



Nature Notes A7

On the Rocks A6

Three Chords and the Truth A12

Backwater Adventures A6

Beachcombing Report A7

Issue 1163

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The Island Moon

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July 30, 2026

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Morning snack By Lu Ann Kingsbury



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By Dale Rankin

It's been a good week *Around The Island* as boats can now pass under the Commodore Bridge, Tropical Storm Bertha has passed us by, and maybe, just maybe we might get out of Stage 2 Water Restrictions as the recent rains have pushed the water levels in the western lakes toward the 30% capacity mark that lifts the restrictions.

Boaters beware



We feature a series of aerial shots in this issue that show where sand bars are forming in various spots throughout Island waterways. With the new opening at the Commodore Bridge the sand is now on the move and looking to decide where it will form bars. If you are moving through the newly opened canal be aware that there is some skinny water down there.

With the sand plug at Lake Padre still in place the water movement right now is coming from the moving of the tides and not from flow but that will change once the channel from Lake Padre opens. Even so residents along the narrow soda straw canal between the Gypsy Bridge and the Cruiser Canal report they noticed a marked difference in the number of fish in their canal lights within a couple of days of the opening of the canal.

Moons at HEB

We continue to get questions about the lack of Island Moons at the HEB in Flour Bluff. The vendor who owned the rack we left papers on has removed it and there currently is nowhere to leave a large number of copies. We leave about 100 papers on the paper rack that is there but those don't last long. We also leave papers at Wind & Wave just around the corner so you can get a copy there. We are working to get a rack back in the HEB but so far have made little in the way of progress.

Around cont. on A4

Water under the bridge



The canal under the Commodore Bridge is now open to boat traffic. The sand plug that had been blocking water flow there for the past year is now removed opening the Island canal system to tidal flow behind Padre Island. The sand plug on Lake Padre blocking water flow from the east side of the Don Patricio Bridge remains in place and the property owner this week said no timeline for its removal has been set. Aerials by Jacob Augs.

Pickleball Island!



For the past year the Pickleball Army on Padre Island has been setting up temporary nets to play in Aquarius Park but within a few months new courts will be coming on line at Commodore Park and four new public courts are currently under construction at the Whitecap NPI activity area. Whitecap officials said this week the courts there will have a "pickleball fence" which regulates wind flow.

Christmas in July!



The first La Posada event of 2026 was held at Brewster Street Icehouse on The Island. The event collected school supplies for area students.

A little Island history

The first Business Association on The Island

By Bobbie Kimbrell

Editor's note: Bobbie Kimbrell moved to Flour Bluff in the early 1940s where he was a commercial fisherman until his retirement.

My Dad, Acie (Ace) Kimbrell put in one of the first bait stands on the newly built JFK Causeway from Flour Bluff to Padre Island. It was located about 50 yards south of the Intracoastal Canal bridge on

the east side of the canal and was the Red Dot Bait Stand. Mr. & Mrs. Rush had a bait stand on the northeast side of the bridge which later became Gholke's Bait Stand.

My dad and other business people from The Bluff and Padre Island formed the Flour Bluff Padre Island Business Association to promote development on Padre Island. My dad was very instrumental in forming the association because he knew

it would bring more business and residents to Padre Island which would make business better. They went to most of the big cities in Texas and set up expos to promote the development of Padre Island. They hired my sister, Carmelita Giles, who majored in art at the University of Houston to paint a promotion map which showed traffic from all the big

History cont. on A5

Beach Parking permits set to go to \$20 in January Hike will raise additional \$3 million for beach operations

By Dale Rankin

The Corpus Christi City Council this week took the first step toward raising the cost of Beach Parking Permits from the current \$12 to \$20 beginning in January 2027.

The increase must be approved by the City of Port Aransas and Nueces County who collectively share responsibility for beach maintenance and operations for Port Aransas to the southern boundary of the Corpus Christi City Limits in Kleberg County. The revenue generated by sticker sales under the new plan calls for the cities of Corpus Christi and Port Aransas to keep the revenue they generate through sales with each providing 16% of their revenue with Nueces County. According to estimates submitted to the Corpus Christi City Council this week the increase in price will generate \$2,599,019 in additional revenue for maintenance of Corpus Christi city beaches. The council vote was 5-4 for approval with Mayor Paulette Guajardo, District 4 Council Member Kaylynn Paxson, and At-Large member Carolyn Vaughn, and Eric Cantu voting against. The beaches are maintained through an Interlocal Agreement

Permits cont. on page A8

By the numbers

Beach Parking Permits

Editor's note: The following numbers were presented to the Corpus Christi City Council this week:

106,269 Beach Parking Permits sold 2026 January-April

133,055 projected Beach Parking Permits sold in 2027

\$672,151 generated for City of Corpus Christi by permits sales through April 2026

\$2.2 million projected sales in 2027 with increase to \$20

\$936,369 projected revenue from permit sales 2026

\$2.3 million total operating budget for beach operations 2027

\$1.6 million total operating funds from permit sales 2026 (further supplemented by state HOT funds)

Yard of the Month



This month's Island Gardeners "Yard of the Month" is a real delight! July is hot, hot, hot, but some of our Island plants glory in the heat. Now is one of the times that Desert Roses are in bloom, and for sale around town. Libby and Chad Martin have a yard which also feature Plumeria and Vinca, now blooming. Additional color is added by Cordyline with bright red leaves and the Firecracker Bush – a Texas native. Palm trees tower over all. Just look for the "Yard of the Month" sign at the corner of Ambrosia & Aquarius.

Marilyn Knapp Litt

Commodore Park Playground in the works



A pirate ship, swing set, a whale, and more are going in at Commodore Park, with the opening of the park scheduled by the end of the year.

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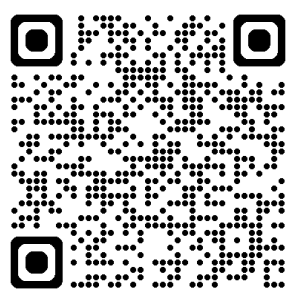
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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Traffic Lights

Why were the traffic signals short cycling early last Friday afternoon? I looked up to find that the city of Corpus Christi Public Works department has a Traffic Operations division with a team that is responsible. We're told "this ensures that our streets facilitate the flow of traffic safely and efficiently." Well, not for this particular July Friday traffic jam of tourists. While we're on this subject, just who is responsible for NOT turning out the Park road 22 street lights during daylight hours near the Don Patricio Bridge? That has to be a large and needless waste of energy and money.

Tom Cullinan

Editor's note: We forwarded the question to the City of Corpus Christi Traffic Engineering Department but did not receive a response by press time.



The Commodores Drive and Park Road 22 Intersection, as well as the rest of the Island Traffic lights, can be set to different timing via central traffic control downtown.

The Cost of Business

From Islandmoon.com

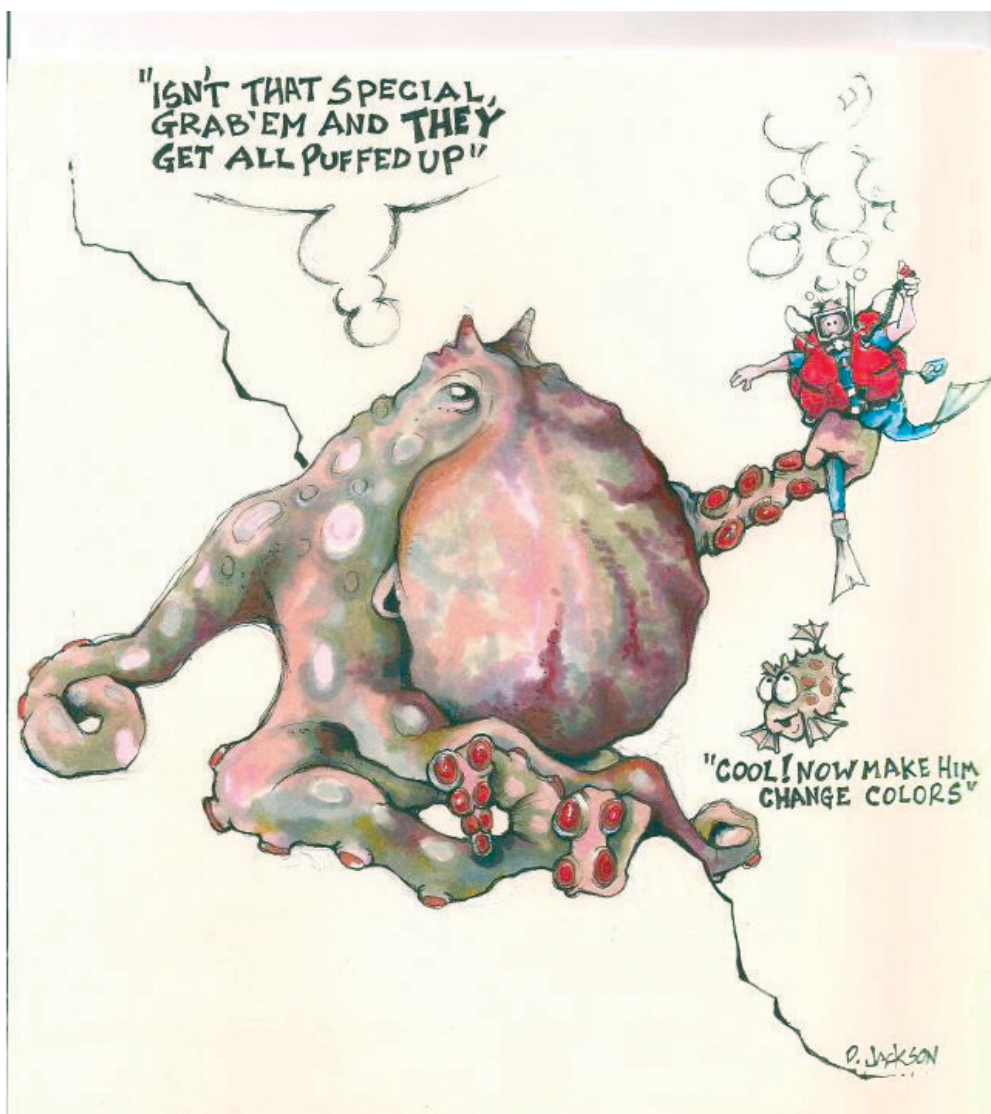
Island Moon, Can you do an article on 'Why do businesses charge more on NPI?' I'll give you a few examples:

