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Issue 987



**The Island Moon**

*The voice of The Island since 1996*

**March 17, 2023**

[www.islandmoon.com](http://www.islandmoon.com)

*Full Color Version Available Online!*

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**Weekly FREE**



Photo by Steve Coons



**By Dale Rankin**

The unofficial start of the Island Calendar is upon us as Spring Break 2023 kicks into high gear. It's been a No Left Turn Week Around The Island and the soundtrack for Spring Break 2023 so far has been howling wind punctuated by the occasional emergency siren followed shortly thereafter by beautiful weather and clear skies.

In past years we locals knew to slow our roll as we motored down Whitecap Boulevard during Spring Break as it was a favorite for speed traps by the armada of police officers who make an annual pilgrimage to The Island to keep the Spring Breakers in check but the stop sign there has largely negated the need for that and the radar guns have now moved to SPID where this week there were 467 traffic stops on SPID between the JFK Causeway and Whitecap Boulevard as officers plied the Island's main artery. This year's haul was augmented by the complication of a work zone minus the signs as the JFK Bridge is technically still a work zone but minus the workers and the signs.

**Where's the beach?**



Spring Breakers at the south end of the Michael j. Ellis Seawall this week found more water than sand as the beach there has been mostly non-existent with high tides and a dearth of sand. The City of Corpus Christi is currently in the early planning stages of a dredging project in Packery Channel by year's end and the beach along the seawall is direly in need of renourishment. If you go down there take your dingy.



**Paving a paper street**

Regular readers of these pages know that we frequently talk about the so-called paper streets on The Island, so-called because they exist only on paper. The most prominent of these is Sand

Around cont. on A7

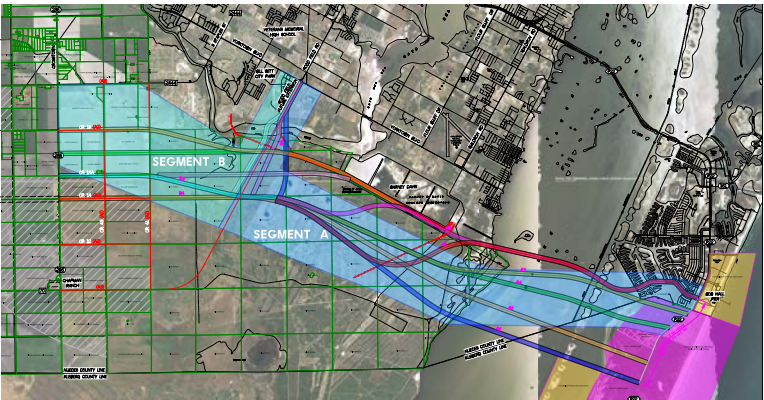
# Second Causeway to Padre Island takes Giant Step toward Reality

*Texas Department of Transportation agrees to fund environmental study*

By Dale Rankin

Before last December a second causeway across the Laguna Madre to Padre Island wasn't scheduled to become a reality until at least mid-century, but that timeline moved to within as little as a decade this week as officials at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) announced that agency will fund an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) on the project which is the first step in making it a reality.

"This is a very big development for our region," said The Island State Representative Todd Hunter (R) said. Hunter is Chairman of the Texas House Committee on State Affairs and the tenth



ranking member of the House in seniority. "This project is vital to hurricane and disaster preparedness and could make a life-saving difference for the residents of the Coastal Bend. I am grateful for the partnership of TxDOT and Gov-

ernor Abbott and look forward to working with many stakeholders as this begins to move forward." TxDOT has agreed to put this in TxDOT's Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan, also

*Bridge cont. on A6*



Seashore Students Cause a Stampede!

More photos on B11



## Exchange Student from Poland Loving the Island Enjoying School and Much More

By Brent Rourk

Will 16-year-old, tenth grade Polish exchange student Krystian Strzelecki follow his dreams to become an architect or air traffic controller, or will his stay on Padre Island this year lead him in different directions? The future

will reveal his ultimate decision, but for now he is having a blast in the United States.

"I wanted to study in the United States because ever since I can remember, I always dreamed about the U.S." Krystian says,

*Student cont. on A3*

## A little Island history

### Ten Years ago this Month work on Schlitterbahn Waterpark Began

By Dale Rankin

It was a bright and clear Friday morning in mid-March, 2013 when Islanders, politicians, business people, and curious visitors gathered just south of the old Padre Isles clubhouse for the beginning of what was to become a new and bright feature on the Island landscape. Schlitterbahn Corpus Christi was breaking ground and optimism was in the air. We all watched as the park's owner Jeff Henry strode across the fairway and climbed into a frontend loader and scooped the first bucket of



The Day of the Golden Shovels grass out of the green – Schlitterbahn was becoming a reality.

The very next day – Saturday - earth movers were on the 65-acre

site and the plan was that by summer of 2014 rivers, overnight lodging, surf, slides, rides and rivers would take the place of the front nine. By week's end the field at the corner of Compass and Commodores had been cleared for use as a staging area for equipment and work trailers.

A second site already under construction was a new location for the ninth green located to the southwest of the old clubhouse. The new green would replace the previous ninth green which would

Waterpark cont. on A5



## Spring Break 2023

Spring Breakers and a rusty barge will share the beach this week as Spring Break 2023 hits its peak this weekend.

### By the numbers...

#### Padre Island Real Estate Activity

February 16 – February 28

##### Interior Lot Homes Sold

15722 Finistere Street  
15242 Caravel Drive  
13934 Lighthouse Drive  
15502 Dyna Street  
14041 Coquina Bay Avenue  
16001 El Socorro Loop  
15346 Sabre Drive  
15949 Palmira Avenue

31 Interior Lot Homes Listed From \$375,000.00 to \$789,000.00

##### Waterfront Homes Sold

14113 Atascadera Avenue  
13550 King Phillip Court  
15357 Mutiny Court  
13534 Port Royal Court

38 Waterfront Homes Listed From \$540,000.00 to \$2,450,000.00

##### Interior Condominiums/Townhomes/Duplexes Sold

15034 Aruba Drive #110  
15005 Windward Drive #110  
15002 Leeward Drive #5201  
14721 Whitecap Blvd. #273  
14521 E. Cabana Street #207

43 Interior Condominiums/Townhomes/Duplexes Listed From \$175,000.00 to \$589,900.00

##### Waterfront Condominium/Townhome/Duplex Sold

14213 Jackfish Avenue Unit E

22 Waterfront Condominiums/Townhomes/Duplexes Listed From \$122,000.00 to \$650,000.00

##### Waterfront Lots

25 Waterfront Lots Listed From \$235,000.00 to \$9,000,000.00

##### Interior Lots

18 Interior Lots Listed From \$29,900.00 to \$300,000.00

##### Commercial Lots

20 Commercial Lots Listed From \$99,900.00-\$3,000,000.00





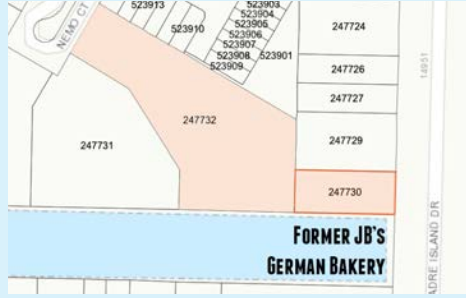
Business Briefs

**Did Ya' Hear?**  
By Mary Craft

**Speedy Stop** is currently being constructed on the 4.6 acre property next to the American Bank. They purchased the property in 2006 and since 2008 it was assessed by Nueces County at \$1.8 million but in 2022 the assessment went up to \$4.4 million. The property backs up to the “paper” street Sand Dollar that runs behind Scuttlebutts but currently stops at Verdemar. They have 23 locations and the newer ones have a car wash. Also, they have a kitchen with pizza oven, deli and bakery. The stores are open 24 hours.

**Cabana Pantry** has received a building permit for the unit next to Isle Mail & More. Their Facebook page and web site describes the business as targeting those who love to cook and entertain but are short on time. They provide recipe kits and small batch blends with global flavors.

**The blue building on a canal** where JB’s German Bakery was and the lot behind it which makes it two acres is for sale. It is being bundled in a sale with six other lots including five commercial lots with frontage on SPID between Seapines and Encantada and a 1.5 acre residential lot in town. The price is \$2.95 million. This information is according to the BizMatch Business Brokerage site and the Nueces County Appraisal District Property search.



**The two 2020 Bond projects** for reconstruction of the Frontage road between Jackfish and Commodore plus Jackfish SPID to Aquarius is currently in the bidding process and should go before city council in April. The project also includes replacing the waterlines and the addition of 5 foot wide sidewalks.

**On Island Time Vacation Rentals** will be opening an office near Isle Mail & More in April. There will be a laundry area in back for use for their condos not the public but there will be a front desk for rental information. The business was established in 2018 but did not have a physical location until now. They manage properties in Port A, Mustang Island and the Island.

**Island Tire & Auto** does free brake checks and provides shuttle service and service calls on the Island. Oil changes, tires and alignments are by appointment only. They also do repairs and tires for UTVs and ATVs. Their hours are 8 am - 5:30 pm. Call 949-4949 for appointment.

**Wagging Tails Pet Care** owner Sammi Powell offers dog walker and sitter services but she doesn’t just take care of dogs. She has experience with cats, horses, chickens, other birds, fish, turtles, bunnies, you name it she’s done it. She provides in home long term or short term care. Sammi moved to the area three weeks ago but did pet care in Virginia for five years. Call or text her at 804-892-6901.

**The Donut Palace** now has their driveway and window completed at their new location across the street from CVS. The store will be opening in April, I am hoping that the better exposure this location gives to visitors makes up for the higher rent.

**Texas A&m Corpus Christi Islanders** beat Southeastern Missouri to make the 64 team NCAA Bracket. They play #1 ranked Alabama on Thursday 1:45 pm. Alabama is favored by 23 points but, hey, our team will be on CBS. Guessing that will help our recruiting and keep us going to the tournament. That and a campus on an island with our winter weather.

**Whataburger** is not serving kids meals during spring break. I ordered lunch there for my grandkids and found out they had to get a regular meal with a huge drink. Also, the cookie is no longer included in the kid’s meal but needs to be paid for separately. I assume the change is to make more money. All I can say is, that’s just wrong. Things have changed since a Chicago investment company bought the family owned business in 2019 that started in Corpus Christi in 1950. The headquarters moved to San Antonio in 2009.

**Padre Island Art Gallery Sip & Shop** this month will be on Friday, March 17th 5 - 8 pm. There will be heavy hors d’oeuvres and cocktails. You can check out the latest Cindy Gentry Designs handmade glass jewelry that was added this week. For the kids, there are mixed media collage starter kits for \$20 created by local artist Sandy Fritz. They include everything needed including canvas, paint, brush, design papers, colorful stones and even the glue. The gallery offers many art classes and even has a hula class



every Wednesday. **The Ethel Eyerly Community Center** Craft & Vendor Fair will be held Saturday, March 18th 9 am - 1 pm. There will be concessions, bake sale and raffle tickets. The center is located at 654 Graham Road in the Bluff.

**Scuttlebutt’s** had a fire in the kitchen last week that caused significant damage and is likely to take a couple of months to repair. The timing is unfortunate missing the Spring Break week and also that it occurred after the recent remodel.

**The Island Moon classifieds** are a great way to advertise at a reasonable price. Call

Arlene at 834-1382.

**The Tourist driver watch** during spring break and summer is the two lane turn onto Whitecap from SPID where the drivers on the right might turn into the left lane. Turning left from Whitecap onto Windward cars and golf carts use the go straight lane instead of the middle lane. Driving down Windward where the two lanes merge into one is definitely a tourist confusion.

**Port A Community Theater** will feature Back in Black AC/DC Tribute on Saturday, March 18th. Lead singer, Darren Caperna, was auditioned by AC/DC to fill in for Brian Johnson who was suffering from hearing loss. The documentary “My Stupid Tribute Band” follows this band and its 20 year history including the audition and is on Amazon Prime. The band will perform at Mesquite St Southside on Friday March 17th.

**Padre Island Farmers Market** has changed to an indoor venue at the Briscoe King Pavilion on Thursday, March 16th 4 - 8 pm due to expected high wind. Some of the vendors will be Subtropical Nursery, Oso Bay Farm (hopefully with tomatoes), Nonna’s Italian Momenade Breads and many more. The Food trucks will be Miss J’s Curbside Pies, Wednesday’ Coffee and

**The old Sonic property** is strictly for sale and is not for sale. It was built in 2002. If interested, call Coastal Bend Business Consulting at 765-6164. The rent is 7% of sales or \$5,000/month minimum.

**Hannah did the chalk art** on the driveway for my granddaughter Lulu’s 7th Pokemon birthday. I was impressed and suggested it as a side gig and she didn’t know if there would be any demand but was up for it. You can reach her at 210-789-9122.

