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Issue 1165



The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996
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Ahhhh By Lu Ann Kingsbury



Island Moon Live is on
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Island Moon Live

By Dale Rankin

The August heat has not slowed things down *Around the Island* this week so let's get started.

State Highway 361

The fatality on State Highway 361 this week has put the need for improvements there back in the Island consciousness. It has been two years since public hearings were held on plans to improve and expand the roadway there and early plans were revealed but little in the way of progress has been made since. A single broken down pickup in the southbound lane at Fish Pass on Sunday backed up traffic past the Port Aransas City Limits. The traffic there this summer season has been as consistently busy as any in memory and gets worse each year. Even without broken down vehicles the single right-turn lane from the highway onto SPID is a chokepoint and has been for more than a decade. The lack of progress stems from the overlapping city and state jurisdictions and is going to need action from the political class for progress. Change is going on at the intersection of Commodores Dr./SH 361/SPID with the opening of the Speedy Stop now under construction, the addition of a new AEP substation, the eventual paving of Sand Dollar St. which lands from the north side of the highway and the future development of Lake Padre so the bad situation there is about to go from bad to worse.

The matter takes on added danger with the addition of a second causeway to Padre Island now almost certainly dead for the next decade and our choice is to continue to do nothing until there are so many deaths that the public outcry forces political action or just live with the mortality rate. It has now been more than a decade since Corpus Christi Police Chief Floyd Simpson died in a wreck there and still the political thumb twiddling continues. For those of us living on the Padre end of The Island a trip to Port Aransas is now only undertaken when

Around cont. on A2

Back to School!



Mrs. Mims's 1st grade class at Seashore is part of the 46 1st graders

New boat ramps and restroom for Packery Channel

Completion expected in 2027 pending permitting

The Corpus Christi City Council on Tuesday approved funding for improvements to the boat ramp and surrounding area on Packery Channel near the State Highway 361 Bridge.

According to a briefing to the Island Strategic Committee last week the design of improvements is complete and will include renovation of two boat access ramps, as well as supporting infrastructure, to "facilitate smoother water entry"

Packery cont. on page A8



Current state of the Packery Channel boat ramps

A new kind of Island development

Rooftop decks and onsite desalinization
Business model based on foreign investment

By Dale Rankin

When you combine overseas investment with rooftop decks and an onsite desalinization facility you get a different type of Island project. Each of those elements is part of the Marina Luxe project on Granada Drive currently in development. The eleven unit project is the brainchild of Dr. Troy L. Creamean and aside from the rooftop decks the other unique aspect of the project is the concentration on attracting



The current sign on the property

investment from overseas through the federal EB-5 program which offers fast-track U.S. citizenship to investors with a minimum of \$800,000 to invest in commercial enterprises to spur economic growth. Creamean said the project is the first on Padre Island to focus on the EB-5 program and is a portal to foreign investors looking for citizenship. "We are looking to offer a good investment opportunity for those

Luxe cont. on A5

A little Island history

The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry

10 Years Ago in the Island Moon

By Dale Rankin

Ten years ago this week five Island projects were featured in the Island Moon, one came to fruition, two did not, and two are hanging on.

Hiking trail

The first project was a twelve-foot wide hike and bike trail running from Padre Balli Park to Padre Island National Seashore funded through a federal grant application through the Rivers, Trails and

Conservation Assistance Program through the National Park Service. It would have run through the 3680 acres that had been recently acquired by Nueces County from the Texas General Land Office which is located in Kleberg County and maintained by the Nueces County Coastal Parks Department. The grants did not materialize and the project never moved to the planning stage.

Plastic Bag Ban

Ten years ago this week a ban on single-use plastic bags was headed for a vote to the Corpus Christi City Council and looked like it had the votes to pass. The ban was being pushed by a coalition of local environmental groups and backed by a majority of businesses on Padre Island and District 4 City Councilwoman

History cont. on A5

The Art of Island Life

The Beautiful Chaos of Back-to-School



By Melissa Mitchell

Every August, you can feel it. Whether you still have children at home or not, there is something about the start of a new school year that stirs memories. The excitement is contagious. So are the emotions.

As school supply lists are posted and store aisles fill with bright backpacks, sharpened pencils, notebooks in every color imaginable, and enough crayons to brighten an entire classroom, there is an unmistakable energy in the air. Excitement. Hope. Big decisions for little people. More than a few butterflies. A little sadness.

Art cont. on A5

Stuff I Heard on the Island

25 and counting

What does the turmoil at City Hall mean for The Island?



By Dale Rankin

As of mid-week a total of 25 candidates had filed for seats on the Corpus Christi Council in the November 3 elections but only the incumbent's name is on the list, Mayor Paulette Guajardo who is currently on a 30-day suspension after a 4-2 vote by the council this week. Two council members, District 5 member Gil Hernandez and District 2 member Sylvia Campos voted to remove Guajardo from office but the removal effort fell one vote short of the five needed to impeach with two council members recusing themselves from the vote.

None of the other eight current council members have formally made their intentions known

Stuff cont. on page A4

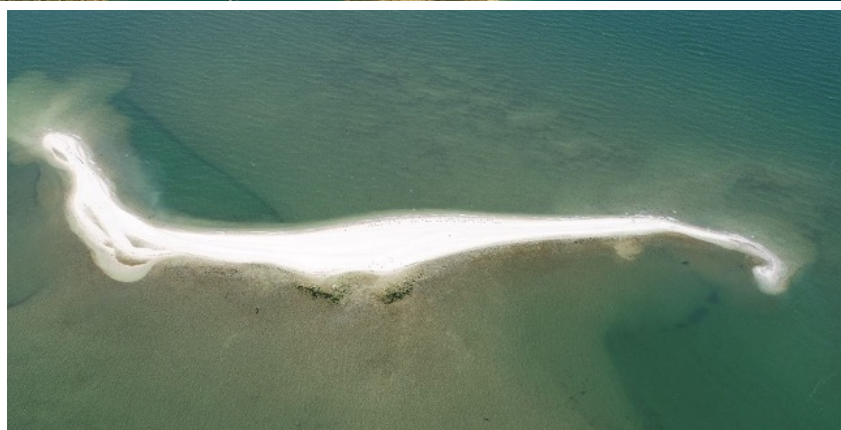
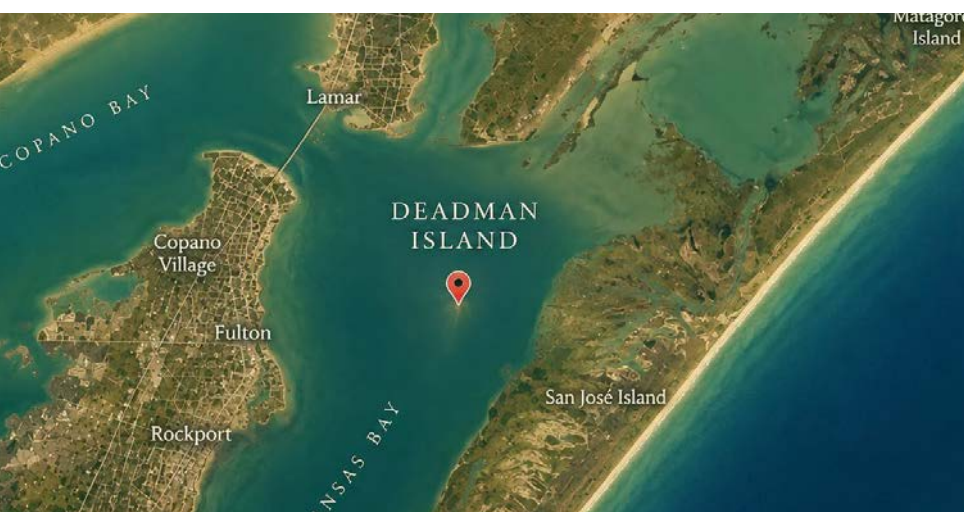
Restoration of Historic Deadman Island Rookery being brought back to life

The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP) will begin construction in mid August 2026 on a major habitat restoration project at Deadman Island in Aransas Bay near Rockport, restoring one of the area's historic colonial waterbird nesting islands while improving coastal resilience through the construction of a protective breakwater and oyster reef.

Deadman Island is part of the historic Long Reef complex extending from the western shoreline of San Jose Island. The island is exposed to long wind fetches, up to 10 miles across Aransas Bay, from nearly every direction. Its proximity to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway also subjects it to continual boat and barge wakes, accelerating shoreline erosion. Historically, Deadman Island served as one of the few rookery islands in Aransas Bay. As erosion has steadily reduced its size and elevation, the island has lost its ability to support nesting birds. Restoring this habitat will help address the ongoing loss of nesting areas along the Texas coast while providing critical space for colonial waterbirds to breed and raise future generations. The island has deteriorated to the point that it no longer supports nesting colonial waterbirds, resulting in the loss of valuable

breeding habitat within one of the Texas coast's important estuaries. Because of the declining number of functional rookery islands, CBBEP has identified the Aransas Bay system as a priority area for island protection and restoration. The need to restore these habitats became even more urgent after Hurricane Harvey passed directly over the region in 2017, causing extensive damage to coastal bird nesting habitat. The project will restore Deadman Island by constructing a 1,750-foot riprap breakwater around the island's perimeter to reduce ongoing erosion from wave action. In addition, a 0.90-acre constructed oyster reef will be installed adjacent to the breakwater.

Construction is being funded through a partnership with the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve at The University of Texas Marine Science Institute using funds provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Additional funding is being provided by the Texas General Land Office through the Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA) Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Construction is scheduled to conclude in December of 2026.



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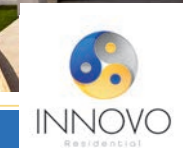
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Around cont. from AI

unavoidable but for those who live OTB and work in Port Aransas there is no choice but to roll the 361 dice twice a day. With an election two months away now is the time to force attention from the political class. Are they listening?

Comings and goings...

Changes with Island eateries are happening *Around the Island* with the recent opening of Honey's Drive & Dive, two established restaurants in the process of changing hands and a third Mexican place about to open our epicurean options are shifting. The opening of the food truck court at the Whitecap NPI site is imminent and the restaurant site next door to the Island Market is now looking for a tenant and work on the new restaurant behind Starbucks is tentatively scheduled for next year. The good news is that chain restaurants have yet to make the pilgrimage OTB...