1. Painting a house, Island business wants to charge over \$7K, outside the island when they come here, \$3K.
2. Vehicle maintenance, on NPI it is easily 30% more.
3. Putting rock in your yard, on NPI \$10K, from the Bluff, \$2500.
4. Fuel, on NPI is usually .30 cents more per gallon. There are many more examples, and I am sure that many would be able to put in many more examples of how they are charged more here on NPI.

Tell me how this makes sense. Here is one answer. "Oh, they have plenty of money, up charge them on the Island." We all know this is a true statement. Just because we live on NPI is no reason to charge us more. We worked for it just like everyone else, yet we are treated differently and unfairly. Even still, NPI is 4% of the population of CC, yet we pay 15% of the taxes. What do we get? If it were fair, we would get back what we put into it, and we don't. The people of NPI need to hear this, because we are all saying the same thing, and it is not fair. In many ways, we on NPI are unfairly burdened.

Let me put it this way, if I gave every family \$1 million, some would make it grow and prosper, some will do well, some will waste it, some will live mediocre, some will still wind up broke and so on.

Paul Peter Endes



U.S. Army and World War II Veteran in Amarillo Asks for 100 Cards for His 100th Birthday Celebration

An Amarillo veteran is asking the public to send at least 100 cards to him for his 100th birthday.

Mr. Wiley Tow, a resident of the Ussery-Roan Texas State Veterans Home (TSVH), will celebrate his 100th birthday on Friday, August 14, 2026.



On November 4, 1944, Mr. Tow was inducted into the United States Army and faithfully served his country during World War II. He participated in the Central European Campaign and was awarded the Campaign Ribbon with one Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, two Overseas Service Bars, the Army of Occupation Ribbon (Germany), and the Victory Ribbon. As a Technical Sergeant, Mr. Tow led a team of mechanics, and his remarkable mechanical ability and leadership skills were instrumental in keeping military vehicles operational during the war.

Following his military service, Mr. Tow married the love of his life, Florence Bonds. Together, they built a loving family, raising three sons and a daughter. His devotion to his family was matched only by his dedication to his work. He is requesting these cards for his centennial celebration through the VLB's 100 for 100 program. Texans can show their support and help celebrate this momentous occasion by sending birthday cards to Mr. Tow.

TWIA Rates

TWIA rates found adequate for coverage
Rate hike or reduction set for August 4

Greetings from the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association! The TWIA Board of Directors will meet at the Tremont House Hotel in Galveston on Tuesday, August 4, at 9:00 a.m. CT. The Board is expected to consider the Association's statutorily required annual rate filing for 2027 policies. The meeting agenda is available.

All meetings of the TWIA Board of Directors are open to the public. Members of the public are invited to provide public comment at the Tremont House Hotel in Galveston or virtually via Zoom. The meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube. More details on the public comment options for the meeting can be found below.

Rate Filing Decision

TWIA's 2026 Rate Adequacy Analysis finds that TWIA's current rates are adequate by 9 percent for residential coverage and 4 percent for commercial coverage. The TWIA Board's Actuarial & Underwriting Committee recommended a filing for no change in rates at their June 30 meeting.

The 2026 Analysis shows significant improvement in TWIA's rate adequacy since

the Texas Legislature enacted a law last year that reduced the minimum level of funding TWIA is required to maintain, resulting in lower reinsurance costs. The Legislature also exempted TWIA from certain taxes, which contributed to the improvement in TWIA's rate adequacy.

YEAR	RESIDENTIAL RATE ADEQUACY	COMMERCIAL RATE ADEQUACY
2022	15% inadequate	11% inadequate
2023	20% inadequate	22% inadequate
2024	38% inadequate	45% inadequate
2025	3% inadequate	5% inadequate
2026	9% adequate	4% adequate

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

All TWIA filings are subject to review by the Department of Insurance. The Insurance Commissioner must approve a filing for a rate increase to go into effect.

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

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The Island Moon Newspaper

14646 Compass, Suite 4

Corpus Christi, TX 78418

361-949-7700

editor@islandmoon.com

Facebook: The Island Moon Newspaper

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By Dale Rankin

Sometimes you just have to zoom out.

Last week I was watching crews remove the sand plug blocking water under the Commodore Bridge and it occurred to me taxpayers had spent \$10 million to build the bridge there only to have water blocked by a pile of sand. Across the way the Don Patricio Bridge cost \$20 million only to have the water flow there blocked by a few truckloads of sand.

The City of Corpus Christi spent \$3 million fortifying the bridges at Whitecap Blvd. and Gypsy St. to get them ready for water to flow primarily by placing rocks along the sides of the channel under the bridges, a simple solution which was also followed by the private owner of the canal east of the Don Patricio Bridge. But until this week none of those bridges had water flowing freely due to the sand plugs.

The culverts under Encantada Ave. have been clogged with sand for years and will be replaced with larger, more open, box culverts once the approaching channel is dredged – a situation that has been log-jammed for a year and doesn’t look to change anytime soon.

The last shoe to fall will be the removal of the plug at Lake Padre and it will signal the end of a thirty-year process to get water flowing through the sixteen miles of canals on Padre Island. That number is now closer to eighteen miles when you include the more recent canals at the Whitecap NPI project.

How we got here

For those who have arrived on The Island since 2004 here is how we got here. Once upon a time the land that now makes up the area inside the Padre Isles Property Owners Association, the land where Whitecap NPI is located, and all the land around Lake Padre was owned by a single ownership group. That group held the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for the entire area and the through line in that permit going all the way back to 1973 was the desire to have water flowing under SPID into the canals on the west. Cutouts exist on both sides of SPID to allow for water flow with the anticipation of culverts or a bridge in the future.

Over the years the site of the water exchange under SPID was moved north away from Whitecap Blvd. because the roadway created an impervious dam that reduced the fetch and reach from the prevailing southeasterly wind and reduced the amount of water that would flow from the lake into the canals. The further away from Whitecap Blvd. the exchange point was located the more water would flow under the roadway. By 2004 the water exchange point was located where the Don Patricio Bridge stands today. So as a city bond election approached with no items included for Padre Island a plan was hatched to replace the planned box culverts under the roadway with a bridge.

The estimated cost to the private developer to install the culverts was then \$900,000 and the cost of a bridge \$2.4 million so an item was approved by voters to provide funds along with the \$900,000 in private



The Don Patricio Bridge and the Lake Padre Dam

Around cont. from A1

Noisy Island

We have also had questions about whether there is more crime *Around The Island* as people are hearing more sirens blasting their way around. It is the busy time of the year so there are more emergency calls but there is also the fact that we have two fire departments often making the same call so there are more emergency vehicles on the move. The number of visitors is up over last year according to traffic counts and the amount of traffic making its way to the beaches from SPID on late Sunday afternoon is well up over last year. But a check of police reports finds no real change in the number of police calls and criminal activity, in fact if anything the number of crimes this summer is down, even if the number of sirens is up. Our Island is filling up folks.

Manatee watch

We know it sounds a bit crazy but with the opening of the Commodores Canal we may see an occasional manatee *Around The Island* now. There was a manatee sighting in Port Aransas recently and there have been several in the canal north of Commodores Drive over the years. Don’t feed them

money to build the bridge and that is where things stalled.

By 2014 there was a design for a bridge but not enough funds and no canals leading to the bridge and the project was close to dead. Then a couple of things happened. First, the Island Strategic Action pushed through \$4 million in funds from the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 and then the private owners constructed canals and bulkheads and the old argument from city officials about not wanting to build a “Bridge to Nowhere” dissolved and by 2020 the bridge project was approved.

There was discussion about the impact of water flowing through the canal system on the bulkheads but the potential damage to the privately owned bulkheads was and is excluded from the permitting by the Corps of Engineers by law since the bulkheads were privately owned. When the Don Patricio Bridge was begun the canal that is now open under the Commodores Bridge was not even contemplated but its addition will help ease the stress on the bulkheads to the south.

