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15 Years Ago A11

Issue 1177

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The Island Moon

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November 5, 2026

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Dylan Eager with a nice pompano

Around The Island

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

What a week it's been *Around the Island* as we recovered from our Halloween sugar rush and sunsets came sooner to our shores and we felt some relief from the onslaught of political ads but when the dust settled only one race for seats on the Corpus Christi City Council was decided so alas we get another month of ads from that quarter.

But the good news this week is the opening of the new Commodores Park which will bring the first public pickleball courts to our little sandbar and also the first tennis courts in a decade. Whether you are a paddler or racket swinger you lost your excuse for not playing this week.

Whitecap NPI

This week also saw the addition of four new pickleball courts at the Wake Zone at Whitecap NPI. The Packery Queen is now being docked there in anticipation of work at the old Packery Bay & Grill location and the new homes under construction there will be open for viewing on Saturday. The Freedom Boat Club has also moved its operations there and a new stage for live music is on the way this Saturday.

Islandmoon.com

You will see a QR code on this page that will take you directly to the new Islandmoon.com website where you can view the latest edition of the Island Moon. The new site is a work in progress as we upload Island Moon archives and will begin posting updated stories this week. Please scan the code and check it out. We will also be adding an *Ask the Editor* spot to respond to questions from readers. Like the Island Moon it is free.

La Posada

With the election noise behind us it is now time to get ready for the La Posada season with the parades just five weeks away. The Kickoff Party is Friday, December 4 and the first parade on Friday, December 11. The Friday night parade will once again be televised on KRIS TV.

Around cont. on A2

A new day for Commodores Park



The lighted and covered basketball courts at Commodores Park

By Dale Rankin

The opening of the new Commodores Park this week marks a milestone for Padre Island with the first and most comprehensive set of improvements to a city park on Padre Island since it was annexed in 1980.

Five decades ago the original developers of Padre Island had a choice to make. They could either build sidewalks along the new Island streets they were creating or they could dedicate additional land for parks when they handed The Island and its infrastructure

Park cont. on page A2

New Office Holders for Island residents

By Dale Rankin

The political landscape on Padre Island shifted on Tuesday with residents now represented by new office holders from Washington D.C. to the Nueces County Courthouse. The election saw new faces in every contested non-judicial race countywide in Nueces County including the defeat of Nueces County Judge Connie Scott (R) by Aidee Hernandez (D) by just 373 votes.

Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands (R) was defeated in her re-election bid by Leanna Gutierrez Gonzalez (D) by 1901 votes, as was Anne Lorentzen in the race for District Clerk where she was defeated by Maria Carolina (Kina) Ventura (D) by 1838 votes. In Precinct 4 incumbent Brent Chesney (R) was unopposed.

US. Representative

In the race for the seat in the newly redrawn U.S. Congressional District 34 incumbent Vicente Gonzales (D) won with a 56% margin (112,667 votes, over challenger Eric Flores (R) with 40% 80,572 votes.

Texas House of Representatives

Longtime State Representative Todd Hunter ((R - District 32) will still represent Padre Island, Port Aransas, and Flour Bluff in Austin but in a House of Representatives with a new 83-67 majority of Democrats.

Pickleball paradise!





One year ago as the number of pickleball players on Padre Island began to grow there were no public courts on Padre Island and as recently as last week players were continuing to set up a temporary court at Aquarius Park in order to play. That all changed this week as a total of eight new courts were added to the Island landscape, four at the new Commodores Park and four public courts at the Wake Zone at Whitecap NPI.

The opening of Commodores Park also saw the first public tennis courts on The Island in a decade, as well as the first shaded basketball court.

In one week Padre Island went from a pickleball desert to a pickleball paradise.

A little Island history

Short-term Rental Analysis for the PIPOA Members

By Marvin Jones, Esq.
PIPOA Member

This report is available to all members of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association. It discusses the City's history of short-term rentals, the legal authorities governing short-term rentals, and the PIPOA's restrictive covenants and a potential amendment.

Disclaimer: This report is not legal advice or a legal opinion provided to the PIPOA, the City of Corpus Christi, or members of the PIPOA. The report is for informational purposes only.

City Short-Term Rental History

Background

1. The City of Corpus Christi has adopted via ordinance the Unified Development Code (UDC). In its original form, this code was a generic set of rules created by a compilation of entities such as planning consultants, municipal governments, and other municipal planners. Municipal governments across the country have adopted the UDC.

2. Within the UDC, land uses are determined and given specific locations in which the land

History cont. on A3

Updated Website for the Island Moon

islandmoon.com

If you want to keep up with the roll out of the new Island Moon Website, scan this QR Code. We will be updating the site and including all sorts of amazing new features!

By the numbers

Commodores Park Improvements

Editor's note: Phase I of the improvements at Commodores Park are now complete. Here is a look at what is planned for the remainder of the project.

Phase 1A - $3.5 million

Parking Lot for 68 Cars with Pole Lighting
3,500 Linear Feet of Concrete Trail/Sidewalk
9 Workout Stations
Shallow Bird Pond of roughly 2.5 Acre-Feet Capacity
Covered Pavilion of 4,000 SF
Birding Pergola of roughly 250 SF
Playground of approximately 1,500 SF
6 Pickleball Courts with Perimeter Fencing and Pole Lighting

Phase 1B - $5 million

Community Swimming Pool of approximately 6,500 SF Surface Area w/ Zero Entry
Splash Area, Two Water Spill/ Spray Feature and 6,000 SF of Pool Deck
3,500 SF Conditioned Bath House
600 SF Pump / Equipment House
Secure, Decorative Perimeter Fencing
Minimal Landscape

Phase 2 - $3.8 million

8,000 SF Conditioned Gymnasium

Phase 3 - $5.5 million

10,000 SF Community Center

Total - $19.1 million

Yard of the Month



This month's Island Gardeners "Yard of the Month" features the renewal of a previously Xeriscape yard by Margaret Quirk and Stephen Wilson. The rocks have been removed and replaced with amended soil, making way for an interesting and fun selection of plants that are taking root and thriving, including Railroad Vine, Cardboard Palm, Variegated Aptenia, and many more. A special feature is the night-blooming plants, including Angel's Trumpet and a variety of Jasmine. It is truly a work in progress that has the neighbors fascinated. The gardeners also created a spectacular Halloween display, showcasing their design skills. Not surprisingly, they are launching an interior/exterior design business offering landscaping and holiday designs. 210-638-1285. Just look for the "Yard of the Month" sign on Aquarius near Skysail.

Park cont. from A1

over to the City of Corpus Christi. Having plenty of vacant land and always short on money they chose the latter. So while The Island has few sidewalks, it has 49.7 acres of parkland scattered across five city parks with some designed to be large enough for placement of a drilling rig.

This week marked the opening of the new Commodores Park and $3.5 million in improvements including four pickleball courts, two tennis courts, a 4000 square-foot covered basketball court, and 3500 feet of new walkways.

For the plans of future improvements at the park see the list in this issue.





Tennis courts and the new playground at Commodores Park

The Traveling Moon



Karen Rossi took the Island Moon to the iconic teddy bear in a lamp at the Hamad International



The Island Moon traveled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia for the Miss Teen Universe pageant with Karen Rossi whose Niece is competeing in the Pageant.

Around cont. from A1

Barefoot Mardi Gras

Then on Tuesday November 17 the new art for Barefoot Mardi Gras will be revealed at Evoke Studio where the monthly mixer by the Padre Island Business Association will be held. The artist for this year's poster is an Island Secret and will be announced at the event. The prior Thursday, November 12, State Representative Todd Hunter will speak at the PIBA luncheon.

The Dam remains

The anticipated removal of the water-blocking sand dam on Lake Padre has yet to happen but residents along the channels along North Cabana Street and Cruiser Street report increased water flow and great fishing with the opening of the canal under the Commodores Bridge five months ago. If you open it the fish will come…but there is still no firm schedule for removal of the Lake Padre dam.

That's all for now everybody, the cool weather is here and the Winter Texans have started to arrive. The beltsanders will run at The Gaff on Saturday, November 14 and you can bet the Winter Texans will be there to throw a party. We'll see you there and in the meantime say hello if you see us *Around the Island.*



The Sand Dam and Lake Padre



The Sand Dam with the Don Patricio Bridge looking North. Aerials by Augs



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History cont. from A1

can be used. This process creates districts (zones) where specific uses are allowed. For example, single-family residential areas are identified in the UDC as RS-6 zones. On the Island (NPI), the single-family residential areas are designated RS-6 zones. Land in this zone can be used only for single-family dwellings. The UDC also designates zones for multi-family dwellings and other uses on NPI.

3. The Corpus Christi UDC, prior to 2022, allowed 30-day or longer rentals of property in the RS-6 zone. In 2022, the City changed the requirement for a minimum of 30 day rentals in the RS-6 zone to allow short-term rentals of less than 30 days.

4. Because the Island residents, led by the PIPOA and ISAC, pressured the City Council to leave the RS-6 on NPI with the requirement that rentals be a minimum of one month, thus prohibiting short-term rentals. This prohibition was nicknamed the "Island Carve Out". The City Council amended the UDC with Section 5.2.24. This section states, "Single-family units in a single-family district (zone) cannot be rented for less than a one-month period within the Padre/Mustang Island Area Development Plan." The area development plan encompasses all of Padre and Mustang Island. Thus, the prohibition against short-term rentals is codified in the zoning ordinance in the UCD section 5.2.24.

