

Issue 989



The

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Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

March 31, 2023

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By Dale Rankin

It's been hard to tell the difference between winter and spring Around The Island of late. The water temperature has been pushing up on 70 degrees and beach going has been rather cool but there should be good weather for the first Padre Foolz Day Beach Bash at the bowl in Kleberg County this Saturday. The event is a fundraiser for the Texas SeaLife Center and includes a crawfish boil and gumbo plates and will take place at Mile Marker 262. If you don't know where that is just go to Beach Access Road #6 and turn right. Look for the axe throwing and you are there...or maybe just look for this fellow...



JFK lane closures

Texas Department of Transportation officials this week announced that temporary lane closures have resumed after Spring Break and will be closing the outside west-bound lane from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to work on bridge bearing pads underneath the bridge structure. All four lanes of the bridge must remain open during Hurricane Season which begins June 1 but the word from TxDOT officials this week is that completion of the project is not expected until the fall so lane closures may resume in December after the end the season.

Tax Relief

There is some good news for taxpayers this week as there are moves on two fronts to lower the tax burden on homeowners with Homestead Exemptions. The first front is at Corpus Christi City Hall where Councilman Mike Pusley this week introduced a move to increase the exemption for the calculation of city property taxes and also a second move to provide relief to those over 65 years of age. See the story in this edition. In Austin Senate Bill 3 would save 2 million homestead owners over-65 and disabled \$1,000 plus per year by tripling the over-65 and disabled exemption to \$30,000, and it would also add it onto the \$70,000 homestead exemption

Around cont. on A5

Finally Some Relief for Property Taxpayers?

City considering moves to reduce property taxes

By Dale Rankin

April 6

In a heated hour long exchange at the Corpus Christi City Council meeting on Tuesday members agreed to postpone a vote on a measure that would reduce the tax burden on homeowners across the city. The discussion was prompted by a proposal by At-Large City Councilman Mike Pusley for an ordinance that would increase the exemption for ad valorem taxes for all qualified homesteads from 10% to 20% of assessed value but not less than \$5,000 for all qualified resident homesteads; and also increase the exemption for ad valorem taxes for persons' residence who are disabled or 65 years of age or older from \$50,000 as approved by the citizens of Corpus Christi on April 4, 1987 to \$62,500; Commencing Tax Year 2023. For the item to be included on the Tuesday agenda it required the signatures of three council members besides Pusley.

The proposal, according to information provided to the city council on Tuesday, would reduce city revenue by \$9.5 million in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The first proposal to increase homestead deductions from 10% to 20% would decrease city property tax revenue by \$7.6 million and save the average homeowner in the city \$9.96 per month. The second proposal to increase the deduction for tax purposes for homesteads owned by people over 65 years of age from \$50,000 to \$62,500 would decrease city revenue by \$1.9 million and save the average homeowner over 65 years of age \$6.73 per month.

"It has been forty years since the taxpayers in this city have seen an actual tax cut," Pusley said Tuesday.

"They need a break."

Pushback on the proposed tax cuts from city staff, which recommend the council reject the moves, came in the form of a suggestion that the cuts would mean a reduction in police and fire services.

"When people say we are going to take money from the police department and the fire department are blowing smoke up your skirt. We are not," Pusley said. "The city staff is addicted to the money coming in and they spend it. Every governmental entity has discretionary spending built into its budget."

The council on Tuesday tabled a decision on the tax cuts and Pusley said he will spend \$3000 out of his campaign money to push his proposal out to the public between now and April 6 when the measure is set to come back to the council for a possible vote.

Culverts for Water Exchange begin arriving at Whitecap NPI



The box culverts that will allow for water exchange under the roads at the Whitecap North Padre Island development began arriving at the site this week. They will allow for water circulation through the canals now under construction there and will also have clearance above the waterline to allow for kayak passage. In all there will be 106 of the 50,000-pound structures as work continues to put them in place this week.

Future of Emergency Services District #2 moves to City Hall

Legal opinion from County Attorney puts decision in the hands of the city council

By Dale Rankin

The decision on the future of Emergency Services District #2 moved from the Nueces County Commission to the Corpus Christi City Council this week after a legal opinion from Nueces County Attorney Jenny P. Dorsey found that the city has the unilateral power under state law to absorb the district into the city's emergency services.

The decision from Dorsey was the result of a request from Precinct 4 County Commissioner Brent Chesney in January to determine the legal position of the county as two of the three seats on the five-member ESD #2 Board of Directors are still awaiting appointment by the Commissioners Court.

ESD cont. on A5

A little Island history

Dunn Ranching Dynasty on The Island Began in 1879

Editor's note: Former Corpus Christi City Councilman Greg Smith is a descendent of the Dunn family which operated a ranch on The Island for many decades beginning in 1879.

By Greg Smith

Island by another name

Over History Padre Island has been called several names. In early Spanish times it was referred to as la Isla Blanca (White Island) or sometimes Isla de los Malaguitas after a band of Coahuiltecan Indians that lived on the southern portion of the Island. By the time Padre Balli purchased the Island from the Spanish Crown it was called Isla Corpus Christi. When the good Padre had his title reaffirmed by the Mexican Government in 1828 the name Padre Island took root. Thank goodness the next major owner's name didn't stick, Nicholas Grisante. Who would want to say they lived on Grisante Island?

When the Dunn clan started ranching the Island in 1879 some folks started calling the Island the Dunn Ranch along with Padre Island. With tourism dollars in mind Col. Robertson in 1927 and then his successor Bertie Jones went back to promoting the name Padre Island. The Great Western folks came around and wanted a



Patrick Dunn

Dunn cont. on A5

By the numbers...

City Property Taxes

Editor's note: As the Corpus Christi City Council considers a move to increase the taxable exemption for homeowners here is a look at current city taxes and revenue.

\$329.3 million General Fund

\$153.6 million (46.6% of budget) cost of Police and Fire

25% of city revenue comes from Property Tax

48% of Property Taxes go to Flour Bluff ISD

25% of Property Taxes go to City of Corpus Christi

16% of Property Taxes go to Nueces County/Hospital District

11% of Property Taxes go to Del Mar College

10% reduction in Homestead Exemption currently allowed by City of Corpus Christi

20% proposed exemption currently under consideration by city council

61,169 homesteads take advantage of 10% reduction

94,321 total single-family residences in the city

\$50,000 current ad valorem tax property value deduction allowed by city for people over 65 years of age

\$62,000 proposed ad valorem property tax reduction for people over 65 years of age

\$40 million in excess city funds in last year's city budget

40 years since last city tax cut

\$9.5 million cost of increasing to the proposed 20% appraisal reduction

\$9.96 average savings per month for homeowner if Homestead Exemption reduced from current 10% to proposed 20%

\$6.73 average savings per month per homeowner if over 65 exemption increased from current \$50,000 to proposed \$62,500

By the numbers...

Padre Island Real Estate Activity

March 1 – March 15

Interior Lot Homes Sold

13934 Laffite Drive

15517 Finistere Street

13974 Seafarer Drive

15709 Escapade Street

14166 Coquina Bay Avenue

30 Interior Lot Homes Listed

From \$335,000.00 to \$789,000.00

Waterfront Homes Sold

13830 Mizzzen Street

13817 Mizzzen Street

14006 Bounty Avenue

15730 Cuttysark Street

15941 Cuttysark Street

13570 Bullion Court

13533 Catamaran Drive

15213 Cane Harbor Blvd.

Real Estate cont. on B14



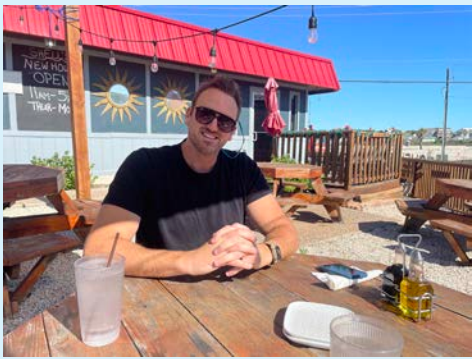
Business Briefs



Video Transfers Services is where I went to put my old 8 mm home movies on a flash drive. Art Carroll offers curbside service from his home in the Bluff. The work is done in his home so no risk of losing valuable memories by shipping. Each movie had an icon on the drive with the name of it I had on the tape. I cannot describe how enjoyable it is to relive those times through film which is so much better than photos especially sound movies where you can hear their laughter. The cost is 36 cents/foot so one small reel is \$18. Art also transfers from VHS to DVD or flash drive for \$30 per hour of video and can also transfer slides. Call 549-3312 or email artcarroll@sbcglobal.net.

Diana's Place now has a full bar with happy hour 4 - 7 pm serving \$2 draft from their selection of 12 beers. They serve breakfast 8 am - noon with \$5 Mimosa and Bloody Mary on Saturday and Sunday and were slammed the first weekend they did. They were not prepared for that and the wait was long because there was only one chef but now they have two. The menu is mainly BBQ and their fries are hand-cut but they have other daily specials and homemade desserts. There is live music on the patio weekends. They are open weekdays at noon and open seven days until 8 pm. They are located where Texas Mesquite BBQ was across the street from the American Bank.

Shells Pasta & Seafood in Port A is closing its doors after 27 years. I last ate there with my son a couple of months ago and wondered how long it would last being on a prime corner lot on Avenue G near the beach. Plus they were having difficulty with staffing and had stopped serving dinner several months ago. This down home restaurant with chalkboard menu and friendly staff is such a loss. The last day will be Easter Sunday April 9th



You can listen to Thursday morning's Moon Radio Show by going to us947.net then click listen live. At the upper left hand corner is a menu then click on podcast then Blake's Show. You can hear the podcast until the Friday morning show at 6 am.

The **Flour Bluff High School Student Job Fair** is seeking businesses in Flour Bluff and Padre Island looking to hire students for the summer. On Wednesday, April 12th 8 - 10 am tables will be provided to set up applications to give to the students. To reserve a table contact sspeed@flourbluffschoools.net by April 1st.

The **Pizza Hut in the Bluff** will be relocating to the strip center on Waldron Road across the street from McDonald's. They are currently renovating the unit near the Donut Shop and the building permits issued estimated the work over \$400,000 so it should look like new. The current location has not had dine in for more than a year.

Nauti T's Creations serves amazing breakfast items on Saturdays and some can be even considered desserts for consuming whenever. Hard to find crepes are on the menu along with avocado toast with poached egg, fruit parfaits, banana nut muffins, bagels, cinnamon roll bites topped

with strawberries and more. Their gourmet charcuteries are on their Grab-n-Go daily menu and can be pre-ordered for a get-together or for two. They have outdoor tables if you would like to enjoy your food there with coffee or juices. They are located near Subway and are open Wednesday/Thursday noon-5 pm, Friday noon-7 pm and Saturday 10 am - 1 pm.



The **6th Annual Food Truck Festival** will be held at Chaparral and Peoples Street with about 50 trucks including many from other cities. This is not carnival food but some really unique food choices from trucks like Roamin' Italy, Hungry Hippie and Southern Belle Diner. It will be held Saturday, April 1st noon - 10 pm with live music, kids zone, petting zoo and vendors. Wear comfortable shoes and bring cash because some trucks do not take cards.



My Mimi's Kitchen is the diner you have been waiting for. Their full menu is now available so you can now enjoy their French toast made with a 4 inch brioche bread with true egg custard, their butter blend

and walnuts. A friend of mine told me he had the best chicken fried steak ever there. When I dined there the chalkboard showed five homemade jams including kiwi that many of you probably have never had and their biscuits are homemade. They serve beer, wine and mimosas. They are open 6 am - 2 pm weekdays and 6 am - 3 pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday. They are closed Mondays.



French Toast

There is an Island-wide Garage Sale on Saturday, April 1st which has never been done here before. Sounds like a great idea to me because the good stuff won't be gone by 10 am because there are too many homes to go to. It would be especially fun in a golf cart because there around 50 streets involved. It has been a regular thing in Port A for years. The full street list in on page B16.

The **Fallas building** in Flour Bluff sold about three months ago and will become a boat storage facility from what I heard. I

Briefs cont. on A3

Whitecap NPI - Creating A Destination Community Like No Other

Whitecap NPI — the new destination resort and residential community unlike anything seen before in Texas — is beginning to take shape and form on the north end of Padre Island. Masterfully planned and artfully charted with miles of canals connecting the bay to the Gulf of Mexico, it will be a new kind of island paradise, skillfully conceived and designed to cater to the needs and whims of residents and visitors alike.

The first phase of the masterplan is well underway and the foundational infrastructure for the development is coming together – all responsibly guided by Ashlar Development, LLC, Whitecap's experienced developer. Every decision, every design and construction detail is being made with reverence for the national treasure that is Padre Island, as well as our respect for the comfort and concerns of the island's locals.

