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Beachcombing Report A6

Nature Notes A6

Three Chords and the Truth A11

Issue 1175

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The Island Moon

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October 22, 2026

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The Porcupine making friends at the Sealife Center. Photo by Jan Rankin



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 current deluge of political
campaign ads is sort of like a
prostate exam...it's going to feel
really good when it stops...

Where do all those campaign
signs go after the election? We've
noticed that many of them just say
Elect Joe and don't necessarily
include the office being sought,
that way they can be recycled later
on. Maybe we should have a card-
board boat race in mid-November
with recycled campaign signs -
Tippecanoe and The Island Too!

We send out a big Island Moon tip
of the hat to Nueces County Clerk
Kara Sands whose job it is to get
voters in and out of the polls with
as little fanfare as possible and
even with the high turnout at the
Island polling station this week
things have come off without a
hitch. Twelve ballots no waiting!
A County Clerk is like a guard in
football, the only time you hear
their name is when a penalty flag
is thrown and so far there are no
penalty flags in the voting process.

Winter Texans

As our Winter Texan friends
come rolling in this week we are
asking you to send us a photo of
yourselves from Around the Island
with a copy of the Moon and tell
us where you are from and how
long you have been coming to The
Island and why you like it. Email
us at editor@islandmoon.com and you
can send a copy back north so
your neighbors can read it when
they are not behind their snow
plow!

We've been warned!



Justice of the Peace Precinct 4
Duncan Neblett was the guest on
the Island Moon Live radio show
this week. His office is where
tickets written by Department of
Public Safety troopers on State
Highway 361 land for adjudica-
tion. The Judge said four DPS
officers have been assigned to the

Around cont. on A5

Work on Ellis Seawall expected to begin January 2027

Final piece of \$16.2 million funding in place
pending council approval



Rendering of the updates to the Michael J. Ellis Seawall

By Dale Rankin
The final piece of the \$16.2
million in funding for restoration
and improvements to the Michael
J. Ellis Seawall was put in place
by the board of the Island Tax
Increment Reinvestment Zone #2
on Tuesday.
The board had previously
approved the base bid of \$11.6
million for restoration of the 43
year-old structure which was

Seawall cont. on page A3

By the numbers

Improvements to the Michael J. Ellis Seawall

Funding for the refurbishing and
improvements to the Michael J.
Ellis Seawall is coming from the
Island Tax Increment Improve-
ment Zone #2 which is derived
from property tax on new con-
struction on Padre Island after
2003 when the TIRZ #2 was
formed.

\$16,278,491 total cost

\$11,659,928 base bid

\$4,618,563 for additional im-
provements (pending City Council
approval)



The Michael J. Ellis Seawall

Where the Animals are the Stars Sealife Center Expands



A large crowd turned out at the
Texas Sealife Center on Wednesday
for the unveiling of their new
hospital facility and expanded
grounds. The Nueces County
Coastal Parks Board previously
approved \$500,000 in funds to be

used to expand the Sealife Center
to include county-owned land
behind the current building. Future
plans call for additional tanks,
pens, and major improvements to
the current building along SPID
which was built in the 1970's. The



money comes from the American
Rescue Plan Act of 2021, (ARPA)
which was the COVID-19
Stimulus Package passed in 2021.
The Texas Sealife Center operates
solely on donations and grants.

It's time to Vote!

One candidate drops out of District 4 City Council race

By Dale Rankin

As voting kicked off the General
Election this week Islanders find
themselves squarely in the center of
the race for their newly redistricted
Congressional seat in District
34 between incumbent Democrat
Vicente Gonzalez and Republican
challenger Eric Flores. The district
was redrawn in 2026 as one of
five across the state in an effort by



Time to Vote!

lawmakers in an effort to swing
them from Democrat to Republi-
can putting it in the crosshairs of
what is turning out to be a \$50
million race for the new district
which stretches from Nueces
County through Kleberg, Willacy,
Kenedy, and Cameron counties.

But locally the 8251 registered
voters on Padre Island, and the

Vote cont. on page A5

A little Island history

Box 13 and the Election That Will Live in Infamy

A theft of ballots outside an Alice tavern settled a U.S. Senate race

Editor's note: With the arrival
of the political season 2026 we
thought it would be a good time to
re-visit what is arguably the most
cussed and discussed election in
our state's history, the 1948 U.S.
Senate race between then Con-
gressman Lyndon B. Johnson and
former Governor Coke Stevenson.
The race was decided by 87 votes



Llyndon Johnson with his campaign helicopter in 1948. Courtesy
of the LBJ Library.

History cont. on A5

Time to Vote!

Early Voting is now underway at
the Island Presbyterian Church at
14030 Fortuna Bay Dr. on Padre
Island and at Ethel Eyerly Senior
Center, 654 Graham Rd. in Flour
Bluff.

Registered voters can vote at any
polling location in Nueces County
during Early Voting.

Hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. through
Friday.

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. October 24, Sat-
urday

12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday October
25

October 26 - 30 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Here are the sample ballots for the
two Island voting precincts.

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

Taste of the Island

Teams from the Island Restaurants competed in the 2026 Taste of the Island last week. Photos by Debbie Noble.



The Waterline at Doc's

People's Choice:

- 1 Island Gatherings/Island Time
- 2 Honey's drive & dive
- 3 Island Italian restaurant

Blind Judge's Choice:

- 1 Island Gatherings/Island Time
- 2 Doc's Seafood and Steaks
- 3 Hometown Seafood Padre Island



Southern Comfort Burger Co.



Island Gatherings/Island Time



Brewster Street



Honey's



Padre Island Burger Co.



Island Italian

The Traveling Moon



Jacob Augs and Jay Gardner took the Moon to the South Pointe Pier in Miami



GARY P. NUNN

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Dan Suckley
Former District 4
City Council Member



Kevin Kieschnick
Former Nueces County
Tax Assessor-Collector



JC Hooper
Nueces County
Sheriff



Mike Pusley
Nueces County
Commssioner



Joe McComb
Former Mayor
Corpus Christi



Melody Cooper
Attorney at Law

The MOST TRUSTED Candidate

Dr. Anderson steps back from District 4 race to Endorse Dan Herrington

I am proud to endorse Dan Herrington for Corpus Christi City Council. Water security is the defining issue of this election, and Dan gets it. He understands that the Inner Harbor Desalination Plant must move forward without further delay, and that our community cannot afford another council that studies this issue to death while our vulnerability grows. Dan and I share the same conviction: Corpus Christi needs decisive leaders who will act on the permits and approvals already in hand and build the layered water infrastructure this city's future depends on. This is not a partisan issue — it is a survival issue — and Dan has the courage to say so clearly. This city deserves council members who put residents first and make the hard calls. Dan Herrington is that kind of leader. I encourage every voter in Corpus Christi to support Dan Herrington for City Council.

Vote
HERRINGTON
Dan
for **DISTRICT 4**

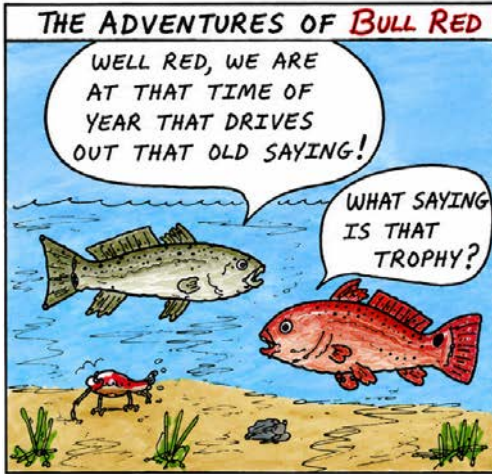
For a full list of supporters,
visit **Dan4D4.com**



THE ADVENTURES OF **BULL RED**

WELL RED, WE ARE AT THAT TIME OF YEAR THAT DRIVES OUT THAT OLD SAYING!

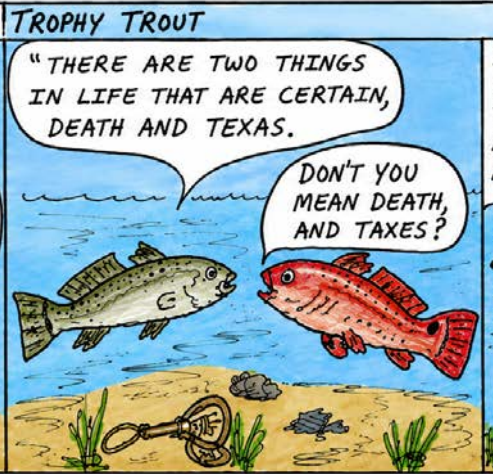
WHAT SAYING IS THAT TROPHY?



TROPHY TROUT

"THERE ARE TWO THINGS IN LIFE THAT ARE CERTAIN, DEATH AND TEXAS."

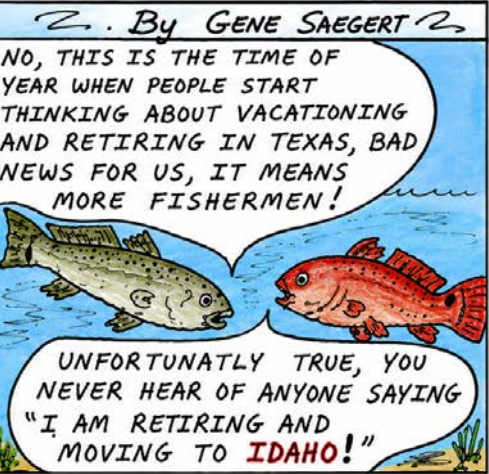
DON'T YOU MEAN DEATH, AND TAXES?