**Random Stuff**  
**True Lemon packets** are so handy if you would like to add lemon to your drink. The ingredients are all natural and are the same as what is inside a lemon: lemon oil, lemon juice and citric acid. True Lime is also available and both can even be used in recipes. No more lemons and limes going

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## Senior Moments



### Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

## Operation Desert Storm (Desert Shield)

*Dotson's Note: Nowadays when people think of Iraq, they think of the war that began in 2003, [ISIS](#) and the long fight against terrorism. But the U.S. military's first major conflict with the country came more than a decade before that, more than 25 years ago, in fact. Operation Desert Storm began Jan. 17, 1991, after Iraqi forces who had invaded neighboring Kuwait refused to withdraw. The conflict is now commonly known as the [Gulf War](#). Thanks to Pat Simon, J.J. De La Cerda, Dean Wagner, James Miles, and Katie Lange for the facts contained in this report and to The Defense Department and the U.S. Air Force for the he photos.*



Above, U.S. Army Gen. Norman H. Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. Central Command, speaks to U.S. soldiers inside a hangar while visiting a base camp during Operation Desert Shield, April 1, 1992.

### Important Facts You Should Know



Above, F-16A, F-15C and F-15E aircraft fly over Kuwaiti oil fires set by the retreating Iraqi army during Desert Storm.

### The War Was Pretty Short

From start to finish, Desert Storm only lasted 43 days, from Jan. 17 to Feb. 28, 1991. In fact, the land campaign is infamously known as the "100-hour ground war" for obvious reasons -- that's about as long as it lasted.

### Why It Happened

After the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s, Iraq was in debt to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, which had financed its war efforts. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein insisted both countries cancel that debt, because he felt they owed him for protecting them against Iran. Both countries refused, however, so Hussein threatened Kuwait, its oil-rich, militarily weak neighbor, reigniting a decades-old border dispute over Kuwait itself.

In July 1990, Saddam claimed that Kuwait and the UAE were overproducing crude oil, driving down prices and depriving Iraq of critical oil revenues. He accused Kuwait of stealing from an oil field on the Iraq-Kuwait border, and he accused the U.S. and Israel of encouraging Kuwait to lose its oil prices.

Relations deteriorated with all parties, which led to Hussein invading and annexing Kuwait in August 1990. The United Nations Security Council placed an embargo and sanctions on Iraq, but months later, when Hussein refused to comply with a resolution requiring him to withdraw, Desert Storm began.



Above, Bahraini Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Shaikh Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa presents U.S. Army Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf with a sword in recognition of his role in the allied success during Operation Desert Storm, March 26, 1991.

### The 'Coalition of the Willing' Was an Extraordinary Partnership

Before the invasion, 40 countries quickly entered into a nonbinding alliance against Iraq. The "Coalition of the Willing" included NATO allies, several Arab nations and -- most importantly -- several former Cold War adversaries, including the Soviet Union. The Cold War had thawed the year before the invasion, which helped ease U.S. and United Kingdom security concerns and ensured near global unity in opposition to Iraqi aggression.

Also, for the first time, a U.S. Central Command commander, [Army](#) Gen. "[Storm-in](#)" [Norman Schwarzkopf](#), teamed with a regional ally, Saudi Arabia's Prince Khaled bin Sultan, to co-command the allied forces. Saudi Arabia was where U.S. land forces gathered during the buildup to Desert Storm, so the collaboration was an important dynamic, and integral to the operation's overall success.



### Classified 'Secret Squirrel' Mission Makes History

Desert Storm started as an air campaign with Operation Senior Surprise, which became known as "Secret Squirrel." Seven B-52G Stratofortresses left Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, and flew 14,000 round-trip miles to, for the first time, launch 35 conventional air-launched cruise missiles at strategic Iraqi targets. It was the longest aircraft combat sortie of its time.



Air Force Senior Master Sgt. James Miles examines the tail section of a Scud missile shot down by a MIM-104C Patriot missile during Operation Desert Storm.

### Iraq's Scud Missiles Were Meant to Split the Coalition

Hussein realized he couldn't defeat the military forces and international political will represented by the coalition, so his only option was to try to divide it. In retaliation for Secret Squirrel, Iraq launched Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia. Hussein's hope was that Israel would retaliate, as it historically had, with military force -- a move that would have transformed the fight into yet another Arab-Israeli conflict. But Israel resisted as the U.S. promised to help protect it.

The MIM-104C [Patriot missile](#) detects, targets and detonates near incoming ballistic missiles to disable or destroy them. It had been under development since the 1960s, but its first successful use in combat was during Desert Storm.

The first Patriot missile intercepted a Scud launched over Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on Day 1 of the conflict. Two days later, President George H.W. Bush sent two Patriot air defense missile batteries to Israel, marking the first time U.S. [Army](#) crews had ever been sent to help with that country's defense (and, as stated above, helping to keep the coalition together). The Patriot missile system intercepted many Scuds over the course of Desert Storm, making major contributions to the success of the operation. It's still a key defense platform for U.S. forces today.



The MIM-104C Patriot missile "Scud buster" in use during Desert Storm.

*Dotson's Other Note: While Desert Storm has largely been overshadowed by the more recent Iraq War and the current crisis with ISIS, the impact and relevance remain. About 697,000 U.S. troops took part in the war; 299 lost their lives. The U.S. is still in good standing with many of the countries involved in the "Coalition of the Willing today", and we can only hope those relationships, however fragile, continue to flourish into the future. Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at [dlewis1@stxrr.com](mailto:dlewis1@stxrr.com). FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 - 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397...It's your two hours, please let us hear from you.*



By Dale Rankin

## Stuff I Heard on the Island

## Dalelight Savings Time

As of Sunday we Islanders like all Texans and most Americans except for Hawaii, most of Arizona, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa entered into Daylight Savings Time by springing forward one hour presumably leaving Daily Wasting Time behind us.

While the exact origins and rationale for Daylight Saving Time is disputed its first mention comes to us from that old scoundrel Benjamin Franklin who, with tongue firmly in cheek, first suggested in 1784 that waking up earlier in the summer would save on candle usage. But his joke was lost on lawmakers and here we are. But lawmakers and scientists this week took notice of the changing time Daylight Saving Time may soon be lost to history... or maybe not...but the *American Heart Association this week cited studies showing increase in heart disease, stroke incidents associated with change to daylight-saving time* According to the American Heart Association, scientific research supports the view that losing an hour of much needed sleep may not be the only thing to dread about "springing forward. They say the upcoming time change may also negatively impact your heart and brain health. . Many scientific studies report an increase in the incidence of heart disease and stroke during this time transition.

A study from New York, presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions in 2018, reported that hospital admissions for atrial fibrillation (AFib) the most common type of irregular heartbeat, rise with daylight saving time transition. Researchers found that on the Monday to Thursday following the start of the time transition in the spring there were 3.13 AFib hospital admissions a day compared to 2.56 daily admissions for the same days on average over the rest of year. There was no notable difference in AFib admissions for the Monday to Thursday following the autumn transition at the end of daylight saving time.

The Monday following the spring time change (after losing an hour of sleep) was associated with a 24% increase in daily heart attack counts and the Tuesday following the fall time change (gaining an hour of sleep) was conversely associated with a 21% reduction in heart attacks, according to a study from Michigan.

Stroke rates also increase with the change to daylight saving time. In a study from Finland, researchers found that the overall rate of ischemic stroke was 8% percent higher during the first two days after a daylight saving time transition.

"We don't really know the specific reason for increases in heart disease and stroke during the daylight saving time change, but it likely has something to do with the disruption to the body's internal clock, or its circadian rhythm," said American Heart Association volunteer Spokesman Dr. Travis Taylor with Coastal Cardiology PLLC in Corpus Christi.

"The best way to ease the transition of daylight savings time is to get extra sleep in the days leading up to the time change and to focus year-round on improving all of the health metrics and categories of cardiovascular wellness -- what the American Heart Association calls Life's Essential 8: eat better, be more active, quit tobacco, get healthy sleep, manage weight, control cholesterol, manage blood sugar and manage blood pressure.

"These healthy lifestyle behaviors won't only soften the annual biological clock shock, they are proven ways to reduce your risk of heart disease and stroke, helping you live a longer, healthier life," Taylor said.

### What you can do...

"There are some specific steps you can take to prepare for the impact of 'springing forward' each spring," he said:

**Start getting as much light as possible each day.** This can help adjust your body rhythm to the change.

**Start winding down a little earlier in the evenings.** While you can never make up lost sleep, going into the time change well-rested can help.

**Don't compensate with extra caffeine.** It may feel like an extra coffee or two can help you through the mid-day slump, but too much caffeine is not heart healthy.

**Don't take a nap.** Most people don't get enough sleep at any time; adding a cat nap to your afternoon can make it even harder to sleep well that night.

### Lawmakers react...

Not to be left behind lawmakers in session in Austin this week have jumped into the fray as Senator Paul Bettencourt and Representative Mike Schofield filed [SJR](#) (Senate Joint Resolution) 86 that would let voters decide to eliminate the time shift putting and end to Daylight Saving Time and Daylight Wasting time in one fell swoop. SB 2329 & SJR 86 would apply to all portions of Texas using Central Standard Time and Mountain Standard Time. If passed, the bill would require a vote on the November 7, 2023, General Election, where Texas voters would decide whether or not to abolish Daylight Saving Time. If approved by the voters, the change would take effect in 2024. Daylight Saving Time was first enacted in the United States during World War I but was repealed in 1919 over the Veto of President Woodrow Wilson. It was restarted during World War II, but it was repealed again three weeks after the end of the war during the Truman Administration. A patchwork quilt remained until Congress passed the Uniform Time Act in 1966, which allows States to remain on standard time if they wish.

As Schofield put it "'Texans are tired of having to change their clocks and lose an hour's sleep for no reason. People would like to get home from work and play with their kids without it being dark half the time. There's no reason not to fix this.'" Schofield reasons that just because the sun sets one hour earlier in the evening that doesn't mean everyone is going to go to bed an hour earlier and I have to say that makes sense, at least in my case. The only advantage to me is that when I leave my house to do a weekly radio show on Thursday morning it will be light instead of mostly dark but really, who cares? It's radio and no one can see me anyway! I would much rather have an hour of daylight in the evening but that's just me.

Schofield goes on to say One major justification given for Daylight Saving Time is that it reduces energy consumption. However, studies on the issue have been mixed, with a 2008 Department of Energy study finding that an extended Daylight Saving Time "saved about 0.5 percent (1.3 billion kilowatt hours) in total electricity per day" over a four-week extension. A University of California Santa Barbara study however found that when Indiana moved to a statewide system in 2006 it caused a 1% increase in residential electricity use. At the Federal level U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-Florida) reintroduced legislation to make Daylight Saving Time permanent and end the twice a year adjustment of clocks.

Bettencourt for his part proved his anti-Progressive bona fides by saying "Instead of fall back and spring forward, it would be a fall vote to stop a spring forward!" So if we have an election it will most likely be on November 7 of this year which ironically is two days after Sunday, November 5 when we return to Daylight Wasting Time meaning that we will all be stumbling to the polls in the dark; unless of course we vote early before Early Voting ends on Friday, November 3. Now there's an irony old Benjamin Franklin would get a belly laugh out of. As for me I'm going to drink an extra cup of coffee in the morning and take me a nap in the afternoon, and I don't know how I'm going to get more sunlight when the dang sun sets an hour earlier! I don't like lawmakers trying to dictate my circadian rhythms or my Joint Resolutions. I'm on Dalelight Island Time.



*Waterpark cont. from A1*  
be located near the hotel between the ninth and eighteenth greens.

“We’ve been impressed by the incredible support and enthusiasm from citizens in Corpus Christi,” Jeff Henry said. “We’re glad to announce that the wait is over and we are breaking ground today!” While the groundbreaking is taking part today, ride fabrication is already underway.”

Only a few weeks earlier Henry had made this first and unannounced appearance at a meeting of the Corpus Christi City Council where there were only two other people in attendance, that being myself and co-developer of the project Paul Schexnailder. When a question arose about the ability of the Island’s wastewater treatment plant to handle the additional load of the park Henry strode to the podium wearing a work shirt with the name Bill on the front and muddy work boots.

“It’s a funny thing,” he told the council, “for some reason people at our parks don’t use the restrooms very often.” With that we were off and running.

Turbulent water...

But by March 2015 things had changed and not for the better. After months of speculation and rumor about unpaid bills that culminated in legal actions Schlitterbahn was behind schedule and in need of a cash infusion.

“Second-phase funding has come through, and we are now moving forward with everything,” Winter Prosapio, Schlitterbahn’s corporate communications director said. “We’ll continue our build out and be open this summer.”

