



Three Chords and the Truth A12

Nature Notes A7

The Art of Island Life A7

Turtle Release A6

Beachcombing Report A7

Issue 1162

The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

July 23, 2026

www.islandmoon.com

Full Color Version Available Online!

Weekly FREE

27° 37' 0.5952" N | 97° 13' 21.4068" W



Painted Bunting bathing at the Oso Bay Wetlands by Ismael Gomez

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

98.7 FM
1440 AM
KEYS

NEWS • TALK • SPORTS

By Dale Rankin

We are playing chicken with our first storm of Hurricane Season 2026 as (at least at the time of this writing) Tropical Storm Bertha seems to be headed in our direction. The most likely thing it will produce *Around The Island* is some good surf and maybe rain. On the water front the Stage 3 water restrictions we have been under since December 2024 may be lifted as rain in the watershed of the western reservoirs looks like it may lift their capacity from the current 15% combined total to the 30% required for easing the restrictions. It turns out the cure for a drought is rain – who knew!?

Record year for Kemp's ridley turtles

The record for the number of Kemps ridley turtles on the Texas Coast was set in 2025 at 449 according to records that go back to 1980. But that record stood for only one year as it was reported this week that 685 nests have been found this year. It is estimated there are between 7000 and 9000 Kemp's ridley turtles in the wild and a much better number than when efforts to bring them back from the brink of extinction began decades ago.

Bob Hall lives!



Bob Hall Pier is now up and running and charging admission. The new, permanent admission building is going up but a temporary one is now in use. That building and the addition to the old restaurant structure on the pier are being made of "Styrofoam" blocks called Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF) and they are the gold standard of construction in hurricane prone areas like The Island once they are filled with rebar and concrete. They have proven their worth all along the Texas

Around cont. on A4

It's Open!

Water flowing under Commodores Bridge!



Work crews at the sand dam mid week

By Dale Rankin

Water began flowing under the \$10 million bridge on Commodores Drive this week.

On Monday the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a permit allowing the removal of the sand dam that had been blocking water flow through the canal since completion of the bridge in June 2025.

Canals cont. on A3

Activity Area at Whitecap NPI Development making progress

Work continues on the activity area at Whitecap NPI. The first phase is scheduled to open in August, and includes an event lawn, food truck park and Freedom Boat Club's new sales center/office location. The pickle ball courts are also scheduled to open in August and the ship store may open by the end of August. Phase 2 will be a Spring 2027 opening, which will include a number of restaurant and bar concepts, and a live music stage.



Turtle Nest Count

Record number of Kemp's ridley turtle nest found in 2026

So far this year, 685 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 685 nests found this year include (north to south in state):



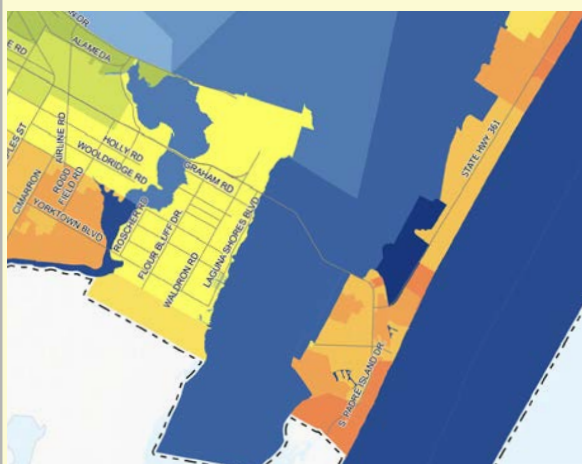
Kemp's ridley Turtle

- 5 Galveston Island
- 2 Surfside Beach
- 1 Brazoria County, N. of Sargent Beach
- 2 Matagorda Peninsula
- 16 San Jose Island

Turtles cont. on page A3

A little Island history

How The Island Almost Escaped Annexation by the City of Corpus Christi



Annexation Map

By Dale Rankin

Last we took a look at the rules for de-annexation of Padre Island from the City of Corpus Christi. This week we look back at how The Island came to be part of the city and how it almost did not happen.

It started in 1961 when the 4002 residents of Flour Bluff, fearing annexation by the City of Corpus Christi, decided to circulate a petition calling for incorporation. They would fend off annexation by becoming their own city. This did not sit well with the powers that be in Corpus Christi who believed that

History cont. on A5

City Council to consider changes to charter

Staggered Four-year council terms, higher pay

The Corpus Christi City Council this week tabled a vote on changes to the City Charter that would change the current two-year terms for council members and mayor to staggered four-year terms. They are scheduled to consider the changes in their July 28, meeting and if approved the changes will

Council cont. on page A8

City Council Approves Water and Wastewater increase

Second Reading set for next meeting

The Corpus Christi City Council this week approved the first reading of an ordinance to adopt new water and wastewater rates beginning January 1, 2027. For an average residential customer, the proposed combined monthly increase for water and wastewater is \$4.35. Under the new rates the typical monthly water bill for households using 6,000 gallons will rise by \$2.48 (from \$42.07 to \$44.55), wastewater rates will increase by \$1.87 per month for a typical household. The rate adjustments apply to all customer classes, including residential, commercial, wholesale, and large-volume users. The ordinances will return to the City Council for a second and final reading on July 28, 2026. If approved, the new rates will take effect on January 1, 2027.

Christmas in July!

First La Posada event Sunday July 26

The first event of the La Posada season kicks off at Brewster Street Icehouse on Padre Island on Sunday July 26. In keeping with the La Posada theme of helping kids the event is collecting school supplies for local kids. Attendees are asked to bring school supplies or donate to the cause on arrival. It runs from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and music is by JLB Jose Blanco.

The Traveling Moon



Kimberely Britt took the Island Moon to Las Vegas to celebrate her 30th birthday! David, Meredith, Chris & Amie joined to help her celebrate!



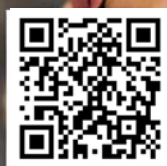
Jimmy Jam took the Moon traveling to visit Greg Villasana near Houston.

CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE.

Become a CASA Volunteer!

- ♥ Advocate for a Child in Foster Care
- ★ Be Their Voice & Support
- 🕒 Attend a 30-Minute Info Session on Zoom

SIGN UP TODAY!
coastalbendcasa.org



SCAN TO REGISTER



Kiosk at Bob Hall Pier

The new temporary shack on Bob Hall Pier is open and operational.



Pier Admission Fees:

Admission Fees (to walk/fish the pier)

Adults	\$3
Seniors (Ages 65 & up), Military, & Vets	\$1
Children (Ages 12 & under)	FREE

Rod Fees (to fish the pier)

Adults - Per Rod	\$4
Seniors - Per Rod	\$1
Cast Nets	\$2
(Limit 2 Rods per Person)	

ROD RENTALS AVAILABLE

Fishing Rod Rentals

24 Hour Rod Rental: \$35 Rental + \$50 Deposit

\$50 Deposit refunded if rod returned in good condition

(Note: Rod rental does NOT include any bait or tackle. Bait and tackle sold separately.)

Bait

Shrimp	\$9
Squid	\$9
Mullet	\$9

Tackle

Leaders	\$3
Hooks (pack)	\$6
Weights	\$4
Fishing Pliers	\$14

Are You Ready For The Next Hurricane?

Storm?
Freeze?
Tornado?
Grid Failure?



Call Us

361-782-6329

generator
SUPERCENTER

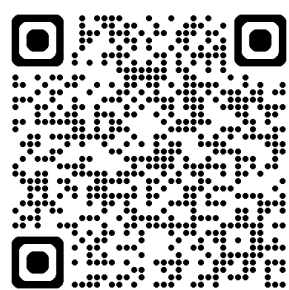
GENERAC

GeneratorSupercenterOfCorpusChristi.com

GREAT FOOD. GREAT VIEWS. THE PERFECT BREAK.



Visit our Website



Order DoorDash



MAKE TIME FOR
LUNCH
AT



13309 S. Padre Island Dr.
361-949-6744



Letters to the Editor



Vaccinations

Please notify your readers of an alarming statistic regarding exemptions from vaccinations at Seashore Charter school, as well as Port Aransas School District, as publicized in the Caller Times this past Tuesday. In part, the article states:

“In Corpus Christi ISD, vaccination rates for seventh graders were similar to the kindergarten data. Other public school districts have similarly high levels of vaccination coverage, though levels vary at private and charter schools. Across Nueces County, conscientious exemption rates have shifted slightly up from less than 1% in 202021 to about 2% in 2025-26. In public schools, where most Nueces County children are educated, conscientious exemption rates are low. But rates have risen to close to 5% in the London Independent School District, 4% in the Flour Bluff Independent School District and 6% in the Port Aransas Independent School District. According to state data, the conscientious exemption rate was highest in Nueces County at Annapolis Christian Academy and Seashore Charter Schools. Data for some Corpus Christi charter schools, including the School of Science and Technology campuses, is not included because it is not grouped in Nueces County in state datasets.”

