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Backwater Adventures A7

Issue 1173

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The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

October 8, 2026

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Turtle hatchlings on the Alacranes Reef. Photo by Jace Tunnell



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



By Dale Rankin

The seasons of 2026 are rolling through as the days are getting noticeably shorter and just a little bit less hot as autumn takes over here on our little sandbar. The water still tastes a bit like the bottom of Lake Corpus Christi and makes coffee taste... well, like coffee with mud in it but it got better as the week wore on and we will survive.

The good news is that we have now slipped right through another hurricane season without playing Storm Chicken making it two years in a row and if the Weather Wonks are correct we will have our first Less Than Hot Front come easing in from OTB this weekend along with the rumor of water from the sky which always confuses Island Dogs.

It's a proven fact *Around the Island* that the first cool breeze of the season blows in the Winter Texans with the proof coming on Saturday afternoons at *The Gaff* in Port Aransas as the Winter Texans line up to watch the belt sanders run and the Port A Rockers get the band back together.

Beachcombing celebration



Jace Tunnell with his electric bike

Have you ever found something on the beach and wondered what exactly it is? Well, you can get an answer from Island Moon columnist and professional beach guru Jace Tunnell on Michael J. Ellis beach on Saturday, October 10. Jace will be on hand to answer questions and show off his collection of beach findings including his Scary Dolls! The event starts at 10 a.m. and parking is available at the seawall parking lot. You can't go wrong with a day at the beach!

Around cont. on A11

Challenge to city's authority to regulate Short-Term Rentals may impact Island Headed to City Council next week

By Dale Rankin

A challenge to the City of Corpus Christi's authority to regulate short-term rentals (STR) units could open the door for their operation on Padre Island.

Chris Munro, the operator of several STR houses on Ocean Drive who is currently under city

scrutiny after complaints from neighbors about crowds, noise, and parking filed a notice with the city this week that he plans to challenge the city's current STR ordinance under the terms of the Texas Property Code. That ordinance, among other items, prohibits STR units in neighborhoods on Padre Island zone RS-6 Residential while

allowing them in other areas and in multi-family dwellings.

At the heart of the issue is the legal definition of a "residential" use versus "commercial." Legal challenges to deed covenants in neighborhoods across Texas have centered around the claims that

STRs cont. on page A4

Bob Hall Pier and Briscoe King Pavilion work continues



Crews continue work on the Bob Hall Pier Restaurant, Pier concession building, and Briscoe King Pavilion, with completion dates for the Pier by Spring Break, and the Pavilion in 2027

Beachcombing Report

Returning to a Reef Transformed



Jace Tunnell pulling an old fishing net off the beach

Forty years ago, when I was just 12 years old, I camped with my family on Alacranes Reef, a remote group of islands and coral reefs off the coast of Mexico in the southern Gulf. Back then, it wasn't a national park, and fishing, collecting turtle eggs and queen conch, and even shark finning were taking place.

Last week, I returned to Alacranes, but this time as a researcher with the Harte Research

Beachcombing cont. on page A6

A little Island history

"Tin Can Tourists and Omissive Bathing Suits" one hundred years ago

Editor's note: Greg Smith is a descendent of the Dunn Ranching family.

By Greg Smith

As the United States entered the 1920's it was a time of tremendous change. The Great War had just ended; the Country found itself quite thirsty with prohibition starting and women had just been given the vote.



Cowboys working pens on Dunn Ranch.

History cont. on A5

By the numbers Contributions in City Council races

Editor's note: Political campaign reports in races for the Corpus Christi City Council and Mayor thirty days ahead of the November 3 election were filed this week. The following numbers come from those reports. The loans listed are self-funded by the candidates.

Fair Water Committee

(Political Action Committee)

\$61,750 Contributions

\$61,750 from "Corporation of Labor" organizations

\$43,023 Expenditures

Mayor

David Ainsworth

\$32,771 Contributions

\$46,676 Expenditures

\$30,000 outstanding loans

Paulette Guajardo

\$103,450 Contributions

\$50,743 Expenditures

\$59,050 outstanding loans

Dave Heasley

\$3680 Contributions

\$2654 Expenditures

\$1025 Maintained in account

Races cont. on page A5

By the numbers Island tourism

Who is visiting? Where do they come from? Island rates 40% higher than city average

Editor's note: the following numbers were presented to the Island Strategic Action Committee at their meeting this week by Brook Kaufman, President & CEO of Visit Corpus Christi.

Summer of 2026 on Padre Island

73.8% vacation rental occupancy (July)

\$476 average nightly rate for overnight stay (Up from \$435 in 2025)

40% (\$129) higher overnight stay cost on Padre Island over city average

6.3% Hotel revenue on Padre Island increase over 2025 (year to date)

40% (\$180) hotel rates on Padre Island over citywide average

31% of Island visitor come from San Antonio area

14.5% Island visitors come from Houston area

9.5% Island visitors come from Austin

5.4% Come from 50 miles or less

75% travel from 50-249 miles

86.8% of visitors spend at least one night

1.6 days average stay

Bob Hall Road Construction



Construction on the road from Billy Sandifer Way to Bob Hall Pier previously scheduled for September has still not begun. The work has been delayed to prevent damage from heavy equipment during construction on Bob Hall Pier, and will begin by the end of the year.

Important Election Dates

Friday, October 23rd:
Last day to Apply for Mail Ballot
(Ballot must be received by then)
Monday, October 19th:
First day of Early Voting
Friday, October 30th:
Last day of Early Voting
Tuesday, November 3rd:
Election Day
Voting locations
Island Presbyterian Church
14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
Ethel Eyerly Senior
Center 654 Graham Rd. Flour Bluff
Port Aransas Community Center
408 N Alister St, Port Aransas

Wounded Warrior Weekend 2026



By Kathy Hutto

In honor of the men and women who have served our country, the 10th Annual Wounded Warriors Weekend was held at Surfside Condominiums, 15005 Windward Dr. on September 25-27, 2026. Led by Surfside owners, Linda & Skeet Lindsey (Retired Lt. Colonel), twenty Wounded Warriors were welcomed along with 86 of their family members. Their accommodations and all meals were provided from Friday evening through Sunday morning. To ensure they had a memorable weekend, they enjoyed surfing lessons from Waves of Impact, a sandcastle-building demonstration and hours of fun on the beach and in the pool in Surfside's lovely courtyard.

Complimentary golf carts were also provided for each family. To ensure each couple had some "alone time" during this special weekend, volunteers babysat the little ones

on Saturday afternoon. In addition, the wives were saluted for standing by their spouses before, during and after their service. Everyone was treated to a presentation of the colors by members of the West Oso High School ROTC and the Knights of Columbus Color Guard from the Diocese of Corpus Christi. Saturday night's activities concluded with a beach bonfire, making s'mores, and singing around the campfire.

As one participant said, "Our family really needed the gift of this weekend." Thanks go to the owners at Surfside who donated their condos, financially supported the weekend and gave of their time to make it a great weekend. Special thanks go to the sponsors of this weekend including Life in Paradise, Industrial Piping, Cornerstone Caregiving, Ron's Wieners, as well as several small business owners and residents on the Island.



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- COASTAL BEND HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION
- & MANY MORE



Pol. Adv. paid for by the Dan Herrington Campaign; Dan Suckley, Treasurer

Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.

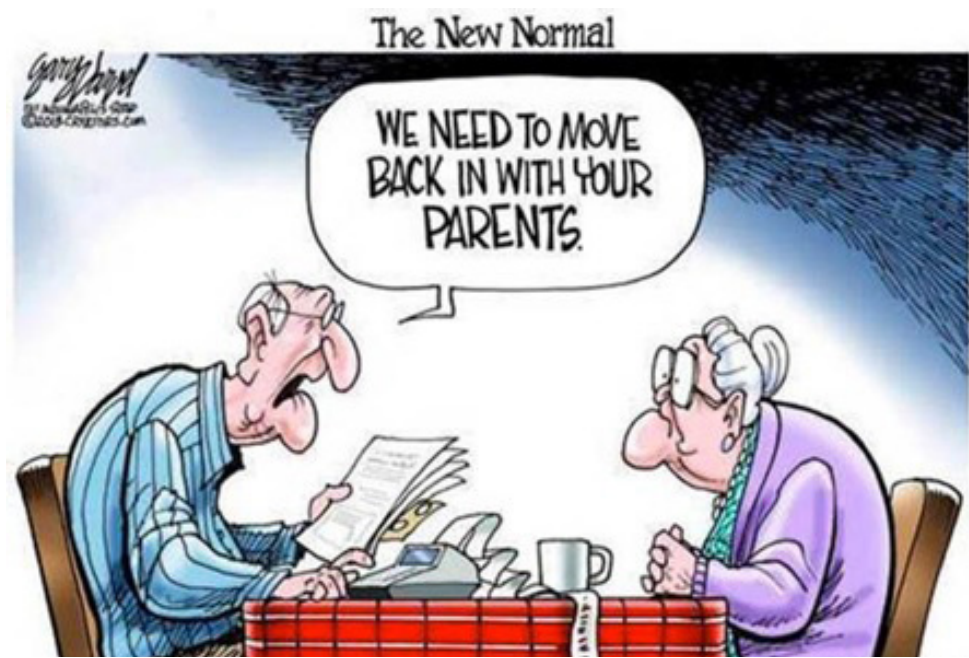


Monster size redfish

For anglers who are looking to catch and release some monster size bull reds, and this is the time of the year, go about one-half mile down the Intracoastal Canal from Snoopy's Pier and anchor up on the west side of the canal in the shallow water. If the water is clear you will see the reds coming from the shallow water and going into the canal since they are migrating toward the gulf. Use a big silver spoon since you will be able to cast it farther. But if the water is not clear you will have to start float fishing toward the west if the wind is out of the south.