5. Currently, the City has established a committee to update and theoretically improve the regulations regarding short-term rentals. It is anticipated that the committee's recommendations for new rules will be presented to the Council before the first of the year. The genesis of this committee is a gentleman named Chris Monro, who, along with his investors, operates several short-term rentals in the area of Ocean Drive. These rentals have enraged neighborhood residents, who have pressured the City Council to revise the rules for short-term rentals. Furthermore, Mr. Monro has filed a notice with the City of his intent to sue the City regarding his grievances stemming from the City's regulations and enforcement of the short-term rental rules.

Legal Authority

Below, I have listed, with brief explanations, the most prominent court cases regarding short-term rentals.

Associations Tarr v. Timberwood Park Owners Association

1. The most relevant case to the PIPOA creating an amendment to the covenants prohibiting short-term rentals is Tarr v. Timberwood Park Owners Association. (I will skip the legal citation for the benefit of non-lawyers.) Mr. Tarr owned single-family dwellings within the Owners Association. He rented his properties on a short-term rental basis. The Association claimed that its restrictive covenants prohibited short term rentals. Mr. Tarr claimed the restrictive covenants did not prohibit his short term rentals. The case reached the Texas Supreme Court.

2. According to the Supreme Court, a restrictive covenant is a negative covenant that limits permissible uses of land within the HOA. In general, Texas is a property-rights state, meaning property owners should be allowed to use their property for whatever purpose they choose. However, Texas Courts have held that homeowners associations' restrictive covenants should be treated as contracts. Therefore, the deed restrictions must be construed as a contract and analyzed accordingly. The Timberwood Association's covenants did not have specific language prohibiting short-term rentals. The deed restrictions did prohibit commercial or business use. The Court found that "commercial or business use" was not sufficiently clear to prohibit short-term rentals. Mr. Tarr rented his property not for commercial or business use but for "residential purposes." Based on this assessment, the Court found for Mr. Tarr, in that his rentals did not violate the Timberwood Park covenants. The Court said its finding was specific to this case and the Timberwood Park covenants. The Court left the door open to possibly hear another case with more structured language regarding short-term rentals.

3. In contracts, words matter. Let me repeat: WORDS MATTER. The use and meaning of words often determine an issue's legality.

J. Brice Holdings v. Wilcrest Walk Townhomes

1. In this case, J. Brice sued the townhome association because the association claimed their covenants prohibited him from using his property as a short-term rental. The Association claimed it possessed independent authority to restrict short-term rentals under 204.010 (a)(6) of the Property Code, and that its covenants prohibited short-term rentals. The Court concluded that neither the Property Code nor the covenants provided sufficient authority to prevent short-term rentals. Again, the covenant's wording is key. In addition, Section 204.010(a)(6) did not give the HOA authority to impose restrictions.

Cities

Marfil v. New Braunfels

1. This case was decided by the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. (A Federal Case). The City of New Braunfels created an ordinance zoning regulating short-term rentals in certain residential districts. The regulations banned rentals for less than 30 days. Marfil claimed that, under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Property-Rights Interest, he could short-term rent his property. The Court held that the City of New Braunfels did have the right to enact regulations, including zoning, prohibiting rentals of fewer than 30 days. As a matter of public policy, the good of the many outweighs the need of a few. Is that a quote from Star Trek?

Dallas V. Dallas Short-term Rental Alliance

1. In 2023, the Dallas City Council voted 12-3 to pass an ordinance classifying short term rentals as "lodging" and prohibiting them in areas zoned for single-family homes. The Short-term Rental Alliance argues that this ban would eliminate 90% of local short-term rentals. The ordinance prohibits existing short-term rentals from operating retroactively. In addition, the ordinance violates Texas property rights and economic liberty protections under the Texas Constitution. This case is currently before the Texas Supreme Court. A final ruling is expected in the first part of 2027.

Padre Isles Property Owner Association – Short-term Rentals

1. The PIPOA was formed with protective covenants and landowners' agreements for each of its subdivisions. Each subdivision has its own set of covenants. In general, the covenants are similar. Relevant to short-term rentals is Section 4, General Land Use, Item 5. "No commercial, trade, or business activity of any nature shall be carried on upon any lot…" This restriction is as close to dealing with short-term rentals as can be found in any subdivision covenants. The PIPOA covenants, as well as hundreds of other POA's and HOA's covenants, were written before short-term rentals existed. (Airbnb and VRBO, etc.) The language and wording of our covenants are certainly questionable as a restriction to prohibit short-term rentals (see the Tarr case).

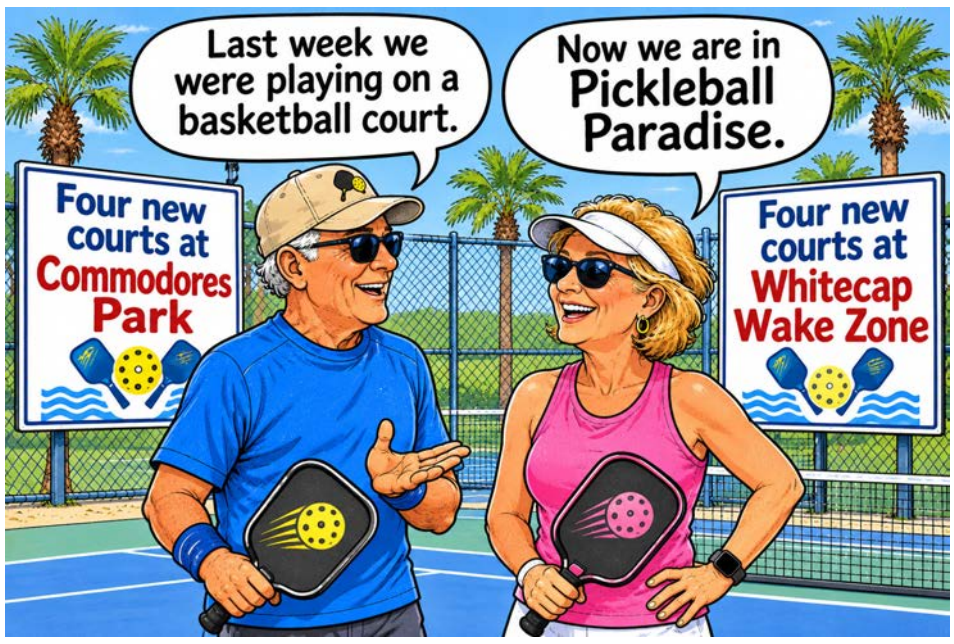
2. The PIPOA covenants can be amended to include a well-worded restriction regarding short-term rentals. To amend covenants of a PIPOA subdivision requires 51% of the subdivision members to pass an amendment. Each subdivision must pass an amendment to its covenants. The PIPOA has 29 subdivisions. It is possible that 10 could pass an amendment and 19 could reject it, thus leaving a patchwork of subdivisions with short-term rental restrictions.

3. There are two methods to pass an amendment. The first is to conduct a petition drive within a subdivision and obtain 51% of the members' votes/signatures to approve an amendment. The petition itself must be constructed in a manner that satisfies all legal requirements. The best way to implement this process is for persons to go door to door seeking approvals. This process could begin as soon as the PIPOA lawyer drafts an amendment and provides a petition that satisfies all legal requirements. This procedure was used when the CAM fees were raised from one and two cents to two and ten cents. This procedure was also used when the Sea Pines Subdivision, located South of the street named Sea Pines, withdrew from the PIPOA. Furthermore, Jim McFadden's ARCH used this procedure to attempt a change to the covenants, reducing CAM fees from ten and two cents back to the original amount of one and two cents. Fortunately, this effort failed, as it would have destroyed the PIPOA. The second method is to put the amendment on a ballot for the membership to vote on. This vote can be in March at the Annual General Election, or it could be done through a special election.

4. Not all subdivisions within the PIPOA have RS-6 zoning. Some are zoned multifamily or retail/commercial. Question: Should this amendment be included in those subdivisions? Given the amount of open land that could be used for single-family 5 residences in the future, including the amendment in those subdivisions will do no harm.

5. The best way to get the amendment passed is to use the door-to-door method. A member awareness campaign should be undertaken to educate members on the amendment's need and purpose. A committee from each subdivision can be organized to go door to door seeking signatures and approval. The amendment is far more likely to pass using the door-to-door method than the voting method. Furthermore, there is no time window to execute the petition. The sooner the amendment process starts, the sooner community members will have protection against short-term rentals.

6. It should be noted that many of the City Council Members and real estate associations would like to see the entire City open to short-term rentals. Thus, the City would be under one set of regulations with no carve-out for NPI. If the PIPOA creates an amendment prohibiting short-term rentals, the City may remove the Island's RS-6 zoning prohibition on short-term rentals, making the entire City subject to the same rules and regulations. If the City does this, the PIPOA would be left to fend for itself if a legal challenge to the amendment takes place. As it stands today, any legal challenge to the Island carve-out must be defended by the City. This situation and its strategic implications should be given serious thought. The current council and election candidates favor the Island carve-out, but political winds at City Hall change. Perhaps an amendment should be drafted and kept ready in case City Hall political winds shift against NPI and the PIPOA community.