E. Cushing

Turtles cont. from A1

- 40 Mustang Island
- 367 North Padre Island, including 334 at PAIS
- 205 South Padre Island
- 47 Boca Chica Beach

GREEN TURTLE

So far this year, 31 nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast, including (north to south in state):
2 San Jose Island

25 North Padre Island, including 23 at PAIS
4 South Padre Island

LOGGERHEAD TURTLE

So far this year, 6 nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast, including (north to south in state):
4 North Padre Island, including 4 at PAIS
2 Boca Chica Beach



Kemp's Ridley Turtle on PINS

Douden Gardens

In response to your articles on Douden gardens, I am attaching photos taken yesterday of gardeners who are doing a good job of maintaining their gardens. Besides putting down fabric/plastic they have put down fabric on pathways at their own expense. I respect David Dunseith's work and opinions regards the issues involved but disagree that the heat is the culprit. We have 3 gardens



Douden Gardens

and by starting them in February we have a great surplus of vegetables that we have to give away. I would like to see the PIPOA notify plot leasees who do not maintain their plots and give them 60 days to clean them up or forfeit them. Would hope some funds can be freed up to clean and put down coverings.

Glenn Vondra



Canals cont. from A1

Crews began removing the dam Wednesday morning and water was flowing by mid-day. The bridge and canal are part of the Whitecap NPI project and was paid for through funding from the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2.

As of mid-week water flow under the Don Patricio Bridge on SPID was still blocked by a sand dam east of the bridge on Lake

Padre. Tim Lange, the developer of the Lake Padre property has said in recent months he would remove the Lake Padre dam when the Commodore canal was open, but said mid-week he is not certain exactly when that will occur.

The clearance for boats under the Commodores Dr. bridge is 14 feet, the same as the clearance under the Don Patricio Bridge.



Crews working on the sand dam by Commodores Bridge

Moon Monkeys



Mike Ellis, Founder
Editor/Publisher
Dale Rankin
Co-Publisher, Business Ops
Jan Park Rankin
Design and Production
Jacob Augs
Business and Feature Writers
Joey Farah
Emily Gaines
Jay Gardner
Todd Hunter
Dotson Lewis
Dr. Mario Martinez
Melissa Mitchell
Ronnie Narmour
Dr. Ed Proffitt
Reverend Dr. Ken Ritchie
Gene Saegert
Celeste Silling
Jace Tunnell
Photographers
Miles Merwin (Emeritus)
Debbie Noble
Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)



Riley P. Dog
About the Island Moon
The Island Moon is published every Thursday, Dale Rankin, Editor / Publisher.

Total circulation is 10,000 copies. Free distribution of 6,000 copies in over 50 Padre Island businesses and condos, as well as 600 copies distributed in Flour Bluff, 1,400 copies on Mustang Island and Port Aransas businesses.

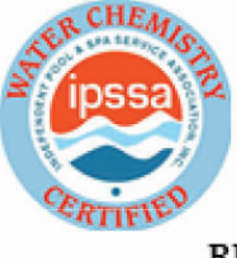
News articles, photos, display ads, classified ads, payments, etc. may be left at the Moon Office.

The Island Moon Newspaper
14646 Compass, Suite 4
Corpus Christi, TX 78418
361-949-7700
editor@islandmoon.com
Facebook: The Island Moon Newspaper

Where to Find The Island Moon

Port Aransas	North Padre
Pioneer RV	All Stripes Stores
Stripes on 1A	Black Sheep/ Barrel
Kody's	CVS
Coffee Waves	Dollar General
Moby Dicks	Doc's Restaurant
IGA	Hometown Seafood
Treasure Island	Snoopy's Pier
San Juan's Restaurant	Isle Mail N More
Wash Tub	Island Italian
Shorty's Place	Ace Hardware
Gratitude	Texas Star (Shell)
The Gaff	Spanky's
Red's Riviera	Subway
Sounds Good BBQ	Island Tire
Spanky's Liquor	Padre Pizzeria
Beach Lodge	And all Moon retail advertisers
Ellis Memorial Library	WB Liquor
Bernie's Beach House	Island IGA
Flour Bluff	Island Fitness
H.E.B.	Ridleys
Ethyl Everly Senior Center	My Coastal Home

Since 1991



Atlantis
Pool and Spa
Quality you can swim in!
(361) 563-7665 or (361) 949-8899
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
Weekly Pool & Spa Maintenance * Repairs & Renovations
Island Resident
Shouldn't you be saying, "It's time to relax. My pool is ready."
Call Atlantis For All Your Pool Needs

www.atlantiscorpus.com





Marine Masters

Mobile Marine Service

We've been providing quality marine repairs at your place since 2001.

Operator Owner
Jon Reynolds

Certified Technicians
• Yamaha • Honda
• Suzuki • Mercury
• Evinrude • Mariner
• Johnson • Volvo

361-949-7570 361-728-1745
marinemasters@hotmail.com

Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

Until November 2010 elections for the City of Corpus Christi were standalone affairs held in the spring when they were front and center of the political landscape. On Padre Island the common theme every two years centered on taxes, potholes, and police protection; too much of the first two and not enough of the third.

In 2009 Padre Island had formed the Island United Political Action Committee (IUPAC) when Joe Adame challenged incumbent Henry Garrett for mayor. Garrett showed up in front of 300 Island residents at the old Holiday Inn and asked to be allowed to speak first because he had to attend a meeting of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) downtown. He spoke and left and his exit did not sit well with the crowd who had recently lived through the last period that could be called a *crime wave* when more than forty Island homes were burglarized and sometimes even robbed with residents at home. After Garrett left IUPAC voters endorsed Adame who won with 66% of the vote defeating the first incumbent mayor in 50 years and the collective voting power of Island voters was established.

Islanders then and now were conservative by nature and by voting patterns and by November 2010 the more left-leaning candidates in city elections began eyeing the higher turnout of Democrat voters across the city during November elections and in November 2010 a total of 63,043 of 189,528 registered voters in the city went to the polls and moved the city election from May to November to coincide with presidential and gubernatorial elections. The move was sold as a \$40,000 cost saving move but when the next city election cycle called for a standalone runoff it cost city taxpayers \$170,000. It was never about cost savings, it was always about raw political power.

So now comes the latest attempt to reshape the political landscape at City Hall with a series of amendments to the City Charter proposed by council members Carolyn Vaughn (At-Large), Gil Hernandez (District 5 and termed out), and District 4 member Kaylynn Paxson (In her first term in our own District 4).

Some of the items under consideration are long overdue such as the staggering of council elections to provide some institutional knowledge from one council the next and increasing the pay to council members and mayor to the federal minimum wage and making it more difficult to remove council members from office which now can be initiated by a petition from only and handful of registered voters.

Around cont. from A1

and Florida coasts and should withstand anything Mother Nature can throw at the new pier.

Pier Admission Fees:	
Admission Fees (to walk/fish the pier)	
Adults:	\$3
Seniors (Ages 65 & up), Military, & Yets:	\$1
Children (Ages 12 & under)	FREE
Rod Fees (to fish the pier)	
Adults - Per Rod	\$4
Seniors - Per Rod	\$1
Cast Nets	\$2
(Limit 3 Rods per Person)	
ROD RENTALS AVAILABLE	

E bikes

There have been a noticeably smaller number of e-bikes *Around The Island* since the Corpus Christi Police began a public awareness campaign in May. The reduction in numbers was accomplished without fanfare and with no serious injuries to riders. The low key approach by CCPD worked and the only buzz *Around The Island* is the hum of mosquitos.

District 34 congress boundary lines

There has been an ongoing discussion *Around The Island* regarding the northern boundary of The Island's new U.S congressional district. The question is whether the homes between SPID and Packery Channel are in District 34 which runs south to Brownsville or whether they remained in the previous district to the north represented by Michael Cloud. A study of the lines in the bill setting the boundaries shows both

In particular the paying of council members more than the current \$6000 per year has been proposed before and paying council members the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour doesn't seem outrageous for members of the governing body that manages a \$1.5 billion budget. The job of being a council member takes an absolute minimum of twenty hours per week and that much work and \$15,080 per year is still a pittance but at least it would open the door for more citizens to consider running.

A monumentally bad idea

But one proposal that just doesn't ever seem to die is to increase council terms to four years from the current two. It would keep the maximum number of years in office at the current twelve – council and mayor seats combined – but calls for staggered elections every two years for four-year terms.

City council is often the first elected office that private citizens run for and that makes first-time members a box of chocolates. The ideas that seemed great from the corner of the bar when no one was really listening often sound downright silly in the glare of a council meeting and it is not uncommon for new members who suddenly find themselves in the spotlight to be overcome with their newfound attention and self-perceived authority to get out over their skis. A poll just two weeks ago found that the popularity of the current council members hovers between 33% and 39% and if we had four year terms we would be looking at those same faces until 2028. Terms in the Texas and the United States Houses of Representatives are for two years and the job on the Corpus Christi City Council is certainly no more challenging than those.