Culmination of a long process

So as I watched the first of the two sand plugs removed last week with the removal of the second imminent I see the culmination of a plan that goes back at least to 1993 to get water from the gulf flowing through The Island to the Laguna Madre. It’s been a long time coming and now it is upon us.

I found a column I wrote in 2007 when the push was on to get the bridge that became the Don Patricio built which called it a lynchpin of the Island’s future because it would connect the two sides of SPID with water and pedestrian routes. That was before Schlitterbahn and before the new development and canals west of SPID, and before the new bridge at Commodores Dr. and I think it is even more true today.

What has changed is the charge of building a “bridge to nowhere”: is gone, erased by the presence of wide canals that reach it from both sides. What we have now is a Bridge to Somewhere. The city has lived up to its end of the deal and with the opening of the canals to water flow the private owners of the land adjoining the bridge have lived up to theirs. The ball is now squarely in the public court. What is needed now are the pedestrian and cart paths to get from our Island neighborhoods to the beach and back and the private property owners, especially on the west side, are well ahead of the public amenities that will tie it all together. The details of the connecting tissue are in the Island Mobility Study which is complete and awaiting implementation which will tie the entire island together with off-road ways to get around.

The opening of the canals ends one chapter of Island history that started with a vision and took more than three decades to become a reality. The challenge now is to move on to the next phase of interconnectivity with ground transportation that will define the future for Padre Island.

One channel to the future has opened and another awaits.

lettuce, especially if it comes in a bag...we don’t need that kind of trouble.

Back to school

We had football Coach Elwood from Flour Bluff on the *Island Moon Live Radio Show* last week and as of this week he and his team are in full two-a-day mode and football season is just around the corner. The Convocation marking the new school year at FBISD is Monday, August 3 and the kids are back on August 12 along with Seashore Charter Schools. When the kids are back in school the number of visitors on our beaches drops until the Last Hurrah on Labor Day on the weekend of September 7 and then we hit the sweet spot.

The beautiful water that usually shows up on our shores in August arrived early this week and with a couple of libations and little imagination you can convince yourself you are in Key West...or better yet on Padre Island! That’s all for now folks it’s a good week to take a ride on the Packery Queen and in the meantime say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



By Chris Jordan

The summer of ‘77 was freakin’ hot in New Braunfels, Texas. Mostly because we didn’t have air-conditioning in our home.

My parents had just bought a hospital. It wasn’t a big hospital but it was an old one. It was built in 1897 by one Dr. Richter and could house a number of well-to-do private patients. It was a fantastic stucco structure with a tile roof that sat on a hilly lot with a steep, rolling lawn of Saint Augustine grass and a few Washingtonian Palms.

The old hospital had a single upstairs room with wrap-around windows. This lighthouse perch had views of the neighborhood through the palm fronds. I could see Wuest’s grocery from up there! I would often walk there to get some Super Bubble, a glass bottle of Big Red, and a pat on the head from the old folks that still spoke German.

This old hospital was our home. Yes, my parents were weird, but that’s another story.

The one upstairs room in our home was my bedroom. It was wonderful to be up there in the milder seasons, although the squirrels would wake me in the mornings. Those mostly adorable critters built their dreys in the tops of the palms. Every day at first light, I was the sole audience to “Cacophony of the Squirrel Skyscrapers”. This is an avant-garde piece that is underpinned by some of the hallmark tonal experimentation of the baroque era.... and is decidedly not for everyone.

I was a radio head. I had transistor radios everywhere. There was one taped to the buckhorn handlebars of my banana seat bike. There was a radio at my gang’s hideout. And of course there was a radio in my very hot, un-air-conditioned, lone upstairs bedroom at the 19th-century hospital. The only radio station I listened to — and probably the only one I could get reception for — was Top 40 “55 KTSA” on the AM dial. FM radio was just starting to claw its way out of swank bachelor pads and into mainstream use. I didn’t have a radio that could tune in an FM station and the stations broadcasting from San Antonio didn’t have the range to get to New Braunfels even if I had. In just a

few years, KTSA — like the entire AM spectrum — would be talk radio. But for now I could still listen to Led Zep-pelin, Glen Campbell, and The Jackson Five back-to-back.

So there I was in the dog days of summer listening to the radio. The DJ could have been Ricci Ware or Bruce Hathaway, but either of those two would probably have had a more desirable on-air slot than late afternoon on a Tuesday. But no matter, whoever’s voice, the news was devastating: Elvis Aaron Presley was dead.

I ran down the stairs to tell my mom. She might have heard but she had been at the bottom of the stairs vacuuming. The stairs and the landing at their base were the only places in the entire hospital that featured carpet. While Mom would sweep and mop the rest of the hardwood floors throughout the place, she would dutifully break out the Kirby for the stairs. For the uninitiated, those old vacuums were LOUD and could only be silenced by screaming and wild gesticulation. Once Mom had shut off the awful machine, there was stark silence. “Mom... Elvis died,” I said as the now-audible radio confirmed.

Mom crumpled on the stairs and wept. I held her and we both stared at the carpet. It was a gauche yellow-on-green damask affair that I will never forget. I hoped Elvis hadn’t expired on gaudy carpet at Graceland, but I couldn’t be sure. I began to cry, too. Not for Elvis, for my mom.

Mom was inconsolable — even the next day. I couldn’t stand to see her like that. She was a bonafide Elvis super-fan: bad news for her at the time, but fortuitous for me. I asked her what his favorite foods had been. When she told me, I asked her if we could make some of them. She sniffled, almost smiled, and said sure. We spent the next few days in the kitchen together preparing fried peanut butter and banana sandwiches, The Fool’s Gold Loaf, meatloaf with mashed potatoes and brown gravy, fried chicken, biscuits and gravy, black-eyed peas, bacon cheese-burgers and onion rings, coconut cake, pound cake, and banana pudding.

Next week: Claire and life after Elvis.

Turtle Nest Count

On 23 July, 2 Kemp’s ridley nests were located, including 1 on South Padre Island and 1 on Boca Chica Beach. Including these, the total numbers of nests found in Texas this year, by species and area, are updated below.

KEMP’S RIDLEY TURTLE

So far this year, **692** 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 692 nests found this year include (north to south in state):
5 Galveston Island
2 Surfside Beach
1 Brazoria County, N. of Sargent Beach
2 Matagorda Peninsula
16 San Jose Island



Kemp’s Ridley Turtle on PINS

40 Mustang Island
368 North Padre Island, including 335 at PAIS
207 South Padre Island
51 Boca Chica Beach

GREEN TURTLE

So far this year, **37** nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast, including (north to south in state):
2 San Jose Island
30 North Padre Island, including 27 at PAIS
5 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

History cont. from A1

cities headed to Padre Island with seagulls flying and porpoises jumping in the sea. It was painted on a four-by-eight foot sheet of plywood and was displayed at all the expos.

My sister and Walter Furley (who later worked for KZTV) were instrumental in establishing the first ever television station ever in Corpus Christi. The bait stands also put fishing reports on the radio which helped the promotion. E.O. Leman was a

member of the association and also put in the first motel on The Island. He and the rest of the association donated their own money for the cost of the expos. Since my dad was actually the one who first instigated the development, I am hoping he might be honored by having his name put on some public building on Padre or possibly have a new street named after him. His Red Dot Bait Stand attracted a lot of fishermen from San Antonio on the weekends.



Catches like this are not unusual when the trout are striking in Laguna Madre.

Classic fishing report from the Red Dot Pier



Tricolored Heron flying above the sunflowers By Anthony Clements

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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The Art of Island Life

By Melissa Mitchell

Confidence Begins at Home | Lucy Johnson

The first time I met Lucy Johnson, she walked into Evoke Studio & Gifts with her father to purchase a gift. Somewhere in the conversation she mentioned that he owned Padre Island Burger Company. “Oh,” I replied, “the Lulu is my favorite burger!” Her face immediately lit up. “That’s named after me!” It wasn’t just what she said that stayed with me. It was the smile that accompanied it. There was a warmth about her that made me think there was probably a story behind that moment. And as it turns out, there was. Growing up, Lucy never saw owning a business as something extraordinary. It was simply part of everyday life. She watched her father build businesses, listened to conversations around the dinner table, and absorbed lessons she didn’t fully realize she was learning. Owning a business never felt out of reach. “It felt like home,” she told me.

Learning by Example

The lessons she carried into adulthood weren’t only about entrepreneurship. Watching her father taught her the importance of hospitality—treating every customer with genuine care and making people feel welcome. From her mother, she learned something equally important: to believe in herself and pursue the path that genuinely made her happy. Lucy laughs that her dad “always does and always will talk shop.” Even today, they sometimes have to stop themselves during family gatherings and remind each other, “Okay, enough shop. Let’s be real.” Business was simply part of family life. So was hospitality. Some of Lucy’s best childhood memories revolve around the simple traditions that made a house feel like home. Whenever family or friends came over, her mom would put out her favorite appetizer—cream cheese, jalapeño jelly, and pita chips. Years later, when her grandmother challenged her to create a burger for the family restaurant, that familiar combination immediately came to mind. Originally created as a special for Lucy’s twelfth birthday, “The Lulu” became so popular that it never left the menu. In high school, Lucy thought she had her future mapped out. She applied to colleges across Texas, planning to study business and marketing. Aesthetics wasn’t even on her radar. Life, however, has a way of introducing opportunities we never knew existed. During her senior year at Flour Bluff High School, Lucy was voted “Most Likely to Never Leave Corpus Christi.” Looking back, she laughs and admits her classmates knew her well. “They were right.” Leaving Corpus Christi was never really part of the plan. The Coastal Bend isn’t simply where she does business. It’s where her roots are, where her family lives, and where she’s chosen to build a future of her own. Opening her own business wasn’t simply a leap of faith. It was the natural result of years spent watching people build something meaningful from the ground up. At first glance, skincare might seem like an unexpected destination for someone who had planned to study business and marketing. But looking back, the signs were there all along.