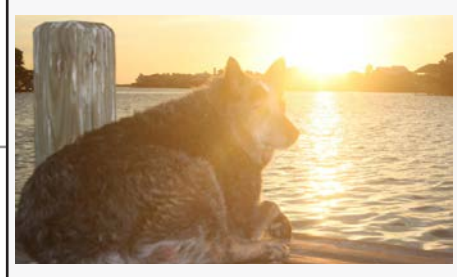
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Stuff I Heard on the Island



By Dale Rankin

When the Election Dust settled this week a total of somewhere around $50 million was spent in the race for the seat as the Island's representative in the recently redrawn Congressional District 34. For the past month political ads for Vicente Gonzalez and Eric Flores across all platforms have run back to back, if you see an ad for one you immediately see an ad for the other. With only a few exceptions they were attack ads aimed at smearing the other fellow in an attempt to reach the 15% of voters who self-declared as undecided. I quickly learned to keep the mute button handy after the tenth or twelfth time I saw each ad and had (unwittingly) committed the dialog to memory.

But I couldn't help but think of how much good that $50 million – or even half of it – could have done if it had been spent instead on projects here in the district. You can do a lot of good with $50 million instead of using it to cast dispersions on the candidate – which ever it turns out to be – who wins and subsequently to undermine the confidence of the public in their officeholders. In a campaign full of eye gouging the winner is going to be blind.

The fact is that in the age of concentrated ownership of media outlets almost none of that $50 million even stays in the district because the local television stations, *Caller-Times*, and all digital platforms are owned by out of town firms and that's where the money ends up. In fact, almost half of the $50 million never even visited the district because it was raised and spent outside the district by Political Action Committees who just see us as a congressional seat to be added to one side or the other without regard to what it means for us. The plan is for them to vilify the candidate of their non-choice with vile rhetoric which may or may not be true in order to stack up numbers in Washington. It's a heck of way to run a country.

Two Party mayhem

The United States is one of only a handful of countries around the world that have a two-party system and in almost all of the others the two major parties must share power with minority parties in a parliamentary system where seats are proportional to the number of votes they garnered in the election. In a parliamentary system where the ruling party often does not reach a majority of votes you would have to call a lot of candidates bad names all at the same time. "The Green Party candidate drives a gas-powered car!" doesn't seem to have the panache of "My opponent is the most corrupt politician in Texas."

It seems that our two parties are in the process of splintering and along with the already existing other parties which usually get a combined total of less than 10% of the vote we seem to be moving toward a multi-party system by baby steps. But for the near future it looks like the two-party mudslinging system is here to stay and we will continue to have one-eyed leaders in the Land of the Blind.

A new plan

So here's an idea. In the future, maybe even in our upcoming city runoff election, candidates should beat their opponent to the punch by running hit ads against themselves! "I'm a scoundrel but not a crook!" "I'm an honest politician. When I'm bought I stay bought!" "I don't take bribes I make lousy decisions all by myself!" "Dogs love me but cats hate me." Stuff like that. That way it's still a race to the bottom but at least you are driving your own car…

It reminds me of a friend who was asked if she would ever run for anything and her response was, "Yes, two things and always in sequential order – the county line and the state line." In Texas we get a bonus in that the state line and the border line are one in the same so you could run for all three at the same time. "Vote for me I'm leaving the country – how much damage could I do?" Or as Kinky Friedman said in his run for governor – "How hard could it be?"

I may be onto something.

Last week on Island Moon Live

Island Moon Live took the show on the road last week. Each week the show goes out live on YouTube and KEYS Radio from 11 a.m.-Noon, then from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. from our host Doc's Seafood & Steaks, but on special occasions we move to other locations and this week it was the annual State of the Port address at the Ortiz Center. Before the event several local leaders stopped by for a chat which can be viewed at Island Moon Live on YouTube. Photos by Debbie Noble



Ryan Skrobarczyk, Judge Connie Scott, Dale Rankin, Jay Gardner, Jacob Augs, and city manager Peter Zanoni.



Al Arreola Jr., IOM President & CEO United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, Dale Rankin, Jacob Augs, and Jay Gardner,



Chairman of the Port of Corpus Christi Commission Gabe Guerra , Dale Rankin, Jacob Augs, and Jay Gardner,

We Need You! Join the Appraisal Review Board

By Brian McCabe



Every spring, thousands of Nueces County property owners question the value placed on their homes or businesses. Some resolve the matter in an informal meeting with an appraiser. Others ask for a formal hearing. When they do, they come before a group that deserves more public attention than it gets: the Appraisal Review Board.

The Appraisal Review Board, or ARB, is made up of local residents. They are not the appraisers who established the property values. They are citizens appointed to listen to evidence, ask questions, apply the law, and reach a decision. And Nueces County needs qualified people willing to do that work.

I served five years on the Nueces County Appraisal Review Board and participated in thousands of hearings. Some were straightforward. Others involved complicated evidence, frustrated homeowners, or small business owners who had taken time away from work to explain why an appraisal was wrong. Most weren't looking for special treatment. They wanted someone to listen and give them a fair hearing.

Some of the hearings I remember best involved homeowners who came in saying their values were too high. The district's appraiser had property records and sales information, but often had never seen the inside of the house. That is understandable. Appraisers cannot walk through every home in Nueces County. Sometimes the homeowner was the only person in the room who could show us what the property actually looked like.

Then came the photographs: a leaking roof, damaged walls, foundation problems, or rooms in far worse condition than the records suggested. In some of those hearings, the evidence justified a substantial reduction in the appraised value. Those were rewarding decisions—not because we had ruled against the appraisal district, but because the homeowner had brought us information that mattered and we had listened.

The ARB does not directly lower anyone's tax bill. It determines the appraised value, and a reduction in that value can reduce the taxes ultimately owed. For a homeowner living on a limited income, that can be a meaningful difference. Sometimes it came down to fifteen minutes, a few photographs, and three people willing to consider the evidence.

Of course, not every homeowner won. The district's representative also had a case to present, and sometimes the evidence supported the district's value. The ARB's job was not to make everybody happy. It was to reach a fair decision based on the law and the evidence. Even when a property owner left disappointed, I hoped that person at least felt heard.

That is why membership matters. The quality of an ARB is not measured only by how many hearings it completes. It is measured by whether people are treated respectfully, have an opportunity to present their evidence, and receive decisions based on the record.

Who should consider serving? Someone who can listen carefully, weigh competing information, stay patient when people are upset, and decide without favoring either side. Experience in real estate, accounting, business, construction, law, or public service can help. But sound judgment, independence, and a willingness to learn matter more. You do not have to arrive knowing the entire Property Tax Code. There are legal requirements. Under Texas Tax Code Section 6.41, an applicant must live in the appraisal district and generally must have resided there for at least two years. Members ordinarily serve two-year terms. State law also restricts service by certain public officials and employees and by people with specified conflicts of interest. Members must complete required training before hearing cases.

This is not a ceremonial appointment. ARB members serve as contract personnel and are currently compensated at $170 per day during their first year, with periodic increases thereafter. The expected commitment is approximately 60 to 90 days a year, primarily from mid-April through mid-July. It takes time and patience, but it is also a chance to do something useful for your neighbors.

In Nueces County, the appraisal district Board of Directors appoints ARB members. Applications are accepted year-round, with no deadline. You can find the application and instructions at https://nuecescad.net/appraisal-review-board-resources/ or contact me, Brian McCabe, Taxpayer Liaison Officer, at (361) 696-7683.

We hear plenty of complaints about government. Some are justified. But here is an opportunity to do more than complain: participate in a process that gives your neighbors a fair chance to be heard.

I know from experience that ARB service can be demanding. I also know it can be worthwhile. You will hear stories about houses, businesses, neighborhoods, and people that no spreadsheet can fully explain. And you will have a direct hand in making sure an important public process works as it should.

So here is my invitation: if you have the time, the temperament, and the independence to serve, consider applying. We need people who will listen. We need people who will think. We need people who will be fair. We need you.

Brian McCabe is the Taxpayer Liaison Officer for the Nueces Central Appraisal District and previously served five years on the Appraisal Review Board. The views expressed are his own. This article is for general public education, not legal advice.

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Flour Bluff ISD Bond Projects

Projects funded by the 2025 Bond at Flour Bluff ISD are underway.



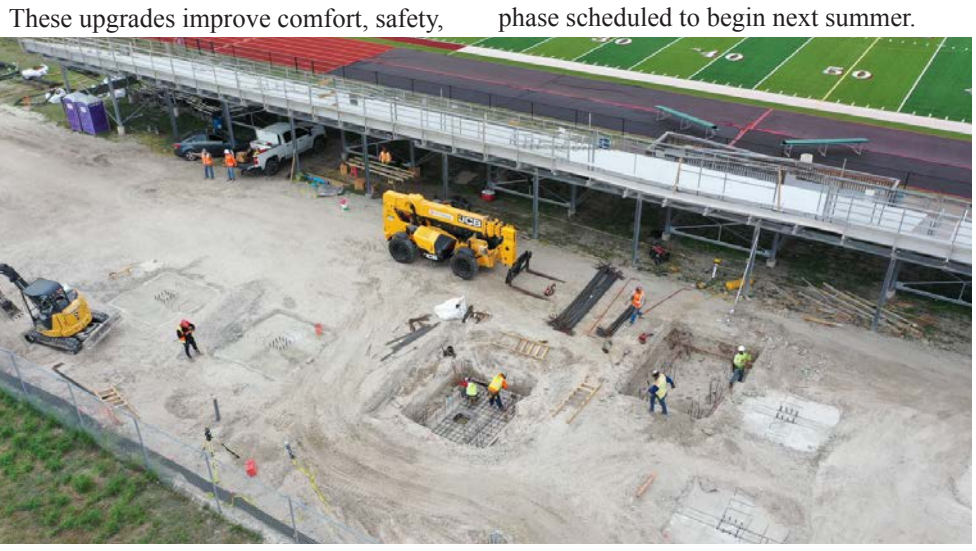
Demolition Underway at the Early Childhood Center

Crews from Weaver & Jacobs have begun the demolition process on the 1950s-era buildings between the ECC cafeteria and the tennis courts, clearing space for new first grade classrooms, a gym, a library, a STEAM room, and more. Demolition will take a few months, and the playground has moved temporarily to a fenced area at the front of the campus to keep students safe. Learn More here.

