



Sip 'N' Shop A2



Island Aerials A5



Going Native A7



Perfect Attendance A13

Issue 945

27° 37' 0.5952" N | 97° 13' 21.4068" W

# The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

May 26, 2022

www.islandmoon.com

Weekly FREE



Photo by Dale Rankin



By Dale Rankin

This may be the only Island in Texas where we have to start our computers more often than our cars. If you get Around The Island by golf cart you only start your car to go OTB which is much less often since we got a grocery story. This week the power outages started Sunday morning and kept up through the week as the winds and rain came through. The folks with home generators got their money's worth.

Power outages that happen early on the weekend days can be particularly confusing to sleepers who take advantage of a day off to sleep in only to wake up and look at the electric alarm clock and see 6:41 a.m. "Man I must have had one too many margaritas on the deck last night, I've sleep all day and all night!" You grab your flip-flops and grab your hat, make the car in seconds flat... only to realize it's only 9 a.m. on Sunday morning. It's funny now but not when you had to check and see if the neighbors were watching as you made the Walk of Shame back into the house.



**Island palms**

This is a sight rarely seen Around The Island. Our palm trees blow flat in the wind and learn how to lean in the hurricanes but one thing they don't do well with is a hard freeze. The deep freeze a while back killed a lot of palm trees and left others like this one unable to stand up to the recent winds. Island preachers take note, there is probably a parable in there somewhere for your next sermon.

**Water Tower Turtle**

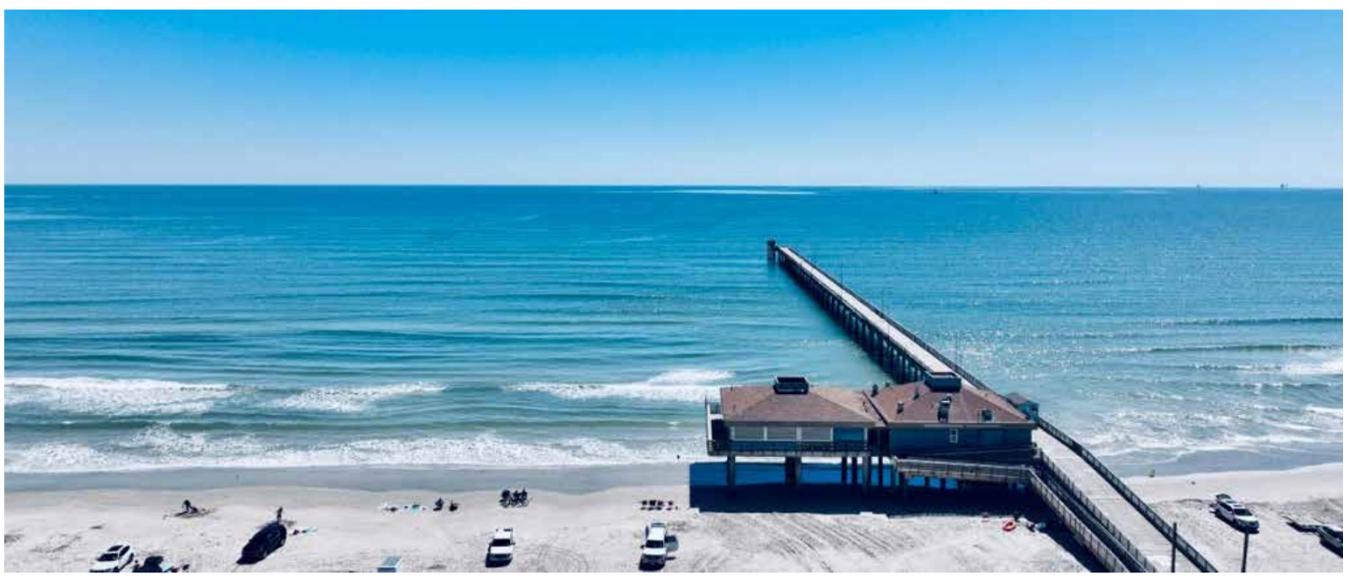
The Corpus Christi Water Department announced at the city council meeting last week that they are going to be putting their logo on the Island water tower. They also announced that while they are at it they are going to put the turtle there as well. They didn't give a timeline or say whether the new turtle will look like the old turtle...but they did say there will be a turtle and we'll hold them to that. For Islanders who have been around a while, no mention was made of Upper Padre...

City water wonks also said this week that barring a good deal of rain we are headed for Stage 1 water rationing in 90 days. The Lower Colorado River Authority told them last week that due to lack of water in the river that Corpus Christi is "on the cliff" when it comes to continuing to get water from the river unless there is rain in the watershed. And speaking of "on the cliff" it turns out the city's building with the pump station on the Colorado River was built on the wrong side of the river and is setting on a cut bank. The good news is that we may not need it anymore.

**Time to reason with Hurricane Season**

We're looking down the barrel of Hurricane Season 2022 and according to the prediction released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration this week, due to La Niña and above-average Atlantic temperatures there is a 65% chance of an above-normal season, a 25% chance of a near-normal season and a 10% chance of a below-normal season with a likely range of 14 to 21 named storms of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes.

It's time to hide from wind and run from water everybody, in the meantime say hello if you see us Around The Island.



Bob Hall Pier

## Demolition of Bob Hall Pier set to Begin

*New design for rebuild includes dune flyover but no second story*

By Dale Rankin

Contactors are scheduled to be on site to begin the demolition of Bob Hall Pier this week. The work was to already be underway but was delayed due to high water on the beach preventing the contractor from putting up fencing.

The large crane is due to arrive this week and the tug boats and barges shortly thereafter.

NOAA has removed their equipment from the pier in anticipation of the demolition, which will begin at the

**Bob Hall cont. on A4**



The current design for Bob Hall does not include a second story.

*By the numbers*

### Bob Hall Pier

\$27 million in funding available/committed

\$31-\$32 million total needed to add second floor to restaurant (to be renamed Mermay's Beachside Bar & Grill) and to add a public plaza

20 feet – width of new pier, current pier is 15.5 feet

\$28,000 per day in cost if work on the pier must be stopped during turtle nesting season

\$689,750 in funds for repair of park office at Balli Park

## Packery Channel Park to get Living Shoreline for Erosion Protection

*\$3.6 million in state funding*

The Texas General Land Office announced this week it is providing \$3.6 million in funding to the Nueces County Coastal Parks Department for a shoreline enhancement project at Packery Channel Park.

The project is called Packery Channel Living Shoreline and County officials said the money will be used to "provide a living shoreline by incorporating gray-green infrastructure" at the park which is located between Packery Channel and SPID.

They said the funds will also be used to "construct a raised pier structure

for public access."

"High wave energy along the channel shoreline is degrading the habitat for fish and birds and worsening conditions for park use." Nueces County Commissioners on Wednesday approved a Request for Qualifications for firms to design the structure which will include saltwater marsh habitat and a shield to keep the shoreline from eroding without the use of bulkheads and walls.



The project is being funded through a state grant through the Gulf of Mexico Security Act of 2006 under the Texas Coastal Management Program.

No timeline for the start of construction was given.

A little Island history

### A Look Back at Hurricane Allen the Last Big Storm to Hit The Island

*And how it still affects us*

By Dale Rankin

As we begin Hurricane Season 2022 we roll back The Island clock forty-two years to 1980 when Hurricane Allen came blowing in and did damage to our infrastructure that has some lessons for us today.

The eye of Hurricane Allen hit Port Mansfield in the early morning of August 10. The Island was in the northeast quadrant of the storm, the side you don't want to be because it is the portion where the counterclockwise winds and tidal

**History cont. on A4**

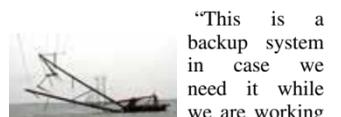


Bob Hall Pier cabins after Allen.

## Backup Generators to Begin Arriving on The Island

If you see large generators on eighteen-wheel trucks on The Island in the next few weeks it's not a sign of an approaching apocalypse.

The generators are being brought in by AEP Texas as part of a belt and suspenders system in case of problems with one or both of the feeder lines that bring power to Padre and Mustang islands and Port Aransas while they are being worked on.



"This is a backup system in case we need it while we are working on the feeder lines," said Omar Lopez with AEP. "We are doing maintenance on the lines and we

don't anticipate any problems but the generators are there just in case."

Lopez said AEP is currently looking for sites to locate the generators and once that is done some modifications will be made to existing lines in order to connect the two but once that process is complete the generators will remain in place. They are expected to arrive in the next three weeks.

"The customers won't see any difference," Lopez said. "This is just in case we need them."

He did not say how long the trucks will remain on The Island once the maintenance work is complete.

# Padre Island Art Gallery Hosts Sip 'N' Shop



The Padre Island Art Gallery hosted their first "Fiesta" Sip N Shop on Friday, May 20th. Photos By Debbie Noble.



