friend **Pablo**. It was heartwarming to see so many old friends who lived that era before short term rentals and tourists took us over. When **Dennis** and **Marilynn Sullivan** and **Uel Jackson** showed up, we knew we were on the right track. Other veterans of the storied open jams also showed up with guitars and keyboards in hand with the likes of **Stevie Start**, **Billy Snipes**, **Steve** and **Andrea Goldstein**, **Dale West** and of course **Father James**. We passed around songs and stories and ate **Chris Jordan's** most excellent food... and a marvelous time was had by all. So adios Pablo. You was a goodern! Now get some rest.

On the local front...



The Moon Monkey placed in the winner's circle the last four belt sander races.

Not to brag, but I'm on a roll. I have placed in the winner's circle for four straight races at the BELT SAND RACES held every second and fourth Saturday at our favorite pirate bar, Da Gaff. To be clear, I came in 1st place one time, 2nd place twice and 3rd place once. My poor old *Moon Monkey* is about beat to hell, but I'm not touching anything as long as I'm winning. I also play *line judge* at these races and call the winners each race. FYI, it's a two out of three elimination. So I'm stationed at the end of the track where these monster racers smash into the big pillow and it sounds like a train wreck. I'm telling you parts frequently go flying and truth be told, it's scary down there. And you have to be on your toes because the racers often flip over and fly off the track all the time. I'm down there in my little spot expecting to die any moment. If you think I'm exaggerating, just come to one of the races and hang out on the end of the track with me. I'm thinking about wearing a football helmet.

Scattered shots...

I was pretty tied up with Paul's send-off last weekend but did make it around for a few shows. I did stop by the Gaff to get my dose of zydeco with **Boudreaux** and **Pousson** last Friday. I love Cajun and zydeco music and try not to miss any

of **Boo and Poo's** shows. They are puro merri-ment and get the gals wiggling on downbeat... every time. **Boudreaux** aka: **Ty Southerland** is a real deal Cajun from Eunice, Louisiana and now resides in Rockport, and is the consummate entertainer. And **Adam Pousson** is steady Freddie with his squeeze box and handmade rub boards. Adam is a blacksmith by trade. And they employ looper tactics in which they record each track in real time and build the song to where it sounds like a full band. I can't say enough good things about these boys. They also get volunteers from the audience up on stage to play along on scrub boards aka: frottoir which is a percussion instrument made from pressed, corrugated stainless steel and is worn over the shoulders and played with a wooden stick or sometimes metal finger pics. It's an art form in itself.



Boo and Poo played the Gaff last Friday

Coming this week...



Finding Friday will play a two-nighter at the Sip Yard on Thursday and Friday.

am delighted to announce one of the finest bands to every claim the city of San Antonio, **Finding Friday** will play a two nighter at the *Sip Yard* this Thursday and Friday the 16th and 17th. I may be a little jaded since their mighty, mighty lead singer, **Chris Byrd** worked for me when I ran the *Laboratory Brewing Company* in San Antonio 26 years ago. I'll be straight forward here... **Chris Byrd** is amazing and the band is amazing and anybody with good sense will come up with the same conclusion about half way through their first song. Trust me... they're great. Also on Friday I highly recommend another San Antonio guitar god, **Ruben V** playing *Shorty's*. He's sort of like **Jimi Hendrix** meets **Muddy Waters** and **Black Sabbath's** house. Not for the timid. Plus on Friday **Boo and Poo** are playing the *Gaff*, the **Groove 2.0** will play *Treasure Island* and **Austin Forrest** will play *Bron's*. Coming this Saturday Americana stud **Cory Morrow** will play *Virginia's* for the **BILLFISH PACHANGA FISHING TOURNAMENT**, **Mantle Jennings** will play *Shorty's*, **Payton Howie** will play the *Sip Yard*, **John Elijah** will play *Bron's*, the **Rip Tide Cowboy** will play the *Gaff* and the **Drew Brown Band** will play *Treasure Island*. And the big show will be **Dwight Yoakam** at the *Whitewater Amphitheater* in New Braunsfel. And on Sunday look for the **Rockoholics** at the *Sip Yard*. Yall be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Cory Morrow will play the Billfish Pachanga at Virginia's this Saturday.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, July 16

