



Parrot Head Party A2



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Reddish Egret A11



Going Native A14

Issue 948

The

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Island

Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

June 16, 2022

www.islandmoon.com

Weekly

FREE

By Dale Rankin

You may have noticed that the last couple of issues of the Moon have included a lot of stories and photos about construction and the reason for that is pretty simple, it's what is new in the news. From Bob Hall Pier to Commodores Park our Island is under construction.

Community Center Proposed for Commodores Park

\$1 million in 2022 draft bond package for design work

By Dale Rankin

A first draft of a \$125 million bond package to go before voters in November, 2022 includes \$1 million for design of a Community Center at Commodores Park as well as other new, unspecified improvements at the park.

The draft released to the Island Strategic Action Committee Tuesday shows the \$1 million line item with the description: SCOPE: Park Site Plan and Park Design for an all-ages Community Center and recreational amenities to be placed within the park.

It shows a Unit Price (design) of \$800,000 and Engineering costs of \$200,000.

The \$125 million package would be the second largest in the city's history and is scheduled to go before the city council on June 19 with a vote on the final package currently scheduled for July 26.

The only other Island-specific item in the package is \$4.4 million for a new Beach Access Road on Mustang Island which would be located near the Porto Villageo development which is between Beach Access Road #1 at Palmilla Beach Resort & Golf Club and Fire Station #16, a distance of about six miles which straddles the city limits of Corpus Christi and Port Aransas and is a little used stretch of beach due to the difficulty of access.

A preliminary appraisal of property across Nueces County released by the Nueces County Appraisal District in May shows the total appraised value of countywide property at \$40,830,864,657 and the value of taxable property on Padre and Mustang Island – within the Corpus Christi City Limits – to be \$3.8 billion putting the burden of about \$11 million of the total \$125 million in the proposed bond package on Island property tax payers.

Details of the first draft of the 2022 bond package are as follows:

2022 Bond Package

- \$125 million** total package
- \$92.5 million (74%)** 16 street projects
- \$20 million (16%)** 10 park projects
- \$10 million (8%)** Public Safety
- \$2.5 million (2%)** Library
- Citywide projects
- \$92.5 million** over all streets
- \$31,400,000** Draft street Projects
- \$4.7 million** Sport Complex at Greenwood park (Phase I) Baseball fields, Youth Baseball Fields, Four Youth Softball Fields
- \$5 million** Fire Safety projects

Bonds cont. on A4

Building in Port Aransas continues to Boom

By Keith McMullin

Despite supply chain challenges, high material costs and historic sales prices, new home construction in Port Aransas is booming. The city building department issued 274 residential building permits last year and 2022 is on track to eclipse 300 permits. The front-page story in the May 25th issue of the Port Aransas South Jetty newspaper summed things up with the headline “Construction Red Hot.” The article provides updates on new homes in the luxurious beachfront communities of Cinnamon Shore, Palmilla Beach Resort and Sunflower Beach as well as numerous other popular developments on Mustang Island.

Of particular interest to many potential buyers of new homes in Port Aransas are the details on new communities just getting underway or in the final planning stages.

- Laguna Isles - New luxury bayside community with waterfront homesites. Phase I sales are well underway and initial Laguna Isles spec homes are under construction. Located just South of Island Moorings.
- Sunrise Beach - Infrastructure work is ongoing in this new

Boom cont. on A4

Power to The Island

AEP Texas brought a convoy of portable generators to Windward Boulevard this week as a backup power source as they do maintenance work on the lines. You have to give them credit, when they show up it's like the Army has arrived. They don't do anything halfway.

Water restrictions

It's a good week for Islanders who have rock yards, not so much for those with grass as the Corpus Christi City Council this week invoked Stage 1 water restrictions which means we can only irrigate lawns one day per week which is the same as garbage day and not between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. You can still hand water. The good news is that now on Friday we can forget to put out the trash and forget to water all at the same time... one less thing right?

Island Blast July Fireworks

A little Island history

Country Club was to become the Hershey Country Club

Here's one you probably haven't heard of

Editor's note: As work began at the Whitecap Preserve this week we take a look back to 1985 when a different plan was in place for the site of the old Padre Isles Country Club. As with the Whitecap Preserve the plan called for a large hotel on the site. From there we pick up the story verbatim from a 1985 publication by the Padre Isles Sales Company.