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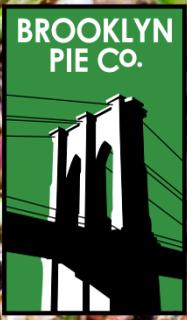
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### About the Island Moon

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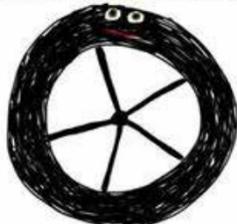
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## Where to Find The Island Moon

<b>Port Aransas</b>	<b>North Padre</b>
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
Spanky's Liquor	Subway
Beach Lodge	Island Tire
Ellis Memorial Library	Padre Pizzeria
Bernie's Beach House	WB Liquor
	Island IGA
<b>Flour Bluff</b>	Island Fitness
H.E.B.	My Coastal Home
Ethyl Everly Senior Center	Salty K Laundry
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	And all Moon retail advertisers

# Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



## Postcard Signing

The endangered sea turtle program, as well as our continued right to drive on the beach at Padre Island National Seashore (PINS), remains under threat by the National Park Service. It is unknown if there will be any of the popular public baby sea turtle releases this summer. In the past there were about two dozen releases each summer, which brought in an extra million dollars in tourist money into the local economy. Tourists travel from across the world to observe this natural wonder.

The Save the Sea Turtle advocacy group (STST) held several postcard signings recently asking the Director of the National Park Service, Charles F. Sams III, to have the review withdrawn which authorizes changes to the sea turtle program along with changes to driving on the beach. This review is an official government document which gave the superintendent of PINS immediate permission to implement its contents. The review also greatly reduces the number of public hatchling releases.

Page 31 of the final amended review, signed by Michael Reynolds on May 7, 2021, states, "Reduce the number of public sea turtle release events to reduce costs and reduce the impact on staff from other divisions." The review neglects to say that 95% of all hatchling releases are done with volunteers and cost the park very little.

The review could also limit driving on the beach at PINS and/or impose a hefty surcharge for that privilege. The Save the Sea Turtle group claims the review was released without the required public comment period.

This postcard campaign is also in support of Dr. Donna Shaver, Chief of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery. Dr. Shaver, an Island resident, has often appeared on television with updates on what was happening with sea turtles at the park. After a new superintendent, Eric Brunnemann, was appointed at PINS, he placed Dr. Shaver under a gag order and she is not allowed to speak publicly without the Public Information Officer's permission. The park recently shut down their sea turtle Facebook page, which had 72,000 followers. STST claims this is an attempt to make the public forget about the sea turtles, as it is unusual for an organization, especially a government entity, to shut down a successful social media site.

If you did not attend one of the postcard signings, the group urges you to send your own postcard asking the review be withdrawn to:

Charles F. Sams III  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

A postcard requires 40 cents in postage.

You may also sign the petition opposing these changes at [www.SavePadreTurtles.com](http://www.SavePadreTurtles.com).

## The Last Turtle of Whitecap Beach

*I hatched here over half a century ago,  
On a soft, sandy beach white like snow.  
Now it's a car lot and a two-way street,  
Black-soot streaked, hard as concrete.  
Two years ago, my eggs were dug up by a  
loose mutt;  
Three hatchlings survived but were run over  
in a rut.  
Resilient, I came back to lay eggs one year  
later,  
But all were crushed by the beach road  
grader.  
This year, I relocated to the Natural Beach,  
A little south, a short swim, easy to reach.  
I crawled ashore; my flippers cut by glass  
shards.  
Natural Beach? A paradise for trucks and  
carts.  
Preservation of the Natural Integrity?  
Don't dare trampling on Tex's liberty!  
No Loose Dogs, No Glass, other rules,  
Unenforced, followed only by fools.  
Exhausted, I laid down and tried to sleep,  
But horrified, awoke by the roar of a Jeep.  
"Out of the way you slow turtle dork,  
Or we enjoy you with knife and fork."  
Save The Turtles! a promotional farce.  
Natural Beach is ruled by trucks and cars.  
Old, disheartened, tired, weak and frail,  
My shell pierced by a beach-fire pallet nail,  
Back at Whitecap, too sad to cry,  
I sink in the soot, close my eyes and die.  
Birds, clams, crabs, turtles gone -  
Another Texas Beach Dead Zone*

Martin Wild, PhD

Feel free to publish and if not, I will shed no turtle tears.

## World Turtle Day

Editor:

Last Monday, May 23rd, was World Turtle Day! Islanders have reason to celebrate since Padre Island National Seashore has the majority of nesting Kemp's ridleys in the USA. The Kemp's ridley is the state sea turtle of Texas.

The Save Our Sea Turtles grassroots group will be at Padre Islander & Island Sports, 14514 S

Padre Island Dr this Saturday. This group was organized to support the efforts of Dr. Donna Shaver and keep the Sea Turtle Science and Recovery Program STRONG and thriving. It is NOT being strengthened as the National Park Service and Sup't Eric Brunneman assert. It is being diminished in every way possible.

Have you seen any TV news coverage of the recent big nesting days? Nope. South Padre. Port Aransas and Galveston area are touting their incoming sea turtles on Facebook and TV.

Please stop by on Saturday 10am to 3pm to sign a postcard. We are sending the postcards to Washington DC dep't heads. It is important to let others know that we support the sea turtle program at PINS.

Maureen Hurlow

## Visit Corpus Christi

Hi Island Moon Team,

I am reaching out on behalf of Visit Corpus Christi, the city's destination marketing organization which promotes, markets and sells the Corpus Christi area as a year-round, premiere business and leisure travel destination. Visit Corpus Christi is conducting a community perspective survey in order to develop a strategic plan that will create a future vision for the destination over the next five years. The community is asked to share their current perceptions of Corpus Christi as a visitor destination and contribute their thoughts on how the city should be positioned moving forward.

I'd appreciate your assistance with sharing this information with your audience as more participation will allow Visit Corpus Christi to have a better understanding of resident sentiment. Participants who complete the survey can enter to win a Gulf Coast Capital Experience Package which includes a family four-pack of tickets to some of the city's top attractions such as GlowRow, Texas State Aquarium and the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay.

For more information regarding Visit Corpus Christi or the survey, Brand Manager America Segura may be reached at [america@visitcorpuschristi.com](mailto:america@visitcorpuschristi.com). We are asking the community to submit their responses by July 30. The survey may be found here or on the website at [VisitCorpusChristi.com/Community-Survey](http://VisitCorpusChristi.com/Community-Survey).

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Thank you,

Rainey

*Editor's note: You can access the sites listed above by going to the Island Moon Facebook page at [theislandmoonnewspaper](http://theislandmoonnewspaper) or by going to [islandmoon.com](http://islandmoon.com).*

## From the Island Moon Facebook page [theislandmoonnewspaper](http://theislandmoonnewspaper)

### Stuff I heard:

**David Loeb** Can't think of anything private in a plat or PID application other than water line locations (some weird anti terrorism stuff is why they aren't on the gis now). I guess my second question is why they would work on and vote on a PID absent the consideration of the PUD that goes with it. How do you assess cost and feasibility without the zoning that it get's built with. Kinda seems like you would do them concurrently with each other.

**Ralph H. Ricardo** It is very apparent that North Padre Island residents are not served well by our elected representatives on City Council. The only way to fix this is at the ballot box in the next election. Will someone who cares about us please step forward and run? You'll have my vote.

**Randy Bales** Thank you Dale. It appears this could be a great question for you and Tyler Thorsen to ask Mr. Smith on Thursday morning.

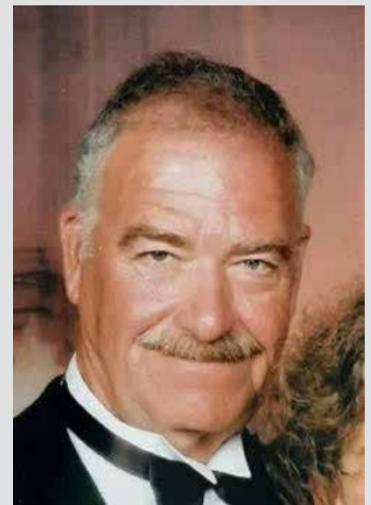
**Matthew Connolly** Thank you Dale. Excellent job staying on top of this.

Don't they have 10 days maximum to comply with the public information request?



*The Sahara sand arrived on The Island Friday morning.  
Photos by Evelyn Pless-Schuberth.*

## Island Obituary



## Phillip Dotson Cearley, Sr.

April 7, 1942 -  
May 9, 2022

Phil Cearley, AKA "Pops, Dad, Grampa, GGPa" passed away May 9, 2022, in Corpus Christi, TX, at the age of 80. Phil was born in Modesto, CA and grew up in Patterson, CA. His parents, Odell and Mildred Cearley moved from GA to the central valley of CA where they bought an apricot orchard and raised Phil and his sister Cathy. Phil attended Rising Sun Elementary School and Patterson High School. Following graduation, he attended Modesto Junior College and shortly after became one of "The Few, The Proud" upon joining the U.S. Marine Corps.

After basic training in San Diego and Camp Pendleton, CA, Phil served his country overseas in such locales as Okinawa and the Philippines. Following his service, he joined the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff. There he met his first wife, Marilyn who he married in 1966. Following the birth of his son, Phil Jr., he turned in his badge for a slightly more benign occupation, a telephone lineman! This allowed him to spend more time with his new family, including his stepson Tony. He eventually stayed with PacBell/ATT for 34 years where he worked a variety of positions including residential and pay phone installation and repair. He always stated the best part of his job was when he was able to repair and restore someone's phone service. He was a true "man of the people" and enjoyed working in many of the underserved areas of town.