We're talking city budget

A community input session for the proposed FY 2027 Budget will be in Council District 4 on Wednesday, August 12, at 6:00 p.m. at Ethel Eyerly Senior Center, 654 Graham Road in Flour Bluff. City staff will be available to answer residents' questions and citizens are welcome so if you have some druthers now is the time to act. The meeting will take place from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Pickleball lessons

It wasn't that long ago that we had David Eckenrode on our Thursday radio show to explain to us what exactly pickleball was and The Island had no public courts but now in a short time we will have six, count 'em

six, public pickleball courts up and running. Four courts are going in a Commodores Park and two at Whitecap NPI and while it is yet unofficial Jen and Billie Ryon from the AI Kruse Tennis & Pickleball Center are set to hold pickleball lessons and tournaments at the new courts at the Commodores Park on weekends. Before you know it we will be pickleballing everywhere *Around the Island!*

And while we may be dodging pickleballs and not hurricanes this season there is no doubt the traffic this tourist season has been the heaviest we have seen since the Covid year. Our 100-day tourist season has shrunk to 80 as the kids now go back to school earlier, constricting the time visitors have available to make a Coast Run. The last two weeks have found the mid-week beaches full if not packed but that dropped precipitously on Wednesday and should remain slow until the last jam up on Labor Day.

The good news is that if you leave now you might get through the traffic and make it to Port Aransas by Labor Day! Good luck everybody and say hello if you see us *Around the Island.*



Commodores Park Construction



Snowy egret strutting its attitude By Lu nn Kingsbury

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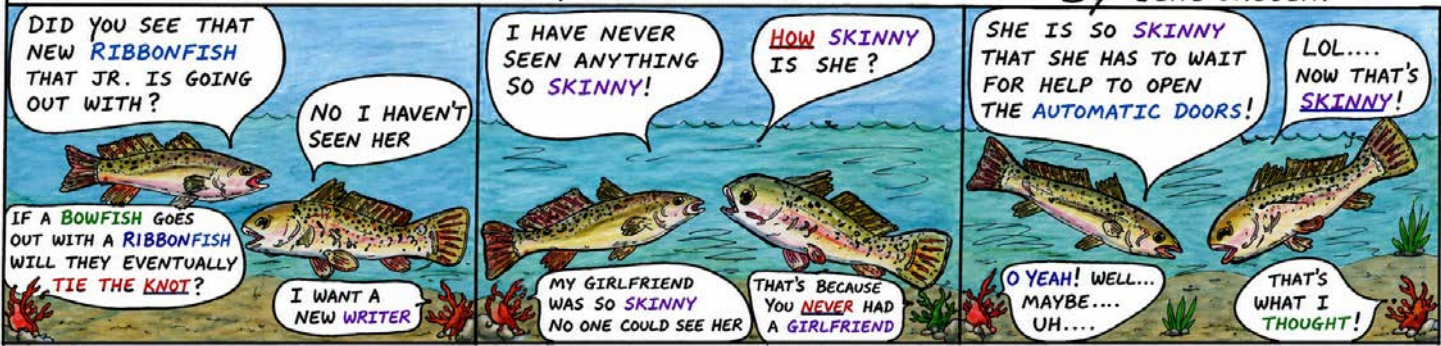
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THE ADVENTURES OF BULL RED & TROPHY TROUT



Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Turtle Restoration Network

I wanted to flag a timely local story hap- pening this Saturday in Galveston. Turtle Island Restoration Network is leading a Gulf Coast Day of Action rally calling on Congress to restore Endangered Species Act protections for more than 20 endan- gered and threatened Gulf species facing impacts from offshore oil and gas activi- ties.

The rally will bring together local con- servationists, families, and community members to stand up for species including the critically endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle and Rice's whale, of which only an estimated 51 remain.

What: Rally for Gulf Wildlife / Gulf Coast Day of Action
When: Saturday, August 15, 10-11 a.m. CT
Where: Balinese Room Pier marker, 2107 Seawall, Galveston

Sincerely,
Laurel Irvine

Fatal accident on State Highway 361

Editor's note: The following is a statement from the Corpus Christi Police Department.

On Monday, August 10, 2026, at 7:10 pm, Officers with the Corpus Christi Police De- partment were dispatched to 7900 block of Hwy 361 for a Major Crash with Injuries.

When Officers arrived, they located a male driver who was deceased on scene.

Due to the nature of the call, Traffic Investigators were called to the scene. During the investigation, it was found that the at-fault driver was traveling south and the second vehicle was traveling north on Hwy 361. After interviewing witnesses on scene, it was found that the at fault driver swerved into the other vehicle's lane.

The driver of the at-fault vehicle had serious injuries and was transported by medics to a local hospital.

Alcohol is not suspected to be a factor.

There is no additional information at this time.



Highway 361 and the new beach access road just north of the Seagull and Sandpiper

Bob Hall Admission

Mr. Chesney,
Most people I've talked to feel the prices are too high for admission to Bob Hall Pier. \$4 per pole and the \$3 just to walk on the pier are the most objected to. \$3 to walk the pier really disturbs people.

One of your Coastal Parks Board members suggested creating a sub committee to study the question, but they decided to "table" the matter. Please ask the Coastal Parks Board to create an ad hoc committee that would include fisher persons and the general public to review the prices of admission; the sooner the better.

The issue is creating some ill-feelings out there, especially with those who are not bountiful in the wallet. Thanks for being our Commissioner,

I.J. Minervini
Aquarius St. (sic)

Mr. Minervini,

As always, I thank you for the email and your interest. This falls clearly under the statutory jurisdiction of the Coastal Parks Board. While we work as a partnership, I try and let them do their jobs and help provide them funding for the great projects they work on. I will say these prices are the same as they have been for many many years. There are some around the courthouse that think we do not charge enough. So personally, letting sleeping dogs lie might be the best answer. That is not a mandate of any kind simply an opinion.

I appreciate you very much. Have a blessed day.

Brent Chesney
Nueces County Commissioner
Precinct 4



Rules for Campaign signs

During campaign season the scenic Texas landscape blooms with a special kind of flower, the political sign. Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) officials remind the public that placing campaign and other signs on public lands is illegal. Signs and other objects that encroach on state right of way create safety violations and potentially dangerous situations for motorists.

Under Texas law, it is a class C misdemean- or to place any sign on state highway right of way. The penalty for violating this law is a fine of up to \$500 per sign.

Consider and remember these pointers before planting any sign:

□ It is illegal to place any type of sign on or within state right of way. This includes posting signs on trees, telephone poles, traffic signs and other objects on the right of way.

□ Campaign signs along Texas roads can be placed on private property with the landowner's permission. Landowners can be held liable if there is a crash and objects they place on the right of way are directly or indirectly involved.

□ Campaign signs may be posted no earlier than 90 days before an election and must be removed within 10 days after the election.

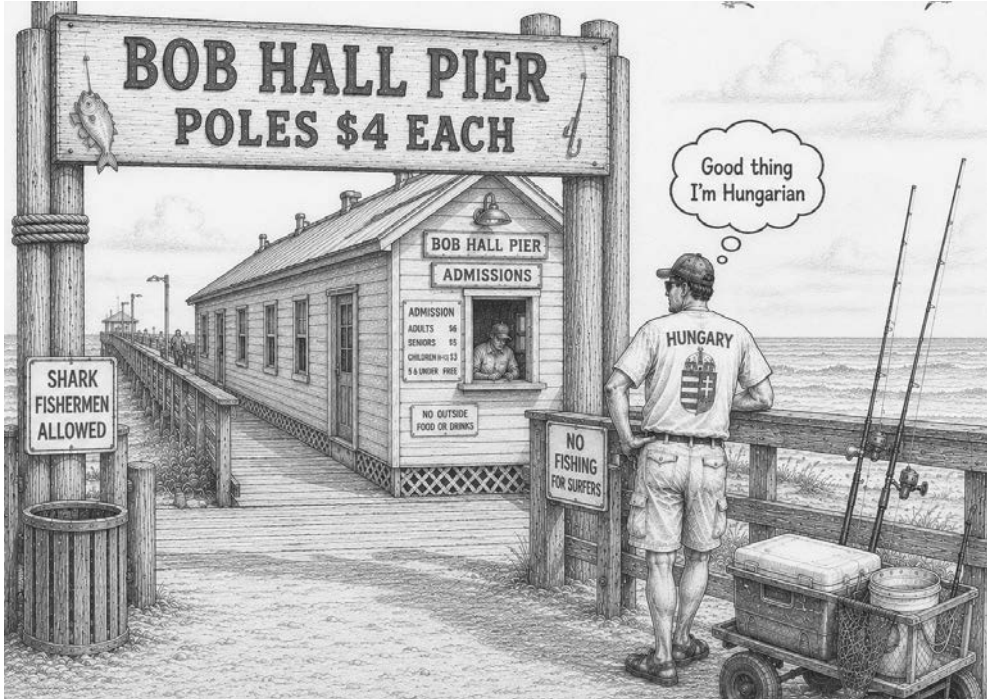
Before placing a sign inside of incorporated city limits, check with the city for applica- ble ordinances.

Signs must meet some basic criteria. They must be made of lightweight material and can be up to 50 square feet in size. Signs placed on the right of way or posing a traffic hazard will be removed without prior no- tice. All costs associated with removal will be paid by the sign owner.

The law also applies to other signs. It is illegal to put any sign, including garage sale and business signs, on state highway right of way without authorization. "Sign" is defined as any outdoor sign, display, light device, figure, painting, drawing, message, plaque, or other thing that is designed and/ or intended to advertise or inform.

