



Nature Notes A7

Backwater Adventures A6

The Art of Island Life A5

On the Rocks A7

Three Chords and the Truth A12

Issue 1164



The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

August 6, 2026

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Displaying Island Pride by Debbie Wall



Island Moon Live is on Thursday's from 11-12 and 1-2 on 1440 KEYS AM, 98.7 FM, and on YouTube



Island Moon Live

By Dale Rankin

There was finally some good news on the water front this week as we paddled our way out of the Stage 3 Restrictions we had been under since late 2024. We include the rules for Stage 2 in this issue but it is (relatively) safe to wash your truck *Around The Island* now. We now await the broadcast of a Netflix story on the quality of the water along our coastline and the health of our fish which has been filmed but no air date has been announced.

The next deluge may be the flood of candidates announcing they are running for seats on the Corpus Christi City Council after the conclusion of the flea circus at City Hall this week. Once that smoke clears a flock of new candidates are likely to jump into the various races by the August 17 filing deadline. The city council last week voted down a push to place charter revisions on the November ballot that included increasing the council terms to four years and raising council members' pay to minimum wage.

Campaign signs

We had several calls this week regarding the "defacing" of political signs *Around The Island* which is in fact a crime, unless of course the "defacing" is done by the candidate whose name is on the sign. We won't get too political here but it seems that a candidate for federal office had a mid-course correction in his platform and removed some wording from his own signs with a cutting tool. The political season is now upon us folks and editing is allowed.

Beach Parking Permit kerfuffle

After more than two years of discussion about raising the cost of Beach Parking Permits from the current \$12 to \$20 in 2027 the discussion took a rather bizarre twist at the Corpus Christi City Council meeting last week when District 4 Council member Kaylynn Paxson pulled the proposal from the Consent Agenda and then voted against the increase which barely passed on a 5-4 vote. The move was surprising since both the council and the Island Strategic Action Committee had previously

Around cont. on A5

A new way to get to the beach!

Work is moving quickly on the new \$1.6 million beach access road just south of the Port Royal Ocean Resort & Conference Center on Mustang Island. The 100-foot long road is the first new access road on Corpus Christi beaches in decades and is designed to improve access to 7.8 miles of beach which is currently difficult to reach. Funding for the new road is from Street Bonds, Storm Water, and Water Funds, and the project is on schedule for completion in September, 2026.



The new beach access road is just south of Port Royal

Padre Property Owners Association wants city to fund Island floodgate

Memorandum of Understanding sent to city

Editor's note: The following Memorandum of Understanding was sent to the City of Corpus Christi by PIPOA Executive Director Rick McGinley on 8 July 2026 on behalf of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association. An updated, red-lined edition of the letter was returned to the PIPOA for review, but not available at press time. The "earthen dam" referred to in the MOU near the bridge on Commodores Drive is no longer in place.

Essential Elements of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Padre Island Property Owners Association (PIPOA) and the City of Corpus Christi, TX A negotiable, project milestone schedule must be established for a city-funded floodgate to be installed on or near GLO property at the entrance to Lake Padre to reestablish our 8' protective berm:

- The original, protective 8'

berm was lost when the Don Pat Bridge was opened

- Based on TS Alberto conditions, the PIPOA canal system is now exposed to flooding anytime a tidal surge raises above the 18" - 24" range
- The current, Park Road 22 sand dam protects us up to that point but tidal surges above the 18"-24" range make even

Floodgate cont. on page A3

Beachcombing Report

Meeting North America's Largest Sea Snail



Jace Tunnell holding a live horse conch

One of the highlights of this week's beachcombing adventure wasn't something washed ashore at all, it was very much alive. As I walked the shoreline, I spotted what looked like a large shell resting in the shallows. When I picked it up, a brilliant orange animal slowly emerged from inside. It was a living horse conch, about 12 inches long, and one of the most spectacular marine snails you'll ever encounter. After a few

Beachcombing cont. on page A7

The Tax Everyone Thinks They Understand

Why Property Taxes Aren't a Tax on "Money You Never Made"



By Brian McCabe
Former Member, Nueces Central Appraisal District
Appraisal Review Board Current Taxpayer Liaison Officer

"Hey Brian... explain something to me."
I've heard those words hundreds of times—after Appraisal Review

Board hearings, over coffee, and even standing in line at the grocery store. One question comes up more than any other: "My house has doubled in value. I haven't sold it. I haven't made a dime. So why am I being taxed on money I never made?" It's a fair question. During my five years on the Appraisal Review

Board, where I heard several thousand protest hearings, and now as Taxpayer Liaison Officer, I've learned that most taxpayers are not looking for an argument—they're looking for an explanation. I've never met anyone who smiled while writing a property tax check. I certainly don't.

Taxes cont. on page A3

By the numbers City Projects on The Island for 2027

\$531,019,581 Total Capital Improvement Budget 2027
\$381,040,190 (72%) funds from Revenue Bonds
Island Projects (including Flour Bluff)
Public Facilities (Partially funded by Certificates of Obligation)
Holly Road Train Trestle to Tourism Trail
Zahn Road Lifeguard and Restroom Facility
Streets
Flour Bluff Dr. (Yorktown to Don Patricio)
Encantada Avenue Culvert Replacement (Storm Water Revenue Bonds)
Projects cont. on page A3

By the numbers

City Council to consider Property Tax increase at August 11 meeting

How much will it cost?

The Corpus Christi City Council is scheduled to vote on the tax rate for the 2027 Fiscal Year at the next meeting on August 11. According to documents released by the city this week the rate to be voted on will raise more Ad Valorem Property Tax for the city's General Fund than was raised in the 2026 Fiscal Year which is defined as a Tax Increase under the Texas Truth-In-Taxation (TNT) statute. The Texas Constitution requires that local taxing units make taxpayers aware of tax rate proposals and to afford them the opportunity to limit tax increases. This is accomplished through the TNT which requires that a record vote be taken by the governing body to place a proposal to adopt the tax rate on the agenda of a future meeting as an action item and hold a public hearing if the proposed maximum property tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate. The City is proposing a tax rate of no more than \$0.599774 per \$100, which is higher than the rate that would not increase the amount of Property Tax collected by the city in 2027. The following numbers show the change in the amount of City Property Tax paid on each \$500,000 of appraised value.
\$2,984. per each \$500,000 of home value with no Property Tax increase
\$2,998. per each \$500,000 of home value with the increased proposed for the August 11 vote
These numbers reflect only the Property Tax for the City of Corpus Christi.

2427 Beach Parking Permits sold over holiday weekend

1188 sold in a single day

The City of Corpus Christi sold 2427 Beach Parking Permits over the 4th of July weekend, according to Darren Gurley, Gulf Beaches and Natural Resources Superintendent.

“The 4th of July weekend was the busiest I have ever seen our beaches,” Gurley told the Island Strategic Action Committee this week. “In all the time I have been working here I have never seen them that busy.” Gurley said 1188 of the \$12 permits were sold in a single day on Saturday, July 4. City crews also picked up 7.5 tons of trash during the holiday weekend, he said.

As of June 1 106,269 permits had been sold and projections call for 133,000 permits to be sold by the end of 2026 and projected revenue of \$2.2 million in permits sales in 2027 when the price is expected to increase to \$20. Final approval of the price increase is schedule for a final vote of the Corpus Christi City Council in their August 11 meeting.

Money from the permits sales is used to fund beach maintenance and is augmented by a two-cent State Hotel Occupancy Tax which is remitted to the city.



Island Pride Paints Billish Park Fence

The fence painting at Billish Park is nearing completion thanks to the Island Pride group and its volunteers. The initial paint job took only three days thanks to the number of people who volunteered to help with the project.

Other artists, Debi Kastner with It's ART Time and Brittany Milam with The Brittany Talor Boutique are adding the final details to bring the mural to life. Island Pride and the PIPOA would like to thank everyone who made this project possible.

From those who generously donated to help fund the project to every volunteer who picked up a brush and helped brighten our park.

Once the mural is completely finished and the protective UV coating has been applied they will host an official reveal and invite everyone to come celebrate this beautiful community accomplishment with them.



Seashore Starts Soon!



These are the hearts, hands, and smiling faces that will pour into our students this year at Seashore Learning Center and Seashore Middle Academy.

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Letters to the Editor

⌵ AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Windstorm rates

Greetings from the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association! The TWIA Board of Directors met on August 4 and voted unanimously to direct staff to file a 0% rate change in the Association’s required annual filing with the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI). The filing will be made by the August 15 deadline.

The vote followed the Board’s receipt of a recommendation from its Actuarial & Underwriting Committee for no change in rates. The Board also heard public comments from stakeholders, including elected officials and other coastal community members.

TWIA’s 2026 Rate Adequacy Analysis, prepared by the Association’s actuarial staff, indicates that TWIA’s current rates are adequate by 9% for residential coverage and 4% for commercial coverage. The Analysis shows significant improvement in TWIA’s rate adequacy since the Texas Legislature enacted a law last year that reduced the minimum level of 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.