The problem had come to a head in October 2104 when Texas Descon, the subcontractor working on the resort section of the project, filed liens against Schlitterbahn for approximately \$700,000 then several other vendors filed liens against the company for roughly \$140,000 according to news reports at the time.

The total park and surrounding acreage which totaled nearly 600-acre was a \$552

million undertaking that ran into funding issues when Jeff Henry changed plans while work was underway and decided to more than quintuple the size and scope of the resort project. It went from nineteen “tree-house” rooms totaling 28,000 square feet to 160,000 square feet, including 90 rooms and event space. Henry also added many “innovative” features including flexible resort rooms that could convert from a single suite to three suites through an unusual combination of doors and layout. He also added an outdoor stage area that could accommodate 5000 spectators by building a pool in front of the main stage that could be drained in less than half an hour into an underground tank and a swim up bar under the stage.

The waterpark was originally scheduled to open in the summer of 2014 but by spring of 2015 only part of the resort and indoor waterpark had opened. Meanwhile, the city of Corpus Christi extended the deadlines on \$117 million in incentive-based tax break that were to be drawn from Sales Tax and Hotel Occupancy Tax at the new facility.

March 2018

By 2018 the optimism that ran rampant that day in March 2013 had turned to dismay by 2018. Two separate bankruptcy auctions on the steps of the Nueces County Courthouse had transferred ownership of the park and the land to the current owners through bankruptcy filings and the rest as they say is history.

March 2021

In March 2021 it was announced that the park then and now owned by Diamond Beach Holdings LLC and under the name of Waves Resort Corpus Christi would fall under the wrecking ball and the result is the work underway at the site today. Hope springs eternal and the new development is about to open its doors at the old Schlitterbahn site ushering in a new era for our island. But on that cool, clear day in March ten years ago no one in the crowd would have guessed where things would be ten years down the line.

## BBB Tip: Caring for or purchasing a dog this National Puppy Day

National Puppy Day is on Mar. 23 and social media users can expect a near constant stream of puppy pictures to take over their feeds during the day. After seeing these pictures, some people may decide that the time is right to add a furry family member to their household or will use the day to gift their canine companion with some new treats and toys. Regardless of how current or prospective pet owners decide to celebrate National Puppy Day, Better Business Bureau reminds consumers to be wary when purchasing products or pets online and provides a few pet-specific marketplace issues they may want to consider. According to BBB’s 2022 Scam Tracker Risk Report, pets and pet supplies are among the top products used to perpetrate an online purchase scam. Consumer reports to BBB demonstrate fraudulent sellers advertising kennels, dog beds, toys and flea or tick medications. Scammers may use a stock photo of a pet available for adoption or purchase and, after an initial payment is made, the buyer begins to encounter complications and additional fees when arranging transportation. Additional fees typically used include medications, insurance, quarantine procedures or kenneling. When the buyer attempts to walk away from the transaction, some scammers may threaten them with pet abandonment charges. “Scammers can quickly change from being friendly to aggressive when carrying out a pet scam,” said Heather Massey, vice president of communications for BBB. “At first, they encourage engagement with great photos and a story revolving around finding the animal a great, loving home. Eventually, when the buyer begins to demand their money back or tries to walk away from the transaction, the scammer will often threaten them with legal action – all in an attempt to keep the money flowing into their pockets.” In addition to keeping an eye out for fraudulent online purchases this National Puppy Day, BBB provides a few additional marketplace issues the organization has noticed that use pets as a catalyst:

**Lost pets.** When a pet escapes from their home or yard, it can be devastating for their family as they worry about its safety and health, especially during extreme weather. In a desperate attempt to find the missing animal, many owners take to social media asking their community to keep an eye out. Unfortunately, con artists take advantage of their pleas for help and will contact the owner claiming to have found their pet, but will only give it back for a reward. Be wary

of how much information you provide when posting about a missing pet, and always try to keep one characteristic hidden from the post or picture that you can use to verify that the person who claims to have your pet actually does.

**Dog-sitters or dog walkers.** For busy pet owners, a dog-sitter or dog walker is a great option to make sure their canine companion is well-cared for when out of town or if otherwise unable to regularly exercise the animal. However, it is important to carefully choose an individual or business that specializes in pet care due to access they are given to your residence and the trust that is placed in them to keep the pet safe. Be sure to thoroughly read reviews when considering one of these services and to safeguard sensitive information or money in your home if the service will be there without you.

**Purchasing pet food or treats.** Some individuals or small businesses may offer their own proprietary pet food or treats for sale as a safe, healthy alternative to big brand products. While many of these sellers take great care to ensure the product is safe for pets to consume, defections in packaging that introduce plastic or glass into the food can quickly create an emergency situation, and other types of food that your pet’s digestive system isn’t accustomed to can make them uncomfortable. Always monitor your pet closely when introducing new food into their diet and inspect the packaging closely for any signs of damage before giving it to them. Keep in mind that some ingredients that are safe for human consumption, such as xylitol, are hazardous to dogs.

**Finding a veterinarian.** Choosing an ethical and caring veterinarian is an important decision for pet owners who place the well-being of their furry family members in the hands of a stranger. When the need of a veterinarian arises, the pet is often in a vulnerable state and owners place their hope in a veterinarian’s expertise to diagnose and treat the issue. Unfortunately, not all veterinarian offices exercise the same level of care when treating their patients, and some pets behave abnormally for weeks after being returned to their owner. When searching for a veterinarian, carefully read reviews from previous customers on BBB.org and check if or how the business responds to complaints.

For more information about how to care for your pet and to find BBB Accredited pet groomers, sitters and boarders near you, visit BBB.org/PetScams.



The crowd for the Schlitterbahn groundbreaking.



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Golfers played through as work at the waterpark got underway

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# Sports

## Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



### Bill Veeck: The Maverick Who Changed Baseball Part 1

By Dotson Lewis

*Dotson's Note: Veeck returned to Milwaukee after the war but soon sold the team. In late 1946 he bought the Cleveland Indians with a group of partners that included comedian Bob Hope. Veeck's formula for success remained simple: create a great team and pack the stadium with loyal, happy fans. Thanks to Bill Morgan, Dave Kindred and Paul Dickson, for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan for the photos.*



Satchel Paige & Bill Veeck

He became the first owner to allow fans to buy tickets over the phone, the first to sell season-ticket plans, and the first to stage special appreciation nights for various groups. He worked hard to broaden the fan base to include more women and children. When he came into baseball, women and children were tolerated at the ballpark. Now he marketed the game to them. In Cleveland, just after the war, he gave away nylon stockings when they were in extremely short supply. He built professionally staffed nurseries to attract women with infants.

Whenever Veeck took over a team, one of his first acts was to rip out the existing ladies' rooms and replace them with clean, carpeted oases with soft lighting. (He was so proud of a woman's restroom he built in Chicago's Comiskey Park that he staged a contest to name it. The winning entry: Hall of Femme). He staged Mother's Day promotions with free orchids to any woman with a child. It wasn't altruism; his efforts helped him break attendance records, often even when his teams were losing.

The highlight of Veeck's baseball career came in 1948, when his Indians won both the American League pennant and the World Series\*. It was one of the most exciting—if not the most exciting—single season of the post-war Golden Age of the game. Veeck did it with an integrated team, on the field and off. He signed Larry Doby, the American League's first black player, and hired the first black public relations officer, trainer, and scout. He signed the legendary black pitcher Satchel Paige, who helped win the Series, Cleveland's last championship to this day. In 1949 Veeck brought 14 African Americans to Cleveland's spring training.

The passionate liberalism that he espoused was never afraid to give voice to earned him the title "Abe Lincoln of Baseball" from *The Sporting News*.



Eddie Gaedel At Bat

His next stop was St. Louis, where he bought the American League Browns, a terrible team—so bad that he said they were even "hard to look at." The most common complaint was that the team lacked a leadoff batter who could get on base with any regularity. On August 19, 1951 Veeck decided to stage a promotional stunt that would please the fans by giving the team a batter who would be sure to get on base—albeit just once. In deepest secrecy, Veeck signed a three-foot-seven-inch actor named Eddie Gaedel with a plan to send him to the plate to open the second game of a double-header against the Detroit Tigers.

At the appointed time, brandishing a toy bat, Gaedel, wearing the number 1/8 on his jersey, stepped up to the plate and immediately crouched so low that his strike zone was only about 1½ inches high. Before the Tigers could protest, the Browns produced a bona fide contract, and the baffled umpire said, "Play ball." Tiger pitcher Bob Cain, afraid of hitting the batter with a fast pitch and knowing there was no way to pitch to his strike zone, admitted defeat by giving Gaedel an intentional walk. Veeck had let a news photographer in on the plan, Bob Broeg of the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, who captured the whole event and brought it national attention. That day showed Veeck at his most flamboyant. Between the two games, Veeck had Gaedel emerge from a huge cake, which was then served to the crowd with free beer. The festivities also included the antics of Max Patkin, the reigning Clown Prince of baseball.

American League President Will Harridge, with the full support and collusion of the commissioner, voided Gaedel's contract and banned "midget" players from the game. Veeck responded as only he could, by humorously demanding a ruling on whether New York Yankee shortstop Phil Rizzuto, at five foot six, was a short ball-player or a tall midget. He then protested that six-foot-five Walt Dropo of the Boston Red Sox, who the Browns were playing next, was "too tall."

The Gaedel stunt produced decades of notoriety. Veeck lived with the story for the rest of his life and embellished the tale with mock regrets. "Were it in my power to turn back the clock," he declared 20 years after the fact, "I'd never send a midget to bat. No, I'd use nine of the little fellows, including the designated hitter." Veeck quipped that his tombstone would read, "He sent a midget up to bat," and then asked that the epitaph be cleaned up a bit to read more piously, "He helped the little man."

\*The 1948 World Series which I listened to live in Tokyo, Japan at 3 a.m. for each & all, of the six games.

*Dotson's Other Note: Ironically, despite the negative reaction of baseball's power brokers to the stunt, at a time when they feared losing their audience to the new medium of television, baseball was given a shot in the arm by this moment of frivolity. It got the country talking about the game. Veeck held onto the Browns until 1953, when he sold the team to a coalition representing interests in Baltimore—and the Browns became the Orioles. He had tried to move the team himself, but the American League owners wanted him out of baseball. Veeck was pushing hard for reforms unpopular with many of his peers, such as shared television revenues, which he championed because he reasoned that it would allow for parity between the large and small market teams.*



By Andy Purvis

### The Madness of March

Some teams call it the Big Dance,  
For others it spells success.  
If you're a basketball fan in America,  
It's the tournament that's simply the best.

Most teams win their own conference,  
Some just play their way in.  
Others get in on the strength of their schedule,  
But for most teams it's about losses and wins.

It all unfolds this Sunday,  
The brackets for 68 teams.  
Seeding becomes very important,  
And the upsets still remain unseen.

For eight lower ranked teams  
On Tuesday their games begin.  
All eyes turn towards Dayton, Ohio,  
To see which of the First Four teams move on with a win.

The tournaments next two rounds  
Are full of excitement and dreams.  
As the winners move on to the Regional's,  
It cuts the field down to the Sweet 16.

Three days are given for travel,  
As the fans begin to speculate.  
Can their team win just one more game?  
Can they join the Elite 8?

And then if your team is still lucky,  
To win just one game more,  
Then you're off to basketball heaven.  
You will arrive at the Final Four.

The Final Four is a wonderful place,  
Where young boys grow up to be men.  
It's where coaches can become legends,  
If their teams can continue to win.

It's a place where anything can happen.  
A stage where tomorrow's stars are born.  
Three-sixty dunks and charging calls,  
Three-pointers at the sound of the horn.

Two-three zones and half court traps,  
Become part of the announcer's jargon.  
Offensive boards and the pick and roll,  
For the price—this is really a bargain.

The Champ is then crowned on Monday,  
And their opponent is filled with sadness.  
You've got to be able to win six in a row,  
Hey—that's why they call it March Madness.

Andy Purvis  
www.purvisbooks.com

### Bridge Cont. from AI

known as Connecting Texas 2050, and its Texas Freight Mobility Plan, also known as Texas Delivers 2050. Hunter's office said this week a consultant to begin the EIS is expected to be hired within a month. The study is expected to cost about \$8 million.

Hunter took the project to Governor Gregg Abbott in early 2023 who signed on to push it up on the list of projects at the TxDOT making Friday's announcement possible. The announcement comes just three months after Islander Ted Mandel formed the Causeway Advisory Group (CAG) to back the push for a new causeway and Hunter took the effort to Austin which produced Friday's announcement. The \$8 million study will include not only the causeway to Padre Island but the entire Regional Parkway which began with a Regional Parkway Planning & Environmental Linkage Study released by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on April 12, 2017. That plan called for the study approved this week to begin in 2035 with a timeline of completion of the causeway by 2050. However, Friday's announcement that the project will be moved up on TxDot's long range transportation plan and its freight mobility plan means funding for the EIN is now in place creates momentum to push the project to potential completion in a little more than a decade.