2. By GENE SAEGERT 2

NO, THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHEN PEOPLE START THINKING ABOUT VACATIONING AND RETIRING IN TEXAS, BAD NEWS FOR US, IT MEANS MORE FISHERMEN!

UNFORTUNATLY TRUE, YOU NEVER HEAR OF ANYONE SAYING "I AM RETIRING AND MOVING TO **IDAHO**!"



Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Mr. Smith and the Duke of Paduka

By Bobbie Kimbrell

In the very early days of the cattle industry in Texas and Kansas Mr. Smith heard the ranchers were doing real good and making a lot of money so he decided to go to Texas and try out his luck in the cattle business.

He turned his castle over to his nephew, Caleb McHulihan, jumped on a ship and took off for Texas. He brought a ranch in Laredo, bought a spread of cattle, hired some cowboys to herd and tend to the cattle and started ranching.

After three or four years of raising and selling the cattle Mr.. Smith did read good, so he decided to sell the ranch and move back to England and be with his friends.

Ezra MacDougal and Liam McCintosh met him at the docks as he came ashore full of questions about Mr. Smith's episode in Texas. Liam said, "Mr. Smith, tell us about your experience in Texas as to how you liked being there as compared to living here in England." Mr. Smith said, "Well, I like living there real good because it was a challenge and I made a lot of money, but I did not like the way the Texans addressed me."

"How's that Mr. Smith?" said Ezra. Mr. Smith said, "Well, here in London as I walk down the cobblestone streets in Piccadilly Square I hear the blokes on the street saying 'there goes Mr. Smith, his lordship'. But in Texas as I walk down the dusty streets of Laredo I hear the cowboys in the saloons saying, "There goes Mr. Smith that old SOB."



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G|L|G

Seawall cont. from A1

originally built in the 1970s before Padre Island was part of the City of Corpus Christi and rebuilt after it was destroyed by Hurricane Allen in 1980. Tuesday's vote was to approve the final \$4.6 million to fund additional amenities including additional shade structures and water fountains, among other items.

The base low bid for the project was \$16.2 million by JE Construction Services and includes:

□ Spalling and crack repairs by constructing a 6-inch concrete cap over the existing seawall, replacement and addition of accessible elements such as stairs and ramps along the promenade and seawall area with handrails, replacement of the timber toe ledge curb, pedestrian lighting, city parking lot improvements (mill & overlay, pavement repair, retaining curb, bollards, parking striping, concrete maintenance driveway and a retaining curb). The new improvements should provide a safer environment and revitalize this area.

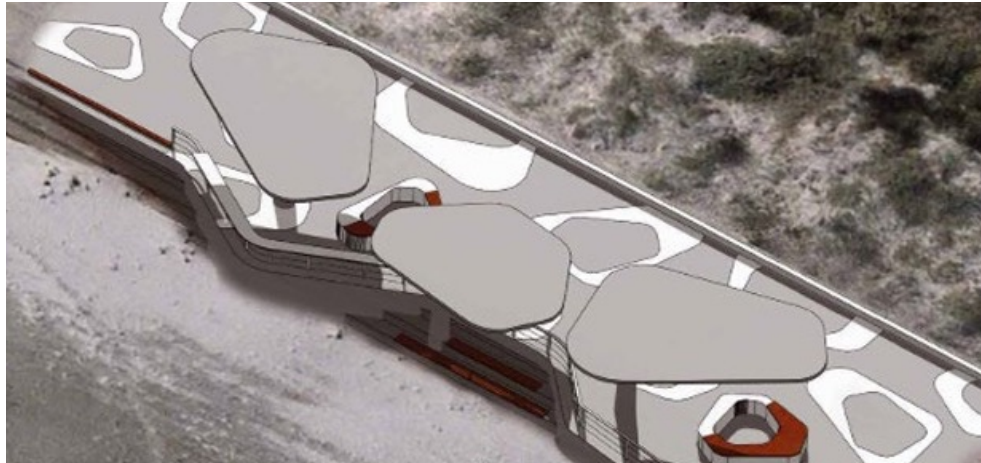
□ Promenade improvements including retaining walls, shade structures, decorative patterns within the concrete, stainless steel marine grade handrails, seating areas, interpretive signs and panels, destination and granite inlay markers, and other decorative components to be placed along the promenade at three (3) primary areas and the north and south ends.

□ Creation of a plaza area at the eastern section of the public parking lot

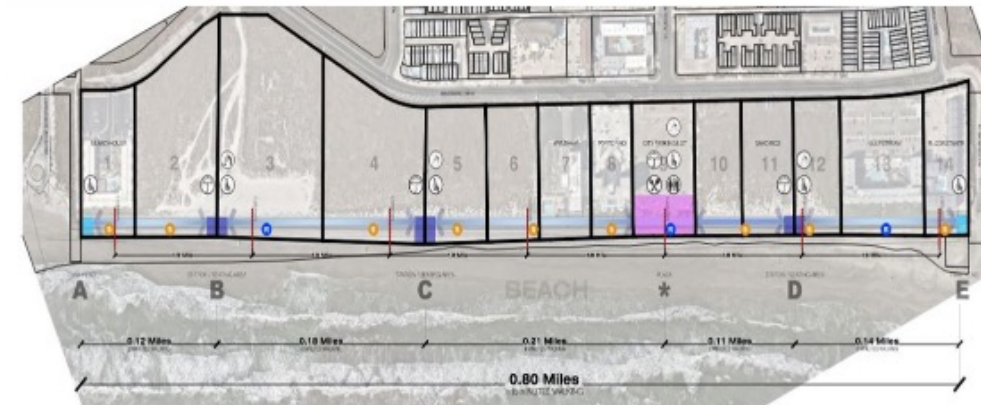
including pavers, patterns, concrete, gravel, stainless steel marine grade handrails, curbing, breeze wall, concrete stairs, shade structures, seating areas, interpretive signs and panels, concrete tables, waste receptacle, bike rack, swing set, workout station, in-grade floodlighting, and preparing two (2) locations for an iconic statue and/or place marker. Granite Markers along the promenade to include granite entry markers and granite mile markers embedded within the proposed concrete cap, including two (2) entry markers and nine (9) 1/8-mile markers, with engraving, finishes, and anchorage to the stepped seawall.

□ Concrete scoring and sandblasting along the promenade to create decorative patterns within the proposed concrete surfaces, incorporating aesthetic treatments, and patterning of rising and falling intensities. The location of the shade structure and additional recreational space to be constructed on the beach side of the walkway was decided after consultation with the property owners along the seawall. Included in the plan is a *Welcome to Padre Island* sign on the seawall adjacent to the parking lot.

The work was made possible in 2025 when the City of Corpus Christi assumed liability for the seawall and took over its maintenance and improvements. The final vote on the project by the city council is set for November 10. If approved, work is scheduled to begin in early 2027 with completion by the end of 2027.



Renderings of the new Seawall features.



Moon Monkeys

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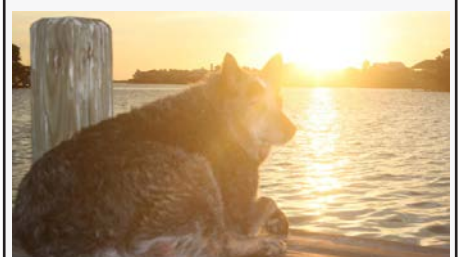
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Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)



Riley P. Dog

About the Island Moon

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Where to Find The Island Moon

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

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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

When I first began writing this column twenty six years ago The Island was a different place. The population was never exactly known but it was somewhere around 5000 permanent residents and when it came to help from our city and county governments we were the red headed stepchild... no offense to any redheaded stepchildren who may be reading...and not only did we not get any help from OTB but we weren't even in the discussion. The common belief which mirrored the reality was the city and county never do anything for The Island. Our mantra was "nothing ever gets done on The Island" and there was plenty of reason to be pessimistic.

As an example, when the list of just under \$100 million in projects for the 2004 bond election was issued we weren't on it in spite of being 12% of the property tax base who would pay for the bonds. When we objected we were thrown a bone of \$1.4 million to upgrade from water exchange culverts under SPID to what became the Don Patricio Bridge twenty-two years later (and next is the final leg of the chair with the opening of the channel to water flow which (hopefully) will be done by the end of 2027).

The heart of the problem was that we split our Island vote in city and county elections and as a result the winners could ignore us without political peril. We fixed that. We organized and now things are different. Thanks to our Island United Political Action Committee (which was so successful it is no longer needed) and the Island Strategic Action Committee which filters Island projects before they go the Corpus Christi Council and which along with the Nueces County Commissioners make up the board of the Island Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone #2 (TIRZ#2) things have changed drastically. Every office seeker will tell you The Island is the most organized part of the city and county and that has produced results, not the least of which is the so-far successful effort to keep short-term rental houses out of our neighborhoods.