Bond 2025 Projects Wrapped Up Across the District

Several long-needed Bond 2025 projects are now finished across Flour Bluff ISD. These upgrades improve comfort, safety, students, staff, and visitors.

- New floors have been installed across the district.
- New lighting at the ECC parking lot improves safety for families and staff during early morning and evening hours. New lights also shine on the baseball, softball, tennis, and Junior High football fields.
- New HVAC units are running at the Junior High, the High School, the Baseball Fieldhouse, and the Intermediate Cafeteria.
- The first phase of the Junior High building upgrades is complete with the next phase scheduled to begin next summer.



Work continues at the Flour Bluff Stadium

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Senior moments Special to the Island Moon



United States Army 4 Star General Walton Walker-Part 1

By Dotson Lewis

By-Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: Walker's XX Corps played a role in Patton's dash across France in August and early September 1944, earning the sobriquet "Ghost Corps" for the speed of its advance. He received the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for extraordinary heroism on 23 August 1944, the citation for which read:

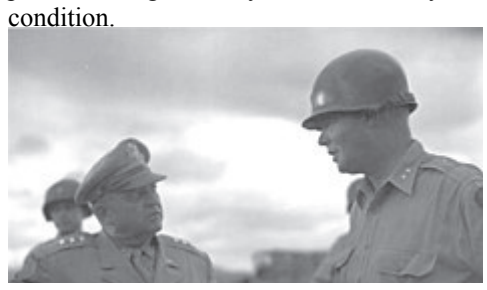
"The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, 9 July 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Major General Walton Harris Walker (ASN: 0-3405), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States. On 23 August 1944, Maj General Walker, Commanding General, XX United States Army Corps, with complete disregard for his own safety, personally directed the successful operation which established a bridgehead across the Seine River near Melun, France. By his continuous presence with the forward elements of his command, as well as exemplary judgment and leadership, he inspired his command in effecting an early crossing of the Seine River and the continuance of the attack eastward. General Walker's contact with the forward combat troops was maintained in the face of heavy enemy fire. He repeatedly exposed himself to this enemy fire, encouraging the troops to move forward and by doing so gave them the required confidence to continue their advance. When certain elements were halted by intense enemy fire, he courageously assumed personal command and through his own supervision, force and persuasion, although he himself was in complete view of the enemy, caused the troops to affect the crossing of the river. By his intrepid direction, heroic leadership and superior tactical knowledge and ability, General Walker set an inspiring example for his command, reflecting the highest traditions of the armed forces."

Walker's troops saw heavy fighting in France and Germany during the remainder of the war, especially at Metz, the Battle of the Bulge, and in the invasion of Germany. In the spring of 1945, XX Corps liberated Buchenwald concentration camp, then pushed south and east, eventually reaching Linz, Austria by May. Walker received his third star at this time, making him a lieutenant general.

Walker received the unconditional surrender of General Oberst Lothar Rendulic, commander of German Army Group South, on 7 May 1945. For his service as commander of XX Corps from 1944 to 1945, he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Post-World War II

In May 1945, Walker returned to the United States to take up command of the Eighth Service Command, headquartered in Dallas. After twelve months, he was assigned as the commander of the Sixth Service Command and the Fifth Army, headquartered in Chicago, from May 1946 to September 1948, and then became commanding general of the U.S. Eighth Army, the American occupation force in Japan. Walker was ordered by General Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Allied Commander in Japan, to restore the peacetime Eighth Army to combat-ready condition.



When 75,000 North Korean troops with tanks invaded South Korea on 25 June 1950, American air and sea forces were ordered by President Harry S. Truman to give South Korean troops support. The U.S. Eighth Army was ordered to intervene and drive the invaders back across the 38th parallel, the border between the two countries. With only four lightly equipped and poorly trained divisions, Walker began landing troops on the southeast side of the Korean peninsula in July. After his lead units, elements of the 24th Infantry Division (including the ill-fated Task Force Smith), were virtually destroyed in a few days of furious fighting between Osan and Taejon, Walker realized his assigned mission was impossible and went on the defensive.

Pushed steadily back towards the southeast by the North Korean advance, Walker's forces suffered heavy losses and for a time were unable to form a defensible front, even after bringing the 1st Cavalry Division and 25th Infantry Division into the fight.

Walker's situation was complicated by MacArthur's orders not to retreat from Tokyo for him not to retreat an inch. Attempting to obey, Walker gave a bombastic "not a step back" speech to his staff and subordinate commanders which did not go over well. Nor did it stop the North Korean troops from pushing back American and South Korean troops, which had been badly mauled in the opening days of the invasion, even further. As American and South Korean forces retreated further east and south, they finally arrived at a defensible line on the Nakdong River. They took advantage of shortened supply routes and a relatively good road network to exploit the advantages of interior lines. Walker was able to quickly shift his units from point to point, stopping North Korean attacks before the attacking forces could be reinforced. A critical advantage Walker had was signals intelligence produced by the U.S. Armed Forces Security Agency (now the National Security Agency). This data enabled Walker to gain an indication of North Korean Army movements prior to attacks. Walker kept his main units deployed on the front lines, while retaining other U.S. Army and Marine Corps forces as a mobile reserve. His ability to better interpret North Korean intentions allowed him and his staff to better position his forces along the perimeter. It also allowed him to employ artillery and airpower more effectively.

American military forces gradually solidified this defensive position on the southeast side of the Korean peninsula, dubbed the "Pusan Perimeter". Walker received reinforcements, including the Provisional Marine Brigade, which he used along with the Army's 27th Infantry Regiment as "fire brigades," reliable troops who specialized in counterattacking and wiping out enemy penetrations. As more reinforcements arrived, the combat advantage shifted toward the United Nations forces. North Korean forces had suffered terribly and their supply lines were under constant aerial bombardment. Almost all of their Russian-made T-34 tanks, which had spearheaded the invasion, had been destroyed. Walker ordered local counterattacks, while planning for a large-scale breakout in conjunction with MacArthur's planned landing at Inchon in September.

Thanks to my Squad in Korea, for the facts contained in this report, and to the U.S. Army Signal Corps, for the photos.

To Be Continued-Thanks for Reading!

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Island Outdoors

Nature Notes

Seaside Sparrow

Goldilocks bird likes to spread its wings and shake its tail feathers!



Seaside Sparrow by Mike Williams

Abby Bressette

As someone pursuing a career in conservation research, I have spent many of my summers collecting data outdoors. Often, I step into the field with tunnel vision, focusing only on the tasks I need to complete. As a Research Intern at GCBO, some of these tasks include spotting adult Wilson's plovers and their chicks, locating and monitoring nests, and counting least tern colonies. Some of my favorite memories of field work, however, were when I was pulled out of my data-trance by something that, while unrelated to my research, was unexpected and captivating.

This summer, I was in the passenger seat of our work UTV alongside my fellow intern, Hailey, and our field technician, Kate at one of our field sites on the beach. We had driven past the dunes and into the salt marsh when we heard an unusual bird song. At first, we thought it was a red-winged blackbird, until I spotted a gray sparrow with a white throat, a streaked chest, and a splash of yellow next to its bill.

The seaside sparrow (Ammospiza maritima) is found almost exclusively in salt and brackish marshes along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of the U.S. Plants found in the ideal habitat for a seaside sparrow include smooth cordgrass, salt grass, and rushes. While migratory in some parts of its range, the seaside sparrow is a year-round resident of the Texas Gulf coast. Patchiness in habitat has led to the formation of subspecies with distinct plumage and ranges, including several Gulf Coast subspecies. Seaside sparrows forage for seeds, insects, and other invertebrates on the ground and in vegetation.

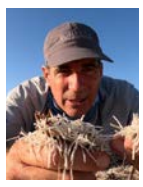
During their breeding season in spring, males display to females by raising their wings and vocalizing. Both males and females use display as a way to defend their territory, raising their wings and spreading their tail feathers. Seaside sparrows are sometimes called the "goldilocks bird" due to their specific habitat needs. For nesting, seaside sparrows require habitat that stays dry both during high tide and flooding events. To further protect their eggs from inundation, they weave grass nest cups above the ground in tall vegetation.

Seaside sparrows are currently threatened by habitat loss as development expands along coastlines. Small, isolated subspecies are especially at risk of decline. In the late 1980s, the Dusky seaside sparrow, found in Florida, went extinct. The Cape Sable seaside sparrow, a subspecies endemic to the Florida Everglades, is currently endangered. Other threats to seaside sparrow populations include runoff of pesticides and other pollutants as well as rising sea levels. Conserving and restoring salt and brackish marsh habitats along coasts in the U.S. is crucial to protect seaside sparrows, as well as other native flora and fauna that depend on these unique habitats.



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Beachcombing Report



By Jace Tunnell

Jingle Shells

They are named for their sound



Jace with a holding jingle shells

One of the greatest rewards of beachcombing is stumbling onto something unexpected. This week, I found handfuls of jingle shells scattered across the beach, so many that I couldn't resist stopping to pick them up. Some shimmered with a pearly white glow, while others were dark gray to almost black, a sure sign they had likely been buried beneath the sand for quite some time before waves uncovered them again.