Aaron Taylor
Texas Windstorm Insurance Association

Floodgate cont. from A1

low-level storms a risk to our community

□ Flood maps following Hurricane Harvey confirm that the original 8’ berm at Park Road 22 protected this community from the conditions that now make us vulnerable (QGIS Maps derived from 2018 Digital Elevation Maps available from LANDSAT/NOAH)

The two earthen dams (Commodores and Don Pat) (sic) will remain in place until:

□ The box culvert is installed at Encantada

□ Only after the box culvert is installed will the PIPOA dredge our canal as needed to adequately interface with the new drainage system

The USACOE has approved the necessary permits to facilitate the opening and exposure of our canals to a tidal body of water

□ We have a formal request in to the USACOE for a public hearing on this project

□ Before the opening we need operational flow gauges in-place to measure actual canal velocities before and after the opening: These gauges need to stay in-place for at least 180 days after the opening to establish the average day-to-day velocity in our critical canals

□ Flow gauge readings must be available to the PIPOA in near real-time so that we can monitor the day-to-day status at two locations

If the average velocity consistently exceeds the 1.9 fps damage threshold, flow rates in our canal system must be restricted to prevent a re-occurrence of the damage to our infrastructure as experienced following the initial opening during February 2024:

□ This City may accomplish this task by using multiple, temporary Aqua Dams to block the flow into our canals until a permanent solution can be implemented

□ Assuming all agreed to conditions in the final version of this MOU are met, both connection locations must be opened at the same time to avoid the identical scenario we experienced during the first opening on or about 18 Feb 2024.



Well, we dodged the hurricane season but we got hit with the traffic storm.

Taxes cont. from A1

The biggest misunderstanding is comparing property taxes to income taxes. Income taxes are based on money you earn. Capital gains taxes generally apply when you sell an asset for a profit. Property taxes are based on owning taxable property and its market value under Texas law. Think about belonging to the Padre Isles Property Owners Association. Your dues aren’t based on whether you sold your home this year. They’re based on the fact that you own property in the community and continue receiving its benefits. Property taxes work on a similar principle, only on a much larger scale. Those taxes help fund police protection, fire protection, emergency medical services, roads, bridges, drainage, libraries, courts, parks, and public schools. That does not mean the concern is unreasonable. Imagine buying a home thirty years ago, retiring on a fixed income, and watching property values climb year after year. You may have no intention of selling, yet your tax bill keeps changing. That financial pressure is real, and it deserves to be acknowledged. Texas law attempts to address that concern through homestead exemptions, over-65 exemptions, tax ceilings for qualifying homeowners, disabled veteran exemptions, and other forms of tax relief. The Appraisal District doesn’t create the market. Buyers and sellers do. Its responsibility is to measure the market as accurately and uniformly as possible.

According to the District’s 2025 Annual Report, approximately 217,000 property accounts were appraised during 2025. About 39,000 protests were filed. One thing surprised me after hearing several thousand protest hearings. No appraisal record knows your property as well as you do. It doesn’t know your roof leaks or your foundation has shifted. That’s why the protest process exists. I’ve learned that most people don’t come to a hearing looking for a fight. They come looking for an explanation. Reasonable people can disagree about whether Texas should fund local government this way. That’s a discussion for the Legislature. My responsibility is different. I’m here to help taxpayers understand the current system and navigate it fairly. So, are you really being taxed on money you never made? I understand why it feels that way. But under Texas law, you are paying a property tax on property you own while that property continues to receive local public services. You may still believe the system should be changed. Many thoughtful people do. But before we can have a productive conversation about changing the system, it helps to understand how the current one actually works. Disclaimer: This article explains the Texas property tax system for educational purposes only. It is not intended as legal, tax, or financial advice, nor to advocate for or against any particular tax policy or proposed legislation.

Projects cont. from A1

CIP Total by Program	Amount \$	% of Total
Water	\$ 161,662,178	30.4%
Wastewater	118,641,915	22.3%
Gas	93,241,906	17.6%
Streets (Less Utility Support)	67,799,144	12.8%
Storm Water	36,748,246	6.9%
Airport	21,127,469	4.0%
Economic Development	19,714,068	3.7%
Parks & Recreation	7,398,919	1.4%
Public Health & Safety	3,264,899	0.6%
Public Facilities	1,420,837	0.3%
Total FY 2027 Capital Uses	\$ 531,019,581	100%

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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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

There was an announcement this week that a local television station is laying off a dozen reporters to rely more on Artificial Intelligence for news gathering. After working four decades in that business I can say I met a few reporters who were Intelligent but a lot more who were Artificial. AI can work fine for the writing part of reporting if you are sticking to the standard Associated Press inverted pyramid style but *reporter* is also a verb and AI is not good at the news-gathering part. To get good reporting copy you need a human at the beginning of the process to direct the information gathering and a human at the end of the process to fill the holes left by AI.

I will say that I hope whoever is programming AI to write news stories will teach AI to avoid clichés like the plague. I cringe every time I hear a reporter talk about a *brutal* murder as if the dialectic requires that there be such a thing as a *kind* murder. . . my personal favorite is a *deadly* murder. I’m not sure if anyone has ever survived a murder but I did once see a police reporter pronounce a murder victim dead only to report the next day that he had been dead but got better. I will also say it has been awhile since I have seen anyone report that a victim was shot in the *fracas*. I’ve never personally been shot in the fracas but it sounds painful.

Or I see a rookie reporter with that deer-in-the-headlights look standing in front of flashing lights telling me that *details are sketchy*. The details are never *sketchy*, it is the details that you don’t know that are *sketchy*, the details are out there you just haven’t done your job and found them! A reporter should never waste time telling viewers what they *don’t* know. . .that could take all day.

But even as we argue about whether to allow data centers in our own backyard – and argue whether they may even corrupt our morals – we all still use AI every time we pick up our cellphones and I had an AI-related life experience just this week.

Douglas MacArthur played quarterback for the Ethiopians

I have a hard time going to sleep in a silent room so I like to leave the television on which my wife does not like. So Friday night I moved upstairs where very little light gets in and settled in.

I have a small bluetooth speaker which I set right next to my pillow with the volume low. My lullaby is YouTube where the AI voice is monotone. . .*the F-15 is a very difficult plane to fly*. . .and I put on esoteric history. . . *Nebuchadnezzar II, was the second king of the Neo-Babylonian Empire, ruling from the death of his father Nabopolassar in 605 BC to his own death in 562*...and when one show is finished YouTube goes right into the next one without much pause and it doesn’t take long before I’m out cold as those AI voices drone on through the wee hours.

My subject matter generally centers around ancient history, UFOs, the Webb Telescope, local and Texas history, World War II, and the various kinds of offensive and defensive schemes used by my favorite college football teams. This often leads to some confusing overlaps as I wake up and go

back to sleep while AI moves from one subject to the next. . .*I didn’t know Douglas MacArthur played quarterback for the Ethiopians. . .there were UFOs in the Alamo? Little Red Dots in Agua Dulce? They found Amelia Earhart’s shoe in the bottom of Jacob’s Well?!*

AI delivers the facts but the human mind has to sort them out and that is hard to do when you are sliding in and out of consciousness.

Ground Hog Day

My combination of AI voices and a long week under a hot sun in thick air led to a Ground Hog Day for me after I went into hibernation Friday night. I wasn’t really keeping track of time as the thin slice of light that made it through the curtain notated the passing of time, the sun came in the sun didn’t come in, and then when I woke up it was Monday. The alarm clock in my head goes off earlier during the week than on the weekend and I slept later than normal for a Monday so I hurried and got ready to go to the office dressed for work. But when I got there I noticed my car was the only one in the parking lot. It must be a holiday so I checked.

Sure enough it was *National Watermelon Day, Grab Some Nuts Day, Clean Your Floors Day* (which seemed kind of bossy) and most importantly *Airplane Crop Duster Day*. I had seen a crop duster working out near Kingsville a few weeks ago so I decided that must be why everyone was taking the day off even if it wasn’t on my calendar. Those government employees will take a day off for anything. . .

Apparently there had been a power outage at the office because the date on my computer was behind so I corrected it. It was quiet in the office so I got quite a bit done but I couldn’t get anyone to answer their phone or return emails – I guess because of the holiday. I drove over to Ace Hardware to restock the paper rack and the parking lot was jammed – unusual for a Monday but we are in the high tourist season.

Then I headed home and turned on the five o’clock news expecting to see local news but instead got national news which is supposed to come on at 5:30 – now that was really weird – the news never rests and they don’t cancel it just because it’s a holiday even if it is *Grab Some Nuts Day*, believe me I know. Something was off. I checked my phone and it had the wrong date too! But AI doesn’t let your phone fall a day behind so I checked the date then hunted down an analogue calendar I had stuck in a drawer and dang! It was Sunday! That explains why the parking lot was empty! So for those of you who I spoke to on Sunday who heard me speak of Sunday in the past tense I blame it on AI.

The good news was that the next day I got to live Monday all over again and I did better than the first time because I was so far ahead due to the Monday the day before. It was liberating and confusing all at the same time. . .the F-15 is in fact a very difficult plane to fly! So as I sit here midweek I can’t figure out if I’m artificially a day behind or two days ahead.

Oh man, now my fracas is starting to hurt. . .

The Port A Cookbook



By Chris Jordan

I don’t remember her name so I’m going to call her Claire.

Claire was a friend of a friend and was — in today’s parlance — a scene girl. She dyed her hair that blue-black and it was cut in a punky, butchered bob: a little spike here, some tendrils there, a buzzed bit, and a raking blunt cut in the back. Claire was master of her baggy, tomboy wardrobe and could have taught Billie Eilish a thing or two. I’d never seen one square inch of flesh below Claire’s neckline. I had no idea what her body was like but according to her face it was made from glowing, supple alabaster.