It is popular during an election cycle to decry the lack of help from our city and county governments and that comes with the territory of participatory democracy but the reality is that compared to where we started we are doing as well or better than any part of the city and county. The evidence is all around us in the projects that are either in the final planning stages or already coming up out of the ground. So from the Moon Glass Half Full Department and in no particular order let's take a look at the projects that will be complete by the end of 2027.

Briscoe King Pavilion



Work is underway on the new \$8 million Briscoe King Pavilion. This is a County project managed by the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board with the approval of the Nueces County Commissioners Court and paid for through the Island TIRZ #2. It will bring us a public meeting place that we have never had and is on schedule to be complete by the end of 2027. It took the cooperation of both of those boards to make it happen.

Bob Hall Pier and restaurant

The \$22 million pier (\$28 million including demolition) is complete and work is ongoing on the 5000 square-foot restaurant space there which is also done through the two county agencies listed above. It is scheduled to be open by Spring Break 2027.

Packery Channel Park

For the last several issues we have been publishing aerials of the progress at Packery Channel Park and each time I look I am astonished at what is going on over there. For years the places that the public can fish along Packery Channel have been dwindling and the new pier at Packery Channel Park is going to be wildly popular. There is also a new walking trail for people looking for a new place to get their steps in and a natural area for birds and the \$3.5 million to do it came from grants.



Texas Sealife Center



The Texas Sealife Center is another county project which has turned into a mainstay of The Island. They announced an expansion this week also on land owned by the Nueces County Coastal Parks Department. The center has stepped into the void left by the downsizing of the turtle rescue program at Padre Island National Seashore and without the center cold-stunned turtles each winter would be left with nowhere to find shelter except in their own shells.

Commodores Park



On the city side a ribbon cutting on Phase I of the improvements to Commodores Park is set for early November. For many years The Island has been without tennis courts and pickleball courts and if you haven't seen the new versions of both at the new park do a drive-by, they are nice and so is the covered basketball court.

Don Patricio Bridge

After more than twenty years of trying the Don Patricio Bridge opened three years ago and is the cornerstone of the Island Mobility Plan which defines the future of The Island. It has been approved by ISAC and the City Council and is now awaiting implementation by the council in order to free up \$18 million in federal funds for improvements to the SPID corridor. That work begins in 2027 but the final design should be complete if the council moves it forward by the end of 2026. But by the end of 2027 the pedestrian and cart bridges at Whitecap NPI will be in place connecting Island neighborhoods to the Don Patricio Bridge and eventually on to the beach. When that work is done The Island will be a much more pedestrian and cart friendly place.

Michael J. Ellis Seawall

The only thing that took longer to get done than the Don Patricio Bridge were the improvements to the Michael J. Ellis Seawall which is now headed to the city council on November 10 for final approval. The final piece of the \$16.2 million in funding for the project was put in place by the TIRZ #2 board on Tuesday and crews are expected to start work in early 2027 and be finished by the end of 2027. I won't go down the rabbit hole but this is the third attempt to put a plan in place to maintain and improve this crucial piece of Island infrastructure. Former District 4 councilman Dan Suckley managed to herd the cats where other attempts had failed and take a look at the plan in this issue. This is now a reality and I have to say even as a natural optimist I never thought it would happen until after a storm reduced it to rubble for a second time. Our city is doing God's Work here in making this project happen.

Private side

On the private side by the end of 2027 a new hotel will be under construction on the Ellis Seawall and another piece of seawall property has just changed hands and is slated for development, along with a second piece where a sale is likely. None of that would have happened unless the plan to maintain the seawall was in place.

Also at Whitecap NPI there are twenty-six acres of new ponds surrounded by natural areas and walking trails which are available to the public which along with the new trails across the street at Commodores Park will give Island walkers four miles of new places for exercise. Island slackers are running out of excuses!

So as we wind down through a political season when we are deluged with negative ads, take a look around at where we are going to be by the end of 2027. We've come a long way from 5000 folks in 2000 to the 10,000 strong we are today and there are a lot of positive things happening all around us that have moved past the planning stage and are coming up out of the ground. To quote State Representative Todd Hunter "*¡Trabajando juntos hacemos las cosas!*"...Working together, we get things done!

It's a good time to be an Islander and we've earned it!

The Port A Cookbook



By Chris Jordan

There's an idea that needs to be pulled out of the mysterious ether of cooking. The cook isn't driving the bus. The food tells the cook what it wants to be. It's the cook's job to get out of the way and listen to it.

The early days of one's cooking journey can be fraught with passive-aggressive conflict. Looking at that just-acquired fillet of fish levies immense performance pressure. Questions about cooking methods immediately demand resolution: fry, broil, or pané? The follow-up quandary is no easier matter. Seasoning presents a dizzying cornucopia of choice. It will be a miracle if that fillet gets cooked before it can no longer be described as fresh.

Eventually, the novice cook has prepared dozens of fish fillets — some results are spectacular, some serviceable, and some are something else. One day the fish is a glistening, translucent chonky chunk of strawberry grouper. It is so stunningly fresh it elicits a fixed, meditative stare. The rest of the world fades away: there is no work, there is no play, and the ambient sound of the kitchen is a distant patter. It's just the cook and the grouper. Eventually the cook realizes what the grouper has known all along: it is to be poached low and slow in *beurre monté*.

When the grouper is no longer swimming in The Gulf, it prefers to swim in butter. It has an opinion about its post-demise purpose — and it is not alone.

The specific cooking method a fillet of fish is subjected to is a simple choice: this, that, or one of the others. But choice is more than that — or this or the other. Choice is a complex and ever-present partner to the cook. Choice is endless and the nascent cook's mind struggles to expand to accommodate it. But perseverance is absolute virtue and with it, informed choice becomes culinary omnipotence.

The cook does not arrive at this exalted state by sole effort. The fish talks. The produce talks. And so do the spices, herbs, seasoning, and sundry foodstuffs. The cook has learned to listen and may not even be aware of this particular skill's acquisition. Sometimes the food shouts its *raison d'être*. Sometimes it whispers. Even in silence, the food knows and it's the cook's mandate to coax. The cook may have to put their ear to the butternut squash or leave the pheasant in contemplative repose for a bit. But no matter how you slice it, the goods have got the goods.

As the cook cooks on, they can hear more: the food's vocabulary is vast and transcends cooking method and ingredients. Expressions of what, when, how, why, and sequence all color the conversation. The cook is transported from their station at a desk with an abridged dictionary into a vast library that proves the big bang theory of

Meta Metaphor

cooking: there is an ever-expanding universe of choice. Turns out no one is driving the bus. Good cooks hail it and hop on. The jumping-off point only becomes clear midair.

One particular cook has been informed of their heretofore-unrecognized journey by a humble chicken liver.

The preparation of gumbo is the ultimate culinary palette of choice. There are myriad dabs of bright colors, but in the end, they are all smeared together and — if done with intention — a profoundly prismatic brown can emerge. But gumbo can be more than two-dimensional art: it can ascend to theatre. Each star in the ensemble cast gets a moment in the spotlight. The crawfish might have more lines than the others, but in the end, the crab, andouille, shrimp, and understudies of the Cajun trinity are all at the curtain call. And though it had never made an appearance until now, right there on stage for the curtain call is the chicken liver. It had been there the whole time. On Monday, *The New York Times* recognizes chicken liver and proclaims its contribution to the production "dank and nasty, but in the good ways."

What does a chicken liver have to say about gumbo? Not, as it happens, "Make this taste like chicken liver." The point is for it to disappear so thoroughly into the gumbo that its presence is unknown to all but the cook. It lends an earthy, almost feral base note. No diner is expected to put down a spoon, raise an eyebrow, and announce the presence of offal. There is no prize for guessing the secret ingredient. The triumph is that the bowl tastes like more than its parts could possibly account for. To make this happen, the cook has to know what the gumbo possesses, what it lacks, and what unlikely something might supply the missing dimension.

This is where the endeavor of cooking gets properly entangled. A recipe can say how much *filé* to add. It cannot taste your gumbo and tell you whether the *filé* has spoken its piece. Nor can it make the decision to caramelize an onion further, let a stock reduce, or hold back an ingredient until the gumbo is ready to receive it. Those decisions are made in the company of heat, time, aroma, taste, and the wisdom that accumulates in ways that resist both measurement and explanation. The cook builds flavor, concentrates it, and then, with a judicious whisper from something unexpected, expands it. These are choices, every one deliberate, but never made in a vacuum.

In the end, formal culinary education is no different. What is *taught* in culinary school comes from the kitchen and what is *learned* in culinary school returns to the kitchen: it's *all* in the kitchen. The kitchen is the classroom, the cook is the student, and the food is undeniably the teacher.




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History cont. from A1

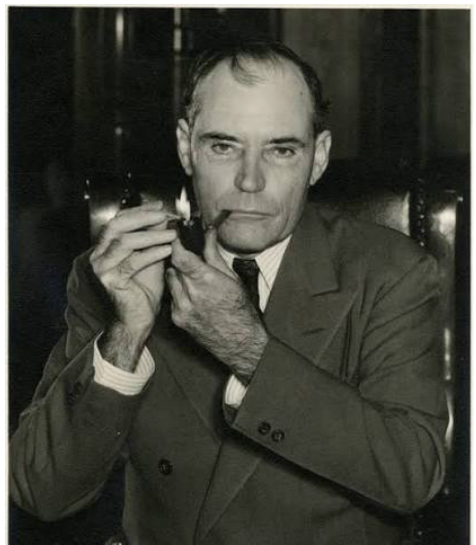
out of 988,295 cast with 200 of them coming in a full six days after the election from Jim Wells County earning Johnson the name of Landslide Lyndon (which he hated).