Phil really enjoyed riding dirt bikes, camping, skiing, reading, collecting knives, square dancing, taking family road trips, and spending countless fun times with family and friends. He met his second wife, Deeda in 1985, and they married in 1991. They relocated back to Patterson to Phil's childhood home after his mother's passing in 1997. There they hosted many family functions. Summer visits from any and/or all of their grandkids and great grandkids were always a highlight, and holidays were often topped off by a huge bonfire. Kayak trips in the canal, driving instruction in the fields, and walking his beloved mutts around the property were always a favorite. Phil retired in 2001, and together, he and Dee enjoyed traveling and visiting family and friends far and wide. Following their love for sun and sand eventually led Phil and Dee to relocate in 2018 to the warm beaches of North Padre Island in Corpus Christi, TX. There they continued their travels and hosted family and friends at their beach condo. Most enjoyable, probably, were the daily walks on the beach with their longtime canine companion, Queenie. Phil loved life and enjoyed himself right up until his passing!

Phil is survived by his wife Deeda; son Phil Jr. (Heidi); stepdaughters Wendy Piker (Greg) and Tammy Navarrete (Luis); grandchildren Hunter, Hadley, Hutton, and Harper Cearley, Michael King (Tasha), Scott and Leslee Piker, and Terry Zellars; great grandchildren Chase, Baylee, and Wyatt Hall. He is preceded in death by his parents, Odell and Mildred Cearley, and sister Catherine Gibb. Celebration of life to be held this summer at a location in the central valley of CA - details to be announced at a later date.

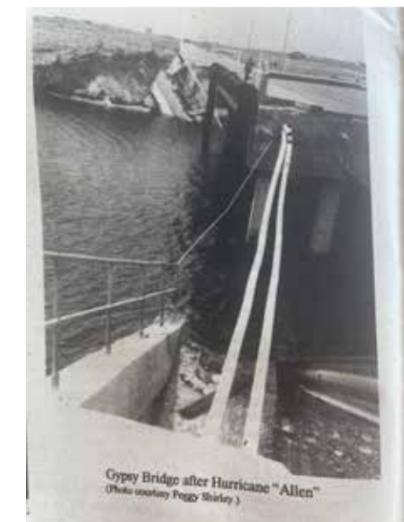
**History cont. from A1**



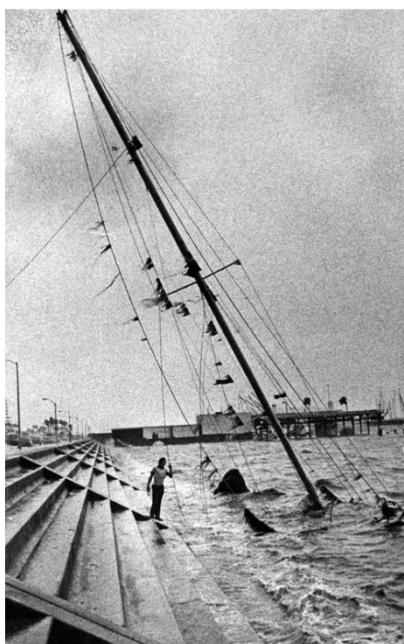
*Flour Bluff got a 7.5-foot tidal surge.*



*Downtown marina after Allen*



*Gypsy bridge after Hurricane Allen in 1980.*



*Downtown seawall after Allen.*

surge are highest. The storm put a 17-foot surge tide on The Island and destroyed the seawall and also dumped almost 20 inches of rain. Bob Hall Pier was nearly destroyed, to the point that some of the pilings were salvaged and are now part of the Packery Bar & Grill building next to the JFK Causeway. The causeway itself was inundated cutting The Island off from the mainland which eventually led to the raising of the causeway.



*Allen brought five feet of water to the port area closing the port for several weeks due to sediment.*



*Next to the JFK Causeway.jpg*

Allen is ranked all time as one of the most powerful storms ever to roam the Atlantic with its winds crossing the Category Five threshold a record three times during its lifetime. The lowest pressure recorded in the storm's life was the third lowest pressure on record in the Atlantic behind Hurricane Gilbert which hit the Texas Coast just south of The Island on the King Ranch in 1988, and the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935. While Allen was not a Category Five storm when it make landfall it still packed wind gusts of 129 mph. But it was the 17 feet of water is pushed that did the most damage on The Island.

Allen caused \$42 million in damage in the Coastal Bend and spawned a tornado in Austin which caused \$100 million in damage making it the costliest tropical cyclone-spawned tornado in recorded history. It left behind more than a dozen cuts through The Island from Corpus Christi Bay to the Gulf of Mexico.

**Seawall damage**



*Seawall damage after Hurricane Allen.*

As you can see from the photos the Michael J. Ellis Seawall was destroyed kicking off discussions about how to pay for the \$3 million in repairs to the privately-owned structure. A solution was finally found in Austin and the work was done with one-time-only money from the state and in return the private owners of the property along the seawall agreed to allow public access while retaining the responsibility for maintenance and repair when another storm hits. The property owners each own a divided interest of the seawall, the portion of it that fronts their property, but there is no legal requirement that they repair it if it is destroyed again.

As part of the solution that came from the rebuilding the seawall after Hurricane Allen the property there was exempted from the state Dune Protection Act and the property line was eventually set at the seawall rather than further inland but that did not happen until many years after Allen hit. At the time the vacant land along the seawall was in the hands of a single group of investors who were not looking to sell it so there was no urgency. However, as they moved forward and wanted to sell some land financing became difficult, if not impossible, due to clouds on the title due to the unsettled location of the state's property line which in some cases ran underneath existing structures. Failure to repair the damaged seawall would mean the Dune Protection Act would apply, moving the property line well behind the seawall.



*Seawall after Hurricane Allen.*

The final solution to the property line problem was reached in 2004 as part of an agreement for the property owners to buy and donate to the city the land where the seawall parking lot is now located. Eventually \$400,000 was raised through special assessments and the property was purchased and donated with the understanding that once the parking lot was in place vehicles would be banned from the beach along the seawall but no written document was produced leaving the agreement up in the air.

That was where things stood until September, 2005 when the Corpus Christi City Council voted to ban vehicles from the 7200 feet of beach from Packery Channel to Padre Balli County Park after first promising to limit the ban to only the beach in front of the seawall. This led to a contentious election which rejected the ban and further that there can be no vehicular ban and in the future without approval of voters.

That is where things stood until 2008 when an item was put on the citywide ballot that would ban vehicles only along the seawall; that item was approved by voters but the plan to implement it included bollards along the beach from the north end of the seawall to Packery Channel – an item not included in the ballot language – and therefore was never implemented. The reason that the portion of the seawall beach currently closed to traffic at the south end is done not as a result of the 2008 vote but due to the width of the beach being less than 150 feet.

But the configuration of the beach that is there today has its origin in the deal struck to repair the seawall after Hurricane Allen and forty-two years after Hurricane Allen repair of the seawall after a storm still falls to the private property owners there.

**The bulkheads**

The other major damage to The Island infrastructure has largely been overlooked and the background here is pieced together from archives from the Corpus Christi Caller Times and Islanders who were part of the repair process through the Padre Isles Property Owners Association.

In the year before Allen arrived the JFK Causeway was a low-lying stretch of road divided only by a painted stripe with no median. The road was the scene for a series of violent head on collisions and J.P. Luby who was then Precinct 4 Nueces County Commissioner came up with a solution. Six-foot tall Jersey Barriers were put in place to divide the lanes, solving the traffic problem but creating another unforeseen problem.

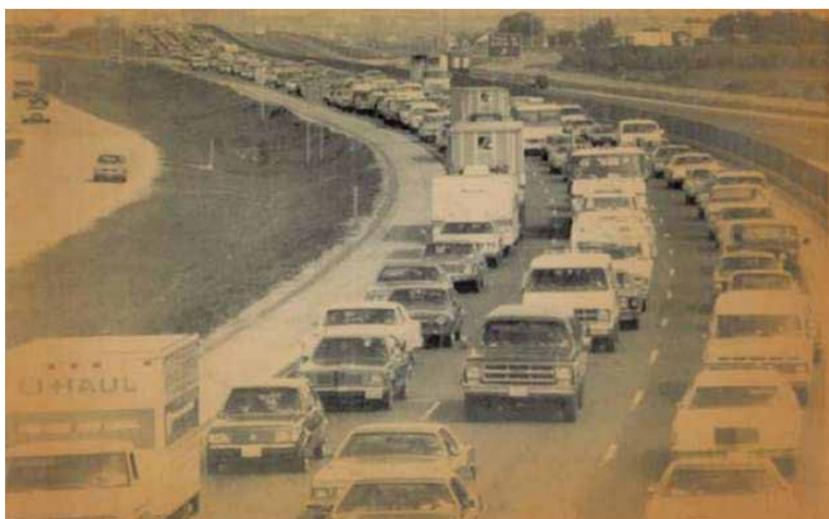
smashed into them with enough force that it destroyed a portion of them on the east side of the intersection. It also destroyed the bridge over the canal at Gypsy and did damage to the bridge under Whitecap Boulevard. We include a photo of the damage to the Gypsy Bridge in this issue but have not been able to locate one of the damage to the Whitecap Bridge.

It also washed away a large amount of sand from that area and since the land was owned by a common owner sand was taken from the area at the southwest corner of Whitecap Boulevard and SPID which was used for reconstruction, creating the low-lying area that has now become wetlands. But the damage done in that area led to a rethinking at the PIPOA about how to prepare for future storms.

That too is one of the lasting effects of Hurricane Allen forty-two years ago.