There has been an air of excitement on Padre Island since the announcement that later this year the Padre Isles Country Club will become THE HERSHEY Country Club – Padre Island.

The club has been purchased by Dunes Management, Inc. a Texas

Country Club to be part of Hershey

By the numbers

The Island Real Estate Market

The Corpus Christi Association of Realtors this week released statistics for the Port Aransas and Padre Island markets in May, 2022. Here is how they compare.

Padre Island Closings up 20%

\$385,200 Median home price
27.5% increase over May 2021
Price Distribution
0%-\$99,999 1.5% of houses listed
\$100-\$199,999 5.9% of houses listed
\$200,000-\$299,999 11.8% of houses listed
\$300,000-\$399,999 32.4% of houses listed
\$400,000-\$499,999 13.2% of houses listed
\$500,000-749,999 25% of houses listed
\$750,000-\$999,999 4.4% of houses listed
\$1 million 5.9% of houses listed
Listings
106 Active listings May 2022
41.3% increase from May 2021
70 Closed Sales
20.7% increase over May 2021
46 Days on market (average)
35 Days to close (average)
81 Days from listing to sale (average)
13 Days more than May 2021
1.9 Months of inventory May 2022
1.1 Months of inventory in May 2021

Port Aransas Housing Market

15% of houses for sale are over \$1 million
\$675,000 Median home price
28.8% increase over May 2021
Price Distribution
\$200,000-\$299,000 4.6% of houses listed
\$300,000-\$399,000 4.5% of houses listed
\$400,000-\$499,000 15.9% of houses listed
\$500,000-\$749,999 31.8% of houses listed
\$750,000-\$999,999 27.3% of houses listed
\$1 million-plus 15.9% of houses for sale
Listings
114 Active listings
11.8% increase from May 2021
45 Closed sales
26.2% decrease from May 2021
28 days on market (average)
32 Days to close (average)
60 Days from listing to sale (average)
39 days less than May 2021
2.8 Months of inventory May 2022
1.8 Months of inventory in May 2021

Around cont. on A4





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Sunrise, Sunset



Photo by Marvin Orellano.



Sunset on the Laguna Madre. Photo by Michelle Renee Walters.

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Production Manager

Abigail Bair

Contributing Writers

Joey Farah

Andy Purvis

Mary Craft

Emily Gaines

Jay Gardner

Pastor Kris Bair

Todd Hunter

Dotson Lewis

Dr. Tom Dorrell

Ronnie Narmour

Brent Rourk

Photographers

Miles Merwin (Emeritus)

Debbie Noble

Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Jan Rankin

Mary Craft

Ronnie Narmour



Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)

Riley P. Dog

Publisher

Dale Rankin

About the Island Moon

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The Island Moon Newspaper

14646 Compass, Suite 3

Corpus Christi, TX 78418

361-949-7700

editor@islandmoon.com

Facebook: The Island Moon Newspaper

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Port Aransas

Pioneer RV

Stripes on 1A

Kody's

Coffee Waves

Moby Dicks

IGA

Treasure Island

San Juan's

Restaurant

Wash Tub

Shorty's Place

Gratitude

The Gaff

Red's Riviera

Spanky's Liquor

Beach Lodge

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Library

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House

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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



From Our Facebook Page

Backwater Adventures by Joey Farah published on June 9, 2022 issue #947

Michael Corcoran

Well put, 60 and 70's, were just as good if not better Million Dollar Inn supplied us tourist girls and the pier supplied hot cinnamon roles, and coffee in morning. The waves were rarely big enough to see, but we all learned to live.

John M McKinney

Awesome story, I surfed with Jones alot here in Port Aransas same time frame, if this is the same john jones, ex coastie, we surfed right next to a barge at Horace caldwel when it was being torn down,82-83. barge had made a killer left. Still see/talk with him in Port a.

John Michael

Great story buddy! I may have been in the parking lot watching it all.

Mary Grove Saponari

Such an awesome writer! I so.o.o enjoy reading his works. For a short time this morning, I was a 13 year old boy, surfing at the pier, decade ago. And I love his forward look into the future for the memories that are yet to be made. Write a book, man!!

Herman Ray Johnson Jr.

Great story. Talent. Impressed you could remember that much being a surfer and fisherman. 70s were good times.