By Dale Rankin

To understand what happened in the 1948 race between Lyndon Johnson and Coke Stevenson you have to go back to 1941 when Johnson lost his race for the senate after leading by 5000 votes when “late” votes came in from East Texas which lost cost LBJ the race by 1311 votes. In his autobiography “In History’s Shadow” John Connelly who was Johnson’s campaign manager in both the 1941 and 1948 races said he learned a valuable lesson from the 1941 loss. When longtime Senator Morris Shephard died in office a cattle call of twenty-nine candidates signed up to run which included sitting Governor Pappy Lee O’Daniel, a reactionary congressman, Lyndon Johnson, twenty-five Democrats, two Republicans, and one communist.

Johnson locked up the “controlled” votes that belonged to the Archer Parr machine in the South Texas counties from The Island to the Rio Grande Valley and when the precinct chairmen there called Connelly with results he told them to call them in to the Texas Election Bureau which was owned by the Dallas Morning News and served as the unofficial reporting agency for election results, the agency had no legal status but once the votes totals were called in they could not be changed when they were later called in to party officials. As Johnson’s team called in their numbers they were ahead by 5000 votes.

Meanwhile in a suite in the Driskill Hotel in downtown Austin Governor O’Daniel, Coke Stevenson former governor Pa Ferguson, the first Texas governor ever impeached for taking bribes, knew exactly how many votes they needed to “find” in order to overtake Johnson. By July, two months after the election O’Daniel was declared the winner by 1311 votes out of more than 600,000 cast. By 1948 John Connelly who was LBJ’s Campaign Manager had learned his lesson and instructed his South Texas campaign operatives to understate their early returns in the vote canvassing and not call them in to the Texas Election Bureau because, he claimed, “we had been bitten once. It would not happen again.”



Coke Stevenson 1948

Charm a handkerchief out of a silkworm

The 1948 Senate race had ten candidates including Stevenson who when asked to recall his greatest decision in office replied, “Never had any” and he was not shy about stating his racist views to anyone who asked. For his part Johnson buzzed his way around the district in a small helicopter which the press dubbed Johnson’s Windmill and could “charm a handkerchief out of a silkworm,” according to Connelly.

After the voting closed Connally, again LBJ’s Campaign Manager, was publicly linked to the suspicious late report of 200 votes in Box 13 from Jim Wells County, which had provided LBJ’s eighty-seven-vote margin of victory. Connally denied any tie to vote fraud, but acknowledged that he had learned a lesson in managing LBJ’s unsuccessful 1941 race.

So when it came time to count the votes in 1948 Connelly instructed the precinct chairmen in South Texas to hold their vote totals back until they saw the totals from around the state; they, like O’Daniel’s men in 1941, wanted a stationary target as they went looking for the votes needed to win. At midnight on Saturday, August 28 the Texas Election Bureau’s unofficial returns gave Stevenson a lead of 1894 votes. As the story emerged it was learned that George Parr, the South Texas political boss known as the Duke of Duval, who had backed Johnson in the race had in fact delivered all but four votes

for Johnson in Duval but when it came to voters in Duval County Parr was tapped out; he had voted every man, woman, and in some cases child in his county and produced 4662 votes for Johnson and, just to make it seem fair, four for Stevenson. There was no way to squeeze out 200 more votes in Duval County.

But Parr did not get to be Duke of Duval by not being resourceful. While his power base was in Duval County he was not without connections in Alice, the county seat of Jim Wells County, where he was the President and principle shareholder of the Texas State Bank. But his influence did not extend much outside of the hamlet of Alice according to prosecutor John E. Clark who later prosecuted the Parrs, in his book *The Fall of the Duke of Duval*. So any votes Parr found in Jim Wells County would have to come from Alice, which was where Precinct 13 was located. According to Clark the more voting precincts Parr used to “find” votes the more people would have to know about the plan and in a county where his Parr’s power was not absolute the more the risk of exposure of the plan.

While the votes from Box 13 were not called in to state party authorities were reported to the Texas Election Bureau one hour after the polls closed on election night and printed by the Alice Echo newspaper. The tally showed 765 for Johnson 60 for Stevenson. But six days later when the vote count was supplied to the Democratic Executive Committee Johnson’s tally showed 965 – the 7 had become a 9 and Johnson picked up 200 additional votes. When Stevenson drove to Alice he was refused copies of the voting records but was told he could look at them but not take notes. What he saw was that the names of the first 841 voters listed were written in black ink, with the remainder – the 200 Johnson needed to win, written in blue ink. Furthermore, the 7 in the vote total of 765 votes had been written over with ink to form a 9. And equally suspicious was the fact that the names of all the voters listed after number 841 were in alphabetical order.

While Stevenson and his friends went about contacting voters whose names appeared in the list of the final 200 voters – all of whom said they did not vote – Johnson set about getting an injunction in Jim Wells County ordering Stevenson to stop “eliminating or attempting to eliminate any votes on the ground of illegality, irregularity, or fraud...”

A theft outside a tavern

When the dust finally settled Johnson won the election by 87 votes out of nearly one million cast. Lawsuits and accusations flew and an investigation was launched in Jim Wells County where the law required that three copies of the voting list were to be kept for file. Subpoenas were issued and it was found that the former Secretary of the County Democratic Executive Committee had given his copy to the current party secretary who worked at the bank owned by George Parr who according to his wife had disappeared that very morning for parts unknown and had later phoned from “somewhere in Mexico.” The second copy of the list, as required by law, had been in the possession of one Luis Salas, the Election Judge of Precinct 13 who testified on the very day the lawsuit challenging the election was filed he had left it in his car outside a tavern in Alice where he was drinking beer and when he came out it was gone! So the final copy of the voters in Box 13 was the one inside the actual ballot box when it was opened by the judge in the case it was gone too! Three lists required but none that could be found.

Salas, who had been a pistolero for Pancho Villa and later was commissioned as a deputy in three counties by Parr, said years later he and Johnson had been present when the order was given by Parr to add the votes to the Jim Wells rolls. In 1973 when Parr was on trial for income tax evasion he told his San Antonio attorney Anthony Nicholas that he was in “direct phone contact” with Johnson in the days after the 1948 election and Johnson told him how many votes to add to his total to win the election.

But it was all too little too late and Johnson became the junior Senator from Texas, George Parr shot himself with a shotgun on his Los Horcones Ranch while facing prison time in 1975, and the rest, as they say is history.

Around cont. from A1

sixteen miles of highway between Packery Channel and Port Aransas and will remain there for the foreseeable future.

As of last week 2648 tickets had been issued and the majority of those were issued by state troopers. But a problem has arisen and has landed in the Judge’s office. The troopers are assigned to DPS offices located in outlying towns where the tickets issued on The Island are entered into the system to be settled. The tickets say that the offender has fourteen days to contact the judge’s office but when they call there is no record of the ticket being issued, resulting in frustration for both the person who got the ticket and the staff answering the phone in the judge’s office. The problem is that the troopers often wait until day thirteen to enter the ticket and the case can’t be settled until it is entered in the system, which means the defendant has to call on day fourteen or the staff has to notify that person once the ticket is filled...on day fourteen...you see the problem.

Neblett is also the Municipal Court Judge in Port Aransas so tickets written by Port Aransas Police also land in his lap through that office so he has been a busy guy. To answer the most common question; where does the money go? It’s pretty simple, the fines from tickets written by Port A PD go to the City of Port Aransas, the fines from tickets written by the troopers are split between Nueces County and the State of Texas to pay for court operations.



Renderings of the new clubhouse at Oso Beach Golf Course

Vote cont. from A1

14,098 in Flour Bluff, will also be crucial in what could be a history changing race for seats on the Corpus Christi City Council where the future of the city’s water is front and center.

The first two days of Early Voting gave a hint at what may be to come as voters at two Southside polling places turned out in numbers never seen there. On Padre Island where turnout is historically higher that numbers across the city 820 votes were cast on Monday and Tuesday. In contrast at two polling places on the city’s Southside where Early Voting turnout is usually moderate 2076 votes were cast on Monday and Tuesday out of a total of 14,682 across the city.

While it is impossible to know until Election Night on November 3 how those Southside voters cast their ballots, that area of the city has been the focal point for a get out the vote effort by backers of Proposition B, an amendment to the Corpus Christi City Charter aimed at raising fees for industrial water users in the city during “declared drought stages” which is on the ballot after proponents gathered 12,000 signatures and followed it up with phone calls to voters and a door hanger campaign on Padre Island.

Of course all of this came about due to the number of wrecks – and deaths - on Highway 361 and something had to be done and the short-term solution was to drop the speed limit from 60 to 50 mph. The officers are stopping people driving just a few miles over the speed limit and giving them warnings – 1181 as of last week – but 596 total citations and 254 speeding tickets so if you are driving up that way slow down! Look at it this way, you are driving *Around the Island*, slow down and enjoy the view. We live in a beautiful place and maybe we should get a sign like this one which has been posted outside Hondo just west of San Antonio by their Lions Club since 1930...