The Island

When the Voting Rights Act rolled out across Texas in the 1970s it called for single-member districts but through a series of machinations at the local level (a story for another day) Corpus Christi kept three At-Large seats. That was not by accident. Three At-Large seats in combination with the Mayor meant that voters across the city all got to vote for a majority of seats on the council which made it easier for the Old Guard to keep control of city government. But half a century later the Law of Unintended Consequences means that the 8481 registered voters on The Island often make up around 6% of the total votes cast across the city in municipal elections which is enough to swing most of them. The more often we go to the polls the closer we stay to those who represent us at city hall.

A two-year leash seems short enough and a lot of mischief can happen in four years.

of the Island voting precincts, 40 and 81, are in District 34 with the boundary being Fish Pass. We will have certainty on the issue when sample ballots go out later this year but according to the maps issued by the state the whole of Padre Island is in the newly redrawn District 34.

Fungus among us

The foodborne parasite that has been making its way across Texas has been finding its way to digestive systems *Around The Island*. The Texas Department of Health Services says the **cyclosporiasis parasite** spreads through contaminated, unwashed fresh produce and causes watery diarrhea, cramping, bloating, and fatigue none of which sounds particularly enticing. Of particular interest on The Island are the lemons and limes often served with Mexican brands of beer and at least one Islander believes he contracted the virus that way. Be careful everybody because wastewater fees are about to go up and getting this bug could get expensive.

La Posada event

The first La Posada event takes place this week and we include the details in this issue. Those Santa hats are going to be head heaters in a Texas July but it's for a good cause. We'll see you there and say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



The Port A Cookbook



By Chris Jordan

“Migas” is the Spanish word for “crumbs.” The dish originated on the Iberian Peninsula in the Middle Ages. Nomadic shepherds from both Portugal and Spain made it. Originally eaten for lunch or dinner, it was literally crumbs. Broken-up bits of a bread called *candeal* were fried in olive oil or pork fat. Common add-ins included garlic, paprika, peppers, and cured meats like chorizo, tocino, or the blood sausage, *morcilla*. Devoid of eggs, migas were a calorie-dense utility meal made from trail-stable food-stuffs — and not even for breakfast. So how did we get here?

As the dish spread, localized versions emerged. Modern migas are interpreted differently across Spain, Portugal, Mexico, and the United States. In Spain, regional preparations range from the inland, paprika-forward migas manchegas often paired with chorizo and grapes, to coastal Andalusian versions that occasionally incorporate sardines. Across the border, Portuguese interpretations pivot toward texture; the Alentejo style utilizes a dense, pork-fat-enriched foundation, whereas the Beira region prefers a rustic cornbread base enhanced by beans and greens. Versions vary across Mexico, but none is so unique as the migas that hail from the Tepito neighborhood of Mexico City. These migas are a hangover remedy of garlicky broth that features a pork shank, a raw egg, and bolillo crumbs.

From bread to tortillas

Clearly, migas made the transition from bread to tortillas after their transcontinental introduction to the New World. Like most time-honored dishes, there was no revelatory moment when migas became the breakfast meal we know today. Sure, someone was the first person to fry stale tortillas in the morning with some eggs — we just don't know who, where, when, or why. Was it an abuela's go-to after church? Was it on the trail during a cattle drive? Was it during the Mexican Revolution? Was it out of necessity during food scarcity? All these attributions and lots of others can all be true at the same time. What we know for sure is that when mentioned in the San Antonio-based, Spanish-language newspaper, *La Prensa* in 1922, migas were still a broth-and-breadcrumb affair. The very first appearance of the egg-and-tortilla breakfast version in print was in *The Brownsville Herald* in 1951, exactly one year after migas made their restaurant debut. Rudy “Cisco” Cisneros opened Cisco's on Austin's 6th Street in 1950, and migas were on the menu from the get-go.

A personal quest

Migas have been widely served at cafes, diners, and various Tex-Mex joints since not long after. Where did I have my first migas? I dunno. That's like asking me where I had my first hamburger: some foods have just always been there. Nonetheless, I can tell you when I began to regard Tex-Mex food as something special: 1988. I was 20 years old and a waiter at a “fancy”, ostensibly Tex-Mex joint named El Jarro de Arturo in San Antonio. I'd always had Tejano friends, but I started making Mexican friends there. I learned some Spanish. I began to understand the rift between Tex-Mex and Mexican food. The distinction was playing out right before my eyes at El Jarro. I had my first chilaquiles, queso fundido, mole, and many other Mexican dishes there. I worked at night, so I had my days to explore the countless Mexican-adjacent greasy spoons scattered across the city.

I was on a quest; compelled. But why? The only purpose I could identify in this pursuit was learning to cook some of my favorite food. After a while, my interest became focused on carne guisada and barbacoa. The flavors were so unique. I would often head out in the early morning so I could cover as much ground as possible. I'd order various plates or tacos to break up the monotony of my obsession with the aforementioned two. I learned to order like a pro and ask for things like Charlie Brown tortillas and migas a la Mexicana.

Crumbs for Breakfast

The history of Migas and how to cook them

I went EVERYWHERE. So many of the little places I went were inside a bakery or flea market. There's no way I could remember them all. The ones that have stuck with me are still around and have been since before I was born: Garcia's, Blanco Cafe, Ray's Drive Inn, El Milagrito, and Teka Molino. It is oddly serendipitous that I was conferring upon myself an honorary degree in Tex-Mex. It sure came in handy when I opened my first restaurant, essentially by mistake. In just four years, I would move to Port Aransas. In just four more, I would open Tacorama, a breakfast and lunch taco shack. But I didn't know that at the time.

From a pile of parts to Tacorama!

In 1993, I was at a yard sale in Port Aransas where a few piles of motorcycle parts piqued my interest. The fellow tending the sale explained that they were parts of various Harley-Davidson motorcycles from the 1930s through the 1970s. I saw a frame, a couple of wheels, a gas tank, handlebars, a crankcase, a pair of jugs (that's what bikers call cylinders), cylinder heads, rocker covers...hell, it looked like enough to make a motorcycle out of. If ever there was a basket case, this was it. I gave the man \$200 for all of it.

Now, you may be convinced at this point that I have fully digressed from the subject at hand. I assure you I have not, so hang in there. As I worked on the bike at my apartment and shop where Discount Auto Parts is now, I was honored to occasionally be visited by legendary constable's deputy, biker, bouncer, and Mayor of Port Aransas, Claude Brown. Claude's guidance, a year's worth of busted knuckles, and \$8,000 later, I had built myself a mighty-fine custom Harley-Davidson from the ground up. Finally, one day it was time to ride it out of the shop. I had never ridden a motorcycle of any kind whatsoever — not even a mini-bike. Yet here I found myself astride this 1400cc beast with a high-performance crank, camshaft, and carburetor. It was now or never. I rolled the throttle back as cautiously as I could, but it wasn't cautious enough: the great beast lurched forward, threw me right off, and lay down on its side in the middle of Alister and Oakes. I wasn't hurt except for some light bruising in the vicinity of my ego, but I had to repaint the tank and replace the mufflerless straight pipes.

I did learn to ride that motorcycle. I even rode it to take the test for my motorcycle license. To get the “Class M” designation on your driver's license, you have to ride in front of a State Trooper while they tell you where to go over the loudspeaker on their vehicle. I was clearly a novice rider and didn't do great. When we got back to the driver's license office, that trooper wouldn't even look me in the eye. He tore the test document off his clipboard, shook his head in slow pity, and said, “Son, go see if them ladies in there will give you a motorcycle license.”

While I outwardly viewed my own motorcycle with what I hoped would pass as respect to the casual observer, I was scared to death of it on the inside. But not my friend Bill Gengenbach. He coveted that bike and asked to ride it all the time. So, when Bill's partner lost interest in working at the snow cone stand he had established for her, he offered to trade it for my motorcycle. I accepted, and that's how Tacorama came to be on the corner where The Island Cafe is now.

How to cook them

I made migas a la Mexicana this last Sunday. People have strong feelings that the dish authentically requires stale bits of corn tortilla to be shallow-fried in the pan you're cooking the eggs in. I don't think it's that important, and crumbling up some chips in the eggs is just fine. But here's where the magic is: cook your onion, tomato, and jalapeños in a nearly dry pan over high heat until they have a decent char to them. Good luck, mavens of migas.

History cont. from A1

Flour Bluff’s future lay not in the hands of Flour Bluff residents alone but rather under the jurisdiction of the Corpus Christi City Council.

The citizens of Flour Bluff turned in a petition signed by 132 Flour Bluff residents calling for an election to form the City of Flour Bluff. The City of Corpus Christi countered by urging Flour Bluff residents to circulate a petition requesting a vote on annexation of Flour Bluff into the City of Corpus Christi. Then barely one month before the scheduled August election the city passed an emergency measure placing a vote on whether to annex Flour Bluff on the same ballot after a petition to that effect was handed in containing 105 signatures of purported registered Flour Bluff voters.

The paradoxical election was called for August 5, 1961 in which voters citywide would vote on whether to annex Flour Bluff into the city, and at the same time a separate vote on the same ballot would ask Flour Bluff residents if they wished to become their own city.