If the wind is from the north, go west about 100 yards and start drifting southward. Using lures that are designed for catching reds or live shrimp or small pin perch of small croakers, using a cork set real shallow. If you catch one near the canal and it gets into the canal you are going to have a real fight on your hands because they might weigh as much as up to 25 to 35 pounds. Also when you are anchored out you can use the filet of one mullet and just cast it out into the shallow water and let it set with a very small lead weight if needed for casting. Most of the reds will already be in the gulf after the second good cold front moves in and it starts getting colder. Don't forget the camera so that you will have proof to show your grandkids.

Bobbie Kimbrell
(Editor's note: Mr. Kimbrell was a commercial fisherman in Flour Bluff for five decades until his retirement.)



DESALINATION

I understand the City of Corpus Christi has a 21 million dollar entertainment venue about to begin. How can our city justify that when for years it has been obvious that we have a critical fresh water shortage which is only getting worse with the increasing temperatures. Haven't our leaders noticed the lack of storms entering the Gulf? These storms from the east, that we have been getting for many years and which have provided so much rain for us have all but stopped! That will only get worse with the rising water temperatures which cause the storms to rise further east in the gulf thereby entering the eastward moving jet stream (always at our latitude/longitude), earlier before they even enter the gulf. Then turn east and dissipate. It's called Coriolis Effect and has to do with the rotation of the earth which of course we will never control.

So politicians, please quit putting vote popular items ahead of what our City really NEEDS - Desalination!

We are already way behind on this needed water source.

Craig J Wooldridge.

KRIS 6 News in Corpus Christi win 2026 Spirit of FOI Awards

(Editor's note: This letter has been edited for brevity)

A series by KRIS 6 News on questionable land deals and tax incentives involving the Corpus Christi Housing Authority have won this year's Spirit of FOI Awards.

KRIS 6 News won in the Class A category for markets under 500,000.

The Nancy Monson Spirit of FOI Awards, presented by the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, go to news organizations that use or highlight open government laws and uphold First Amendment rights in producing outstanding journalism. The awards were presented at the FOI Foundation's state conference in Austin.

KRIS 6 News' "deep reporting and tireless follow-ups helped unearth a scandal involving dubious land deals and generous tax incentives. The backbone of that stellar reporting: public records," the judge in the contest said.

KVIA-TV in El Paso received an honorable mention for unearthing a hazing and inappropriate physical misconduct scandal involving a local high school football team. The Nancy Monson Spirit of FOI Award is named for the FOI Foundation's first executive director. The contest is open to Texas newspaper, broadcast and online journalism outlets. Founded in 1978, the nonprofit FOI Foundation promotes open government and protects the First Amendment rights of free speech and free press.

Kelley Shannon
Executive Director, FOI Foundation of Texas

Why Me?

I came to the TLO position after serving five years on the Nueces County Appraisal Review Board, where I participated in and presided over many property-tax hearings. Before that - and during much of that time - I spent my professional life practicing law. Those experiences taught me something fairly simple: people are much more likely to accept a process, even when they do not like the result, if they believe they were heard and if somebody can explain what happened. That does not mean agreeing with every complaint. It means listening carefully enough to determine what the complaint actually is.

When Should You Call?

If your question is about your appraisal, your protest, an ARB procedure, a complaint about the process, or simply where to go next, the TLO may be a reasonable place to start. I cannot promise a taxpayer the answer he or she wants. I can promise to listen, explain the process, tell you what I can and cannot do, and, when the law gives the TLO a role, do what I can to ensure the process works the way it is supposed to.

Sometimes what a taxpayer needs most isn't another hearing or another government form. Sometimes the taxpayer just needs to know who to call.

That's one reason Texas has a Taxpayer Liaison Officer

Brian McCabe is the Taxpayer Liaison Officer for the Nueces Central Appraisal District and previously served five years on the Nueces County Appraisal Review Board. The opinions expressed are his own and are intended for general educational purposes. This article is not legal advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for the Texas Tax Code or professional legal counsel.

What is a Taxpayer Liaison Officer – And Why Should I Care?



By Brian McCabe
Most people who own property in Nueces County know there is an Appraisal District. Many have heard of the Appraisal Review Board, particularly if they have protested an appraisal.

Far fewer know that Texas law also provides for something called a Taxpayer Liaison Officer.

That's me.

So what exactly is a Taxpayer Liaison Officer? More importantly, if you are a property owner, why should you care?

A Different Job in the Property-Tax System

The Taxpayer Liaison Officer, usually shortened to TLO, is a position created by Texas law. The office is intended to give taxpayers access, information, and a place to raise certain concerns about the appraisal process and the Appraisal Review Board.

The easiest way to understand the TLO may be to begin with what the TLO is not.

I am not an appraiser. I do not determine the market value of your property. I do not set tax rates. I do not calculate your tax bill. I am not a member of the Appraisal Review Board, and I cannot overturn an ARB decision.

That matters because the Texas property-tax system assigns different responsibilities to different people and organizations. The appraisal district determines property values.

The ARB hears protests and certain other matters. Taxing units adopt tax rates. The TLO has a different job: helping taxpayers understand and navigate the process and addressing procedural concerns within the office's authority.

What Does the TLO Actually Do?

Texas law gives the TLO several public-access and taxpayer-assistance responsibilities. The office helps provide information about the appraisal and protest process, receives and tracks certain complaints, deals with comments and suggestions concerning hearing procedures and the fairness and efficiency of the ARB, and reports those matters as required to the appraisal district's Board of Directors.

The TLO also has responsibilities involving public access to the Board and accessibility for people who do not speak English or who have disabilities.

Another part of the job is helping with disputes that are not themselves protests over the appraised value of property. Depending on the circumstances, that may mean directing a taxpayer to the right information or person, meeting with the people involved to try to facilitate an informal resolution, treating a matter as a procedural complaint, or recommending an appropriate course of action.

The point is not that the TLO has unlimited authority. The point is that there is a designated person whose job includes listening when a taxpayer believes something about the process has gone wrong.

What Can I Do - And What Can't I Do? This is probably the most important distinction.

Suppose you receive an appraisal notice saying your home is worth \$500,000 and you believe it is worth \$425,000. That is an appraisal dispute. The normal remedy is a timely protest and, if necessary, a hearing before the Appraisal Review Board. The TLO cannot simply change the value for you. The same is true after an ARB decision. The TLO is not a second ARB and cannot rehear the case simply because a property owner disagrees with the result.

But suppose your concern is different. You do not understand what happened. You believe you were not given a fair opportunity to present your evidence. You cannot figure out whom to contact. You have a complaint about a procedure rather than the value itself. Or you simply need someone to explain where you are in the process and what happens next.

Those are the kinds of situations in which contacting the TLO may make sense. Sometimes I can help resolve the problem. Sometimes I can identify the person who can. Sometimes the answer is simply an explanation of what the law permits and what it does not. And sometimes I have to tell a taxpayer that the TLO does not have the authority to provide the remedy being requested. That last answer may not be satisfying, but it is part of the job too.

Why Have a TLO?

Property taxation is complicated

Most homeowners deal with the appraisal district only occasionally. The people who work in the system deal with it every day. That creates an obvious information gap. A taxpayer may receive a notice containing unfamiliar terminology, face a deadline he did not know existed, attend an informal meeting for the first time, or walk into an ARB hearing without really understanding who does what.

The TLO cannot eliminate those complexities. But the office can give taxpayers a place to ask questions and, when appropriate, raise concerns about how the process operated. That is particularly important because fairness in property taxation is not simply a question of whether a taxpayer wins or loses. A fair process means the taxpayer knows what is happening, has reasonable access to the system, has an opportunity to present a case when the law provides one, and understands where to go when there is a procedural problem.

Moon Monkeys



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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

STRs cont. from page 1

because homeowners renting for overnight stay are leasing for residential use STR do not meet the definition of commercial use and further that they are not commercial because there is no point of purchase at the home. Those claims have been upheld by courts due to a lack of specific language regarding STR operations.

Opponents of the STR units on Ocean Drive have countered by pointing out to city officials that STR operators must pay the city and state Hotel Occupancy Tax, indicating that they are operating as a business in residential neighborhoods, and further, that they are governed differently than residential property under federal tax codes which considers them commercial.

Neighbors in the Ocean Drive neighborhood have requested that the city rework its four year-old STR ordinance to close gaps in regulations prompting the appointment of an advisory committee which has met several times in recent weeks. The city council agenda for Tuesday, October 13, includes a briefing on the threat of legal action by Monro with discussion in open session and in Executive Session to determine the city’s reaction.