Jingle shells are among the most colorful shells found along the Texas Gulf Coast. Fresh shells can be golden, amber, orange, silver, pink, or pearly white, and no two seem to be exactly alike. Their paper-thin shells are so translucent that if you hold one up to the sun, light shines right through it.

Despite their resemblance to oysters, jingle shells belong to a different family of bivalves. One of the easiest ways to identify them is by a small hole near the hinge. While alive, the shell passes a tough bundle of threads, called a byssus, through this opening to permanently anchor itself to oyster reefs, rocks, pilings, or other hard surfaces. Because they stay attached for life, many grow into unusual shapes that match whatever they are living on.

Several of the shells I collected had perfectly round holes drilled through them. Those weren't made by people, but by predatory snails such as oyster drills. The snail slowly rasps through the fragile shell before feeding on the animal inside, leaving behind a remarkably neat circular opening.

The name "jingle shell" comes from the pleasant tinkling sound they make when several are strung together. Their delicate beauty has made them popular for wind chimes, jewelry, and sun catchers. After filling my hands with these colorful treasures, it was easy to understand why they remain one of my favorite finds along the Texas coast.

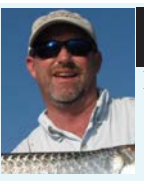
Jace Tunnell is the Director of Community Engagement for the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. His Beachcombing series appears in newspapers, as a weekly video on YouTube and KEDT PBS, and as a weekly feature on KEDT NPR. Follow Jace at harteresearch.org, Facebook (@harteresearch) and Instagram (@harteresearch).



Handful of jingle shells



Jingle shell with a snail predator hole



On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

Showtime!

What a great time to live on the Texas Coast! Yes, I travel to a few Caribbean places and the Florida Keys frequently, but this is really the time of year that we hit our stride here. The water is still warm enough to get in comfortably, it's not a billion degrees outside, and the coast is basically clear. And in fact, it's about to clear out a bit more, as both deer and duck season starts this weekend, and you can shoot quail, squirrels, chachalaca's, turkey, rails, gallinules, moorhens, and snipe. It's a great place to be a sportsman.

Pompano season



Dylan with a nice pompano

The season that a lot of people are excited about is pompano season on the beach, which is getting fired up with these cold fronts. The current is switching from south-to-north to north-to-south. This does several things, mainly it pushes the fish southward, which shouldn't be a surprise. The pompano will also start to migrate out a little bit, which makes them harder to hit when they are outside the third bar.

Pompano are sight feeders, and they clue in on several types of prey. One of their main sources is the coquina, a small brightly colored bivalve that inhabits our beach shorelines and bars. As the water cools down, the coquina shells move out from the edge of the water towards the first bar. This migration is what the pompano have been waiting for, as they get into a bit deeper water and become available. Pompano also eat shrimp, crabs, polychaete worms, mole crabs, and also sand dollars. I think we need a sand dollar flavored fish bite. Sounds almost as appetizing as a peanut butter and jellyfish sandwich.

In any event, history and conventional wisdom tell us that a double drop leader with 3/0 circle hooks and a 4 oz weight on a 10-12' heavy surf casting spinning rod is the way to start with fishing for pompano. Most folks prefer fish bites and a shrimp combo on each hook, secured with bait thread to keep the pesky pecking fish from stealing your bait. Then, after setting your PVC rod holder solidly in the sand, you walk halfway to Cuba and then attempt to throw to China. If you're catching hardheads and whiting, you're not casting far enough, typically. Our buddy Kevin and family got a few nice ones south of Bob Hall this past weekend, so good luck out there!

Tarpon head south for the winter

The tarpon are splitting up and headed either to Florida or Mexico for the winter. I need to get out there and down south on the rocks and see if there are any still around. The redfish should be thick in the surf, as well as some fat trout. This is a great time of the year to hit the sand for a variety of fish. Don't forget the sunscreen as it's still pretty bright.

Coastal Bend Bays Foundation

The Coastal Bend Bays Foundation (CBBF) is holding a Coastal Issues Forum this coming Monday, November 9th at 5:30 at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development. This week's speaker is our buddy Sam Sugarek, and he is going to cover his many years of monitoring the Nueces River. I'm not trying to pack the house to make Sam feel loved or nervous about a big crowd, but I recommend that if you are interested in what is going on with freshwater inflows into our bay system (or the lack thereof, or the effects of it when it does happen), then I recommend you show up. I will see you there.

Well folks, I would typically say that this year's political season should be headed for the funny papers, but that's not the case. With today's technology of being able to blow up people's pagers and cell phones, I think everyone is about over it already despite all the runoffs a month away.

Can we just have the runoffs next week please? Let's pull off the band aid and get back to work. Drop me a line at jaygardner1032@gmail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Fish cleaning board full of pompano and whiting. Photos by Kevin Eager

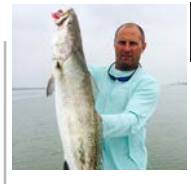


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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Time for a Deep Water Retreat



Some of my favorite clients Lee&Betsy with a stringer filling trout, redfish, and drum we caught this week on live shrimp against the spoil islands of the Intracoastal.

The lack of man centers my focus on the sounds of the Lagoon. The absence of the roar of outboards is appreciated by both man and fish alike. The shallow flats are quiet and giant mature Speckled Trout are gathering in small groups for their traditional Fall Spawn!

Bait populations will dwindle down now and gamefish will have to hunt for their meals, bringing fishing to a high level. We are now entering the Great Days of Fall Fishing!

As temperatures continue to fall through the next month, gamefish will position themselves close to the wintering locations that offer some key options for survival.

Deep water retreat, deep water that is out of the direct flow of fast moving current. These areas can be the deepest flats, oilfield channels, and canals. Second must be accessible flats that hold grass and marbled bottom. These mid-depth locations will be the most every day zones of hunting and rest. Shallow water will need to be close bye so that after a tight cold snap water will warm in the sun and flow off of these shallow shelves into the mid depth waters. Temperatures may only be one or two degrees different between the deep and shallowest of waters but that is a very big deal when they are regulating their core temperature. Look for bait presence with these three key features within walking distance, because gamefish can and will swim about the same speed as you can casually walk.

Mid to late November is some of my most favorite fishing for big trout. They may still lack the extra half pound or more of winter weight that they will have in January or February but they become aggressive in an attempt to stock up on meals before the cold sets in. Look for mid depth sand pockets that contains gravely sand in them. These pockets surrounded by mature grass beds are where the spawning action occurs the nights before the November full moon. Walking shallow shorelines in November without boats screaming and racing to one trophy spot to another will release any and all pressure on you and the fish, making the entire process a true art.

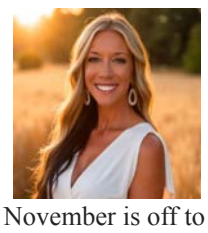
Slipping into the water I felt the chill press my waders against my body as if I was dipping into a different world. The water looked a winter cobalt blue, and each slow move brought me closer to the stand of sand pockets along the beach. Shore birds and ducks fed along the shallow beach front, and I listened to the sounds of them digging and dabbling along the sea grass. Mullet flipped along the drop off, a heron danced following a school of tiny mud minnows on the beach. I knew this was a rich zone of life, bounded to hold a trophy. A long cast seemed to rest my bait past the farthest reaches of the sand holes. A few darts and sweeps, then a wobbly falling of the MIRROLURE SUSPENDING BAIT. I stared into the sea to follow my plug's bright chartreuse back along its route. A pause and flicker of the bait and I watched a dark shadow fly buy, a split second later a silver flash as she circled back and inhaled the entire body. She reared at the pressure of the rod sweeping up, and blasted white water around a raising pair of gills. Cold water seems to make fall trout just go wild! She soon darted towards my legs and out towards the deeper grass. I caught and landed that fish without witness. But I was fulfilled more in heart than I could have ever blasted on social media. Sometimes we bring achievements to hand, understanding, and appreciation, without the pat on the back of others. It's the lessons we learn on our own that gives us the confidence in one's stride. The knowledge to pass on to others as a gift.



This month when you hear the cold winds blowing outside the window, step into the breeze and feel the CALL OF THE WILD. Let the cold air rush your lungs and fill your chest. Some of our best adventures will be over the winter! My December calendar is on standby… weather, deer hunting and family. I'll have some days open last minute so when you see some good weather or just feel the need to live a little, call me and find your day on the water. Follow all of our fishing on Facebook and Ticktok at Capt Joey Farahs Backwater Fishing! 361-442-8145

This beautiful trout came from a DOA 5.5" Jerk Shad in BloodShad color fishing the spoil islands along the ICW Canal in the Laguna Madre. Look for this main canal to be a major migrational highway this month. Farah

Island Real Estate Roundup



Apryl Noles

November Shows Promise

November is off to a promising start here on beautiful Padre Island! As we head into the holiday season, we're optimistic about the weeks ahead. With more visitors coming to enjoy our coastal community, we're hopeful that some will decide to make Padre Island their permanent home or invest in a piece of paradise!

The detached home sector is showing steady activity, with three homes entering the option period and three successfully closing. The condominium sector had an especially productive week, with one condo currently pending and five successfully closing. While the townhouse sector saw no activity this week, we know how quickly things can change in our Island market.

As we approach the holidays and the end of the year, we're looking forward to seeing what opportunities November brings for both buyers and sellers! Below, you'll find this week's market statistics. Stay tuned for next week's update as we continue to follow the Padre Island real estate market!