Headed for a showdown.

The campaign got hot and on July 27 gunfire broke out in the Tropical Isles subdivision after a woman who favored annexation allegedly tried to remove a yard sign backing incorporation from a man’s yard and the man sought conflict resolution through gunsmoke. He squeezed off a single round sending the woman running for cover and Constable John Hays was called to investigate. No charges were filed but Constable Hays called for all parties to “just cool off and don’t shoot each other.”

It turned out that Flour Bluff was very popular on Election Day. Corpus Christi voters approved annexation and Flour Bluff residents approved incorporation. What to do?

It went to the courts with the City of Corpus Christi claiming that under Texas home rule laws an area of nine square miles must contain at least 5,000 citizens in order to become its own town and Flour Bluff had only 4002. Flour Bluff residents countered by saying that of the 105 signers of the petition favoring annexation there were not the required 69 registered voters.

U.S. Supreme Court

As the case wound its way through the state appeals court and headed for the U.S. Supreme Court the courts continued to side with the Flour Bluff residents who wanted to form their own city and the City of Corpus Christi continued to appeal. As the facts emerged it turned out that only 29 of the signatures on the pro-annexation petition belonged to registered Flour Bluff voters. The appellate courts ruled that the vote to annex Flour Bluff should never have been placed on the ballot in the first place.

In the written ruling, without a hearing, the U.S. Supreme Court in effect said that, yes, the petition allowing annexation in fact did lack the required signatures for the vote to have been held and therefore the election was technically illegal.

However, in a mind-bending piece of legal fiction they ruled in favor of the city’s decision to annex on the grounds that in the three-plus years it took for the case to be decided in the courts that city services had already been extended to parts of Flour Bluff and that was a de facto acceptance of annexation. No matter that the citizens of Flour Bluff voted to become their own city they were swallowed up by the monolith; ironically, a move that would not happen under state annexation laws which were amended by the state legislature in 2023.

Promises made

It is fair to note that at the time of annexation the City of Corpus Christi promised to extend water and sewer lines to all Flour Bluff residents within ten years.

So how did all of this affect the annexation of Padre Island? Under Texas home rule laws a city cannot “jump annex.” That is to say they can’t leapfrog over an un-annexed area to annex an adjacent area. So if Flour Bluff had won their fight against annexation and become their own city then the City of Corpus Christi could never have annexed The Island and we could have formed our own city.

Next time: How annexation raced up Mustang Island in a fight for Hotel Occupancy Tax.

Texas Job Market Grows by More Than 177,000 Positions Over the Year
Professional and Business Services industry sees larges increase

Texas added 43,400 nonfarm jobs in June to reach a total of 14,469,600 positions. Over the year, the state added 177,900 jobs for an annual growth rate of 1.2 percent, outpacing the national growth rate by 0.9 percentage points.

Texas’ civilian labor force registered at 15,904,900 after adding 3,400 people over the month. Over the year, Texas’ civilian labor force has added 29,700 people. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Texas registered at 4.4 percent.

The Professional and Business Services industry had the largest private sector over-the-month increase in June after adding 25,500 jobs. Leisure and Hospitality added 10,300 jobs over the month while Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 6,400.

The Midland metropolitan statistical area (MSA) had the lowest unemployment rate with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 3.6 percent in June. It was followed by the San Angelo MSA at 3.9 percent and the Abilene MSA at 4.0 percent.

“With an annual growth rate of 1.2 percent, Texas continues to outpace the national average and demonstrate economic resilience,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Brent Connett. “Both job seekers and employers can seek customized career services and recruitment assistance by visiting our TWC website or their local Workforce Solutions office.”

Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Reddish egrets are entertaining to watch—known for sprinting, jumping, and spinning around in shallow water with its wings held up. Dark morph is more common than white morph. By Riekie Roncinske

The Art of Island Life

By Melissa Mitchell



Finding Joy in the Making

Working with clay demands your attention. Your hands are busy. The clay responds to every movement. Too much pressure changes its shape. Too little support and it may collapse. You have to feel what is happening beneath your fingers and respond. For a little while, everything else grows quieter. For Melissa and John Pisarek, that kind of focus has taken on an entirely new meaning. Earlier this year, they unexpectedly lost their 25-year-old daughter, Mae, to suicide. In the months that followed, they found themselves searching for healthy ways to navigate a grief that, at times, felt too big for words. Eventually, they found themselves back in the pottery studio. Melissa and John had worked with clay for years. They loved pottery, but as their business grew, slowly the reason they were creating began to change. “Somewhere along the way, creating became producing,” Melissa shared. Instead of walking into the studio simply to see what they could make, they were creating inventory for the next market, filling custom orders, and making what they thought people wanted to buy. The joy they once found in creating had begun to feel more like work, and slowly, they found themselves pulling away from it. After losing their daughter, they returned to clay with an entirely different purpose. “We made a conscious decision that clay wasn’t going to be about production anymore,” Melissa explained. “We weren’t going to create for everyone else. We were going to create for ourselves.” If someone else connected with what they made, that would be a blessing. But it would no longer be the reason they made it.

Creating From the Heart Again

That decision gave them permission to rediscover what they had loved about creating in the first place. For John, whose first love has always been sculpture and who holds a master’s degree in art, that freedom has opened the door to more sculptural work. His recent pieces include ceramic wind chimes that move well beyond the traditional form, incorporating individually created elements into larger, dimensional works. Melissa has found herself drawn to functional pottery with a little whimsy—texture, hand building, and playful pieces like animal bells that simply make people smile. Their individual styles are different, but their strengths often come together in the finished work. John’s wind chimes, for example, may include wire wrapping or jewelry elements added by Melissa. “Almost every piece we make ends up having some part of each of us in it,” she said. They each bring something the other doesn’t. Together, they make it their own. But what they rediscovered in the studio went far beyond the pieces taking shape in their hands. Melissa describes grief as something that can pull the mind into a familiar downward spiral. Working with clay interrupts that cycle, if only for a while. “When you’re throwing on the wheel, there’s no room for all that noise,” she explained. “You have to feel the clay in your hands. You have to be present. Every movement is intentional, and for a little while, everything else fades into the background.” It doesn’t erase what happened. It doesn’t make the grief disappear. But it gives some of those emotions somewhere to go. “Sometimes the clay says what we can’t.” Recently, they took another step forward, participating in their first ArtWalk and



sharing their new body of work with the public. Melissa and John plan to participate in more local vendor events, where they’ll offer their handmade pottery and ceramic jewelry, along with opportunities for visitors to experience working with clay on a pottery wheel. They are also preparing to open their home studio for classes, workshops, and creative gatherings—a place where others can slow down, connect, learn something new, and experience the joy of making something with their own hands. They don’t claim to have the next chapter completely mapped out. For now, they are continuing to create, one piece at a time.

More Than the Finished Piece

A piece shaped during one of life’s most difficult seasons may eventually find its way into someone else’s home, bringing joy in a way they may never have imagined. Their faith has also given the process of working with clay deeper meaning. The biblical imagery of God as the Potter and people as the clay has become especially personal. “Every movement of the potter’s hands has purpose,” they shared. “Push one way and the clay responds. Support it another way and it grows stronger.” For them, it has become a reminder that even in a season they never would have chosen, their story is still being shaped. Melissa and John believe creativity exists in all of us. We simply have to give that part of ourselves room to grow. Their experience also carries a message for people who may never have considered themselves creative. Take a class. Pick up an adult coloring book. Paint something. Plant a garden. Work with clay. You don’t have to be good at it. Finding joy in the making may be reason enough. Create simply for the experience of creating. The process cannot erase grief or change the difficult things we experience. But it can give our thoughts and emotions somewhere to go. What begins as a lump of clay, a blank canvas, or an empty page can become a meaningful expression of what we carry, or simply give us a few quiet moments when we need them most. The beautiful pieces now emerging from Melissa and John’s studio are a reminder that even in life’s most difficult seasons, something extraordinary can still take shape.

A selection of [M & J Pottery](#) can be found at [Evoke Studio & Gifts](#). *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*



Island Outdoors

Turtle Release

The Texas Seaside Center released rescued turtles in front of a large crowd on Saturday in front of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall



Love on the Rocks By Lu Ann Kingsbury

The Not-So-Rare Giant Crustacean

Sometimes we consider a species rare because it truly is, whether because it's endangered or simply because it naturally has sparse populations. But other times, a species may only appear rare because it lives in such remote locations that people haven't managed to find it very often. That seems to be the case with the world's largest amphipod, *Alicella gigantea*. Amphipods include more than 10,700 shrimp-like crustaceans found throughout the sea and other aquatic environments. And *Alicella gigantea*, which can grow to a little over 13 inches long, outsizes them all, but it lives in a very hard-to-reach habitat.