Building Something of Her Own

Growing up, Lucy’s mother taught her the importance of caring for others. It was a lesson that would eventually shape not only her career, but the atmosphere she strives to

create for every person who walks through her door. She remembers laughing with her mom while watching extraction videos online, long before she ever considered becoming an aesthetician. Later, when her high school boyfriend struggled with acne, she found herself researching products, trying different routines, and looking for anything that might make a difference. “I tried everything I could to help clear his skin,” she recalled. Years later, that experience came full circle when Lucy became an acne specialist, helping others facing many of the same challenges. Although she had always imagined owning a business, she never expected skincare to be the path that would lead her there. What began as an unexpected interest eventually became Lucy Anne Skin, a business she opened at just nineteen years old. As her business grew, so did the opportunities. Today, her practice is located inside Padre Dermatology at Compass Plaza, where she works alongside Dr. Ryan Rogers, offering everything from relaxing facials to advanced laser treatments and medical-grade skincare. Yet for Lucy, the treatments themselves are only part of the experience. By offering a variety of treatments, products, and price points, she hopes everyone has the opportunity to experience a little luxury. More importantly, she wants every client to feel seen.

Her hope is that each person who walks through her door leaves feeling welcomed, cared for, appreciated—and just a little more confident than when they arrived. As Lucy continues building the business she once only imagined, one dream remains especially close to her heart. Someday, she’d like to retire her mom. That one sentence told me more about Lucy than anything else she had shared. Thinking back to that first conversation at Evoke, I finally understood why Lucy—and the smile that lit up the room—had stayed on my mind all those months. That warmth wasn’t simply pride in a family business. It was gratitude. Gratitude for the parents who showed her what hard work looked like. Gratitude for a mother who believed her happiness mattered as much as her success. Gratitude for a father who taught her that good business begins with making people feel welcome. And gratitude for the quiet confidence that grows when you’re raised by people who give you permission to follow your own path and show you that building something of your own isn’t just possible—it’s within reach.

Perhaps that’s the most meaningful thing we ever pass on—not only the businesses we build, but the values they reflect and the example we set.

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

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

It is all about the beach visitors!

The Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) will meet next Tuesday, August 4th at the Ethel Eyerly Senior Center in Flour Bluff. The meeting location is due to not being able to meet at the Gulfstream Condos (thanks for past use of the meeting space!) and no one wanting to trek downtown to the squirrel cage, err, city hall. We are supposed to get some engineering updates (where-o-where is the contract for muddle and puddle?) and an Island Area Development Plan subcommittee update, a Commodores Park update, and an update from Beaches and Parks on the proposed increase in the parking permits for beach parking.

The proposed increased rate starting in 2027 is from \$12 to \$20, which most people know by now. Most people are fine with this, and the people commenting against it on public media (and council actually) are either people that don't go to the beach and don't buy them anyway, or people that are new in town. Those of us old silverbacks know that this increase has been coming for a decade and a half, if not longer. And it is overdue, as expenditures have slightly outpaced revenue from permit sales.

The categories are broad in beach user fee plans, but they are basically broken down into beach operations (personnel and equipment) and beach rescue (personnel and equipment). We all know that the beach environment is tough on things, so equipment and vehicles used for beach ops need to be replaced more often than casual beach users equipment does. And while beach rescue is typically only for the 100 days tourist season, they are a critical component to the safety of our locals and tourists. My neighbor Bailey is a lifeguard, and she rescued three people last Saturday alone. Good job lifeguards!

There is some noise about a daily fee for visitors, which I generally support, but that will double the logistics of the point-of-sales, administration, and enforcement. Only a few places along the coast do early bird/weekend passes, and its juice isn't worth the squeeze. The issue is that there has to be vindication with the TGLO regarding an increase in fees, especially since it may not be reasonable for people who come in for just one day. I do understand that, but another \$8 isn't going to stop people from coming to the beach, especially when there are lots of free places to park, including the Michael J. Ellis Seawall parking lot. In 2025, permit fees collected over the year were about \$1.6 million, which

beach related expenditures slightly above that around \$2 million requiring a State Hotel Occupancy Tax (SHOT) reimbursement request from the state.

Manatees have been spotted in Port Aransas recently, which means they either moved through our area, or will be headed our way shortly, unless they're in the canal system as I type this. With the recent opening of the Commodores canal to the rest of the canal system, there is a good chance they will find their way through again. This is not unexpected, as it's become a seasonal occurrence. Please keep an eye out if you are idling your boat through the canals and observe the no wake signs. When you see a manatee, you are supposed to call the Texas Mammal Marine Stranding Network at 1-800-9MAMMAL, alert Ted Koppel, and then send pictures to the Island Moon and me. I swear, it's a requirement. After all, some of us Moon Monkeys are certified manatee observers. More later.

I caught up with Jace last week or so in his office and delivered another batch of creepy doll crew shirts and we talked about how Lisa at Impact is going to design some piggy bank shirts for the next run. Hound him for a t-shirt when you see him beach-combing. Islander Bob Corbett sent me a pic the other day from Lake Norman in North Carolina of a boat "On the Rocks." Thanks Bob! Y'all drop me a line at jay-gardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week, you guessed it, right here!



On the Rocks By Bob Corbett



Jay and Jace with some Beach Pigs

Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Topwaters & GROMS



The last few weeks of SUMMER VACATION are upon us!! Grab your young adults and get them on the water! Adventures that last a lifetime, like this Mom/son combo on this stringer of trout and black drum. We caught the drum in the canals on the Island, then drifted the flats with plastic just south of the JFK CAUSEWAY. Down South Supers in Pink Panther is still impossible to beat!

CLICK CLICK.....BOOM!! The redfish's head and shoulders cleared the surface then dove down with the Bright Green Topwater DOG BONED in his mouth. His tail slapped the water then pushed the drag to sing. A high rod tip kept him from diving into the grass and pulling off; he gave us a drive by then bolted into the wind behind us on his second run. Topwater action has been excellent allowing us to drive gamefish that have been under that thick grass to the surface for big explosive strikes. Floating grass is an issue and you just have to focus on not covering the distance between the end of your cast and yourself, but a natural slow presentation. A few walks, pops, and stuffing is many times better at bringing fish to the plug rather than bringing the plug over the flats too fast startling settled fish. They will hunt your topwater down! Color has always been important, I like a lure with bright back color so I can see it easily, bottom and side color can vary bright, dark, and natural. With braided like it is important to fish a loose line for success. With no stretch the braid makes your plug turn hard angles, flashy hard moves equals less strikes. Using a long mono leader and a loop knot is very important, so is using a light retrieve with a loose bow in the line. The softer you can make that lure turn the better. Replacing the hooks to quality razor sharp OWNER TREBLE HOOKS will absolutely improve your strike to hook up ratio. They seem to go through your hand much easier too so watch out!

Shallow shorelines on the East side of the Laguna Madre have been void of floating grass and full of trip water action from the boat and especially while slowly walking the sand beaches south of Bird Island. The GROMS that remind me of myself many years ago, surf, fish, swim, and snorkel. Our old daily summer schedule. This band of GROMS are sons of friends and neighbors on the island. They are learning to explore the bays together, filling the lineup with hoots and hollers, throwing water on high risk tricks and surfing contests. This is the summer that they will never forget. I remember mine, getting to talk to Cliff Webb, Doug Bird and so many other legends of our fishing community. They would throw me hints and clues to spur my imagination and get me hunting big trout. I try to hand them the same along with a bunch of soft plastics. This week they modestly showed me video and pictures of a giant trout they caught and released from topwaters. As I stared at that photo, my heart and mind raced back to many years ago. He held the beast up along the exact spot I caught my biggest trout of my life, 12.2lbs. I zoomed in and saw the structure on the beach and just smiled. Secrets spots are handed down and found again.

GO GET UM BOYS! Summer Countdown Is Ticking
Follow all of our fishing on Facebook at Joseph Farah/Joey Farahs Backwater Fishing.



The TOPWATER BITE IS SO HOT WE ARE CATCHING HARDHEADS ON TOPWATER PLUGS!



This GIANT TOPWATER REDFISH Exploded on a chartreuse colored plug during a mid day drift along the flats of the Boat Hole. Dancing topwaters over that thick grass is a great way to overwater and bring them up out of cover. Farah

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Nature Notes

Jaguars and Wolves and Bears, Oh My! Extirpated Predators of Texas



Grizzly Bears once lived in Texas in small numbers. By Mike Williams

By Kate Underwood

If you’ve spent any time traveling around Texas, you know this state is home to wild and beautiful places. What you may not know is that up until relatively recently, Texas had many more large, predatory mammals than it does today.