Detached Homes In The Option Period:

-14869 Lighthouse Dr (Listed for $689,000)

-15710 Dyna St (Listed for $499,900)

-13529 Ducat Ct (Listed for $485,000)

Detached Homes That Sold:

-13545 Bullion Ct (Listed for $760,000)

-15346 Cartagena Ct (Listed for $699,000)

-14717 Dasmarinas Dr (Listed for $397,500)

Condominium That Is Pending:

-15005 Windward Dr Unit 119 (Listed for $179,000)

Condominiums That Sold:

-15002 Windward Dr Unit 202 (Listed for $375,000)

-13970 Fortuna Bay Dr Unit A (Listed for $355,000)

-14802 Whitecap Blvd Unit 3-106 (Listed for $249,900)

-15034 Aruba Dr Unit 109 (Listed for $199,000)

-15005 Windward Dr Unit 122 (Listed for $169,500)

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Thoughts from Reverend Ken



By Rev. Dr. Ken

You Gotta Serve Somebody

Nobel Laureate Bob Dylan wrote a song, "Gotta Serve Somebody." The essence of the song is that rich or poor, famous or not famous, powerful or not powerful, connected or not connected, everyone is faced with the simple choice. You are going to have serve somebody. "Well, it may be the devil, or it may be the Lord, but you're gonna have to serve somebody." To which John Lennon responded with a song, "Serve Yourself."

In the final scene of the biblical hero Joshua's life, he gathered the ancient Israelites. He posed to them this question of allegiance. Joshua made his familiar statement, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15) The people affirmed their allegiance to God. However, Joshua pushed back on that affirmation. He asked them to make a commitment and then he challenged it. Joshua didn't think they could serve the Lord. After all, serving yourself is easier.

Serving God goes beyond simple declarations or emotionally charged promises made in church. It means orienting our entire lives around that commitment. Compartmentalization is not possible for those who choose to follow God. The challenge for humans is the lure of divided allegiance. When we choose who or what we will serve, we are also choosing who or what we will not serve. This is hard in our time of alluring and tantalizing idols and false gods, including self. Push back can be difficult.

Consider the example of Ms. Rachel

Ms. Rachel is a YouTube star that mesmerizes toddlers. Some have called her the toddler whisperer extraordinaire. I have witnessed this with our grandchildren. Her catchy videos with sweet, sing-songy rhymes have racked up billions of views, some of those views coming from our three boys.

Ms. Rachel is a character created by Rachel Griffin Accurso. Episodes of her shows regularly place in the top 10 on Netflix. Her videos address topics as diverse as potty training, bedtimes routines and emotional regulation.

Accurso is an outspoken Christian. Yet, her videos are intentionally inclusive for people of all faiths. They are also replete with Christian virtues such as love, joy, kindness, empathy, and hope. She has stated that her work is rooted in her love for Jesus and the gospel imperative to serve others. She has chosen who she will serve.

Her unwavering commitment to Christ has led Accurso to use her platform to advocate for children's humanitarian issues, including relief and ceasefire efforts for children affected by the conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan. In one video she played with Rahaf, a three-year-old girl from Gaza who lost both her legs in an Israeli air strike. She has been vocal about opposing racism and advocated for children in ICE detention centers. She has been the target of intense criticism including push back for including LGBTQ+ representation in her content.

In choosing to serve the God of love, Ms. Rachel remains committed to using her platform for love and justice. She emphasizes focusing energy on those suffering injustice, not critics. She has stated that she believes privileged individuals have a responsibility to speak out against harm, as silence only perpetuates systemic oppression. *Sojourner's* magazine writer Gerlyn Henry states that Ms. Rachel is an example of a modern prophet. She is willing to speak truth to power because of who she has chosen to serve.

Jesus taught his followers to love all our neighbors, including our enemies. He did not say, "Love every neighbor, except . . ."

Ms. Rachel reminds me of another children's program creator, Mr. Rogers. In 1969, Presbyterian minister Rogers shared a wading pool with Francois Clemmons, a Black actor who played a mail carrier. They dipped their feet in the small pool on a hot summer day. This occurred in a time when Black Americans were violently attacked for trying to swim in public pools. By mimicking the childlike act of dipping feet in a pool on a hot day, Rogers and Clemmons imagined a future outside of Jim Crow America.

To serve God is to be present to God's guiding presence. It is to be attuned to God's agenda, as defined by Jesus, not our agenda. Accurso, when questioned about the maelstrom against her said she has leaned on her faith. "I had this moment when I was praying to God, like how to handle people hating me? And I feel like I got the message that our goal in life isn't to be the most liked or the most loved. It's that you're meant to help kids, and stand with kids, and speak the truth about things."

Sounds like a person who chosen not only who she will not serve, and but more importantly, who she will serve.

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.

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Play at your own risk!

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

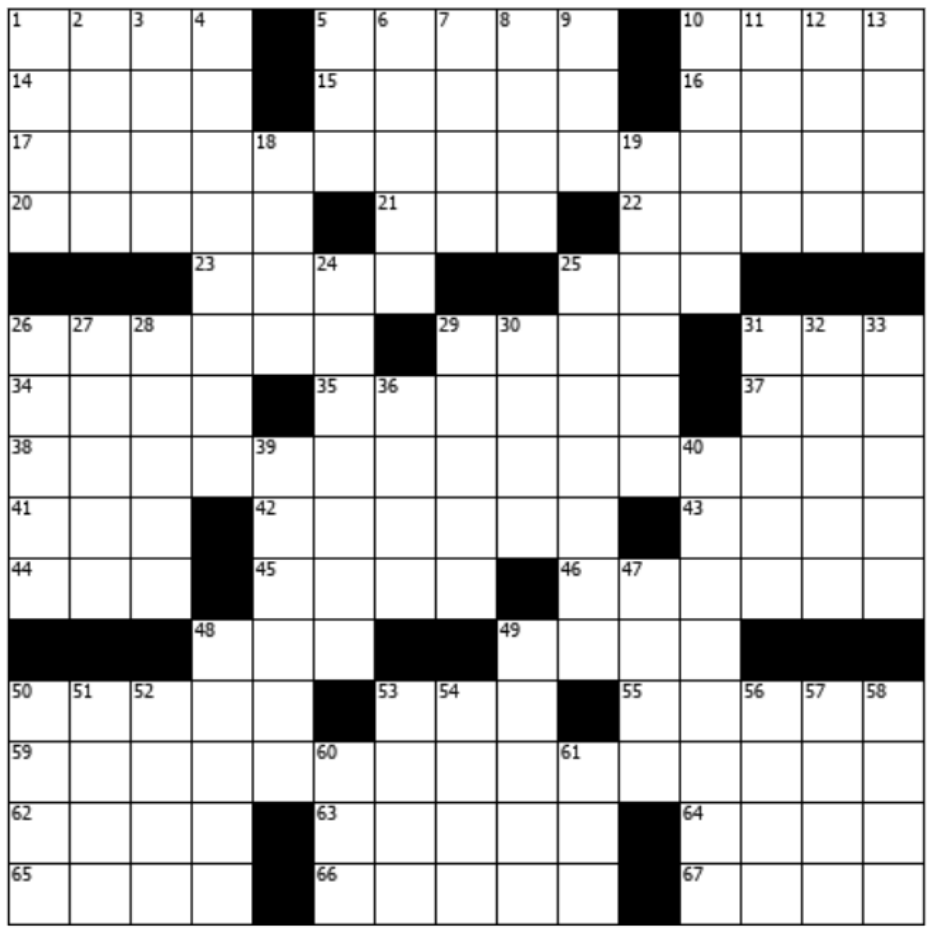
9					8		2	
	5		2			9		6
			9	3				
					1	7	5	2
	9						4	
5	2	7	8					
				6	3			
6		8			9		1	
	7		1					9

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page



Across

1. Makes a mistake
5. Dominican Republic neighbor
10. Bride's dress
14. Airplane stunt
15. Zeal
16. A great lake
17. Much-welcomed words
20. Shorthand pro
21. Cunning
22. South Pacific spots
23. Slangy refusal
25. Wide shoe width
26. Elate
29. Ewes' mates
31. Denver clock setting: Abbr.
34. Ore deposit
35. Magic charm
37. Doctors' org.
38. Compliment a person
41. Magazine execs.
42. Except if
43. Young horse
44. Father's Day gift
45. Danson and Turner
46. Not in secret
48. Kept out of sight
49. Be confident about
50. Brother of Moses
53. Questionnaire info
55. Piece of stationery
59. Alters an opinion
62. Patronize a pawnshop
63. Doesn't go
64. Nickname for Ireland
65. Looks at
66. Carbonated drinks
67. Start over with

Down

1. Shade trees
2. Defeat soundly
3. Red flower
4. Twirling around
5. Derby, e.g.
6. Got up
7. Revered figure
8. Broadway award
9. Anger
10. Swans' relatives
11. Spoken
12. Send a telegram to
13. Loch __ monster
18. Great, to teens
19. Snooze, in Mexico
24. Made preparations
25. Writer Ralph Waldo __
26. Den appliance
27. Swiss miss of fiction
28. Washing-machine step
29. Ploys
30. Swiss mountains
31. Brick worker
32. One of the senses
33. Delicious
36. Playing-card combo
39. Day trip
40. Freebie restaurant drink
47. Balloon-bursting sounds
48. Sounds from 10 Down
49. Nairobi's nation
50. Muscle soreness
51. Sailor's greeting
52. Speed contest
53. Concerning
54. Ultimate objective
56. Not diluted
57. City in Oklahoma
58. City in Nevada
60. Upper-left keyboard key
61. Letter after ar