Rights of way vary statewide. Contact the TxDOT county maintenance office nearest to you for help in determining legal sign placement. More information is available here: <https://www.txdot.gov/business/right-of-way/campaign-signs.html>

Rickey Dailey
TxDOT



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Riley P. Dog
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Stuff cont. from page 1

although two have said publically they are not running and two are termed out meaning the new council will likely include at least four new members. Now that it is decided that the Mayor is eligible to run for re-election the remainder of the pieces of the races for council seats will fall in place by the filing deadline on Monday, August 17. In Guajardo’s absence, current District 4 Council member Kaylynn Paxson is presiding over council meetings at the rotating Mayor Pro-Tem and said she will announce her intentions by the Monday deadline. The question at hand for Islanders now is what does all of this mean for us here on Padre Island and the portion of Mustang Island located inside the Corpus Christi City Limits? Here are some of the core issues and projects that are on the Island agenda as we move through the city election cycle.

What does it mean for The Island?

Property Taxes – this is and should be at the forefront of concerns for Island property owners as our 10,000 permanent residents are but a small portion of the total city’s population of 317,000 but make up about 15% of the city’s property tax levy. The good news this week is that the city council approved a maximum tax increase for 2027 which is below three percent and will increase property tax on each \$500,000 of appraised value by less than \$20. But moving forward this is the time to get commitments from candidates to hold the line on property taxes which have increased by about 6.5% annually in recent years.

Projects:
Hotel Occupancy Tax – When Islanders bemoan the lack of facilities on gulf beaches what they are really talking about is where the Hotel Occupancy Tax money raised by overnight stay on Padre and Mustang islands is spent and where it is not. For any candidate to adequately represent The Island they must understand that spending money raised from overnight stay on The Island to cover cost overruns downtown at the Hilliard Center severely limits amenities along our gulf beaches. Any candidate worthy of the Island vote must at least address this as an issue.
Bonds – It must be noted that while the city historically has issued bonds every two years there are no bonds on the November ballot this year, largely because the city’s bond rating has deteriorated to the point that instead of the usual \$170 million raised every biennium that number this year would have been in the \$50 range due to a constricted (affordable) borrowing capacity. This is the result of council decisions and while Island bond projects have historically been a small portion of the total (well below our share of the debt) we currently do have some old bond projects coming to fruition. Now is the time to get candidates asking for our vote to commit to future Island bond projects...so what are those?
□ **Paper streets.** Anyone driving around Padre Island can clearly see the increase in traffic not just in the summer but year round. The original designers of the Island street grid drew main north-south

thoroughfares on both sides of the SPID corridor – Aquarius Drive on the west and Sand Dollar Street on the east. Aquarius is as complete as in-place development allows but Sand Dollars which runs from Verdemar to State Highway 361 still exists only on paper.
The plan was to fund Sand Dollar through the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2, but where else in the city are streets paid for with a TIRZ rather than bonds but on Padre Island? Candidates asking for our vote need to address this.
□ **Improvements under the JFK Causeway.** Our city policymakers should be embarrassed by this. The City of Corpus Christi has had a signed agreement with the State of Texas since 1998 to improve and maintain the area under and around the JFK Bridge yet the parking lot adjacent to and under the bridge which are two of the most used in the city, especially by boaters, remain an unimproved mud hole. This has gone unaddressed, including by council member Paxson who was on an ISAC subcommittee to finish the project, with finger pointing and lack of attention for two decades even as we sit here today with \$1.4 million bond money approved by voters sitting idle. Any candidate for city office without a plan to address this does not deserve our vote.
□ **The Intersection** – We have all seen the increasing congestion at the intersection of SPID/Commodores/State Highway 361. As we sit here today there is no plan moving forward to address the future of this intersection even as development is going on all around it. Waiting until it becomes unsafe is not a plan and putting a plan in place is going to require more than just attention from the District 4 representative and now is the time to put it on the radar of anyone asking for our vote.
The Island Mobility Plan – While not strictly bond-related this plan is already approved and on the books backed by \$17.4 million in state/federal money committed and awaiting action by the city. As traffic increases on Padre Island this is the only comprehensive plan to deal with it. The Don Patricio Bridge has been open for more than two years now and there are still no pedestrian nor cart paths in place to reach it. This is the type of project that the city government is designed for and without attention from city policy makers our traffic is only going to get worse even as we pay a higher and higher percentage of the city’s property tax and debt service on bonds. The city staff has done its job and produced the plan but city policy makers have not done theirs in implementing it. Any candidate who is not familiar with the Island Mobility Plan is not worthy of our vote
Island Strategic Action Committee - Without ISAC none of the projects currently underway in our parks would be happening and there would be no plan in place for maintaining the Michael J. Ellis Seawall, just to name a few things. If a question to a city candidate about ISAC draws a deer-in-the-headlights look, don’t vote for them because they can’t help us.
We have some power here and now is the time to use it.



When the plan to pave Sand Dollar Street on The Island was drawn up Richard Nixon was President. Things were looking up until the City of Corpus Christi’s 2026 bond election was cancelled and progress is now stalled. The underground utilities have been in place for decades but the pavement effort has now gone the way of Mr. Nixon. As you can see from this photo Islanders with four-wheelers are already using the sandy roadway which stands as a monument to inattention. The good news is that there is no speed limit...

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By Chris Jordan

Robot Food
I wanted to be a robot. Is that a job?
A story of sandwiches, cookies, sugary drinks, imagination, and parental love

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” For better or for worse, it’s a question adults ask children. And really, is a young child supposed to know? Of course not. And that’s a good thing. After all, it wasn’t that long ago that children essentially had no choice. No one asked the question because the answer was a foregone conclusion: a feudal farmer, a miner, a logger, a fisherman, or whatever your father did to clothe, feed, and house his family. The girls, too, would follow in their mothers’ footsteps. But the job was always the same regardless of what the man of the house did. The girls could only hope to be wife and mother.

Many children across the globe do sadly remain mired in—and moored to—the family enterprise. Those of us fortunate enough to have been born into a First World situation get to choose. In our landscape of opportunity, regardless of gender, all children can not only be asked the question—they can answer it—and no matter what it is, it is within the realm of possibility.

Mostly. When I was five years old, I wanted to be a robot. Is that a job? I’m not sure. Probably more like enslavement, but that sort of drudgery was not on my pretend radar. I just wanted to be better than mere humans. Smarter. Faster. And way better looking. Surging with electrons and the whirl of electric motors. Shiny. Metallic. Indestructible.

One of Japan’s best-known exports, the Transformers toys did not debut until 1985, but my insentient aspirations predated them by more than a decade. The Japanese robot toys of the early 70s were fairly large with some pushing 15 inches tall. The really cool ones wound up to walk and might shoot little missiles. I remember one very cool one whose fists launched off of its arms. Some of these toys were exported. A toy store in the city might have a few. I remember seeing some in the Sears catalog. They were mostly unavailable to us Texas kids.

But I had a guy who’d been on the inside. Chip lived a couple of doors down from us in New Braunfels. We were both four years old and our moms got along so there were frequent play dates. Here’s the best part: Chip’s dad was in the military, Chip’s mom was Japanese, and they’d all just arrived from Japan. You guessed it...Chip had a few coveted toy Japanese robots.

By the time I’d started kindergarten, my goals had changed. I was an obsessed rock hound and was thoroughly dedicated to pursuing a career in geology. Did Matt Slocum from the band *Sixpence None the Richer* help me with this rung on the ladder? Well, uh...no, not directly. He was just eight months old when his parents moved to New Braunfels from Rhode Island. Matt’s mom, Hildegard, was German and that was a huge motivator for the family’s relocation. She and her husband Joseph opened a bookstore a stone’s throw from our house. I had frequent access: their little shop was in the same small retail center where Wuest’s Supermarket was—and that’s where you got your groceries in New Braunfels in ’73.

Joseph manned the bookstore and stocked it with plenty of paperback scientific guidebooks. And at least one on geology and several covering geology-adjacent subjects like fossils, minerals, and gemstones. I was wild-eyed with excitement in that bookstore. I loved the public library too, but this

was different. You didn’t have to be quiet in Slocum’s Bookstore and it didn’t smell the least bit musty. In fact, this is the place where I became acquainted with the smell of new books: an olfactory impression that laid the groundwork for a lifetime of Proustian experiences.

Was I actually reading at such a young age? Yeah, sorta. I was reading a bit and the sorts of books my parents bought for me at Slocum’s were well-illustrated. By the time first grade rolled around, I was reading fairly well. When *Jaws* came out, my dad bought a copy. I read it when he was done. Did I get it all? No. But I got the drift: sharks = scary. My mom would probably not have let me read it if she’d known. First grade concluded with a talent show. I wanted to go in costume as sedimentary stratification. Dad was my go-to for forts, projects, costumes, and general make believe but he wasn’t sure we could pull this one off.

In Mrs. Robinette’s first grade class, I’d formed an important liaison with a boy named Craig. Craig’s mom once saved me from drowning in the headwaters of the Comal River and Craig’s dad was a judge who dismissed the one speeding ticket I ever knew my mom to have received. I think it was b.s. because I was with her in my grandfather’s 1960 Ford F-100 as we wound through the little roads of Landa Park. The speed limit was 20 MPH and that’s about all the roads, the playing children, and an old pickup would allow.

Despite the lifesaving and judicial favoritism, Craig was important precisely because he was an astronomer with astronaut ambitions. We were both singing the blues over the talent show because Craig could no more be Saturn’s rings than I could be sedimentary stratification. My dad and I had already settled on my being a robot for the talent show and we offered to outfit Craig as one, too. He really wanted to do a costume with me....you know...like Saturn’s rings meet sedimentary stratification. I’d settled for a robot and didn’t see why Craig couldn’t as well. My dad suggested we could costume together as a two-headed robot. Craig asked if it could be a space robot, and my dad said fine: a two-headed space robot.

Craig’s right and my left leg were bound together in a three-legged robot race and all of our limbs wrapped with aluminum foil. Our torsos and one arm each were inside a large cardboard box our dads had painted silver. Our heads poked out of holes in the top and were crowned with some kind of helmet. We cut holes in the front of our body box and taped colored plastic wrap over them from the inside so we could shine flashlights through the holes to simulate blinking lights—de rigueur for a robot. Our moms thought we should have snacks Craig and I briefly objected on the basis of a robot’s needs—or lack thereof—but when baloney and mustard sandwiches with sugar cookies and Kool-aid were offered, we compromised: a well-stocked energy dispensing tray was fashioned just beneath the blinking lights.