The world's largest amphipod, Alicella gigantea, feeding at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. Credit: Alan Jamieson, CC BY-SA 4.0

Alicella gigantea live on the deep sea floor, so it's not surprising that researchers have not seen many of them. But a group of scientists from Western Australia wanted to find out just how rare—or common—these critters might be. They collected all the scientific records they could find for this species since the first specimen was discovered in 1899. They found 195 records from 75 locations throughout the world, including finds in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. And it turns out, the large white crustaceans can live over quite a broad range of the deep sea, at depths ranging from 2.4 to 5.6 miles below the surface.

Knowing the conditions where the species lives, the researchers then estimated that similar habitat is present in more than half of the entire ocean floor—somewhere around 59% of it. Just as remarkably, when they analyzed the makeup of the specimens that had available genetic data, the scientists discovered that the *Alicella gigantea* amphipods were genetically very similar to one another from vastly different locations. That means huge swaths of the deep ocean floor throughout the world might be crawling with these huge crustaceans—making them not so rare after all.



www.ScienceAndTheSea.org

© The University of Texas Marine Science Institute



Wear your wings with grace. Tricolored Heron By Riekie Roncinske

WEEKLY MAINTENANCE • EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION • REPAIRS • REMODELS

15715 S. Padre Island Dr. #101
FREE Water Testing!

Wade in the Water Pool Services LLC
361-658-8581
www.WadeInTheWaterPools.com

Nature Notes

Sticking your Neck Out

The Heron’s Fishing Strategy



A Green Heron lying in wait for its prey, then striking towards the water

By Mike Williams

By Hailey Burrow

A Great Blue Heron stands with its long legs submerged in water. It waits patiently, its head tucked close to its body as it keeps a close eye on the fish darting about below it. Then it snaps forward, snatching a fish out of the water in the a blink of an eye. Many birds feast on fish, and there is no shortage of unique strategies for catching them: from a pelican’s pouch to a loon’s diving skills. For Herons, it’s all in the neck.

Heron’s don’t swim like many other water birds. They prefer to walk through shallow water to look for prey. Their long necks allow them to reach the water even with their extremely long legs, so there’s no need to get wet. Keeping their head tucked in while they wait hides the heron’s full reach from its prey, but this means they must be able to move quickly to catch whatever waits in the water. Fish, frogs, snakes, insects, rats, and even other birds may be on the menu. If you have ever seen a heron hunt, you know they are capable of shooting forward with incredible speed, and the trick is hidden in the bones of the neck.

All heron (and egret) species are equipped with one unusually long vertebra in their neck. This bone acts as a lever, throwing the bird’s head forward to strike like a spear so they can grab or stab through their prey. Hunting like this does take some heavy lifting to accomplish, which is why herons and egrets have very robust neck muscles. This, plus their large spear-like beak, means that herons are more top-heavy than similarly shaped birds such as cranes. This is why herons and egrets typically fly with their neck scrunched up and close to their torso, rather than extended out in front of them. Having their head tucked in like this can reduce the bird’s field of vision, but it makes balance considerably easier.

Their neck isn’t the only trick in the heron’s toolbox though; various species have developed specialized tricks and strategies

to make them even more effective hunters. Green Herons have learned how to bait the water, luring curious fish in with dead insects, feathers, twigs, or other items dropped onto the surface of the water. This special hunting method makes them one of several bird species known to use tools. Reddish Egrets prefer not to sit quietly and wait for their food to come to them, instead running back and forth through shallow water, stirring up sediment or flapping their wings to startle prey out of hiding so that they can attack. Both Reddish Egrets and Tricolored Herons will also use their wings to create a canopy over their heads, blocking the glare from the sun and attracting prey to the nice little shady spot they create.

Next time you’re near the water, keep an eye out for a heron on the hunt. If you want to see some of these special strategies, don’t blink or you might miss the strike!



Blue Heron By Nicole Scofield



You Deserve Better Banking

Instant Debit Cards
Smart ATMs with Teller Access
24/7 Online Account Access
Mobile App Banking
Mobile Deposit Banking
Online Bill Pay

1st Community Bank
MEMBER FDIC
361-949-9310 | 14254 South Padre Island Drive

Featured:
Dan Herrington, Vice President, NMLS# 562367

Switch to First Community Bank at fcbot.com/switch

Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

The History of Floats



Jace Tunnell with a collection of Floats

One of my favorite treasures to find while beachcombing is a fishing float. These simple objects tell a fascinating story about the evolution of commercial fishing and the materials people have relied on for more than a century.

Of all the floats I’ve discovered, glass floats remain the most exciting. In decades of beachcombing, I’ve only found three. Glass fishing floats were first developed in Norway around the 1840s and later became widely used by Japanese fishing fleets. Hand-blown and often tinted aqua, green, or amber, these floats kept nets and longlines suspended near the surface. Because glass does not rot or absorb water like wooden floats prior to glass, many floats survived decades at sea, making them legendary beachcombing finds today.

As fisheries expanded offshore in the early 1900s, metal floats became more common. I’ve found quite a few over the years, including aluminum Hercules floats and even a copper float. Metal floats were tougher than glass and less likely to shatter in rough seas. Made from aluminum, steel, copper, or galvanized iron, they were often hollow spheres filled with air. Their biggest weakness was corrosion. Saltwater eventually caused leaks and rust, limiting their lifespan.

Following World War II, plastic floats began replacing both glass and metal. Advances in polyethylene allowed manufacturers to mass-produce inexpensive, durable floats in bright colors that were easy to spot on the water. Today, most floats washing ashore are plastic or foam-filled plastic. I’ve found many varieties, along with countless pieces of weathered Styrofoam.

The progression from wood to glass to metal to plastic mirrors a larger story of industrialization and changing technology. Unfortunately, it also reflects a growing environmental challenge. Lost glass floats are largely harmless, while metal eventually corrodes away. Plastic, however, can persist for decades and break into microplastics which can eventually make its way into the food chain.

The next float you find on the beach may be more than fishing gear, it may be a piece of maritime history.

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 float in some sargassum



PADRE
DERMATOLOGY
& Skin Cancer Center

Island Owned and operated
Physician staffed office
Fellowship trained Mohs surgeon
Double Board Certified
in Dermatology and
Mohs Micrographic Surgery

14650 Compass St Ste 1
Corpus Christi, TX 78418
361-867-1032
www.padrederm.com

Accepts Medicare United, Humana, BCBS, WellMed
Reasonable Cash Pay and Out of Network rates

New and Existing patients call to schedule
Existing patients, we still have all old records available.

Council cont. from A1

will be put before voters on the ballot on November 3, 2026.

The move was placed on the council agenda at the request of council members Carolyn Vaughn, Kaylynn Paxson, and Gil Hernandez:

The changes included:

1. Increase city council terms to four years,
2. Staggering council terms,
3. Increase term limits,
4. Creating council member at-large places 1, 2, and 3,
5. Requiring at-large council member elections to be decided by majority vote,

6. Requiring elections for unexpired terms more than 12 months,
7. Increase city council members' salary to the equivalent of federal minimum wage for full-time employees and the mayor's salary to 25% above city council members' salary,
8. Increase the number of registered voters required for a petition to initiate the removal process,
9. Increase the required vote for removal of city council members to two-thirds of the council members holding office, and
10. Authorizing a two-cent property tax for streets and roadway infrastructure Sponsors: City Secretary's Office.



Sitting Pretty By Lu Ann Kingsbury



Great Egret guarding his stash at the bait stand. By Lu Ann Kingsbury

Bob Hall Pier Construction

Work continues on the new restaurant structure and the permanent admissions building at Bob Hall Pier. Both structure are being made using ICF (Insulated Concrete Form) blocks which are interlocking, lightweight foam blocks stacked like adult-sized Lego bricks to create the exterior walls. Once stacked, reinforced steel rebar is placed inside and filled with solid concrete. The foam forms stay in place permanently, serving as the insulation and providing a backing for interior and exterior finishes



10% Discount for Island Homes!

Red's
AIR CONDITIONING
SINCE 1986

**Prompt Professional 24 Hour Service
No Overtime Charges**

- All Makes and Models
- Commercial & Residential
- 10 Year Part & Labor Warranties on ALL New Equipment
- Financing available



(361) 949-9545

Serving Padre Island & Flour Bluff Since 1986



TACLB013184C



PADRE ISLAND
YACHT CLUB
Est. 1986

NOW ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS
Scan Here for Information



We Treat Your Pets LIKE FAMILY!

Keepin' Dogs on the Beach!

Island Animal Clinic

Bill McGehee, DVM & Associates

- Medicine • Surgery
- Diagnostics • Radiology
- Pharmacy • & More!

Mon-Fri by Appointment

319 Beach St.
next to The Crazy Cajun Restaurant

361-749-4134

NOW OPEN

Sudoku

Sudoku answers are not available.
Play at your own risk!