A cowboy falling asleep under the stars in the 1800s may have heard the howls of wolves. Two subspecies of gray wolves used to prowl the western-two thirds of the state. Their disappearance was due to habitat loss and persecution. The last gray wolves in the state were shot in 1970 near the Mexican border. Red wolves also used to roam Texas. They ranged across East, Central, and South Texas. The last red wolves of Texas were taken from Galveston for a captive breeding program in the 1970s. They were victims of habitat loss, overhunting, and hybridization with coyotes, plenty of which still exist in Texas.

An intrepid adventurer exploring the mountains of West Texas during this time period may have crossed paths with a grizzly bear. Grizzly bears were never common in Texas, but a few sightings and a specimen shot in 1890 attested to their residence in the mountains of the Trans Pecos. Black bears, on the other hand, were once abundant in West and East Texas. They were extirpated for a time due to overhunting, but have since returned as individuals from Louisiana and Mexico have recolonized old stomping grounds.

Those taking a dip in the Guadalupe River may have looked up into the trees and locked eyes with a jaguar. Jaguars historically ranged throughout south, central, and east Texas. They were victims of hunting and habitat loss. The last Texas jaguar was shot

in 1948 near Kingsville. Their mountain lion relatives still roam the state, no doubt in smaller numbers today than back then. Texas treats mountain lions as a non-game animal and does not systematically track their population numbers. Mountain lions may legally be killed anywhere, anytime, and in any quantity by anyone with a valid hunting license and landowner permission.

Wandering at night in the Rio Grande Valley of the past may have put you face to face with the cryptic and mysterious jagurundi, a small cat that used to reside throughout the valley. The last known sighting in Texas was a road-killed individual in 1986. Land clearing and agriculture are the culprits of this unique cat’s disappearance. The ocelot, an endangered relative of the jagurundi, still roams deep South Texas in very small numbers.

Many of these large predators of Texas were intentionally wiped out as a part of misguided programs intended to protect livestock and boost game animal populations. In Texas, these programs started with private ranchers putting out bounties on predators. Around 1930, the Texas government formed its own predator control coalition, mirroring the federal government programs already in place by this time. Dogs, poisoned carcasses, traps, den-hunting, and firearms were all methods used to exterminate predators. While these programs are mostly defunct, many of these historic predators will never return to Texas. But hope remains; conservation initiatives are underway for black bears and ocelots, and many people are advocating for better mountain lion management. With a little time and effort, we can keep Texas wild.



Jaguar resting photo courtesy of texascryptidhunter.com



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Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

Railroad Vine



Jace Tunnell next to blooming railroad vines.

One of the most colorful sights along the Texas coast this week wasn’t in the water at all. The railroad vine was putting on a spectacular display, with hundreds of large, trumpet-shaped pink flowers scattered across the sand dunes. The blooms were impossible to miss, and they were buzzing with life as bees and butterflies moved from flower to flower collecting nectar. While the flowers may steal the show, the real work happens beneath the sand. Railroad vine is one of the Gulf Coast’s most important dune-building plants. Its long, creeping stems can stretch more than 100 feet across the beach, anchoring themselves at multiple points along the way. As wind blows sand across the beach, the sprawling vines trap and hold the sand, slowly building larger, more stable dunes over time. Those dunes are far more than piles of sand. They serve as the first line of defense against hurricanes and tropical storms, helping absorb wave energy and reduce storm surge before it reaches roads, homes, and businesses farther inland. Healthy dunes also provide habitat for wildlife and help protect the fragile habitats behind them. Railroad vine has also been valued by people for centuries. Indigenous peoples and coastal communities crushed the thick leaves into a paste that was traditionally applied to jellyfish stings and other skin irritations to help

relieve pain and inflammation. Today, scientists have identified compounds in the plant with anti-inflammatory properties, lending support to some of these traditional uses. If you’ve walked the beach, you may have noticed another vine with similar leaves and white flowers growing nearby. That’s the beach morning glory, a close relative of railroad vine. While both species help stabilize dunes, railroad vine is easy to recognize by its larger pink to purple blooms, while beach morning glory produces white flowers with a yellow center. As tempting as it is to walk through a patch of blooming vines for the perfect photo, it’s worth taking a few extra steps around them instead. Every stem helps trap more sand, every flower feeds important pollinators, and every growing dune provides a little more protection for the Texas coast. Sometimes the smallest plants make the biggest difference. 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).



Blooming railroad vine growing across a sand dune.



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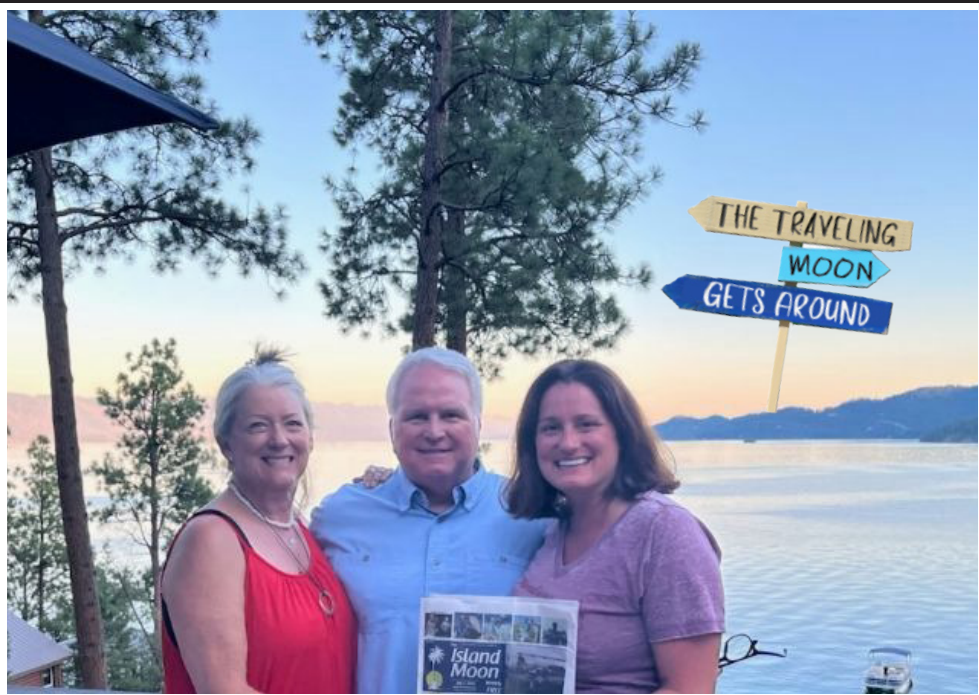
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The Traveling Moon



Denise Estachy took the Island Moon on the Symphony Of The Seas on the Royal Caribbean. This is the Parrot Head Cruise.



Kathleen and Tom Cullinan and daughter Karen took the Island Moon to northwestern Montana's Flathead Lake.



Butch Thomas took the Moon to a mine Kiemat-Stikine in British Columbia, Canada.



Tinker Boos & Fredra Mehrens took the Moon to the Alps in Switzerland



Doug and Lynne Hooker took the Moon to the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington D.C. this week.

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Permits cont. from A1

(ILA) between the three governing bodies which was initiated in 2002 with a permit price of \$6 which was raised to the current \$12 in 2002. City staff said Tuesday that state rules prohibit carving out a separate charge for permits to local residents. By comparison the annual Beach User Fee in South Padre Island is \$100 and \$50 for a Seasonal Parking Pass in Galveston with an additional \$45 Annual Seawall Parking Pass. The final in the process of raising the fee is a 30-day comment period by the Texas General Land Office followed by that agency's approval. The city staff said this week that the funds generated by the current \$12 fee does not meet the cost of maintain the beaches and beach facilities in the face of rising costs. The City of Corpus Christi also has recently assumed responsibility for a \$15 million project to repair and upgrade the Michael J. Ellis Seawall with an annual cost of upkeep at \$265,000 in the first year and \$185,000 each year thereafter. Additional City projects include adding new



public restrooms and beach rescue facility on Zahn Road, and a new beach access road along SH 361 which is currently under construction and will open 7.8 miles of beach north of Fish Pass to easier public access and which will require additional beach maintenance. One of the cost drivers cited by officials from both the cities of Port Aransas and Corpus Christi is a requirement from state regulators for be renourishment along many sections of the beach from Port Aransas to Fish Pass which will result in higher costs.

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

The Growing Cost of Homeownership in Texas

Distribution of Monthly Homeownership Costs in Texas, 2021 and 2024

Editor’s note: The Texas Demographic Center this week released the following information regarding home ownership in the state.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2021 and 2024
Data: Data are represented in 2024 inflation-adjusted dollars and includes mortgage and utility costs.

Texas homeowners are feeling the impact of rising housing costs. Between 2021 and 2024, the share of homeowners paying less than \$2,500 per month declined, while those paying \$3,000 or more increased from 20.2% to 27.0%, even after adjusting for inflation. The trend highlights growing affordability challenges as more Texans face higher costs for mortgage payments, utilities, insurance, and property taxes.