Joseph Farah

That's why I brought you here.

Jarrod Ray Ryan

What a fantastic, beautiful story full of memories!!

Jason Andrews

I appreciate this great piece of writing. It stirs some fond memories of a time gone by. You have talent sir.

Charles Hillis

Many good memories there from the mid 70s to Mid 80s! The old million dollar inn, Bob Hall was still a wood pier and the Mergles had the hamburger stand and the concessions on the pier!! Life was so good and simple back then, now as we grow older becoming adults and having our own kids and some of us with grandchildren we can only sit back and wish that our kids and their kids could've lived the life we lived!! Thanks for bringing back some great memories Joey!

Kevin Fossett

Charles Hillis I totally agree Charlie. Don't forget the Sand dollar that Margie Bennett owned. Coldest beer on the beach just south of the pier. I learned to swim off of Bob Hall pier. My uncle Leo threw me and my cousin Mickey off the second T and said I'll meet you boys at the beach...lol I guess we learned how to swim.

Stuff I Heard Around the Island

R.M. McCann

This is a mirror conversation in Terlingua/ Study butte...

"Hey, you look like a local....

"We just got our RV set up, etc...."

"Where's the Walmart" (or other city type amenities)

Always insert a dramatic pause...

(when given the answer they usually wobble a bit while standing there, processing)

" Walmart?..., yes ma'am/sir....it's only about 140 miles that way in Ft Stockton. "

Which begins more inquiries of what is there "to do" here and why is there "nothing here" and "why would anyone live here".....

I respond, in my head...."Exactly my point for being here."

Viva.

Zachariah Weeden

I have heard this so many times at the shell station. The look on their faces when they find out how far away from south padre they are... priceless.

Stephen Rybak

The street name is actually Padre Island Drive. There's a South end of it and a North end of it just like any other street. Like South Staples Street.

Andrea Martinez

Love this. Laughed so hard, my eyes leaked.

Pamela Rogers

Why don't people just put the hotel address in their gps? Seems so simple?

Nonna Dianne

When we moved Peter here for school - trying to find north PI it kept sending me to South Padre. The maps don't link well to what is found.

Laurie Cherry Sturgis

And be sure to fill up your tank first.

Rick Smith

So Who's on first!!!!



Work is beginning all along Dasmarias and the Whiskey Streets.
Photo By Holly Edwards.



Moon Dog Lizzy blessing kids at a recent fishing tournament. Photo by Jan Rankin



Photo By Dan Maloney.

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History cont. from A1

corporation which is owned by a group of Canadian investors.

Hershey will operate the country club in conjunction with both THE HERSHEY Hotel in downtown Corpus Christi and a new \$52 million HERSHEY Mustang Dunes Resort and conference hotel to be built a few miles north of Padre Island.

Guests at both HERSHEY Hotels will enjoy full use privileges at the Padre Isles club and golf course. A shuttle bus service will carry guests to and from the club. Current club members will be unaffected.



The new owners plan to make a major investment in refurbishing the Padre Isles club, providing some of the touches of elegance for which HERSHEY is known.

Plans call for construction of the 360-suite high-rise hotel to begin this year and for the new HERSHEY to be in operation by 1987.

Ralph Durden, president of Island Development Corporation, has been assigned the job of guiding the hotel-country club project to completion.

It was Durden who was the matchmaker who convinced HERSHEY to get involved in the

project. Because he helped build the \$50 million Downtown HERSHEY, Durden understood the company’s commitment to high standards and its tradition of warm hospitality.

Durden points out that the new HERESHEY resort is a response to the need for more full-service hotel accommodations on the Islands at Corpus Christi. While there are a growing numbers of condominium projects in the area, the 150-room Holiday Inn on the seawall is the only facility with self-contained hotel amenities on more than 100 miles of beach.

The new hotel building will rise 14 stories

Around cont. from A1

some fire in the sky on the third of July. We still do need the last six thousand dollars so if you haven’t contributed you can go to <https://givebutter.com/islandblast> or mail checks made out to “Island Blast” to the attention of Island Blast, 15801 SPID, Corpus Christi, TX 78418 or by calling 361 949-1222 x224, or checks (only) can be dropped off at the office of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association. All of the money donated goes toward the event which is funded solely by contributions from Islanders.