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

- 1. Atomic physicist Niels
- 5. Outwits
- 10. Woeful wails
- 14. Opera solo
- 15. Pastiches
- 16. Pinhead
- 17. William Henry Harrison's nickname
- 19. Having knowledge of
- 20. Event where the twist was done
- 21. Everyday
- 22. Retain
- 23. Haughty ones
- 25. More soiled
- 28. Peggy and Pinky
- 30. Opposite of 'neath
- 31. Restorative resort
- 34. Sum part
- 37. Handyman's milieu
- 39. Big-ticket items
- 40. Subterranean dwarf
- 42. Do a personnel job
- 43. Man in a cast, e.g.
- 45. Oozed out
- 47. Words with mode or francaise
- 48. Tasseled headgear
- 49. Luxuriant head of hair
- 50. Decorative knotting
- 53. Cause to overturn
- 57. Deride
- 59. Whirlybird part
- 61. Samuel's judge
- 62. Some insoles prevent this
- 63. Movie tough guy
- 65. Jai ____
- 66. Photographer Adams
- 67. Seed sheath
- 68. Chapeau's perch
- 69. Gaggle members
- 70. Feudal serf

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. Ancient Roman gathering place
 - 2. Taurus neighbor
 - 3. "Fantasia" dancer
 - 4. One of hip-hop's sounds
 - 5. ____ Raton, Fla.
 - 6. Spiral-horned beasts
 - 7. Middle East peninsula
 - 8. Carpenter's storage area, perhaps
 - 9. Compass point
 - 10. Feed the fire
 - 11. Legal title
 - 12. Dental occlusion
 - 13. "Freeze!"
- 18. Jed Clampett portrayer
 - 24. Word with "you" or "this food"
 - 26. Mother ____ (Nobel Peace Prize winner)
 - 27. Perturb
 - 29. Less at ease
 - 32. A sweater may use it
 - 33. Did an impression
 - 34. ____ Sanctorum
 - 35. Willy Wonka's creator
 - 36. Hunk
 - 37. Triumphed
 - 38. Fold members
 - 41. Jesus, for one
- 44. Certain enlisted man's rank, briefly
 - 46. Acclimatize (Var.)
 - 49. Scotland's yards
 - 51. Osprey's abode
 - 52. Midge's boyfriend
 - 54. Cauterizes
 - 55. Fairylike
 - 56. Prince, for instance
 - 57. Fall guy
 - 58. Not in operation
 - 60. Size up visually
 - 63. One-liner
 - 64. "The Facts of Life" actress Charlotte



The French name for the Painted Bunting is nonpareil which translates to without equal, an accurate description of this bird's dazzling colors. By Riekie Roncinske

Island Real Estate Roundup



Apryl Noles

Five homes sold, five in option period

This week brought a boost in activity for the Padre Island real estate market, particularly in the detached home sector. We saw five homes enter the option period and five homes successfully close, showing that buyers continue to recognize the value and lifestyle our Island has to offer. Even during the peak of summer, well-priced and well-presented homes are continuing to attract serious interest.

While there was no reported activity in the condominium or townhome markets this week, that isn't necessarily a cause for concern. Real estate trends often fluctuate from week to week, and these segments can see multiple transactions occur in a short period of time. With the month still under-way, there's every reason to believe we'll see renewed momentum before month-end.

Whether you're considering buying, selling, or simply keeping an eye on the local market, these weekly updates provide a snapshot of what's happening on Padre Island. Staying informed is one of the best ways to understand market trends and make confident real estate decisions.

Below you'll find the detailed statistics for the properties included in this week's report. Thank you for following along, and be sure to check back next week as we continue tracking the latest activity across the Padre Island market!

Detached Homes In Option Period:

- 15825 Almeria Ave (Listed for \$624,000)
- 14014 Coquina Bay Ave (Listed for \$515,000)
- 15661 Three Fathoms Bank Dr (Listed for \$514,500)
- 15337 Bowsprit Ct (Listed for \$499,900)
- 16045 Treebine Dr (Listed for \$339,000)

Detached Homes That Sold:

- 15882 El Socorro Loop (Listed for \$754,900)
- 14022 Cabana North Ave (Listed for \$749,000)
- 13742 Tajamar St (Listed for \$679,999)
- 14849 Dasmarias Dr (Listed for \$369,000)
- 15230 Barataria Dr (Listed for \$359,900)

BAY FISHING
OFFSHORE FISHING
DOLPHIN WATCHING

BOOK NOW!

361-742-3195
BuccaneerCruises.com

Moon Classifieds #1162

Here's how to place a Classified Ad

To place an ad call:
361-949-7700 or
Email your ads to:
editor@islandmoon.com
No texts please

Costs start at \$15 for 25 words
25 cents a word after that
Pictures or art additional \$5.00
Small charge for larger ads
Ads with payment can be taken to our office at:

14646 Compass St., Suite 4
Deadline for classified ads is no later than NOON on Tuesday
PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE PUBLICATION
We accept:
American Express, Visa, MasterCard

Al-Anon & AA Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous
Sunset 7 AA Group
Meets four times per week on North Padre Island
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
7 pm at Island Presbyterian Church,
14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
Sunday 8 am at Padre Balli RV Park Open Pavilion
15820 Park Rd 22.
(In bad weather, the Sunday meetings will be indoors at IPC)

Is alcohol causing a problem in your family?
Try Al-Anon
Al-Anon meets at 7:00 pm Sundays at Padre Island Baptist Church

Services
Appliance Repair



-N- House Appliance Repair
Most major brands & appliances
Also offering complete dryer vent clean outs along with pool cleaning services
Mention this ad for discount on repairs
361-960-0911

BBQ Cleaning

CALL



Because YOU don't want to do it!
Frank 361-813-1929 cell
361-99-GRILL (994-7455)
CoastalBendGrillCleaning.com

For Sale

Mausoleum Crypt for two at Memory Gardens Cemetery, Corpus Christi, TX. Crypt is eye level, Bldg. 2, Sec 2B, Crypt 21D, Level 2.
Valued at over \$9000, will sell for \$7350. We will pay closing cost. Cash or certified check only.
Call 512 483-4373 or email: rcadrbe@aol.com.

Services
Junk Removal



Save Our Shores Junk Removal
Veteran Owned & Operated
Furniture Removal & House Clean Outs
Construction Debris Removal
Light Demolition
Bulk Item Pickups
Hot Tub Removals
Fence Removal
Dumpster Rentals AND MORE!
Owner:
Nate Epling
361-941-3041

Decks/Docks/Boat Lifts

Artistic Construction
Boat Lifts, Decks, Docks, Etc.
Licensed & Insured
Member of Padre Island Business Association
361-444-4702
Sunniepadreisland@yahoo.com

Hi Tech Plastering, Inc.
Stucco, Eifs Coatings, Patch Jobs
Crack Repair, Spalling Concrete
Repair Wood Replacement, Facia, etc.
Artisan – Joe Cantu
Phone/Fax 361-814-5605
htplastering@aol.com

Services
Pool & Spa Service

ATLANTIS POOL AND SPA SERVICE
Weekly Pool Maintenance – Repairs
Renovations - Chemicals – Supplies
Residential – Commercial
25 Years Experience – Insured
Free Delivery! Free Estimates!
Island Resident Owned
Call 361-949-8899

Wade In The Water Pool Services
Cleaning • Repairs • Remodels
Hot Tubs • Warranty Station
Don't go OTB for pool & spa chemicals!
15715 SPID #101
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
FREE WATER TESTING
Locally owned and operated since 2010
Call 361-658-8581

Outdoor Services
Lawn & Tree Trimming



COMMERCIAL CUTTERS
Tree Trimming & Stump Grinding Services
Fully Insured – Free Estimates
361-446-3980

YOUR AD HERE!

YOUR AD HERE!

Roofing Pros!
*Painting *Stucco
*Pergolas *Fences
Custom Home Exteriors
Since 1985!
361-949-2100
Island Resident

Dr. Lauren Jensen
Optometrist



- EYE EXAMS
- GLASSES
- SUNGLASSES
- CONTACT LENSES

URGENT EYE CARE
DIABETIC EYE EXAMS
PEDIATRIC EYE CARE

 (361) 529-7570  14650 Compass, Ste 2
Your one-stop shop for eyecare on the island!

Padre Landscapes
Commercial & Residential Services
Nursery & Organics

WINNER OF THE STATE OF TEXAS SMALL BUSINESS AWARD



- + Professional Landscape Design, Construction & Maintenance
- + Xeriscape and Earth Kind Solutions
- + Organic & Conventional Gardening
- + Vegetable Gardens & Hydroponics
- + Stone Work & Water Features

PadreLandscapes.com
(361) 949-6999
padrelandscapes@live.com
Nursery - 15606 SPID, Ste. B
On The Island



Texas Master Naturalist



Now is your chance to apply
Scan now for more!
www.txmn.org/st

Connect with nature, volunteer with us!