So what does it take to build nearly four miles of canals to link the bay to the Intracoastal Waterway? To start with, this mammoth undertaking involves moving more than 1.1 million cubic yards of sand, constructing nearly seven miles of bulkhead, and installing more than 20,000 tons of rock to help anchor a new living shoreline.

At the heart of this vast development lies the impressive Whitecap Preserve, encompassing freshwater ponds, birdwatching areas, and a proposed kayak launch and boathouse. Additional anticipated amenities include parks, a central hospitality center, and the elite Whitecap Club & Marina. Navigating the area is a breeze, as residences and green spaces are seamlessly linked by an extensive network of public trails, cart paths, bridges, and roadways.

Whitecap NPI will transform island living in a way the Texas coast has never seen. Its distinctive blend of luxury, entertainment, and a singularly Padre brand of coastal relaxation will set a new benchmark for coastal living.

Be among the first to discover it.
For more information, visit WhitecapLivingNPI.com



Looking South-East at the new canals from the corner of Aquarius and Dasmarinas.



Installing the bulkhead infrastructure at Whitecap NPI.



WHITECAP

NORTH PADRE ISLAND

**Whitecap Construction
Site Office**

14109 Commodores Dr.,
Corpus Christi TX 78418

Please direct inquiries to:

Mark Dison

WhitecapConstruction@ashlardev.com

469-513-5604

WhitecapLivingNPI.com

noticed the for sale/lease sign was gone and started digging and that is what I uncovered.

Ace Hardware sells the Tidalball beach game that combines bocce ball and corn-hole. You throw a ball into a trench with a dug hole in front and you get one point for the trench and 3 points for the hole. What a concept. They also have some cool bird-houses.



Padre Island Market will have an Easter Market with a Kids Craft Corner on Saturday, April 8th at the Island Presbyterian Church 11 am - 3 pm.

The next **ISAC Meeting** is Tuesday April 4th at the Padre Island Baptist Church.

St. Andrew by the Sea last fish fry is Friday, March 31st 5-7 pm \$10/plate for fried fish, Cole slaw, green beans and French fries plus tables with \$1 desserts. Cash and check only.

Bluff's Landing Monthly Market Day will be held on Sunday April 2nd 11 am - 6 pm.

The Farley Classic Golf Tournament will be held at Palmilla Golf Course on Thursday, April 6th 2 - 5 pm. It is presented by Port Aransas Preservation & Historical Society and benefits Farley Boat Works.

Legends Sports Grill will be opening soon in the old Floyd's Restaurant building in the Bluff on frontage road near Flour Bluff



Drive.

April Fool's Day Kite Fly sponsored by Fly It Port A Kite Shop will be at the beach



10 am - 4 pm

Spring Eggstravaganza at Port A will be held at Roberts Point Park Saturday, April 1st 10 am - noon. There will be photos with the Bunny, Xtreme Bounce Maze, egg hunts, picnic style games and cake walk.

The South Texas Botanical Big Bloom mega plant sale is Saturday, April 1st 10 am - 5 pm. Besides plants there will be butterfly and ladybug releases, kids zone, Easter Bunny photo op, animal ambassadors and food trucks.



Botanical Garden Bunny

Random Stuff
Get ready to enjoy some football this Sunday, April 2nd at 2pm on ESPN. The XFL is a hoot to watch especially the three top teams of the eight which are Houston, St. Louis and D.C. Houston is host to St. Louis Sunday which would be way better if it was at St. Louis because that is the team with the best home field advantage with 38,000 plus fans last game there. The city has a lot of frustrated NFL fans since it lost its team to L.A. in 2015. The most entertaining part of the XFL is that the huddles, coaches, refs and review booth are mic'd. The main rule difference from the NFL is that there is no kick after a touchdown. Instead, you try to get into the end zone from the 2 yard line for one point, 5 yard line for two points or 10 yard line for three points. Unfortunately, the San Antonio Brahmas are not one of the better teams at (2-4) Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson is the owner of the XFL

Full Swing on Netflix is a great documentary of some of the professional golfers that competed in the four major golf tournaments in 2022. You get to know the golfers which makes the Masters Tournament that starts April 6th more interesting. I feel that the current golfers are not as charismatic as the old days when there was Chi Chi Rodriguez, John Daly, Lee Trevino, etc. My favorite is when Lee Trevino said after he was hit by lightning and taken to a hospital "In a storm hit a 1-iron because not even God can hit a 1-iron."

Reminder for Island Graduating Seniors

The Padre Island Enrichment Club (PIE) will be awarding four (4) \$2,500 scholarships this year for graduating seniors who reside on N. Padre Island. Scholarships will be awarded by merit or need for students attending institutions of higher learning, including colleges, universities, and trade schools. Applications are available in local High School counseling offices or by contacting PIE Scholarship Chair Maureen Dean at 206-949-3825 or thorsmom1@aol.com Applications must be returned to the Scholarship Chair no later than Friday, April 28, 2023 to be considered.

New Causeway
Since it has been proposed to put in a new causeway from Padre Island to the mainland to alleviate the already heavy flow of traffic in and off the island, especially during the summer and hurricane seasons, hopefully if it comes into being it will be put on pilings instead of landfill like the JFK Causeway. Too much of the Laguna Madre has already been sacrificed for spoil dumps from the digging of the Intracoastal Canal. If built on pilings it would not interfere with the annual spring migration of trout as they spawn on the King Ranch shoreline as they migrate to Corpus Christi Bay or interfere with the traffic of mostly sport fishing boats. Hopefully the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will have a say so in the design of the new causeway. And since hindsight tells us that sometimes progress has to be slowed down to let the infrastructure catch up, putting a moratorium on housing development on The Island would ease the present traffic congestion until a new causeway could be built which would be many years from now; possibly five to eight years. If that sounds negative, just think how many more people be using the causeway after the amount of housing that can be built in five to eight years. There is no easy solution for new developments now days since the world's population is bursting and the seams it needs careful scrutiny. Bobby Kimbrell Flour Bluff

Dale

I tell friends and family that being a Winter Texan is a bit like training for a stay in assisted living: You show up at your place with very few things of your own. On the nice days you watch birds from out on the deck. On the not so nice days you watch birds from the living room window.

Some days, stuff like this sprouts on the

Moon Monkeys

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About the Island Moon

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Port Aransas	North Padre
Pioneer RV	All Stripes Stores
Stripes on 1A	Black Sheep/ Barrel
Kody's	CVS
Coffee Waves	Dollar General
Moby Dicks	Doc's Restaurant
IGA	Snoopy's Pier
Treasure Island	Isle Mail N More
San Juan's Restaurant	Island Italian
Wash Tub	Brooklyn Pie Co.
Shorty's Place	Ace Hardware
Gratitude	Texas Star (Shell)
The Gaff	Spanky's
Red's Riviera	Scuttlebutt's Restaurant
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Spanky's Liquor	Island Tire
Beach Lodge	Padre Pizzeria
Ellis Memorial Library	And all Moon retail advertisers
Bernie's Beach House	WB Liquor
	Island IGA
	Island Fitness
	My Coastal Home

Flour Bluff

H.E.B.

Ethyl Everly Senior Center

laptop. We might not be meant for this much sun. Any suggestions?

Steve Becker

Letters Cont. on A5

Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Desal,

In the recent column by Jay Gardner desalination plants were mentioned. Apparently an expert from Israel spoke at the Port of Corpus Christi's presentation on desalination. Israel gets most of their water from reuse of waste water and desalination. They mentioned that in Israel the brine waste from the desalination plants is pumped back into the sea and affects only an area of 700 to 900 square feet and they dilute it with normal sea water before discharge. It was NOT emphasized, but Israel discharges the concentrated brine offshore into the Mediterranean Sea and not into an interior bay like Corpus Christi Bay and its shipping channels. This is very different and far less damaging to the ecosystem than discharging it into an enclosed bay and/or its channels such as our bay system. The waves in the sea and the currents can quickly mix and disperse the Israeli brine widely in the Mediterranean Sea. It will NOT disperse widely in our relatively quiet and very restricted bay system.

In addition, we are required to release vast quantities of fresh water from our Lake Corpus Christi and Canyon Lake reservoirs into Nueces Bay and thence on to Corpus Christi bay to maintain low enough salinities in those bays to support their ecosystems. When we need the desalinated water the most during droughts is when we will have the least available in our reservoirs to release into the bays. It makes zero sense to introduce concentrated brine into the bays where we have to release great quantities of our fresh water to maintain the ecosystem. Desalination plants are a good idea for the future, but the brine should be pumped offshore into the Gulf of Mexico where it can be rapidly mixed and dispersed by waves and currents and NOT into our bays where it will damage the ecosystem.

Richard L. Watson, Ph.D.
TexasCoastGeology.com

Lake Padre funding
Just curious, how much of the estimated \$675 million project will the City of Corpus Christi fund? Nueces County? MCC Media
Editor's note: In reference to the development around Lake Padre the project is entirely privately funded. The \$675 million in estimated private funds will certainly change as the project is built out over the next seven years, but that is the current number from the manager of the project. The roads, bulkheads, underground infrastructure, and future buildings, marina, and other features at the site are also paid for with private funds.
Last week the developers of the project filed a request with the board of the Tax Increment Refinance Zone #2 for funds that would be used to fund amenities at the 102-acre site that would be open to public use. The board did not act but may make a decision at their next monthly meeting. As a reminder the funds in TIRZ #2 are derived from taxes, primarily property taxes from the City of Corpus Christi and Nueces County but also from other participating taxing entities, on new development inside the boundaries of the TIRZ #2 which includes the Lake Padre area, from the years 2002-2042. In a report to the TIRZ #2 board last week city staff said there is currently \$8 million in uncommitted money in the TIRZ #2 account with a fund balance of \$11.1 million expected by the end of the Fiscal Year and \$36 million expected to be collected in the TIRZ #2 fund by the time it expires in 2042. That fund already has committed money to maintain Packery Channel and a portion of that money is also expected to be used for the building of a planned water exchange bridge under Commodores Drive; a plan for that bridge has been submitted to the city but not yet released to the public and no cost estimates have been stated. As a side note another water exchange bridge is planned for the canal under Encantada Avenue which under an agreement with the developers of the Whitecap NPI site will be paid for by the Public Improvement District funded by the buyers of property at that site.
The request to the TIRZ #2 board by the Lake Padre developers included the following projects:
Requested TIRZ #2 funds
\$16.4 million for promenade and open space (11 acres)
\$1.98 million pedestrian bridges
\$1.2 million golf cart bridge
\$1 million golf cart paths and ramps
\$20.6 million in requested TIRZ #2 funds
If approved by the TIRZ #2 board that would be the only public money in the Lake Padre project as things now stand.

Senior Moments

Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Sputnik Part 2



Dotson's Note: On Friday, 4 October 1957, the Soviets had orbited the world's first artificial satellite. Anyone who doubted its existence could walk into the backyard just after sunset and see it. The success of Sputnik 1 seemed to have changed minds around the world regarding a shift in power to the Soviets. Thanks to my Nike Ajax Ground Guidance crew, Herb Caen and Mike Gray, for the facts contained in this report, and to The Army Signal Corps, for the photos.

The USSR's launch of Sputnik 1 spurred the United States to create the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA, later DARPA) in February 1958 to regain a technological lead. In Britain, the media and population initially reacted with a mixture of fear for the future, but also amazement about human progress. Many newspapers and magazines heralded the arrival of the Space Age. However, when the USSR launched Sputnik 2, containing the dog Laika, the media narrative returned to one of anti-Communism and many people sent protests to the Soviet embassy and the RSPCA.



Soviet 40 Kopek Stamp-Showing the Satellite's Orbit

Sputnik 1 was not immediately used for Soviet propaganda. The Soviets had kept quiet about their earlier accomplishments in rocketry, fearing that it would lead to secrets being revealed and failures being exploited by the West. When the Soviets began using Sputnik in their propaganda, they emphasized pride in the achievement of Soviet technology, arguing that it demonstrated the Soviets' superiority over the West. People were encouraged to listen to Sputnik's signals on the radio and to look out for Sputnik in the night sky. While Sputnik itself had been highly polished, its small size made it barely visible to the naked eye. What most watchers actually saw was the much more visible 26-metre core stage of the R-7. Shortly after the launch of PS-1, Khrushchev pressed Korolev to launch another satellite to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the October Revolution, on 7 November 1957.

The launch of Sputnik 1 surprised the American public, and shattered the perception created by American propaganda of the United States as the technological superpower, and the Soviet Union as a backward country. Privately, however, the CIA and President Eisenhower were aware of progress being made by the Soviets on Sputnik from secret spy plane imagery. Together with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), the Army Ballistic Missile Agency built Explorer 1, and launched it on 31 January 1958. Before work was completed, however, the Soviet Union launched a second satellite, Sputnik 2, on 3 November 1957. Meanwhile, the televised failure of Vanguard TV-3 on 6 December 1957, deepened American dismay over the country's position in the Space Race. The Americans took a more aggressive stance in the emerging space race, resulting in an emphasis on science and technological research, and reforms in many areas from the military to education systems. The federal government began investing in science, engineering, and mathematics at all levels of education. An advanced research group was assembled for military purposes. These research groups developed weapons such as ICBMs and missile defense systems, as well as spy satellites for the United States.