And that’s how two nerds won the First Grade Talent Show at Seele Elementary in New Braunfels, Texas, in the spring of 1974. Turns out robots are powered by sandwiches, cookies, sugary drinks, imagination, and parental love.

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Colleen McIntyre due to the proliferation of flying bags taking up residence in the dune line. It would have taken effect voluntarily in 2017 with the mandatory ban starting in 2018. Just as the ban appeared to be headed to approval locally the effort stalled in late 2016 as the Texas State Legislature took up the issue and banned the ban in Austin during the 2017 legislative session by removing a city's authority to ban the bags and that is where the issue has stood since.

New Island causeway

In July 2016 the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) presented a preliminary plan to the Island Strategic Action Committee to begin the process of determining the route for a second causeway across the Laguna Madre to Padre Island and by August it was headed to the Corpus Christi City Council for review. Under that plan 80% of the funding from the causeway would have been paid for through federal sources with the remaining cost coming from state and local sources.

The impetus for building a second causeway was to relieve traffic pressure on the SPID corridor between Laguna Shores Road and the Crosstown Expressway which at that time was at 80% capacity according to numbers presented by the MPO. The initial plan from the MPO listed five potential routes with two ruled out, the first eliminated was along the Sea Pines Dr. due to an insufficient right of way, the second was a fly-over adjacent to the JFK Causeway which was ruled out because it did not relieve traffic loads along the SPID corridor.

In 2024 a \$3 million Environmental Assessment Study (EIS) for the project was undertaken with the results released in early 2026. The results eliminated the three possible routes listed as the only three viable routes in the 2016 presentation, and listed the two routes eliminated in the 2016 presentation as the only viable routes going forward. However, the EIS added a sixth option which was to not build a second causeway which is where the project stands today.

A Bridge at Encantada Avenue

Ten years ago this week a plan to build a \$2.7 million bridge to allow water to flow under Encantada Avenue was awaiting formal approval of funding by the board of the Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone #2. A Developer's Agreement between the City of Corpus Christi and the Whitecap North Padre Island development was signed in November, 2023 and originally called for a bridge over the canal at the location with fourteen feet of water clearance, however, those plans were changed after initial design work determined that there was not sufficient space to construct the required turn lanes to the bridge and early plans changed to two nine-foot box culverts to be placed there to allow for unobstructed water passage and sufficient clearance above the waterline to allow for passage of kayaks and small watercraft.

Under a Developer's Agreement the project would have been included in the city's 2025 Capital Improvement Budget with final approval and the awarding of a construction contract no later than the end of 2026. The idea in including the bridge in the agreement with Whitecap NPI was that its design would be similar to several bridges in their project, however, when the bridge plan was replaced with plans for box culverts, responsibility for installing the culverts shifted to the city where it remains today. As of this writing ten years later discussions are underway between the city and the Padre Isles Property Owners Association which owns the canals on either side of the Encantada roadway to coordinate the installation of the box culverts with the dredging of the approach canals. No timeline for completion of the project has been announced.

The project that made it...

The only project on the books in August 2016 that made it to fruition was what became the Don Patricio Bridge. The cost at the time was \$11.1 million which increased to \$21 million by the time it opened in December, 2023.



The opening of the canal under the Don Patricio Bridge in February of 2024. Aerial by Jacob Augs



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The Art of Island Life

Art cont. from A1

And for parents, the quiet satisfaction of knowing they're helping prepare their children for another year of growing up. And then there were those backpacks—stuffed full, nearly as big as the little people proudly carrying them, but they insisted they could do it themselves.

If we're being honest, much of that emotional preparation still quietly rests on the shoulders of moms. It was in my house. And then there's the physical preparation. The clothes, the shoes, the instruments, the supplies... list after list.

I remember those shopping trips with my four children. Each one had to find the backpack. The notebook had to be just the right color. There was always one special pen or folder that somehow seemed destined to make the coming school year the best one yet.

At the time, I thought we were just shopping for school supplies. Looking back, I realize we were shopping for possibilities. Every new backpack represented another year of growing up, another teacher who might inspire them, new friendships waiting to be made, and another opportunity to discover who they were becoming.

Behind the Scenes

Of course, behind that burst of nerves and excitement is someone making sure everything somehow comes together. The supplies are purchased. I've seen a few of this year's supply lists, and while ours certainly weren't short, today's seem to have grown considerably. Somewhere between the earbuds and the cup noodles, I couldn't help but smile. I don't remember back-to-school shopping ever feeling quite so much like preparing for a weekend camping trip.

The forms are signed... so many forms. With four children, I was convinced I would develop writer's cramp before I finished. Thankfully, most of them are online these days, although somehow the list of required forms seems to grow a little longer every year.

The school clothes are washed. Names are written inside jackets, lunch boxes, and notebooks. The lunches are planned. Fresh haircuts are checked off the list. The alarm is set just a little earlier. And somehow, despite all the extra work, parents still find a way to make that first day feel exciting instead of stressful.

By the time that first-day photo is taken and the backpacks disappear through the school doors, everything is ready. It can feel like a lot. In fact, some days it's downright exhausting. But if someone offered me the chance to do it all again, I would say yes without hesitation.

Not because it was easy. Because it was beautiful.

Now, I have the joy of watching my



children create those same memories with theirs. The first-day-of-kindergarten photo of my youngest grandson this year is absolutely imperfectly perfect—one our family has already enjoyed and will treasure for years to come... even though, as a teenager, he'll probably cringe.

It's funny how the things that seem ordinary at the time become the moments we treasure most. When our children are young, we're often reminded to appreciate these years because they pass quickly. They're right. They do.

The first day of school is exciting for children and teachers alike. It's also one of the busiest—and often most emotional—days of the year for everyone involved.

But while we're celebrating the excitement of a new school year for the children and thanking teachers for all they do, I'd like to take a moment to recognize those doing the unseen work of getting a child ready for that first day.

The ones who quietly carry so much responsibility before that first school bell ever rings.

The ones making sure everyone else is ready before thinking about themselves. I see you. And I hope someone tells you today what an incredible job you're doing.

A Little Thank You for Moms

To celebrate the beginning of another school year, I'd love to do something special for the moms who are hustling to make it happen. As a little thank-you, the first four moms who stop in Evoke Studio & Gifts after this article is published will receive a surprise self-care gift from me. And from Thursday, August 13 through Saturday, August 15, all moms who visit Evoke and mention this week's Island Moon article will enjoy 10% off any item they choose just for themselves.

Because after taking care of everyone else... Sometimes it's nice when someone takes a moment to notice you.

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

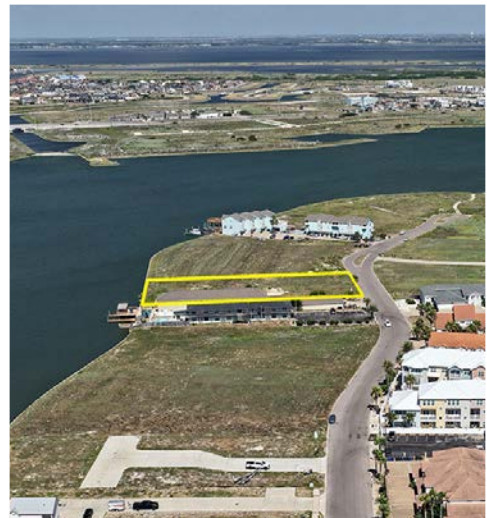
Luxe cont. from A1

whose main interest is a fast-track to citizenship," he said. "Typically the return on EB-5 money is less than 2% but we believe we can do better than that." The project has been permitted through the City of Corpus Christi with construction scheduled by the end of 2026.

He said the cost of the desalinization system is between \$250,000 and \$400,000 and would use groundwater and a buried storage

tank to provide water to the eleven, 3000 square-foot units which also include splash pools and elevators, with an option for solar panels also available The project includes 100 feet of waterfront space to allow for eight slips, six deeded, with access to Packery Channel with no bridge obstruction to the open gulf.

The architect is Mike Whitson and financing for the project is through 1st Community Bank. Once complete Creamean said the individual units will sell at a price point between \$800,000 and \$1.2 million.



Approximate location of the Marina Luxe site on Granada

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Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

Reef updates and upwelling info

The blue water is coming in really close, about 9 miles off the beach. The great thing about the water being in close is that the reefs that have been put down in the MU-775 (“Packery Channel Reef”) over the past decade or so are enjoying some really pretty water. Since the color line is running right down that break, there should be kingfish and ling running over the tops of the pyramids and stacking up next to the S/V Kinta. The last material that was put down out there was some of the material from Bob Hall pier. If you have a good bottom graph, you can figure out that they “colored outside the lines” during the last deployment, and you can find a few spots that don’t see the pressure.

We got some updates regarding all of our near shore artificial reefs along the Texas coast, but unfortunately, many of them are expiring, including our Packery Channel reef. TPWD is currently getting them renewed, but you all know that these things take time due to federal permitting red tape. Our buddy Curtis down in the valley mentioned a railroad company that might have a supply chain of concrete railroad ties that we may be able to store at the port and deploy around here. Rene from the TGLO procured a storage spot at the port on Rincon, and we might be able to start to gather material. We just need to pull the pieces together with the Port Commission. Gabe, fair warning, we’ll be contacting you.

Speaking of offshore, I know you all are tired of me talking about the upwelling, and I’m happy to report that it appears to be training out of our system for the season. The loop current has been reformed, and there are no gyres that have calved. I believe that we are finally hitting the doldrums of the nearshore reef currents, and we will be looking to hit the beach and chasing some trout in the deeper guts and structures that are in the first guts that become exposed during these low tides. Now we just need the driving down the beach to cooperate, but

unfortunately the reports aren’t any better than I reported last week.

We bombed out to Florida last week to visit our good friends Emily and Randy and visit with their family. It had been too many years since I last visited, but it was like I never left. We bombed around in the boat, got to know their daughters, and visit some old haunts. We also made some great new internal business connections, and are looking forward to getting some projects going out that way.