*Bucky Vannoy's Fisherman's Fish Market in Flour Bluff was destroyed.*



*Traffic jam as Hurricane Allen approached.*



*Packery Channel after Hurricane Allen in 1980.*



*State Highway 361 near Fish Pass after Hurricane Allen.*



*Corpus Christi Pass after Allen.*



As the surge tide, with an eventual peak of seventeen feet, pushed over The Island and into the bay it began exerting pressure on the barriers which were held in place only by their weight and when the force of the water got strong enough the six-foot barriers fell and the energy of the water rushed into the Laguna Madre. As the water tried to find its way back to the Gulf of Mexico it ran down the main canal and into the narrower portion of the canal where it connects to the Cruiser Canal. As it reached the bulkheads at the east end of the canal it

**Bob Hall cont. from A1**

seaward end of the pier and proceed landward. Demolition is expected to take between 100 and 130 days. Also under the demolition plan the concrete from the current pier will be cleaned and transported to the 160 acres artificial reef site nine miles off Port Aransas in about 73 feet of water to add to the approximately twenty acres of material already there, including the Japanese coastal freighter Kinta which was sunk there more than five years ago.

Precinct 4 County Commissioner Brent Chesney said the permit to rebuild the pier with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been submitted.

Nueces County Judge Barbara told the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board in April that \$27 million in funding for rebuilding the pier is in place with a search continuing for an additional \$4 million in funds to add a second story to the restaurant at the pier and for the adjacent common area also on the second story.

County officials said this week they are applying for a \$5 million grant from the Texas General Land Office which would extend the pier to a parking lot behind the dunes as well as improvements to Briscoe King Pavilion.

"I plan to ask the court for \$4 million for Briscoe King. If that happens I believe that will be far greater use of funds than a second story on the pier," Chesney said. "Further we will have to also find another approximately 1.5 million for a parking lot."

The County Commissioners on Wednesday issued a Request of Qualifications for engineering firms to do the design on the beach flyover which is being called the Briscoe King Dune Walkover.

Plans call for the new design of the pier to maintain the previous length at 1,240 feet but will widen it from the current 15.5 feet to twenty feet. Two bump outs, structures that jut out at ninety degree angles along the course of the pier, which has been included in early drafts if funding allowed are not included in the current plans, only one will be built at the end of the pier which will be shaped to allow for more water access round its edges.

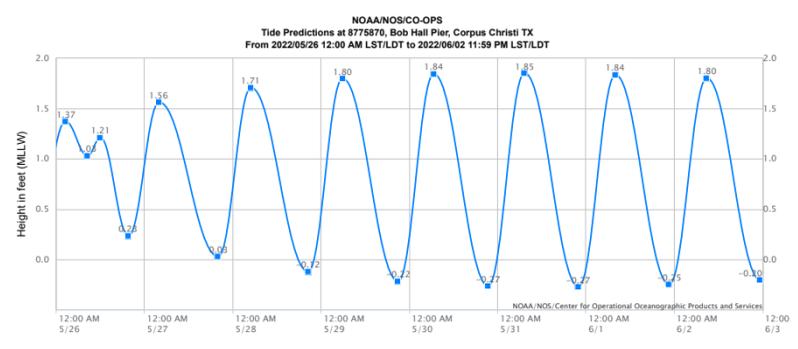
Canales said officials believe an additional \$4-\$5 million required to add a second story to the restaurant structure on the pier, construct an adjacent public space, and add shade structure could come from state and federal funding later this year, or through funding from the Island Tax Increment Refinance Zone #2. Canales said the Texas General Land Office recently designated the rebuilding of Bob Hall Pier as one of its top ten project for statewide federal funding expected to be available later this year. No timeline for reconstruction of the pier was given.

**Show us your stuff!**  
 Send photos and letters to [editor@IslandMoon.com](mailto:editor@IslandMoon.com)  
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# Tides of the Week

Tides for Bob Hall Pier May 26 - June 2

Day	High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise /Sunset	Moon	Time	% Moon Visible
Th 26	High	2:18 AM	1.4	6:35 AM	Rise	4:18 AM	20
26	Low	8:15 AM	1.0	8:17 PM	Set	5:05 PM	
26	High	11:53 AM	1.2				
26	Low	7:34 PM	0.1				
F 27	High	3:42 AM	1.6	6:35 AM	Rise	4:49 AM	12
27	Low	8:02 PM	-0.1	8:17 PM	Set	6:01 PM	
Sa 28	High	4:46 AM	1.7	6:34 AM	Rise	5:21 AM	6
28	Low	8:31 PM	-0.2	8:18 PM	Set	6:57 PM	
Su 29	High	5:38 AM	1.8	6:34 AM	Rise	5:56 AM	2
29	Low	9:00 PM	-0.3	8:18 PM	Set	7:53 PM	
M 30	High	6:23 AM	1.9	6:34 AM	Rise	6:34 AM	0
30	Low	9:29 PM	-0.4	8:19 PM	Set	8:49 PM	
Tu 31	High	7:06 AM	1.9	6:34 AM	Rise	7:17 AM	0
31	Low	10:00 PM	-0.4	8:19 PM	Set	9:44 PM	
W 1	High	7:47 AM	1.9	6:34 AM	Rise	8:04 AM	1
1	Low	10:33 PM	-0.4	8:20 PM	Set	10:36 PM	
Th 2	High	8:30 AM	1.9	6:33 AM	Rise	8:55 AM	4
2	Low	11:09 PM	-0.3	8:20 PM	Set	11:24 PM..	



## Island Aerials



The beaches stayed busy this week in spite of the high tides.



There is now a backroad to the Water Exchange Bridge from the west side.



Work crews are expected to start excavation work on new canals at the old waterpark by mid-June. Photos by by Doc McGregor II.



## Marine Masters

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## Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

There is a lot of stuff to hear on The Island this week. Here is some of it.

### Short-Term Rentals

The city's Austin lobbyist briefed the Corpus Christi City Council on Tuesday about the legislative session that begins in January and there are a couple of items that could have local effect.

The first is a push by Airbnb and Vrbo to take away the power of cities in Texas to regulate Short-Term Rentals. He said this will mark the third session they have made similar attempts and in the last two legislative sessions they have hired a small army of lobbyists to push lawmakers but have met with no success and now, he said, groups representing the interests of Texas homeowners have started to organize and push back. He indicated he didn't think the move would be successful but that it should be on the city's radar as the session begins.

Just this week word came from Port Aransas of the eviction of several longtime renters in a multi-family apartment complex there so the building can become Short-Term Rental. The lesson is that once that genie is out of the bottle there is no way to put it back in.

### Emergency Service District

City Councilman Mike Pusley questioned the city's lobbyist about the rules for absorbing Nueces County Emergency Services District #2 in Flour Bluff into the Corpus Christi Fire Department. Talks had been underway to that effect until recently when the district sent the letter here to the city putting a stop to the process. City officials say under the proposal that was under discussion most of the employees at ESD #2 would have been hired by CCFD.

Pusley said under current state law cities cannot unilaterally absorb the districts once their coverage area is entirely annexed bringing in city fire services. The districts are created as their own taxing entities prior to annexation and the rules for dissolving the tax districts once their service area is annexed are not well defined leading to double taxation for property owners for emergency services. The lobbyist said the subject will likely come up in the next session but that the districts around the state have been active in lobbying against any changes that would make it easier for cities to act. He said that in some cities the emergency districts are funded through sales taxes, but in the case of the

local district the funds are through property tax, and the double taxation is what is driving the process in Austin as he expects tax reform to be high on the list of priorities when legislators come back in January.

### Balli Park dispute

It has been several months since the donors of the land that is now Balli Park filed a cease and desist letter with Nueces County over the length of stay at the RV park and an agreement by Nueces County for the dedication of 15 acres of land there for wetland mitigation for a private developer. The letter alleges that both are in violation of the deed restrictions that run with the land as part of the deeding of the land to the county by the previous owners decades ago.

The two parties have been talking trying to work out a solution and no lawsuit has been filed and the story has stayed under the radar until this week when an internal memo was leaked by parties who did not identify themselves which indicated that while talks continue a solution is still elusive. Courthouse sources two weeks ago indicated that an announcement of a settlement would likely come by the end of May but the leaked memo indicates otherwise.

Because no lawsuit is filed there is no paperwork to look to for information. There is a record of Nueces County paying an outside law firm for an opinion on whether the agreement for dedication of the 15 acres was a violation of the deed restrictions that was given to county officials prior to the signing of the agreement but county officials, citing attorney client privilege, have yet to release it.

So as of this writing all we know is that there is no solution and no indication of when one might be reached. But based on the surreptitious leak of the memo this week it is clear that the whole affair has become a political football in an election year. I will follow the story as more details become available.

### And in television news...

And then there's this...due to my previous life working in television news several people have called this week to ask what happened to Katia Uriarte at KRIS TV. She is a friend but I have not talked to her directly but I can say she has left the station. I don't know why she left but I can tell you firsthand that television is a tough business. I wish her well wherever she ends up and yes...there is life after television.



**Nueces County Emergency Services District #2**  
337 Yorktown  
Corpus Christi, TX 78418  
361-937-2645



March 11, 2022

Fire Chief Robert Rocha  
2406 Leopard St # 300  
Corpus Christi, TX 78408

Over the past few weeks, I've had meetings with my Board of Commissioners and my command staff. We have reviewed all pertinent information. I do not wish to move forward with any plans or agreements of consolidation with the City Corpus Christi Fire Department. I do not feel that consolidation now or in the future is in the best interest of my agency, it's staff or the community that we serve.

The Corpus Christi Fire Department and ESD2 have had a strong working and professional relationship for over 50 years. We look forward to continuing that relationship for another 50 years and beyond.