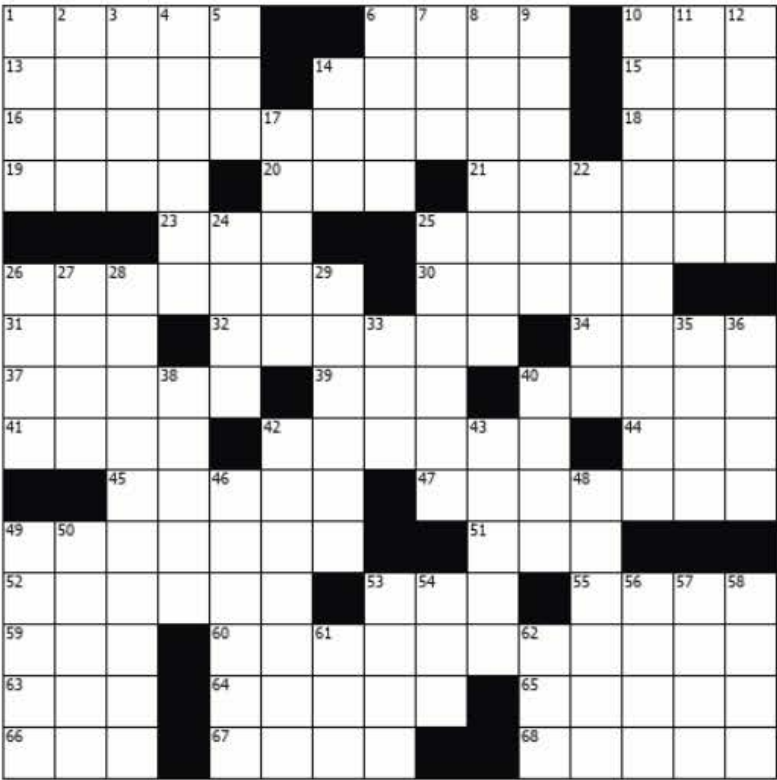
Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page



Across

- The rich may prefer them stretched
- Type of collar
- Start of many addresses
- Not chronic, medically
- Prepare for company
- MacDonald's last syllables
- Main circuit card in a computer
- Sib for sis
- Get the pot going
- Cleopatra's snake
- Made an outline in pencil
- Alphabet run
- Tennessee's NCAA women's basketball team (with "Vols")
- Frankenstein creation
- Increases molecular motion
- Feeling of wonder
- Phonograph inventor
- British prep school
- Abate, as rainfall
- ___ and vigor
- Sioux Nation unit
- Prepare to run
- Dennis, to Mr. Wilson
- "... a borrower ___ a lender be"
- Peacefully silent
- Word in an Austin Powers film title
- Reporters' informants
- Anger
- Electronic newsgroup system
- Part of 000
- Carpentry tool
- Word with Stamp or Riot
- Work from home, in a way
- Tub for chocolate
- Eat away at
- Milk carton data
- Reference center?
- Makes inquiries
- Noisy inhalation



Down

- The Dalai ___
- Computer symbol
- Mixed-breed dog
- "Do unto ___ ..."
- Neither fold nor raise
- Film producer's failure
- Poet's meadow
- Like many pots
- An Amati of violin-making fame
- Transmitting live video, in a way
- Connected to a computer network
- "Toy Story" cowboy
- Major broadcaster
- Assessed
- Change, as a hemline
- Small progression
- First name of 32-Across
- Like a plug, but not a socket
- Had payments due
- Proper behavior on the Web
- Some fasteners
- Do the wrong thing
- Orchestra instrument
- Computer geek
- Driver's change of direction
- Lacrimal droplet
- Companions of greeters
- One of the Marx brothers
- Refreshing beverage (Var.)
- Kind of shepherd
- Sophisticated
- Coveted award
- Kennedy and Koppel
- Two can take this
- Mercury or Saturn, e.g.
- Ending for mob or gang
- Nudnik
- ___ Sabha (Indian legislature)
- AMA members

Island Real Estate Roundup



Apryl Noles

Condominiums and Detached homes lead the summer market

As we wrap up the final week of July, the Padre Island real estate market continues to show encouraging activity, particularly in the condominium sector. This week, we saw four condos go pending and one successfully close, a positive sign that buyers are taking advantage of opportunities before summer comes to an end.

The detached home market also remained active, with four homes entering the option period and five homes sold, demonstrating continued buyer demand across the island.

As we move into the last stretch of July and look ahead to August, we anticipate market activity to increase as buyers and sellers work to meet their late-summer real estate goals. Whether you’re thinking about buying, selling, or simply staying informed on the local market, now is a great time to keep an eye on what’s happening.

Here you’ll find this week’s detailed market statistics. Stay tuned for next week’s Padre Island Moon market update!

Detached Homes In Option Period:

-15826 Almeria Ave (Listed for \$625,000)

-15242 Caravel Dr (Listed for \$398,000)
-15414 Finistere St (Listed for \$348,900)
-14321 Goldfish St (Listed for \$325,000)

Detached Homes That Sold:

-13514 King Phillip Ct (Listed for \$775,000)
-15950 Punta Espada Loop (Listed for \$699,000)
-15705 Dyna St (Listed for \$519,900)
-15337 Bowsprit Ct (Listed for \$499,900)
-15313 E Chesapeake (Listed for \$384,900)

Condominiums That Are Pending:

-14721 Whitecap Blvd Unit 331 (Listed for \$229,900)
-14428 Compass St Unit 104 (Listed for \$229,900)
-14428 Compass St Unit 207 (Listed for \$204,900)
-15005 Windward Dr Unit 111 (Listed for \$169,000)

Condominium That Sold:

-15209 Leeward Dr Unit 6 (Listed for \$189,000)

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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)

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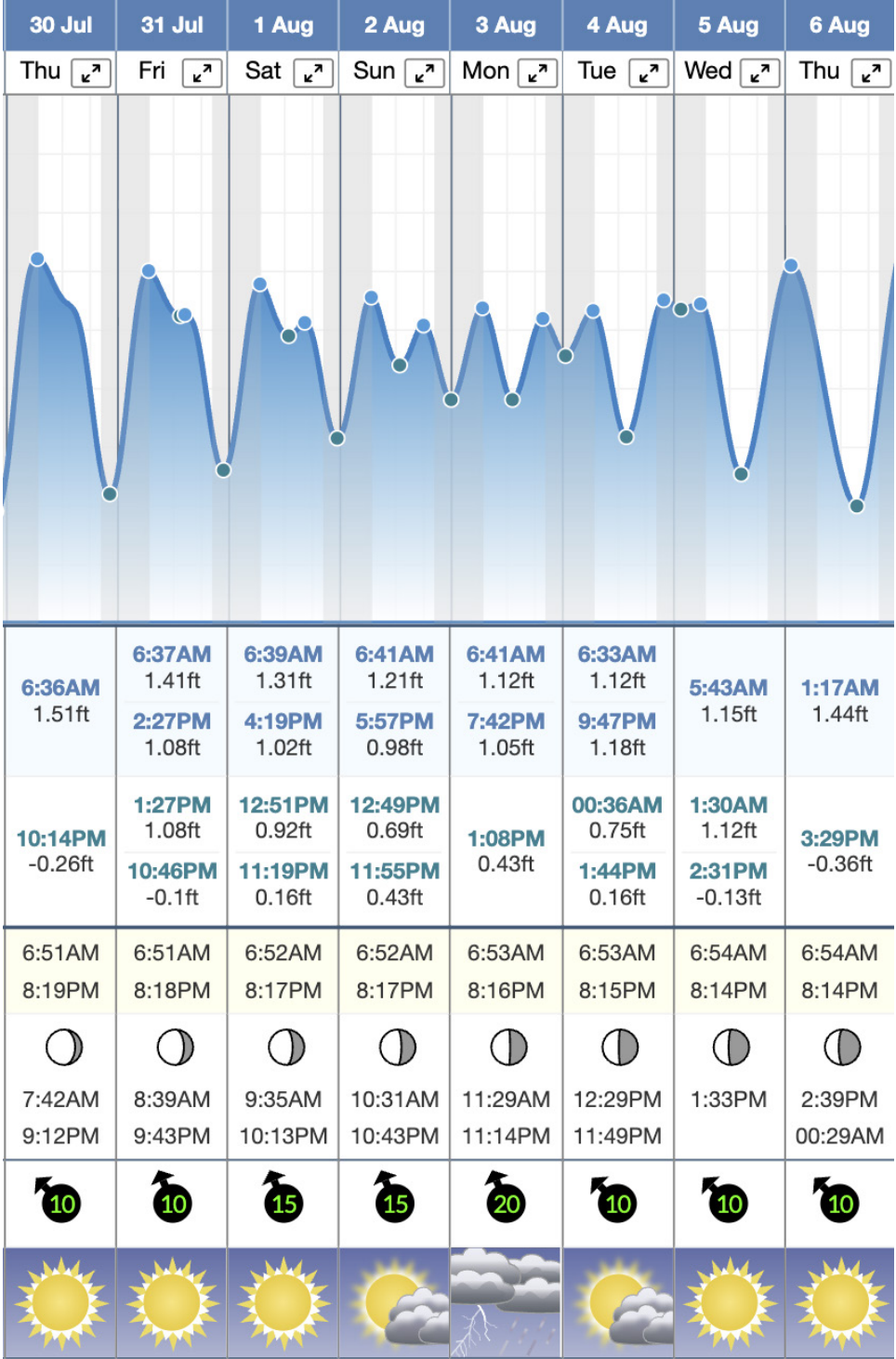
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Giant hermit crab. By Lauren Chaffee

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Protect College Sports Act of 2026

Dotson's Note: On May 27, 2026, Senators Cantwell, Cruz, Coons & Schmitt released a bipartisan bill to stabilize college sports, protect athletes and expand revenue sharing. Thanks to a friend for the "heads-up" on this little bit of sports which is almost as important to college sports as Title IX.