State officials told Mandel's committee in

December that the EIS process should take about three to five years to complete with another three years for design and three years for construction. One of the main functions of the EIS will be to determine the exact route for the new roadway. The MPO study narrowed the route to an area about one-quarter of a mile wide launching from the mainland on the Laurels section of the King Ranch south of Flour Bluff and landing on Padre Island on the 3680 acres owned by Nueces County in Kleberg County. Officials at the MPO said in December that based on previous discussions the owners of the King Ranch have expressed approval for the route to cross ranch property and the southern terminus of the new road in Kleberg County could be approved by Nueces County Commissioners meaning no use of eminent domain would be necessary to secure the land for the new roadway.

The MPO study found that the region's population is expected to increase by 21 percent by 2050 and the Island's current population of about 10,000 will increase with it creating more traffic pressure on the SPID corridor between Flour Bluff and the Cross-town Expressway. The need for traffic relief on SPID means expansion of the existing JFK Causeway will not likely be an option. The total cost of the Regional Parkway was estimated at \$800 million in 2017 with the portion crossing the Laguna Madre accounting for \$300 million of that total.



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# The Island Outdoors



By Jay Gardner

## On the Rocks

This weather is fairly typical for spring break, but I feel sorry for the folks that had plans to come down and enjoy the beach. If you’re a smart local and hunkered down, you might be surprised to know that the beaches are not jammed with people. In fact, there really isn’t a beach, at least of this writing. The northeast wind has the gulf forced up to the base of the dunes. Check it out on one of several beach cams. The forcing also has the water levels up in the lagoon, something I’ve been waiting on for a while. Now, if winter will finally end after all these months, we might be able to get somewhere.

I was visiting with Chase from the Big Daily the other day, and we were discussing the movement on the second causeway. I reminded him about how Yorktown was originally planned to be the “South Loop” and how that likely got moved due to Yorktown expanding past its capacity already. Then we also visited about the difference between the two segments on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) plan, and then he asked about the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process regarding transportation projects. He probably regrets asking an environmental consultant “what they do for a living,” ha! I’ll try to put this as simply as I can; basically, the process is designed to include more and more red tape at each level depending on levels of impact. If there are no significant impacts, no permitting, and no threatened or endangered species, then a project may get a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) designation, and typically there’s not a problem. This would be from a Categorical Exclusion (CE) that is proffered by the lead agency (TxDoT). If during the planning process, if you don’t know the level of impacts, or there may be some discovered, then TxDoT may require an Environmental Assessment (EA). This is where you have to start digging a little deeper, and actually get coordination letters back from all the agency alphabet soup.

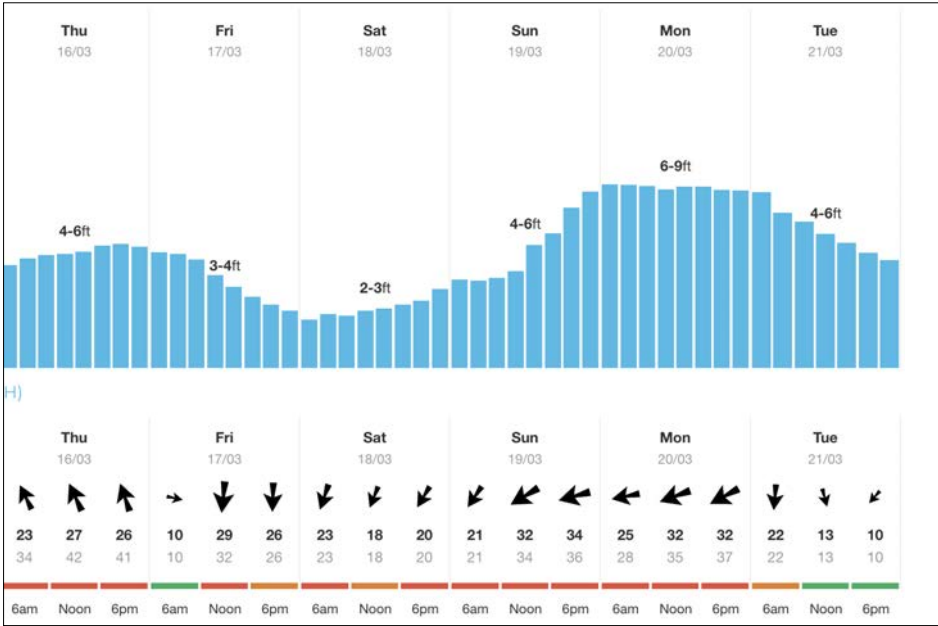
A project may still qualify for a CE at the end of an EA. However, and you saw this one coming, if there’s going to be impacts, then TxDoT will require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This process gets complicated, and the second causeway will likely be at this level. The lead agency or consultant must prepare a draft EIS and then publish a notice of intent and circulate the draft to all the agencies and the public. You also must have a series of public presentations and meetings to garner feedback. The main portion of the EIS is the Alternatives Analysis, which describes the process that was used to develop, evaluate, and eliminate potential alternatives based on the purpose and need of the project. The alternatives analysis is the step that I’m looking forward to reading with the second causeway, and/or means of getting off the Island, as previous traffic counts identify the traffic problem to the north, not the south. Stay tuned.

There was almost a little fallout the other day, but I’m thinking that the birds got pushed into Mexico, if they were able to get off the water, and BirdCast shows the early birds moving up the middle tier of the country. Looks like we won’t have another one for a few weeks, but there might be a few around for a bit. I have a buff belly hummingbird that has set up shop in my yard already.

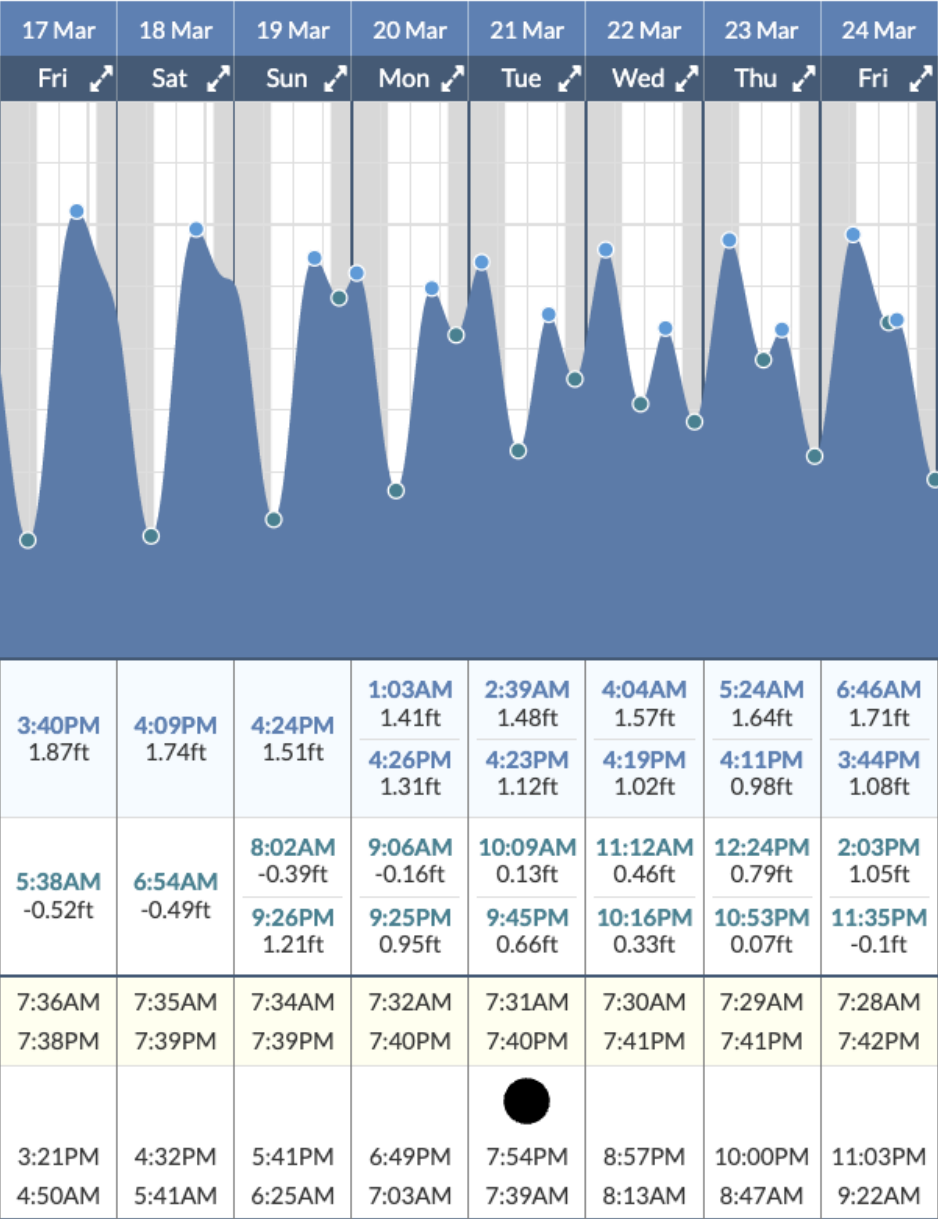
The CCA banquet last week set all kinds of records, for attendance, good times, and money raised for the fish. We won’t have final numbers for a couple weeks, but I’ll try to include them as they come in. Way too many people to thank and acknowledge for helping put this one together in this space, but Joey and Augs definitely had big donations. Drop me a line at [tarponchas-er@mail.com](mailto:tarponchas-er@mail.com) and we’ll see you next week

On the Rocks.

## Packery Channel Surf Forecast



## Tides of the Week



## Hunting Prospects Favorable this Spring in Areas with Historically Strong Turkey Populations

While the 2022 drought and heat have reduced wild turkey numbers across Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department this week said hunters who hit the field this spring should see plenty of birds in areas that typically house huntable populations of wild turkeys.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists say hunters will have the most luck in the Cross Timbers, Edwards Plateau and South Texas ecoregions. “Much of the state had poor recruitment last spring and summer, but hunters should still expect to see quite a few 2-year-old and older gobblers,” said Jason Hardin, TPWD Wild Turkey Program leader. “The lack of juvenile hens may improve hunting conditions. Juvenile hens or jennies put little effort into nesting most years, and therefore are usually a distraction from hunters and their decoys. Once adult hens begin nesting, hunters should be able to find plenty of workable gobblers.”

As with most large ecoregions, TPWD biologists have mixed reports of turkey numbers and recruitment in South Texas. While the areas around Uvalde reported below-average production and recruitment over the last two years, other areas in the Coastal Sand Sheet in Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg and Willacy counties reported fair recruitment. Hunters should expect to see lots of 2-year-old gobblers across most areas that hold wild turkeys in South Texas. Hunters should focus their efforts on creeks and drainages with larger trees in the central and western portions of South Texas and around oak mottes in the Coastal Sand Sheet.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved a digital [tagging option](#) for those hunters who purchased a Super Combo license online. All hunters who chose to use the digital tagging option must report their harvested wild turkey at the time of harvest. [Rules and guidance](#) associated with the new digital tagging option can be found on the

TPWD Website.

The data obtained from these harvest reports helps TPWD better manage this population. TPWD encourages turkey hunters to learn about and share these new rules with fellow turkey hunters and landowners in the region to help TPWD keep tabs on these populations.

The traditional North Zone spring season boundary has moved south to Highway 90 west of San Antonio. Several counties in the southern Edwards Plateau that were previously in the South Zone are now part of the North Zone. The South Zone Counties open annually on the Saturday closest to March 18 and the North Zone opens the Saturday closest to April 1.

Hunters are reminded to review the [Outdoor Annual](#) before opening day to ensure they are hunting during a legal season. Hunters can check the TPWD website for exact season dates for the county where they plan to hunt. Hunters must possess an Upland Stamp Endorsement to hunt wild turkeys in Texas.

The spring season dates are as follows:

### Youth Only

Rio Grande: North Zone — March 25–26; May 20– 21

Rio Grande: South Zone — March 11– 12; May 6– 7

### Spring Regular Season

Rio Grande: North Zone — April 1 – May 14

Rio Grande: South Zone — March 18 – April 30

Rio Grande: Special One Turkey Bag Limit — April 1– 30

### Around Cont. from A1

Dollar Street which currently consists of two ruts in the sand that intersect with State Highway 361 next to Diana’s Place (formerly known as Texas Mesquite BBQ). The underground utilities for Sand Dollar Street have been in place for decades as they run southward from Verdemar through an area that was originally designed as the Island’s retail district but instead is an Island weed patch. But serendipity is about to intervene as that large patch of sand just south of American Bank is about to turn into a super gas station called Speedy Stop (see Mary Craft’s Business Briefs in this issue) and a portion of the paper Sand Dollar Street south of the highway will be the back entrance. The next step will be to get the street running north from the highway paved which will be needed as the entrance to the Lake Padre development will be located next to Sand Dollar and that will be a very busy intersection by this time next year. Island development isn’t waiting.