Good news for golfers

Many Island golfers visit the links at Oso Beach Golf Course and there is some good news on that front this week. The clubhouse there is getting a \$10.3 million makeover and the project went to the Corpus Christi City Council this week and construction is scheduled to start in July 2027 with completion by the end of the year. The new clubhouse will include a new restaurant with indoor and outdoor dining and an event hall. What it will not include is a Mulligan for we Island duffers who send a wicked slice into Glenmore St. traffic. We will still have to take a stroke for a broken windshield...

That’s all for now, slow down and enjoy the view everybody and say hello if you see us *Around the Island*...

District 4

The Island’s District 4 City Council race where current member Kaylynn Paxson is running for the mayor’s seat took a turn this week when one of the four candidates, Joshua Anderson, withdrew from the race throwing his support behind Dan Herrington leaving Herrington, Kristina Nelson, and Stacie Garrecht as the three remaining candidates.

In the first two days of Early Voting 1029 votes had been cast in Flour Bluff meaning a total of 1849 votes were cast in the District 4 race on Padre Island and in Flour Bluff. In the last race for the District 4 seat in 2024 a total of 17,357 votes cast.

Early Voting continues through Friday, October 30, see the complete schedule in this issue.

Nature Notes

The Wildlife Dance

Which animals are the best steppers?



Great Crested Grebe
Frank Vassen via Wikimedia Commons

By Rebecca Bracken

If you’re like me, you sometimes find yourself skimming through TV channels looking for something entertaining to watch. As I did so last week, I stumbled on the ABC show *Dancing with the Stars*. Now, this is not an endorsement or plug for that show, but watching the novices and professionals stumble into their partnerships and learn to dance together made me think about how animals often dance to impress as well. In fact, many animals dance to communicate or seduce a mate, often more gracefully or energetically than we do as humans. But which animals are the best two-steppers?

Let’s start with the dance of the Great Crested Grebe. Found across Europe and parts of Asia, Africa, and Oceania, the grebe is the largest of the Old World grebe species, featuring a prominent dark double crest and orange-chestnut neck ruff. While their colors are striking, it’s their courtship dance that really riles things up. During their dance, often described as a water ballet, the male and female begin by shaking their head and running their bill through the feathers on their back. Then, using weeds as props, they swim underwater, grab a beakful of weeds, swim towards each other, and rear up breast to breast. Can’t image what I’m describing? Here in North America, look for the Clark’s Grebe, whose courtship dance is similar, but saves one standout move for the finale. After the head shaking and preening, the male and female rush side by side across the water’s surface, holding themselves upright. Given their furious paddling, it appears that they are walking (or running) on water instead of swimming!

Another animal with some fancy footwork is the sifaka. Sifaka is actually a genus of arboreal lemurs found exclusively on Madagascar. But what makes this genus unique is their leaping abilities! Built for the trees, they have adapted to a strange way of locomotion on the ground. Instead of walking on all fours, or slowly on two feet, these lemurs

move using a unique, sideways-hopping dance-like motion. During these comical sessions, the sifaka might actually look more like a triple jumper or conversely, a graceful prima ballerina, extending their arms for balance as they go. Some jumps are up to 30 feet!

Now, you may not think that snakes dance, but many actually do! However, their dance isn’t to impress a female, or as a form of locomotion. Instead, many snakes use fiery displays to compete with other males in a combat ritual. Male rattlesnakes are known to approach other males, squaring up their bodies, and weave and wiggle back and forth for more than an hour. Each male is attempting to force its opponent to the ground in order to win access to the females, with larger males normally winning. Amazingly, this dance is just for show; the fighters rarely are harmed, and venom is typically not discharged during the contest.

I left one of my favorite animal dances for last, because dinner is calling as I write this! If you want a dance with a real meaning, the honeybee dance is for you. When a honeybee returns to the hive, it shimmies in a repetitive pattern of straight lines, circles, and hip wiggling. All the movements together indicate the direction and distance of their next meal! And the more energetically and enthusiastically the returning bee dances, the better the food is. Even more amazingly, bees have likely been using some variation of this dance to communicate for millions of years. And we find the waltz to be an old dance.

Animals have the ability to communicate in many ways, some of which we are still working to understand. But it is well established that animals dance to communicate, no music needed. Maybe it’s one of the reasons we relate to many creatures, because we all can use a similar form of movement to communicate our wishes. Guess it’s time to brush up on my dancing skills!

Beachcombing Report

By Jace Tunnell



Kapok Thorns



Jace Tunnell holding a kapok thorn that washed up at the beach.

I’ve learned to watch where I’m riding during my weekly Beachcombing surveys, but recently I had an unusual reason to pay extra attention. Scattered among the wrack line were pieces of bark covered with large, sharp spikes. I nearly ran over one with my e-bike tire. That definitely would have ruined my day!

These strange pieces come from the kapok tree, also called the silk-cotton tree, a tropical species native to Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and northern South America.

Kapok trees can be enormous, commonly reaching 80 feet or more, with some growing 150 to 200 feet tall. Large trees develop massive buttress roots that extend outward from the trunk like giant wooden fins.

One of their most distinctive features is the cone-shaped spines covering the trunks of younger trees. Although we often call them thorns, botanically they are better described as spines or prickles. Young trees tend to be much spinier than older ones, which can lose much of this impressive armor as they mature.

That’s why pieces I find on the beach can look so different. Some have huge, sharp spikes that resemble prehistoric armor,

while others simply look like ordinary bark.

Although kapoks are tropical trees, a small number are grown locally in South Texas. The pieces washing ashore, however, could also have traveled much farther. Kapoks grow along Mexico’s Gulf coast and throughout the Caribbean, where bark and branches can enter the water during floods and storms. Gulf currents and winds can then carry floating material considerable distances before depositing it on Texas beaches.

Kapoks also produce beautiful flowers and woody seed pods filled with seeds surrounded by silky fibers called kapok. The fibers are so buoyant they were historically used in life jackets and other flotation devices.

Like sea beans and coconuts, these unusual pieces of kapok bark are another interesting find in the Texas wrack line.

Just watch your bike tires!

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).



Kapok tree trunk and branches covered in thorns



Kapok tree growing in South Texas

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On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

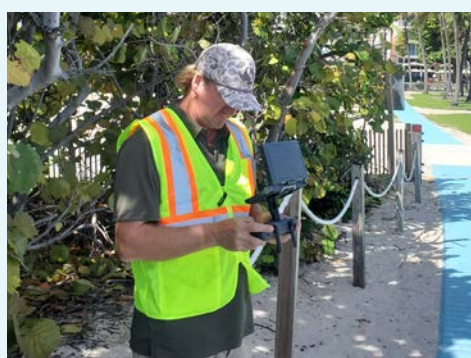
The Work Continues

And so it begins....we experienced our first cold front of the season this past weekend, and it's all downhill from here. I'm hoping for a long Indian summer before it gets really cold and the world shuts down. I may try and get a jump on my winter-time task list (same from last year) a little earlier, but we'll see how that works out. The first dove season split ends this weekend, and if you're like me, I haven't been to the lease yet. Duck season starts next weekend (get ready for the shotguns in the morning) and deer season the weekend after that. I'm looking forward to some cooler days and nights at the cabin and hopefully some pompano winds on the beach.

And I am ready to cool my heels for a bit – I have been on the road for what seems like months now. Someone left the barn door open this past weekend, and Augs and I bombed back out to Miami Beach for some more work on the dune restoration I have been advising the city on out that way. We had some hiccups with the first place I booked but found a much better suited place for our tastes next door. We got our survey work completed despite the wind and had time to do some post-processing.

We had to go visit Luka and the crew up at the On the Rocks place, and we decided to take a Waymo (driverless ride). The app is easy enough to download, and prices are commensurate with other ride shares. The car drove up to us once, then down the street, and then around the block, but we finally got it to recognize us and let us in. It's a new sensation in a driverless vehicle, but we made it up to 71st street, visited, and made it back the same way. And you don't have to tip a machine or complement it on its choice of furry dice. The next morning, we tried to use the same service to get to the airport, but that one didn't work out. We were able to get someone on the "intercom" and they canceled the ride and let us out. We got in an Uber with a person at that time. So, as Augs says, "If you're using it to go get coffee or go to dinner, that's fine. Don't use it when you actually have to be some place."

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will be holding an artificial reefing workshop next Wednesday, October 28th to discuss the future of artificial reefing out of our Texas ports. You loyal readers know that I've been writing about this subject off and on over many years, and what we need to do is get together and come up with a concerted plan for the future. You know that there are different habitat types up and down the coast, and what works in the Valley doesn't necessarily work up north off of Sabine Pass. There are different fish assemblages that re-



Augs working his drone magic

quire different types of habitats, and hence artificial reef composition.

For instance, in the relatively calm and shallow waters off of South Padre, there are more juvenile red snapper that are spawned, and need a different type of structure to grow up on. There is a lack of low relief reef that includes interstitial spaces for the small ones to hide. Up the coast, you have less subtropical fish like red snapper, but you need near shore habitat for species like sand trout and red fish. They are also shallower up the coast, as well as susceptible to hurricane and currents, and require larger materials to be placed. This is not a one-size-fits-all state by any means.