T E X A S



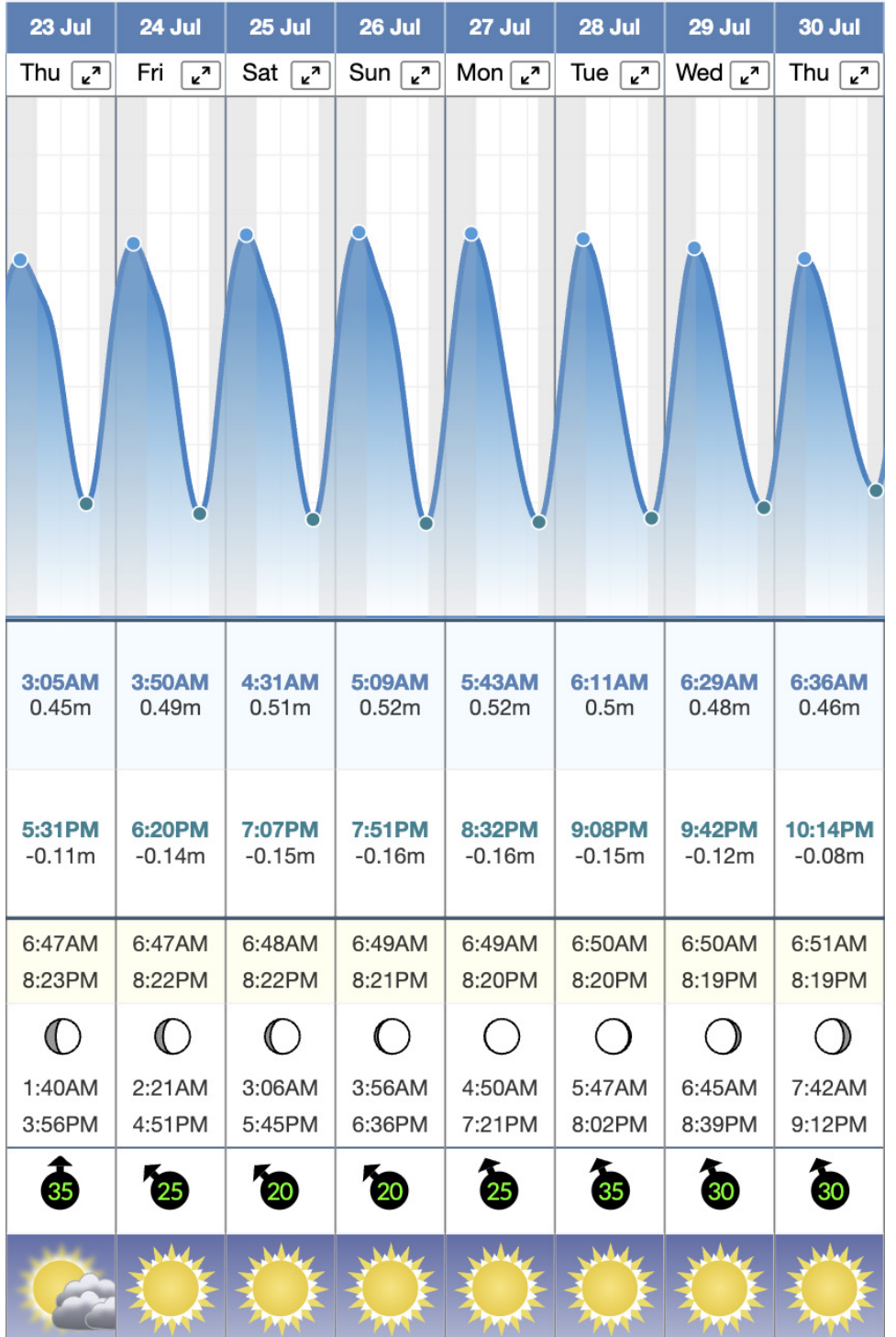
Master Naturalist™
South Texas Chapter

Learn • Explore • Serve



Feed me! By Irene Dubicka Christensen

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

Senior moments Special to the Island Moon



By Dotson Lewis

T5 Texana Air Plane-Part 2

Dotson's Note: In 1942, Canada's Noorduyn built 2557 R-1340-AN-1-powered Harvard IIs under license, paid for by USAAF Lend-Lease funds as the AT-16, but designated as the Harvard II.B. After WWII, many remained in service with the RCAF. Thanks to the US Signal Corps for the facts and photos contained in this report.

The NA-168 series consisted of remanufactured AT-6s and SNJs for the USAF, starting in 1949. The Air Training Command received 641 aircraft, designated T-6G-NT, of which 416 eventually were sent to U.S. Military Assistance Program countries. U.S. National Guard units received an additional 50 aircraft, of which 28 eventually were sent to France. An additional 59 aircraft were Liaison/Trainer aircraft, designated LT-6G-NA, for the Korean War. These aircraft could be deployed with 2 detachable .30 in (7.62 mm) machine gun pods, and 4 HVARs, or 4 100 lb (45 kg) bombs, plus a 55 US gal (210 L; 46 imp gal) auxiliary drop tank. In 1951, the USAF placed an order for 824 T-6Gs, designated T-6G-1-NH, for the Air Training Command.

The Canada Car and Foundry built 285 Harvard 4s, designated NA-186 under the Mutual Defense Assistance Program (MDAP) and an additional 270 directly for the RCAF.

In April 1951, the USAF ordered an additional 107 T-6Gs for the MDAP, designated NA-188. They placed an order for 11 training aircraft in March 1952, designated NA-195, and then a final batch of 110 aircraft in June for MDAP, designated NA-197.



A T-6 Harvard at an air show in 2023

The aircraft was mainly used for training, but in many cases, it was also repurposed into combat roles. The aircraft served in over sixty air forces around the world during the 20th century. After serving in air forces, it also went on to be displayed at air shows and museums as a warbird.

The British used Harvards during World War II in North Africa, but not in a combat role. They were used extensively for preparing pilots in theatre for flying US aircraft types, whose handling and controls differed from British aircraft.



T-6 Texan of the Spanish Air Force

Peru used its seven T-6 fighter bombers in the Ecuadorian-Peruvian War equipped with two 7.65 mm (0.30 in) guns, while carrying up to four 116 lb., bombs. Twenty AT-6s were employed by the 1st and 2nd fighter squadrons of the Syrian Air Force in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, providing ground support for Syrian troops and launching

airstrikes against Israeli airfields, ships, and columns, with one plane lost to antiaircraft fire. They also engaged in air-to-air combat on a number of occasions, with a rear gunner shooting down an Israeli Avia S-199 fighter.

The Israeli Air Force bought 17 Harvards, and operated nine of them in the final stages of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, against the Egyptian ground forces, with no losses. In the Sinai Campaign, IAF Harvards attacked Egyptian ground forces in Sinai Peninsula with two losses.



Above, a USAF T-6 forward air control aircraft in Korea, An LT-6G in flight over Korea in 1952

The Royal Hellenic Air Force employed three squadrons of British- and American-supplied T-6D and G Texans for close air support, observation, and artillery spotting duties during the Greek Civil War (1946-1949), providing extensive support to the Greek army during the Battle of Gramos. Communist guerillas called these aircraft Ο Γαλατάς, *O Galatas*, 'The Milkman', because they saw them flying very early in the morning. After the "Milkmen", the guerillas waited for the armed Spitfires and Helldivers.

During the Korean War and, to a lesser extent, the Vietnam War, T-6s were pressed into service as forward air control aircraft. These aircraft were designated T-6 «Mosquitos».

From 1961 to 1975, Portugal used more than a hundred T-6Gs, also in the counterinsurgency role, during the Portuguese Colonial War. During this war, almost all the Portuguese Air Force bases and air fields in Angola, Mozambique, and Portuguese Guinea had a detachment of T-6Gs.

On 16 June 1955, rebel Argentine Navy SNJ-4s bombed Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, Argentina; one was shot down by a loyalist Gloster Meteor. Navy SNJ-4s were later used by the *colorado* rebels in the 1963 Argentine Navy Revolt, launching attacks on the 8th Tank Regiment columns on 2 and 3 April, knocking out several M4 Sherman tanks, and losing one SNJ to anti-aircraft fire.

In 1957-58, the Spanish Air Force used T-6s as counterinsurgency aircraft in the Ifni War, armed with machine guns, iron bombs, and rockets. The planes achieved an excellent reputation for reliability, safety, and resistance to damage.

The Pakistan Air Force used T-6Gs in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, as a night ground-support aircraft, hitting soft transport vehicles of the Indian army. In the early hours of 5 December, during a convoy interdiction mission in the same area, Squadron Leader Israr Quresh's T-6G Harvard was hit by Indian antiaircraft ground fire and a shell fractured the pilot's right arm. Profusely bleeding, the pilot flew the aircraft back with his left hand and landed safely.

Dotson's Other Note: The World War II-vintage propeller trainers were pressed into service and performed satisfactorily in the assigned role of convoy escorts at night. For the Indian Air Force, the T-6 based at Sullur remained the backbone of pilot training until they were replaced by the HPT-32 from the late 1970s. A single unit flies for the IAF heritage flight.

The End-Thank You for Reading

Nemo Court Water Line

One lane has been closed on Nemo Court to allow for construction on a utility easement on land owned by Diamond Beach Holdings. A waterline is being installed to supply the new Whitecap NPI development.



Some days just don't end well.