Claire was a hairdresser at a chichi salon. This didn’t square with me because she was a no-b.s. person and I regarded the place where she worked as pretentious. I was a little intimidated by Claire. She made good money, had a nice apartment, would just as soon kick your ass as take any crap, but Claire was obviously into me. That was the intimidating part.

And Claire was older than I. She was a grown-up woman with a job, a decent car, and her own pad. Claire was single, into badass music, liked to party, and was generally cool as hell. She would take me to the right spots on the right nights and knew everyone. When I say this chick was older, I mean by that chasm of time that opens between two people in their early twenties who are only a couple years apart in age.

Tonight was the night. With Claire I mean. I had been berating myself for a while now for not even kissing her yet. I wanted her, but making that first move was hard. I had been waiting for that one moment so heavily romantic and fraught with anticipation that I would know for sure she wanted me, too. But alas, desire and tension have a half-life and one must not wait too long.

It was another hot Tuesday afternoon in late August but it was 1991, I was 23, and Elvis was still dead. So tonight was, indeed, to be the night.

Claire’s pad was unnecessarily in a semi-rough neighborhood. She could afford to live anywhere in San Antonio but chose to live on the west side. Not the inner you-ARE-in-fact-in-danger west side, but the near-far west side. Like off Marbach Road or somewhere thereabouts. Still inside the loop though. I think her iconoclastic tendencies informed her choice of locale. Her apartment itself was nice nonetheless, though you wouldn’t think it as you keyed in the security code at the gate of the complex.

Claire was having friends over and had invited me. Just to foster the appearance of casualness, I’d asked the mutual friend to drive me to Claire’s. Or maybe Claire had invited us both toward the same end, I can’t remember. It was already prime howlin’ time when we arrived. I guess it was a little bit of a party. There was an assortment of scene-sters and posers. Kids, I would call

them now, though at that time I was one as well. There were some hair band dudes and rocker chicks and gangsta rappers and wannabe strippers. And they were all fighting over the stereo and fussing about the bong. I was surprised to see this: it wasn’t Claire’s bag.

I was ready to leave pretty quick and my feelings were a little hurt because my place in all this didn’t seem even slightly special. But then magic happened. Claire came to me, placed her open hand and the length of her forearm against my back, pressed her body to mine, put her mouth to my ear, and whispered one word: “stay.”

In short order, Claire had done and said all the right things to encourage the rogue’s gallery to clear out. . . including the friend she was a friend of. The friend, having driven, was understandably anxious to get out of there and looked a little confused when told I would be staying. The look of confusion resolved to that look that says “ooooooh.”

Claire and I were alone. We tidied the place a little before she said she wanted to show me something and nonchalantly sauntered toward her bedroom. I waited not knowing if I was supposed to follow but she immediately said, “Come on,” and gestured with her fingers over her shoulder, without turning around as she continued to saunter.

Claire’s was not so much a bedroom as a plush lounge. It was dark yet luminescent. There was no furniture. I guess there was a floor. . .it was all pillow and futon. The wall treatment was tapestry, garb and undergarments. There may have been a window in there, hard to tell. Temperature-wise, it was cool and the air was surprisingly fresh and clean.

“I listened to a little of this earlier and it’s really damn good,” she said and handed me a jewel case with one hand as she placed the CD in the player with the other. “Pearl Jam” was printed over the cover art. I didn’t know if that was the artist or the album title; it said nothing else. The music started to play. We sat there listening in silence and awe. I had never heard anything like it and wondered if I could ever express what I was feeling. Then, saying nothing, Claire slowly moved closer to me, pushing me back as she crawled on top of me. We made-out for the rest of the album and then some: it was on repeat.

Come morning, I found that Claire didn’t have much in the way of food. She had a few slices of bread, some peanut butter, and a couple of over-the-hill bananas. That night with Claire had only been 14 years since Elvis died. Mom died young and suddenly in 2003. And now it’s been 35 years since Pearl Jam’s debut album, *Ten*, came out. Claire and I didn’t go all the way that night. We didn’t need to — we had Pearl Jam and peanut butter and banana sandwiches — and I had my mom and Elvis.

The Traveling Moon



The Island Moon went to Roatan with Denise, Pete, Elsa Saenz and Lydia Moreno. It stayed too long in the sun and got read!



Blowin in the wind By Lu Ann Kingsbury.

Back-To-School Means Sales Tax Holiday

Back-to-school is right around the corner which means the arrival of Texas’ annual Sales Tax Holiday, which has been an annual event since 1999. This year’s sales tax holiday begins Friday, August 7th, and goes through midnight Sunday, August 9th. Shoppers will pay no state or local sales tax on many schools supplies, most clothing and shoes priced under \$100. Lay-away plans can also be used to take advantage of the sales tax holiday.

As in previous years, the law exempts most clothing and footwear priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes. Backpacks under \$100 used by elementary and secondary students are also exempt. The backpack exemption includes backpacks with wheels, provided they can also be worn on the back like a traditional backpack, and messenger bags. The exemption does not include items that are reasonably defined as luggage, briefcases, athletic/duffle/gym bags, computer bags, purses or framed backpacks.

In addition to clothes, footwear and backpacks, Texas families also get a sales tax break on most school supplies priced at less than \$100 purchased for use by a student in an elementary or secondary school.

No exemption certificate is required for holiday purchases - with one exception. If the purchaser is buying the supplies under a business account, the retailer must obtain an exemption certificate from the purchaser certifying that the items are purchased for use by an elementary or secondary school student. “Under a business account” means the

purchaser is using a business credit card or business check rather than a personal credit card or personal check.

Around cont. from A1

signed off on the increase several months ago and it is favored by the other two entities which share the revenue, Nueces County and the City of Port Aransas. A final vote by the Corpus Christi City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11. The increase is being driven by the rising cost of beach maintenance and the addition of a new beach access road now under construction which is expected to require some beach renourishment with discussion of pumping sand from the floor of the gulf onto area beaches.

Island skate park

City officials told the Island Strategic Action Committee this week that design plans for the skate park in Billish Park are now complete and the project will go out to bids “soon.” There are also plans in the city’s 2027 Capital Improvement Budget calling for new restrooms along Zahn Road. Until then beachgoers will have to brave the dunes or use the tried and true two-open-truck-door method.

Muddling and Puddling along...

There was also an update on the two-decades-old push to pave the parking lot under and next to the JFK Bridge but there was little progress to report as things seem to be stuck between the various governmental entities which have jurisdiction there. That is good news for the seagulls who like to bathe in the fresh and luxurious waters of the Twin Lakes of Muddle and Puddle which pop up under the bridge each time we get rain. Is it possible the seagulls have hired lobbyists to sabotage the progress? So far the gulls aren’t talking.



Riley P. Dog liked his Island sunsets.



To assist families who are planning to take advantage of the savings, the Comptroller’s website provides a list of tax-free items. This list can be found online at <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/98-490/>

If you have any questions regarding the annual Sales Tax Holiday, please don’t hesitate to contact either my Capitol or District office. It’s a busy time of year for parents so my offices are available to assist at any time to with questions, concerns or comments. Please always feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or issues regarding a Texas state agency, or if you would like to contact my office regarding constituent services. As always, my offices are available at any time to assist with questions, concerns or comments (Capitol Office, 512-463-0672; District Office, 361-949-4603).

- State Representative Todd Hunter, District 32

Rep. Hunter represents Aransas County and part of Nueces County. He can be contacted at todd.hunter@house.texas.gov or at 512-463-0672.

That’s all for now folks, we got through another week of Hurricane Season 2026 without playing Storm Chicken and the kids are headed back to school next week which will cut back on the number of tourists on our beaches until the Labor Day Weekend in a few weeks. All in all it’s a good time to be here on our little sandbar so say hello if you see us *Around The Island*.



Jeanie Powell caught this big red while fishing with her grandson in the Laguna Madre.

By Melissa Mitchell



The Last Banana in the Bunch: Easy One Banana Cake

Have you ever noticed that last banana on the counter—the one everyone avoids because it has a few brown spots? In my house, there is always one.

My grandchildren love bananas, so whenever they’re here, I buy a bunch. Without fail, one banana is left sitting on the counter just a little too ripe for anyone to choose. Rather than toss it out, I simply pop it into the freezer—peel and all.

The first time you take one out of the freezer, don’t be alarmed. The peel will have turned completely black, and I’ll admit, when I first saw one, I wondered if I’d waited too long myself. Don’t let that scare or fool you.

Inside, something almost magical happens. I’ve actually come to prefer frozen bananas for baking. Once thawed, they’re incredibly smooth and creamy, blend easily into the batter, and seem even sweeter than when they first went into the freezer.

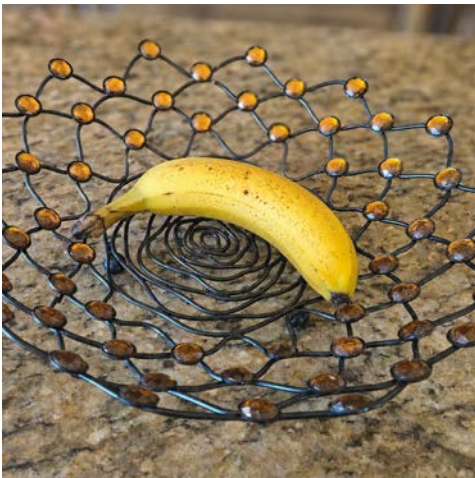
When I’m ready to use it, I thaw it overnight in the refrigerator, snip off one end of the peel, and simply squeeze the banana into the mixing bowl. No peeling, very little cleanup, and one less banana headed for the trash. It has become one of my favorite little kitchen habits.