Short Term Rentals

And finally the city’s Short-Term Rental ordinance is scheduled to go to the city council on July 28 for a vote. There are currently over 700 Short-Term Rentals on The Island and they will not be effected by the new ordinance, which as currently written will continue to prohibit STR in Island neighborhoods zoned for single-family residential use. Islanders spoke with a single voice on this issue and the city council heard us. Barring any last minute changes the ordinance is a good solution to what was fast becoming a big problem on our little sandbar.

That’s all for now, watch out for the African dust and say hello if you see us Around The Island.

Bonds cont. from A1

\$5 million new police substation on Southside, design for Calallen police substation

\$2.5 million Renovation at La Ratama Central Library

District 4

\$16.7 million total streets

\$15.2 million District 4 streets

\$14 million Reconstruction of street, curbs, sidewalk on Flour Bluff Drive from Yorktown to Don Patricio

\$1.2 million design for reconstruction, upgraded lighting, sidewalk repair, curbs and ramps on Holly Road from Ennis Joslin to Paul Jones

\$1.5 million public parks

\$4.4 million New Beach Access Road SH 361

\$1 million Part Site Plan and Park Design for all-ages Community Center and recreational amenities for Commodores Park

Street bond funds by district

\$12.3 million District 1 streets

\$16.3 million District 2 streets

\$12 million District 3 streets

\$6.3 million District 5

New Park Projects

Total Bond Money by Council District (rounded)

13% for each council district

33% Citywide

Boom cont. from A1

beachfront community featuring over one hundred moderately priced homesites. Located just North of Grand Caribbean Condos.

- One Particular Harbor - Currently seeking city approval, this 36-acre mixed-use community would feature townhomes and Bahamian cottages. Located on the bay side of the island in the area between Cinnamon Shore North and South.
- The Palms At Old Town - 11 pier and beam homes (Two and three bedroom) with community pool. Approved and about to break ground. Located at Oleander & Oakes Ave.

- Mango Cay Resort - Infrastructure work underway for 28 townhomes a short walk from the beach. Located at Avenue G & 11th Street.
- New luxury condos with boat slips - A currently unnamed but approved 26-unit waterfront condo community on the Port A Harbor. Located at 136 W Cotter (formerly Woody’s and The Back Porch).
- Sailfish RV - Selling 37 luxury pad sites with outdoor kitchens and individual palapas. Located on Port Street near the ferry landings.



If you whistle I might here ya! Whistling duck By Marvin Orellano.



Chapel in the dunes By Marvin Orellano.

Port Aransas Building Permits				
Year	# Residential	Value Residential	# Commercial	Value Commercial
2011	78	\$18,040,779.79	13	\$4,909,546.67
2012	115	\$32,674,572.34	2	\$746,020.00
2013	118	\$37,585,660.93	11	\$6,777,700.00
2014	192	\$51,755,660.00	15	\$15,620,558.00
2015	124	\$37,375,022.01	9	\$4,862,346.00
2016	151	\$47,900,000.00	25	\$8,700,000.00
2017	111	\$38,725,334.73	19	\$5,796,850.20
2018	156	\$47,431,022.40	22	\$11,208,715.60
2019	171	\$52,876,174.70	33	\$8,195,461.59
2020	143	\$58,303,119.00	15	\$24,234,587.00
2021	274	Unavailable	21	Unavailable
2022	139 YTD 5/17	Unavailable	12	Unavailable