We got to use our manatee observation skills in Florida, as we had a sighting of one at Dog Beach at Cat Point while we were pulled up to the sand bar. Randy saw it coming down the line, and alerted Lily and the kids that we were about to get a visit. The manatee saw everyone waiting for it and sped through the area before giving us a chance to really observe it, but it was undoubtedly a manatee. We will be using those skills locally when the Lake Padre plug gets pulled again, because as we noticed the last time it was open, the manatees found the canal systems within 48 hours.

Well loyal readers, from the looks of the headlines, it seems I didn’t miss anything noteworthy this past week with any political developments. More people have signed up to run for the squirrel circus in November, with the filing deadline this coming Monday, August 17th until 5pm. This year will be a real doozy, and JJ on the Island is getting together a “Meet the Candidates” forum coming up soon. These are perennial favorite town-hall type meetings that you should plan on attending. School is back in session so take your time through the school zones. The west wind off the Wild Horse desert is around the corner, so if you thought the Saharan dust was kicking you in the allergies, give it another week. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we’ll see you next week On the Rocks.



Lily observing a manatee



Jay with the Lumsdens at the stormwater falls, photo By Lily Walker

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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

The Last Days

Lost in time, we lived each day and night in our Summer Breaks. Those late Summer adventures still fill my mind and soul as I slide across the Laguna Madre’ each day passing islands and grass flats where we explored. The secret Poachers Cove now holds ten or more guide boats a day. I roll in there and remember me and Robby Webb stashing our Jon boat and walking to the beach each day. Those Island Times were wild, just as wild as Padre has always been.

We were getting to the end and counting the days. Camping out on the balcony of my parent’s house, we could hear the mullet crashing in the canal under the moon. Before dawn we set out with surfboards towards the back side of the island. Pulling the skiff up into the cattails we walked the trail of mosquitoes and horse flies to the undeveloped streets across from the horse stables. We stashed our tent and packs under Bob Hall Pier all the way up under the ramp. Nobody even saw the tent for two days!

Surfing Bob Hall back then was serious business. Being less than 18yrs old back then didn’t guarantee you weren’t getting a butt kicking by your elders or the better surfers. We held our own, but one day the waves were cracking! I took off on a streaking barrel, as I dropped in I could hear someone yelling behind me. As I made my bottom turn I looked over my shoulder and right in the pocket I saw a guy like a bullet coming down the line. I lost it and ate it. I came up for air and he was screaming at me, it was JOHN JONES! John was a hard edged shredder that lived to party and fight! He was cussing me and telling me to go to the beach; I paddled back out as a few big waves smashed him on the sand bar. I waited a while and took a wave in thinking I’d avoid being recognized. Before I stepped out of the water he was walking towards me, “You dinged my hoard you little Mother &\$@?!/(! He was coming fast and hard so I took off my leash and stood my ground. I was in 8th grade and he was in his 20’s! After some hard words and I’m ready to go’s his friends walked up laughing. “What are you going to do John beat this kid up!?” He stopped and smiled as my fists were clenched and feet dug into the sand. Hell kid come drink a beer with me! I ran the streets and bars with that crazy fella for years, even got a Surfboard sponsorship with him, Los Olas Surfboards! After the sun set, we walked the beach down to surf in front of the Holiday Inn at the sea wall. They had a big light shining out on the water. BUT along the way we would knock on all the windows of the cars out on the beach when we caught couples making out! That turned into some run and gun beach fun

Karyn's King Ranch Monster!

Mr Floyd celebrated his 87th birthday with his beautiful Daughters Kay and Karyn with limits of trout, some black drum and a Monster Redfish!

too! The old 3-for-5 hamburger stand was there at Bob Hall and we would swim shark baits out for money to buy hamburgers! On the way back to the bluff we would make our drift in front of the house and catch a few redfish so that when we walked up to the house after spending our days roaming the beach my mom would believe that we were just out fishing....

We are also finishing out the last of the DOG DAYS OF SUMMER. High heat every day and consistently low tides and monotonous daily weather. Soon we will get some kind of tropical storm in the Gulf and raise the tides. This will explode in a rush of bait fish from the open ocean flooding into the bays, and start the beginning of the GREAT MIGRATION of bait and gamefish out of the back bays and towards the beachfront. There are already hordes of mullet and Shad slowly pushing towards the exits, these are the areas I’ve been focusing on most. On a long drift I look for the levels in the flats where certain bait sources are holding. The largest trout and most reds are always exactly where I find the SHAD! This is usually in the sandy pockets inside the main drop offs in the Laguna Madre and the shorelines of Baffin. Months of live bait fishing from guides and sportsman have eliminated many of the better fish along these easy to locate and fish outside traditions. Topwaters have been a great way to cull the packs of small fish. Any kind of overcast days have been exceptional for topwater action.

Everyone is tired of the heat, let’s slide our feet at a slower pace and get past these last few weeks, then get ready!! September and October are going to go WILD! Let’s find YOUR DAY on the water hunting gamefish and learning skills and how to ready water. Open dates in both months. Sept 1,3,10,14,15,16,18,23,24,25 Oct 1,5,6,7,8,15,16,19,20,21,28,29

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This Lady Angler came all the way from Washington state to burn in the sun, and land this big trophy trout in the Laguna Madre on a DOWN SOUTH LURES SOFT PLASTIC! Farah

Nature Notes

3 Billion Birds Gone:

Understanding the Sixth Mass Extinction



Grasslands species are some of the birds that are disappearing most rapidly. Photo by Mike Williams.

By Kayla Pringle

Have you ever heard someone say that we are currently in a sixth mass extinction? A mass extinction occurs when the world’s biodiversity declines at a rate much faster than normal, resulting in at least 75% of species going extinct over a relatively short amount of geologic time (~2 million years). This “short” amount of time may seem like forever to us, but to Earth, this is just a brief moment in its long history.

Unlike the previous five mass extinctions documented in the fossil record, which were caused by catastrophic events such as asteroid impacts or massive volcanic eruptions, this one is largely driven by human activity. Habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, pesticide use, invasive species, and other man-made problems are pushing countless species toward extinction across the world.

One of the clearest warning signs comes from birds. Birds are often considered indicators of environmental health because they respond quickly to changes in ecosystems. When bird populations decline, it usually signals larger ecological problems affecting insects, plants, water quality, and climate stability.

In 2019, researchers from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, along with many other partners, published a landmark study in the journal Science showing that North America has lost nearly 3 billion birds since 1970. That represents a decline of roughly 29% of the continent’s bird population in less than fifty years. In plain terms, this means that we seen 3 billion less birds flying in the air in North America today than we did in 1970.

What shocked scientists most was that the declines were not limited to rare or endangered species. Many common birds that people once saw regularly in backyards, fields,

and wetlands are disappearing. Species such as meadowlarks, swallows, sparrows, and blackbirds have experienced dramatic population losses. Grassland birds were especially hit hard, declining by more than 50% due largely to the agricultural industry and habitat loss.

A huge factor affecting these grassland birds are the use of pesticides with neonicotinoids in them. These harmful pesticides reduce insect populations that many birds depend on for food, thus shortening their food supply and altering ecosystem diversity. Window collisions, outdoor cats, and artificial light at night kill hundreds of millions of birds annually in North America alone, as well.

Habitat loss is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, cause for species decline. Forests, wetlands, and grasslands are being cleared or fragmented for development, agriculture, and infrastructure. Birds that rely on these habitats for nesting, feeding, and migration lose the resources they need to survive.

Despite the seriousness of the crisis, there is still hope. Conservation efforts have successfully helped some bird populations recover, including waterfowl, through legislation and habitat restoration efforts such as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act.

We know that bird populations can bounce back when given enough time and resources. Scientists stress that protecting habitats, reducing pesticide use, planting native vegetation, limiting light pollution, and addressing climate change can help slow or reverse many declines.

The loss of 3 billion birds is more than a statistic. It is a warning that the natural world is changing rapidly. Like with a canary in a coal mine, we must pay attention when our birds stop singing.

Beachcombing Report

By Jace Tunnell



Hundreds of Monkey’s Brain Sea Beans Wash Ashore



Jace with a Monkey Brain Sea Bean

The beach looked as though someone had scattered hundreds of tiny brains across the sand. These unusual sea beans, known as Monkey’s Brain sea beans, immediately caught my attention. Some still had short stems attached, suggesting they had only recently separated from their fruit, while others were covered with encrusting bryozoans and clusters of gooseneck barnacles. Those hitchhikers told a different story, one of months, or perhaps even years, drifting across the ocean before finally reaching the Texas coast.

Monkey’s Brain sea beans, also called Donovan’s Brain or Brain Fruit, come from the Brain Fruit tree (*Piratinera guianensis*), a tropical species found from southern Mexico through Central America and into northern South America. The trees often grow along rivers, where ripe fruits eventually fall into the water. As the fruit breaks apart, the seeds are carried downstream to the ocean. Their remarkably hard, waterproof shell allows them to float for long distances on ocean currents, sometimes traveling hundreds or even thousands of miles before washing ashore.

Curiosity got the best of me, so I brought one home and carefully cut it open with a saw. Inside was a soft, pale kernel that looked surprisingly like a peanut. The tough outer shell does an incredible job protecting the seed during its long journey at sea.

Although the seed itself is far too hard to eat after its ocean voyage, the fruit surrounding it is edible when fresh and is enjoyed locally in parts of its native range. The durable seeds have also been collected for generations and polished into necklaces, keychains, and other keepsakes by beachcombers around the world. I usually get excited to find just one Monkey’s Brain sea bean during a beach survey, so discovering hundreds of them scattered across the shoreline was an unforgettable beachcombing experience.

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).



Inside of a Monkey Brain Sea Bean



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Beach Parking Permits going to \$20 in January

Expected to raise additional \$2.4 million for beach maintenance

General Land Office (GLO), all participating entities must honor each other’s permits for the permit to remain valid countywide. As a requirement, the next steps include submitting the revised Beach Management Plan and Beach User Fee Plan incorporating the new beach permit rate to GLO for review and approval. The GLO will post the fee change for a 30-day public comment period and then review those comments before providing final approval.

Under the current agreement the City of Corpus Christi manages the account containing funds from permit sales which are the remitted to the three entities based on the number of linear feet managed by each, with Nueces County receiving 16% of the total sales. Under the new plan the cities of Corpus Christi and Port Aransas will received funds according to the amount of permit sales in their area.