Initially, President Eisenhower was not surprised by Sputnik 1. He had been forewarned of the R-7's capabilities by information derived from U-2 spy plane overflight photos, as well as signals and telemetry intercepts. The Eisenhower administration's first response was low-key and almost dismissive. Eisenhower was even pleased that

the USSR, not the U.S., would be the first to test the waters of the still-uncertain legal status of orbital satellite overflights.

Eisenhower had suffered the Soviet protests and shoot-downs of Project Genetrix (Moby Dick) balloons and was concerned about the probability of a U-2 being shot down. To set a precedent for "freedom of space" before the launch of America's secret WS-117L spy satellites, the U.S. had launched Project Vanguard as its own "civilian" satellite entry for the International Geophysical Year. Eisenhower greatly underestimated the reaction of the American public, who were shocked by the launch of Sputnik and by the televised failure of the Vanguard Test Vehicle 3 launch attempt.

The sense of anxiety was inflamed by Democratic politicians and professional cold warriors, who portrayed the United States as woefully behind. One of the many books that suddenly appeared for the lay-audience noted seven points of "impact" upon the nation: Western leadership, Western strategy and tactics, missile production, applied research, basic research, education, and democratic culture. As public and the government became interested in space and related science and technology, the phenomenon was sometimes dubbed the "Sputnik craze".



Above Sputnik 1, Sergei Korolev and Valentin Glushko on a 2007 Ukrainian stamp. The U.S. soon had a number of successful satellites, including Explorer 1, Project SCORE, and Courier 1B. However, public reaction to the Sputnik 1B spurred America to action in the Space Race, leading to the creation of both the Advanced Research Projects Agency (renamed the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, in 1972), and NASA (through the National Aeronautics and Space Act), as well as increased U.S. government spending on scientific research and education through the National Defense Education Act. Sputnik also contributed directly to a new emphasis on science and technology in American schools. With a sense of urgency, Congress enacted the 1958 National Defense Education Act, which provided low-interest loans for college tuition to students majoring in mathematics and science. After the launch of Sputnik, a poll conducted and published by the University of Michigan showed that 26% of Americans surveyed thought that Russian sciences and engineering were superior to that of the United States. (A year later, however, that figure had dropped to 10% as the U.S. began launching its own satellites into space.)

Dotson's Other Note: One irony of the Sputnik event was the initially low-key response of the Soviet Union. The Communist Party newspaper Pravda only printed a few paragraphs about Sputnik 1 on 4 October. Sputnik also inspired a generation of engineers and scientists. Harrison Storms, the North American designer who was responsible for the X-15 rocket plane, and went on to head the effort to design the Apollo command and service module and Saturn V launch vehicle's second stage, was moved by the launch of Sputnik to think of space as being the next step for America. Astronauts Alan Shepard (who was the first American in space) and Deke Slayton later wrote of how the sight of Sputnik 1 passing overhead inspired them to their new careers. Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at dlewis1@stx.rr.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

It's hard to believe but only three months from now we will pass the twentieth anniversary of the storming and ultimate destruction of the Branch Davidian compound near Waco. It was a long time ago but here's how I remember it.

Just Another Sunday

I was working Sundays to attend weekday classes at UT Austin and it was my last semester of masters program. I arrived at the CBS station in San Antonio at nine and as I walked down the hallway by the edit bays I saw an editor rolling tape of a guy on a roof in an ATF jacket dodging bullets that were coming up at him through the shingles. "CBS Movie of the Week huh?" I asked. "No," he said. "Shootout between the ATF and some religious cult in Waco this morning. Four agents shot, maybe dead, and the cult people are holed up in the house."

"That's real!?"

"Yea. Waco. They say they got machine guns."

I called the managers and within half an hour I was headed up I-35 with a satellite truck in tow headed for I had no idea what.

But this had the makings of a big one. Usually on a siege you have to rely on a live camera because you got no video, but there's plenty of B-roll for this one and I already had a copy of it with me.

A roomful of hungover journalists ended up in a crowded auditorium full of Baylor Comparative Religion Professors who after all these years of playing second fiddle to showy preachers were going to have their day in the spotlight. They did their best to explain the difference between the Church of Latter Day Saints, the Davidians, and the Branch Davidians to an audience of viewers that was only interested in seeing the shootout video from the raid over and over. It was Sunday; we were supposed to be out covering a tree climbing dog or a giant picnic and off work by six thirty to watch the Spurs game at Joey's Pub on St. Mary's Street. This looked like it could be an all-weeker and it would mean staying at the Branch Davidians location out in the sticks because if the ATF didn't want us to see the Davidians coming out they would bring them out in the middle of the night. And it was getting cold.

Dangerous Dan

Armed with just enough understanding of the theology to be dangerous a half dozen crews and roaring satellite trucks headed down muddy roads for the compound, which is actually outside the suburb of Bellmead. The only way we knew where we were going was because we were following photographer Dangerous Dan Mulloney who had drawn gunfire there earlier in the day while crouching behind a stone wall with his camera rolling. He had accidentally alerted the Davidians of the raid when he asked a man driving a postal truck how to get to the compound. He was in a marked news truck and the "mailman" turned out to be a Davidian. Dan followed the agents to the site and was shooting for the local CBS station when the ATF people piled out of the back of a cattle truck. He shot that video we've all seen a million times and when the shooting started he and his reporter were pinned behind the three-foot wall and when Dan stuck camera over the top to shoot video a shot took the kleig light off. Then Dan and his reporter had to carry a wounded agent from the compound on the hood of their car when ambulances that had never been called failed to show.

Bunched up in a muddy flat

We ended up bunched up in a muddy flat at the crossroads of two section line about 300 yards from the compound. We had done our early live shots outside the meeting room in Waco and we knew we should have been at the compound but we had no idea where it was, and surprisingly neither did anyone we could find in Waco; except Dangerous Dan.

By nine o'clock we were cutting tape when the ATF figured out where we were and made us move because we were "within gunshot range". We pointed out there were reports of a .50 caliber weapon being fired at a helicopter circling the compound that morning and if that was true then pretty much everybody was in gunshot range. "Those things shoot to the horizon," we said. The ATF was in no mood to bargain with the press who had tipped off their raid and in their minds gotten people hurt.

We did our ten o'clock shots and we were being told the Branch Davidians could be coming out any time. A few did after midnight and it was looking like we might be able to leave after the noon shows the next day. But dawn the next morning found us once again at a crossroads with no food except the baloney sandwiches the Red Cross truck was giving out (and we were grateful for). This time we were at a three way junction almost a mile from the compound and down in enough of a hollow that all we could see was the top half of the building. A Waco station sent a live truck with a camera on the front which we ran up so we could see the front door but the wind was picking up and the forty-foot mast was

swaying in the breeze and the camera was not of much use. Within a few days CBS will lease the horse pasture on the corner and throw up scaffolding high enough in the air to get a full-time live camera up there and the shot from that camera is how fifty -one days later the world watched as the place went up in smoke killing a lot of people who didn't have to die.

Showtime!

We had been checked by the ATF; we were too far away from the compound to have any two-way to communication, the ATF wasn't talking, and after everyone interviewed Dangerous Dan there was no one else to get sound or video from. Finally, the sheriff showed up and knew some of the local crews.

"I know Koresh," he said. "And he ain't coming out any time soon."

Truer words were never spoken. We sat around doing live shots and cut-ins and newsbreaks and teases non-stop, so even if there had been someone around to tell us what was going on we wouldn't have had time to find them. Everybody wanted us to tell them things that we didn't know ourselves. Then it calmed down and we became bored until every once in a while in the middle of the night a lonely car would drive up the gate and either enter or leave the compound. But most of the windows were smoked so it was lousy video that raised more questions than it answered. The story was building up steam but we had nothing. And then I caught a break. My college roommate called, "You remember Russell from Bay City? You met him a couple of times."

"Yea."

"Well, he owns a gentleman's club in Waco called the Showtime! and he says this Koresh guy is one of his best customers. I called Russell and in half an hour I was in the Showtime! and not only did Mr. Koresh have his own parking spot with his name on it where he parked his 1968, 500 horse power Camaro with "DAVIDES 427 GO GOD" stamped on the 427 cubic-inch engine but the girls said he was a good tipper and a nice guy. One of the girls had his cell number. Now I was getting somewhere. The only story better than one about God, guns, sex, and drugs was one about God, guns, sex, drugs, jiggle dancers, 450 horsepower muscle cars, and a self-appointed messiah who was a good tipper and a nice guy."

I wired the cell phone up to record sound and I dialed the number.

Twenty years ago this week on January 14, 1994 two things happened. First, the trial of twelve Branch Davidians who had survived the raid, standoff, and fire at their compound in Waco went on trial in federal court in San Antonio.

Second, I met Corpus Christi attorney Doug Tinker.

The two were related because Tinker was defending the only defendant who federal agents identified as firing at them during the federal raid on their Waco compound. His name was Brad Branch and none of the other defense lawyers thought he would ever get out of jail alive. In his career Tinker had a history of taking on the most seemingly hopeless cases like that of Yolanda Saldivar who admitted to shooting iconic local singer Selena on live television while holding a gun to her own head. Tinker kept her out of the death house and Brad Branch ended up serving less than six years in prison.

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

A few days before the trial Tinker showed up in San Antonio and one of his closest friends there was a restaurant owner who was also a friend of mine. She hung around with San Antonio Spur Dennis Rodman, now an international diplomat - or something, and the son of a local district judge who was a big barrel-chested fellow who liked to wear high heels and women's dresses (the son not the judge) and sing karaoke.

So Tinker, Rodman, our friend and David the oddly attired karaoke singer, would ride around town in a white Town Car from one karaoke bar to the next where they would go in while David belted his baritone version of Somewhere Over the Rainbow and then head back to the car. Tinker fit right in. To see him making the rounds with this crowd on weekends then turn up in Federal Court on Monday morning is something I will never forget. When I moved to The Island years later he was friends with Moon Mike and writing for the Moon and we had many laughs about it. For a guy in such a serious line of work Counselor Tinker had a robust sense of humor.

Judge Bullcrap

In my more than ten years covering trials the Branch Davidian trial stands out for a couple of reasons; one, what I still consider to be a travesty of justice committed by the presiding judge Walter Smith who was reported to refer to one of the defendants from the bench during the trial as a "crazy murdering SOB" and called part of a pleading by a defense attorney by the legal term "bullcrap."

Letters cont. from A3

Dale,
Whenever there is an update on the Bob Hall Pier project, or the intelligentsia tries to prod Russia into using some nukes, I can't help but think of my two favorite pyramids.



Prairie Pyramid



Padre Pyramid

The Prairie Pyramid is a relic from the Safeguard ballistic missile defense system. In the '60s and early '70s our leaders tried to protect us from waves of Russian ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles). The structure was designed to survive any nuclear weapons exchange, even if it took 40 minutes. The Prairie Pyramid was fully operational just long enough (one day) to get the defense contractors paid. Today, sheep graze in the shadow of the 'vacant' indestructible pyramid. Next year, some mysterious tech company is going to convert the Prairie Pyramid into something that will be of great benefit to somebody. If you are headed to Winnipeg or Regina (and you're a bit crazy), it's worth the detour via the border village of Nekoma, ND.

No need to explain much about the Padre Pyramid. The last remnant of the Bob Hall Pier is sitting all alone right there on Whitecap Beach. I really like the fact that the most recent version of the associated pier was designed to withstand waves of really big waves. Dude, that's just nuclear. Today tourists and locals walk in the shadow of the pyramid where they once grazed. Next year, the Padre Pyramid will be converted to something good for the benefit of all. That's far out, crazy.

Both pyramid structures currently stand as some sort of monument to the decision-making processes of our various levels of government and, of course, the associated all-knowing omnipresent bureaucracies. The Padre Pyramid is a more entertaining, perhaps even hopeful example of a 'What the heck is up with that?'.

I'm going to miss it when it's gone.
Steve Becker

ESD Cont. from A1

Nueces County ESD #2 was created by voter-election, effective March 15, 1960 and is a standalone legal entity chartered under state law with taxing authority. The district came under fire after November 2021 when a proposal was put before voters in the district, which includes Flour Bluff and Padre Island, that would have increased the tax for ESD #2 from the current three cents per \$100 of taxable value to 4.5 cents, a 50% increase, however it was voted down with 568 votes in favor and 1261 against. At its inception the territory of ESD #2 was in a portion of Nueces County that was not part of the annexed boundaries of the City of Corpus Christi, that area was subsequently annexed and is now entirely inside the Corpus Christi City Limits and in the service area of the Corpus Christi Fire Department which is the first responder for fire and ambulance calls in Flour Bluff and on Padre Island.