U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, and Chairman Ted Cruz (R-Texas), joined by Senators Chris Coons (D-Del.) and Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.), have introduced the Protect College Sports Act of 2026 with the stated intention of protecting athletes, preserve true competition in college sports and maximize collegiate athletic opportunities while bringing desperately needed stability to the college sports system. The Act creates new rules and new tools to stabilize college sports, including codifying athletes' rights and protections in law, supporting women's and Olympic sports and amending the Sports Broadcasting Act (SBA) to expand revenue for all schools.

"We're seeing thousands of men's and women's athletic roster slots and a hundred athletic programs being cut," said Sen. Cantwell. "Collegiate athletics is a hallmark for human development. Let's not ruin it with out-of-control chaos. This bill puts new tools and new rules on the table to rein in runaway costs while still preserving NIL, revenue sharing, and women's and Olympic sports". "College sports are at a breaking point," said Sen. Cruz. "Fans can see their favorite teams being hollowed out by transfer chaos, fake NIL bidding wars, eligibility lawsuits, and a system that allows the richest programs to keep pulling away. The Protect College Sports Act is a bipartisan plan to restore order. Student athletes can profit from their name, image, and likeness, but college sports still needs real rules, competitive balance, rivalries, and a true connection to education. This bill protects athletes and fans and keeps college sports from becoming a two-conference minor league."

The Protect College Sports Act includes many of the athletes' rights and protections, and other provisions from Sen. Cantwell's [Student Athlete Fairness and Enforcement \(SAFE\)](#) Act introduced last year with Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.).

PROTECTS ATHLETES:

First-ever National Rights and Protections for Student Athletes That Are Strong and Enforceable:

□ Grants student athletes a new federal right to earn compensation for their Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) and replaces the patchwork of state laws with a strong national NIL standard.

□ Sets NIL contract requirements that protect student athletes; contracts must include key terms like what the athlete must do under the contract and how much they will be paid.

New Agent Rules with Real Teeth to Protect Athletes from Exploitation

□ Requires agents to register with a state and certify to the NCAA that they are registered before they can lawfully represent a student athlete.

- Caps agent fees at 5 percent.
- Prohibits agents from making fraudulent statements in their registration.
- Prohibits agents from misrepresenting NIL deals to entice student athletes to enroll or transfer. Gives athletes a private right of action to enforce their NIL rights and bring cases in court against unscrupulous agents.
- 10-year Scholarship Guarantee
 - Guarantees scholarships for ten years after eligibility so athletes can complete their degrees.
 - Ensures student athletes cannot lose their scholarship because of injury or athletic performance.
- Student Athletes' Health and Safety Protections While in School
 - Requires Division I schools to provide medical coverage while athletes are participating in sports, including covering the cost of a second opinion and providing an end-of-eligibility medical examination.
 - Mandates safety standards for heat exertion, brain injury, sickle cell trait and asthma; enforced by independent officers.
 - Requires schools to designate independent health and safety officers who report to an office who is independent of the athletic department. These officers will oversee the implementation of the safety standards and be responsible for reporting any suspected violations.
 - Prevents coaches or non-medical athletic personnel from second guessing the decisions of medical personnel about a student's ability to play.
 - Requires schools to prevent, assess, and remediate abuse of athletes, hazing, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment.
- Healthcare Protections When the Game is Over
 - For Division I schools, mandates 5 years of post-eligibility medical coverage for sports-related injuries.
 - Creates a \$60 million a year trust fund to help schools with demonstrated financial need provide post-eligibility medical coverage and to help athletes with the cost of significant, long-term conditions, like chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), incurred from playing a sport.

Dotson's other note: Thanks for reading, and please let your elected reps know what you think of these shenanigans. Personally, I don't think they have gone far enough; I think they need to go back to how college sports eligibility was determined around 1977. Doesn't paying college players make them pro athletes?

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Island Obituary

Dr. John Douglas "Doug" Pappas

Dr. John Douglas "Doug" Pappas passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of his family.

Doug was born on June 23, 1955, in Galveston, Texas, to Patrick and Margaret Pappas. He was raised in Lubbock, Texas, alongside his siblings, Chris, Mary, and Gloria Pappas. Although life eventually led him to Corpus Christi, he remained, at heart, a proud West Texan and a lifelong Red Raider.

Above all else, Doug was a loving father, devoted grandfather, cherished friend, and a man whose life was defined by hard work. Doug was a true family man. His three children, John Michael, Melissa, and Laura, were the center of his world, and as his family grew, his grandchildren and extended family became an immeasurable source of joy. He encouraged each of them to dream big, work hard, and pursue their passions without fear.

He embraced life with the heart of an adventurer. Doug was endlessly curious, constantly exploring various intellectual pursuits and new travel destinations. Whether it was traveling the world or earning his pilot's license simply because he wanted to, Doug approached life with enthusiasm and wonder. He loved slow mornings with a hot cup of coffee reading a good book or the news and listening to great music.

Some of Doug's happiest moments were spent on the deck of his home overlooking the bay, watching the sun melt into the Texas horizon with a chilled glass of wine in hand. Those sunsets reflected the way he lived his life—with gratitude, quiet appreciation, and an understanding that life's greatest gifts are often its simplest moments.

While Doug's warmth and generosity defined the way he lived, he was equally known for his remarkable ambition and lifelong love of learning. He attended Texas Tech University, where he developed a deep pride in his alma mater. After graduating, he earned his law degree from the University of Houston and began practicing law before discovering that his true calling was in medicine. Never one to shy away from hard work, he returned to Texas Tech University School of Medicine to earn his medical degree and completed his internal medicine residency. He then completed a fellowship in cardiology at the University of Texas in 1993.



Doug's journey ultimately brought him to Corpus Christi, where he devoted more than 30 years to caring for the people of the Coastal Bend. He served as both Chief of Cardiology at CHRISTUS Spohn and President of Cardiology Associates of Corpus Christi. One of Doug's highest honors was developing the practice at Cardiology Associates with a team of dedicated physicians and supporting staff who all shared an unwavering commitment to improving cardiovascular health. To his patients, he was more than an exceptional physician. He was a compassionate listener, a trusted guide, and a source of comfort during life's most difficult moments.

Doug's legacy lives on in every patient he cared for, every life he touched, and, most importantly, in his family who will carry forward his love and values.

Doug is lovingly survived by his father, Patrick Pappas, and step-mother, Christine Pappas; his siblings, Chris, Mary, and Gloria Pappas, and their families; his children, John Michael, Melissa, and Laura Pappas, and their spouses; and his cherished grandchildren, Mya and Luna Pappas. He also leaves behind many dear friends, and respected colleagues.

He will be profoundly missed and forever loved.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Doug's life at a Memorial Service on Friday, July 31, 2026, with gathering to begin at 10:00am and service at 11:00am at Seaside Funeral Home & Memorial Park, 4357 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412. For those wishing to honor Doug's memory, floral arrangements may be sent to Seaside Funeral Home & Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association or Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

City News

City projects \$900,000 revenue shortfall Sagging property values blamed

City Manager Peter Zanoni this week delivered a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027 that projects a revenue shortfall of \$900,000 due to dropping property values across the city.

The City projected a \$900,000 General Fund revenue shortfall in May based on preliminary property values. On July 25, 2026, certified values were received, resulting in \$3 million less in property tax revenue than originally forecast. Earlier in FY 2026, anticipating a revenue shortfall, the City implemented a mid-year budget adjustment that generated \$1.7 million in recurring savings through spending reductions.

ments in the past three fiscal years, including \$12 million in FY 2025, \$7 million in FY 2026, and \$900,000 proposed in FY 2027. The City Council will adopt the final budget for FY 2027 with a first reading on September 1 and a second reading on September 8, 2026.

The next step in the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Process is to continue collecting feedback from City Council and the community through additional budget workshops and community input sessions.

A total of seven meetings will be held with one each on Padre Island and in Flour Bluff.

The new fiscal year begins on October 1, 2026, and ends on September 30, 2027. The upcoming fiscal year marks the third consecutive year of strategic budget decisions, resulting in nearly \$20 million in recurring expenditure reductions or revenue adjust-

Wednesday, August 12, at the Ethel Eyerly Senior Center, 654 Graham Road Monday August 24 at Seashore Learning Center Academy Gym, 15801 SPID Both will run from 6 – 7 p.m.