Island Moon Live

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



Live Streams



GALE LAW GROUP
PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

ATTORNEYS/MEDIATORS

14633 S. Padre Island Dr.
361.808.4444
Office@GaleLawGroup.com

SAFE GUARD

MINI-STORAGE
CAUSEWAY

CLIMATE CONTROLLED STORAGE

STARTING AT \$39.00

NO LONG LEASE AGREEMENT!

CLIMATE CONTROL

ON SITE MANAGER

OPEN 7 DAYS

ELECTRONIC GATE ACCESS

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

HOUSEHOLD & COMMERCIAL

MOVING SUPPLIES AVAILABLE

STORAGE IS OUR BUSINESS!

OFFICE HOURS: M-F 8:30-6:00 SAT 8:30-5:30

(361) 937-8673

10514 S.P.I.D.



Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com
Let her rip...



The Texas flood waters have soaked our state

Let’s regroup, shall we? Just to get our bearings... we are smack dab in the down-side of one big, hot, busy summer right now. The calendar says that autumn will be here in exactly one month, September 22nd but I’d bet good money that the weatherman has different ideas about that. But the good news is we got a ton of rain which is also the bad news due to all the flooding. I pity the poor folks around Uvalde and Leaky and the summer camps around Kerrville. We actually had Uel Jackson from Leaky here in Port A for Paul Fain’s send off during the flooding and he had to wait for the roads to open back up so he could get home. Seeing all the big trailers and flooded rivers and creeks on the news last week was damn right frightening. I’ve watched houses and cars float down the Guadalupe River when I lived in Kerrville for a while in the 80’s and it was freaky. I was also in the big Memorial Day flood in Austin in 1981 when were having the Grand Openings of two places on Sixth Street that I worked at, the Raw Deal on one end by Waller Creek and Hut’s down by Shoal Creek. Both creeks were flooded over their banks. I had borrowed a VW Bug from a coworker and it actually floated me down Sixth like a paddle boat. I wish I had one of those Bugs now. I hear we have more rain on the way. Our poor old Mother Earth feels like it’s about run out of steam and the elements are now at the mercy of the oil companies. The air quality sucks and it’s either a drought or flood or earthquake or tornado or hurricane going on from Coast to Coast to top to bottom all over the world. Heck, there’s even a tropical storm in the Gulf right now that generated from Florida (yes, you heard that right... from Florida) and might become Hurricane Bertha as it heads to Louisiana then Houston. Wow! I need to quit watching weather reports and get my doom and gloom fix somewhere else. And as if that’s not enough, some idiot tried to set the Federal Building in D.C. on fire this week. And have you noticed that there’s an airplane crash every day now? What next? These are mighty sketchy times my friend.

Scattered shots...



Finding Friday played the Sip Yard last weekend

I didn’t “scour” the town so much last week. Truth be told, the tourists won. Every time I fired my golf cart up, I drove straight into a relentless line of cars and trucks that were not about to let me in... I’d go through a bunch of death defying tactics to get where I was going. It’s been busy to say the least. But I did make it over to the Sip Yard to see Finding Friday (both nights). Fortunately I live very close to the Sip Yard and can take the back streets to get there... and it was soooooo worth it. I’m old friends with their lead singer Byrd aka: Chris Byrd from my years of working the bars in San Antonio. He’s a big ole boy and can sing the phone book. His vocal range is impressive. The whole band is beyond impressive. Talk about high energy. They are one big wiggle machine and the vibe was on fire all night, both nights. There’s a lot of moving

parts in that band and it’s infectious. And Finding Friday found about a thousand people in Port A both nights... the place was packed. Kudos to booker Becky Hyden yet again. I didn’t make it out on Saturday to see Payton Howie and I regret it. I also never made it by Virginia’s parking lot to see Cory Morrow playing for the big money Billfish Pachanga tournament. In the past ex-constable Bobby Sherwood would always wave me in, but not no more. In past years I’ve been known to watch those shows from the back deck at Bernie’s. Pro tip: they have a good view of the stage from their vantage. Word on the street is she’s happening. But I did squirm my way over to Shorty’s for my monthly dose of Ruben V. I swear, Ruben has only got one speed and its break-neck. I never have enough good words to say about mi amigo V. He has truly earned his moniker as a “guitar god”.



Tyler Jordan will play the Gaff on Sunday.

Coming this weekend...



Mike Isbell with Riptide will play Bron’s on Friday.

And those hits keep right on coming! We’ve got another goodern squaring off this week on our little sandbar. Starting this Thursday the 23rd the big show is at the Sip Yard with everybody’s fave big horn party band, Cruise Control. Also on Thursday we have a couple of residencies; the Johnson All Starz play Shorty’s every week and are their house blues band with a steady rhythm section of Art Galvan on bass and Antone Perez on skins, they have several guitarist they rotate, Ray Summy, Mike O’Neil and Reno Perez. Also playing on Thursday, Bron’s has soloist/loopster Brad Ethridge on Thursdays. He’s everywhere. I’m also noticing a couple of other places doing live music in Port A: Trout Street, Roosevelt’s and the Beer Hut and Beer Haus. Maybe that will pick up some slack since the VFW has all but discontinued live music. Coming on Friday, blues master John Cortez will play Shorty’s Phillip Dean and Matt Castillo will play the Yard, rockabilly Rip Tide will be at Bron’s and the Bill Ayers Band will play Treasure Island. On Saturday the Gaff’s bi-weekly BELT SANDER RACES will have their last race until September (too hot). Elsewhere on Saturday it’s Todd Dorn at Shorty’s, the Huser Brothers and Lane Smith at the Sip Yard, Splendiferous at Treasure Island, Back Pew at Bron’s and Jim Dugan at the Gaff. And the Sip Yard will have the internationally renowned Bellamy Brothers.

And, that’s the truth



Splendiferous will play Treasure Island on Saturday.



The Bellamy Bros will play the Sip Yard July 30



John Cortez and Jody Jennings will play Shorty’s on Friday. Photo by David Dickie

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, July 23

Cruise Control @ Sip Yard
Johnson All Starz @ Shorty’s
Brad Ethridge @ Bron’s
Aaron Boultinghouse @ Trout Street
Brian Zamipini @ Anchor Bar
Tate Mitchell @ Roosevelt’s
Emerald Unplugged @ Brewster Southside
Max Deboard @ Brewster Island
Isaac Jacob @ Brewster Downtown
Michael Burtts @ Rockit’s
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard’s on the Beach
The Drive @ Commercial St. AP
Al Cruz @ Fajitaville
Randall Hunt @ Sandbox NPI
Orlando Herrera @ Honey’s Drive & Dive

Friday, July 24

John Cortez @ Shorty’s
Phillip Dean, Matt Castillo @ Sip Yard
Bill Ayers Band @ Treasure Island
Riptide @ Bron’s
Young Klassics, Flatbroke @ Rockits
CATHOUSE @ Pelican
Marty J @ Anchor Bar
Kunkle Family Band @ Brewster Southside
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach
Perfecto Deluxe, Just Cuz @ Fajitaville
Lucky Dogz @ Lulu’s Landing
Fulton Dreaming in Color, Rip Tide Cowboy @

BELTSANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT
OPEN MIC EVERY WED WITH BRAD E.

BRAD ETHRIDGE	JULY 16
BOUDREAUX & POUSSON	JULY 17
RIPTIDE COWBOY	JULY 18
MARTHA VALOR	JULY 19
LOS LOCALS	JULY 21
OPEN MIC	JULY 22

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

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

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

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

Sugar Shack RP
Trisum @ Pier 99
Marcy Grace Band @ Sandbox NPI
Kelly Kenbning @ Perrin’s
Melissa Ann @ 5th & Elm Portland
Orlando Herrera @ Tannin’s Southside

Saturday, July 25

BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Todd Dorn @ Shorty’s
Huser Bros, Lane Smith @ Sip Yard
Back Pew Revival @ Bron’s
Splendiferous @ Treasure Island
Michael Burtts @ Pelican
Jody Jennings @ Doc’s
Dreaming in Color @ Retro
Max & Heather Stalling @ House of Rock
Mike Ryan @ Brewster Downtown
Nathan Allen @ Brewster Island
Peter Salas @ Brewster Southside
The Klocks, Los Guys @ Rockit’s
Funk Rock Stereo @ Whale Bone
Philip Dean @ Hideout 35
Just Cuz, US Music @ Pier 99
Red Feather, Trisum @ Anchor Bar
Adriana Live @ Sand Box NPI
Bayside Electric @ Fajitaville
Stacy & Ken @ Commercial St. AP
The Black Keys @ Whitewater Amphitheater

Sunday, July 26

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty’s
Michael Connelly, Reese Robertson @ Sip Yard

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA
Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • Coldest beer in town!
(361) 416-1235
315 S. Alister • Port Aransas, TX

Paradise Computer Services
Established, Local, Trusted
Since 2004
Sales & Service
409 w ave G (Cut-off rd) 749-4960
Port Aransas

Hair by Heidi
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
call or text 512.914.8846

THE GAFF
COLD BEER
OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM
LIVE MUSIC
HOT PIZZA