Halloween Trick-or-treaters on The Island 2026

Photos by Debbie Noble













Moon Classifieds #1177

Here's how to place a Classified Ad

To place an ad call:
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Al-Anon & AA Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous
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7 pm at Island Presbyterian Church,
14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
Sunday 8 am at Padre Balli RV Park Open Pavilion
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(In bad weather, the Sunday meetings will be indoors at IPC)

Is alcohol causing a problem in your family?
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Island Moon Live



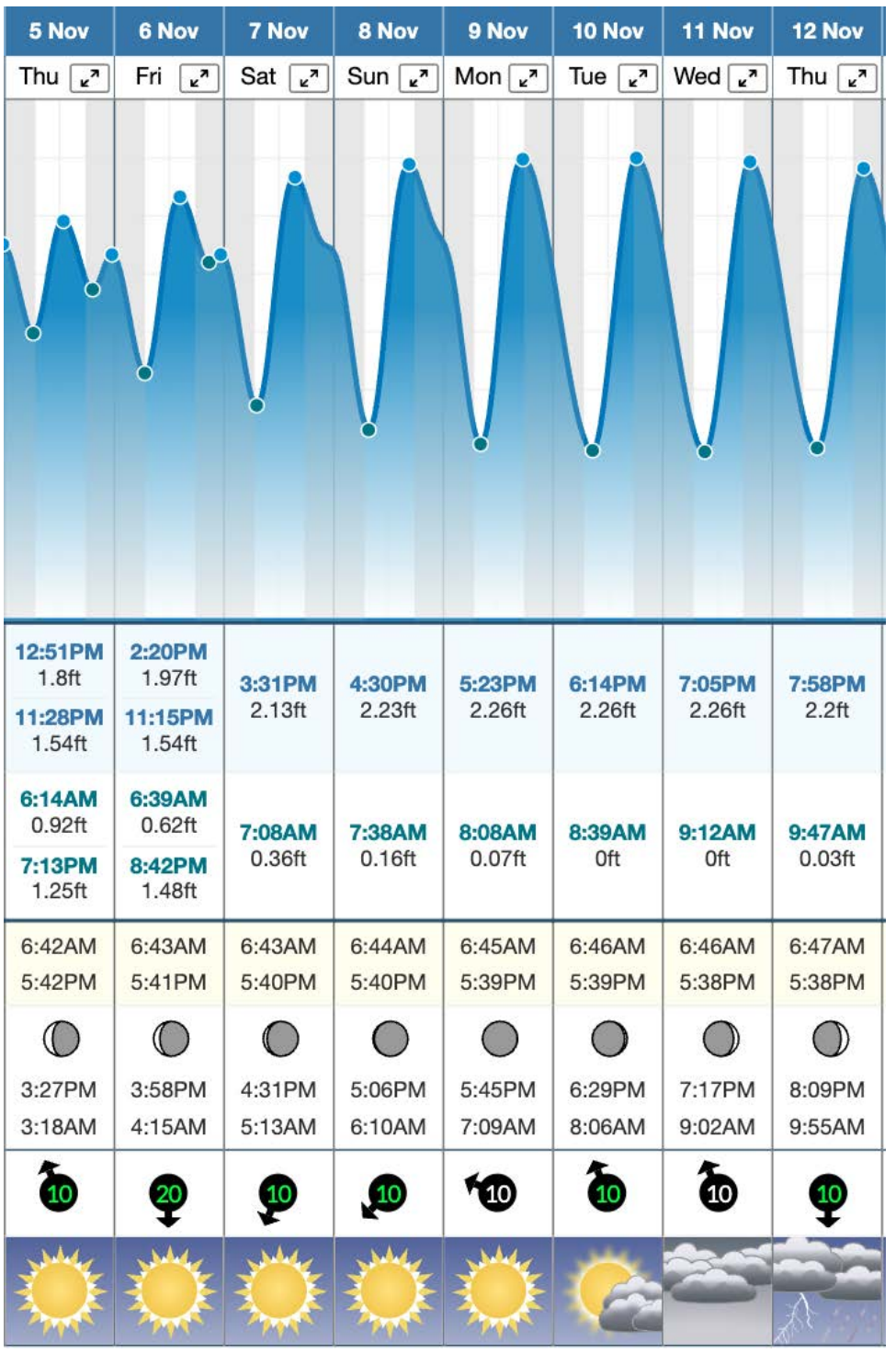
Our Thursday radio show is on 1440 KEYS and 98.7 fm as well as streamed live on YouTube and Facebook! We record the show on Thursdays live from 11 am to 1 pm. We have an enormous amount of different friends and guests, telling stories about how the Island used to be, and where we are heading. All of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

Live Streams



Spoonbills and Coyote By Tricia Scow

Tides of the Week



Crossword Solution

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

What to Do With Your Boat between Seasons

The fish don't leave when the summer crowds do, but a lot of island boats spend more time on the trailer than on the water between now and spring. An afternoon of work now protects the engine, the trailer and your first weekend back out.



By November, the causeway traffic thins out, the Laguna Madre goes quiet on weekdays and island boats start keeping a different schedule. A few still slip out on calm winter mornings. Plenty of others sit for weeks at a time, on a trailer in the driveway, on a lift behind the house or in a slip, waiting for warmer weather.

It's tempting to think winterizing is a worry for boaters up north. Then you remember February 2021. Corpus Christi dropped to 17 degrees on Feb. 15, and the water got cold enough that rescuers documented 13,326 cold-stunned green sea turtles along the Texas coast that month, many of them in the Laguna Madre near Padre Island National Seashore. Engines don't handle that kind of cold well either, and BoatUS says its marine insurance program sees freeze-damage claims every year from boats in Southern states caught by a hard freeze.

Our winters are usually mild. Usually is the key word. So how much should you do? That depends on how long the boat will sit, what the forecast looks like and what kind of engine you run. If you're still getting out regularly, your normal maintenance routine covers you. If the boat will sit through several cold fronts, follow the manufacturer's storage and winterization recommendations, and start with the parts that matter most.

Before it sits

That means the engine first. After the last trip, flush it with fresh water to clear salt from the cooling passages, because salt left to dry inside gives corrosion a head start. On an outboard or sterndrive, change the lower unit gear oil while you're at it. If the old oil comes out milky, water has gotten past a seal, and that's a much better discovery in December than on the first warm Saturday in March. For a longer layup, follow the manufacturer's steps for fogging the engine, and make sure the cooling system has been drained or protected against freezing according to its instructions.

Fuel comes next. For boats with built-in tanks, BoatUS generally recommends keeping the tank nearly full during storage, with room left for expansion, since less air space means less moisture condensing inside. Add a suitable stabilizer before the boat sits, then run the engine long enough to move treated fuel through the system. Stabilizer protects good fuel, but it can't bring back fuel that has already gone stale. Follow the engine manufacturer's instructions and check any fuel rules at your storage location before filling up.

Then there's the battery, the part most likely to let you down in spring. One left connected and ignored for a few months can drain past the point of recovery. Charge it fully, then disconnect it or keep it on a maintainer. If the boat is stored where you can't plug in, take the battery home.

Don't forget what the boat rides on. On the island, the trailer takes as much punishment as the boat. Every launch dunks the hubs in salt water, and bearings that stay wet all winter can corrode. Check the hubs, and grease or repack the bearings if you can't remember the last time it was done. Check tire pressure when the tires are cold, using the trailer manufacturer's recommendation, and look over the sidewalls for sun cracking, along with the lights, bunks or rollers, and winch strap. If the trailer will sit for months, roll it a few feet now and then so the same patch of each tire isn't carrying all the weight.

While it waits

Once the boat is put away, the island's humidity goes to work. Closed lockers and damp cushions are an open invitation to mildew, so take cushions, life jackets and electronics home if you can, prop lockers and hatches open and put a moisture absorber in the console or cabin. A good cover keeps out rain and sun while still letting air move. Look for one with vents, and support it so water can't pool on top.

Smaller visitors move in too. Mud daubers and wasps love an empty exhaust port or vent, and rodents love a quiet boat with crumbs aboard. Cover the openings, clear out snacks and leftover bait, and leave a note at the helm listing everything you blocked off, so nothing gets missed before the first start.

Where the boat waits matters as well, and every option comes with trade-offs. A slip or lift makes it easy to sneak out on a nice day, but the lines, bilge pump and battery need regular checks, and a boat left in the water keeps growing marine life on the hull. The driveway is convenient, but check your HOA or deed restrictions first, and remember the sun keeps working on gelcoat, vinyl and trailer tires all winter.

An open storage lot has room for bigger rigs but leaves them exposed to sun and wind. Covered or enclosed storage offers shelter from direct sunlight and some weather exposure, though the level of protection depends on the structure, so check what is included before choosing a space. Wherever it sits, strap the cover down well. A winter norther can send strong gusts across the island with little warning.

For boat owners who only get out on the water occasionally during winter, the storage decision often comes down to access and upkeep. Before choosing a space, consider how easily you can retrieve the boat, whether the trailer fits comfortably and how much protection the location provides from sun and coastal weather. A little planning now can make those first fishing trips in spring much easier.

The quiet months are also a good time to catch up on paperwork. A Texas boat registration is valid for two years, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife, so check the expiration date on your decals before spring. It's worth a call to your insurance agent, too. Ask whether your policy covers freeze damage and whether storing the boat somewhere new changes anything.