According to city records, the need for increased funding is being driven by the increasing cost and demand for beach maintenance and renourishment. City staff told the city council this week that the amount of funds raised by the permit sales in 2026 are expected to fall about \$400,000 short

of expenses, further a \$600,000 deficit in State Hotel Occupancy Fund is expected. Staff members said inflationary costs have increased 77% since the last increase in the permit sales prices since 2002.

City records show that city staff conducted research on local municipalities on the beach parking permit rates for comparison. Cameron County on South Padre Island charges \$100 for an annual beach user pass and the City of Galveston charges \$50 for a seasonal beach parking pass and an additional \$45 for an annual seawall parking pass.



Pakery cont. from A1

and includes a new restroom facility. Infrastructure renovations will improve the slope of the ramps, the fenders, and compliance with ADA requirements. The slope of the current ramps, constructed in 2006, has made the launching of longer boats difficult.

The project was made possible through a \$249,990 grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife under its Boating Access Grant Program. The City of Corpus Christi will provide a match of \$83,330 from the Island Tax Reinvestment Zone #2 (TIRZ #2) and the project will be included in the city’s 2026 Capital Improvements Budget.

Permitting of the project must be completed through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

PhaseCapital Budget.

Description

The City of Corpus Christi has secured a \$250,000 Recreation planning grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) for the renovation of the Packery Channel Boat Ramp engineered design. This phased project will improve safety and accessibility by renovating two boat access ramps, rehabilitation of docking infrastructure and bulkheads, ADA parking lot improvements, new prefabricated restroom facility, replacement of vehicle safety bollards, and installation of solar lighting to increase visibility on the docks.

Justification

The renovation of the Packery Channel Boat Ramp will solidify its role as a premier coastal gateway, driving economic and social benefits for the community through modernized infrastructure and enhanced safety. The project meets the department's mission to maintain parks, beaches, open spaces, and recreational facilities for the community.

Expenditures	Prior	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	Total
Design	0	249,990	0	0	249,990
Contingency	0	55,830	0	0	55,830
Eng. Admin Reimbursements	0	27,500	0	0	27,500
Total	0	333,320	0	0	333,320

Funding Sources	Prior	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	Total
Grant - TPWD	0	249,990	0	0	249,990
Reinvestment Zone No. 2 - 1111 (2022) NEW	0	83,330	0	0	83,330
Total	0	333,320	0	0	333,320

Budget Impact

An assessment will be done upon completion of project to determine future operational maintenance.

Beach Operations 2026

The City of Corpus Christi maintains 7.8 miles of gulf beach. The following numbers are for 2026 year-to-date.

- Trash 535 tons
- Citations 393
- Warnings 3580
- Contacts 2,251
- Permits Beach 125,000-plus

Beach Rescue

Missing Persons 9
Major Medical Aid 34
Minor Medical Aid 190
Rescues 95



The Traveling Moon



Scott Swartz and family took the Moon on a recent trip to San Cristóbal Galapagos.



David and Karen Rossi with Donnie and Shelley Greaney enjoying Lake Tahoe!

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A close-up photo of a dog's face, wearing a straw hat and dark sunglasses. The dog is looking directly at the camera. The background is a sandy beach with some water visible in the distance.

NOW OPEN

Sudoku

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

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

- Across
1. "Planet of the —"

5. Ice cream partner

9. Like a no-hitter

13. Spring training site

14. Popeye's girlfriend

16. Flamboyant style

17. Humorous Bombeck

18. Olympic judges, collectively

19. "— Like it Hot"

20. Pregame presentation

23. — Aviv

24. "— Master" (nickname for Phil Jackson)

25. First hitter

32. Christmas tree choice

33. Hall-of-Fame QB Bart

34. Tournament round

36. Shortstop Vizquel

38. Clean thoroughly

40. Home plate, in slang

41. Tyson, notoriously

43. Lauder of cosmetics

45. Spike at Knicks games

46. 1, 2 and 3 swingers

49. Three — match

50. AFL-—

51. A league leader

59. Bed support

60. Peace Prize winner Root

61. Thompson of the WNBA

62. Batting practice setting

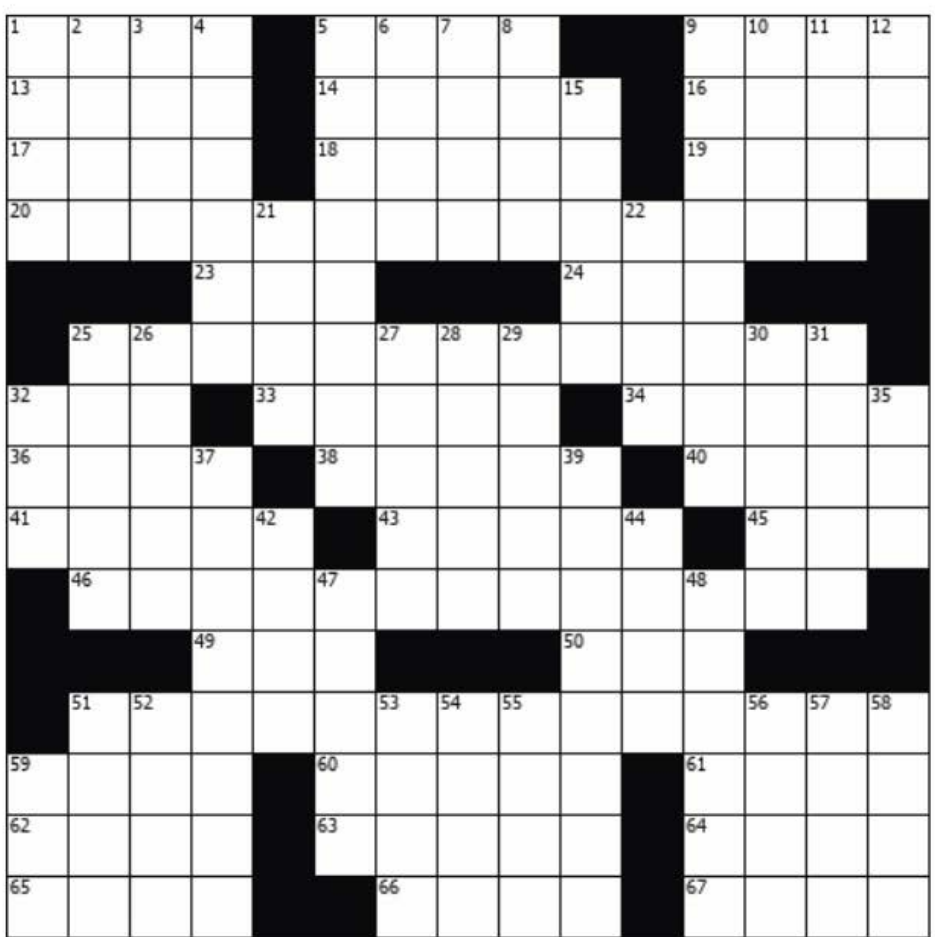
63. Ship salvager's aid

64. Tackle's teammates

65. Dr. Frankenstein's assistant

66. Fly catchers

67. Item in a coach's office



- Down
1. Best starters

2. Not all

3. Actress Thompson

4. Ancient rival of Athens

5. They fly the team plane

6. Former Tiger Trammell

7. Boxing impresario

8. First named among daredevils

9. Was offended by

10. Baseball family name

11. Motorcycle daredevil's apparatus

12. Yachting dir.

15. "My Fair Lady" lady

21. Williams and Kluszewski

22. Jason Kidd's team

25. Casino maximum

26. Poetic muse

27. Jeweler's surface

28. Freshmen

29. "Et tu —?"

30. Griffith of the ring

31. Part of a stair

32. Watch pocket

35. "That's all — wrote"

37. Clubhouse visitor

39. Happens again

42. Guidry and Darling

44. The Indians' lake

47. Clotho and Lachesis

48. Like a contract's line

51. Olympic ceremony sight

52. Shakespearean villain

53. Soil mover

54. — drive (sharp hit)

55. Jezebel's husband

56. "— Kleine Nachtmusik"

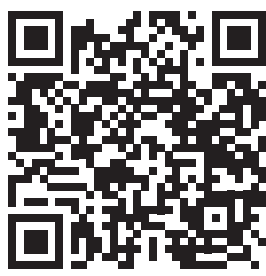
57. "No ifs, — or buts!"

58. Catcher's protector

59. —-fi

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

A quiet August

The beginning of August brought a slower start to the Padre Island real estate market, which is fairly typical for this time of year. With children heading back to school this week and families settling back into their routines, August is traditionally one of the quieter months in real estate. As summer travel winds down and school schedules take priority, we often see buyers and sellers take a brief pause before activity begins to pick back up heading into fall.

Even with the seasonal slowdown, we still saw encouraging movement across the Island market this past week. In the detached home sector, five homes entered the option period and four homes successfully closed. The condominium sector recorded two properties entering the option period. In the townhome sector, two properties went into the option period and one closed.

While the pace may have slowed from the busy summer months, buyers are still actively making moves and properties are continuing to sell. The next several weeks will give us a better indication of how the market will transition into the fall season as families settle into their new routines and local buyers begin turning their attention back toward real estate.

Here are the latest Padre Island market statistics for a closer look at where our market

currently stands. Stay tuned for next week's Padre Island real estate update!