STR accounts for about 20% of the overnight stay revenue in Corpus Christi according to figures from Visit Corpus Christi, currently is solely regulated by the city. The 2022 city STR ordinance which includes a carve out for Padre Island which prohibits their operation in island residential neighborhoods zoned RS-6 residential. It is the only area of the city where STR are prohibited outright. In the remainder of the city 15% of the homes on any given block are allowed to register with the city and operate as overnight stay accommodations.

A recurring problem with the current ordinance is its allowance for STR owners to “self-determine” the occupancy of their units resulting in parking problems in neighborhoods. It does not regulate the number of vehicles allowed per STR unit and the number of cars parked legally on city streets is not regulated. Further, when the city ordinance was adopted in 2022 it included a provision for a 24-hour call center to field complaints regarding STR units with the owners having one hour after notification to cure the problem or face a \$500 fine. That hotline was shut down in 2025 resulting in calls being routed to Corpus Christi Police through the 911 system. As a matter of routine police officers do not enforce city ordinances with that authority resting with Code Compliance officers which do not receive notice of the complaints through the 911 system.

State action

The issue of how to regulate STR units across the state could come under consideration in the session of the Texas Legislature which convenes in January. Currently the STR industry in Texas is regulated solely by cities leading to confusion in metropolitan areas such as San Antonio which includes more than 25 separate home rule cities creating a hodgepodge of STR regulations. However, Todd Hunter, Texas House of Representative for District 32 which includes Padre Island said so far no STR related bills have been filed.

“There has not been any discussion of it yet,” Hunter said this week. “But I will be watching it. The Island will be protected.”

If the state removes the authority of cities to regulate STR the last obstacle to their operation on Padre Island would be through the deed covenants in each of the 30 subdivisions which would be subject to legal review if challenged.

Island deed covenants

The covenants for each of the island subdivisions, written well before the beginning of the STR industry, are similar with wording which reads: *“all lots in said subdivision shall be used for single family dwellings, and for no other purpose...No commercial, trade or business activity of any nature shall be carried on upon any lot, nor shall anything be done thereon which may be or become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood.”*

George Reed, President of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association said this week he has asked the organization’s attorney to provide language to insert into deed covenants in island neighborhoods that would tighten the current language to specifically prohibit the operation of STR. For the change in that language to take effect it would have to be approved by 51% of the homeowners in each of the 30 distinct neighborhoods, it could not be done universally. One possibility would be to include the language to be inserted into each of the set of covenants on the annual PIPOA election in March, however, the number of voters in those elections does not usually rise to the level of 51% of the approximately 5000 members of the organization, meaning that even if the new language was approved by members in March a door to door campaign would be needed to get to the 51% threshold in each subdivision.

Texas Property Code

The language at the heart of a potential challenge to the city’s regulatory authority is found in the Texas Property Code – Section 92.152. which states:

- (a) *This subchapter does not apply to:*
- (1) *a room in a hotel, motel, or inn or to similar transient housing;*
 - (b) *Except as provided by Subsection (a), a dwelling to which this subchapter applies includes:*
 - (1) *a room in a dormitory or rooming house;*
 - (2) *a mobile home;*
 - (3) *a single family house, duplex, or triplex; and*
 - (4) *a living unit in an apartment, condominium, cooperative, or townhome project.*

That language has not been challenged in court and how it would apply to the city’s STR ordinance would be the subject of any future legal action seeking to strike it down, with Corpus Christi being the first legal challenge in the state under that portion of the Texas Property Code.

Before this week the Corpus Christi City Council was set to review the STR ordinance for possible changes in mid-November. Whether that timeline will be met is unknown given the threat of legal action this week.

The Port A Cookbook



By Chris Jordan

The Good Kind

October arrived right on time this year. Well, you know what I mean. It’s cooler, the water is clearing up, we’ve got a nice breeze out of the northeast, and we’re basking in that respite between summer tourists and snowbirds. That’s right, I said snowbirds. Whoever promulgated the notion that snowbird is derogatory was probably annoyed and snarled when they said it. It’s definitely derogatory if you’re annoyed and snarling when you use it, but other than that, it’s just fine.

I was in Shorty’s Place Monday afternoon and it was a real joy. The bar was full. The tables were full. There were people energetically playing pool. But get this: every single one of ‘em was a local I knew by name. How ‘bout that? That’ll change this weekend, though. It’s time for The Pig Party at Shorty’s Place. Yep, this Saturday, the music starts at 1 PM and they aim to serve BBQ at 5 PM, but take note: I said “aim.” This shindig has been happening since 1983 and for some time it was also an informal bike rally, but that scene tapered off a couple of decades ago and I haven’t seen any bikers to speak of at a Pig Party since. Ms. Rose used to have the joint covered up with porcine knickknacks, collectibles, trinkets, ornaments, bric-a-brac, tchotchkes, baubles, curios, novelties, doodads, doohickeys, whatnots, gewgaws, gimcracks, bibelots, and other assorted pig paraphernalia. Sadly, there are only a few left due to some pesky pig-pilferers.

October brings the fests, and Texans do love a fest. Give us the first hint of cool weather and we’ll string up some lights, roll out a few beer trailers, hire a band and start cooking meat.

Of course, the granddaddy of the German-flavored versions around here is Wurstfest up in New Braunfels. It doesn’t actually happen until November, but close enough. I grew up in New Braunfels and went to plenty of Wurstfests back when it was still a relatively intimate affair, and one of the things I remember best is the Wursthalle itself. It’s a magnificent old mill building, originally part of the Landa cottonseed-oil mill operation, and it has exactly the kind of cavernous, slightly rough-around-the-edges grandeur a proper sausage-and-beer festival ought to have. In fact, an old industrial building seems like a perfectly natural place for Germans to gather, given that their musical tastes somehow manage to encompass oom-pah, krautrock, and industrial music.

Wurstfest started in 1961 as a one-day sausage fest — but the good kind — which strikes me as an entirely sensible reason to organize a civic celebration. There are worse things around which to build a community than sausage.

And really, sausage may be one of mankind’s more admirable inventions. Somebody looked at all the odd bits left over after butchering a pig and said, “I can fix this: let’s put it back together.” Grind it up, season it, stuff it in yet another pig part, smoke the mess, and suddenly that mess has become the thing everybody wants.

That is cooking in its purest form: taking what you have and making it better. It’s also pretty much the history of half the great foods on earth.

Not too long after I’d arrived at Shorty’s Place Monday, I texted my pal Tom to join me. I was sitting at the end of the bar per uzsh and had a heretofore unobserved view out the window at the other end of the bar. Tom texted me back right away: “Look straight ahead.” I did, and there he was, seated at the bench just outside that window. He joined me at the bar and we had plenty of laughs like we always do. Most of y’all prolly know Tom, though maybe as Tom-Tom. He has worked at The Phoenix for well over a decade. Tom and I first met in Saint Croix and I am responsible for bringing him to Port Aransas. He might have ended up resenting me for it, except there’s even MORE drinking in Saint Croix.

Tom is Lao, and it may come as some surprise to you that his heritage is where all this sausage talk has been headed. I’ve written about Sai Oua Moo before, but it bears revisiting because it is a spectacular sausage and because, as it turns out, it has a pretty good story. Tom introduced me to it years ago by bringing some back from a Lao sausage factory in Dallas. I was immediately smitten.

The name itself is admirably free of pretense. Sai means intestine, oua means stuffed, and moo means pork, so Sai Oua Moo pretty much means “pork-stuffed intestine.” Which, now that I think about it, brings us right back to putting the pig back together.

Sai Oua belongs to the food traditions of Laos and northern Thailand, but the Lao pork version has an unusually interesting paper trail. Chaleunsilp Phia Sing, born in Luang Prabang around 1898, was chef, physician, and Master of Ceremonies at the Royal Palace there. This was apparently a man who did not believe in specialization; he was also an architect, choreographer, sculptor, painter, and poet. More importantly for our purposes, he knew how to make sausage.

Shortly before his death in 1967, Phia Sing wrote down the recipes of the royal kitchen in two notebooks. Those notebooks eventually came into the hands of Alan Davidson, then the British ambassador in Laos and later one of the great food writers of the twentieth century. Davidson borrowed them from the Lao crown prince in 1974, had them translated, and in 1981 they were published as Traditional Recipes of Laos. Among the 124 recipes is Sai Ua Moo.

So this is not some newly fashionable restaurant concoction somebody dreamed up after discovering lemongrass. People were eating this stuff at the royal palace in Luang Prabang in the fourteenth century, and fortunately somebody finally had the good sense to write it down.

Tom and I did not attempt to reproduce Phia Sing’s royal recipe. Nor did we have the recipe from the Lao sausage factory whose sausage started all this for me. We did what we always do: we ate it, talked about it, and then made our own.

And after a fair amount of fooling with it, we ended up with a Sai Oua Moo that belongs to the two of us. And now it belongs to y’all as well.

Look for the full recipe on the Island Moon Facebook page!



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History cont. from A1

That newfangled form of mobility, the automobile, was sweeping across the country. From a total of 500,000 registered cars in the United States in 1910, that number of cars zoomed to 20 million by 1927. In Florida a great land boom was taking place with speculators sometimes doubling their money in a matter of months. In the Rio Grande Valley city populations were doubling in a decade as the railroads opened up The Valley to those seeking warm weather, good soil and affordable land. Point Isabel was developing a reputation as a sport fishing hot spot and vacation town.