In a tax filing in January, 2020 ESD #2 listed taxable assets of \$3,955,343,690 with a property tax levy of \$1,041,005. Records at the Nueces County Appraisal District show that approximately 63% of the taxable assets in the district, and the tax levy, are on Padre Island. The same 2020 filing listed ESD #2's debt at \$56,258.

In December 2022 a proposal to move ESD #2 under the direction and funding of the Corpus Christi Fire Department, and eliminating the ESD #2 property tax, came from then Fire Chief Robert Rocha who made a presentation to the Island Strategic Action Committee and later to the ESD #2 board that would have eliminated the current property tax that funds the district and moved the eleven employees of the district into

positions at CCFD. That proposal stalled after resistance from ESD #2 officials and the issue was in limbo until this week's legal opinion.

The ruling from Dorsey, presented to the Commissioners Court at their meeting last week reads in part as follows:

The City of Corpus Christi could remove all of ESD #2's territory and be the sole provider of emergency services to the territory. This procedure is initiated, unilaterally, by the City. The City would be required to compensate ESD #2 immediately after disannexation of the territory in an amount equal to all of the ESD #2's bonded and other indebtedness. The City and ESD #2 would be required to negotiate an agreement on the amount of compensation required. If the City and ESD #2 cannot reach an agreement, the City and ESD #2 would be required to resolve the dispute using binding arbitration. On ESD #2's request, the City would be required to purchase from ESD #2 at fair market value any real or personal property used by ESD #2 to provide emergency services. ESD #2 would be required to apply compensation received from the City exclusively to the payment of ESD #2's bonded and other indebtedness.

District 4 City Councilman Dan Suckley has requested that the city staff present the council with a plan for ESD #2 to be combined with the operations of the Corpus Christi Fire Department. No timeline has been announced for its completion.

Dunn cont. from A1

fancier name, Padre Isles. That not being uppity enough, the Corpus Christi Tourist Bureau uses the moniker "Upper Padre Island." Just one last thing to confuse our out of town visitors we have them take our highway South Padre Island Drive to; North Padre, Padre Isles, Upper Padre and Padre Island National Seashore. The only place that South Padre Island Drive doesn't go is to South Padre Island.

It's the name Dunn Ranch from beginning in the 1870's and ending with the last cow shipped off in 1971, that I'll be earning my next few free copies of the Island Moon writing about.

The Dunns

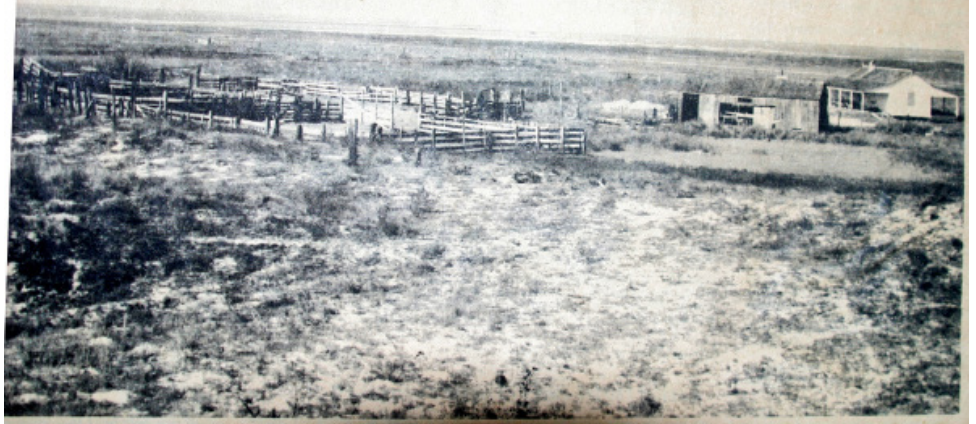
Some background on the Dunn's, Corpus Christi was founded by Col. Henry Kinney in 1839. Col Kinney, twenty-five at the time was an adventurer, land promoter and somewhat of a rascalion. When the United States decided to annex Texas in 1845 Kinney convinced the Powers That Be to come to his little settlement on Corpus Bay.

One of the civilian's attached to Taylor's army was Matthew Dunn, an Irishman who came to the US in 1835. Kinney being the good land promoter he was and of Irish

decent befriended Matthew. After the Mexican campaign was over Matthew returned to Corpus and bought 160 acres from Kinney along Nueces Bay. To Matthew coming from Ireland where to own a one acre farm was a wish, to have 160 acres was a dream come true. For Kinney to sell land for two dollars an acre that he paid four cents an acre for was a good "friend" to have. Matthew had four brothers still in Ireland and wrote to them to come to Texas for cheap land and opportunity. Ireland at that time was a land of oppression for Irish Catholic's being only a generation since the repeal of the Penal Laws that prevented Catholic's from owning property and going to school among other hardships. To add to their misery the potato blight brought hunger and starvation to the Eire people beginning in 1847. When the four Irish Dunn brothers heard of Matthew's land of Eden (He forgot to mention heat, droughts, rattlesnakes, Indians and outlaws) they started saving for the passage to Texas. First to arrive was Thomas and Catherine Dunn in 1849 who would help start the Padre Island dynasty, brothers John in 1851, Peter in 1852 and Uncle Patrick in 1868. Left behind were their Parents, Lawrence and Ellen, never to see their sons or the twenty-two grand children born in far away Nueces County, Texas.



Cattle on The Island



1950 Padre House and pens on the Dunn Ranch on The Island

Around Cont. from A1

for \$100,000 in total for over-65 and disabled Texas homesteaders. SB 4 would provide an additional \$5.38 billion in ISD tax rate relief by increasing the amount of the deduction in home value for taxable purposes from current \$40,000 to \$70,000. If passed by lawmakers, which is highly likely, both provisions would go before state voters in November and take effect by next year's tax cycle. The push in Austin this session is to reduce school taxes and replace the lost revenue with a portion of the state's \$30 billion surplus.

POA election

The election of officers for the Padre Isles Property Owners Association was last Sat-

urday and we include the list of new board members in this issue and we welcome new Island Moon Columnist Drew Diggins to these pages. Also approved was a move that removes non-dues paying POA members from the organization. One impact of that vote is that the area around the Ski Basin, known as Cape Summer, which includes more than forty fingertips will not be part of the PIPOA when it is eventually developed. The area we colloquially call Whiskey Acres and properties on Dasmariñas Drive remain in the PIPOA as dues paying members.

That's all for now, say hello if you see us Around The Island.

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Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Sheryl Swoopes-Basketball Player

By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: Sheryl Denise Swoopes is a former professional basketball player. She was the first player to be signed in the WNBA, and is a three-time WNBA MVP, and was named one of the league's Top 15 Players of All Time at the 2011 WNBA All-Star Game. Swoopes has won three Olympic gold medals and is one of eleven women's basketball players to have won an Olympic gold medal, an NCAA Championship, a Fiba world cup gold, and a WNBA title. She was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016. In 2017, she was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. Thanks to Clif Speegle, Hal Lahar, Bill Morgan, and Tom Tuberville, for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan and the Southwest Conference for the photos.



Sheryl was born in Brownfield, Texas, and was raised by her mother, Louise Swoopes, and played basketball with her three older brothers. She began competing at age seven in a local children's league called Little Dribblers. She played basketball at Brownfield High School.

Initially recruited by the University of Texas, Swoopes left the school shortly after her arrival without playing a game and enrolled at South Plains College. After playing at South Plains for two years, Swoopes transferred to Texas Tech, near her hometown.

In 1993, Swoopes won the NCAA women's basketball championship with the Texas Tech Lady Raiders during her senior season. Her jersey was retired by the school the following year, making her one of only three Lady Raiders to be honored in this way. The others are Carolyn Thompson and Krista Kirkland, Swoopes' teammate from the 1993 championship team.



As of 2010, Swoopes was still a part of the women's basketball record books in many categories, including single-game scoring record (53 points on March 13, 1993, vs. Texas, tied for tenth place), single-season scoring (955 points in the 1993 season, fourth place), highest championship tournament scoring average (35.4 in the 1993 tournament, second place), best single-game championship scoring performance (47 points vs. Ohio State, 1993 championship), which broke Bill Walton's record, and scoring record for championship series (177 points, five games). She set the record for the most field goals in the championship game with 16.

Swoopes also set several school records at Texas Tech. She scored 955 in the 1992-93 season, which is an all-time scoring record for a single season (as of 2006). Swoopes' 24.9 points-per-game average for her career is the best in school history; she also boasts three triple-doubles and 23 double-doubles, 14 of which came during her senior year.

Swoopes was the 1993 winner of the Naismith College Player of the Year award, the Honda Sports Award, was selected as that year's WBCA Player of the Year, and was chosen to the Division I All-American squad in both 1992 and 1993. Swoopes was named the 1993 Sportswoman of the Year (in the team category) by the Women's

Sports Foundation.

She was named to the USA national team and competed in the 1994 World Championships, held in June 1994 in Sydney, Australia. The team was coached by Tara VanDerveer, and won their first six games, when they faced Brazil. In a closely contested, high-scoring game, Brazil hit 10 of 10 free throws in the final minute to secure a 110-107 victory. The USA won a close final game against Australia 100-95 to earn the bronze medal. Swoopes averaged 9.1 points per game, while recording seven steals, second-highest on the team.

Swoopes was selected to represent the US at the 1995 USA Women's Pan American Games, but only four teams committed to participate, so the event was cancelled.

Swoopes continued as a member of the USA team at the 1996 Olympics, held in Atlanta, Georgia. The USA team won all their pool play games by large margins, although they were behind Cuba by as many as seven points before Lisa Leslie's 24 points helped the USA take over the game.

In 2002, Swoopes was named to the national team which competed in the World Championships in Zhangjiagang, Changzhou, and Nanjing, China. The team was coached by Van Chancellor. Swoopes scored 16.9 points per game, second-highest on the team and recorded a team-high 24 steals. The USA team won all nine games, including a close title game against Russia, which had a one-point difference late in the game.

Swoopes was named to the National Team representing the US at the 2006 World Championships, held in Bruere and Sao Paulo, Brazil. The team won eight of their nine contests, but the lone loss came in the semifinal medal round to Russia. The USA beat Brazil in the final game to earn the bronze medal. Swoopes, hampered by injuries, averaged 3.0 points per game and was second on the team with six blocks.



Swoopes for the Seattle Storm in 2008

Swoopes was recruited for the Houston Comets of the WNBA during the 1997 inaugural season. She returned only six weeks after giving birth to her son to play the last third of the WNBA inaugural season and led the Comets in the 1997 WNBA Championship. As a member of the Houston Comets, she accumulated over 2,000 career points, 500 career rebounds, 300 career assists, and 200 career steals. Her extraordinary scoring and defensive ability made her the first three-time WNBA MVP (2000, 2002, and 2005) and the first three-time WNBA Defensive Player of the Year (2000, 2002, and 2003). Swoopes is a four-time WNBA champion (1997-2000).

Dotson's Other Note: Sheryl is the second player in WNBA history to win both the regular season MVP award and the All-Star Game MVP award in the same season. The first player to accomplish this was Lisa Leslie. Swoopes is also the first player in WNBA history to record a triple-double in both the regular season and the playoffs. In my few (71) years as a basketball referee, I believe that Sheryl Swoopes was one of the best two female basketball players that I ever saw on the "hardwood". Also, I believe that the majority of you Moon Monkeys will agree that Sheryl has/is living a most interesting life.

Texas A&M Corpus Christi Launches Name Image and Likeness program



Shakas Up Sports this week announced the launch of its Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) collective, designed to empower student-athletes at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC).

"We are very pleased with the development of the Shakas Up Sports fund. It is incredibly heartening to know that we have such devoted Islander fans, alums, and supporters who have come together to directly support our student-athletes in this way," said Adrian Rodriguez, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Athletic Director.

Shakas Up Sports is the first NIL collective in the Southland Conference. It offers a comprehensive approach to brand development and representation for student-athletes, to maximize their potential in today's competitive landscape. By partnering with industry professionals and former Islander alums, They develop tailored strategies for each athlete, focusing on personal branding, skill enhancement, financial literacy, and long-term career planning and present exclusive opportunities for devoted fans to engage with their favorite athletes and teams. Through various events, merchandise, and interactive experiences, the collective aims to bring fans closer to the action and strengthen the bond between the Islander community and its sports teams.

"We believe that the success of our student-athletes extends beyond the field or court, and Shakas Up Sports is committed to providing them with the tools and support they need to excel," said Ed Cantu, Co-Founder of Shakas Up Sports. "By uniting fans and athletes, we're building a community that celebrates the extraordinary talents of TAMUCC student-athletes and forges a stronger Islander legacy."