To make things harder and more expensive, the USACE just issued a regional general permit to the TPWD for near-shore artificial reefing, and I feel that we just got the book thrown at us. Whereas previous efforts included low relief items such as cinder blocks, the new regulations don't allow any materials under 2,000 lbs to be put in the water. The new regulations also prevent multiple deployments over a span of years (only single events), materials have to be pre-approved in writing and stamped by an Engineer, pre-construction notification is required (which is basically double jeopardy in permitting), an invasive species management plan (what?!), biological monitoring, Coast Guard approval, and the real kicker is that the contractors will now be required to maintain insurance against the USACE suing them for non-compliance for the new rules. This will quadruple costs of near-shore artificial reefing and jeopardize the future of the program, which jeopardizes future generations of Texans from enjoying nearshore fishing.

Well folks, I went a little over this week, but there's a lot going on. We've had some tough losses this past week with Art Morris passing away, as well as Quenton Dokken. Two mentors who were larger than life for many of us. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Jacob and Jay in Miami Beach

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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

The First Fronts



Many of our big redfish that are in the Gulf right now will come back into the bays after their Fall Spawn.

The first cold fronts of the year are always an event that brings the Call of the Wild out of all of us. Here along the Coastal Bend it also ignites urgency in gamefish to feed and migrate towards wintering grounds. While many of us are taking advantage of the cooler weather to go hunting or clean out the garage, get on the water with rod in hand and hunt that fish of a lifetime.

The Fall Spawn for Giant Specks starts in the last week of October and runs towards the first week of Dec. The week before the full moon on November is always one of my favorite times of year to catch my largest trophy trout. They may not have the winter weight of February fish but the absence of marching wade fishermen and tournaments is enough to settle the soul. Large mature females will start to find their favorite gravelly sand pockets close to mature grass beds. Small groups of male trout 16-20" will gather with her and tend the area. The males will be aggressive towards perch and sand eels that will nip the eggs from the blades of grass. Finding these groups of male trout are your first step, tricking the larger female to strike is key. Topwater action in November is excellent! With higher tides still present, covering water with a long reaching topwater EXPLOSIVE! My favorite is the MirroLure HeDog. This high pitch large bait echoes sound across the flats. I imagine every eye fixed to its crash, each move anticipated and mirrored to bring those apex predators into perfect striking position. Slow things down on your reprieve and allow the bait to pitch, walk, settle and roll, in between walking the dog. Your hookups will be more solid and there will be less slaps and pops. One important factor in Fall Topwater Action is the line you are using. Braided line will decrease your strikes because of the hard angles and no stretch qualities of Braid. If I'm using braid with my topwaters I always use a long 3-5' SEAGUAR 27# Grand Max MONO LEADER WITH A LINE TO LINE KNOT. It will make an enormous difference and bring confidence back into your topwater game. Remember not to wait until there is no wind and you have tried everything in the tackle box before you pick up the topwater. It's always on my first cast of the day, and when the wind picks up mid morning!

I could smell the oaks up on the ranch with the Northwest wind blowing off the virgin shoreline. I couldn't keep my eyes off of the deer shining in the breaking sun, until the sight of big redfish bolting off of the bank after raiding finger mullet in the dark before dawn. I backed off the beach and started to smell that sweet smell of feeding trout boiling up along the deeper water and snuck in tight to make our first drift. A massive head breached the water on my plug and an orange tail lit up against the sun as the redfish pounded the surface trying to beat the pull of the bent rod. Drag

peeling and walking around the boat I looked over my shoulder to see anglers already dealing with trout on plastics as we drifted off of the shallows and into waist deep water. As the morning rolled into mid day and the chill broke us out of our jackets, the Ole Southeast winds took over. The sun was high and we started picking sand pockets apart from the boat drifting the east side of the lagoon. Shad flickered in a glowing hole; two lures hit one rose with the Massive Yellow Mouth and flared gills throwing white water back and forth. With the cool water she cart wheeled and spun into a racing dive for the boat. She came to hand at 29" and left us after a few good pictures. I would imagine this same 8lb monster might gain up to a pound of winter weight before we saw her again in February, dreams.

Many fish will follow the base of the food chain into wintering zones. You will find each year a gathering towards zones of soft muddy retreat. These zones are where the shrimp, Ella, worms, crabs, and tiny micro species will settle deep in the mud during the coldest of times. Bait and gamefish follow and stay close by. With warm to medium temperatures these game fish will move back and forth from shallow, mid depth, and deep water regulating their body temperatures and feeding when lunar feeding times are at peaks.

Hunting big gamefish is very similar to hunting big game. Putting the pieces of the puzzle together and getting your head into the daily routines of your prey will find you over their bush spots. Then just dance and tickle my friends! Play those lures with precision and style. Watch your bait glide in front of you on the way in, learning each rod stroke to produce a realistic target. When you're just about in Zen, that's when you and your bait are in the STRIKE ZONE!

Take some time this winter to heighten your game and come find YOUR DAY hunting gamefish with me. One trip will propel you into a spring fishing machine. Follow all of our hookups on Facebook and ticktok! Joey Farahs Backwater Fishing, 361-442-8145. Get wet



Thin Skinned Flounder move toward the passes and group together as Fall Progresses.

Island Real Estate Roundup

Apryl Noles

Detached home sales driving the market

As we move into the middle of October, the Padre Island real estate market continues to show encouraging signs of activity, with noticeable momentum in the detached home sector.

This week, six detached homes entered the option period, while four homes successfully closed. In the condominium sector, we saw one property move into pending status, two enter the option period, and two successfully close. The townhome sector also experienced movement this week, with one property currently pending and one successful closing.

Overall, October is shaping up to be a promising month for Padre Island real estate. With the holiday season approaching, we remain optimistic that buyer interest and market activity will continue at a steady pace. Below, you'll find a breakdown of this week's market statistics. Stay tuned for next week's update as we continue to follow the trends and activity across Padre Island!

Detached Homes In The Option Period:

-15982 Punta Espada Loop (Listed for \$530,000)
 -15133 Tesoro Dr (Listed for \$500,000)
 -13726 Eaglesnest Bay Dr (Listed for \$499,999)
 -15213 Tesoro Dr (Listed for \$485,000)
 -13918 Windjammer Dr (Listed for \$409,900)
 -13966 Lanyard Dr (Listed for \$275,000)

Detached Homes That Sold:

-13825 Captains Row (Listed for \$1,050,000)
 -13838 Halyard Dr (Listed for \$939,900)
 -13929 Blackbeard Dr (Listed for \$499,000)
 -15242 Carvel Dr (Listed for \$398,000)

Condominium That Is Pending:

-14300 S Padre Island Unit 105 (Listed for \$118,000)

Condominiums In The Option Period:

-14802 Whitecap Blvd Unit 3-106 (Listed for \$249,900)
 -15418 Fortuna Bay Dr Unit 101 (Listed for \$125,000)

Condominiums That Sold:

-14013 Ports O Call Dr Unit 13C (Listed for \$330,000)
 -15034 Aruba Dr Unit 212 (Listed for \$184,900)

Townhome That Is Pending:

-14422 Verdemar Dr Unit 302 (Listed for \$209,160)

Townhome That Sold:

-15402 Gun Cay Ct Unit 604 (Listed for \$399,000)



Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken



Who gets to decide who is a true Christian and who is not?

There is a preacher story about a man who encountered a person standing on the edge of a bridge ready to jump. He shouted for the person to stop! The man who was ready to jump asked why he shouldn't jump. The first man said there was so much to live for. The despondent man wondered what. The first man asked the other if he was religious. He was, as was the first man. He inquired if he was a Christian. He was, as was the first man. He wondered if he was Roman Catholic or Protestant. He was a Protestant, like the first man. He asked if he were Presbyterian or Baptist. He was a Baptist, like the questioner. He queried if he was original Baptist or Reformed Baptist. He was a Reformed Baptist, like the first man. He asked if reformation of 1879 or reformation of 1915. He was 1915. The first man responded, "Die you heretic," as he pushed him off. Who gets to decide who is a true Christian and who is not? This is a question above all human paygrades. Yet, history demonstrates otherwise.

Within American Christianity there is deep polarization and insecurity about this issue. It has surfaced during this year's election cycle. Throughout history, traditional attempts to establish a single, universal Christian standard have been blind, exclusionary, and authoritarian. Purists would like to think it is about biblical doctrine. Yet, I have found that affirming the authority of the Bible is not so much the source of difference as is interpretation of the Bible.

However, most of the time the real issue is cultural and political in nature. Often the discussion is fraught with fear and power, identity and control, judgement and pride, bias and jealousy. We desire reassurance that we are good to go, and the other person is not. We fall prey to the trap of comparing our relative worth against one another. These are the times when our insecurity shows as we judge another as being less than a true Christian, according to our definition. All Christians struggle from time to time with spiritual blindness. We think we see clearly because we have convinced ourselves that we are living at the center of God's will. Until we are not. When we live out of a false

self, we are reduced to petty competitiveness and anxious attempts to bolster our own sense of importance and certitude. This is the importance of humility for all Christians.

Jesus cautioned his follows about judging others. He wondered why we see the speck in another's eyes, but do not notice the log in our own eye. Christians are called to discern, or judge, between good and evil. However, we must do this in humility, not pride or self-justification. Perhaps a better way is to view the fruit of another's life. Jesus taught that by our fruit others will know that we are followers of Jesus.