Dunn Ranch

On the Dunn Ranch on Padre Island it was business as usual, the herd was recovering from the 1916 and 1919 storms. Patrick Dunn (Don Patricio) who turned sixty in 1918 was still active along the ranch, although he was enjoying time with his seven young grandchildren staying active in Nueces County and State politics.

Patrick never thought much of the lower part of the Island. The grass was sparse, the Island narrow and what grass there was lacked strength. Land titles were iffy with two sets of folks claiming ownership. Patrick never bought the lower twenty miles of Padre, it was owned by Captain King’s widow Henrietta King.

The Island as resort property

As the nineteen twenties roared on, interests in The Valley looked to Padre, not as a ranch but as another Miami. While there was no shortage of cars there were roads (The Texas Highway Department was just two years old). Not only would Padre become a tourist Mecca it could also serve as a highway to the Coastal Bend. For this dream, rancher Pat Dunn stood in the way. Valley interests working with Cameron County pushed the idea of the County condemning the beach for a road. When Pat caught wind of this in 1925 he penned a note to his friend and fellow rancher John Kennedy of his concerns, “The beach is the

only part of the Island that has any value, they seek to condemn a drive way along the Gulf beach that belongs to me If they make a drive along that Beach they will destroy my land as a cattle ranch and render it absolutely worthless for any purpose, which would mean utter ruin for me.” With the prospect of having the beach condemned Patrick put the Island into the play of land promoters.

Hotdog stands tin can tourists and omissive bathing suits

The first bite was by a New York group, with the following announcement; “Pat Dunn’s Padre Island, Texas ’last real frontier, where romance and reality will hold hands just a few months longer, is to be introduced to the hot dog stand, the tin can tourist and the omissive bathing suit, if plans of former Senator John Hastings of New York and his group of Eastern associates are carried out. Padre now is to become one of the biggest watering places in the nation. Yacht basins are to be scooped out at each end. Two causeways will connect it with the mainland to admit streams of restless tourists. Its 90 miles of golden-sanded beach is to be put in competition with Miami and the other watering places on the Eastern seaboard. Sections of the Island are to be turned over to residential buildings. Highways will be laid out in the sand and they will be flecked with tourist camps and hot dog stands and filling stations. Backing up all of this will be a gigantic program of national advertising.” Unfortunately for the fast talking youthful ex-Senator from New York the Florida land bubble had just burst and along with it the “Eastern Syndicate”. Next to make an offer was Col. Sam Robertson of San Benito. Col. Robertson was a railroad engineer, builder and ex- Sheriff of Cameron County. What the Syndicate lacked and Col. Robertson had was money. The Island was about to change forever. (To be continued)



Dunn pens with house that is still standing.

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How the Harte Research Institute’s Early Warning Network Is the Coastal Bend’s First Line of Defense Against Red Tide

As reports of red tide continue to affect portions of the Galveston coastline, researchers at the Harte Research Institute (HRI) are proactively monitoring Texas waters through an advanced early warning network of Imaging FlowCytobots (IFCBs) designed to detect red tide and other harmful algal blooms in real time, before they become visible. This early warning is critical to protect beachgoers, communities, and coastal industries along the Texas coast.

“Many times, the presence of red tide isn’t known until people start seeing dead fish or experience respiratory irritation along the beach,” said Michael Wetz, Ph.D., Chair for Coastal Water Health at HRI. “What makes our monitoring network different is that it serves as a first line of defense, helping us detect the presence of red tide early and giving communities more time to prepare.”

Karenia brevis is the microscopic algae responsible for red tide in the Gulf. Under the right environmental conditions, Karenia brevis can multiply rapidly and produce toxins that harm marine life and can cause respiratory irritation in people. The toxins can also accumulate in shellfish, creating risks for seafood harvesters and consumers.

Red tide events on the Texas coast are often patchy and constantly changing. Wind, currents, and tides can quickly move blooms from one area to another, making continuous monitoring critical. For example, a bloom is currently affecting parts of the Galveston area. However, an IFCB operated by HRI at Port O’Connor has detected only low abundances of the algae.

“Right now, there is no immediate concern for the Coastal Bend,” Dr. Laura Beecraft, Associate Research Scientist for Coastal

Water Health at HRI. “However, red tide blooms can move with changing currents, which is why having an instrument positioned between our region and affected areas is so important. If conditions change, we have a much better chance of detecting it early.”

Researchers say several factors influence how long a bloom may persist. Red tide typically thrives at water temperatures above roughly 75 degrees Fahrenheit and in water with a salinity similar to seawater. Cooler water temperatures, strong mixing from cold fronts, and significant freshwater inflows from heavy rain or storms can help disrupt blooms.

The monitoring network is expanding through strategic partnerships across the Texas coast. In addition to the Port O’Connor site, new instruments are being deployed through collaborations with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at facilities in Flour Bluff and Rockport, as well as the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi.

This work is made possible through current funding support from the Texas OneGulf Center of Excellence and the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, as well as past support from the Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust and IPointFive, along with the many partner organizations that host and help maintain monitoring stations.

Together, these partnerships are helping to create a proactive coastal monitoring system that can provide earlier alerts, support public health decisions, protect fisheries, and help communities stay informed when harmful algal blooms threaten Texas waters.

Races cont. from A1

<u>Gil Hernandez</u>	<u>Mark Scott</u>
\$18,350 Contributions	\$60,550 Contributions
\$5318 Expenditures	\$5859 Expenditures
\$0 Loans	\$58,978 Maintained in account
\$34,877 Maintained in account	\$0 Loans
<u>Kaylynn Paxson</u>	<u>Carolyn Vaughn</u>
No report on record with city for this period	\$4500 Contributions
<u>At-Large</u>	\$13,048 Expenditures
<u>Scott Corliss</u>	\$24,680 Loans
\$39,125 Contributions	\$4500 maintained in account
\$50,371 expenditures	
\$39,125 Maintained in account	
\$28,000 outstanding loans	
<u>May Mendoza</u>	
\$7500 Contributions	
\$2812 Expenditures	
\$0 Loans	
\$3887 Maintained in account	
<u>Michael Miller</u>	
\$24,737 Contributions	
\$13,162 Expenditures	
\$9977 Maintained in account	
\$0 Loans	

<u>District 4</u>
<u>Dan Herrington</u>
\$17,745 Contributions
\$17,378 Expenditures
\$0 Loans
\$27,612 Maintained in account
<u>Kristina Nelson</u>
\$5043 Contributions
\$6415 Expenditures
\$4600 loans
\$2127 Maintained in account

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Nature Notes

The Conservation Conversation

Wilson’s Plovers and Least Terns arrive for the season



Two Wilson’s Plover chicks being banded by Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
Photo by Morgan Barnes

By Caleb Clarkson

One of the most satisfying things I’ve experienced during my few years in conservation is seeing a breeding season through from beginning to end. As the first Wilson’s Plovers and Least Terns arrive for the season, the opening pages of a six-month saga begin to unfold. Staking out territory, finding a mate, building a nest, laying eggs, and withstanding the outlandish whims of Texas weather on the Gulf Coast isn’t even the half of it. And sometimes, I immaturely think, “...and for what?”

Then the eggs hatch, and downy chicks scatter across the sunbaked sand. They stress out their parents, who do their best to protect them from the dangers that chicks haven’t the faintest clue about, until the adults are literally panting in the Texas heat. And sometimes, again, I pessimistically think, “what a hassle!”

Not all of the chicks survive, no matter how hard their parents try. But as the Texas heat slowly loosens its grip, the chicks that do survive can fly, find food on their own, and eventually migrate. And they do. Still immaturely, I wonder, “what comes next?!”

Then, when the breeding season comes again the following year, they return to do it all over again, sometimes alongside the chicks from the year before, now fully grown and taking on the role of parents themselves. That is how it has been for countless seasons in the past and, hopefully, how it will remain for countless seasons to come. As with so many things in the natural world, nothing is guaranteed.

And before I know it, I’ve seen the what for and why the hassle. I shouldn’t attribute the human ideal of a life purpose to creatures that are not human, but if we had to identify the closest thing to a “purpose,” it could be found in the theory of evolution. Evolution doesn’t reward happiness or fulfillment. What matters, biologically, is what manages to continue. Pacific salmon that die after completing their journey upstream and spawning might seem unfortunate to us, but from the perspective of natural selection, the important part is that enough offspring survive to carry the process forward. Suddenly, the immense effort required to deliver

those eggs safely upstream, exhausting the parent to death in the process, pays off, because something comes after.

Humans sit in a unique position. We have altered ecosystems across the planet on a scale that few other species have. And no other species has developed the same ability to record what happened, pass that knowledge across generations, and build on it over time. Unlike evolution, most humans care about more than simply passing on their genetics. Much of conservation is the continuation of care put forth by the people who came before us, long before conservation even had a name. The earliest conservationists did not begin with nothing.

Understanding the full scope of biological systems takes years, decades, even centuries. Many conservationists begin projects they know will continue long after they are gone. A life’s work in conservation rarely solves every problem afflicting the thing it was devoted to protecting. But that work does not disappear when the person does. The knowledge and determination remain, making whoever picks up where they left off that much more likely to succeed.