Detached Homes In Option Period:
-14106 Palo Seco Dr. (Listed for \$840,000)
-13909 Blackbeard Dr. (Listed for \$475,000)
-15002 Dasmariñas Dr. (Listed for \$425,000)
-13950 Ketch St. (Listed for \$400,000)
-15274 Caravel Dr. (Listed for \$295,000)

Detached Homes That Sold:
-15969 Punta Espada Loop (Listed for \$659,999)
-16101 Jessamine St. (Listed for \$599,000)
-14205 Sea Pines Dr. (Listed for \$460,000)
-14321 Goldfish St. (Listed for \$325,000)

Condominiums In Option Period:
-14300 Aloha St. Unit 138 (Listed for \$275,000)
-14721 Whitecap Blvd. Unit 265 (Listed for \$229,900)

Townhomes In Option Period:
-15314 Bonasse Ct. Unit A (Listed for \$395,000)
-14901 Windward Dr Unit 801 (Listed for \$365,000)

Townhome That Sold:
-14911 Village Beach Dr. (Listed for \$325,000)

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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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Corpus Christi, TX 78418

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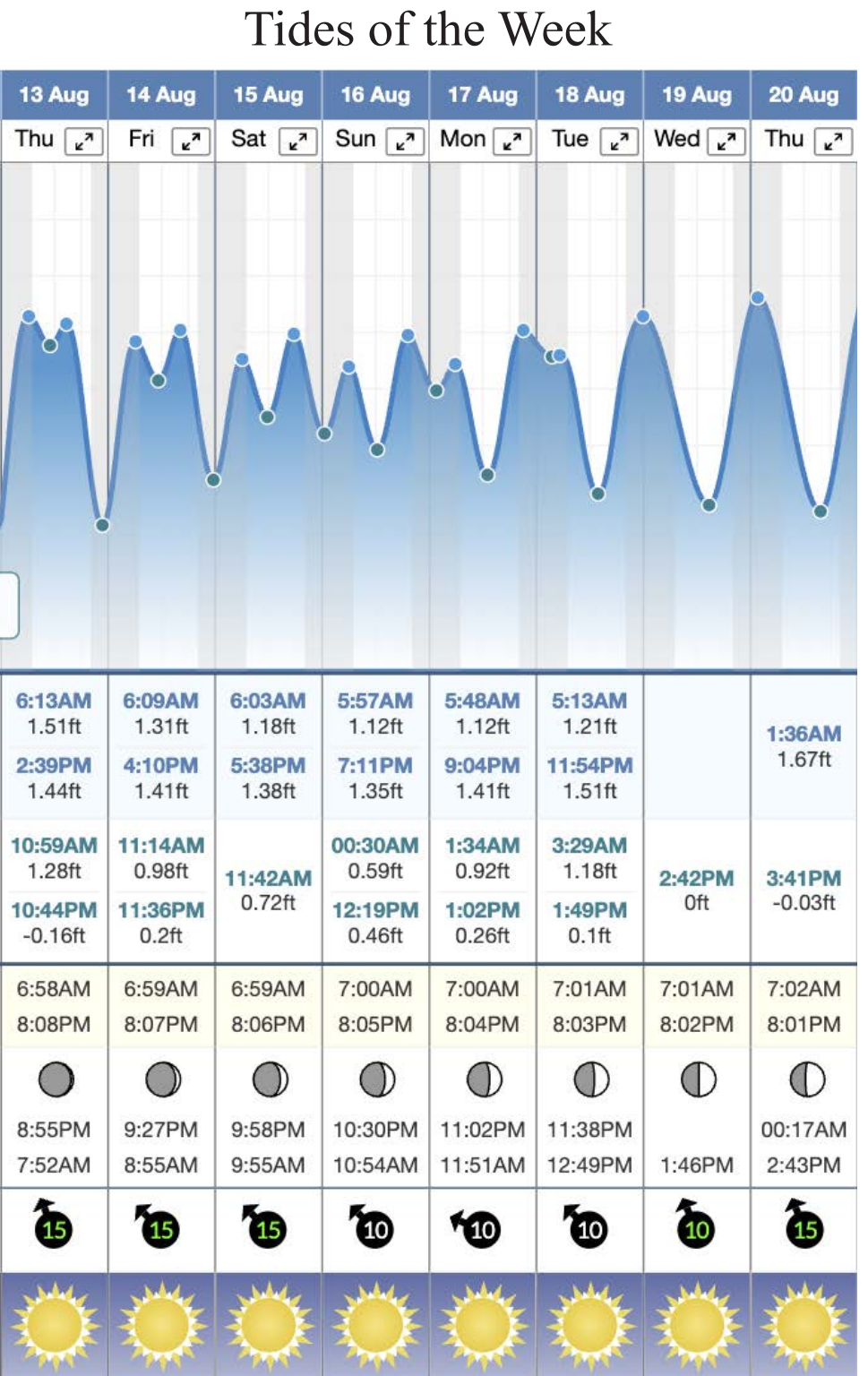
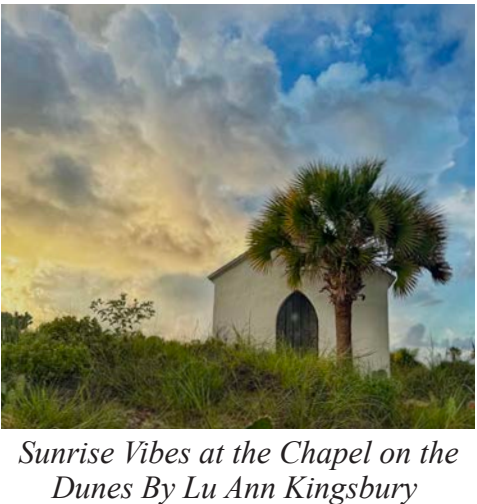
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Crossword Solution

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

Thoughts from Reverend Ken



By Rev. Dr. Ken

Understanding Revelation

We are in the middle of a sermon series on understanding Revelation. The series is offered at both the beach service and inside service. This week is a vision that involves the writer John being told to eat a scroll that contains God’s will and plan for overcoming the chaos and evil of the world to bring peace and justice.

When our oldest grandchild was a toddler, he spent a lot of time at our house. It had been many years since we had children that small and young in the house. So, our Black Lab Norton initially was quite nervous around this very active little human being named Bowen. Norton had survived teenagers, but now a toddler!

Very quickly Norton greatly anticipated Bowen’s arrival each day. It turns out Bowen was a never-ending source of food! It was all fun and laughter until the annual vet visit. Norton had gained an extra 30 pounds! Yet, Bowen never went lacking. He also gained weight. Maybe there is a lesson in that somewhere?

There is a peculiar story in the Bible about a time when a Canaanite woman approached Jesus asking for her daughter to be healed. In Jesus’ day Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) did not associate with each other. There was a clear division. The woman was a Gentile. Additionally, the story occurred in an area primarily comprised of Gentile inhabitants.

The followers of Jesus wanted Jesus to send her away from them. She persisted. He responded with a very enigmatic and unsettling response, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” Wow, not what you would expect from Jesus! She was not deterred, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Jesus called her faith great and healed her daughter.

At the end of the story, the unnamed woman became one of only two people praised by Jesus for having “great faith.” The other was a Roman Centurion, another outsider.

What made her faith great? Was it her persistence with God and against an authoritative and powerful male? Was it her understanding of Jesus’ identity? Was it her getting on her knees in humility? Was it her trust that even the crumbs of Jesus’ power would be sufficient? Maybe it was all these things.

Jesus’ encounter with this woman unsettles religious boundaries and calls into question the definition of who is in and who is out, who is accepted and who is not accepted. The story challenges an exclusionary understanding of God and God’s love.

Humans like to draw lines and boundaries to separate and protect. We like to designate who is us and who is them, to keep in and keep out. We seem to default to exclusion rather than inclusion. The other becomes threatening, invading and ruining our sacred way of life. We develop caricatures so that

we can dehumanize, condemn, and push aside in contempt, especially in these times of chaos, anxiety, upheaval and fear. This results in our own dehumanization.

The love of God given in the grace of Jesus Christ shatters our self-imposed chains of fear. The Bible teaches that God’s plan and will has always been to bring the rejected, the outsider, the broken, the hurting, the other, the sinner into the realm of life. The story of Jesus and the Canaanite woman was a precursor to the new day in which we are to live now. The love of God includes not excludes!

Our communities of faith are to be about crossing over and going past all the boundaries and barriers imposed on others and ourselves. There is abundant grace that is sufficient to share! The outsider does not need to eat the crumbs on the floor. The outsider is offered a place at the table. The outsider is a human being created in the image of God who has much to teach the insider.

The way of Jesus is our way. We don’t dig trenches of division; we build bridges. We don’t erect walls of separation; we tear them down. We don’t draw lines of division; we erase them.

Beach worship continues this Sunday, as we continue our sermon series, “Understanding Revelation.” 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.
pastor@islandpresby.com



Gene’s Corner



By Gene Saegert

21 Facts

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, “drink responsibly” means don’t spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new to, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
4. It’s the start of a brand new day, and I’m off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, “The other day,” I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
8. I had my patience tested. I’m negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn’t fit any of your containers.
10. If you’re sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, “Did you bring the money?”
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say “nothing,” it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded.

14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don’t know whose side I’m on.
15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, “Why, what did you hear?”
16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?
17. I don’t mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
18. When I ask for directions, please don’t use words like “east.”
19. Don’t bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring.
20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

Which one is YOUR favorite?



Why Crabs Scuttle Sideways

Nearly all animals with legs move mostly forward and backward to get around. But one marine creature tends to move a bit differently — crabs. Among more than 7,900 species of true crabs, which are those with four pairs of walking legs, a pair of claws and a tiny tail, the vast majority move sideways. A few other animals may move sideways, but true crabs are the only group where it’s the dominant form of locomotion. But what is especially unique about this adaptation is that it evolved just once, in a single ancestor about 200 million years ago.



A crab’s sideways movement is an adaptation that evolved from a common ancestor and helped crabs thrive in oceans around the world. Credit: NOAA Photo Library.

To understand how remarkable that is, it helps to remember that evolution is random and disorganized, even as it’s responding to what helps a creature survive and reproduce in a particular environment. Mutations are always happening during reproduction. Most of these minor changes to genes have little effect, so they don’t alter a species’ evolution. Every so often, however, a mutation gives an organism an advantage over its peers. When that kind of mutation gives a creature a big enough survival or mating benefit, that individual and its descendants, who also have the same mutated gene, are more successful. Over generations, the mutated gene and the new trait it created gradually become a dominant feature of the species. As new species evolve from the species with the beneficial gene, they too carry the trait created by that gene.

Researchers from Japan watched how 50 species of true crabs move, and they combined their observations with existing data on the evolutionary relationships of true crabs from 344 species’ genes. They learned that the sideways locomotion evolved just one time during the early Jurassic period in an early ancestor of crabs. It likely gave crabs quite an edge in survival, letting them more quickly and easily escape predators during the Jurassic’s rapid expansion of marine habitats. Sometimes, it seems, one really happy accident is all it takes to change the course of a critter’s history and its gait.