### The Moon Monkey wins!

Our newly improved belt sander the Moon Monkey took top honors among more than twenty competitors at the belt sander races at the Gaff in Port Aransas last Saturday. Sander Jockey Ronnie Narmour piloted the Moon Monkey to its first win in memory. Now we just need a belt sander track on the Padre end of The Island. Be safe everybody this weekend will be the big Spring Break 2023 weekend...no left turns. And say hello if you see us Around The Island.



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## Nature Notes

### Merlin. The Falcon

By Martin Hagne



*A Merlin brought in by falconer Hesper Fang to be banded at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. Photo by Martin Hagne*

No, not the 6<sup>th</sup> century magician... nor the 70's Rolls-Royce car... and no, not the famed British fighter plane from WWII... although very powerful, sleek, and can fly... the Merlin, falco columbarius, is our second smallest falcon in the US and Canada. They weigh in at less than a soda can, and have a wingspan from 15.5 to 29.5 inches, the female being larger than males (as in most raptors). There are two subspecies, the Taiga, which is darker, and the Richardson, which is lighter in color.

Merlin, the bird, are now on their way north to summer and breed mostly in Canada and Alaska. They spend the summer generally in open to semi-open habitats with some scattered trees for nest sites, often near forested edges or lakes and other open water. There, they use the open space to hunt. Merlin are a most awesome flyer, and fly as with a purpose... always fast and powerful. They don't mess around, and often keep a leisurely cruising speed of 30mph, and much higher while hunting! Whether they are actually in a hurry or not... they seem to be.

We never see many here, but they do winter in small numbers in Texas, often using grasslands and sometimes coastal marshes to hunt. We also see them in migration as they head further south to winter, or going back to their northern breeding grounds. They can winter as

far south as the northern parts of South America.

Their main diet are other small birds, and often they target the most populous species at a site. They hunt at high speeds and grab birds in mid air flight. They don't fly from high and stoop like the Peregrine Falcon do, but often from down below and chase the bird up until it tires out. Or they just plain smash into their prey horizontally in full speed. Either way, they are expert hunters. They will also take large insects, bats emerging from bat colonies, and even small mammals when possible.

Recently we had the privilege to see a Merlin up close here at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. A falconer brought a bird in that was about to be released. She brought it here first so that it could be banded. Our banders Robert and Kay Lookingbill banded the Merlin's leg with a small metal band that has a specific number. The band doesn't hurt the bird and the specific number can help us keep track of the bird like a social security number. This can help us find out where it may go, how long it lives, etc.

The Merlin may be a "small" raptor, but it was fierce! What a majestic bird they are! I hope you get the privilege of seeing one grace your skies here, maybe next winter, or this spring while its heading north!

## Going Native

By Ed Proffitt

### Phyla nodiflora frog fruit or turkey tangle



It's Spring Break so my thoughts naturally turn to native groundcovers. Well, in truth, my thoughts often take such turns regardless of season or holiday status. But, you probably suspected that. I've already discussed a few groundcover species in previous columns and sometimes I turn to local experts for suggestions of different ones to include. One of my go-to friends and colleagues for such questions is Charles Sassine at the Padre Island National Seashore. He's an exceptionally knowledgeable naturalist and botanist and one species he suggested was Phyla nodiflora, frog fruit or turkey tangle in the Verbenaceae family. This family contains a variety of species of mostly tropical and subtropical flowering shrubs and herbaceous groundcovers. That said, we're within the natural range of P. nodiflora and it's a wildflower you see if you poke around in wild places on the Island.

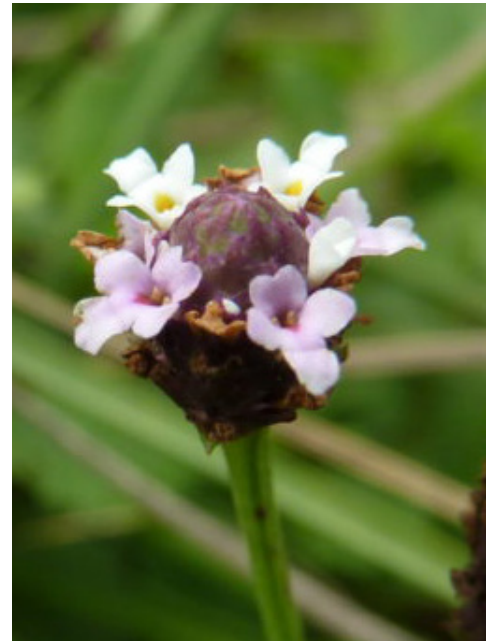
You may wonder why it's called frog fruit, I certainly did. The short answer is, I think, no one's really quite sure. One tale you can find with a quick google search is that it's often found in meadows or prairies and they are often foggy in the mornings. Frog fruit somehow morphed into frog fruit. Now is that the case? Who knows, but it makes a story --- if not quite a satisfying one. Now, why one of the (many) other common names...turkey tangle...your guess is as good as mine but I can envision someone sitting in a field in the evening with a bottle of adult beverage coming up with that!

This low growing (2 or 3 to up to 6 inches in most settings) perennial spreads clonally fairly rapidly, is fairly drought and salt spray tolerant, and prefers full sun and heat, and sandy, nutrient-poor soils. What's not to like in such a plant in our part of the world? Not only that, but in my mind even more importantly, it's a great nectar plant

attracting bees, butterflies, and the occasional hummingbird as they migrate through. Further, it can form a dense ground cover that prevents erosion of soil certainly much better than replacing non-native sod turf plants every few years once they die from one or some combination of several of our local environmental conditions! Plus, extra points for staring in its own Texas native plant video, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCPp0PeBURc>.

The flowers are small but showy especially when they grow in a dense assemblage. In addition, according to Plants for a Future web site its aromatic aroma has been used to treat coughs in some parts of the world, and a concoction of juices to treat gastric troubles. I suggest checking with your doctor first!

All in all, this is a very nice native plant that can be used in a flower garden, or throughout your lawn as a broad landscape ground cover, or in pots as a hanging plant. Something for every natural gardener as you keep Going Native.



## Full Transparency and Disclosure

*PIPOA News by Marvin Jones, President*

As always, let me have your thoughts. You can reach me at [marvin@pihoa.net](mailto:marvin@pihoa.net) or call me at 469-231-3485. You can also call the Padre Isles Property Owners Association (PIPOA) office with any questions you have at 361-949-7025.

**Common Area Maintenance-** The yearly maintenance charge is due by March 31, 2023. Payment received after this date will incur a late fee. If you have not received a statement, please contact the PIPOA Office at 361-949-7025. There has been a problem with the last names beginning with "S" and "T." According to the post office, the statements sent to the members with "S" and "T" last names may have been misplaced at the post office. Once again, if you have not received your statement, call the PIPOA office.

**Bylaw Amendment-** This is the Bylaw Amendment that will be on the upcoming ballot. Simply put, the amendment says that a subdivision that reduces or eliminates the Maintenance charge shall cease to qualify for membership in the PIPOA. The Board of Directors asks that members vote for this amendment to the

bylaws.

**1.01 MEMBERSHIP.** Membership in the Association shall be limited to owners of record title of a lot within those certain platted subdivisions located on Padre Island, Nueces County, Texas, identified in Exhibit A attached hereto (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Subdivisions") that are subject to a recorded Protective Covenants and Landowners Agreement or other dedicatory instrument that obligates the owners of lots in such Subdivision to pay an annual maintenance charge to the Association (the "Maintenance Charge Covenant"). Owners of lots in a Subdivision that terminates the Maintenance Charge Covenant or modifies the Maintenance Charge Covenant in such a manner that it eliminates or reduces the amount of the annual maintenance charge obligation to be paid to the Association by the owners of lots subject to such Maintenance Charge Covenant shall cease to qualify for membership in the Association and shall thereafter no longer be a member in the Association.

**Election Ballots-** The ballots for the Board

Election to be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023, have been mailed, and you should have received your ballot. You have three options regarding how to cast your ballot.

1. You can vote electronically via the internet. Simply follow the instructions in the voter guide. This is the preferred way as it is fast and simple. Please vote online!
2. You can vote by filling out the ballot and mailing it in the self-addressed, prepaid postage envelope. If you choose to do this, do it now because the length of time the postal system may take to deliver the envelope is unknown. Mail it by the 17<sup>th</sup>, and hope it gets there.
3. You can vote by bringing your ballot to the annual meeting and depositing it in the ballot box. The annual meeting will be held on March 25, 2023, at 10:00 AM. You must drop off your ballot no later than 10:20 for the ballot to be counted. The address where the annual meeting will be held at the North Padre Island Baptist Church, 14253 South Padre Island Drive, across from Whataburger.

4. There are two board seats up for election. One person has registered to run, and his name appears on the ballot. There are two write-in places on the ballot. There is a bylaw amendment on the ballot as well.
5. Do not bring your ballot to the PIPOA office. It will not be accepted.

Your vote is important. Please vote now.

The Padre Isles Property Owners Association's Annual meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2023, at 10:00 AM at the Padre Island Baptist Church across from Whataburger. There are two seats on the Board up for election. Only one person signed up to run during the registration period. Therefore, there will be an opportunity for write-in candidates on the ballot, and nominations for candidates may be made from the floor at the meeting. If you are interested in being on the Board, here is an excellent opportunity.

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Chris and Marty Killian took the Moon to Paris on March 9.



20 islanders took the Island Moon on a cruise to Cozumel and Progreso Mexico. They apologize to the island bars who suffered in their absence.



The UTMSI staff retreat for Mission Aransas NERR at the Field Station in the Laguna Madre last week.



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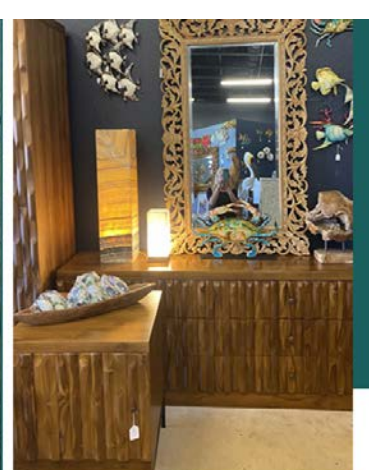


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**14162 La Blanquilla Dr.**-Check out this better than new located on corner lot big enough for pool w/ so many extras! Too many to list! Move in Ready. Don't delay. **\$575,500**  
Call **Tinker Boos** at **361-563-6641**



**13801 Captains Row** -Exceptional custom home, 151' canal front at fingertip of gated st. elevator, pool, 2 lifts, sunset over ICW **\$1,999,900**. Call **Pam Morgan** at **361-215-8116**



**350 Peerman Place** - Prestigious Lamar Park home w/4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 car side wrap garage. 15,695 sf ft corner lot. **\$650,000**  
Call **Carrie Downs-Kelley** at **361-949-5200**



**14802 Whitecap Blvd #3-101** - This 2 bed, 1 bath fully furnished unit is within walking distance to the beach! Equipped with granite countertops & stainless steel appliances. **\$400,000** Call **Randy Corpuz** at **361-765-9914**

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**14918 Island Village Dr.** Fully Furnished 2 bedroom 2 bathroom unit, two pools on site very close the beach. **\$454,900** Call **Charlie Knoll** at **361-443-2499**.

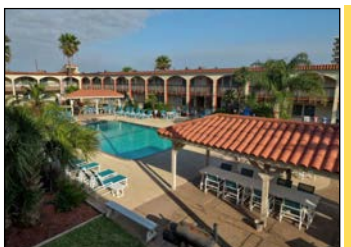


**15016 Beach Walk Loop** - This 3/2.5 fully furnished unit is within two blocks of the beach. Offering comfortable furnishings, stainless steal appliances and well-equipped kitchen. **\$424,900** Call **Charlie Knoll** at **361-443-2499**

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**225 Thelma Dr** - 4 bedroom, 3 bath waterfront property located in Flour Bluff Laguna Madre Cove Subdivision. Boat lift with large deck and covered patio. **\$598,000** Call **Christy Zamora** at **619-315-5195**



**15005 Windward Dr. #214** Fully furnished 2 bed, 1 bath, 955 sq ft Surfside Condo walking distance from the beach/seawall. **\$245,900** Call **Madeline Casey** at **361-443-0687**



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**13906 Mingo Cay #5**  
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**\$1,100/month**



**15426 Grass Cay D**  
3/2  
**\$1,700/month**

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*Sale Pending!*



**15982 Punta Espada Loop**  
3/2/2  
**\$519,900**



**1910 Great Falls**  
4/3.5/3  
**\$855,000**



**13841 Hawksnest Bay Dr.**  
4/3/3  
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## 2022-2023 National Junior Honor Society

The induction ceremony was held for the Resolute Lighthouse Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society of Seashore Middle Academy. Congratulations to all members.