The work of a conservationist very rarely belongs to them alone. Weathered and yellowed waterproof journals are left behind, along with Excel sheets that keep growing and growing. Hard-learned lessons from frequent failures are inherited and passed on with new experiences. There is no guarantee that

conservationists will succeed, or that the things they fight for will survive. Conservation does not guarantee us a happy ending, and rarely does it ever finish a story. More often than not, conservation requires collaboration not just across regions and groups, but across time. Those in the present add their pages to an ongoing saga that began long before them and will, hopefully, continue long after.

Like the Wilson’s Plovers and Least Terns, perhaps the “what-fors?” and “hassles” of conservation are answered by one strangely comforting question: “What comes next?”

Beachcombing Report

Beachcombing cont. from A1

Institute at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. Eight HRI researchers joined 10 Mexican researchers from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), creating a truly binational team working together to better understand this remarkable marine ecosystem.

Three HRI research teams focused on different aspects of the reef. The Coral Lab documented coral communities, examined

bleaching and collected samples for laboratory analysis. The Bird Lab used drones to accurately count nesting seabirds, including masked boobies and frigatebirds. My work focused on documenting marine debris and plastic pollution through Nurdle Patrol surveys. I also filmed a 10-part Beachcombing video series that will be released later this year.



Lemon sharks swarm the shallow water



Masked boobies nesting in Alacranes

Update on Flour Bluff ISD projects



Current progress on stadium construction

Editor’s note: Flour Bluff ISD this week released the following update on projects funded by the 2025 \$190 million bond package.

Demolition Begins at ECC to Make Way for New Classrooms

On October 1, the Flour Bluff ISD Board of Trustees approved demolition at the Early Childhood Center to make way for new classrooms, a new library, and a new gym for the district’s youngest learners. Weaver & Jacobs Constructors will handle the project. The annex buildings being removed were built in the 1950s and have served the district well for more than 70 years.

Wetlands Outdoor Classroom Design Taking Shape

The FBISD Wetlands Project has reached the 60% design phase, with LJA Engineering leading the design enhancements of the more than 75 acres of wetlands. This will provide Hornet students with hands-on learning opportunities while preserving a valuable piece of the Texas coast for future generations.

Courtyard Renovation to Expand Cafeteria Capacity

The high school courtyard renovation is underway, thanks to the FBHS Community Boosters and student volunteers. Supported by Bond 2025 and led by Laguna Landscapes, the phased project will increase cafeteria capacity while giving students a hands-on role in the construction.

Hornet Stadium Renovation Construction is Underway

Crews are on site performing underground utility work and anchoring structural piers deep into the ground to provide the foundation and support for the stadium improvements. The work is currently taking place behind the visitors’ side of the stadium, allowing games, events, and practices to continue as scheduled

Save the Date:

State of the District November 10, 2026
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On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

Tuna Trips and Bird Migrations

We loaded the charter boat, the new *Pelican* in Port Aransas this past Saturday morning, stowed our stuff, and headed south after breaking the jetties before dawn. The Cali boys, Bobby and Jimmy, and Jam Master Scott and I had booked a 36-hour tuna trip to the “floaters” for some solid fishing, and some bonus pelagic birding along the way. The weather forecast was dicey at best, but the crew jumped on with high anticipation. It was an 8-hour run out to Perdido, and we got some well needed rest in the bunks on the way out.

We got to the rig just before dusk and put out a trolling spread and started our typical circles around the rig and support vessels. We had a few knock downs and brought in a few black fin tuna. However, the real fishing was later on, when the moon came up at midnight and the larger fish neared the surface. We were after yellowfin tuna, bruise-ers in the 50-80 lb class. Most people were jigging and started landing black fin tuna as the night wore on, but we saved our arms and backs for the bite to turn on.

Jimmie was the first to connect, and after a half-hour battle single-handedly (the only one on the boat to do so), he got the 55-lb sicklefin to the surface and to the gaff. High-fives went around the deck, and folks got back at it. The fishing picked up through the night, although it wasn't gangbusters. The crew hooked a few and passed them off to the customers, who invariably would pass the rod back to the crew for a few minutes. I think the average on the night was 7 turns on a tuna to get it to the boat, as most were being hooked on spinning rods, which is great for casting light topwater lures, but not so much for fighting compared to conventional gear.

People started fading out, but Bobby and I kept at it, and right around 4am, he struck pay dirt and got on a bruiser. He fought it valiantly, but passed the rod to me, then I to the deckhands back and forth, and after an hour of fighting and 8 angler changes, finally got it to the gaff right before we headed back north. Geez louise! We were whipped but happy at Bobby's first yellowfin tuna, and it was a good one at about 55 lbs.

After a nap, and while chugging north, the second part of the plan came into action between rain showers under the canopy. We started seeing some awesome pelagic birds, including a blue footed booby, frigate birds, and a few lost warblers including an American Redstart. I alerted Jimmy to seeing something out over the waves that looked “different”, and he clicked off his 700th bird species with a rare type of shearwater. Mission accomplished and then some! Great trip with the boys, let's go again soon.

Speaking of birds, I got up the other morning and looked out my bathroom window into the back 40 while brushing my teeth, and there were a few people birding in my back yard, which doesn't surprise me for a Wednesday (for some reason, Wednesdays are the wildest days of the week). After we got back from the tuna trip, there was a rare autumn fallout, and there were a bunch of migrant birds in the yard. Besides the usual



The boys were part of the crew on a proper offshore harvest last weekend

suspects, there was a blue headed vireo, a pine siskin, and we were also entertained by a Carolina chickadee that kept coming to the feeder. Jimmy posted his bird list on the plane as he went home, and we didn't know that that particular bird was a little south out of its published range.

Come to find out the birders were our friends Emma Mathis and Sherry Halbrook and a friend, and they were also looking for those birds. Occasionally, I get a good suite of migrants through my place and through the magic of Ebird, folks will figure it out and drop by to see the occasional birds. It was good to see them and visit for a minute, y'all are welcome any time, but please wait a day or two before posting a rare bird in my yard, Ha!

Well loyal readers, I know I owe you a follow up with the Belize trip, some updates on parks, and what's going on at ISAC, but that will have to wait till next week. Life is moving faster than I can write about it, and I'm packing to head to Miami Beach tomorrow morning on the red eye. Sharkathon is this weekend and is looking like some of the worst weather we've had for it yet, besides the Red Tide year. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Bobby and Jimmy with some Yellow Fin Tuna. Photo by Jay Gardner



Perdido rig by Jay Gardner



Carolina Chickadee by Dan Pancamo



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

The Only Constant is Change



Melvin and Nicole were battling these heavy redfish along the PACKERY Channel using live shrimp as a large school of reds were moving in with a fresh tide flowing out.

Changes are certain, and expected. Here on Padre Island, after many seasons that turn into years and decades, I have concluded that Mother Nature is much more constant than us. For thousands of years the Month of October has brought high tides, tropical storms, migrations of fish and bait, and that relief of a cool North Wind. For many anglers these changes throw off their constant Summer Fishing Patterns. They become frustrated and start to follow other anglers. Relax and go with the flow, these next few weeks fish will be scattered but can at any moment group together in some of the largest masses we see.

Don't depend on live croaker anymore! Yes the bait stands have them but they are getting less and less productive. At the height of the lunar feeding times trout will take them. You can throw them into swarming redfish and catch them, but it is not what the gamefish are hunting. Focusing on small mullet, shrimp, and Shad migrations, locations, bait choices, and lure selection will send you towards more constant catching.

The MIRROLURE “Dine” series has been one of my favorite ways to catch fish feeding on pin perch and Shad. There are both soft and hard models of this slow sinking incredible action, and durable bait. The colors to choose from are incredible as well. With a long cast from the boat I make a few twitches back and forth as it enters the water like a fleeing baitfish. A slow decent into the middle of the water column then a steady twitch and reel, with pauses to deft down. This bait rocks back and forth as it slowly sinks driving fish crazy. The reflective sides just tease them!

Purchasing frozen Shad and mullet can be very effective for bait fishermen right now, using them in the passes to the gulf and along the edges of the Intracoastal canal. Migrating redfish school up at the little necks and bridges. In heavy current you will have to use a heavy weight to keep your bait in the strike zone. As we get more and more cold fronts the largest of big redfish will hunt the surf and gorge on the millions of mullet. Beach fishing even when it's rough will yield some of the biggest redfish of the year. Head to our FRIENDS AT ROYS BAIT AND TACKLE for all your questions. The folks there are all full of knowledge and are always eager to help you get the right tackle and fishing techniques for fishing the surf. Talking with them in person will save you years of doing the wrong thing.

My love in October is the sound of a topwater getting cracked at dawn. I am hypnotized by the marbled sky of reds, yellow and purple. The fresh morning air fills my chest and the shadows and wakes that dance upon the top of the ocean at dawn brings the excitement of the first strikes of the day to heart. I lose myself in watching the topwater plus dance, conducting their moves with the flip of my rod tip. When I am lost in thought and

soul is when the explosion usually comes, stopping my heart and then filing me with adrenalin.

The high tides of early Fall are to be expected and forecasted. Take a stand at covering water. Drift fishing with soft plastics and topwaters will allow you to find and catch scattered gamefish across the changes in the flats. Anchoring up on the major grass lines is a summer live bait move. Drift with the wind silently over the changing bottom. Mature gamefish are choosing small hides to corner groups of bait, casting into rifts and groups of sand pockets will get you in front of a lot of good fish one by one. My DOWN SOUTH LURES SUPER MODEL SOFT PLASTICS are my favorite and as our temperatures start to come down the Purple Reign and Bone DIMOND colors are the most consistent.