Johnson All Starz @
Shorty's
Finding Friday @
Sip Yard
Brad Ethridge @
Bron's
Billy Snipes @ Gaff
Allison Euforia USA @
House of Rock
Randy Rogers @
Brewster Downtown
Emma James @
Brewster Island
Peter Salas @
Brewster Southside
Alley Catz @ Surf Club
Damon Scott @
Rockit's

Friday, July 17

BILLFISH
PACHANGA
Jesse Stratton @
Sunset Sounds PA
Finding Friday @
Sip Yard
Austin Forrest @
Bron's
Ruben V @ Shorty's
Boudreaux &
Pousson @ Gaff
The Groove 2.0 @
Treasure Island
Dreaming in Color @
Pelican
Punchis! Punchis! @
House of Rock
2000's Party @
Brewster Street
Downtown
Emerald Unplugged @
Brewster Island
Michael Burtt @
Brewster Southside
8-Bit Serenade,
Meza Band @
Rockit's
Flatland Cavalry @
Whitewater
Amphitheater
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeards on the Beach

Saturday, July 18

Cory Morrow
PACHANGA @
Virginia's
Mantle Jennings @
Shorty's
Payton Howie @
Sip Yard
Rip Tide Cowboy @
Gaff
Drew Brown Band @
Treasure Island
John Elijah @
Bron's
Chainlinks @
Pelican
Underoath @ House of Rock
Groove 2.0 @ Surf Club
Fuzion @ South TX

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BOUDREAUX & POUSSON JULY 17
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MARTHA VALOR JULY 19
LOS LOCALS JULY 21
OPEN MIC JULY 22

SHORTY'S
JOHN ELIJAH BAND EVERY MONDAY
JOHNSON ALL STARZ EVERY THURS
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
RUBEN V JULY 17
MANTLE JENNINGS JULY 18
JOHN CORTEZ JULY 24
TODD DORN JULY 25

Treasure Island
THE GROOVE 2.0 JULY 17
DREW BROWN BAND JULY 18
BILL AYERS BAND JULY 24
SPLENDIFEROUS JULY 25
BACK PEW REVIVAL JULY 31
JAM BAND AUG 1

Bron's BACKYARD
BRAD ETHRIDGE JULY 16
AUSTIN FORREST JULY 17
JOHN ELIJAH JULY 18
BRANDON MICHAEL JULY 19
AUSTIN FORREST JULY 21
JERRY WARD DUO JULY 22

Sip Yard
FINDING FRIDAY JULY 16-17
PAYTON HOWIE JULY 18
CRUISE CONTROL JULY 23
MATT CASTILLO JULY 24
HUSER BROTHERS JULY 25
BELLAMY BROS JULY 30

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Brewster Downtown
Scarecrow People @
Brewster Island
SIC Texas: Slipknot
Trib @ Brewster
Downtown
The Max, Joseph
Martinez @ Rockit's
Tribute Bands:
Weezer & Blink 182 @
Fifth & Elm
Dwight Yoakam @
Whitewater
Amphitheater

Sunday, July 19

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @
Shorty's
Rockoholics @ Sip Yard
Martha Valor, Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Brandon Michaels @
Bron's
Michael Perez @
Surf Club
Tryptonite @
Rockit's

Monday, July 20

John Elijah @
Shorty's
Jerry Ward @
Pelican

Tuesday, July 21

Austin Forrest @
Bron's
Brad Ethridge @
VFW
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeards on the Beach
Michael Perez @
Surf Club
Wednesday, July 22
Open Jam @ Gaff
Jerry Ward @ Bron's
Philip Dean West @
Sip Yard
Johnny Kiser @
Pelican
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeards on the Beach

Thursday, July 23

Cruise Control @ Sip Yard
Johnson All Starz @
Shorty's
Brad Ethridge @
Bron's
Emerald Unplugged @
Brewster Southside
Max Deboard @
Brewster Island
Isaac Jacob @
Brewster Downtown
Michael Burtt @
Rockit's
The Drive @

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