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SHAKAS UP SPORTS HAS ARRIVED!
Shakas Up Sports Launches Innovative NIL Collective to Empower TAMUCC Student-Athletes and Enhance Fan Experiences

Corpus Christi, Texas (March 29, 2023)- Shakas Up Sports proudly announces the launch of its groundbreaking Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) collective, designed to empower student-athletes at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) and provide fans with unique, unforgettable experiences. Focused on athletes' personal and professional development, Shakas Up Sports seeks to elevate TAMUCC athletics and create a lasting legacy for the Islander community.

The Shakas Up Sports collective offers a comprehensive approach to brand development and representation for student-athletes, ensuring they maximize their potential in today's competitive landscape. By partnering with industry professionals and former Islander alums, Shakas Up Sports develops tailored strategies for each athlete, focusing on personal branding, skill enhancement, financial literacy, and long-term career planning.

Shakas Up Sports presents exclusive opportunities for devoted fans to engage with their favorite athletes and teams. Through various events, merchandise, and interactive experiences, the collective aims to bring fans closer to the action and strengthen the bond between the Islander community and its sports teams.

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As the world of NIL continues to evolve, Shakas Up Sports remains at the forefront, adapting strategies to ensure optimal outcomes for its student-athletes and unparalleled experiences for fans.

To learn more about Shakas Up Sports and stay informed about the latest news, events, and developments in Islander athletics, please visit www.shakasupsports.com.

About Shakas Up Sports: Shakas Up Sports is a pioneering NIL collective dedicated to empowering student-athletes at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) and providing fans with unique, unforgettable experiences. With a focus on personal and professional growth for athletes, Shakas Up Sports strives to elevate TAMUCC athletics and create a lasting legacy for the Islander community.



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The Island Outdoors



By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks

This weather has me feeling like that movie Groundhog Day, where winter just goes on and on. I’m kind of getting tired of shivering and not getting outside to play in the surf and the laguna. I mean, if it’s going to be cold, could we at least get some rain out of the deal?

I wrote an article last year that mentioned the possibility of using the current infrastructure at the Barney David power plant to install a desalination plant. It was partly tongue in cheek, but there is infrastructure there that mirrors the desal plant situation out in Tampa Bay, FL. I know, some of you are wondering why I keep writing about desal, but we’re going to need some water at some point.

Tampa Bay’s desal plant produces up to 25 million gallons day (mgd) and supports about 10% of the regions water needs (they have over 3 million people over there, a lot more than we do). The 8-acre desal plant is situated right next to the Big Bend Power Station and other municipal water plants, so it’s an ideal situation. The power plant pumps around 1.4 billion (yeah, with a B) gallons per day for cooling. The desal plant pulls 44 mgd of that off, produces the 25 mgd, and then puts 19 mgd of brine back into the power plant stream, which gets discharged pretty much straight back into Tampa Bay. The volume of water moving through the plants isn’t enough to change the salinity regime of the size of the bay. The situation works out there due to shear volume, but we don’t have the same luxury here.

We learned at council the other day that staff had already hired a consultant to check into the Barney Davis scenario, so I thought my idea caught legs last year and I was feeling original. Not so. Then I had a couple of friends send me some files that, indeed, that this isn’t the first time the Barney David power plant was considered for a desal plant. The last time it was seriously considered was by the Water Resources Advisory Committee back in 2004. They hired a consultant who talked

with the operators of the power plant and had a light feasibility study done. They had two pipes running parallel offshore about 3 miles, with the intake and the discharge not too far from each other. The old report is easily findable if you do a search for Texas Water Development Board and Barney Davis. Or maybe this will work as a hotlink? https://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/reports/numbered_reports/doc/R363/B5.pdf

Maybe they could attach the new desal water line to the new causeway to Padre Island? It’s headed that direction anyway. The 25 mgd desal line could easily fill the water tower by Sea Pines, fill the tanks on Sand Dollar, and then continue on its path through the new waterline that goes under Packery Channel and then on to the new water tower up by Port A. So instead of being at the back of the line with the water supply, we would go to the front row. I kind of like that idea. Too logical to be accepted though.

The Island Strategic Action Committee is slated to meet next Tuesday, April 4th. We have lots to discuss regarding our wishlist for Island projects funded by the TIRZ #2. It seems that the TIRZ process hit high center at the last formal meeting, but I’m hoping that they will find a resolution to the issues and get this down the road. We should be receiving an update on Bond projects, how spring break went on the beach as far as numbers, and I have an update on the second causeway. Good stuff, see you there.

Well folks, that’s enough for another gripping tale this week. I guess I’ll just keep doing chores until this weather gets on a stable pattern. Nice meeting you last week Laura, lets go fishing soon. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and I’ll see you next week On the Rocks.



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah’s Fishing Adventures



A beautiful 6lb trout caught on a DOWN SOUTH LURES Magic Grass, with a light 1-8th ounce jig head in 3 in of scattered grass and sand, south of Bird Island. Farah

A swirl behind the fluttering ripple as my soft plastic lure created the surface and began its fall towards the grassy bottom. I could see the glow of the green tail disappear just as a silver flash sent a thump through the rod tip. I paused while lowering the rod, then three swipes of the reel and the line came right and rod bowed. She darted across the flat and jumped in a twisting shower splashing that my memory recorded in slow motion. The fish rounded the boat and dove under the rail, came to the net and looked at me with marbled black eyes. Her belly was scratched and swollen, full of eggs. Thick shoulders had pushed me into a heck of a fight; I kept her secure in the net so she wouldn’t flop around the boat. I pinched her jaw with the grips and dipped her back into the water while we readied the camera. Any slime removed from trout that need to be released can cause them to get infections and die soon after being released, keep them in wet hands and wet nets. After a glorious fight our trophy class fish are spent and should

be handled with extreme care. Every mature sized trout we release now is putting thousands of trout back into the bay system this summer. Each mature female will lay thousands of eggs multiple times a year. Walk along with nature, not run it down and over, let a few go for tomorrow.

The biggest spring trout spawn of the year is going on now and next month! Big mature female fish are finding and tending the special spots that they pick to lay their eggs. Males will follow them and guard these areas aggressively attacking and feeding on small baitfish that would potentially eat the trout eggs or the tiny fry when the eggs hatch. I’m seeing a large variety of bait in the stomachs of the trout we are cleaning. Pin perch, mullet, small dog fish, pipe fish, and tiny crabs. Predatory fish are eliminating any and all threats to their future hatch. When anglers catch a fish stop all forward movements while wade fishing, and get as many casts into the area while drifting in a boat, fish are in groups. Recently we are seeing three to five good keeper sized makes together than trying to induce a strike from the larger more cautious females. Sometimes a slight change in lure presentation, color, jig head size, tail action, or angle of cast and retrieve could be the small difference we need to get that GIANT TROUT to decide to explode on our lures.

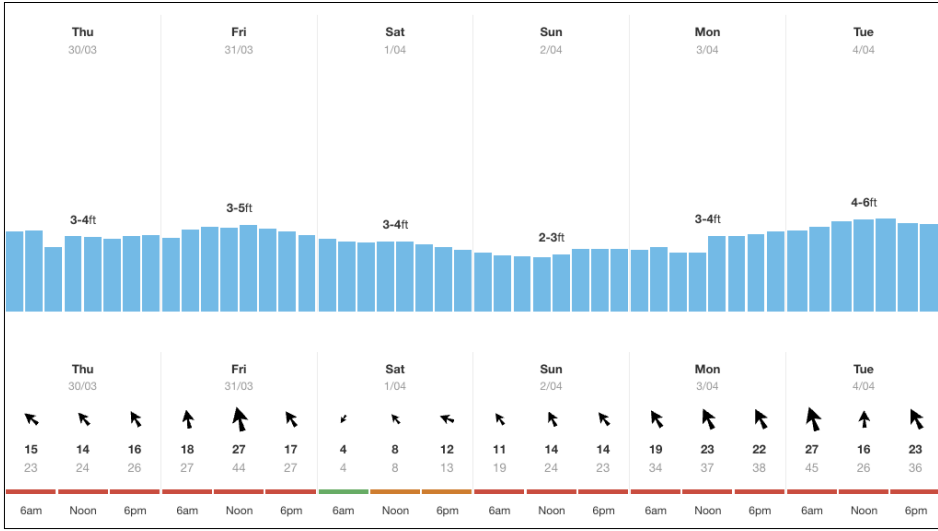
I’ve been keying in to bird activity most every day to find moving schools of gamefish. The sea gulls and small terns have been feeding on tiny baitfish swept up into the thick grass along the beaches and sand bars. Just out deeper from this are schools of trout posted up waiting for lunar feeding times. The white pelicans will also be gathered around these areas, herding the bait into a trap, then dipping down and filling their pouches with minnows. Shore birds are showing me where that bait is as well, watching the white cattle egrets run back and forth stabbing at mud minnows and chins along the gravely sand beaches on the spoil islands. Those trout and redfish are just off of the drop off into 2-3’ of water. I watched a Fish Eagle picking his targets along a remote and rocky beach in Baffin this week. We heard him hit the water and turned to see him dive down only to bring up a 12” speckled trout in his talons. He was good luck as that drift we were blessed to handle two over sized fish.

I’m looking ahead to May right now, but I’ll be sharing insight to the effective strategy we are using to bring fish into the boat every day. May is a great time of year with consistent weather and wonderful fishing. Make some plans to enjoy a day on the water this May, I promise you will walk away with a brighter view of the underwater world we are fishing in. Let’s find your day! Follow all of our hookups on Facebook and Instagram at JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING!

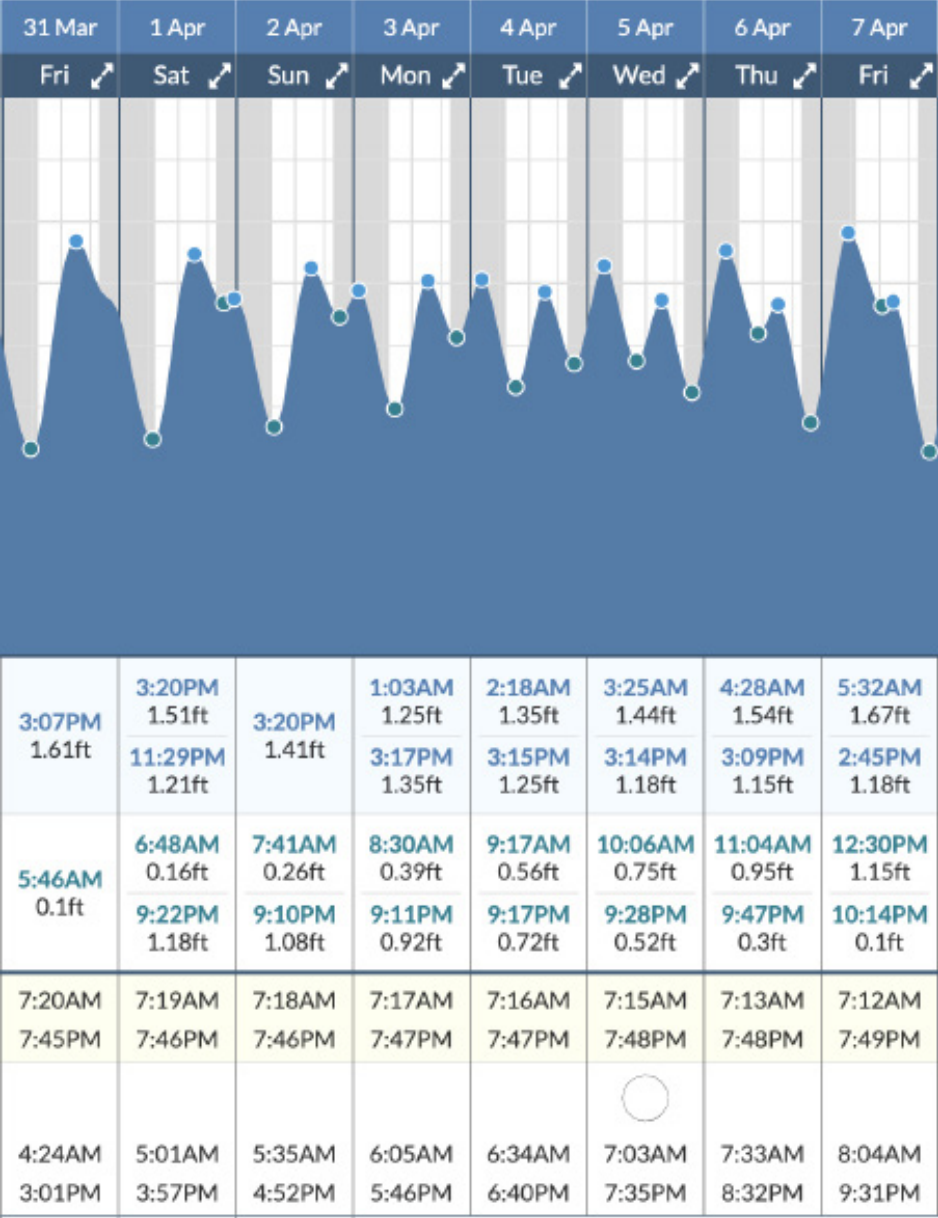


This nice 6.5lb trout struck a DOA 3 in CAL SHAD with a chartreuse DOA JIG HEAD in turbulent turned over conditions, while drifting the flats just west of the ICW canal.