Source: City of Port Aransas Development Services

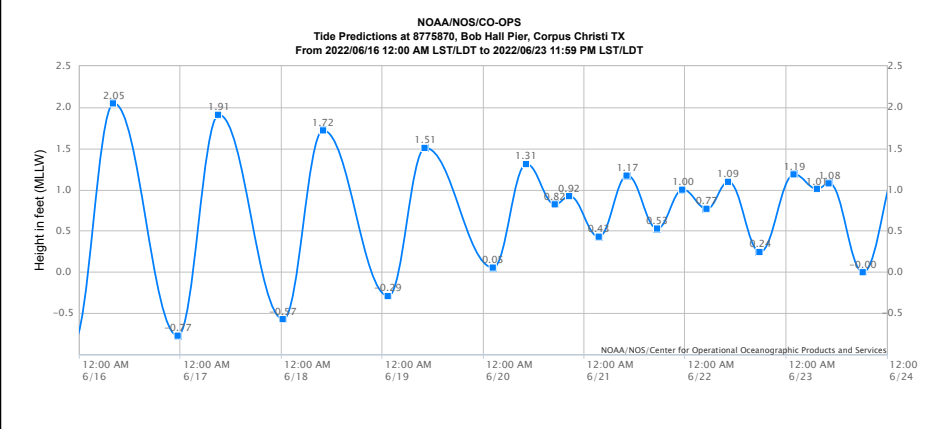


Gary Balluck just finished building this children’s book box a couple of weeks ago for our local Uillberg Park. Kids can come a take a book or two for free and then return for other ones when done. Our local garden club keeps feeding the box

Tides of the Week

Tides for Bob Hall Pier June 16- June 23

Day		High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise Sunset	Moon	Time	% Moon Visible
Th	16	High	8:08 AM	2.1	6:33 AM	Set	8:42 AM	97
	16	Low	11:15 PM	-0.9	8:26 PM	Rise	11:12 PM	
F	17	High	9:03 AM	2.0	6:33 AM	Set	9:53 AM	92
	17				8:26 PM			
Sa	18	Low	12:14 AM	-0.7	6:34 AM	Rise	12:01 AM	84
	18	High	9:45 AM	1.8	8:27 PM	Set	11:02 AM	
Su	19	Low	1:15 AM	-0.4	6:34 AM	Rise	12:42 AM	75
	19	High	10:09 AM	1.5	8:27 PM	Set	12:06 PM	
M	20	Low	2:20 AM	0.0	6:34 AM	Rise	1:18 AM	64
	20	High	10:16 AM	1.3	8:27 PM	Set	1:07 PM	
	20	Low	4:57 PM	0.8				
	20	High	8:30 PM	0.9				
Tu	21	Low	3:34 AM	0.4	6:34 AM	Rise	1:51 AM	54
	21	High	10:15 AM	1.1	8:27 PM	Set	2:05 PM	
	21	Low	5:16 PM	0.5				
	21	High	11:12 PM	1.0				
W	22	Low	5:08 AM	0.7	6:34 AM	Rise	2:21 AM	43
	22	High	10:10 AM	1.0	8:27 PM	Set	3:01 PM	
	22	Low	5:47 PM	0.1				
Th	23	High	1:50 AM	1.2	6:35 AM	Rise	2:52 AM	33
	23	Low	7:04 AM	0.9	8:28 PM	Set	3:57 PM	
	23	High	9:57 AM	1.0...				



Twenty-Six years ago this month in the Island Moon

In June 1996 there was a Beach Party and the first Beach to Breakfast Run



Beach to Breakfast from Island House to Island Italian. Island Moon founder Mike Ellis is pulling the wagon.

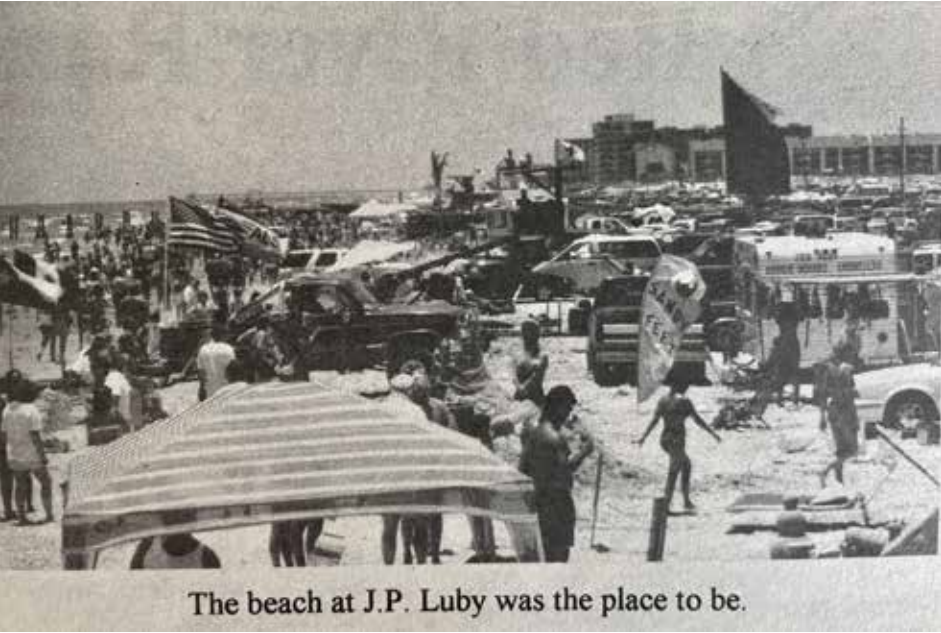


Bikini contest winner Brittany Moreau of Houston (right) and runner-up Monique Limon (left).