Today I’m sharing one of my favorite little cakes—simple, easy to make, and just right with a cup of coffee for breakfast or topped with cream cheese frosting for dessert. One of the things I enjoy most about this recipe is its size. It isn’t a large cake sitting on the counter tempting me all week. It’s just enough to enjoy over coffee with a friend or serve after dinner without a lot left over.

My granddaughter Claire loves helping me make this little cake for breakfast. She especially enjoys eating something she helped create. Just as my grandmother did with me, one of my favorite kitchen traditions is baking with my grandchildren. My sixteen-year-old grandson still remembers standing on a stool in my kitchen, making his favorite breakfast—Cream Cheese Danish.

Perhaps this simple cake will become one of those memories in your family, too. As with most of my own recipes, I don’t fuss too much over exact measurements. I tend to cook the way my grandmother taught me—with a little of this, a little of that, adjusting as I go. These are my best estimates.

Ingredients
1/2 cup Caputo 00 flour (all-purpose flour works just as well)
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon coarse kosher salt
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
4 tablespoons packed light brown cane sugar
1 large egg, beaten
1/2 teaspoon vanilla bean paste (or vanilla extract)
1 medium ripe banana*
Handful of small native Texas pecan halves (or chopped pecans, if preferred)



Directions
Preheat oven to 350°F.
In a mixing bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Stir in the brown sugar.
Add the olive oil, egg, vanilla bean paste, and banana. Stir until well combined. Fold in the pecans.
Line the bottom of a 6-inch cake pan with a round of parchment paper and lightly brush the parchment with melted butter.
Pour the batter into the prepared pan.

Bake for approximately 25 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and the center springs back when lightly touched. This recipe also works beautifully as muffins.

For the muffin option: Divide the batter among four-six parchment-lined muffin cups and bake at 350°F for 18–22 minutes, or until lightly golden and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. The exact yield will depend on the size of your muffin pan.

The cake is delicious on its own, but if you’d like to dress it up for dessert, here’s my simple Vanilla Bean Cream Cheese Frosting. It’s also wonderful on almost any flavor of cupcake, pumpkin bread, or between layers of cake.

Vanilla Bean Cream Cheese

Frosting Recipe:

4 oz cream cheese, softened (1/2 package)
1/4 cup unsalted butter, softened
1 cup sifted powdered sugar
1/2 tsp vanilla bean paste (or extract)

In a medium bowl, beat together the cream cheese and butter until smooth and creamy. Mix in the vanilla, then gradually add the powdered sugar until well combined. Store any leftover icing in the refrigerator.

This icing is wonderful on cupcakes, pumpkin bread, between cake layers, or simply spread over this little banana cake. Double the recipe if you’re frosting a full-size cake. And remember—next time you spot that last banana on the counter, don’t throw it away. Pop it into the freezer. It just might become your favorite little kitchen tricks, too.

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

Beach Rates and Prop Scars

I went back and watched the city Parks Department present a proposal to increase the beach parking passes from \$12 to \$20 last week at city council. For context, this conversation has been ongoing for at least 15 years, and anyone that acts surprised about it has not been paying attention. One city council person said that “\$20 will kill them.” An \$8 increase on a yearly pass is going to break thousands of families in South Texas? You can’t get a Whataburger Jr. combo for less than \$8. That’s a single latte at a coffee shop. There are over 4,000 linear feet of free beaches called the Michael J. Ellis seawall, that includes free showers and bathrooms. Plus, folks can drive and park on the 7.5 miles of free beach south of Bob Hall down to the Seashore. There are free options.

One council person recommended that we only charge the tourists and not the locals? The problem is that according to Texas State Law, we’re not allowed to discriminate against people based on where they live. Galveston county does an “early bird” where they sell the same seasonal pass for half price until February. They are also going from \$12 to \$25 on their annual pass. The arguments that were brought up show that they are not up to speed with the issues. There seemed to be a lack of institutional knowledge in the history of this increase.

The Padre Island National Seashore raised their yearly rates a few years ago. They went from \$20 a year to \$45 a year. More than double! In this case, there were a few public meetings and chatter on the interwebs between the locals regarding the increase in fees, and at the end of the day, there were far more locals in favor of the increase than the very few vocal minority were against. Most of us were just fine with more than doubling, and I just bought my new one the other day.

Speaking of the Seashore, we went down the beach the other day down to around the 25 mile marker. Driving was sporty to rough most of the way, which dissuaded us from going farther. We ran across an Australian Spotted Jellyfish in the ‘teens and got out and took a few pics of it. It was easily 14 inches across, quite a monster. There were also a few dead sharks along the road, which is a bummer. Doesn’t matter if it’s high tide or low tide, it is really slogging in 4wd, and also you’d better know how to drive the beach. We saw more than a few “all-wheel-drive” vehicles being pulled out.

Jeff told me that he took his brother offshore last week about 60 miles out of Packery, and they caught a few fish, but they noticed the upwelling in the nearshore waters. The water temperature is in the upper 80’s along the beach, but drops down to the upper 70’s nearshore, but then 30 miles out, jumps back up to the mid 80’s. The offshore maps show that the upwelling appears to be in control of our waters here but is finally slowing down coming up from Mexico. In another week, unless something crazy happens, we should have some really great conditions along the beaches.

The tide in the Laguna has been very low lately and is expected to go down to close to historic lows over the next couple of weeks due to the seasonal tides. Prop scars through the seagrass beds are very obvious, and we heard/saw a handful of folks run aground just in the area of the cabin in a few hours. Stick to the channels folks. Fishing has been slow in the middle of the day due to the heat, but Nash managed to get a little mangrove snapper off the dock on dead shrimp.

Summer is about over folks, as the kids go back to school next week. There will be a settling period until we hit the last hurrah of summer during the Labor Day weekend. I’ll be bouncing around over the next week but drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we’ll see you next week On the Rocks.



Australian Spotted Jellyfish



Nash with a mangrove snapper.

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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

The final countdown!



The dog days of summer had settled over the late summer sky. Soft pinks and purples turned copper and gold as the sun mirrored the surface of the glassy Laguna Madre. The skiff seems to be floating on a cloud as breathless wind broke into dawn. Tides had ripped the water from the flats leaving exposed grassed and sand bars. Mullet made the water twinkle with their exposed heads, eyes, and tails, grouped along the edge of the Intracoastal Canal. We started keeping control of the boat with the trolling motor and aiming our casts to land and drop along the ditch. The bays contours burned into my mind and memory as it looked as if someone pulled the plug and let the water out. These times may be the hardest to run around, but an excellent time to learn some of the secrets of the Laguna Madre and Baffin Bay.

Slick calm conditions at Dawn have been the normal routine now until we get some tropical activity, or our first cold fronts.

This makes first light pretty magical, and can revile extraordinary sights in fishing. Crowds of tiny minnows blasting out of the water as trout slurp under them, the tails of redfish and black drum exposed with rays of morning sun flickering gold, as they dig for crabs and small shrimp in inches of water. When piecing together the parts of the fishing puzzle the more you SEE THE MORE YOU LEARN.

Slow down! I see so many boats racing here and there to places they were sent or have seen others fishing. Keep your options open because, the best place to fish is where they fish are feeding! Boats grouping together is a crowd of stress, pressure, and some negative fishing. The rare occasion that I get in with the other boats for schools of black drum or red fish I end up being the vocal one saying hello and making fun of the crowds. These fisherman will be all writhing casting distance and everyone is whispering?? It’s crazy! Boating etiquette is casted out of the window! Crossing lines, getting in front of other boats and scaring the schools of fish away are all things that folks that are not repaired for close combat fishing can do to start a brawl!

Only come into tight groups of boats if you have a trolling motor. Most of the time they are using the trolling motor to position the boat and SPOT LOCK the motor to anchor them without a rope and anchors or by using a loud outboard to get close to the fish and other fishermen. Take your time when you’re approaching the group. Study what they are doing, where they are casting, and how they are working the schools of fish. When you see one guy standing high without casting he is looking for floating schools of drum and redfish. They float when digesting the small clams and mussels, and will eat peeled shrimp when lightly presented in front of them. They are very spooky! The sound of your outboard, boat noise, casts into the water, all spook the fish. The best is to drift from up wind into the area with soft control of the boat with a trolling motor. When you see boatmen staring at their Sonar Screen they are marking groups of fish with electronics and anchoring with either the trolling motor or anchor poles. They can be spooked easily as well, so don’t crowd others or chase bent



Kenley Farah with a perfect sized drum for the table! Making the most out of her Summer Vacation!

rods. Find similar situations and structure to focus on your own schools of fish without being bothered.

Trout boiled under my darting plastic as I skipped it over the mirrored dance floor. As soon as I let it settle I felt the jaws of a trout clamp down, and stop my retrieve. When I set the hook the trout came blasting up rearing its body to try to turn loose the hook. When she splashed down boils of escaping trout and scattering baitfish exploded. The larger mature trout had been fooled by my presentation! We were catching trout on every cast but those bigger ones lay under the school watching and being a little more cautious. The splash, dash, and wiggle of my lure told the tail of a bait that narrowly beat the strikes of a predator and was darting towards the deeper edge of the channel along the exposed grass. A brief pause was all it took for her to instinctively suck up the bait. Vary your presentation while fishing in large schools of fish that re grouped by this low tide. It’s FISH IN A BAREEL, but they are watching it all unfold. Slow your casts down and make them deliberate, don’t get in a rythem, make each rod stroke a play into reality under the sea, where your lure is the lead performer.