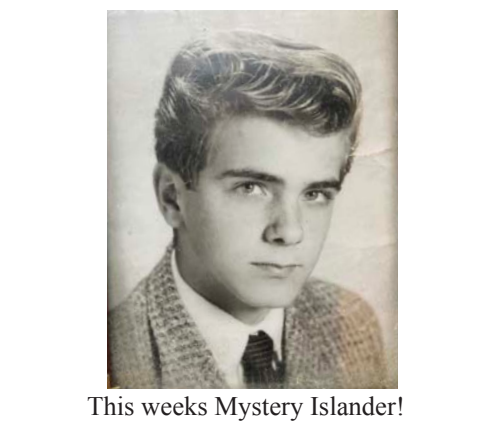


### Caught OTB

*The 45th annual Coastal Conservation Association Banquet was held at the American Bank Center on March 9. It was a night of awards and fundraising to support their mission to protect, conserve and enhance our marine fisheries and natural resources. Fishing, boating and bays are important to us on the Island and here are a few neighbors we caught OTB at the event. Debbie Noble*



New picnic tables and shade structures went up at Balli Park this week.



This weeks Mystery Islander!  
Can you name this dapper looking young man?

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## Seashore Middle Academy Science

### Olympiad Team Heads to State Competition

For the 10th year in a row, Seashore Middle Academy's Science Olympiad team will go to the state completion on the campus of Texas A&M College Station on April 21-22.

There are 23 events, some STEM related while others rely on student memory and creativity. The 15-member team participates in events such as disease detective, wheeled vehicle, roller coaster and we've got your number to name a few. Students are required to build, memorize facts, log data, create labs.

Good Luck Team!



### Lone Star Stampede

Seashore Learning Center students gathered Friday afternoon before Spring Break to celebrate Texas Independence Day at the 18th Annual Lone Star Stampede. The event had been scheduled for March 3, but the power outage delayed the event. It was a beautiful, sunny South Texas day! Kindergarteners, 1st graders, and 2nd graders each two-stepped to one song, followed by the "Chicken Dance." Third and 4th graders each two-stepped to a song, followed by the grand finale, the "Cotton-Eye Joe." Photos by Caitlin Russell



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# The Happy Place

By Chris Jordan



A frenched, bone-in prime ribeye AKA a tomahawk steak

Preparing food is clearly an enjoyable pursuit for many people and the reasons for the affinity could be myriad. It could be as simple as cooking leads to eating. And if that’s true, then I’m here to posit that the process has one more precursor.

Our pleasure in eating is easy to understand: it is one of the two things we are primally mandated to do before we die. If nature wants us to do something, nature makes that thing pleasurable. But what about our pleasure in cooking? I understand this is not common to all humans, but there are enough of us for it to be worth exploring. For me — and I assume there are others like me — my pleasure center starts lighting-up at the grocery store.

I love going to the Flour Bluff H-E-B. I have my handpicked parking area comprising any of the spots along the main route between the pharmacy and Spec’s. This does not get me particularly close to the entrance but its use does circumvent the frustrating and time-wasting search for a “good” spot. Where I choose to park is far enough away that my ingress and egress leaves me unmolested by other shoppers.

If there’s an orphaned shopping cart lurking about, I’ll adopt it as my own. Sometimes a poor abandoned cart will contain an empty box that formerly housed a case of beer. Sometimes there’s a forlorn, soggy plastic ice bag that has been hastily torn asunder. Why are the beer-people in such a hurry? This scene is playing-out in parking lots everywhere right now I’m sure...it is spring break after all.

Whether I already have a cart or not, I stop where the carts are stored to look for shopping lists. Other people’s left-behind grocery lists fascinate me. More often than not, I score at least one. If I have picked-up a stray cart in the parking lot, I pull her behind me like a freshly calved pilot whale trails her mother at the flank. She has just been rescued and needs to be guided. If I’m getting a cart from where they are all stacked-up, I push it though: this cart would have rather stayed with the others and requires stern encouragement to sally forth.

The grocery store’s automatic double doors are like a portal into another dimension. Or subway doors opening upon your first time on the NYC subway. Or the gates to Emerald City. Or any other magical passage you may imagine. I cross the threshold and am instantly awash with a distinctly euphoric regard for my lot: possibility.

Isn’t it all the same every time? It’s a legitimate question, but the answer is “no”. Products come and go with each department in perpetual flux. Some more so than others. The butter selection hasn’t changed in recent memory. My favorite imported tomato sauce has gone away, but some new canned plum tomatoes showed-up so we can call that a draw. Have you ever really surveyed the international section? There are some real nuggets in there. What about the bulk spice cabinet? It’s not where all the other spices are: it’s in the Healthy Living aisle nestled among the assorted hippie

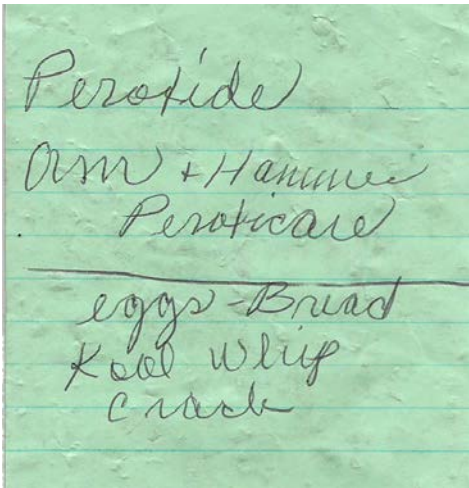
kibble and gym juice. Along the back wall of the store is a refrigerated display labeled “Gluten Free”. You can find some real good kimchi there (I’m looking at you, Dr. Russell). There are even a couple of racks of discounted goods: one not too far from the kimchi stash and the other at the end of the egg aisle.

But the real action is in the more transitory departments like meat. Things come and go here. They don’t have a prime beef tomahawk every day. Heck, I’m not looking for one everyday. But when one does show-up — if it’s positively gorgeous — I will buy it. I have to. That’s how steak-night comes to be.... Because it can never be predetermined. It’s the same with quail legs, chicken hearts and pork ribeyes. It’s a crap shoot and turkey shoot at the same time.

Produce is intrinsically ephemeral: There are growing seasons, spoilage, and market pressures all at work. Are they going to have romanesco? Or the extra fat asparagus spears I prefer over the skinny ones? No telling. Sometimes something wonderful will appear like brussels sprouts that are still on the stalk. Or an artichoke worth buying because it’s younger: rounder ones with tightly spaced, closed petals. Or adult arugula. I loathe baby arugula as it has a fraction of the flavor. Or (gasp!) fresh horseradish root....ANYTHING to assuage my apathy or stoke my hope.

If the meat is transitory and the produce ephemeral, cheese is absolutely evanescent. You may have to try a new producer of Parmigiano-Reggiano. You had recently decided you could live the rest of your life with the delicious one you’ve been putting in your basket for months. It’s only aged eighteen months but at least it’s not a plebian year-old cheese. Your favorite fresh goat cheese? Poof! Gone! But replaced with one you like even more. Where is that Fromage au Poivre that you have not delighted in since three holiday seasons ago? It vanished. Did you make it up? No. It was real. Your imagination is deft but not capable of conjuring delights such as that.

I look at my found grocery list and wonder about the shopper. I make another pass through the store and put the stranger’s stuff in my cart...except for that last item. I think you get that in the parking lot.



A Found Grocery List



By Pastor Kris Bair

## Go, Girls!

Last week the world celebrated the International Day of Women—well, a lot of the world did.

I won’t drop any nasty names, but we still find active resistance to equal rights—and the shocking thing for me is to know how many of those in subsequent generations 1) take those rights (such as they are—we’re not quite there yet) for granted, and/or 2) deny there ever was an issue.

I beg to differ. When I was in high school, I never would’ve dreamt that I might be looking back on, and lecturing about, the state of women. But boy howdy! Have things changed!

Think about having to kneel in the gym before your first class in the morning to determine if your dress/skirt was too short. It had better touch the floor. Female students couldn’t get in the front door in pants of any sort (and shorts would’ve precipitated a huge crisis—unless, of course, you wore them in PE.

Not to mention that having to wear skirts in the dead of winter meant climbing our long driveway to catch the school bus without protection for our legs. We could wear knee socks, but no leg warmers, and sweats hadn’t even been invented.

When midis and maxis became fashionable, we got out the sewing machine and gratefully ran some up. Any protection from the raw weather was deeply appreciated.

During that time, I vividly remember our mother trying to get me to think about what I wanted to do when I grew up.

Heck, I didn’t know. We talked about different jobs I could do—and they were limited to the Big (and Only) Three: teaching, nursing, and stenography.

It made me mad. I valiantly argued that women shouldn’t be limited to only those jobs.

Mom’s response was to argue (and I still can’t believe this one!) that women couldn’t work jobs like construction, or be engineers or even scientists, because of no separate bathrooms for them.

When I pointed out that women and men shared bathrooms in their homes all the time, and with guests of either sex, without abusing anyone’s privacy, she refused to consider it, visibly shuddering at the thought of sharing a bathroom on a job.

Having traveled to Third World countries, I can say that when sharing a bathroom is necessary, you do it gladly—no matter the state of cleanliness (or more likely un-cleanliness) of the facility.

What I told her was if a company could afford to spend millions on research, or construction, or whatever, they could afford to build and maintain a few more bathrooms.

Someone on Facebook recently posted a story about how women “back in the day” couldn’t open a bank account without a man’s signature.

It’s true. I assumed, when I opened my first savings account as a teenager, that I needed my father’s signature because I was a minor. Mom disabused me of that notion, but I found it hard to believe her.

As a college student, unknowingly

zeroing out my savings account because of a debit I had made, I had to open a new one. I still needed a male signature. And it wasn’t because I was underage.

I remember the GP’s (Great Provider’s) mother telling me the following story one day, as an example of how backward her small town was in the ‘60s.

The newspaper in Western Kansas had a front-page article about a terrible vehicular crash on the Interstate. An area farmer and his wife had been sideswiped by a semi.

The paper reported that long-time resident Mr. John Q. Doe (name changed) was taken to a Denver hospital, where he remained in critical condition. John Q’s status in the community, as well as his health, and his chances for recovery, were fully described and thoroughly embellished.

John Q. was, after all, a Big Farmer.

The article concluded with a one-sentence paragraph: “That Doe woman was treated locally and died.”

That Doe woman. Is it any wonder we fought to be addressed as Ms.?

A wife was nothing without her husband. Point in fact: it has been only in my lifetime that the law has enabled a wife to inherit property if her husband died intestate.

After all, how can one inherit property if one IS property? So widows were at the mercy of the nearest male relative.

Girls’ high school sports were limited to intramurals—no wasting money on travel for “inferior” female teams.

The list could go on and on, but I would be remiss not to note that nearly 100% of professional male football players today could never have played in high school with their lengthy hairstyles in my day. It wasn’t just the females who sought equal rights.

I’m happy to report that my denomination began ordaining women as elders and ministers over 50 years ago (it only took them 450 years or so to become enlightened). Even Mom was pleased and became an elder herself.

And I’m purely delighted to note that extending the right to vote to women did NOT result in apocalypse, as many males claimed it would.

Yet.

At Island Presbyterian Church, Gypsy and Fortuna Bay, we’re looking forward to Sunday worship at 10 a.m. Dress casual--we’re a beach church. Beach worship re-convenes on May 7!

In the meantime, we’re getting ready for Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday, April 2, and sunrise service Easter Sunday on the beach at Whitecap. Bring something to sit on and warming drinks if you’d like—it’s apt to be a little chilly. Regular worship at 10 a.m., nursery provided and Fellowship afterward.

And don’t forget Spring Fling, a community-centered event in our parking lot, with kids’ activities, crafts, home-made goods, and lots of other booths: May 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendors, check our Facebook page for more info!