Waking it up in spring

When the weather turns and the flats start calling, give yourself a couple of hours before the first trip. Remove the covers from vents and exhaust (that note at the helm will help), reconnect and test the battery, check the gear oil and fuel lines, test the bilge pump and navigation lights, and look the trailer over before you tow. Then go fishing.



Fifteen years ago in the Island Moon



The new restaurant at Bob Hall Pier was under construction. Unfortunately when the cement for the floor was poured the weighed caused the structure to collapse.



The community gardens at Douden Park were under construction .



The Island had one of these…



It seems unthinkable now but the City of Corpus Christi drained 13 million gallons of water each month out of fire hydrants, including many of Padre Island where dead end water mains caused "plating" which caused algae to form in the lines. To drain the stale water these boxes were installed on the meters with timers to send the water into Island storm drains.



The building that now houses Brewster Street was abandoned awaiting a new tenant.



The students at Seashore Charter Schools designed a new tree ornament for La Posada.



Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Brain fog...



In the fog

Last week was quite an interesting one. Somewhere, somehow I was exposed to a viral brain infection, meningitis that ended me up in the hospital on one wild rollercoaster ride. Meningitis is a rare airborne disease that is transmitted through the bodily fluids of others and mosquitoes. Only 1% of the population gets it and it got me. I woke up on Sunday and my healthy brain pan was nowhere to be found. I didn't know where I was, who I was, what year it was, who my **Mermaid Gal** was or anything… complete fog. It was obvious something was seriously wrong. Can you say *delirium*? So my gal grabbed me up and took me to see **Dr. Dan** at the *Port A Medical Clinic.* I'm told it was a chaotic scene that I have no recollection. I was informed later of the sequence of events that included an ambulance ride to the *Shoreline Christus Spohn Hospital* where I landed in the emergency room on IV drips for the next four days. And in the mean time, my usually healthy brain settled into a thick London fog. And by fog I mean I would lose my thoughts in mid-sentence and can't remember where I was going while standing in the middle of a room. After a couple of days the fog started to settle and I had fleeting memories of what had been happening to me. It was trippy dippy to say the least but I was eventually able to piece most of my memory back together. Believe me; you do not want this monster in your head especially if it's the bacterial kind which is extremely deadly. I'm back home now and writing this column is the first test for my new addled brain. They gave me an antiviral medication to take for ten days and sent me home. I was told to take it easy and that I should be back to normal in a couple of weeks and that I wasn't contagious anymore. It's definitely been a challenge but the outpour of love has been amazing and I'm feeling much stronger every day. Thank you **Susan Powell** for telling me to cut the whining.

Halloween debriefing…



Joe King Carrasco played Shorty's on Halloween. Photo by Casandra Beth

Somewhere in this fog *Halloween* went on without me. That's tough being that I LOVE *Halloween*. For starters my brother of forty plus years, **Joe King Carrasco** played *Shorty's* and I couldn't go to the show without the wrath of his bride **Nicole** descending on me and you don't want to test that. So I asked a photographer friend of mine, **Cassandra Beth,** to get me some pics at *Shorty's* and the *Sip Yard* and for *Red's*, queso grande **KK Knapp,** to send me pics of their decorations. Sorry I missed the costume contests at the *Gaff* and the *Sip Yard.* I missed a lot. I consider Joe King family and love the man dearly. So after their show last Saturday he and his bride **Nicole** came over to our house for some backyard grilling and it was exactly what I needed. I could on and on here regarding JKC, his missionary efforts in Ukraine and his history as a noted musician who is known internationally as the *King of Tex-Mex*. I met Joe back when I had my booking agency with the *Antone's Record Label* in the 90's; (**Doug Sahm, Lazy Lester, Miss Lavelle, Sue Foley, Tracy Nelson,** etc) at the insistence of Doug Sahm, one of the early founders of *Tex-Mex* (**Texas Tornadoes**). We go way back.

Scattered shots…

One of the last shows I remember seeing was the **Tom Petty** tribute band. As part of the *Beachtober Beats* concert series sponsored by the *Chamber* of tribute bands (**B-52's, Led Zeppelin,** etc). The rest is fuzzy so *Scattered Shots* is out of here right now...it's time to reorganize and start over…

Fun events this weekend…



The Pink Flamingo Pub Crawl 2025. Photo by Steve Coons

We have some very cool events coming this weekend in Port Aransas plus a serious boat load of live music shows. Let's roll! First of all the annual WOODEN BOAT SHOW will take up residence in *Roberts Point Park*. Sponsored by *Farley Boat Works* who has a long history in Port A, you'll see a variety of homemade wooden boats from canoes to skiffs. You might even be inspired to build one in your own garage. This event runs all weekend. And on Sunday the PORT A FARMER'S MARKET will be happening in the pavilion in the park. This is a great chance to check out all things organic such as produce, oysters and crafts. Trust me… this weekend is a great time to hit the park in Port A. Also coming this weekend will be the highly anticipated PINK FLAMINGO PUB CRAWL sponsored every year by *Red's Riviera* on main street Port A. Prepare to be blinded by pink. We're talking about golf carts decked out in flamingos and costumes of every pink sort. The crawl will start to line up in the parking lot of *Lowe's Grocery Store* (directly across the street from *Red's*) around noonish and will first go to the *Sip Yard* from 1:00- 2:00 then it's off to the beach for photos. After the photo session the precession will head down the beach and hang a right on *Beach Street* and stop at the *Gaff* from 2:30- 3:30. Then it's off to *Shorty's* from 3:30-4:30 and finally back to *Red's* for communal bliss. This event is totally Port A and you don't want to miss it.



Selling oysters at the Farmers Market in Port A 2025

Coming this weekend…

On Friday the 6th we have the **Led Zeppelin** tribute band **Tex Zep** plus **Dirty Ridge** at the *Sip Yard*, **Boo and Poo** at the *Gaff* and the **Palacios Brothers** at *Shorty's*. On Saturday it's **Left Right Left** at *Shorty's*, **Lowland Revelry** at the *Sip Yard* and **Jim Dugan** at the *Gaff*. Check out the LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT box for all the upcoming shows in the *Coastal Bend*. Yall be safe!

♫♫♫ And, that's the truth ♫♫♫



Boo and Poo will play the Gaff on Friday.



The Costume Contest winners at the Sip Yard. Photo by Casandra Beth



The Port A Wooden Boat Show 2019

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, November 5
Johnson All Starz @ Shorty's
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach
Jim Bush @ Gaff
Brian Zampini @ Anchor Bar
Marti Jay @ Sandbox NPI
Orlando Herrera @ Rock Bottom RP

Friday, November 6
WOODEN BOAT FEST PA
Tex Zep, Dirty Ridge @ Sip Yard
Boo & Poo @ Gaff
Palacios Bros @ Shorty's
Michael Burtts @ Pelican
Orlando Herrera @ Sugar Shack RP
Marti Jay @ Anchor Bar
Wrongway Jackson @ Fajitaville
Neverland @ Brewster Downtown
JonMikael MREZ @ Rockit's
Carl Hayes @ HardKnocks RP
Megan Marie @ Sandbox NPI
Randy Hopper @ Honey's NPI
Whiskey Down @ Fifth & Elma Portland

Saturday, November 7
WOODEN BOAT FEST PA
Left Right Left @ Shorty's
Lowland Revelry @ Sip Yard
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Gimme Gimme Disco @ House of Rock
Mushroom Head, Fear Factory @ Brewster Downtown
NEF @ Pelican
Billy Snipes @ Conn Harbor Market Days
Lucky Dogz @ Sugar Shack RP
Diamond's Edge @ Rockit's
Alee Velazco @ Fajitaville
Wrongway Jackson @ Anchor Bar
Bayside Electric @ 3rd Coast Market Days
Trisum @ Sandbox NPI
Meghan Marie @ Fajitaville
Carl Hayes @ Anchor Bar
Jimmy & the Breakers @ Honey's

Sunday, November 8
PINK FLAMINGO PUB CRAWL @ Red's
FARLEY WOODEN BOAT FEST @ City Marina
PORT ARANSAS FARMER'S MARKET
Ryan Bingham @ Concrete Street
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Red Feather @ Anchor Bar
Palacios Bros @ Fajitaville
Meghan Marie @ Anchor Bar
Wrongway Jackson @ Sandbox NPI
Carl Hayes @ Pier 99
Melissa Ann @ Doc's
Jody Jennings @ Conn Brown Harbor

Monday, November 9
John Elijah Band @ Shorty's
Trisha Lynn @ Pelican

Tuesday, November 10
Brad Etheridge @ VFW
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeards on the Beach

THE GAFF
BELTSANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SAT
OPEN MIC EVERY WED WITH BRAD E.
JIM BUSH NOV 5
BOO & POO NOV 6
JIM DUGAN NOV 7
BRAD ETHRIDGE NOV 8
OPEN MIC NOV 11
CHADWICK HUNTER NOV 12

SHORTY'S
JOHN ELIJAH BAND EVERY MONDAY
JOHNSON ALL STARZ EVERY THURS
JIM DUGAN & TY DIETZ EVERY SUN
PALACIOS BROS NOV 6
LEFT RIGHT LEFT NOV 7
BOONE HOLDING NOV 13
DREAMING IN COLOR NOV 14

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Sip Yard
PORT ARANSAS, TEXAS
TEX ZEP / DIRTY RIDGE NOV 6
LOWLAND REVELRY NOV 7
B-FLAT DUELING PIANOS NOV 13
FIVE CARD DRAW NOV 14
THE GROOVE 2.0 NOV 20
GUY VINCENT NOV 21

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COLD BEER
OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM
HOT PIZZA