The surf will be laying down and allowing souls to walk and peer into its clear waters, hunting trout, jacks, tarpon, and everything else that might swim up to the edge of the Ocean. Morning walks with a rod and lure can be magical, and definitely stress releasing. Take a topwater plug, a silver spoon, and a few soft plastics with a 1/4-1/2 ounce jighead. #... mono leader is usually good for the surf to give you some protection from jacks and ocean fish teeth. If you’re still not getting struck and the water is clear move down to 20-30lb leader line, sometimes they can see it!

This is the final countdown! School started this week for our teachers and will be back on buisness in less than two weeks! Call and book an adventure to light a fire in your kids and grandkids that will last a lifetime, BUT RIGHT NOW, just take them out for some adventure in the Wilds! Kids countdown the days and make every one of them count! Now is the float free in life and spirit you will ever be!

Follow all of our fishing on Facebook, Instagram, and ticktock, or just call me at 361-442-8145! Go get wet!



Trip closed his summer with an ADVENTURE with his GP Leo Cline! A first light drum smash followed by some great trout action on soft plastics! Farah



Nature Notes

Smith Point Hawk Watch



Bald Eagles are one of the many birds of prey that are monitored at Smith Point Hawk Watch by Mike Williams

By Celeste Silling

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory is celebrating the 30th anniversary of our Smith Point Hawk Watch this fall. GCBO has hosted the Smith Point Hawk Watch at the Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area in Anahuac for three decades now, gathering data about all of the raptors that fly overhead during the fall migration.

At the hawk watch, we (specifically Bob, the Counter) stare up at the sky all day, identifying the raptors that fly over Smith Point, including hawks, falcons, kites, vultures, and more. We do this all day every day for 3.5 months (Aug 15-Nov 31) in order to get an idea of raptor populations and migration.

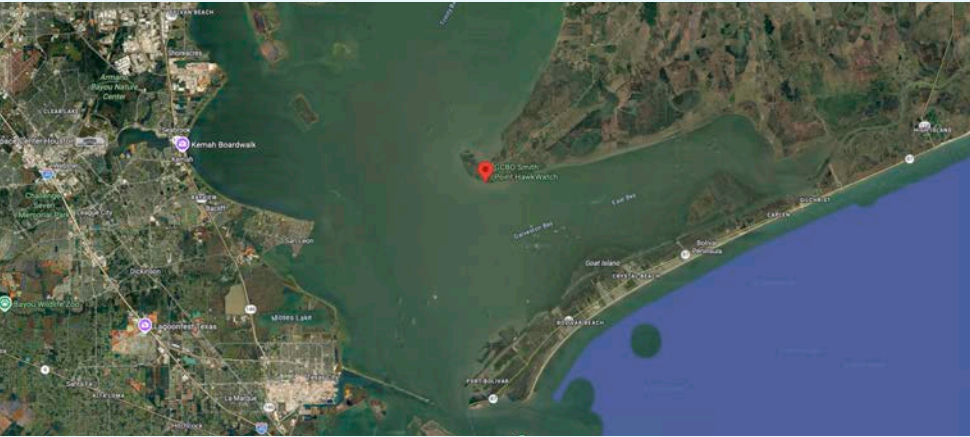
A raptor is a bird that feeds mainly on meat, either hunting live prey or searching out carrion (dead animals). The word raptor comes from the Latin “rapere,” meaning to seize or sweep away. This name describes their impressive ability to capture prey with their strong talons and fly away with it. Raptors tend to have amazing vision to see small movements and details from far away, allowing them to sense prey from their high-up perches or from the air. They also have hooked beaks and sharp talons, which allow them to tear apart the meat more affectively.

These features make raptors amazingly well-adapted hunters, but these formidable birds still need our help sometimes. Like all birds, raptors have been greatly affected by man-made threats. For example, they are impacted by pesticides (ingested when they eat poisoned prey), window and car collisions, and habitat loss. Indeed, raptors are so affected by these threats, researchers have observed severe depletion of their populations.

One such instance occurred shortly after World War II, when the pesticide DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) started being widely used. The pesticide washed into waterways where it was absorbed into the tissues of fish. Bald Eagles and other raptors ate the poisoned fish were suddenly unable to produce strong egg shells. The eggs would be crushed when the birds tried to incubate them, lowering the reproduction rate and thereby greatly reducing the populations of the birds. It was only in 1972, after much evidence had been gathered and presented, that DDT was banned.

Because of the many threats to raptors, organizations all over the world have conducted hawk watches to monitor raptor populations. Smith Point is a natural concentration point for southwardly flying raptors in fall migration. On the right day, one can see thousands of Broad-winged Hawks and other raptors flying overhead. The Smith Point Hawk Watch originated as an all-volunteer, part-time effort in 1992. In 1997, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, in partnership with Hawk Watch International and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, instituted a full-time annual fall census.

From August 15 through November 30, the Hawk Watch is held daily at the Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area, where GCBO has a 30-foot observation tower. The hawk watch is staffed daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 PM CDT. You are invited to come out any day during the season! And if you’re interested in helping raptors and other birds, avoid the use of pesticides and turn your lights off at night for migrating birds.



Smith Point Hawk Watch in Galveston Bay



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Beachcombing Report

Beachcombing cont. from A1



Underwater image of a horse conch crawling through the sand.

quick photos, we gently returned it to the water to continue its journey. The horse conch (*Triplofusus giganteus*) is the largest snail in North America and can grow to nearly two feet long, although specimens that size are uncommon. Their soft body is an eye-catching orange to salmon color, creating a stunning contrast against the dark spiral shell. Seeing one alive is a completely different experience than finding an empty shell on the beach. Despite the name, horse conchs aren’t true conchs. They belong to a different family of marine snails and are active predators. They feed on other large snails, including lightning whelks and tulip snails, using a long proboscis to reach deep inside their prey’s shell. They’re also opportunistic scavengers when the opportunity presents itself. Horse conchs are found on sandy bottoms, sea-grass meadows, and shallow coastal waters throughout the Gulf and along Florida’s Atlantic coast. Although they’re impressive predators, they pose no threat to people and

play an important role in keeping marine ecosystems in balance. While horse conchs are edible and some people do eat them, I can’t imagine harvesting such an incredible animal. I’d much rather watch one slowly crawl back into the Gulf to continue its life. The horse conch is also the official state shell of Florida, a fitting honor for North America’s largest sea snail. If you ever come across one alive, take a moment to admire it, snap a quick photo, and gently place it back where you found it. That way, this remarkable animal can continue patrolling the Gulf’s shallow waters for years to come. 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).



Closeup image of a horse conch.



Roseate spoonbill landing at the birding center By Lu Ann Kingsbury



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Hazy Lazy Days of Summer By Lu Ann Kingsbury

Litter Critter Event Scheduled for Padre Island on August 8

The City's Litter Critter will be on The Island on Saturday, August 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the 14800 block of Whitecap Boulevard.

Please note that cardboard recycling will not be offered at this event; however, oversized cardboard is accepted for recycling at the J.C. Elliott Transfer Station during regular business hours. Residents should prepare to offload their items; commercial hauling is not permitted.

Items accepted include:

- Heavy brush
- Bulky items
- Household trash
- Up to 4 standard tires
- Metal items and household appliances

Items NOT accepted include:

- Hazardous waste
- Asbestos, antifreeze, brake and transmission fluid, batteries, cleaning solvents
- Concrete

Please take these items directly to:

J.C. Elliott Transfer Station
7001 Ayers Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78415
Open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Zoning Changes