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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Wards lose house to fire...



Macky and Mathew Ward lost it all in a house fire last week.

Tragedy has occurred to two local brothers, **Mathew and Macky Ward's** one hundred year old house was destroyed by fire recently. The Wards are a well known family in Port A. Their grandfather, **Ted Ward** was the fishing guide of that Farley Boat that took that famous pic of **FDR** and the big tarpon he caught. Suffice it to say, the Wards and the Mathews are among our founding fathers. I recently talked to the brothers and their disaster is still fresh. They lost all of their five cats, all of the furniture and all of their personal belongings including their clothes and shoes. The brothers purchased this house in 1995. It was built in the late 20's and is honored by the state's official *Historical Marker*, which survived the fire. The good news is that the garage out back was unharmed with all of their (many) vehicles and their rolling tiki bar. Macky said they plan to rebuild on the same spot. There are fund raisers planned for after *Labor Day* and I'll keep you informed. Otherwise you can find the Ward bros sleeping in campers behind their once beautiful home.

On the local front...



Island Moon Live recorded their show at Shorty's last Thursday.

The *Island Moon Live* gang took their production on the road to Port Aransas last Thursday. It was a lot of fun. Led by queso grande **Dale Rankin** and his *Jack of all trades*, **Jacob Augs**, we set up shop inside the hallowed halls of *Shorty's* and had some noteworthy guests that included **Edwin Meyers** (owner of *Shorty's*), **Lee Harper** (manager at the *Sip Yard*), **Sally Palmer** (*Assistant Director at UTMSI*) and two local musicians, **Ty Dietz** and **Billy Snipes** who brought us up and took us down for commercial breaks. This panel covered a variety of topics including the tourism and local music scene in Port A. Also on the local front, we've received word that the great band **Born in November** will headline this year's *Pig Party* to be held on October 10th. Also on the bill will be our own **Dreaming in Color**. That'll be a goodern. Also beginning on August 21st we'll welcome the *TWATS* (*Texas Women Anglers Tournament*) back to town. This all female fishing tournament is a bonafied hoot, complete with rad costumes just made for photo ops.

Scattered shots...



Timothy Noel and the Smoking Guns played Bron's last Friday.

I made it around in my trusty golf cart last weekend and caught a bunch of good shows. The *Sip Yard* had the big show last Thursday when Texas icon **Gary P. Nunn** took us home to the Armadillo yet one more time. Looking back I counted

over 25 photos of different Gary P. shows I've taken since July, 2009 and he hasn't aged one bit and he sounded just like he does. Otherwise on Friday it was **Mantle Jennings** at *Shorty's* and the magnificent ten piece horn band, **Cruise Control** played the *Yard*. On Friday the **Groove 2.0** had it going on in a big way at *Treasure Island* (big crowd, everybody dancing), our Cajun buds **Boo and Poo** had the gals wiggling at the *Gaff* and the young countrified artist, **Timothy Noel** continued to impress us at *Bron's*. And on Saturday, the **Jam Band** also graced the *TI* stage with **Miss Edna** ripping it up, **Clayton Landau** gave us a really impressive sweet set at the *Yard* (he's very good) with **Billy Latham** and **Logan Tucker** opening and the always entertaining **Dreaming in Color** played *Bron's*. On Sunday a band I'm really starting to connect with, "**EJ**" **Eddie Alaniz** and **Red Feather** played the *Sip Yard*. That cat has a very interesting voice.

Coming this weekend...

Saddle up buttercups, tonight we ride. Coming this weekend to our little sandbar we have a lineup that's gonna keep you smiling. Starting with Thursday the 13th we have our regularly schedule show at *Shorty's* with the **Johnson All Starz** bluesing it up. And over at the *Sip Yard*, they got their Americana ON featuring **Clay Hollis** and **Nick Lawrence** who will also be on board all weekend. And coming this Friday the 14th, the man who put the ooose in blues, **Ruben V** will blow your little minds. Also on Friday the *Sip Yard* will have three acts for you; **Clay Hollis** and **Nick Lawrence** will be on the repeat and have added **Jon Wolfe** to the bill. Plus *Treasure Island* will have one of their steady Freddie's with the **Back Pew Revival** and *Bron's* will have **Revolution...**no idea. And coming the Saturday the 15th, watch for shows from looper **Darren McGill** at *Shorty's*, **Coach Big Jim Dugan** will play the *Gaff*, the cover rock band **National Nobodys** will play *Bron's* and the country band **Five Card Draw** will play *Treasure Island*. And on Sunday the 16th, *Shorty's* will have a couple of guys, **Jim Dugan** and **Ty Dietz**, who have played that residency for ten long years. And shocker, they'll be back this Sunday. And during the week we have the versatile **John Elijah Band** providing an impressive variety of genres including cool jazz, blues and swinging soul. He plays *Shorty's* every Monday and the *Gaff* every Tuesday behind the name **Los Locals**. And one of John's incantations will play the *City of Port Aransas Parks and Rec Department's* summer concert series, *Sunset Sounds* coming next Friday the 21st. I feel like I've raised that man from a pup. On Wednesday the 19th the *Gaff* will host their weekly *Open Jam* hosted by looper **Brad Ethridge**. I'm telling you, that man is everywhere and for good reason... he's totally professional and puts on a stellar show. Also on Wednesday **Orland Herrera** will play the *Sip Yard*.

On the horizon...



Tyler Jordan will play the Gaff this Friday the 14th.

And on the near horizon watch for shows from **Jerry Ward**, **Austin Forrest**, **Bo Luna**, **Darryl Lee Rush**, **The Palacios Brothers**, **Tate Mitchell**, **Splendiferous**, **Raul Ayala**, **Mario Flores**, **Left Right Left**, **Tyler Jordan** and **John Cortez**. That's it. Stay safe out there!

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Five Card Draw will play Treasure Island on Saturday.



The phenomenon known as Ruben V will be blowing the roof off Shorty's this Friday.



Jon Wolfe will play the Sip Yard this Friday.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday.

August 13

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's
Clay Hollis, Nick Lawrence @ Sip Yard
Philip Dean @ Gaff
Matt Rodd @ Trout Street
Rick Mendez solo @ Birdie Lounge
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Dave Martinez @ Rockit's
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster on the Island
Eros Garcia @ Brewster Downtown
Nathan Allen @ Brewster Southside
Orlando Herrera @ Fajitaville
Brian Zampini @ Anchor Bar
Randal Hunt @ Sandbox NPI
Michael Burtt @ Honey's Drive & Dive

Friday, August 14

Ruben V @ Shorty's
Revolution @ Bron's
Back Pew Revival @ Treasure Island
Jon Wolfe, Clay Hollis, Nick Lawrence @ Sip Yard
Young Klassics @ Pelican Lounge
Tryptonite @ Rockit's
Dreaming in Color @ Surf Club
Peter Salas @ Brewster on the Island
Spazmatics @ Brewster Downtown
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside
The Groove 2.0 @ South TX Icehouse
The Drive @ Tannin's
Love Street @ Annex
Lucky Dogz @ Sugar Shack RP

THE GAFF	
BELT SANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT OPEN MIC EVERY WED WITH BRAD E.	
STACY & KENN	AUG 13
TYLER JORDAN	AUG 14
JIM DUGAN	AUG 15
TATE MITCHELL, BRAD E.	AUG 16
LOS LOCALS	AUG 18
OPEN MIC	AUG 19

SHORTY'S	
JOHN ELIJAH BAND EVERY MONDAY JOHNSON ALL STARZ EVERY THURS JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN	
RUBEN V	AUG 14
DARREN MCGILL	AUG 15
JOHN CORTEZ	AUG 21
LEFT RIGHT LEFT	AUG 22

Treasure Island	
BACK PEW REVIVAL	AUG 14
FIVE CARD DRAW	AUG 15
SPLENDIFEROUS	AUG 22
RAUL AYALA	AUG 28
JONMIKAEL MREZ	AUG 29
MARIO FLORES	SEPT 4

Bron's BACKYARD	
THE REVOLUTION NATIONAL NOBODYZ AUSTIN FORREST PALACIOS BROS KAT & THE NAT 20'S TATE MITCHELL	
AUG 14	AUG 15
AUG 15	AUG 21
AUG 21	AUG 22
AUG 22	AUG 28
AUG 28	AUG 29

Sip Yard	
HOLLIS & LAWRENCE JON WOLFE, HOLLIS & LAWRENCE SCARECROW PEOPLE JERRY WARD DUO BO LUNA DARRYL LEE RUSH	
AUG 13	AUG 14
AUG 14	AUG 15
AUG 15	AUG 20
AUG 20	AUG 21
AUG 21	AUG 22

Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach
Marty J @ Anchor Bar
Jules Taylor @ Fajitaville
Palacios Bros @ Sandbox NPI
Headcase @ Whale Bone
Lucky Dogz @ Sugar Shack
Trisum @ Pier 99
Love Street @ Annex

Saturday, August 15

Darren McGill @ Shorty's
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Scarecrow People @ Sip Yard
National Nobodys @ Bron's
Five Card Draw @ Treasure Island
Cathouse @ Pelican Lounge
The Max @ Rockit's
Dreaming in Color @ South TX Ice House
Lady Kat & Mattman @ Surf Club
Departure ATX @ Brewster Downtown
Ally Catz @ Brewster Southside
Just Cuz @ Pier 99
Meza @ Brewster on the Island
Love Street @ Pauly's Beer Garden
Groove 2.0 @ Sugar Shack RP
Lucky Dogz @ Rock Bottom
Melissa Ann, Carl Hayes @ Anchor Bar
Rinkinkaya @ Sandbox NPI
TriSum @ Fajitaville
Phillip Dean @ Hideout 35
Jody Jennings @ Big Easy

Sunday, August 16

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Jam Council @ Executive Surf Club
US- Penny & Joe @ Pelican Lounge

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA

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THE GAFF

LIVE MUSIC
HOT PIZZA

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EVERY 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY

COLD BEER

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