Respectfully,

*Dale Scott*

Fire Chief Dale Scott  
337 Yorktown  
Corpus Christi, TX 78418



Photo by Evelyn Pless-Schubert.

## Senior Moments



By Dotson Lewis  
Special to the Island Moon

## The Lewis and Clark Story Part 2

*Dotson's Note: As was written in Part 1: In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson won approval from Congress for a visionary project that was to become one of American history's greatest adventure stories. Jefferson wanted to know if Americans could journey overland to the Pacific Ocean by following two rivers, the Missouri and the Columbia. Both rivers flowed from the Rocky Mountains, he knew; the Missouri flows east from the Rockies and the Columbia flows west to the Pacific Ocean. If the sources of the rivers were near one another, Jefferson reasoned that American Traders could use that route to compete with British fur companies pressing southward from Canada. Thanks to Irving W. Anderson for the facts contained in this report and to historian friend Ralph Triska for the photos.*

As they continued up the river from the Mandan villages, Lewis & Clark passed the confluence of the Yellowstone with the Missouri, and entered a country where Lewis observed "immense herds of Buffalo, Elk, deer & Antelopes feeding in one common and boundless pasture."



Grizzly bears charged the men hunting them. Lewis commented that he would "reather\* fight two Indians than one bear." River navigation became more difficult. During a fierce windstorm, the pirogue that carried important records and instruments began filling with water and nearly capsized. Sacagawea, who was aboard, saved many items as they floated within her reach. Near the end of May, the Rocky Mountains came into view.

The river's current grew stronger. The explorers had to abandon the paddles and tow the heavy canoes with rawhide ropes while walking along the shoreline. When river banks gave way to cliffs the men had to wade in the water, pushing and pulling the boats upstream.

In early June, the explorers reached a point where the Missouri seemed to divide equally into northerly and southerly branches. Here they spent nine days in concluding that the south branch was the true Missouri. Lewis named the north fork the Marias River, and scouted ahead with a small advance party following the south fork until he heard waterfalls. The Indians at Fort Mandan had told them about the falls of the Missouri, so Lewis knew he was on the right stream.



Great Falls in Montana.

Here, in the vicinity of present-day Great Falls, Montana, the Expedition had to portage 18 miles around a series of five cascades of the Missouri. The men attached cottonwood wheels to the canoes to push them overland. The weather was hot, with intermittent squalls pelting the party with large, bruising hailstones.

On July 25, 1805, the Expedition arrived at a place where the Missouri divided into three forks. The southeast branch they named the Gallatin, for the Secretary of the Treasury. The southerly one was named the Madison, for the Secretary of State. The westerly branch became the Jefferson River, "in honor of that illustrious personage Thomas Jefferson President of the United States."

Because it flowed from the west the captains decided to follow the Jefferson. Learning from Sacagawea that they were now within traditional food-gathering lands of her people, Lewis went ahead to look for the Shoshones. In mid-August, he reached a spring in the mountains, which he called "the most distant fountain" of the Missouri. Just beyond was a saddle in a high ridge (today's Lemhi Pass), from which Lewis saw towering, snow-covered mountains to the west. A brook at his feet ran westward and he knew he had crossed the Continental Divide.

Immediately west of the Continental Divide, Lewis came upon two Shoshone women and a girl who were digging edible roots. Lewis gave them presents and soon they were joined by a large number of Shoshone men on horseback. Returning from this scouting trip accompanied by a number of Shoshones, Lewis rejoined Clark and the main party. The explorers formed a camp with the Indians a few miles south of present-day Dillon, Montana, which they named "Camp Fortunate." Here, Sacagawea found a childhood girlfriend. The girl had been with Sacagawea when both were captured, but had

escaped and returned to her people. Sacagawea learned that her own brother, Cameahwait, was now chief of the tribe. It was an emotional scene when brother and sister were reunited.

Thinking ahead to their return journey, Captain Lewis ordered the canoes submerged to "guard against both the effects of high water and that of fire, the Indians promised to do them no intentional injury." The party then proceeded across the Continental Divide to the main village of the Shoshones. With Sacagawea providing vital service as interpreter, a Shoshone guide was hired and trading with the Indians for riding and pack horses was successful. After a short stay, the now horse-mounted corps followed their guide, Old Toby, into the "formidable mountains."



Bitterroot Mountain.

September found the half-starved explorers surviving on horse meat while following an ancient Indian route, the Lolo Trail, across the Bitterroot Mountains in modern Montana and Idaho. Here, they encountered fallen timber, bone chilling cold, and slippery, hazardous travel during an early season snowstorm. Descending the west slope of the mountains, they reached a village of the Nez Perce.

Here, the natives provided a feast of salmon, roots, and berries. The ravenous explorers found, to their dismay, that this unaccustomed diet made them extremely ill.



Clearwater River rapids.

The group reached today's Clearwater River where they branded and left their horses in the care of the Nez Perce until their return. They built new canoes and proceeded through

boulder-strewn rapids, making speedy but risky progress. In early October they reached the Snake River, and then on October 16, 1805 the Columbia. Down that mighty river they floated reaching the now inundated "Great Falls of the Columbia," (Celilo Falls) near the modern Oregon town of The Dalles. Here, and also when confronted by the raging rapids within the Cascade Mountains that Clark called the "Great Shute," they again were forced into very difficult portages.

\*The spelling and grammar is exactly what Lewis or Clark wrote at the time, they are not typographical errors.

### TO BE CONTINUED

*Dotson's Other Note: Some of you Moons Monkeys may think I am hung up on Lewis & Clark, well I am, because Golvia Eresal Clark (my mother) and Dotson Garton Lewis (my father) were married in 1921 in Ralls, Texas. Get it? LEWIS & CLARK!!! Do you know the difference between a "Fairy Tale" and a "Texas Tale"? You ain't going to believe this one either! If you are not interested, I will still buy you an adult beverage the next time I see you at a watering hole. Your comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or 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 Pastor Kris Bair

As I begin writing this column for this week, the television is filled

with the terrible and tragic news of the school shootings in Uvalde.

Like you, my first response is "There are no words."

But I find that I am a person of words and a minister of the Word, and I am compelled to write.

I spent last weekend at a wonderful family reunion back in Kansas. We gathered at my youngest sister and her partner's house—family came in from Colorado, Iowa, even from Germany for the college graduation of our granddaughter Jess.

Family we hadn't seen or even talked to for decades, because of a rift most of us didn't know had even happened, made it a point not just to come for an afternoon, but spend the night, bringing an air mattress and joining the young folks camped out on the floor.

There was time to catch up on all our trials and tribulations.

There was food everywhere—each of the three matriarch sisters (of whom I am the eldest) brought baked goods and yummy stuff to much on.

There was much laughter and lots of hugs.

There was the inevitable sharing of pictures—especially of the children who couldn't come because they were finishing up the semester in school.

And there was a deep and abiding, though unspoken, gratitude that we weren't missing anyone by reason of pandemic or violence or unexpected death.

The siblings, now grandparents, were all there, and the overwhelming sentiment was that our Mom would've been so proud and happy that conflicts seemed to be resolved and we were together again.

And now, less than a week after our return home to Corpus Christi, this news: nineteen children dead and multiple adults, too.

Innocent children.

Teachers who loved them.

## Unhappy Reunions

Friends their own ages who will have horrible nightmares.

Families grieving.

A community mourning.

A nation in shock.

Again.

It's one thing to read about it happening in Ukraine—on the other side of the world.

This has happened at home. Our home.

These are families who will have reunions in tears—there is no such thing as "closure" when it comes to this kind of death.

My husband's brother died in a tragic accident when he was in his 40s. His mother grieved for him the rest of her long life.

These families will grieve no less.

This community will be marked with grief and remembered for it. Just like Sandy Hook. Just like Parkland. Just like El Paso.

I am crying as I write these words. Some of you are crying as you read them.

Oddly enough, that gives me comfort. The families now overwhelmed with grief will not walk alone. We will grieve with them. We will listen. We will support. Not just in the immediate moment, but in the period of recovery—which will be as long as we and they live!

And like them, we will remember this is not a one-time deal. It's historical fact that it has happened repeatedly. It's historical fact that tragedies like this, though maybe not on this scale, happen here in the Coastal Bend all the time. It's historical fact that we have not made changes to prevent it and to protect our children.

What kind of history will we be making out of this?

This time, may our tears not be for naught.

As a community of faith, we will be supporting and consoling one another this Sunday at Beach Worship, 8 am, at the end of Whitecap, and in our 10 am service at Island Presbyterian Church, Fortuna Bay and Gypsy.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

## Boy Scouts Place Flags for Memorial Day



The Boy Scouts of Troop 949 have an annual fundraiser where they put flags in the yards of subscribers for federal holidays. They placed a flag for Armed Forces Day and will do it again for Memorial Day.



# Did Ya Hear?

By Mary Craft  
mkay512@aol.com

## New Advertisers

**Coastal Teak Company** has many unique items including teak furniture, vintage nautical lighting and marine sculptures. The store is jam packed so allow yourself time to check out all of their displays that go from very affordable to one of a kind. They post regularly on their Facebook page so you can check out new arrivals

They are open Monday - Saturday 10 am - 6 pm and Sunday 10 am - 5 pm and are located near Scuttlebutts.