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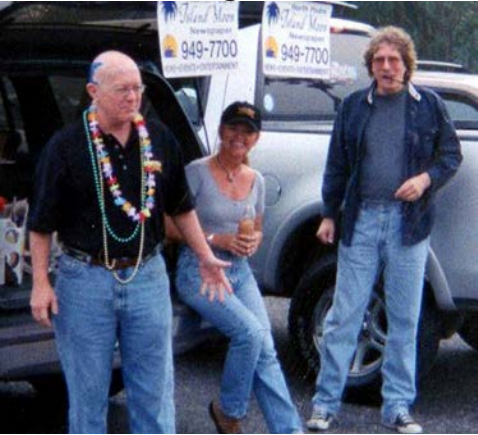
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361.808.4444
Office@GaleLawGroup.com

Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

More gonzo...



Mike Ellis and Dale Rankin in the early days of the North Padre Island Moon.

So, I'm chatting it up with my fellow line judge, **Bill**, at the *WORLD FAMOUS BELT SANDER RACES* held every second and fourth Saturday of the month at everyone's favorite *Pirate Bar...da Gaff*. And Bill confessed that he read my column every week and he thought he had me figured out. He said he was cool with all the banter that dwells inside my head and all the run on sentences and how I can be talking about any and everything and then taking a sharp turn at the end of my thought and talk about something complete different. I felt like he was giving cred to my delirium. This is where I told him the story of when **Rockin' Dale Rankin** brought me into this newspaper thing about 18 years ago when I was bartending at *Casbeers* in San Antonio. He told me he had just taken over a newspaper (called the *North Padre Island Moon* back then) from the previous owner, **Mike Ellis**. All he said was, "I need some help with this thing. Can you write?" I was living in my van at the time and moving to the coast sounded pretty good to me and I said, "sure". Rockin' said "you take Port Aransas and I'll take Padre Island." And off we went. Fast forward a few years and things were rolling along when I asked Dale to tell me how I'm doing and is there anything I should or should not be doing in the column and all he said was, "More gonzo". Now I've always been a huge fan of **Hunter S. Thompson** and his style of writing, so I decided right then and there to adopt "gonzo" as my own...which in my mind was to structure my rhetoric just as I do. That's why I change directions in mid-paragraph and talk about whatever graces my brain pan. So there you go **Bill**. Did that explain things?

House of Rock turns 21...



Casey Lane is the man behind the House of Rock

I want to send my friend, **Casey Lane**, over at the *House of Rock* in downtown Corpus, a heartfelt congratulation on 21 successful years of operation. I can attest, that is NO easy task. I first wrote about Casey in 2010 talking about the variety of genres he employs and the fact that the building once housed *Dunn Funeral Home* and how I always got a ton of orbs in all my pics. Casey had given me a tour of the facilities and even took me downstairs to a room with big sideways window where the funeral workers would roll the cadavers into the room for embalming. And brother, the scary vibes were so thick you could taste them. Suffice it to say, Casey has an eclectic variety of ways to blow your little minds with shows that range from **Wanda Jackson to Cannibal Corpse to Tribal Seeds to Girls in a Coma to Steve Earle to the Wailers to the Supersuckers** to comedy shows to drag queen shows to a headquarters where local jammers can hang their axes or a meeting place for various music associations and symposiums. The place is bonafied to say the least and Casey, *You are da man!!!* Plus that team you've assembled rocks. Here's to another 21 young man.

Scattered shots...

Holy moly did the traffic suck last weekend or what? Even making right turns was a challenge. But I did venture out to see shows at the *Sip Yard* and *Shorty's*. The *Sip Yard* had a very cool line-up on Saturday with **Lane Smith** opening for the **Huser Brothers** from Waco. Lane was the perfect opener for the brothers being it was country slanted rock. I had never seen the Huser Bros before and was treated to a very cool experience. I just stood around by the stage waiting for them to take the stage when a gaggle of young girls all rushed the stage up front and proceeded to sing along to every song. I had no idea. And the band was definitely rock with a strong stage presence between all the players. That lead singer had a great voice and had the crowd dancing and partying all night. It was great. And over at *Shorty's* our old cowboy friend from SA, **Todd Dorn and the Sea Drifters** packed out the big deck and had them boot scootin' all night.

Coming this weekend...



Chris Boss will play Shorty's this Friday the 31st and Bron's on Saturday Aug 1st.

Buckle up **Buttercup** we got another goodern looking us in the eye. Coming this Thursday the 30th, the *Sip Yard* has the famous **Bellamy Brothers** with hits dating back to the 70's such as *If I Said You Had a Beautiful Body* and *Let Your Love Flow* which hit Number 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 charts in 1976. They had 26 top 10 hits on the country music charts of which 10 hit number 1. **Howard Bellamy** is 80 now and brother **David** is 75. Otherwise, San Antonio guitar god **Chris Boss** will play *Shorty's* on Friday and *Bron's* on Saturday. Also on Saturday, August 1; **Lane Bricker** will play the *Sip Yard*, **Back Pew** is at *Treasure Island*, **Flying Free** will play *Bron's* and **Boudreaux and Pousson** will play the *Gaff*. On Saturday, August 1 watch for **Red Feather** at *Shorty's* and **B-Flat Dueling Pianos** at the *Sip Yard*. Also on Saturday, the *Whale Bone* in Corpus will have a benefit for local reggae singer **Justin Estes** who is dealing with serious health issues. On Sunday, August 2nd **Austin Forrest** will play *Bron's* and **Soares Effect** will play the *Sip Yard*. Also coming this week will be the *Texas Legends Fishing Tournament* going from August 5 through the 8th.

On the horizon...



Flying Free will play Bron's on Friday.

One the near horizon watch for upcoming shows from **Gary P. Nunn, Billy Snipes, Cruise Control, Mantle Jennings, Groove 2.0, Timothy Noel, Toman Brothers, Clayton Landua, Clay Hollis, Nick Lawrence, Jon Wolfe, Ruben V, Bo Luna, Left Right Left** and **Casey Chesnutt**. Yall be safe out there!

And, that's the truth



The Back Pew Revival will play Treasure Island this Friday.



The Bellamy Bros will play the Sip Yard this Thursday, the 30th.



Boudreaux and Pousson will play the Gaff this Friday.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, July 30

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's
Bellamy Bros, Pauline Reese @ Sip Yard
Brad Ethridge @ Bron's
Damon Scott @ Brewster Southside
David Martinez @ Brewster Island
Michael Perez @ Cassidy's
Los Guys @ Rockit's
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Randall Hunt @ Sand Box NPI
Mike Luna @ Fajitaville
Brian Zamipini @ Anchor Bar
AJ Cruz @ Pier 99
Sonny Salinas @ Honey's Drive N Dive

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BILLY SNIPES	JULY 30
BOO & POO	JULY 31
JIM DUGAN	AUG 1
PHILLIP DEAN WEST	AUG 2
RANDY CLARK	AUG 2
LOS LOCALS	AUG 4

Darren McGill @ Anchor Bar
Tate Mitchell @ Sugar Shack Fulton
Reno Perez @ Sand Box NPI
Phillip Dean @ Commercial St. AP
Michael Burttis @ Honey's Drive N Dive

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

CHRIS BOSS	JULY 31
RED FEATHER	AUG 1
MANTLE JENNINGS	AUG 7
TOMAN BROS	AUG 8

Saturday, August 1
Red Feather @ Shorty's
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
B-Flat Dueling Pianos @ Sip Yard
TBA @ Treasure Island
Chris Boss @ Bron's
The Drive @ Pelican
Benefit for Justin Estes @ Whale Bone Ra!, Neapolitan,
Makeshift Morgue @ House of Rock
Bingo Loco @ Brewster Downtown
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Island
Michael Burttis @ Brewster Southside
Ty Dietz @ Executive Surf Club
Tumble Dry Low @ Headliners RP
Fuzion @ Water's Edge
Just Cuz, US Music @ Pier 99
Phillip Dean, Melissa Ann @ Anchor Bar
Bigtime Jukebox, Sikk Puppy @ Sandbox NPI
Darren McGill @ Fajitaville
Orlando Herrera @ Eighteen 18 Bar
Anna Clarke @ Coasters AP
Carl Hayes @ Snoopy's
Kelly Kenning @ Island Retreat PA
Ty Dietz @ Honey's Drive N Dive

BACK PEW REVIVAL	JULY 31
GROOVE 2.0	AUG 7
JAM BAND	AUG 8
BACK PEW REVIVAL	AUG 14
FIVE CARD DRAW	AUG 15
SPLENDIFEROUS	AUG 22

BRAD ETHRIDGE	JULY 30
FLYING FREE	JULY 31
CHRIS BOSS	AUG 1
AUSTIN FORREST	AUG 2
CHRIS WRIGHT	AUG 4
JERRY WARD	AUG 5

BELLAMY BROS, PAULINE REESE	JULY 30
LANE BRICKER, WES HAYDEN	JULY 31
B-FIAT DUELING PIANOS	AUG 1
GARY P. NUNN, CASEY CHESNUTT	AUG 6
CRUISE CONTROL	AUG 7
CLAYTON LANDUA + 2	AUG 8

Sunday, August 2
Austin Forrest @ Bron's
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's

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