The Bible teaches us that God would have us be concerned about the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, the persecuted, the voiceless, the broken, the hurting, the ones crying, the abused, the powerless, the oppressed, the stranger. These were the ones Jesus sought to love. He reserved his critique for the powerful, the wealthy, the ones seeking greatness, the ones judging others without mercy.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Jesus taught us to love God and love our neighbor, who is anybody in need, even an enemy. These are the good fruit of Christians.

Who decides who is a true Christian and who is not? This is not the question that should concern us. Instead, we should be asking ourselves about our fruit. We can't hope to have an authentic relationship with God if we operate out of a false sense of self, while clinging to our blindness. Each Sunday a bunch of humans gather to worship God in community at Island Presbyterian Church, giving thanks for grace, love, healing, and hope, working for peace, justice, and reconciliation. There is always room at the table for you! Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m., 14030 Fortuna Bay Drive, or on our Facebook page. Choose kindness, compassion, and love; do justice and make peace; welcome the stranger.

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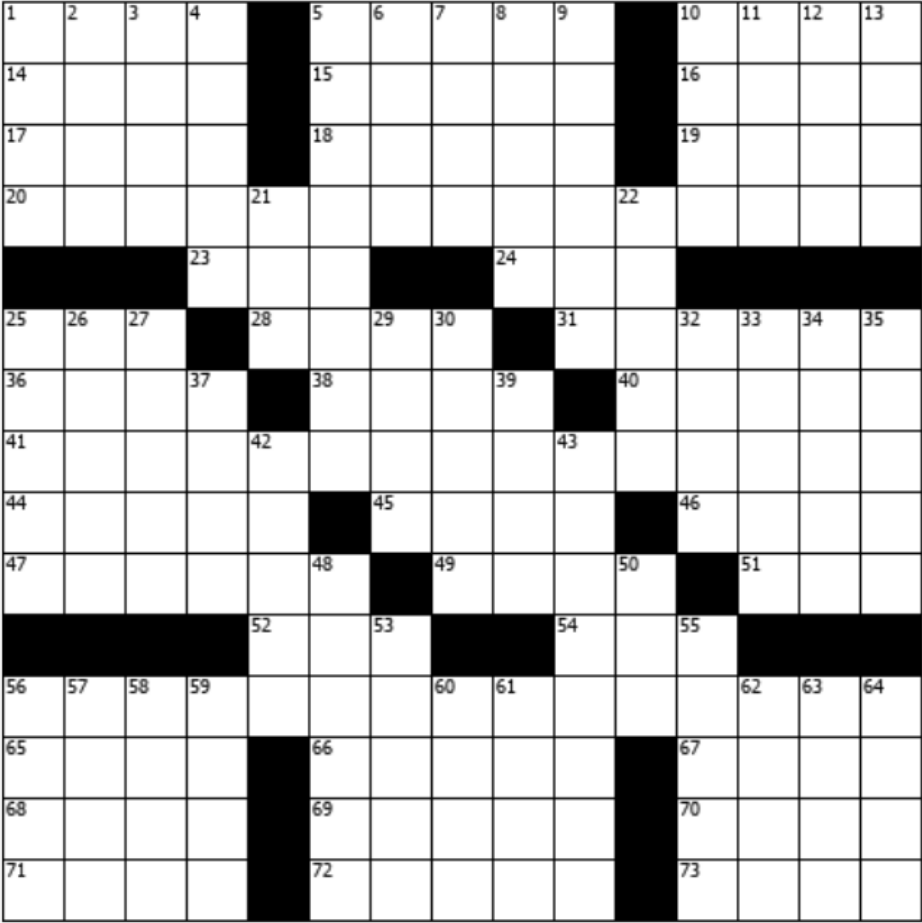
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- Across
1. Building toy
5. Get the ball rolling
10. RPM dial
14. NYSE counterpart
15. Kind of eclipse
16. Not a pretty fruit?
17. Hollywood crosser
18. Port of old Rome
19. Crowd noise
20. "You're pulling my leg!"
23. List-ending abbr.
24. Capitol Hill VIP
25. Bell, Barker, Joad, etc.
28. Lighter-air connection
31. Subject of some tests
36. "Diana" singer
38. Notable periods
40. Wheel spokes
41. "You're pulling my leg!"
44. Improvise
45. Ticked off
46. Inscribe with acid
47. Hardly ever
49. Toga party supply
51. Film location
52. Cabin component
54. Weight room unit
56. "You're pulling my leg!"
65. Party pooper
66. "Try ___ see!"
67. Pack of pennies
68. Monthly occurrence
69. Verdi's "___ Miller"
70. Printer's primary color
71. Sweep's target
72. Disney World attraction
73. Georgetown player



- Down
1. Gas-grill rock
2. Mideast bigwig
3. Characteristic carrier
4. Certain daisy
5. Is in a slump?
6. Elongated tooth
7. Apt to say nay
8. Bookies' nightmares
9. Lines of work
10. Rotate
11. Slack-jawed
12. Nontalkative one
13. What this gun's for?
21. Polo Grounds legend
22. Opening
25. Yucatán peoples
26. Terminal type
27. Jolly Roger depiction
29. Sciences partner
30. Tycoon, for one
32. Roué
33. Makes a long story short?
34. Inasmuch as
35. Word with eye or hind
37. Within
39. Dried-up
42. Letter-shaped fastener
43. Made fun of
48. Roving
50. Gun in a car?
53. Go's mate
55. Freshwater food fish
56. Hieroglyphics bird
57. Featherbrain
58. Nabisco treat
59. It may be feathered
60. Not of the clergy
61. Preceder of many words?
62. Show wild instability
63. Oil of ___
64. Inner arm bone

Ten Years Ago in the Island Moon



Taste of the Island was at Schlitterbahn.

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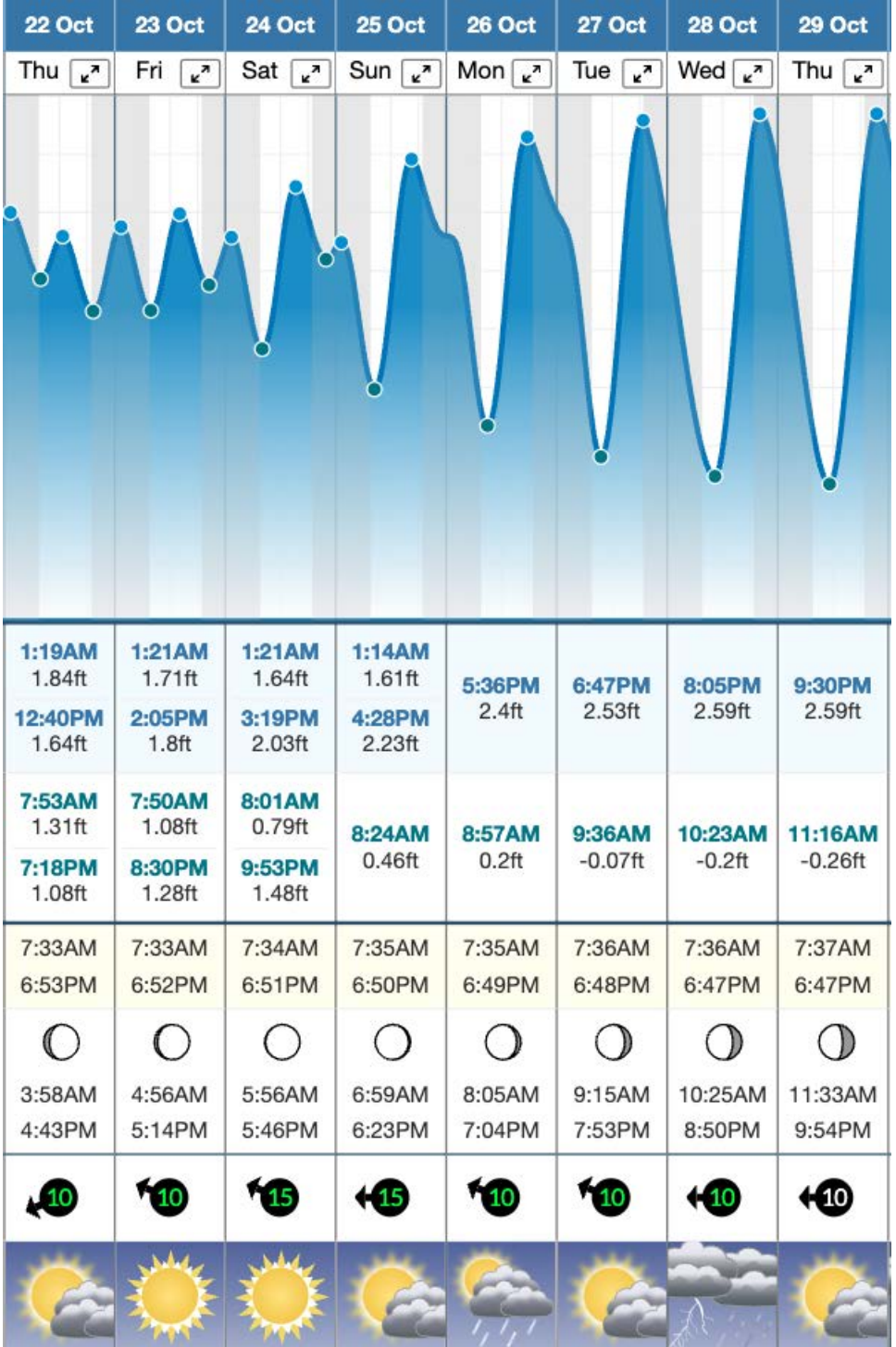
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Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

The King is coming...