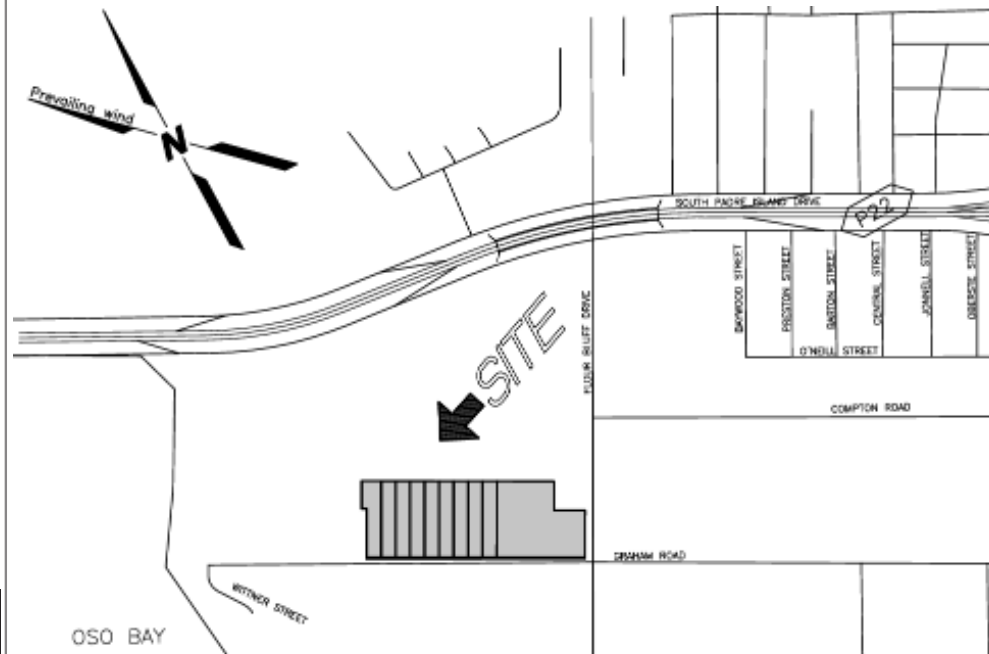
Projects submitted to

Planning Commission

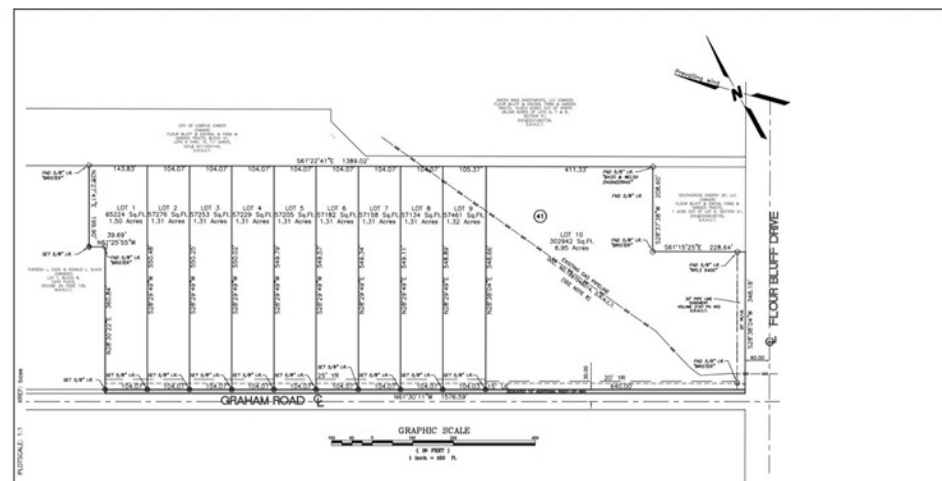
Editor's note: The following are zoning changes presented to the City of Corpus Christi Planning Commission in their past three meetings.

Laguna Oaks Estates

Replat 10 lots 1410 Flour Bluff Dr.
19 acres



Generally located at 1410 Flour Bluff Drive and 122 Graham Road, at the northwest corner of the Flour Bluff Drive and Graham Road intersection, and south of South Padre Island Drive. The applicant proposes to replat to split property and divide property into 10 lots. The request was approved by the Commission with the condition that the entire development must be connected to the city wastewater system. (Not septic tanks).



7Brew

Zoning was approved for a 7Brew drive through coffee shop at 1129 Waldron. There are currently four 7Brew shops in Corpus Christi. The location is behind the Whataburger at Waldron and SPID,

Graham Road Commercial Center 401 Graham Road

The following request is scheduled for the Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, August 5. Generally located at 401 Graham Road, east of Waldron Road, south of Graham Road, and west of Laguna Shores Boulevard. Zoned: CC Owner: Graham Office, LLC. Engineer/Surveyor: Terra Firma Colorado The applicant proposes to final plat the lot and intends to utilize the property for vehicle sales. The submitted Replat complies with the requirements of the Unified Development Code and State law. Staff recommends Approval.



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Knuckle-Cracker

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Mind-Numbing Frustration

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Brain-Buster

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Island Crossword
Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

- 1. Dances, in a way
- 5. Make fit
- 10. Mop
- 14. Minor leader
- 15. Type of dish
- 16. Somewhat, musically
- 17. It may be burned for light
- 19. Lovesick, e.g.
- 20. Call tails, e.g.
- 21. It may be required for entrance
- 22. Turned nothing into nothin'
- 24. Offensive expression
- 25. Secluded valleys
- 26. City conduits
- 29. Simple shelters
- 31. Double-edged literary device
- 32. Heavenly provisions
- 33. Milne critter
- 35. Landlocked nation in SE Asia
- 36. Word with truth or ambition
- 37. Evangelist's suggestion
- 38. British inc.
- 39. McMahon's intro word
- 40. Separate by sifting
- 41. Certain reed blowers
- 43. Stag feature
- 44. Fissures
- 45. "Diamonds ___ Girl's Best Friend"
- 46. Scottish magistrate
- 48. What some beach loungers do
- 49. Article you've read many times
- 52. Source of riches
- 53. Ark material
- 56. Tech sch. grad, perhaps
- 57. Harvest
- 58. "My word!"
- 59. "Disco Duck" singer
- 60. Intuition
- 61. Like old Volvos

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21					22	23			
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46	47							48					49	50
51														
52						53	54					55		
56						57						58		
59						60						61		

Down

- 1. Kind of shell
 - 2. Chop-chop!
 - 3. Four gills
 - 4. Elegiac
 - 5. Mountaintops, e.g.
 - 6. Flask type
 - 7. Quark's place
 - 8. Certain basketball player
 - 9. Coastal land regularly submerged
 - 10. You may use it after a break
 - 11. Oxalis
 - 12. State in west Brazil
 - 13. No's foe
- 18. Openly distrustful
 - 23. Olin in "Romeo Is Bleeding"
 - 24. It helps you focus
 - 25. Families share them
 - 26. Place for a plant
 - 27. Relative of Euterpe, Polymnia and Thalia
 - 28. Man-made span or New Jersey city
 - 29. Great quintet
 - 30. Dry, white Italian wine
 - 32. Rialtos
 - 34. Court hearing
 - 36. Money reserves
 - 37. Bread with tabbouleh, perhaps
- 39. CD player ancestor
 - 40. Whiplash's expression
 - 42. Old NFL team
 - 43. Dahl or Francis
 - 45. Turkish military leaders
 - 46. Tended to the radiators
 - 47. Five-star
 - 48. Exposed
 - 49. Like take-out food
 - 50. Like a famous Welles radio broadcast
 - 51. Christian Science founder
 - 54. Bullring cheer
 - 55. WWW's last W

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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Island Real Estate Roundup



Apryl Noles

Summer Real Estate Season

What an exciting way to close out the month of July. The Padre Island real estate market remained active across all sectors, ending the month with another strong week of sales and pending activity.

In the detached home sector, six properties entered the option period while five successfully closed. The condominium sector also experienced a productive week, with two properties going into option period and five closing. The townhome sector saw one property enter the option period, continuing the steady pace we've experienced throughout the summer.

As the summer season begins to wind down, we expect to see more local buyers returning to the market. With school schedules approaching and vacation travel slowing, many residents begin shifting their focus toward investment opportunities, second homes, or finding a property that better fits their long-term needs.

The Padre Island market continues to demonstrate stability and consistent buyer demand, and we look forward to seeing how the market transitions into late summer. As always, thank you for following the Padre Island Moon Weekly Real Estate Report. Stay tuned for next week's update.

Detached Homes In Option Period:

- 13834 Captains Row (Listed for \$1,149,000)
- 13726 Cayo Gorda Ct (Listed for \$850,000)
- 13513 Camino De Plata Ct (Listed for \$799,000)

Detached Homes That Sold:

- 15614 Cuttysark St (Listed for \$795,000)
- 13704 Suntan Ave (Listed for 674,000)
- 13845 Gunwale (Listed for \$450,000)

Condominiums In Option Period:

- 14721 Whitecap Blvd Unit 254 (Listed for \$219,500)
- 14300 S Padre Island Dr Unit 217 (Listed for \$179,988)

Condominiums That Sold:

- 15340 Leeward Dr Unit 203 (Listed for \$289,000)
- 15401 Fortuna Bay Dr Unit 104 (Listed for \$275,000)
- 14300 Aloha St Unit 104 (Listed for \$240,000)
- 15425 Fortuna Bay Dr Unit 113 (Listed for \$227,500)
- 15209 Leeward Dr Unit 6 (Listed for \$189,000)

Townhome In Option Period:

- 15509 Cruiser St Unit A (Listed for \$389,900)

Moon Classifieds #1164

Here's how to place a Classified Ad

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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)