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Ryan T Rogers, MD

Nature Notes

State Birds: How were they elected?

By Celeste Silling



*Caption: The Northern Mockingbird is the State Bird of 5 different U.S. states
Photo by Mike Williams*

It's common knowledge that each U.S. state has a state bird. But do you know how each of these birds were chosen? The tradition originated in the 1920's when the General Federation of Women's Clubs decided to assign a state bird to each state. Of course, it would be up to each state to pick their own bird for their own reasons. Texas was one of the first states to jump on this idea and elect our own state bird.

The state bird of Texas is the Northern Mockingbird. It's a relatively plain-looking bird that's only about eleven inches long, including its tail. It has gray upper parts and white underparts with dark wings and tail. Overall, one might say that the Northern Mockingbird doesn't have a very striking appearance, so why did the Texas branch of Women's Clubs elect it to represent us?

Well, there were several reasons. For one, the Northern Mockingbird is found in all parts of the state during all seasons. Unlike most other birds, the mockingbirds can live in the city, the country, the forest, the beach, and so on. So, this is a state bird that all Texans are able to see and appreciate all throughout the year.

The Northern Mockingbird is also a talented singer, being able to imitate other species and sounds as well as its own. In fact, the males of the species can have over 150 songs in their repertoire. That's one smart bird! Mockingbirds are also determined fighters when protecting their territory. So, this bird was essentially chosen because it held many qualities that

the Texans identified with!

But, seeing as how the Northern Mockingbird is such a wonderful bird, we weren't alone in our choice. Four other states also chose the Northern Mockingbird as their state bird... copycats! On the other hand, seven other states all have the Northern Cardinal as their state bird, so we could do worse.

The different U.S. states all had different reasons for picking their state birds. Utah, for example, chose the California Gull for a very unique reason. The gulls saved the people of Utah from an insect plague in 1848. The state had been absolutely overrun by a horde of crickets that were eating all of the crops. People would have likely starved due to the infestation, but for the heroic California Gulls! The gulls stepped in and bravely ate the crickets, saving many crops and many lives.

Another interesting state bird is the Nene of Hawaii. Hawaii chose this species to raise awareness of the bird's plight. The Nene was once found in large populations on the islands, but now only a few thousand remain. In an effort to bring more attention to this and other disappearing species, Hawaii elected the Nene for state bird.

I wonder, if the we were choosing a state bird nowadays, would the Northern Mockingbird still win? Personally, I think the Green Jay is a pretty good choice, because they are smart, bright, and Texas is the only U.S. state they are found in. Who would you elect?

Going Native

By Ed Proffitt

Viguiera stenoloba skeleton leaf goldeneye

Although you readers likely think of me as just a plant and science nerd, let me explain my hidden depths. I'm a latent sports gnome. I'm especially fond of basketball and catch a bit of March Madness. But, this year, I'm coming out of the closet! Two of my former universities have made the final four --- against all odds! These two roundball luminaries are Florida Atlantic University and the University of Miami. I attended Miami from 1967 to 1971 at a time when Don Curnutt (who you've probably never heard of) broke several of Rick Berry's records and waltzed into U of M. basketball history. Also Willie Allen was the big man (but not majestically tall) who I watched outjump giant Artis Gilmore (one of the Twin Towers of Jacksonville U that was a powerhouse at that time) on the opening tip once. Will, as he goes by now, later in life received a McArthur Genius Grant for his work in innovative crop growing and teaching kids. I didn't really know him personally, but did play pickup ball with him a time or two. I remember grabbing the ball when he had it under the basket and him actually picking me (hanging on to the ball) up off the ground as he went up for a shot. As you can see, he left an impression on me then, which was magnified when I read about his work in later years.

I don't know any players on the Florida Atlantic team, but I did serve on the faculty there for a decade before moving to Texas A&M Corpus. So...given some links to both underdogs, I'm getting my "game on"...or at least my old tennis shoes.

What's that got to do with native plants, you are probably asking yourself. Nothing at all...isn't that great! Maybe when time, I'll sneak over to Hardknocks or Padre Island Burger or somewhere and have a brew with other basketball groupies. Don't tell my wife.



skel daisy at home

Stuff Cont from A4

How the judge who signed the original search warrant was ever able to preside over the resulting trial in a case like that I never understood. Clearly he had a dog in that fight and, in my opinion should have recused himself. More on that later.

Constitutionalist Movement

The second thing that was unique about that trial was what happened outside the courtroom. When the trial began there was a small army of journalists there along with a few of the Davidians who were not charged. But as the trial wore on and the judge's rulings continued to pile up against the defendants in what seemed like a scripted trial with a predetermined ending outrage built and by the time the six-week long trial was over a troop of observers had congregated, more in protest than anything else, and I watched day by day what became known as the Constitutionalist Movement was born right before my eyes. I became well versed in the happenings at Ruby Ridge, posse comitatus, and the Turner Diaries. One of the Davidian sympathizers managed to get a press credential and set up a radio studio inside the cramped press room shared by almost one-hundred reporters and at the end of each day as we all wrote our stories we had to block out his musings as he spread his message to his fellow travelers far and wide in full voice... Commando raid... Gestapo tactics... Big Brother... Federal lies... illegal warrant. Day after day it went on until finally when the big verdict came down the man raced to his microphone to share his victory with his eager audience only to find his microphone cord had been cut clean by an unnamed reporter fed up with his sotto voiced broadcasts. Undaunted the man mounted a bench in the courtyard in front of the federal courthouse and began shouting his script to the sympathetic crowd who gathered and cheered.

A little rebellion is a good thing

I remember thinking at the time that it was a metaphor for everything that had brought us to that point. The entire weight of the federal government had been thrown at a bunch of misguided but mostly -- with a few



*Keep Port A beautiful native plant sale
March 25, 2023*

But on to business. Donna and I went up to Port A to the Native Plant Sale and Swap this past Saturday and scored several very nice potted seedlings when we've put in the yard. Hopefully all will make it through the transplant process and then our drought-ridden summer. But, I suspect at least some will and those that do will be highlighted in future columns. More important were the people there...especially the volunteer workers of Keep Port Aransas Beautiful. Wow, what a dedicated group of folks...and nice to boot, and fun to be around, even if briefly. We need more of that down at our end of the barrier island chain! It is this kind of public involvement and dedication that will help bring the Native Plant message "home" to government and social leaders in Corpus Christi and on the Island.

Here's a short plant teaser since I spent so much ink on basketball. The skeleton daisy (skeleton leaf goldeneye), *Viguiera stenoloba*, in our yard is not only growing great (now 4 ft+ tall and a beautiful rounded shrub (like a basketball...but larger and greener) but also flowering up a storm! The literature says it'll bloom in June, but guess it didn't read the memo as it's pretty full now and has lots more buds. It loves hot, dry conditions, well-drained soils, and salt in the air...just about perfect for my yard. It's the best growing plant we have so far, well other than the giant dill plant which isn't native but has cool flowers and smells great. It's easily propagated from seed or by rooting the green stems (pick ones without buds). So, that's it for this week. Root (plant joke) for the underdogs and keep Going Native.

To send Ed a question email him at

edproffitt@gmail.com

TPW Commission Approves Changes to Saltwater Fishing Regulations for 2023–24

On March 23, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved all the proposed changes to the saltwater fishing regulations. These changes are focused on matching federal regulations to streamline both enforcement and compliance issues.

The following changes to the 2023–24 Statewide Recreational Fishing Proclamation have been adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission:

- ☐ Add shortfin mako to the list of prohibited shark species for recreational and commercial fishing;

- ☐ Require anglers to use descending devices when a fish exhibits signs of barotrauma and match federal DESCEND Act requirements;
- ☐ Lower the bag limit for cobia to one fish per day per angler for recreational and commercial fisheries.

The changes to the 2023–24 Statewide Recreational Fishing regulations take effect on Sept. 1.

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Irish Mike and JJ Shannon took the Moon traveling to Killysart Co Clare Ireland. That's the Clare flag in background and the sign FAILTE means welcome.

Matthew and Michele Connolly hold the Moon on the trampolines of the Catamaran they chartered with 8 friends in Jost Van Dyke, British Virgin Islands.



Michael and Donna LeCompte took the Moon on their World Cruise. This picture was taken on day 67 at the Merlion statue in Singapore.



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Ritter Road Dedication Ceremony

Flour Bluff schools this week celebrated 130 years of rich history with the Ritter Road Dedication Ceremony! Members of the Ritter family, students, and community members joined in to share the incredible journey of George Hugo Ritter, and the legacy he brought to Flour Bluff ISD. Ritter Road will now lead to a brand-new bus loop, making it an integral part of the district. The district wants to thank the Ritter family for their support, and Shirley Thornton, Board President for helping us share this great piece of Flour Bluff history.



Last Week's Mystery Islander!



Last week's Mystery Person was long-time Island resident Realtor Terry Cox. Terry became a partner at Coldwell Banker in 1986 and later became sole owner.

This Week's Mystery Islander!



Our very own Capt. Jake and friends hauled in this beautiful 753 pound - 1087inch Texas BlueFin Tuna after a 2 hour battle this week!! The crew were aboard the 37 Freeman Dirty Money Pictured left to right are Jon Kasaii, Kevan & Kyle Billings, Ryan Stark, Gary Gardener and Jake Alkire! These guys sure had one heck of a trip! Glad we got to witness this beauty and weigh it in here @ Fishermans Wharf!

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Contrary to Popular Beef

By Chris Jordan



A gift box of prime tenderloin from Boarri Craft Butchery

There’s a lot to know about beef: from the many cuts to various terms the industry uses. Let’s dive into some of the stuff that is often misunderstood.

The USDA grades beef for quality based mainly on marbling (the amount of intramuscular fat) and the age of the animal. You will find three grades of beef for retail sale: Prime, Choice, and Select, with Prime having the most marbling and coming from the least mature animals. More fat means juicier, more flavorful meat. When the fat renders during cooking, it also has a tenderizing effect on the meat as it leaves behind little voids. Younger animals are more tender as well. As a basic rule, use Prime beef for the cuts you’re going to cook lightly like steaks. For some of the more tender cuts like tenderloin and ribeye, USDA choice grade may be just fine. We often buy Choice tenderloin because you really don’t get much for your money with Prime for that particular cut. And Prime tenderloin is TWICE the price of choice. Reserve your purchase of Select grade beef for meat that will be cooked until tender like stew or BBQ. There are actually five additional (lower quality) USDA grades of beef: Standard, Commercial, Utility, Cutter, and Canner. These are mainly used for more industrial food products and only find their way into retail offerings as ground beef.

Most of us have a working knowledge of beef cuts even if we may not know exactly from which part of the animal each one comes. But some of the terms — like prime rib — can be confusing. “Prime rib” does not refer to a USDA grade but rather a cut: the “primal” section of the rib consisting of ribs six through twelve. Or to put it another way, this section is all of the ribeyes on one side of beef in one piece. Also known as a rib roast, prime rib may contain anywhere from two to seven ribs and is most often prepared bone-in though boneless versions exist. Prime rib may be graded Prime, Choice, or Select. I say go for Prime Prime Rib!

You probably know that the cut you buy for fajitas is *skirt*. But did you know there are two different cuts of skirt? Yup. *Inside*

skirt is what is generally sold for fajitas. It’s not tender so we marinade it. *Outside skirt* is a little harder to come by, but man is it tender and yummy. Get hold of some outside skirt for a gourmet fajita experience or just prepare it like you would a steak. Be prepared to pay for it though.

If you’re into beef, then you’re into aged beef. Newsflash: all beef is aged. Freshly slaughtered beef has a metallic taste and isn’t very “beefy” in flavor. All the meat you buy was slaughtered at least a few days before you purchased it with two weeks being an average age of good quality beef. The common way to age beef is simply to put it in an airtight plastic bag. This is referred to as “wet aging” because the beef does not lose any moisture or mass to the evaporation of water.