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## Sudoku

*Sudoku answers are not available.  
Play at your own risk!  
Going Easy On You...*

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

### Knuckle-Cracker

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

### Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

### Brain-Buster

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

## Moon Crossword

*Crossword Solution on classifieds page*

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

#### Across

1. Montezuma II, for one  
6. Bombay wraparound dress  
10. Improvisational style  
14. Gaucho accessory  
15. Where Baha'ism began  
16. Type of slinger  
17. Team of Johnny Unitas  
18. Not tacit  
19. Against  
20. Seldom  
23. Naught  
24. Takes the wheel  
25. Tempest setting  
29. They're drawn to the flame  
31. Perry's penman  
32. Clark or Gibbs of country music  
33. Zoo attraction  
36. Hercule Poirot's pride  
40. Sheep's milieu  
41. Films with casts of thousands  
42. Partner of "read 'em"  
43. More than lionize  
44. Sixth Amendment adjective  
46. Film mouse  
49. Golf norm  
50. Gives up  
57. Jack-in-the-pulpit, for one  
58. Cause to grimace  
59. Replay effect  
60. Sport of princes  
61. Excalibur's handle  
62. All agog  
63. First name in slapstick  
64. D-Day invasion town  
65. Steakhouse selection

#### Down

1. With the bow, in music  
2. Jerusalem temple locale  
3. Powder ingredient, perhaps  
4. Sermon attachment  
5. Pit boss' domain  
6. Strong cordage fiber  
7. Damascus resident  
8. Snooker cushion  
9. Automotive, steel or tourism, e.g.  
10. Attaints  
11. Birchbark boat  
12. Noted capitalist  
John Jacob  
13. Dilutes  
21. Insect egg  
22. Moral philosophy  
25. Kiss or show partner  
26. Buffalo-to-Albany canal  
27. Ski resort next to Snowbird  
28. Favored one  
29. Benevolence  
30. Lode yields  
32. Working for the weekend letters  
33. Away from the sea wind  
34. Argued a claim  
35. Catch sight of  
37. Come-hither looks  
38. They're often etched in stone  
39. Female with a wool coat  
43. Evil spirit (Var.)  
44. Remained unused  
45. Like some stations on a car radio  
46. Pulls a switcheroo  
47. Clairvoyant's cards  
48. Tongue neighbor  
49. Mottled horse  
51. Display one's patience  
52. It could cause one to switch gears  
53. Bodybuilder's bane  
54. Recognizable symbol  
55. Sunday utterance  
56. Reason for an "R"

## Police Blotter March 6-13th

### This week's Hot Spots

14200 block Natal Plum 7 p.m. March 13 Assault with Injury  
14200 block Natal Plum 4 p.m. March 12 Assault  
14200 block Natal Plum 4 p.m. March 9 Suspicious Person  
14200 block Natal Plum 7 p.m. March 13 Disturbance  
14200 block Natal Plum 4 p.m. March 13 Suspicious Person  
  
11100 block Gulf Beach 10 p.m. March 13 Assault  
11100 block Gulf Beach 9 p.m. March 12 Assault with Injury  
11100 block Gulf Beach 8 p.m. March 12 Assault  
11000 block Gulf Beach 2 p.m. March 11 Suspicious Person  
11000 block Gulf Beach 3 p.m. March 10 Suspicious Person

13600 block Man O War 1 p.m. March 7 Theft of Vehicle Parts under \$100  
13900 block Man O War 1 p.m. March 7 Theft of Vehicle Parts under \$100

### JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection

**Crimes against Property**  
14000 block SPID 2 p.m. March 12 Theft of Services  
14000 block SPID 2 p.m. March 8 Trespassing  
**Disturbance**  
13500 block SPID 2 p.m. March 9 Arrest Warrant  
14000 block SPID 6 a.m. March 8  
**Suspicious Person**  
11800 block SPID 11 a.m. March 12  
**Traffic**  
228 Traffic Stops  
13500 block SPID 7 a.m. March 13 DWI  
14000 block SPID 4 p.m. March 12 Crash  
13900 block SPID 3 p.m. March 12 Hit and Run  
14000 block SPID 3 p.m. March 12 Crash  
JFK Kennedy to SPID Access Ramp/SPID 4 p.m. March 10 Driving While License Suspended/Possession of Drug Paraphernalia/Possession of Marijuana  
13500 block SPID 1 p.m. March 10 Traffic Stop/  
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia/Possession of Marijuana under two ounces  
14400 block SPID 2 p.m. March 12 Crash  
**SPID West to Laguna Madre**  
**Crimes against Person**  
15100 block Dory 6 a.m. March 13 Assault

15700 block SPID 8 p.m. March 13 Assault  
14200 block Natal Plum 7 p.m. March 13 Assault with Injury  
14200 block Natal Plum 4 p.m. March 12 Assault  
**Crimes against Property**  
13700 block Suntan 11 a.m. March 7 Trespassing  
15000 block Dasmarrinas 6 p.m. March 12 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle  
13600 block Man O War 1 p.m. March 7 Theft of Vehicle Parts under \$100  
13600 block Whitecap 11 a.m. March 7 Theft of Services  
13700 block Primavera 1 p.m. March 6 Theft \$2500-\$30,000  
13500 block Catamaran Noon March 6 Theft of Services  
13900 block SPID 11 a.m. March 6 Theft of Services  
13900 block Lighthouse 7 a.m. March 6 Theft f Services  
13900 block Eaglesnest Bay 4 p.m. March 12 Criminal Mischief/Destruction or Criminal Mischief  
15900 block Punta Espada 3 p.m. March 7 Theft of Services  
13900 block Man O War 1 p.m. March 7 Theft of Vehicle Parts under \$100  
**Disturbance**

14300 block Aloha 9 p.m. March 13  
13500 block Carlos Fifth 6 p.m. March 13 Public Intoxication  
14300 block SPID 11 p.m. March 12 Wanted Person  
15300 block SPID 6 p.m. March 11 Public Intoxication  
15100 block Aquarius 4 a.m. March 11 Noise Ordinance Violation  
14200 block SPID 7 p.m. March 6 Public Intoxication  
14200 block Natal Plum 7 p.m. March 13  
14200 block Natal Plum 4 p.m. March 13  
13900 block Eaglesnest Bay 9 p.m. March 12  
15300 block SPID 6 p.m. March 11 Public Intoxication  
14000 block Coquina Bay Noon March 7 Dumping  
**Suspicious Person**  
13700 block Sea Horse 9 a.m. March 9  
14300 block Indigo 10 p.m. March 11  
14514200 block SPID 8 p.m. March  
14500 block SPID 2 a.m. March 10  
13500 block Catamaran 8 p.m. March 9  
15900 block El Socorro 8 p.m. March 10  
SPID/Encantada 5 p.m. March 9 Suspicious Person/  
Possession of Controlled Substance  
14200 block Natal Plum 4 p.m. March 9  
**Traffic**  
239 Traffic Stops

SH 361/SPID 8 p.m. March 12 DWI  
15100 block SPID 6 p.m. March 12 DWI  
14500 block SPID 11 p.m. March 11 Hit and Run  
14600 block SPID 11 p.m. March 11 Crash  
Whitecap/SPID 9 a.m. March 11 Crash  
SH 361/SPID 11 p.m. March 10 DWI  
SPID/361 11 p.m. March 10 DWI  
SPID/Commodores 5 p.m. March 10 Crash  
15300 block Bonasse 1 p.m. March 9 Parking Violation  
Yardarm-Whitecap 10 a.m. March 7 Crash  
14800 block SPID 11 a.m. March 6 Crash  
15400 block SPID 3 p.m. March 11 Crash  
Ports O Call/Seamount Cay 1 p.m. March 11 Crash  
Whitecap/SPID 9 a.m. March 11 Crash  
15300 block Bonasse 1 p.m. March 9 Parking Violation  
**SPID East to Gulf of Mexico-north to city limits**  
**Crimes against Person**  
15400 block Gulf Beach 6 p.m. March 11 Deadly Conduct/Aggravated Assault  
11100 block Gulf Beach 10 p.m. March 13 Assault  
11100 block Gulf Beach 9 p.m. March 12 Assault with Injury  
11100 block Gulf Beach 8 p.m. March 12 Assault  
**Disturbance**  
16200 block Gulf Beach 10 p.m. March 9  
15200 block Leeward 4 p.m. March 13  
15400 block Gulf Beach 6 p.m. March 11  
15200 block Windward 1 a.m. March 10 Possession of Marijuana under 2 ounces/Possession of Controlled Substance  
11100 block Gulf Beach 8 p.m. March 12  
11100 block Gulf Beach 6 p.m. March 12 Physical Altercation  
11000 block Gulf Beach 1 a.m. March 11  
14200 block SPID 7 p.m. March 6 Public Intoxication  
**Suspicious Person**  
14700 block Whitecap 4 a.m. March 12  
Windward Drive/Leeward Drive Noon March 11  
15200 block Windward Dr. Noon March 8  
11300 block Gulf Beach 2 p.m. March 13  
SH 361/Zahn Road 6 p.m. March 11  
11000 block Gulf Beach 2 p.m. March 11  
11000 block Gulf Beach 3 p.m. March 10  
**Traffic**  
126 Traffic Stops  
15800 block Gulf Beach 10 p.m. March 10 Crash  
15800 block SPID 6 a.m. March 9 Parking Violation



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The Presbyterian Church On the Island

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In addition Sunday AA Meetings are held at 8 AM at The Pavillon on the Boardwalk Near Padre Bali

Crossword Solution

A	Z	T	E	C		S	A	R	I		S	C	A	T			
R	I	A	T	A		I	R	A	N		H	A	S	H			
C	O	L	T	S		S	A	I	D		A	N	T	I			
O	N	C	E	I	N	A	B	L	U	E	M	O	O	N			
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L	I	T	T	L	E	G	R	E	Y	C	E	L	L	S			
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S	T	A	N			S	T	L	O			T	B	O	N	E	

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# Staying Home for Dinner

A colony of garden eels often looks at first like sea grass swaying in the current—until you get closer. As you approach, you might get a glimpse of the big googly-like eyes on either side of their pencil-thin bodies before they disappear into the safety of their burrow. Though social animals, each eel remains rooted to the burrow its muscular tail carved out of the sand. Glands in their skin secrete a mucus that fortifies the sand around their burrow and seals the entrance when they dart in to avoid danger. And when the coast is clear, they straighten up and out, using their relatively large mouths to catch zooplankton floating past.




Garden eels live in burrows and poke out to feed on zooplankton that passes by. Credit: Sonse, Wikimedia, CC BY 2.0.

While this homebody strategy is great for avoiding predators, scientists wondered how garden eels cope in stronger currents, which require more energy to hold steady in, and carry zooplankton past more quickly. To find out, scientists placed a garden eel in a tank with a sandy bottom, and three cameras. Then they added zooplankton and filmed the eel's behavior at four different flow rates. A computer-learning program analyzed the footage and revealed the eels' trick for staying fed.

As the current speeds up, the eels extend less from their burrows and curve their bodies more. This reduces the drag on their bodies and the amount of energy they need to resist the current. They also limit their catches to the zooplankton that are closest to their burrow. But they still catch plenty of prey because a shorter striking distance means greater success in snatching their meals, and the faster current carries more critters past them. If the current gets too strong—0.25 meters per second or greater—they take the day off from feeding because they would spend more energy feeding than they would get from the food. But most of the time, staying home to eat suits these eels just fine.




**www.ScienceAndTheSea.org**  
© The University of Texas Marine Science Institute




**PADRE ISLES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saturday, March 25, 2023  
Padre Island Baptist Church  
14253 S. Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78418  
Doors open at 9:00 AM; Meeting begins at 10:00 AM**


**NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA**




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# Make sure your boat is ready for the season Spring Commissioning Checklist


In case you are looking for something to do as spring rolls around the Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), is offering this timeless rite of spring to help boaters simplify this task of getting their boat ready for summer.

Padre Island rules from the Island Moon Boat Safety and Repair Department allow for the consumption of adult beverages at all points in the checklist, moderate cursing also allowed...

**Before You Launch**

Check the condition of antifouling paint and repaint if necessary.  
Inspect all hose clamps for rust and replace as necessary. Double clamp fuel lines and exhaust hoses with marine-rated stainless-steel hose clamps. While not technically required, it’s wise to double clamp whenever possible on all hoses — especially those below the waterline.  
Inspect all hoses for stiffness, rot, leaks and cracking, and replace any that are faulty. Make sure they fit snugly.  
Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure.  
Grip the prop (on inboard drive systems) and try moving the shaft up and down and side to side. If it’s loose and can be wiggled, the cutless bearing may need to be replaced.  
Check the rudderstock to ensure it hasn’t been bent. Operate the wheel or tiller to ensure the steering works correctly. Check the rudder bearing and steering cable for unusual play or movement.  
Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.  
Make sure your engine intake sea strainer (if equipped) is not cracked or bent from ice and is free of corrosion, clean and properly secured.  
With inboards, check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for correct adjustment. A stuffing box should leak no more than two or three drops each minute when the prop shaft is turning. Check the shaft log hose for deterioration and rusty hose clamps.  
Inspect, lubricate and exercise thru-hull valves. It’s a good idea to tie a right-sized wooden bung to the valve in case of failure.  
Use a garden hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulk or gaskets as necessary.  
Inspect and test the bilge pump and float switch to ensure they’re both working properly. Also inspect the pump’s hose.  
Check stove and remote LPG tanks for loose fittings, leaking hoses and properly functioning shutoff systems. Use the pressure gauge to conduct a leak down test to check for system leaks.  
Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafe and wear.  
If equipped, ensure that the stern drain plug is installed.  
After the boat is launched, be sure to check all thru-hulls for leaks.  
Open second beer and think it may be more fun to clean out the garage.