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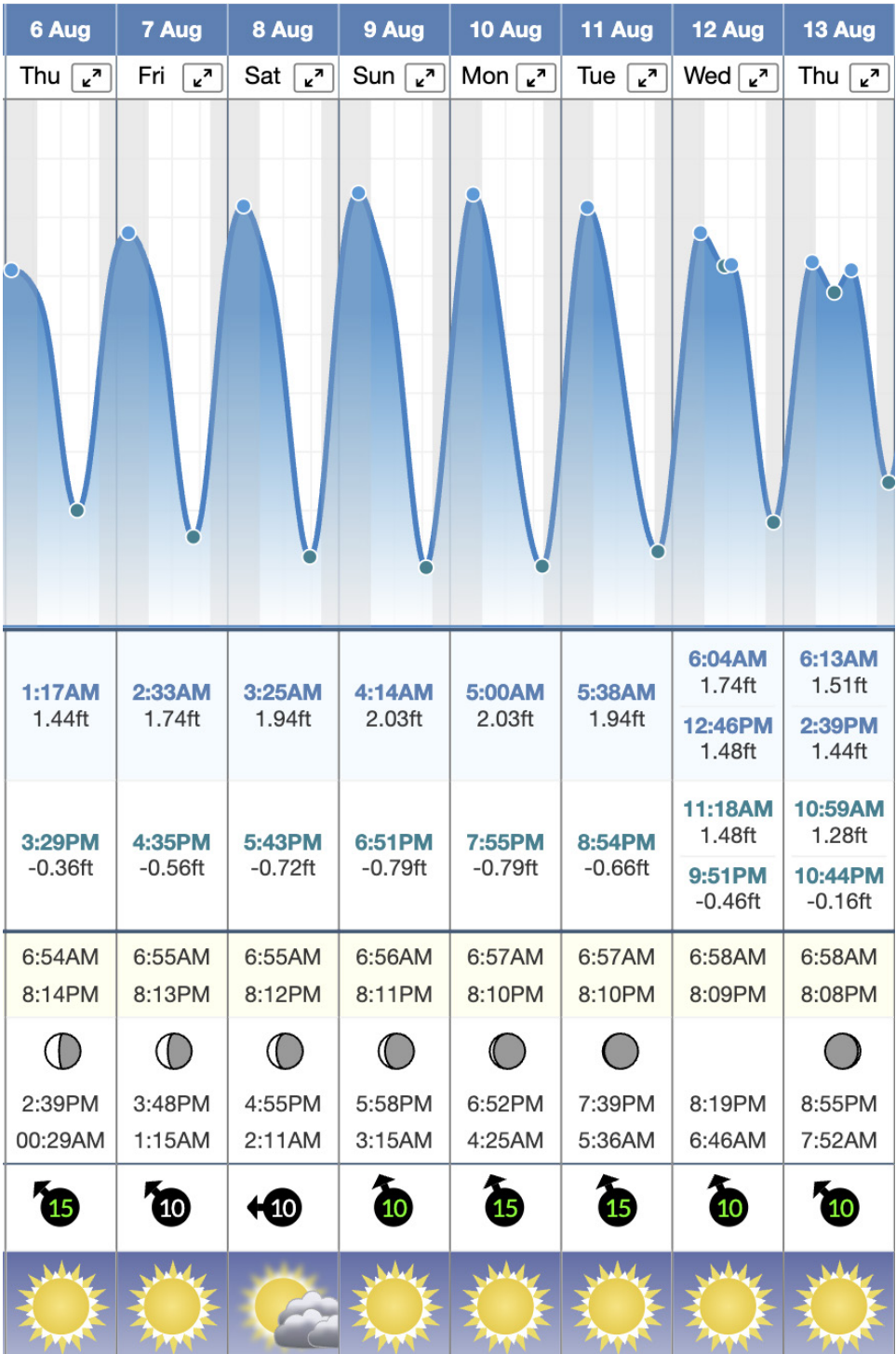
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Island Pride artwork on the fence at Billish Park.

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

By Rev. Dr. Ken



For most of July, Barbara and I took a road trip to see family in Arkansas, Ohio, and Illinois. It can be so green in those parts of the country this time of year! While most of the days were beautiful, a few were quite stormy.

Since we moved to the island, whenever we visit family in other parts of the country we are asked inevitably about hurricanes. When we first moved to the Midwest many years ago our family in the Pacific Northwest and California always asked about tornadoes. Our response about hurricanes is actually not much different from those days. We stay weather aware, we have a plan and execute it at the appropriate time, and we keep emergency supplies on hand in case of a power outage. Additionally, our hurricane plan includes a place inland to which to evacuate. Also, we have more time to react to a potential hurricane than a tornado.

Life is full of storms that can explode on us in an instant, like a tornado, or track steadily toward us, like a hurricane. The storms can vary in strength and intensity. The storms of chaos, loss, sickness, brokenness, death are ever-present threats. Even if we have a plan, we can fear in the face of these storms. We can grow afraid of losing power, control, or bearings. We can grow suspicious of others and lash out in anger. We can grow uncertain of God's mysterious presence and authority.

There is a story in the Bible about the disciples of Jesus in a boat during a serious storm. They feared for their lives; they were not keen on drowning. Jesus came walking to them, on the water. They didn't recognize the mysterious water-walker as Jesus. Who walks on water? They thought he was a ghost.

One of the disciples, Peter, after Jesus identified himself, posed a challenge. He wanted Jesus to command him to come to him, walking on the water. It was an absurd request. Peter sunk like a rock. Jesus reached out his hand and saved him. They both got into the boat and the storm ceased.

Jesus wondered why he doubted and had little faith. Jesus was not asking Peter why he doubted in his own ability to walk on water. Rather, it was Peter's doubt about the identity of Jesus amid the storm that was the issue.

The rebuke was not about Peter's fear. Storms can breed fear, and in many cases rightly so. The concern was where fear led Peter. It led him straight to suspicion and distrust, and potentially to the bottom of the lake. It led him to ask to be empowered to do the impossible. That's not faith, that's lunacy.

From the beginning of the story, Jesus continually moved toward his disciples. He moved toward them as they struggled at sea against the storm. He moved toward them when they think he is a ghost. He moved toward them in their fear and when they realize who he is and the power he has.

Jesus never stops moving towards us. Jesus never stops crossing the dark waters to be where we are, climbing into our boats. Jesus does not call us to get out of our boats and do the impossible. However, he does promise to be with us through the storm so that we can navigate the chaotic, choppy, stormy, unpredictable waters of life that can be full of unpredictable currents.

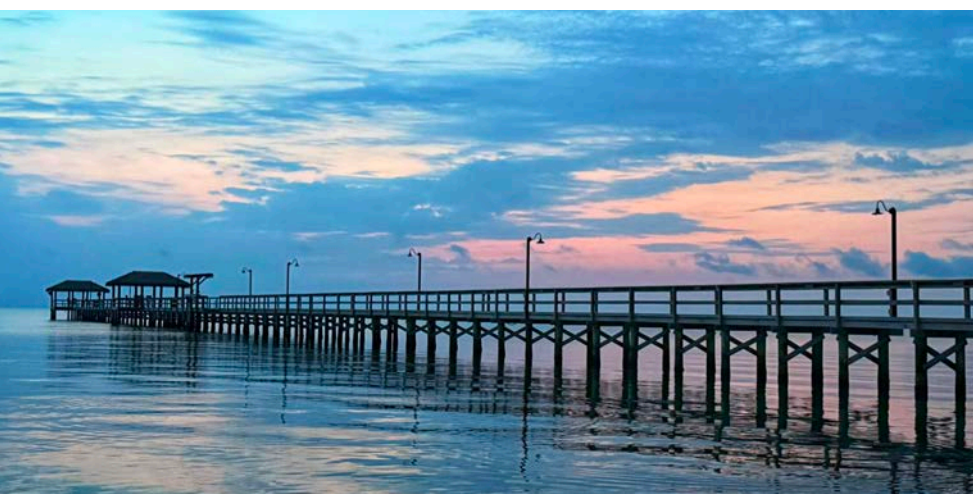
Jesus told his disciples to take courage. The root for courage is the Latin word *cor*, which means heart. Faith means living out of our heart, hearts that have been touched by Jesus. Because storms are part of life. There is an old adage that says two things stand like stone – kindness in another's troubles, courage in our own.

Beach worship continues this Sunday, as we return to our sermon series, “Understanding Revelation.” We get trumpets blowing this week! 8 am on Whitecap Beach at the end of Whitecap Blvd. Bring a chair! There is a place for you! Let’s understand Revelation together.

Each Sunday a bunch of humans gather to worship God in community at Island Presbyterian Church, giving thanks for grace, love, healing, and hope, working for peace, justice, and reconciliation. There is always room at the table for you! Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m., 14030 Fortuna Bay Drive, or on our Facebook page.

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

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A Pierances By Lu Ann Kingsbury

The City of Corpus Christi has been under Stage 3 Water Restrictions since December 2024. This week the levels in the western lakes which provide water to the system rose to 36.9% which is above the 30% threshold required to switch the less restrictive Stage 2 restrictions which are not in effect. The restrictions for State 2 are:

☐ Lawn Watering is permitted once every two weeks (before 10:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m.) on assigned days. You can check your address schedule at stage2.corpus-christiTX.gov

□ Vehicle washing is allowed on any day using a bucket or a handheld hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle.

☐ Golf Courses can water greens and tees once every two weeks unless using

reclaimed water, auxiliary sources, or a handheld hose/bucket. Potable water use on fairways remains prohibited.

☐ Hotels and lodging facilities must maintain mandatory towel/linen reuse programs, changing linens by guest request only.

The designated watering day for Padre Island, Mustang Island inside the Corpus Christi City Limits, and Flour Bluff is Friday.

Foundation watering is allowed every other week on your designated watering day.

The restrictions apply to all water customers, industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential.



Command of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi has changed hands. Capt. Ty Jurica has turned over the helm to Capt. Paul Nickell, during a change of command ceremony at the air station. Jurica also closed out a 37-year career during the event. Rear Adm. John Hewitt, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, was the presiding official.

Nickell is a native of Lancaster, California and enlisted in the United States Navy in 1996 as a Data Systems Technician. Selected for the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training, he subsequently earned a commission through the Enlisted Commissioning Program at Auburn University in 2002. Nickell was designated a naval flight officer in December 2003.

July 2026

15300 blk. Yardarm July 3 Burglary of a Habitation
14700 blk. Whitecap July 4 Assault
15100 blk. Leeward July 4 Assault
15100 blk. Leeward July 5 Assault with a Deadly Weapon – Family
13900 blk. SPID July 5 Assault with a deadly Weapon
13800 blk. Mizzen July 6 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
15400 blk. Grass Cay July 6 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
14800 blk. Compass July 7 Assault with Injury
15400 blk. Grass Cay July 7 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (two vehicles)
Beach Access Road #2 July 8 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
14400 blk. Commodores July 9 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
14800 blk. Windward July 14 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
14900 blk. Windward July 17 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
15200 blk. Windward July 17 Terroristic Threat
14800 blk. Robla July 20 Assault with Injury
15700 blk. Escapade July 20 Theft under \$100
15925 SPID July 23 Burglary of a Building
15200 blk. Dasmarrinas July 26 Assault
14900 blk. Leeward July 26 Assault
14500 blk. SPID July 27 Shoplifting under \$100
14800 blk. Whitecap July 29 Burglary of a Habitation
14800 blk. Whitecap July 29 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
14400 blk. Compass July 29 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
14900 blk. Windward August 1 Theft \$750-\$2500
16100 blk. Seagrape August 1 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle



Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Hot enough for you?