Joe King Carrasco in Ukraine.

We are now at the week before *Halloween* which can mean one of two things...either the Christmas trees will go up for sale or the king of Tex-Mex **Joe King Carrasco** will be playing *Shorty's*. YIP YIPYIP Vamos a git down the king is coming to town!! His tribe has gone thru some rough patches lately near the Russian border in Ukraine and have had some really hairy adventures with their humanitarian efforts to rescue stray dogs and get Ukrainians families to safety. I'm hoping we get to do a YouTube show with him. This guy is all over the place and now lives in France when he's not in Austin or Llano. I met Joe in the early 90's at the insistence of another Tex-Mex guru, **Doug Sahm**, whom I booked back when I had my booking agency with the *Antone's Record Label*. Doug was very insistent that I meet Joe so I did and at one point became friends with his family and even took a train to see Joe's nephew **Tucker 3.0** up in Oregon one time. Joe got peaved at us for burning up his pear crates that he was saving in pile which was right between Tucker's front porch with a magnificent view of a majestic mountain. His crates were in the way of our tranquility. At one point we decided to have a bon fire and burned down Joe's pear crates. Joe was saving the crates he used to make his famous Guadalupe shrines. Which are amazing works of art. Joe got mad and I blamed it all on Tucker. True story. We're really happy to see our world traveling elusive amigo again. And he's finally back in Texas for a while playing places around Austin where they welcome him with open arms. I concede...Doug Sahm was right. I did need to meet this guy. Catch him when you can. He's in tow with his wife Nicole and a group of road weary musicians that always includes his bass player **Chuggy**. I predict his show on *Halloween* to be bonafied. Peace through Tex-Mex yall!

Scattered shots...



Highway Hypnosis played the Gaff last Saturday.

Well, the cold front didn't disappoint last week. My thermometer actually had readings in the high 50's! Now we're getting somewhere. It was fun digging out all my long lost warm clothing. In spite of the cold front, it was a fairly busy one last weekend. Nobody had to play inside that I know of. The *Sip Yard* had a very cool tribute bands with **Eclipse (Journey)** on Friday and a cool rock band, the **Klocks**, from San Antonio on Saturday. I really enjoyed the Klocks. They took me back to that place in time when I lived in San Antonio and I felt like I knew those guys. I also ran by the *Da Gaff* and caught another very good band, **Highway Hypnosis**, who hails from central Texas up around the New Braunsfel, Fredericksburg, and Utopia area. I hope to see them again. I am really enjoying this absolutely beautiful weather here on our little sandbar. Truth be told, I'm really looking forward to when our seasonal families arrive. They are known as our *Winter Texans* families and have become our friends through the years. I think the **PA Rockers** might be doing a little make-over for their Wednesday night residen-

cy shows at *Bernie's*. That's a rough one being that their band leader, **Colorado Bob Reed**, passed away this year. I'm sure **Steve Goldstein** is raring to get the black Tele I sold him cranked up. I live next door to a trailer park on Cotter and they are beyond empty and will be until after the holidays... it's a good barometer for observing the season patterns by how full or empty it is and what to expect next.

Coming this weekend...



Bayside Electric will play Shorty's this Saturday.

A lot. That's what's coming this weekend. The *Rialto Theater* in Aransas Pass will have their annual *HAUNTED THEATER* on Friday and Saturday. The *Harvest Moon Regatta* is racing through from Galveston and so are the BELT SAND RACES. The *Sip Yard* has a *DO NOT MISS* **Tom Petty** tribute show **The Damn Torpedoes** on Friday. Also on Friday we have **Boo & Poo** at the *Gaff* and blues man extraordinaire **John Cortez** at *Shorty's*. On Saturday we race power tools at the *Gaff* and then listen to **Jim Dugan** play an assortment of sing along faves of which I'm sure he can easily pull from the 500 songs he knows on the top of his head. Go play *Stump the Band* with him tell I'm lying. Also on Saturday, **Bayside Electric** will play *Shorty's* and Americana stud **Thomas Babiak** who is a solo artist with a fine looking promo kit, will play the *Sip Yard*. He's good. On Sunday **Billy Snipes** will play brunch at the *Beach Lodge*. Hey, works for me. I haven't spent any time out there since they have new owners. I love that place and even lived in my van behind the lodge for three months when I first got here. My first address was Pole 9 at the no pets off leashes sign.

On the horizon...



The Damn Torpedoes will play the Sip Yard this Friday.

There's a big show in town at *Concrete Street* with **Treaty Oak Revival** and **William Clark Green**. Also coming soon, **Mock Lobster**, **Cruise Control**, the *Wooden Boat Fest*, **Left Right Left**, The *Port A Farmer's Market* and the *Pink Flaming Pub Crawl* out of *Red's* is coming in November. It's definitely a beautiful layer of pink parading down main street going from bar to bar splashing pink along the way. The golf carts are the stars of the show. Better start planning now. I just dug out my blow up flamingo that I ride. Take a look at my back yard and tell me I don't have a fetish for flamingos. Many years ago I ran around with the *Flamingo Queen of San Antonio* which inspired a life time flamingo worshipping. I digress. Yall be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Boudreaux and Pousson will play the Gaff on Friday.



The 2026 Wooden Boat Show will be held on November 6-8. Photo by Macky



Mock Lobster will play the Sip Yard on Oct 30

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, October 22

Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's
Orlando Herrera @ Gaff
Cleartones @ VFW
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Jim Dugan @ Brewster Southside
Peter Salas @ Brewster Island
Nathan Allen @ Doc's

Friday, October 23

HAUNTED THEATER @ RIALTO AP
John Cortez @ Shorty's
The Damn Torpedoes- Tom Petty Trib @ Sip Yard
Boo & Poo @ Gaff
David Lewis @ Brewster Downtown
Fuzion @ South TX Icehouse
Artikal Sound, Cydeways @ House of Rock
Irie Rebels @ Pelican
Nathan Allen @ Brewster Southside
Joe Padilla @ Fajitaville
Melissa Ann @ Sugar Shack Fulton
Sikk Puppy @ Sandbox NPI
Nathan Allen @ Doc's
Bayside Electric @ Pelican Lounge
Marcy Grace @ 5th & Elm Portland

Saturday, October 24

HARVEST MOON REGATTA
BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
HAUNTED THEATER @ RIALTO AP
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Bayside Electric @ Shorty's
Thomas Babiak @ Sip Yard



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ORLANDO HERRERA	OCT 22
BOO & POO	OCT 23
BELTSANDER RACES	OCT 24
JIM DUGAN	OCT 24
BRAD ETHRIDGE	OCT 25
OPEN MIC	OCT 28



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

JOHN CORTEZ	OCT 23
BAYSIDE ELECTRIC	OCT 24
JOE KING CARRASCO	OCT 31
PALACIOS BROS	NOV 6



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DAMN TORPEDOES (PETTY) OCT 23
THOMAS BABIAK OCT 23
MOCK LOBSTER (B52'S) OCT 30
CRUISE CONTROL OCT 31
TEX ZEP (ZEPPELIN) NOV 6
LOWLAND REVELRY NOV 7



BEACH CARTS FOR RENT

The Daze @ Pelican
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Island
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside
Gary P. Nunn @ Brewster Downtown
Caleb Griffis @ Anchor Bar
Trisum @ Fajitaville
Aaron Boultinghouse @ Hideout 35
Headcase @ Sandbox NPI
US Music @ Pier 99
2Gann Band @ Doc's

Sunday, October 25

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Billy Snipes @ Beach Lodge
Rip Tide Cowboy @ Anchor Bar
Darren McGill @ Anchor Bar
AJ Atiee @ Fajitaville
Reno Perez Duo @ Sandbox NPI
Melissa Ann @ Doc's

Monday, October 26

John Elijah Band @ Shorty's
Billy Snipes @ Boat Bar

Tuesday, October 27

Brad Etheridge @ VFW
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach

Wednesday, October 28

Open Jam @ Gaff
Open Jam w/ Jered Clark @ Salty Dog
Coastal Benders @ VFW
Billy Snipes @ Doc's
Michael Burttis @ Pelican

Thursday, October 29

Treaty Oak Revival, Wm Clark Green @ Concrete Street



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- **PROTECTING COASTAL HOMEOWNERS:** Passed TWIA reform and blocked rate hikes to keep windstorm insurance affordable.
- **RELIEF FOR COASTAL SCHOOLS:** Authored legislation easing insurance costs for coastal schools to safeguard classroom funds and teacher pay.
- **KEEPING NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE:** Banned defunding police and toughened penalties for human trafficking.
- **GROWING OUR ECONOMY & SUPPORTING JOBS:** Delivered tax relief for local businesses and Coastal Bend industries to protect jobs.
- **STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE:** Expanded rural healthcare funding and emergency gear while investing in mental health facilities.

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