The eastern shorelines of the Laguna Madre are holding some great water for boat fisherman to drift around the spoil islands close to Bird Island, south of the causeway about fiber miles, and shamrock Cove. The King Ranch Shoreline has been good when we have some south east wind but the dead grass has made it hard at times. The long blades of sea grass that grew so thick this summer are dying off and floating towards the beaches of the shorelines. The big rock piles in Baffin Bay are a great place to get into some good fish with live shrimp and popping corks and there won't be anyone around!

Relief from the heat, summer crowds, and the Dog Days of Summer is here! Perhaps it's time to take a breather, sit outside in the evenings and enjoy the sky, the cooler air, and good company. The only thing that could get better is if you had some fresh fish in the grill!

Follow all of our adventures on Facebook and Tick Tock at Joey Farahs Backwater Adventures!!

[361-442-8145](tel:361-442-8145)



Some nice trout action drifting with soft plastics!

Island Real Estate Roundup

Apryl Noles

September goes out with a bang!

We ended the final day of September with a bang, just as expected, and October is already starting off at a great pace here on Padre Island. This week brought a healthy mix of new contracts and successful closings across all three residential sectors.

In the detached home sector, six homes entered the option period. One additional home is currently pending, while three properties made it across the finish line with successful closings. The condominium sector also had a productive week, with one property entering the option period and three successfully closing. In the townhome sector, two properties successfully closed this week, adding to an overall positive start for October.

With the holidays quickly approaching and more visitors making their way to the Island, we're hopeful that this steady pace will continue. Fall can bring a different dynamic to our local market, and it will be interesting to see how buyer activity develops throughout October. Stay tuned for next week's Padre Island real estate market update!

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Detached Homes In The Option Period:

- 13510 Carlos Fifth Ct (Listed for \$1,150,000)
- 15229 Barataria Dr (Listed for \$449,900)
- 15626 Cumana Dr (Listed for \$429,000)
- 13946 Jibstay St (Listed for \$429,000)
- 14942 Aquarius St (Listed for \$349,900)
- 15525 Cuttysark St (Listed for \$289,900)

Detached Home That Is Pending:

- 13505 Port Royal Ct (Listed for \$1,999,999)

Detached Homes That Sold:

- 14329 Emerald St (Listed for \$685,000)
- 15002 Dasmarias Dr (Listed for \$425,000)
- 13918 Eaglesnest Bay Dr (Listed for \$325,000)

Condominium In The Option Period:

- 14825 Windward Dr Unit 221 (Listed for \$154,000)

Condominiums That Sold:

- 14810 Windward Dr Unit 416 (Listed for \$459,000)
- 15340 Leeward Dr Unit 306 (Listed for \$300,000)
- 14300 Aloha St Unit 128 (Listed for \$220,000)

Townhomes That Sold:

- 14318 Cruiser St Unit A (Listed for \$490,000)
- 15512 Spyglass Dr (Listed for \$324,900)

The Traveling Moon



The Atteberrys took the Moon for a swing through Florida.



The Webers and Horans took the Island Moon to Forsyth Park in Savannah, Georgia!

By the numbers

How much is Texas worth?

The Texas Comptroller's office this week released updated estimates of statewide taxable property values for tax years 2026 through 2028, as required under the Texas Education Code. These values reflect recent policy changes including the voter-approved increase in the school district homestead exemption to \$140,000, a temporary 20% appraisal cap on certain nonhomestead properties, and adjustments to exemptions for income-producing tangible personal property.

\$4.12 trillion property value in Texas 2025 - marking the first time in more than a decade

that year-over-year taxable values have remained essentially unchanged.

\$4.33 trillion estimated value of property in Texas 2026 a 5.07% rise from 2025.

2.53% expected growth in 2027

5.66% expected growth in 2028. These rates remain below levels seen in recent years, when annual increases frequently ranged from 6% to 10%.



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Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

- 1. Participate in a certain child's game
- 5. Did 75, say
- 9. Changes direction abruptly
- 14. Universally known figure
- 15. Its body is primed
- 16. Insertion symbol
- 17. Tarzan
- 20. Though, poetically
- 21. Name used in exclamations
- 22. A Guinness world record adjective
- 23. Story of conflict, perhaps
- 25. Invitation notation
- 27. What little things mean?
- 30. Sawn at an angle
- 35. Churchill's "___ Country"
- 38. Advertising catchword
- 40. Bluto's dream girl
- 41. Handyman
- 44. Consumed with gusto
- 45. Maroon's locale
- 46. First name in the "Desperate Housewives" cast
- 47. Aretha's signature song
- 49. Telemarketer's aim
- 51. Not yet final, in law
- 53. Roll with the punches
- 57. American writer Plath
- 61. Cyber annoyance, to many
- 64. Parent's order
- 65. Mary Higgins Clark (with "The")
- 68. Throw angrily
- 69. Ethereal glow
- 70. Be revolting?
- 71. They're held for questioning
- 72. Heartfelt
- 73. Stalk by the river

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
23				24			25	26						
			27		28	29		30			31	32	33	34
35	36	37			38		39			40				
41				42						43				
44					45						46			
47					48			49		50				
				51			52		53			54	55	56
57	58	59	60			61	62	63				64		
65						66					67			
68					69						70			
71					72						73			

Down

- 1. Took a long walk
 - 2. More gelid
 - 3. Karan of fashion
 - 4. Chang's twin
 - 5. Sound partner
 - 6. Gentle stroke
 - 7. Old sleep-inducer
 - 8. She may be out for a buck
 - 9. Rodin, for one
 - 10. Word with "ho"
 - 11. Impulse
 - 12. Pickled delicacies
 - 13. Editor's override
 - 18. October's jewel
 - 19. "Bed of Roses" band Bon ___
- 24. Seller's profit margin
 - 26. Is repulsive, in a way
 - 28. Not at one's best
 - 29. Geneticist's study
 - 31. Filled with joy
 - 32. Heckle
 - 33. Lasting introduction?
 - 34. He loved Lucy
 - 35. Slightly cracked
 - 36. It may be tempted
 - 37. They cannot be returned
 - 39. Upraised railroads
 - 42. Vacancies
 - 43. Hyson, for one
 - 48. Venetian farewell
- 50. Item beside an easy chair
 - 52. One of Seventeen?
 - 54. Musical with a dog
 - 55. Oater assemblage
 - 56. Like some jackets
 - 57. Room meas.
 - 58. Kind of tide
 - 59. Oahu wreaths
 - 60. Let off steam
 - 62. Untainted
 - 63. Letters on a work order, perhaps
 - 66. Pet rock, once
 - 67. Get it wrong

Island Moon Live



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



Live Streams



Male American Redstart, Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center By Roy Freese

Turtle Nest Count

By Donna J. Shaver, Ph.D.
Chief, The Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery, Padre Island National Seashore, National Park Service
Report Nesting & Stranded Sea Turtles in Texas to 1-866-TURTLE5
Direct report Padre Island National Seashore (poor cell coverage) to 361-876-8462

On 15 September, 2 green turtle nests were located on North Padre Island at Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS).

On 11 September, 1 green turtle nest was located on North Padre Island at PAIS.

On 6 September, 1 loggerhead nest was located in Brazoria County, N. of Surfside.

On 4 September, 1 green turtle nest was located on North Padre Island at PAIS.

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

Kemp's Ridley

So far this year, **697** Kemp's ridley nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast, exceeding the previous annual record of 449 nests, set in 2025. Consistent nest record keeping began in 1980. The Kemp's ridley nests found this year include (north to south in state):
5 Galveston Island
2 Surfside Beach
1 Brazoria County, N. of Sargent Beach
2 Matagorda Peninsula

16 San Jose Island
40 Mustang Island
370 North Padre Island, including 337 at PAIS
208 South Padre Island
53 Boca Chica Beach

Greens

So far this year, 96 green turtle nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast, exceeding the previous annual record of 51 nests, set in 2023.

Green turtle nests found this year include (north to south in state):
2 San Jose Island
1 Mustang Island
70 North Padre Island, including 65 at PAIS
19 South Padre Island
4 Boca Chica Beach

Loggerheads

So far this year, **6** nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast, including (north to south in state):
1 Brazoria County, N. of Surfside
3 North Padre Island, including 3 at PAIS
1 South Padre Island
1 Boca Chica Beach



Moon Classifieds #1173

Here's how to place a Classified Ad

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

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25 cents a word after that
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We accept:
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Al-Anon & AA Meetings

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

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

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Island Moon Jobs

The Island Moon is currently looking to fill two staff positions:

- Web assistant. We are looking for a web assistant familiar with WordPress to complete the construction of our website. Hours are flexible and may be done from home.
- A free-lance photographer to shoot assignments on Padre Island and in Port Aransas.