What happens to beef while it ages? Well, enzymes present in the meat begin to soften the tissue and cause it to develop more complex flavor. But there is another form of aging that has more processes at work: dry aging. This is where beef is stored open to the air in an environment where temperature and humidity are strictly controlled. In addition to the enzymatic break-down of muscle and fat, the meat loses some moisture which further intensifies its taste. Numerous yeasts and molds grow on and in the beef and create even more complex flavors some of which may remind you of blue cheese. The outer edges of the meat where most of the microbes grow are trimmed before the beef is ready to be consumed. It is said that dry aged beef is to wet aged beef as wine is to grape juice. Twenty-eight days is the minimum for dry aged beef to begin to show the benefits. If you’re really into dry-aged beef, go for 55 days of aging. Any longer than that and things start to get really funky.

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Holy Workweek

By Pastor Kris Bair

It’s been a crazy week at our house—or not entirely at our house, as the case may be.

I wasn’t home last weekend, because I presented at a women’s retreat at Mo Ranch, a much beloved Presbyterian camp center in Hill Country.

I was coerced into doing this—I learned a LONG time ago never to schedule extra events during Lent—especially the final weeks of Lent.

When I first became what the DD (Daring Daughter) fondly calls me—the Rev (and I am not a Rev, I’m a Pastor, but that requires a lengthy explanation so we won’t go there), I was in process for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament (to be a Rev).

I was already a lay pastor commissioned to a yoked parish of Methodists and Presbyterians (or Presby-Meths, as it were).

It was my first call as a pastor, and I had just become full-time with them (having begun as part-time and teaching a Con Ed English course for a nearby university to make ends meet).

Of course, for ministers of all sorts it’s commonly recognized that 1) there is no such thing as part-time work, only part-time payment; and 2) a minister’s full-time work week is 60 hours, not 40.

This is truth, but I didn’t believe it back then. So I blissfully enrolled in an on-line Biblical Greek course, from Dubuque Seminary, required for ordination. Ha ha.

I do well with foreign languages—I have enough hours of French for a minor; I have 10 hours of Spanish under my belt, as well as 10 hours of Latin.

[N.B.: to the friend who sent me a note about a previous column—English is NOT my only language, or even THE only language!]

I did well for the first few spring semester months of Greek, and then came Holy Week, and it all went you-know-where.

I had no time to devote to language study—and if you can’t keep up with the daily work of learning a new language, you might as well throw in the towel.

Holy Week means at least four worship services to prepare—and not just any services, but particularly Holy Ones!

It begins with Palm Sunday—and special activities during worship, like the Procession of the Palms, for which you need to plan ahead in order to have the palms in folks’ hands (and for which you need appropriate liturgy or words for the ritual).

Around here, palm branches are sometimes an issue—if a bad freeze has killed the palms, they have to be ordered, and almost every church in town (and there are a LOT of them) is frantic to get some.

They’re also frantic to get lilies for Easter—even the fake ones get sold out quickly.

Then there’s a sunrise Easter service on the beach to plan, with logistics very different from the sanctuary one later that morning.

Sunrise service is shared with our Methodist friends, so sermons have to be written ahead, worship planned, parts assigned and practiced; and volunteers lined up and trained to help with parking, passing out hundreds of bulletins, and serving hundreds of people communion.

The sanctuary celebration later that morning has special music, a different sermon, another communion ritual, and a more formal vibe than the beach service. It takes more planning than usual for Easter Sunday sanctuary service.

In between Easter and Palm Sunday, we also offer a Maundy Thursday service, called “Maundy” as in “mandate.”

Maundy Thursday celebrates Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and giving them (and us) the mandate, the commandment, to love one another. It’s an out-of-the-ordinary service (as are all Holy Week services) and requires special prep, too.

So that’s four services for our celebration of Holy Week. And I foolishly accepted an invitation to lead two workshops about icons at the retreat.

By the time I was done Saturday, I collapsed at 7 p.m. and didn’t arise until 7 a.m. (except, of course, for periodic treks to the bathroom). It was the crown on the preparation I had been doing in the weeks before Holy Week. I was exhausted.

And guess what—it’s not over yet. I learned we’ll be having not one, not two, but FOUR baptisms on Palm Sunday (oh, joy!)—so that service had to be re-worked.

And then I learned that one of our expected three participant churches for sunrise service was dropping out—so THAT had to be reworked.

But I have to admit it’s a lot easier to adjust what’s already been designed than it is to start afresh.

At least I don’t have to translate everything into Biblical Greek, right?

We’ll be parading those palms around our sanctuary, accompanied by bells resounding the Good News, at 10 a.m. this Sunday—Island Presbyterian Church, Gypsy and Fortuna Bay.

If you can’t be there, you can livestream or Zoom us from our website or Facebook page.

Maundy Thursday service is at 6 p.m. this Thursday, April 6. Sunrise Easter service at the end of Whitecap at 7 a.m. is casual—bring a folding chair and coffee if you need it—it can be pretty breezy. Pets on leashes are always welcome.

And Easter service in the sanctuary begins at 10 a.m.

In English, because it’s not Greek to me, Casca.

Meet the Flour Bluff Superintendent



Flour Bluff ISD Superintendent Velma Soliz-Garcia is holding a series of meet and greet gatherings to speak with parents.

The first is at Coffee Waves in Flour Bluff from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 4. The address is 10309 S Padre Island Dr Suite F.

The second is from 11:30-1:30 p.m. at HardKnocks on The Island on Thursday, April 6

The third is from 6-8 p.m. in the Flour Bluff ISD Board Room at district headquarters in Flour Bluff, 2505 Waldron Road.



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Sudoku

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Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Fire Calls

March 20-March 26

Fire Station #15

14202 Commodores D

Rescue, EMS incident, Medical Assist
- 12

Arcing, shorted electrical equipment- 1

Person in distress, Other- 1

Public service assistance, Other- 1

Assist Invalid- 1

Dispatched & cancelled en route- 3

Smoke detector activation, no fire –
unintentional- 1

Fire Station #16

8185 State Highway 361

Mar 20th- Mar 26th Fire Station#16:

Rescue, EMS incident, Medical Assist-
2

No Incident found on arrival at dispatch
address- 1

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
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
62											61			
65											67			
68											70			

Across

1. Wear proudly
6. River bottoms
10. Schussing surface
14. Be on the fence
15. Tennis great Lendl
16. Closing part of a piece
17. Fred Astaire's sister
18. Withered
19. Urban reformer Jacob
20. What "X" may mark
23. Not out
24. Hot temper
25. Understanding
26. Panel game show of the '50s and '60s
32. Back street
34. Prefix for angle
35. One-sixth of 34 Across
36. Zip
37. "Foucault's Pendulum" novelist
40. Gridiron position
42. Archaic exclamation
43. Swiss abstractionist
45. 2001 biopic
47. Emmy, e.g.
49. Ulterior motives
53. One, to Juan
54. Actress Long
55. Thick rug
58. Kim Basinger Oscar film
62. Minute amount
63. Delayed
64. University of Maine site
65. Vending-machine opening
66. State with certainty
67. Watches over
68. Lab rat's course
69. Exchanges rings
70. Someone __ problem

Down

1. Cleans, as a deck
2. City near Venice
3. Sated
4. Sub for
5. Family diagram
6. Informal eatery
7. Senator Dirksen
8. Take risks
9. Slips past the doorman
10. Crumple (up)
11. Roulette bet
12. Comics canine
13. "As I __ saying . . ."
21. Archaeological site
22. Go out with
27. Hurricane feature
28. Have existence
29. Makes alterations to
30. Persian Gulf bigwig
31. Neck and neck
32. Egyptian cross
33. Leslie Caron role
38. Ecclesiastical doctrines
39. Slangy suffix
41. Family man
44. Send to school
46. Put a match to
48. Ne'er-do-well
50. Ambient music pioneer
51. Downy ducks
52. Denial in Dundee
56. "Biography" network
57. Lip enhancer
58. Joe Hardy's tempter
59. Full range
60. Best-liked one, slangily
61. Brief message
62. School of thought

Police Blotter March 21-27th

xJFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection

Disturbance
11800 block SPID 7 p.m. March 24
Traffic
47 Traffic Stops
SPID/Aquarius Noon March 25
Crash
13500 block SPID 9 a.m. March 22
Crash

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Person
14800 block Cobo de Bara Midnight March 25 Assault with Injury
Crimes against Property
12200 block SPID 2 p.m. March 25 Burglary of a Vehicle
14500 block Compass 7 p.m. March 27 Burglary of a Habitation
Whitecap/Cartagena 11 a.m. March 26 Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle
15100 block Dasmarinas 11 p.m. March 23 Trespassing
14100 block Palo Seco 2 p.m. March 23 Burglary
Disturbance
14800 block Cobo de Bara 2 a.m. March 25
14800 block Cobo de Bara 1 a.m. March 25

14800 block Cobo de Bara Midnight March 25
14500 block Compass 10 a.m. March 24
15200 block SPID 1 p.m. March 24
15400 block Salt Cay Midnight March 23
15700 block SPID 11 a.m. March 21
Suspicious Person
SPID/Commodores 1 a.m. March 27
Whitecap/Gypsy 2 a.m. March 26
Whitecap/Caravel 3 a.m. March 25
15200 block SPID 1 p.m. March 24
13400 block Whitecap 1 a.m. March 24
15000 block Reales 8 p.m. March 21
13400 block Whitecap 1 a.m. March 24
Whaler/Escapade 1 a.m. March 21
Traffic
126 Traffic Stops
13900 block Sea Horse Midnight March 26 Crash
15100 block SPID 5 p.m. March 24 Crash
15600 block SPID 11 a.m. March 21 Crash

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to city limits

Crimes against Person
11500 block Gulf Beach 7 p.m. March 25 Assault
Crimes against Property
16100 block Gulf Beach 3 a.m. March 26 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
16100 block Gulf Beach 3 a.m. March 26 Theft of Services
Leeward/Windward 7 p.m. March 24 Trespassing
7200 block SH 361 March 24 Burglary
Disturbance
15200 block Leeward 7 p.m. March 25
15200 block Windward 7 a.m. March 25
Zahn Road/Newport Pass Road 5 a.m. March 25
Suspicious Person
14900 block Windward 11 p.m. March 26
Traffic
57 Traffic Stops
SH 361/Fish Pass 8 a.m. March 26 Crash

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Here's how to place a Classified Ad

To place an ad you can call me at 361-834-1382 or Email your ads to: moonclassad@twc.com
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Costs start at \$12 for 25 words, 20 cents a word after that per issue. For a small additional charge, your ad can be centered, made larger or pictures or clip art can be added. Ads with payment can be taken to our office at:
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The Presbyterian Church On the Island
14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
In addition Sunday AA Meetings are held at 8 AM at
The Pavillon on the Boardwalk Near Padre Bali

Marvin Orellano

Crossword Solution

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

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Continued By the numbers from A1...

Padre Island Real Estate Activity

March 1 – March 15

39 Waterfront Homes Listed From \$529,000.00 to \$2,450,000.00		19 Waterfront Condominiums/Townhomes/ Duplexes Listed From \$115,000.00 to \$650,000.00	
<u>Interior Condominiums/Townhomes/ Duplexes Sold</u>		<u>Waterfront Lots</u>	
14721 Whitecap Blvd. #328 14202 Encantada Avenue #104 14917 Packery View		26 Waterfront Lots Listed From \$235,000.00 to \$9,000,000.00	
39 Interior Condominiums/Townhomes/ Duplexes Listed From \$175,000.00 to \$825,000.00		<u>Interior Lot Sold</u>	
<u>Waterfront Condominium/Townhome/ Duplex Sold</u>		<u>Commercial Lots</u>	
15002 Windward Drive #405 15402 Fortuna Bay Drive #2804		20 Commercial Lots Listed From \$99,900.00-\$3,000,000.00	
		13849 Hawksnest Bay Drive	
		18 Interior Lots Listed From \$29,900.00 to \$189,900.00	

Six Years for the Father of Texas

When Stephen F. Austin began settling Texas he knew that for people to risk everything to settle here, they needed a picture of the land and its potential.

So he spent six years traveling, gathering information, preparing sketches and keeping detailed notes. In 1829 he sent his finished manuscript map to publisher Henry S. Tanner in Philadelphia. This is the map he produced and it provided the framework for what became Texas. It showed where they would find ‘immense herds of buffalo’, ‘immense droves of wild horses.’ and ‘immense droves of cattle.’ He showed them silver mines, Indian villages and places rich in iron ore. He showed them prairies and hill country, the crosstimbers and the arc of the Comanche frontier.

Earlier editions of this map had been published when Texas was under Mexican sovereignty. Like them, this map published in 1837 displays the Seal of the Republic of Mexico, though Texas had already secured

her independence when it went to press. The plates for the 1837 edition had already been prepared when Tanner received news from Austin of the Texian victory at the Battle of San Jacinto.