100° and our AC craps out.

As I ease into my *Three Chords* column #817, I ask the ridiculous question... Is it hot enough for you? Being that it's hotter than Georgia asphalt and walking outside feels like stepping into soup, the subject is dear to my heart being that our A/C bit the big one last weekend. I called our resident A/C guy, **Steve Coons** to come look at it and all he did was scold me for not doing something about before now. In the back of my mind I knew it was heading south just by the layer of rust that resides on the coils. But Steve says I'd have to replace the whole unit and we're looking at ten grand. Not the answer I was hoping for. So, I broke out every fan we own and we suffered. The next morning we drove across the creek and bought a couple of small window units from *Lowe's*. At this point it was so hot my flesh actually burned off my bones. The fans and little window units were a little help but we were in a stage when it turned 95° we started to feel chilly. Now I'm born and raised in Texas and I've seen it so hot that I actually watched a bird pull a worm out of the ground with an oven mitt. It was so hot the chickens were laying hard boiled eggs. I'm telling you it's been hotter than a blister bug in a pepper patch. So at the advice of **Chris Jordan** I ordered the biggest A/C window unit that my breakers could handle but it won't be here until the end of the week. (BTW, this bigger unit is pretty fancy. It even has WIFI and responds to AI commands.) In short, it is indeed hot enough for me and these are the *Dog Days of Summer* being that we are smack dab in the middle of summer and that window opens every July 3rd until Aug 11 when **Sirius** the *Dog Star* is the brightest star in the night sky and the Ancient Romans thought it was lined up with the Sun to add extra heat during this time every year... the 20 days before and after *Sirius* rises with the sun. The end.

On the local front...



My Mermaid Gal working the Nurdle Patrol booth at Brewster St. for Shark Week.

Last week was *Shark Week* and I got to tag along with my **Mermaid Gal** at *Brewster Street* for the *Harte Research Institute* shark week watch party. My lady's boss, the world renowned *Beachcomber* dude, **Jace Tunnell**, who is in every news publication and on every TV station everywhere you look. While Tracy was delivering her *Nurdle Patrol* presentations, I was her support team and even helped with some semi-educational banter that I've picked up along the way. **Tracy** and **Jace** are a couple of well equipped and super determined scientists and have reached over 15 different countries from all over the world with teacher kits and information on plastic pollution on our beaches and beyond. Jace will also deliver the commencement speech to TAMCC graduates. As for me, I'm just an old retired bar hound who knows the fine art of dropping names and

a little bit about music. Last year during *Shark Week* we were treated to a *Hooks* game and sat right behind the third base dugout. That was fun.

Scattered shots...



Red Feather played Shorty's last Saturday.

I spent most of the weekend looking for shade but did make out a bit to see my old pal **Chris Boss** last Friday at *Shorty's*. Chris is a bonafied guitar god from San Antonio. He is a master of his craft and even plays the half time shows at the *Spur's* games. For a rockin' show of fast moving rock, Chris Boss is your man. On Saturday **Red Feather** featuring Eddie "Eje" **Alaniz** is a very interesting character. He puts his own twist on every song he plays. Elsewhere, I regret missing the **Bellamy Brothers** at the *Sip Yard* but was told they drew over a thousand heads on a Thursday night even selling out the \$500 VIP picnic tables over a month ago. Plus I caught **Lane Bricker** there on Friday and the dueling pianos guys on Saturday. Also, I made it over to the *Gaff* on Friday for my weekly dose of zydeco **Boo and Poo**. I love being able to park my golf cart right behind the stage for a first class view of the show.

Coming this weekend...



The Groove 2.0 will play Treasure Island on Friday, Aug 7.

Coming this weekend we have shows galore. For starters, Texas icon **Gary P. Nunn** will bring it home to the armadillo at the *Sip Yard* this Thursday, the 6th. **Casey Chesnutt** will open the show. It's fun having Gary P. play so often. It kind of reminds me of our *Back Porch* days. Also on Thursday the **Johnson All Starz** will play *Shorty's* and **Billy Snipes** will play *Bron's*. On Friday the 7th we'll have the big ten piece horn band, **Cruise Control** playing the *Sip Yard*, **Mantle Jennings** will play *Shorty's*, **Boo and Poo** will play the *Gaff*, the **Groove 2.0** will be at *Treasure Island* and country kicker **Timothy Noel** and the **Smoking Guns** will play *Bron's*. On Saturday the 8th **Coach Big Jim Dugan** will play the *Gaff*, the **Toman Brothers** from San Antonio will play *Shorty's*, **Clayton Landua**, **Billy Latham** and **Logan Tucker** will play the *Sip Yard*, the **Jam Band** will play *Treasure Island* and **Dreaming in Color** will play *Bron's*. On Sunday, August 9th **Jim Dugan** plus **Ty Dietz** will play their weekly gig at *Shorty's* and **Red Feather** will play the *Sip Yard*. And through the week watch for **John Elijah** to play his Monday residency at *Shorty's* and John will be with the **Los Locals** at the *Gaff* on Tuesdays. Email your upcoming gigs to ronnienarmour@gmail.com and check out the LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT box for more upcoming Coastal Bend shows. Yall be safe out there.

And, that's the truth



Boo and Poo will play the Gaff on Friday, Aug 7.



Texas icon Gary P. Nunn will play the Sip Yard on Thursday, Aug 6.



Dreaming in Color will play Bron's on Saturday, Aug 8.

Photo by Cassandra Beth

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, August 6

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's

Gary P. Nunn, Casey Chesnutt @ Sip Yard

Billy Snipes @ Bron's

Just Cuz @ Nucky's

Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach

Kelly Kenning @ Fajitaville

Brian Zampini @ Anchor Bar

Randal Hunt @ Sandbox NPI

Mike Guerra @ Surf Club

Friday, August 7

Cruise Control @ Sip Yard

Mantle Jennings @ Shorty's

Boudreaux & Pousson @ Gaff

Groove 2.0 @ Treasure Island

Timothy Noel @ Bron's\

J & the Sound @ Pelican Lounge

Fuzion @ Annex

Dreaming in Color @ Exchange

Treat & Eat @ 18 Eighteen

Lucky Dogz @ Headliners RP

Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach

Marty J @ Anchor Bar

Melissa Ann @ Sugar Shack RP

Randy Hopper @ Commercial St. AP

Darren McGill @ Sandbox NPI

Damon Scott @ Fajitaville

US Music @ Pier 99

Just Cuz @ 18 Eighteen Bar

Saturday, August 8

Jim Dugan @ Gaff

Toman Bros @ Shorty's

Clayton Landua @

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BOO & POO
JIM DUGAN
TYLER JORDAN (2-4)
BRAD ETHRIDGE
LOS LOCALS

AUG 6
AUG 7
AUG 8
AUG 9
AUG 9
AUG 11

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

MANTLE JENNINGS
TOMAN BROS
RUBEN V
DARREN MCGILL

AUG 7
AUG 8
AUG 14
AUG 15

GROOVE 2.0
JAM BAND
BACK PEW REVIVAL
FIVE CARD DRAW
SPLENDIFEROUS
RAUL AYALA

AUG 7
AUG 8
AUG 14
AUG 15
AUG 22
AUG 28

BILLY SNIPES
TIMOTHY NOEL
DREAMING IN COLOR
THE REVOLUTION
NATIONAL NOBODYZ
AUSTIN FORREST

AUG 6
AUG 7
AUG 8
AUG 14
AUG 15
AUG 21

GARY P. NUNN, CASEY CHESNUTT
CRUISE CONTROL
CLAYTON LANDUA + 2
RED FEATHER
AARON BOULTINGHOUSE
CLAY HOLLIS, NICK LAWRENCE

AUG 6
AUG 7
AUG 8
AUG 9
AUG 12
AUG 13

Sip Yard
Billy Latham & Logan Tucker @ Sip Yard

Jam Band @ Treasure Island

Dreaming in Color @ Bron's

Eli Brown @ 361 Bar

Any Colour You Like @ Cole Park

The East & the Crow @ Water's Edge Park

Eric Graham @ Executive Surf Club

Groove 2.0 @ Rockit's

Johnny Kiser, Michael Burtt @ Pelican Lounge

Tumble Dry Low @ Headliners RP

Kelly Kenning @ Anchor Bar

Jody Jennings @ Commercial St. AP

Austin Forrest @ Fajitaville

Melissa Ann @ Hideout 35

Sunday, August 9

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's

Red Feather @ Sip Yard

Robin Blue @ Trout Street

Trisum @ Executive Surf Club

Carl Hayes @ Fajitaville

Austin Forrest @ Anchor Bar

Michael Burtt @ Sandbox NPI

Monday, August 10

John Elijah @ Shorty's

8-Bit Serenade @ Executive Surf Club

Carson Miller @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday, August 11

Los Locals @ Gaff

Sonny Salinas @ Executive Surf Club

Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach

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