Those interested may contact the Island Moon at 361 979-7700 or email editor@islandmoon.com

Dr. Lauren Jensen
Optometrist



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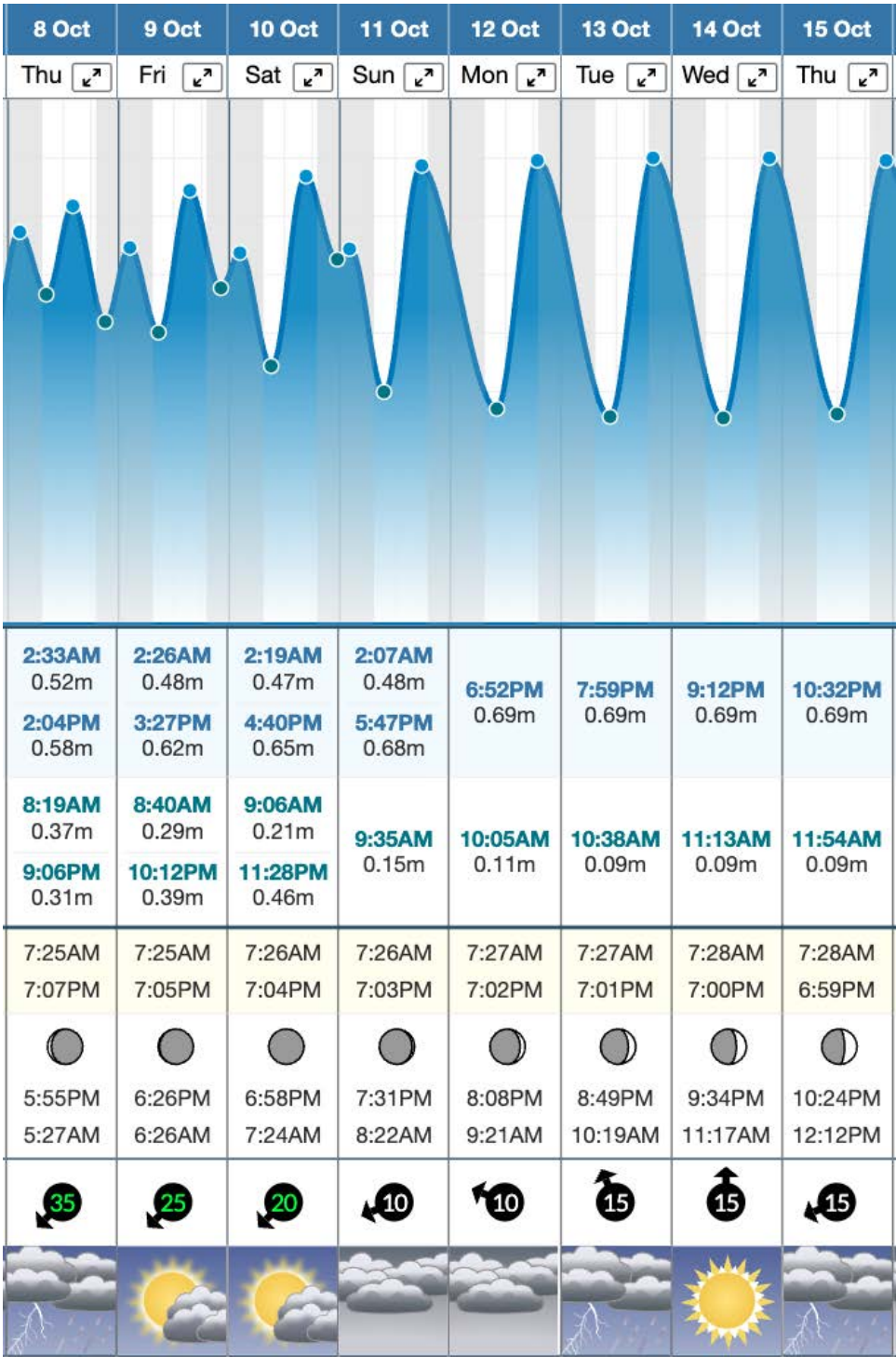
September

16000 blk. El Socorro Loop Sept. 30 Burglary of a Vehicle
14500 blk. Compass St. Sept. 28 Burglary of a Vehicle
1150 blk. Gulf Beach Sept. 25 Theft \$750-\$2500
14500 blk. Swordfish Sept. 25 Mail theft
15200 blk. Leeward Sept. 24 Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle
15400 blk. Escapade Sept. 23 Burglary of a motor vehicle
15800 blk. Vincent Sept. 22 Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle
13900 blk. Blackbeard Sept. 20 Aggravated Assault with injury
7100 blk. Padre Island Sept. 19 Assault by contact
15200 blk. SPID Sept. 18 Assault with injury
15700 blk. Escapade Sept. 16 Assault with injury
14100 blk. La Blanquilla Sept. 16 Terroristic Threat
15900 blk. SPID Sept. 15 Burglary of a building
15200 blk. Windward Dr. Sept. 6 Burglary of a vehicle
14900 blk. Leeward Dr. Sept. 6 Burglary of a Habitation
15602 Escapade Sept. 3 Unauthorized use of a boat, trailer, heavy equipment
13800 blk. Gunwale Sept. 1 Unauthorized use of a boat, trailer, heavy equipment



Woodstorks By Britt Thompson

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

Isaiah’s mystical prophecy



One of my favorite worship songs is *Here I Am Lord*. It speaks of God calling believers to answer the summons to share God’s redeeming and saving love with a broken and hurting world. The song is drawn from the call of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah to prophetic ministry. The call is found in Isaiah 6. The passage is also the basis for the classic worship song, *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*.

or pledging allegiance to a nation-state. He confronted power; he didn’t support power.

Being a prophet in the Old Testament was not a desirable job. While there are many passages of great comfort and hope, even within Isaiah. There are also many oracles of judgment and condemnation. Perhaps this is why Jesus said prophets are never honored in their hometown.

It is a stunning passage that speaks of Isaiah’s sensory experience. He saw; he heard; he smelled; he felt; he tasted. His experience of God was not abstract. It was real, mysterious, fascinating and awe inspiring. It was a bit more of an encounter with God than most of us experience on an average Sunday. There was nothing trivial about Isaiah’s encounter with the Living God. I suppose this is why the passage appeals to so many.

Unfortunately, this passage has also been often pulled out of context and misinterpreted. The latest examples being its use to recruit by the Department of Homeland Security and to recruit for the US military. Its use in these setting fundamentally distorts scripture. When utilized in this fashion the passage becomes justification of White Christian Nationalism. Christian Nationalism is nothing more than idolatry of power growing out of fear.

Isaiah 6 describes a mystical prophetic commission to serve God. It involved Isaiah’s recognition of his sinfulness, along with the sinfulness of entire people of God. Isaiah had a healthy capacity to recognize his own dark side. There is no pride exhibited by Isaiah in the experience, only humility and contrition. This leads to his expression of heartfelt repentance.

Isaiah’s call had nothing to do with justifying or advocating for war or for immigration enforcement. Isaiah is a prophet that spoke of beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.

However, Isaiah’s prophetic call was also not about butterflies and kisses. Isaiah probably didn’t entirely realize the challenging tasks and context into which he was called. He was being sent to a rebellious people.

He was called to speak truth to power. He was called to speak difficult words that confronted corruption, the abuse of power, idolatry, and the exploitation of the poor within ancient Israel’s own society. His call was not a mandate to conduct international warfare

Isaiah’s call vision does serve as a template for those called to serve God. His call was marked by an encounter with the holiness of God. this led to a profound awareness of his inadequacies. There was an experience of God’s grace being made real in his life. This led to his willing response to God’s call. He trusted in God’s grace to equip and empower him for the tasks that would be set before him.

Prophetic preaching has its time and place. Dr Martin Luther King, Jr comes to mind. He poetically pointed out the evils of the world while inspiring people to follow God’s call to transform it. However, his call was to nonviolence, patterned on the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus does not call us to be warmakers or to seek power and strength. Jesus taught that blessed are the peacemakers. War evidences the failure to make peace and seek reconciliation. Jesus taught us to be about self-denial, giving us an example to follow in his self-emptying. Jesus taught us to love neighbor, stranger, and even enemy.

Isaiah 6 is a beautiful and timeless testament to God’s call and our response, inviting us to do so in humility, readiness and surrender. We just need to be clear when it is God’s call we are hearing and not a call to serve earthly power or idolatrous Christian Nationalism.

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



Fleet Reserve Association Branch 94 Memorial Wall Ceremony

Saturday, October 10

The Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 94 will hold a “Two Bell Ceremony” in conjunction with their annual Memorial Wall ceremony. The ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of the wall is to honor Branch shipmates, Auxiliary Unit members, and Comrades in Arms and Associate members who have passed away. The wall was the idea of the grandson of one of the Associate Members, who originally presented the idea to the Branch as a project to earn his Eagle Scout status in the Boy Scouts of America. The original idea was to have the project completed as a “Memory Garden.”

After the project was completed, the membership decided that something more permanent would be in the best interest of the Branch. A granite wall similar to the Vietnam Wall was chosen as the path to pursue. The wall was completed on October 8, 2011. Since that time, the Branch has engraved the names of more than 100 Members, Auxiliary and Associates who have gone to their final resting place.

The public is invited to attend this ceremony. Guest speaker for the event is Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Cobb, United States Marine Corps, Retired, now serving as the Senior Naval Science Instructor for Flour Bluff High School, NJROTC.

Fleet Reserve is located at 1651 Flour Bluff Dr.