**Engines and Fuel Systems**




Inspect fuel lines, including fuel tank fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks, and make sure all lines are well supported with noncombustible clips or straps with smooth edges.

Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Ensure portable tanks and lines are completely drained of stale fuel before filling with fresh fuel. Clean or replace fuel filters and/or fuel-water separators if not done before winterization.  
Every few years, remove and inspect exhaust manifolds and risers for corrosion (for inboard-powered and inboard/outboard boats).  
Charge battery.  
Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Use a wire brush to clean battery terminals, and top off cells with distilled water (if applicable).  
Inspect the bilge ventilation intake and blower ducting for damage or leaks and run the blower to confirm correct operation.  
Test engine warnings and alarms.  
Take the dog to Riley P. Dog Park and come back later.


**Engine Outdrives and Outboards**

Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds) and replace if suspect.  
Check power steering and power trim oil levels.  
Replace anodes/zincs that are more than half wasted.  
Inspect the outer jacket of control cables. Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean that the cable must be replaced.  
Inspect lower unit oil level and top off as necessary.  
Stand on one leg and yell at the seagulls.


**Sailboat Rigging**




Inspect swage fittings for cracks and heavy rust (some discoloration is acceptable). Inspect wire halyards and running backstays for “fishhooks” and rust.




Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon. Replace old tape with fresh tape, and ensure that water is able to freely drain from it.



If you suspect the core around a chainplate is damp, remove the chainplate to inspect and make repairs.



Inspect masthead sheaves and all blocks to make sure they’re running freely.



Remember, that when sailing the journey ends when you leave the dock.


**Trailers**

Inspect tire treads and sidewalls for cracks or lack of tread and replace as necessary. Check air pressure; don’t forget the spare.  
Inspect wheel bearings and repack as necessary.  
Test all lights and replace any broken bulbs or lenses.  
Inspect winch to make sure it’s working properly. Inspect hitch chains.  
Inspect trailer frame and axle(s) for rust. Sand and paint to prevent further deterioration.  
Inspect brakes and brake fluid reservoir.  
Don’t forget to attach the trailer to the truck.

**Safety**

A law that went into effect in 2021 requires a vessel operator to use either a helm or outboard lanyard or wireless engine cutoff switch on certain vessels less than 26 feet when traveling on plane or above displacement speed, so be sure your switch is working properly and the lanyard is in serviceable condition. If you use a wireless cutoff switch, ensure batteries in the fobs and wrist worn devices are refreshed.  
Check dates on pyrotechnic flares, which expire 42 months after manufacture.  
Inspect fire extinguishers. A regulation that went into effect last year requires a 12-year expiration for disposables and has different carriage requirements for older and newer model year vessels.  
Ensure you have properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger, including kids. Check inflatable life jacket cylinders and dissolvable “pill” bobbins in auto-inflating models.  
Test smoke, carbon monoxide, fume and bilge alarms.  
Check running lights for operation and spare bulb inventory.  
Update chartplotter software.  
Replenish first-aid kit items that may have been used last season or are expired.  
Check the operation of VHF radio(s) and that the MMSI number is correctly programmed in.  
Get a free vessel safety check from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons. Find out more at cgaux.org/vsc.  
Check to see if you need more beer.


**For the Dock**




In addition to checking its entire length for wear or abrasions, check both ends of the shore power cable connections as well as the shore power receptacle on the boat for burns, which indicate the cable and/or boat’s shore power inlet or the dock’s receptacle must be replaced.

Test ground-fault protection on your boat and private dock, and know how to prevent Electric Shock Drowning.  
For the record the Island Moon Boat Safety Department is against Electric Shock Drowning in all its forms.


**The Paperwork**



Make sure your boat registration is up to date – and dinghy if you have one. Don’t forget your boat trailer tags.



Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage if needed.



More beer.





# Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Just to state the obvious...



The Festering Den of Sin... Day 1.

Just to state the obvious, we are currently in the throes of Spring Break. The *Festering Den of Sin* has become a reality. Is it just me or does this crop of Spring Breakers look especially young this year. And the Winter Texans don't look that old. What's going on here? When me and my **Mermaid Gal** made our obligatory beach runs last weekend, I felt pretty out of place when I started taking pictures of them for the paper and got some weird looks. They look so young now. Maybe I should wear a press pass being that I'm roughly a half century older than most of them. But trust me, Spring Break is definitely happening and happening in a BIG way as we speak. There are a kazillion rowdy kids on the beach right now, especially around pole 28 where they've started circling their wagons. But rest assured, there's also half a kazillion cops out there too. We watched cars and trucks and golf carts galore being pulled over everywhere last weekend... and they don't care if you are a local or a tourist. It's crazy out there right now so don't be another problem for them. The police have enough on their plate as it is. Pro tip: wear your seat belts, come to complete stop at EVERY stop sign and use your blinker for EVERY turn. You're welcome. Oh, and one other thing... if you drink and drive around here right now, you're a fool. The police are actively looking for DWI's as we speak. I feel like everyone should already know this stuff. It happens every year. You know the drill. Now get off my lawn!

On the local front...



And its the Moon Monkey for the first place win over Boss Hog at the Gaff's Belt Sander Races last Saturday.

I am deliriously happy to report that my BELT SANDER RACER, the **Moon Monkey**, has been redesigned and spruced up to the point where it actually took home the bacon last weekend at the Gaff's bi-monthly races. It was a close call in every heat but, in the end, I finally got the first place win that I've been missing for quite some time. The field was tough. There were 22 racers last Saturday and every one of them was a force to be reckoned with. The competition has gotten fiercer through the years. I had to go up against the **Gaffinator**, **Miss Piggy**, **Pink Flamingo** and **Boss Hogg**, among others to get to the finish. I can't thank **Rusty Daniels** enough for fixing up my racer for me. Also on the local front, this Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> is *St. Patty's Day* and there will, in fact, be a pub crawl starting at the *VFW* at noon then off to the *Gaff* (1:00-2:30), *Salty Dog* (2:30- 4:00), *Red's* (4:00- 5:30) and then back to the *VFW* at 5:30. Food will be provided at all stops. I'm sure **Kip Shannon** at the *Gaff*



John Elijah and the CBDB's played Kody's in Port Aransas last Friday.

will have his pirate boat out and going from pub to pub.

Scattered shots...



Triptonite played Bron's on Saturday.

Me and my **Mermaid Gal** hit the ground running last weekend. **Rick Adams** with the city called and invited us out to a concert at the *Port Aransas Community Theater (PACT)* to see a **KISS** tribute band called **Rock and Roll Over**. I must admit, I was never a metal head. I missed out on that whole scene. When KISS was rocking the 70's air waves, I was listening to **Muddy Waters**, **Lightning Hopkins** and **Mississippi John Hurt**, and lots of country and blues and roots stuff. But, I'm really glad we went. It was actually a hoot. Before the show, Rick warmed the crowd up with some KISS trivia questions and I was surprised at the number of people that knew every answer. There were some real deal fans in there. The band performing was from Dallas and had their moves down to a science. They were obviously professional musicians and knew their characters well and did a good job. The **Gene Simmons** character was freaky. He had a big, pointy tongue that he kept darting in and out like a reptile. It was striking...sorry. It was definitely authentic. Next week they have an **AC/DC** tribute band. After KISS we made it over to *Bron's Backyard* to see our resident psychedelic jam band, **Triptonite**. I really dig these guys. They're irreverent and funny and put on a damn good show. Their musicianship is tight and their repertoire is kicking. This is definitely an act to catch. On Sunday, the **CBDB's** played *Bron's*. I also stopped in *Kody's* on Friday to see these guys. This is a band of guys that trade around their band duties. With three members that all sing and play all the guitars and basses (**John Elijah**, **Jose' Felix** and **Joseph Soto**) so they have a lot of wiggle room to play around. This is definitely another band to catch on their way up.

DO NOT MISS LIST  
Coming this weekend...



The OTB Band will play Treasure Island on Friday

On Thursday, we have the delightful **Dreaming in Color** with songbird **Debra Scott Brown** playing *Bron's Backyard*. This Friday is *St. Patty's Day* and I already mentioned the pub crawl, but also the mighty mighty **Ruben V** from San Antonio will play *Bron's* and the **OTB Band** will play *Treasure Island*. Plus, there's also a *Crawfish Festival* in Rockport and a *St. Paddy's Festival* in downtown Corpus. On Saturday, the **Back Pew Revival** plays *Treasure Island*, the great **Toman Brothers Band** will play *Bron's*. The Toman's are the consummate bar band and traveled the world as **Gary Stewart's** road band. Also on Saturday, I mentioned the **AC/DC** tribute band at *PACT* plus everyone's pal **Coach Jim Dugan** will play the *Gaff* and if you're anywhere close to Gruene, **Uncle Lucius** is playing Gruene Hall. On Sunday, songwriter and story teller **Lee Haile** from the hill country will play *Bron's*, **Tumble Dry Low** plays their weekly residency at *Bernie's Beach House* and singer-songwriter extraordinaire, **Ty Dietz**, will play *Kody's*. And keep in mind that **Brad Ethridge** will host an open mic every Wednesday at the *Gaff*.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Rock and Roll Over, a KISS tribute band played PACT last Saturday.



The mighty mighty Ruben V will play Bron's on Friday

## LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday.

March 16

Dreaming in Color @ Bron's Backyard  
Marco Ramirez @ Treasure Island  
Reese Henry, Garrett Smith, Jarrod Johnson @ VFW  
ChillBillies @ Harley-Davidson CC  
Ruben Limas @ Island Brazilian  
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's  
Moniq, Animal Mood @ House of Rock  
Yosh & Yimmy @ Executive Surf Club  
Trisum @ Brewster Southside  
Dexter & the Moonrocks @ Brewster Downtown

St Patty's Day.

March 17

St. Patty's Day Pub Crawl @ VFW, Gaff, Salty Dog, Red's  
Ruben V @ Bron's Backyard  
OTB @ Treasure Island  
Rockport Crawfish Cook-Off  
St. Paddy's Festival @ Downtown  
Corpus Christi  
Jason Boland & the Stragglers @ Brewster  
Downtown  
Diamond's Edge @ Pelican  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's  
Barbara Jenice @ Scuttlebutt's  
Crosstown  
Expressway @ House of Rock  
Aaron Jacobs @ Brewster Southside  
Scarecrow People @ Executive Surf Club  
Jam Band, John Cortez @ Exchange  
Eli Brown @ Sunset  
Hideaway  
Latin Sunset @ Kokomo's

Saturday.

March 18

Toman Bros @ Bron's Backyard  
Back Pew Revival @ Treasure Island  
OTB @ VFW  
Jim Dugan @ Gaff

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**OTB BAND** MAR 17  
**BACK PEW REVIVAL** MAR 18  
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AC/DC Tribute Band @ Port A Community Theater  
Uncle Lucius @ Gruene Hall  
Jon Car Band @ Pelican Lounge  
The Groove @ First & Ten CC  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's  
Eclipse @ Cassidy's Pub  
Jon Mikael MREZ @ Rockbottom  
Chainlinks, Matt Hole @ Executive Surf Club  
Meza Band @ Brewster Southside  
Chad Cooke @ Brewster Downtown  
El Dusty, Tropicoso @ House of Rock  
Chillbillies @ La Playa by the Sea  
CBDB's @ Exchange  
Clay Hollis @ South Texas Ice House  
Eli Haile @ Dusty Saddle Salloon

Sunday.

March 19

Lee Haile @ Bron's Backyard  
Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's  
Ty Dietz @ Kody's  
Rockport Market Days  
Jerry Ward @ Pelican Lounge  
Jennifer Gayle  
Bradley @ Blackbeards  
Ruben Limas @ Gully's  
Damn Right Duo @ House of Rock  
Sonny Salinas @ Executive Surf Club  
Ruben Limas @ Gully's Bar

Monday.

March 20

Chuck Almarez @ Blackbeard's  
Billy Snipes @ Doc's  
Barbara Jenice @ Scuttlebutt's  
Updog, Keep Flying, New Ends @ House of Rock

Tuesday.

March 21

Open Mic @ House of Rock  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's  
Billy Snipes @ Doc's

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