There was a clamor amongst the public for maps of the new nation and Tanner rushed his map to market. He did find time to add the date April 21, 1836 at the site of the battle that made Texas independent. It was first issued in March 1830. It was immediately in high demand and Tanner reissued it four times before 1839. This was the first printed map to show the new settlements of San Felipe de Austin, Gonzalez, Victoria, Matagorda, Brazoria and Harrisburg. It also showed accurately the positions long established towns like San Antonio, Nacogdoches, Goliad and Copano, as well as the roads between them. For history buffs or for Texans looking for a conversation starter to hang on their wall the map is available through the Texas General Land Office.



AUSTIN-TANNER MAP OF TEXAS - 1837

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POA News

by Drew Diggins

and introduce yourself.

Last Saturday, the Padre Isles Property Association (“PIPOA”) elected me as your new board president for the upcoming year. First, let me thank the Board for trusting me to do the job. I look forward to serving the membership through enhanced communication and service to our community. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions. You can reach me by email at drew@pipoa.net, or by calling the PIPOA office at 361-949-7025.

Additionally, I would like to welcome our two new Board members, Jeff Rackley and Bill Davenport. Jeff is a longtime resident of our City and grew up just across the Laguna Madre on the Chapman Ranch. Bill is a retired fireman and most recently worked to develop emergency services across the country during natural disasters. If you see them around the Island, say “hi”

At our regular meeting on Tuesday, March 28, Frank Stover resigned from the Board. I thank Mr. Stover for his service and wish him well.

On Tuesday, the Board voted to approve a new rule allowing for the purchase of boat ramp stickers by the membership. Specifically, any person with a Texas Driver’s License indicating residence in the PIPOA will be qualified to purchase a sticker for the boat ramp. The stickers may be purchased at the PIPOA office for \$20. We hope this will simplify the process for members and staff, while accomplishing the goals of the sticker policy.

The next regular meeting of the PIPOA will be held at the Padre Island Baptist on April 25, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

The Knee Injury

By Dr. Tom

two main ligaments for lateral stability, the medial collateral ligament on the inside and the lateral collateral ligament on the outside. This keeps the knee from opening up from either side with a stress to the lower leg in either direction. These come in a grade 1,2,3 with a 3 being a complete rupture, grade 2 being a partial and grade 1 being a strain. There are two sort of circular menisci that provide cushion to either side of the knee joint called medial and lateral menisci, these can be injured with twisting or valgus stress with the foot planted typically. They are very painful with weight bearing and cause swelling and locking sometimes. The cruciate ligaments provide stability in the anterior posterior direction and if injured typically cause great pain and blood in the joint with bad swelling and inability to bear weight.

The family and I just returned from our annual Spring Break Ski Trip to Snowbird in Utah this last week. We typically hit it due to easy logistics great snow and expert terrain. This year we were missing the Admiral due to shoulder surgery a few weeks back. It was just Clint, Coop and Clint’s girlfriend Dani, who is a paramedic firefighter. Clint just got a ride to Rice MBA program and Coop is finishing up Construction Science and Architecture in College Station. We pretty much have to go over Spring Break due to this and it seems to get more crowded every year despite astronomical prices.

We are pretty aggressive skiers , even the admiral when she is with us though she doesn’t like to “pay to have the daylight

The injury above was due to a large valgus stress with tear of the mcl clinically and possibly a small medial meniscus injury. I was able to get my ski back on and ski down through some challenging terrain. Once at the condo ice, steroids, pain meds, alcohol and hot tub seemed to define only a mcl tear which easily opened the knee joint with valgus stress ie grade 3. No joint effusion makes meniscus and cruciate ligament injuries much less likely. KT tape, a hinged brace and medicines allowed me to ski 2 more days with a little caution but the same crazy terrain as usual. The mcl can almost be replicated with these external supports and unlike meniscus and cruciate ligaments you can bear weight and function with support in this setting. It will heal in about 3 to 6 weeks as long as you behave and mri is not always needed. If you have a good clinician mri is not helpful but can be useful if the diagnosis is in question. Just make sure you pay attention during the healing process and don’t do something stupid like try to kick the dog or jump out of the truck.... Hope everyone had a great Spring Break! Doc Tom, www.lagunaftyoufitters.com

The First Annual North Padre Island Garage Sale is this Saturday

These are streets participating homes with multiple homes on each street

APRIL 1, 2023 - 8:00 a.m. until????

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CABANA NORTH AVE.	GRENADINE DR.	QUARTERDECK DR.
CARAVEL DR.	HAWKSNEST BAY DR.	QUEEN JOHANNA CT.
CAYO GORDA CT.	JIBSTAY	REALES DR.
COBO DE BARA CIR.	JOLLY ROGER	SABRE DR.
COQUINA BAY	KETCH	SAN DOLLAR AVE.
COZUMEL	LANYARD DR.	SEAFARER DR.
CRUISER	LIGHTHOUSE DR.	SEAHORSE AVE.
CUTLASS AVE.	LINDO DR.	SUNTAN AVE.
CUTTYSARK	LONGBOAT DR.	TAJAMAR
DASMARINAS	MAIN ROYAL DR.	VERDEMAR DR.
DOUBLOON	<u>MAN</u> O WAR CT.	VINCENT DR.
DRAGONET	MORO LN.	YARDARM CT.
DUCAT CT.	NATAL PLUM DR.	

Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

On the local front...



And the Moon Monkey goes back to the loser's bracket.

What now? We are on the backside of *Spring Break* and *St. Patty's Day* and have endured the yearly "springing forward" event. After finally winning the WORLD FAMOUS BELT SANDER RACES two weeks ago and taking full advantage of my bragging rights, I'm back to my old familiar spot in the back of the heap. That didn't last long. The now famous *Gas Outage of 2023* descended upon us right in the middle of *Spring Break*. That was a new one on me, but it only lasted a few days, thankfully. We heard a lot of horror stories about the crowded restaurants and the cooks watching their ovens slowly die. But the good news is we now have a couple of months to enjoy life in the slow lane (make that "slower lane"). The public schools in Texas won't let out until the end of May. We have Easter on April 9 and will get some tourist traffic from that. And of course, we have our annual *SandFest* weekend in the middle of the month but basically, this time is ours. Springtime on our little island is a special time (when the weather cooperates) but from now until *Memorial Day* we get a little reprieve from the heavy tourist's barrage and the manic pace they set. To be honest, I haven't so much as dipped my toe in the surf in years. And I don't fish. But I could if I wanted to and that's reason enough to keep me hanging on to this paradise thing... not to mention all the wonderful friends I've made here in the last fifteen years. And then there's my **Mermaid Gal** who needs no introduction. Yes sir, April and May are a glorious time on our little island... it's our time. We'll still see our share of day trippers and second homers but the big tourist surge is waiting on *Memorial Day*. Ahhhhhh... what should we do first?

Scattered shots...



Brad Ethridge played the new Sand Bar last Saturday and will play the new Mic at the Gaff on Wednesdays.

A new bar opened up on Cutoff Road. It's called the *Sand Bar* and it's at the location that once housed the old *Rusty Jeep BBQ*. Me and my **Mermaid Gal** stopped by last Friday when **Brad Ethridge** was performing. Judging from the clientele, I'd say the boat boys have a new hangout since the *Back Porch* closed. They don't serve food but there's a view of the channel and the ferries from the upstairs bar. I'll keep poking around over there and see what else I can find out. After the *Sand Bar* we headed over to *Bron's Backyard* for a little dose of our buddy **Ty Dietz**. ... **Tracy** loves his song about the ghost dog, **Daisy May**. On Saturday, it was race day at the *Gaff* and I was feeling cocky since I placed first two weeks earlier and believe me, I took full advantage of my bragging rights. I should have kept my big mouth shut because I got blown out in my first heat last Saturday, but rest assured, I'll be back. Just know that racing power tools is serious business. BTW, the races are now at 4:00 PM, on every second and fourth Saturday. It's best to get there early because the place packs out.

DO NOT MISS Coming this weekend...

Coming this weekend on Wednesday, **Brad Ethridge** hosts and open mic at *Gaff* every Wednesday and he'll be back on Thursday



Ty Dietz will play Kody's on Sunday,

to perform. On Friday, the **Jam Band**, with the well seasoned guitarist **Donald Aguirre**, will play *Treasure Island*, **Billy Snipes** is at the *Sand Bar* and **Brad Ethridge** is at *Bron's Backyard*. BTW, *Bron's* will have their performances from 7:30-10:30. It's an earlier crowd over there at *Bron's* with lots of young families and their kids playing in the yard with hoola hoops and bean bags. It's a very wholesome scene and I understand they will eventually have a full service bar this summer, adding liquor to their menu. Also, they have moved their weekly *Corn Hole* tournaments to Thursdays this year and will offer a full calendar of live music by June. If you haven't been by *Bron's* in a while, do yourself a favor and check it out. On Saturday, *Bron's* will have a super talented fellow from San Antonio by the name of **Chris Boss**. Chris has been a staple on the S.A. music scene for many years. When I used to manage clubs on the Riverwalk I would often see Chris toting his gear around the streets of downtown S.A. on a little wagon he customized. Most recently, he can be found singing the National Anthem at the *Spurs* games. He is very talented. Also on Saturday, **Coach Jim Dugan** will play the *Gaff*, **Red Tide** will play *Treasure Island*, the **Jam Band** is out at *Cinnamon Shore*, bluesman deluxe **John Cortez** will play the *Packery Bar* and *Grill* plus **Jerry Ward** and the **Dirty Birds** will play the *Pelican Lounge* on Padre Island. On Sunday, Ty Dietz is at *Kody's* and **Jennifer Gayle Bradley** is at *Blackbeard's by the Sea*.

On the horizon...



Chris Boss will play Bron's on April 1st.

On the near horizon, the great reggae/ska band **Fortunate Youth** from Hermosa Beach, California will play the *House of Rock* on Thursday, April 6th. This is a really great reggae rock band and I've seen them before at the *HoR*. They are self described as a "multi faceted sextet from Southern California driving a relentless thirst for live performance and an ever-evolving cache of original material dotted with influences of blues, ska, rock, world, soul and punk." On Friday, the 7th singer-songwriter from up around Medina, **Boone Holding**, will play *Bron's* and the **OTB Band** will be a *Treasure Island*. On Saturday the 8th, blues rocker **Rich Lockhart** will play *Bron's*, the **Back Pew Revival** will play *Treasure Island* and **Voodoo Logic** will play the *Exchange*. That ought to hold you for a while. Be safe out there.



Coach Jim Dugan will play the Gaff on Saturday.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Red Tide will play Treasure Island on Saturday,



Fortunate Youth will play the House of Rock on April 6th.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday,

March 30

Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Trey Maresh @ Packery Bar
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's
Unlikely Candidates @ House of Rock
Falco & the Wolf @ Executive Surf Club
Billy Snipes @ Cassity's Irish Pub
Eric Graham @ Brewster Southside
The Droptines @ Brewster
Downtown
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian

Friday,

March 31

Jam Band @ Treasure Island
Brad Ethridge @ Bron's Backyard
Billy Snipes @ Sand Bar
ChillBillies Legends Fulton
AudioBox @ Pelican Lounge
Alonzo Cruz @ Packery Bar
The Groove @ Rockit's
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Chillbillies @ Legend's Fulton
Jasper String Quartet @ House of Rock
Michael Burts Band @ Brewster Southside
Obsession, Dead Love Club @ Brewster
Downtown
Matt Hole @ Executive Surf Club
The Groove @ Rockit's
Voice of Addiction @ Black Monk Tavern

Saturday,

April 1

Chris Boss @ Bron's Backyard
Red Tide @ Treasure Island
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Jam Band @ Cinnamon Shore
Smile Easy Soul @ House of Rock
Jerry Ward & the Dirty Birds @ Pelican Lounge
Cruise Control @ Executive Surf Club
Chillbillies @ Doc's

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APR 14
APR 15

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John Cortez @ Packery Bar
Smile Empty Soul @ House of Rock
Diamond's Edge @ It'll Do Saloon
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside
Treaty Oak Revival @ Brewster
Downtown
Jack Ingram @ Gruene Hall
Wayward Gypsies @ Sunset Hideaway
Ingleside
J and the Sound @ Windfest in Portland
Tony Ortega & Lisa Sullivan @ Blackbeard's

Sunday,

April 2

Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's
Ty Dietz @ Kody's
Jerry Ward @ Pelican Lounge
Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard's
Isis Birthday Drag Brunch @ House of Rock

Monday,

April 3

Chuck Almarez @ Blackbeard's
Billy Snipes @ Doc's

Tuesday,

April 4

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

Wednesday,

April 5

Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium @ U of H-Clear Lake
Open Mic w/ Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Jammin' Circle @ Woody's Last Stand
Sonny Salinas @ Pelican Lounge
Eli Brown @ House of Rock
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Thursday,

April 6

Farley Classic Golf Tournament @ Palmilla Beach Golf Club



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