Coastal Teak

## Business Briefs

According to a recent quote from Chick-fil-A "we have no new locations to confirm at this time." To me that means they are not making an official announcement yet. All I know is that construction bid deadline for the Flour Bluff location was in March. You need to have a blueprint and details in place so companies know what amount to bid. I am not a contractor but it seems to me if you go that far with designer, architect and engineer you are building soon. There are currently no other locations in Corpus that I could find that are in the first design stage or in the second bid stage so I suspect when we do get a new one it will be in the Bluff. Nothing concrete here, just my thoughts but hmmm maybe there will be something concrete soon.

**Islander David Carr**, owner of nine McGuire Hearing Centers in New York, bought the three story Padre Island Executive Suites building on SPID. David's family started their hearing aid clinics in 1970. He plans on opening Padre Island Hearing Center soon which will occupy the entire first floor.

There are six waterfront restaurants in Port A to enjoy but I suggest doing so on a weekday. The Phoenix is located on the marina in Island Moorings and the Beach Lodge is on the beach and has been there for decades. Virginia's on the Bay, Grumbles Seafood (the newest), Fins Grill and Trout Street are all on the marina.



Port A Beach Lodge.

**Islander Stacy Samuelson** has opened Island Wellness & Nutrition in Pelican Plaza. The store carries healthy snacks, skincare products and natural supplements. The hours are Monday-Friday 9 am - 5 pm and Saturday 9 am - 1 pm.



Island Wellness & Nutrition

**Larry Joe Taylor** with his full band will be at the Third Coast Theater in Port A on Saturday, June 11th 8 pm.

The Caravel boat ramp will be closed for about three weeks starting May 31st.

The Salty Dolphin Bar is having a fundraiser on Saturday, May 28th for the Rainbow Room. Owner David Amar will be providing the food and all donations given for the BBQ plates will go to the charity. The barbecue pit will be fired up starting at 10 am and continue until close. There will be music throughout the day. Rainbow Rooms are centers for neglected or abused children and are run by volunteers. They are often located within the Child Protective Services offices. Donate freely to help these angel volunteers help put a smile on the faces of these poor kids. The bar is located on Windward across the street from the Island Resort.

There are some new young homeowners that are not aware of the homestead exemption that can potentially save them thousands of dollars a year. For example, you would pay about \$2,000 less on a 500K appraised home.

If you lived in your home on January 1st of the tax year you can apply for an exemption by calling the Nueces County Appraisal District at 881-9978. If you haven't used the exemption in past years you may be able to get a refund for two years.

**Coastal Charm Event** is having an open house on Sunday, May 29th noon - 4 pm with refreshments. Attendees will be entered to win a free venue rental. They provide wedding and event planning, custom backdrops, floral design and balloon arches. The venue can comfortably seat 75 people. They are located near Mail & More.



Coastal Charm

**Sunset Sounds** in Port A are free monthly concerts at Roberts Point Park. The next one on Friday, May 27th at 7 pm will feature the Wayward Gypsies Band that blends folk and bluegrass music.

**Snoopy's Pier** has added two new non-fried meals to their menu. Crab stuffed shrimp wrapped in pan seared bacon and blackened drum filled with crab. Both plates are served with a side of rice and veggies. They have karaoke to enjoy with your meal every day (really I double checked) 6 - 10 pm with David Suarez starting this week..



Snoopy's crab stuffed shrimp wrapped in pan seared bacon.

**Texas Sealife Center** offers 30 - 45 minute tours of their facility from volunteers for \$9. They are closed on Monday and Tuesday and open Wednesday - Saturday 10 am - 4 pm and on Sunday noon - 4 pm. Call 589-4023 to check for availability.

**Padre Pizzeria** will be hosting Summer Sips along with 4Her to bring awareness and education in the fight to end human trafficking on Tuesday, May 31st 6 - 9 pm. There will be a \$10 raffle for a terrific goodie bag. The purchase of wine bottles will go 100% to the cause and also 10% of the total sales for the event.



Commercial lot for sale on the Island.

The 1.87 acre lot between the Best Western and the future home of the Real Life Church on SPID recently became for sale for \$990,000. The May Padre Island Poker Run benefits the Riley P Dog Park and the theme is Plants for the park. Now that the city has given the park access to free water they can begin planting trees and shrubs. Drought resistant easy to grow plants like esperanza, plumbago as well as Palo Verde trees would be best suited. There will be some plants at the event to purchase and donate to the park but gift cards to plant nurseries are also welcome. The event is next Thursday May 26th.

The 25th Annual Rockport Wine Festival will be held on Saturday, May 28th 2 - 11 pm on the grounds of the Texas Maritime Museum. There will be wine tasting, live music, local cuisine and specialty vendors.

**Celsita's Restaurant** serves Sunday Brunch and it is the only day they serve breakfast tacos that are exceptional. If there are any of her homemade desserts there when you go treat yourself to one. They are tough to find anywhere else. Also, she has plans to do barbecue outdoors on Saturday afternoons. More details soon. The restaurant is next to the Island Market IGA and the rotisserie chickens at the store are made Celsita's.



Celsita's double layered banana & pineapple cake with pecan and coconut.

The Island Blast Fireworks Display on Sunday, July 3rd still needs donations. You can help make it happen by writing a check to Island Blast and dropping off at the Padre Isles Owners Association on 14015 Fortuna Bay or by donating online at <https://givebutter.com/islandblast>. Donors of \$500 or more will be recognized but you can let the Island Foundation that is running the campaign that you would rather not be recognized.

## Going Native by Dr. Ed Proffitt



### Darwin's Tangled Bank, Endless forms Most Beautiful & Wonderful

By Dr. Ed Proffitt

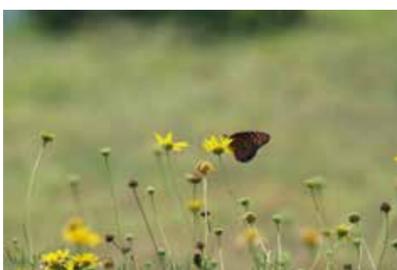
Spring, the best season on the Island in my opinion, will soon give way to a probably hot and dry summer. One may wonder how our natural flora and fauna can so readily persist when the course of summer temperatures above 95o F many days in a row with only occasional

among individuals established variability upon which various forces of natural selection could act. For a nice youtube video (isn't there one for EVERYTHING!) showing the house and grounds, all set to music, view: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OjBoNQpezU>.



PINS dunes tangled bank.

bouts of rainfall to bring relief in the form of water and moist soil. In large measure the answer can be found in the writings of Charles Darwin who published his famous "On the Origin of Species" in 1859. Here's a quote from the last paragraph of this book where Darwin offered a more poetic look at the reams of data he'd delivered in the rest of the book. I tried cutting the quote down, but it lost something important no matter what I did, so here's the whole thing (with my bolding and italics added).



Butterfly on Daisy



Beach birds tangled bank.

"It is interesting to contemplate a tangled bank, clothed with many plants of many kinds, with birds singing on the bushes, with various insects flitting about, and with worms crawling through the damp earth, and to reflect that these elaborately constructed forms, so different from each other, and dependent upon each other in so complex a manner, have all been produced by laws acting around us. These laws, taken in the largest sense, being *Growth with reproduction; Inheritance which is almost implied by reproduction; Variability from the indirect and direct action of the conditions of life, and from use and disuse; a Ratio of Increase so high as to lead to a Struggle for Life, and as a consequence to Natural Selection, entailing Divergence of Character and the Extinction of less improved forms.* Thus, from the war of nature, from famine and death, the most exalted object which we are capable of conceiving, namely, the production of the higher animals, directly follows. There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone circling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being evolved."

There is evidence that Darwin's Tangled Bank was a hill near Down House, in Kent where he lived and worked on his treatise for 20 years after returning from his famous voyage on the HMS Beagle. Although we think of his views of small but important differences among species of finches and giant tortoises on the Galapagos Islands, and other animals elsewhere, he also collected hundreds of plants and once back home used observations and some experiments in his home garden (his wife's actually, some say! One wonders if Emma approved) to support and hone his ideas that small differences



DJ exploring PINS tangled bank.

Our own Tangled Banks are all around us in the natural, undeveloped, parts of the Island. Some examples are the vast fields of wildflowers behind the foredune at the National Seashore, birds foraging on our beaches, yours truly with Mistral the Wonder Dog by a rare red mangrove at Packery Channel (taken before I lost weight, ha), two Cara Cara's mating in a yaupon tree by our house, and a duck family photographed last



Darwin's house and garden.

weekend before a coyote (we think) got them. These species, and may others, are adapted to the environmental conditions, and to their sets of competitors and predators, on our Island. Some, like the red mangrove, exist at the edge of their range and can handle our typical winters, but not the rare, intense freeze like we had in 2021 which killed most red mangroves, and many more cold tolerant black mangroves.

Let's protect these species of our Tangled Bank ecosystems by promoting conservation and the planting of supplemental native habitat in our yards to serve as refuges in our more urbanized areas. And, as always, keep thinking and going native!



A day's worth of rain. Photo by Evelyn Pless-Schuberth.

## Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



### The Tragic Real-Life Story of Joe DiMaggio - Part 2

By Dotson Lewis

*Dotson's Note: While he never saw combat or got deployed overseas, DiMaggio served as a physical instructor in the Army's Special Services and played in Army baseball games. According to the New York Post, Army documents indicated that DiMaggio had a "defective attitude" toward military service, which isn't hard to believe when you take into account how his father was mistreated. According to reports, DiMaggio felt he was being exploited by the Army because they were using his status as a professional baseball player for public relations. Thanks to Michael Ochs, Richard Cramer, Ryan Ferguson, Life Magazine, the Tampa Bay Times and the Chicago Tribune, for the facts contained in this report and to thanks to Bill Morgan for the photos.*

#### Internal Problems

Joltin' Joe was also going through the pains of divorce from his wife, who had custody of his son. Doctors said DiMaggio was more concerned with personal problems than his "obligations to adjust to the demands of the service." Major Emile G. Stoloff believed DiMaggio was trying to get released early by faking stomach ulcers. DiMaggio certainly sacrificed and endured, and then he ended up showing the world what they'd been missing. After DiMaggio returned to the Yankees in 1946, he won the American League MVP the next year and led the Yankees to a World Series title.



DiMaggio and Mantle.

#### Retires From Baseball

After playing with the New York Yankees for 13 seasons and winning them nine World Series titles, DiMaggio retired from baseball. DiMaggio had been suffering from increasing pains in his heel and couldn't play his best, "I feel like I have reached the stage where I can no longer produce for my club, my manager, and my teammates," he said. "I had a poor year, but even if I had hit .350, this would have been my last year. I was full of aches and pains and it had become a chore for me to play. When baseball is no longer fun, it is no longer a game."

The Yankee Clipper left people wanting more, as opposed to fading while trying to stay on top. In 1955, DiMaggio was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. As for the Yankees, Mickey Mantle would be the next in line to lead them to more World Series. In retirement, DiMaggio tried broadcasting baseball games and lived the



Monroe and DiMaggio.

life of an eligible bachelor. DiMaggio dated lots of different women, but no woman caught his heart like Marilyn Monroe.

#### Marriage To Marilyn Monroe

Joe DiMaggio fell in love with the famous actress and sex symbol Marilyn Monroe and spent 18 months courting her. Monroe was initially reluctant to date DiMaggio, fearing he was the typical arrogant athlete. However, DiMaggio showed her another side that she couldn't resist. On January 14, 1954, DiMaggio and Monroe married. The two were seen as the perfect couple, yet behind closed doors, it couldn't have been further from true. Once they were married, their relationship began

to experience a series of problems. According to the Chicago Tribune, Richard Ben Cramer described DiMaggio as an "unbearable husband," and their relationship began to suffer due to his jealousy.

DiMaggio wanted Monroe to become more of a housewife at the same time her career was taking off. He was also very outraged when seeing Monroe's skirt-blowing scene in *The Seven Year Itch*. Their marriage became a roller coaster. It ended nine months later when Monroe made her announcement of their divorce, claiming it was due to mental cruelty, writes Life.

#### ATTEMPT TO REKINDLE HIS MARRIAGE AND THE DEATH OF MARILYN MONROE

After their divorce, Marilyn Monroe tried to move on, marrying playwright Arthur Miller. Joe DiMaggio was crushed, and his feelings for her couldn't change. In 1961, after Monroe and Miller divorced, DiMaggio came back into her life and tried to bring stability while it was spiraling out of control. He did all he could to keep her away from trouble, to no avail. According to Life, if DiMaggio had more time, he could have been the person to pull her out of depression, drugs, and affairs with married men. DiMaggio had wanted to remarry Monroe, and it's possible he could have saved her life. While DiMaggio was a self-admitted control freak, it appears some of that control could have been used for good.

On August 4, 1962, Monroe passed away. After her death, DiMaggio was devastated and never married again. According to Biography, DiMaggio had roses delivered to her crypt three times a week for 20 years. DiMaggio did his best to keep Monroe away from troubled men, yet he was also involved with a dangerous group of people known for their underground criminal enterprises.

#### Ties With the Mafia



Frank Costello.

It appears everyone wanted a piece of Joe DiMaggio, especially the Mafia. According to the Tampa Bay Times, Richard Cramer wrote in his book that DiMaggio was able to walk away from his \$100,000-a-year salary with the Yankees in 1951 because of his involvement with the Mafia. Mobster Frank Costello had set up a "trust fund" at the Bowery Bank for him. Whenever DiMaggio visited nightclubs like the Copacabana, Stork Club, or El Morocco, \$200 was deposited into the account. Costello loved Joltin' Joe and felt he was helping his retirement out by giving him money.

It has been reported that DiMaggio was also involved with members of the New Jersey mob, such as the famous Abner "Longy" Zwillman and Richie "The Boot" Boiardo. "Longy had three boxes of cash, which he left at Joe's house for 'safekeeping,'" Cramer said. "But when Longy was found hanging from his chandelier in West Orange, Joe kept the cash." DiMaggio's involvement with the mob allegedly goes deeper and reaches into other known Mafia groups such as the Gambinos and the Chicago Mafia.

#### TO BE CONTINUED

*Dotson's Other Note: Since many of you Moon Monkeys have asked, I will finish the Joe DiMaggio saga with what I witnessed of the Marilyn/Joltin' Joe honeymoon in Japan and Korea in February 1954. Stay tuned. You are invited to join us on Tuesdays at the Veterans Round Table at the Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development 9-11 AM. All are welcome and the coffee and donuts are free! You might even learn something. Questions/comments and or Letters to the Editor are welcome. My Email: dlewis1@stx.rr.com and Phone: 530-748-8475.*

-30- Have fun and hang in there



Marilyn in Japan



By Andy Purvis

### Don't Feel Sorry For Us

Buck O'Neil was a fascinating guy who spent his lifetime in baseball. His smooth delivery of stories and incredibly sharp mind lured you into another world where baseball was life. He could deliver decades of baseball knowledge at the drop of a cap. Baseball was his religion. His voice reminded you of your grandfather, telling tales on the back porch, on a breezy night in October. It was as if he could tell you almost anything and you would nod with approval.

One of my favorite interviews with "Buck" O'Neil occurred with film producer Ken Burns. Burns asked Buck if the game of baseball would always survive. (Please remember when reading his answer that Buck O'Neil was 88 years old at the time of this interview). Buck responded "Yes, somebody or something will always happen to keep the interest of the game alive." Then he told this story: "I heard Ruth hit the ball. I'd never heard that sound before, and I was outside the fence but it was the sound of the bat that I never heard before in my life. And the next time I heard that sound, I'm in Washington DC, in the dressing room, and I heard that sound of a bat hitting the ball—sounded like when Ruth hit the ball. I rushed out, got on nothing but a jockstrap—rushed out—we were playing the Homestead Grays and it was Josh Gibson hitting that ball. And so I heard this sound again. Now I didn't hear it anymore. I'm in Kansas City. I'm working for the Chicago Cubs at the time, and I was upstairs and I was coming down for batting practice. And before I could get out there I heard this sound one more time that I've heard only twice in my life. Now, you know who this is? Bo Jackson. Bo Jackson was swinging that bat. And now I heard this sound...and it was just a thrill for me. I said, here it is again. I only heard it three times in my life. But now, I'm living because I'm going to hear it again one day, if I live long enough."

Another of my favorite interviews with Buck occurred on a televised Major League game hosted by ESPN's Jon Miller and Joe Morgan. Miller asked Buck. "Was Josh Gibson really as great as they say?" Buck smiled and said, "Oh, he was better than that." Wow! I may never forget that answer. How clever of this old man to leave the listener with the thought that however great you thought Josh Gibson might be as a player, he was really even better than that.

The last time I saw Buck O'Neil in person was in July at the Fan Fest of the 2004 MLB All-Star Game. I was standing with a friend of mine,

Mike Patranella, at the Negro League Baseball Hall of Fame exhibit. I was telling Mike and a few others about some of the players that were pictured there in the display. I had just finished talking about Buck O'Neil when in he walks, as big as life. I said hello. Shook his hand and asked him how he was doing. His smile was still contagious, there was still a twinkle in his eyes and his warmth filled the room as he answered, "Wonderful." It was then that I turned to the folks standing there and said, "Ladies and Gentleman, Mr. Buck O'Neil." I left him there surrounded by well-wishers and admirers. That would be last time I saw him.

Buck O'Neil, a fine Negro League player, coach, manager and MLB scout, was denied induction into Baseball's Hall of Fame by one vote. Most fans thought it an injustice but it didn't seem to bother him. He just loved being a part of the game. Finally, Buck was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame by the Early Baseball Era Committee, as an executive in 2022.



Buck O'Neil speaking.

On Friday night, October 6, 2006, my friend Buck O'Neil passed away peacefully in his sleep. He had entered the hospital on September 17, in his hometown of Kansas City, at the age of 94. He will be missed. I remember a quote from Buck that he read at his friend Satchel Paige's funeral. Buck said, "Don't feel sorry for us. I feel sorry for your fathers and your mothers, because they didn't get to see us play." As usual, he was right. Maybe now he can hear that sound again in Heaven.

*Andy Purvis is a local author and radio personality. Please visit [www.purvisbooks.com](http://www.purvisbooks.com) for all the latest info on his books or to listen to the new radio podcast. Andy's books are available online and can be found in the local Barnes & Noble bookstore. Andy can be contacted at [purvis.andy@mygrande.net](mailto:purvis.andy@mygrande.net). Also listen to sports talk radio on Dennis & Andy's Q & A Session from 6-8 PM on Sportsradiocc.com 1230 AM, 95.1 and 96.1 FM. The home of the Houston Astros.*



Photo by Nathan Floyd.

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Bob Hall Pier Monday morning. Photo by Lu Ann Kingbury.



Mike Teitle and granddaughter Kylar Lopez took the Moon to Joliet Illinois.