Around cont. from A1

Taste of the Island

The annual Taste of the Island will be on Wednesday October 14 at Mansion Royal in Flour Bluff. The event sponsored by the Padre Island Business Association runs from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. It features cuisine from island restaurants with a People’s Choice competition, silent auction, raffles, cash bars and live music. Complimentary valet service is provided and tickets are still available.

Sharkathon

The 2026 Sharkathon is on for the weekend of October 9. The location has shifted this year so see their website Sharkathon.com for details.

That’s all for now everybody. We’re heading into the heart of the Premier Island Season when the water is warm and the air is less than hot and every town in Texas throws a festival for a truck crop, farm animal, or sea creature. It’s a good time to be on our little sandbar so say hello if you see us *Around the Island!*



Great egrets mainly eat small fish, but they are opportunistic hunters that also consume amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, and insects. By Riekie Roncinske



Well you don’t need to bite my head off. By Riekie Roncinske



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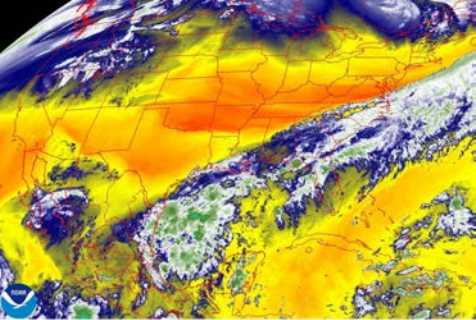
The times are changing...



And the party never ends.

I've recently found out that the city will be moving the animal shelter to the airport. I can see the existing shelter from my house in Port A and have dropped off various cat and dog foods through the years. I'm just hoping this less than convenient new location won't keep people from "dropping off" stuff. I also found out that the old location behind the new *Hotel Lydia* will become a big new apartment complex, which I'll be able to also see and hear from my house and deal with the construction traffic. My friend, a retired lawyer, who divulged this info is my neighbor who will have an even closer proximity of this forthcoming construction in that field behind the public library. He also said they may be building a new road... gasp! And you should see the size of this new house their building at the end of my dead end road. It's huge and will take a year to complete. Holy moly this town continues to rapidly grow. The short term rentals will surely flourish. We sure ain't in Kansas anymore **Toto**. This town is changing fast and the days of **Lawnmower Ted** are long gone. Nothing to do but embrace it. Oh well, the more the merrier I suppose. It ain't gonna run us off.

On the local front...



This one had us cancelling bands in Port A.

Once again the weather took center stage last weekend. The local weather people had us all scrambling for shelter with their *Coastal Flooding* alerts that never happened. And we did actually get a couple of showers but nothing like the flooding they predicted. We were on the tail end of the giant front that began as a hurricane in the Pacific and took a left when it got to us. Consequently, we had bands cancelling all over the place, then the venues were scrambling to rebook book. *Shorty's* cancelled the **Toman Brothers** show early on and had no band on a Saturday night. The *Sip Yard* cancelled their **Led Zeppelin Tribute** show and found a hard rock band, **Head Case**, at the last minute to fill in. I swear all these outdoor stages will be the death of me.

Shorty's Pig Party # 43...



Born in November will play the Pig Party at Shorty's on Oct 10

This year marks the 43rd Annual *Shorty's Pig Party*. This is a very big deal for Port A's *Oldest and Friendliest*. Our quaint little dive bar in the middle of town came to be on April 12, 1946...that's 80 years old. It was founded by **Gladys "Shorty" Fowler** and **Mack Daniel**. And back then the place was pretty much a "biker bar". And the tradition came about when bikers from all over the

country would descend there on Mrs. Fowler's birthday each year and present her with pigs in various forms. The story goes that Shorty had a penchant for all things pig. They would bring her figurines, stuffed pigs, drawings of pigs, pigs on t-shirts, and so on. And believe it or not, the bar still has part of the collection even after a bunch of hurricanes blew through her doors. Today the ownership of *Shorty's* has left the family and **Joy George** finally sold the place to local restaurateur, **Edwin Meyers** who took over the business in 2012 and carried on the tradition of feeding their patrons with a smoked pig dinner and music playing all day and night. This year the headliner will be **Born in November** who is a soul, pop and party band based out of Oklahoma. They perform cover and original music blending funk, R&B and pop, taking inspiration from **Stevie Wonder**, **Maroon 5** and **Bruno Mars**. They will play the middle spot from 5-8. **Downtown Eli Brown** will get the show rolling from 1- 4:30 and **Dreaming in Color** our favorite classic rockers with an amazing lead vocalist, **Debra Scott Brown**, will take us home from 9-1.



Dreaming in Color will play the Pig Party on Saturday.

Dirty Ridge is a killer band...



Dirty Ridge blew the roof off of the Sip Yard last weekend.

It was a rough weekend for *Scattered Shots* but I made it through it. In my humble opinion the coolest show I saw was the hard rocking **Dirty Ridge Band** which opened for the **Rock of Ages** tribute to hard rock bands of the era. Dirty Ridge immediately got up in your face and spit on your neck and screamed, "PAY ATTENTION BOY". They are a three piece band (guitar, bass and drums) with NO vocals. They came out of the shoot going 100 mph. The highlight was bassist **Miguel Cantu** who was born to thump that bass. And he plays all kinds of different basses including stand up bass and basses with lots of strings. And he plays it like a lead guitar only faster and heavier. It was one of those bands that you didn't dare take your eyes off of. They wore me out.

Coming this weekend...

I've already filled you in on the *Pig Party*. Now it's your job to make sure it doesn't rain. On Friday, October 9th, **Born in November** will play *Shorty's* as a two-nighter back to back with the *Pig Party*. Also on Friday the *Sip Yard* will feature another great tribute band, **Dreams** who plays tribute to **Fleetwood Mac**. That should be a good one. Plus on Friday the **Lucky Dogz** will play *Treasure Island* and our Cajun buds, **Boudreaux and Pousson** will get their zydeco ya ya's on. On Saturday the 10th **Brooke Graham** will host her annual *Beach Bash* on the beach and at the *Sip Yard* with four bands: **Brooke Graham and the Beach Street Boys**, **Vicki Peterson & John Cowsill**, the **JonasLorance Band** and **Boo & Poo**. Also on Saturday will be the KITE FESTIVAL on the beach between poles 1-15 plus the bi-monthly BELTSANDER RACES with **Jim Dugan** at the *Gaff* and **Beto Ramon** at *Treasure Island*. Hope you got all that. If not be sure to check out the LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT BOX.

And, that's the truth



Dreams Tribute to Fleetwood Mac will play the Sip Yard this Friday



Brooke Graham will play her annual Beach Bash this weekend.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, October 8

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's
Phillip Dean West @ Gaff
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Drowning Pool, Saliva +2 @ House of Rock
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Island
Michael Burtts @ Brewster Southside
Mike Luna @ Pier 99
Brian Zampini @ Anchor Bar
Marti Jay @ Sandbox NPI

Friday, October 9

Born in November @ Shorty's
Dreams- Fleetwood Mac Trib @ Sip Yard
Lucky Dogz @ Treasure Island
Boo & Poo @ Gaff
United We Dance @ House of Rock
Love Street @ Pelican
Alley Catz @ Brewster Southside
Meza @ Brewster Island
Spooky Spazmatics @ Brewster
Downtown
Dreaming in Color @ Whale Bone
Phillip Dean West @ Cinnamon Shore
Nathan Allen @ Doc's
Alee Velazco @ Sugar Shack Fulton
Marti Jay @ Anchor Bar
Orlando Herrera @ Fajitaville
Rinkinkaya @ Sandbox NPI
Trisum @ Pier 99
The Soares Effect @ Cassidy's Pub

Saturday, October 10

PIG PARTY @ Shorty's

THE GAFF

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

PHILIP DEAN WEST OCT 8
BOO & POO OCT 9
JIM DUGAN OCT 10
BELTSANDER RACES OCT 10
TYLER CANNON OCT 16
HIGHWAY HYPNOSIS OCT 17

SHORTY'S

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

BORN IN NOVEMBER OCT 9

PIG PARTY SATURDAY, OCT 10
ELI BROWN (1:00-4:30)
BORN IN NOVEMBER (5:00-8:00)
DREAMING IN COLOR (9:00-1:00)

Treasure Island

LUCKY DOGZ OCT 9
BETO RAMON OCT 10
JAM BAND OCT 16
GROOVE 2.0 OCT 17
CARSON MILLER OCT 24
BACK PEW REVIVAL OCT 31

Sip Yard

DREAMS (FLEETWOOD MAC) OCT 9
BROOKE'S BEACH BASH OCT 10
ECLIPSE (JOURNEY) OCT 16
THE KLOCKS OCT 17
DAMN TORPEDOES (PETTY) OCT 23
MOCK LOBSTER (B52'S) OCT 30

Bron's Backyard

BEACH CARTS FOR RENT

Sunday, October 11

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Beto Ramon |@ Treasure Island
Billy Snipes @ Beach Lodge
Robin Blue @ Anchor Bar
Mike Luna @ Cinnamon Shore
Traveling Troubador @ Anchor Bar
Carl Hayes @ Pier 99
Tate Mitchell @ Sandbox NPI
Alee Valazco @ Fajitaville
Melissa Ann @ Doc's
Joe Padilla @ La Playa on the Bay

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