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# Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
ronniennarmour@gmail.com

## On the local front...

More big money from Dallas has bought the *Tower Center* (South Jetty Newspaper, Miss K's Catering, Island Wine, etc) and the *Shops at Port A* (Coffee Waves, Business Center, 361 Bar, Cancun Mexican Restaurant, Casa Bella's Hair Salon, etc) strip centers and has raised the already exorbitant rents and threatened evictions. I got this information from one of the tenants. And, there are two houses currently being built on my short block with three more coming soon. And these disrespectful builders who race down this narrow street and constantly block the streets have already knocked down my mail box and ran through my neighbor's lawn in one of their over grown pickups. And in case you've been hiding under a rock in *Lubbock*, be aware, this is going on all over town. Talk about a land grab. Many of my friends have already sold out and left town as short term rentals are rapidly become the norm. Our landlord raised our rent \$900 this year. This sleepy little fishing village is fast becoming a fleeting memory. Rant over. I'm only editorializing what most locals are already thinking...now get off my lawn. How about some music news?

## Scattered shots...



Chica and the Man aka Vic Vaga and Stephanie Pedraza played the Gaff on Saturday.



Jay Springer host the open mic every Wednesday at Island Wine.

Last weekend was full of music. I made it out and about chasing music around our island. My **Mermaid Gal** was out of town hooking up with her family at a camp in Kerrville so I rode solo. I caught the mighty, mighty **Ruben V** at *Shorty's* on Friday. The place was packed and so was the dance floor. V had 'em in the palm of his hand. I tipped him

some of our home grown tomatoes and squash which he spent five minutes violating on stage. No judgment! I had another great night on Saturday. I made it across 361 to get to *Island Wine* where an old friend, **Miguel Cantu**, was playing with a fellow, make that **Da Guy** aka **David Gonzales** from San Antonio. I've been watching Miguel walk all over that fancy bass of his since the early days at the *Tarpon Ice House* with **Mr. Mo and Famous Unknowns**. To put it bluntly, he's a bonafied monster on bass. And Mr. Gonzales was quite the entertainer. It was fun. **Jay Springer** was also on hand to entertain



The Dunebillies played the VFW on Friday and the Gaff on Sunday.



The gifted Miguel Cantu on bass and David Gonzales aka Da Man from San Antonio played Island Wine on Saturday.

us with his most excellent singer-songwriter repertoire. He hosts the open mic at *Island Wine* every Wednesday. From there I sauntered over to the *Gaff* to catch another old friend from back when I ran bars in S.A., **Vic Vaga** and his new bride **Stephanie Pedraza** aka: **Chica and the Man**. I used to see Vic all around town doing his **Rod Stewart** show ...he's a dead ringer. These cats were strong musically and their on stage banter was hilarious. I met them later at *Shorty's* to see **John Elijah and Padrinos** and also ran into a couple of friends, **Roy Hollingshead** and **Tommy Procter** who often



John Elijah and Padrinos tore it up at Shorty's on Saturday night.

play with **Joe King Carasco**. We sat off to the side in the "Penalty Box" and had us a time oh son. Johnny was on fire and at one point during a guitar solo I thought he was having a seizure. Sometime the guitar plays you.

## DO NOT MISS LIST Coming this weekend...

We finally made it to *Memorial Day Weekend*, better known as the gateway to summer, although you may have thought we were already there with this scorching heat. There's a lot going on so get ready. For one thing, it's the *Kerrville Folk Festival's 50th Anniversary* for three weekends with such stellar acts as **Terri Hendrix, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Jackie Venson, Eliza Gilkyson, Shinyribs, Bill Hearne, Shake Russell, Shawn Colvin, Susan Gibson, Darden Smith, Kimmie Rhodes, Michael Martin Murphy, WC Clark, Dana Cooper, Rob Roy Parnell, Micky & the**



The Wayward Gypsies will play Sunset Sounds on Friday.



Lucy Morrison plays Treasure Island on Sunday.

**Motorcars, Edie Brickell & New Bohemians**, to name a few. It goes on til June 12. And on our local front we have lots of good stuff all over the place. On Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> **Savannah Rae** is at the *VFW*, **Red Tide** is at *Treasure Island*, **Michael Amos** is at *Island Wine*, **Jered Clark** is at *Virginia's* every Thursday through Sunday and county boy **Kevin Kurtz** is at the *Gaff*. On Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> the hottest bar band on the planet, **The Toman Brothers** will smoke the stage at *Shorty's*, the **Dunebillies** play the *VFW*, the **Back Pew Revival** brings their Americana to *Treasure Island*, the great married duo of the **Wayward Gypsies** will play another installment of the *City of Port Aransas'* summer concert series in *Roberts Point Park* and **Kevin Kurtz** will play *Bron's* on his two night tour of Port A. On Saturday we have world famous **BELT SANDER RACES** at the *Gaff* starting at 4:00, **Coach Jim Dugan** will play following the race. Also on Friday, the "smoother than a mango margarita" county from San Antonio, **Todd Dorn and the Sea Drifters** will play *Shorty's*, Americana band **Jason Suthern** will play *Treasure Island*, **White Rabbit** will play *Bron's* and the groovy **Free Beer Band Lite** is at *Island Wine*. BTW me and **Paul Fain** named the



The Chanklas will play Bron's on Sunday.

FBB many years ago at the *Tarpon Ice House* when they departed from the **Four Minute Ride** and we didn't know what to call them on the

chalk board so we wrote "**FREE BEER**" on there real big and "Band" on there real small. Get it? On Sunday we have the **OTB Band** at *Treasure Island* subbing for **Diamond's Edge** since one of their members is having bypass surgery. Also on Sunday the **Chanklas** will bring their island beat to *Bron's*, the **Dunebillies** play the *Gaff*, **Lucy Morrison** will play *Island Wine* and finally, **Shorty's** will host their weekly "Sunday Funday" party with **Jim Dugan** and **Ty Dietz** plus free food. And on Monday *Memorial Day* proper the **Groove** will play *Bron's*. Did you get all that? Have fun and be safe!

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪

# LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

## Thursday, May 26

Kerrville Folk Fest  
May 26-June 12  
Selfie @ Shorty's  
Savannah Rae @ VFW  
Red Tide @ Treasure Island  
Michael Amos @ Island Wine  
Kevin Kurtz @ Gaff  
Jered Clark @ Virginia's  
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian  
Jerry Ward @ Doc's  
Ty Dietz @ Packery Bar  
Cover This @ Brewster Southside  
Nick Shoulders, Daiquiri Queens @ House of Rock  
Yosh & Yimmy, Justin & Niki @ Executive Surf Club  
Sonny Salinas @ Rockit's  
Eli Brown @ Blackbeard's on the Beach  
Dunebillies @ Reds  
Palmilla Beach  
Billy Snipes @ Marker 12 Rockport  
David Salinas @ Paradise Key  
Rockport  
Wayward Gypsies @ Sunset Hideaway



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MAY 28  
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Thursday: Bingo 6:30  
Michael Amos 7-10

Friday:  
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Saturday:  
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Sunday:  
Lucy Morrison

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BACK PEW REVIVAL MAY 27  
JASON SUTHERN MAY 28  
OTB BAND MAY 29  
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TBA MAY 28  
JIM DUGAN, TY DIETZ MAY 29  
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TBA @ Shorty's  
Jason Suthern @ Treasure Island  
White Rabbit @ Bron's  
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Jered Clark @ Virginia's  
Art Barrera @ Roosevelt's  
John Elijah & Padrinos @ Cinnamon Shore  
Johnny Kiser @ Packery Bar  
Gann Band @ Doc's  
Jon Car Band @ Pelican Lounge  
Tres Matts & Lady Kat @ Waterline  
Benny Perez @ Salty Dolphin  
Matt Hole @ Vernon's  
Scarecrow People @ Palmilla Beach Resort  
Josh Ward @ Brewster Downtown  
Cruise Control @ House of Rock  
Passing Strangers, Cover This @ Rockit's  
OTB @ BUS  
Eli Brown @ Salty Oak  
Eclipse @ Executive Surf Club  
Miles & Dylan @ Blackbeard's on the Beach  
Sierra Dawn @ Tannin's Wine Bar  
Caleb Navarro @ Sunset Hideaway  
The Groove @ Sugar Shack Rockport  
Jam Band @ Mesquite Inn  
Ruben Limas @ Mo Meaux's  
Isaac Jacob Band @ Talbert's Tavern  
Melissa Crowley @ Drifters Hall, Lavaca TX  
Robin Blue @ Hook & Ladder Aransas Pass

## Sunday, May 29

OTB @ Treasure Island  
Chanklas @ Bron's  
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's  
Lucy Morrison @ Island Wine  
Dunebillies @ Gaff  
Jered Clark @ Virginia's  
Art Barrera @ Packery Bar & Grill  
Triptonite @ Pelican Lounge  
Jerry Ward @ Waterline  
Gann Band, Sierra Dawn @ Doc's  
Alonzo Cruz @ Salty Dolphin  
Back in Black: AC/DC  
Tribute @ Brewster Downtown  
Dam Right Duo @ House of Rock  
Eli Brown @ Joe's Crab Shack  
Adrian Taylor @ Blackbeard's on the Beach  
Kevin Kurtz @ Sunset Hideaway  
**Memorial Day, May 30**  
Groove @ Bron's  
Stevie Start @ Doc's  
Kevin Kurtz @ Packery Bar  
Stevie Start @ Doc's  
**Tuesday, May 31**  
Kevin Kurtz @ Bron's

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