Another Padre Island Beach Babe

At the Holiday Inn.



The beach at J.P. Luby was the place to be.



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

Until a few years ago my friend Chester Ruder ran his boat the Stray Cat out of Island Moorings in Port Aransas. She was a medium-sized catamaran and when visitors came from OTB we would anchor up on the backside of San Jose Island where the barges waiting to enter the Port of Corpus Christi would nose in and it was a surreal experience for Islanders and visitors alike to jump off the back of the Stray Cat and swim with curious dolphins under the shadow of the floating behemoths with their tugs bellowing a plume of black smoke. It was a very Island thing to do.



Ashley Shuler with Chester and Susan Ruder wedding on the Jetty on Monday.



Long time Islander Chester Ruder married his gal Susan Campbell on the Jetty last Monday.

Chester had a regular sailing companion named Bella who like to ride the stern of the Stray Cat and watch the dolphins that surfed the wake until just the right time when she would leap from the boat on top of the dolphins and when they swam on Bella knew how to climb up the stern ladder and repeat the process. I probably should have mentioned that Bella was a yellow Labrador retriever.

Own your wake...



Capt. Chester and Chicken

It was a different time in Port Aransas then. Paul Fain had the Tarpon Ice House in full bloom on Alister Street with live music and prices that brought in the locals and Winter Texans alike and made the place very Port Aransas and Chester and I were regular customers. Captain Chester has a distinction that as far as I know makes him unique among local captains. It started as he was under sail in the ship channel when a Rodney Dangerfield type came blasting down the channel in a good-sized ocean-going sport fisher and blew by him with a large enough wake that everything and everyone on the boat drew air even as Chester yelled at him and confirmed to him that in Chester's world he was indeed Number One.

As the boat blew past Chester he wrote down the registration number and took a picture and upon checking his boat he found that among other things the wake had tossed his coffee pot in the air and the glass bowl came crashing down on the cabin floor and shattered into pieces.

Chester took pictures of the broken coffee pot and using the registration numbers tracked down the boat owner, sending him a photo of the broken pot along with a picture of the offending boat as it sped along throwing up its coffee-pot smashing tsunami and reminding him that under maritime rules the captain owned his wake that broke Chester's coffee pot and asking that Mr. Dangerfield buy him a new one. The response he got back from the captain was somewhat along the same lines as the You're Number One sign that Chester showed him as he blasted past in the channel. If Chester wanted a new coffee pot he should go buy one. So Chester contacted the U.S. Coast Guard and sent them his photos and evidence and two weeks later a delivery person knocked on his door and handed him a box with a new coffee pot in it. Score one for the little guy!

On to Key West

But as the vibe in Port Aransas started to change, even before Hurricane Harvey came to visit – Chester decided to set sail for One Particular



Capt. Chester

at splitting his time between Key West and the Texas Hill Country. The first choice was to buy in Port A but in the time since he left the prices have jumped to Key West and beyond levels so the Hill Country is the landing spot.

What happened?

So after all that time why sell out and move on? The answer is related to something near and dear to the hearts of Islanders these days and that is Short-Term Rentals. What do Short-Term Rentals have to do with a fleet of houseboats?



Billy Snipes took the Moon traveling to Key West to visit ex-Port A resident Capt. Chester Ruder on his Stray Cat.



Captain Chester and his sailboat, The Stray Cat, got rammed by a motor boat last week... the other guy's boat sank.

As Short-Term Rentals swept across Key West -- they call them transient rentals there -- almost a decade ago they were faced with some of the same choices we face now. Their solution was to limit the number of permits for short-term stay and as a result the ones that exist come dearly. A check of current listings finds that houses with STR permits are priced from \$949,000 to \$4.1 million with an annual Return on Investment of 7.03%.

In fact there is such demand for short term



Chester and Charlie Ruder

stays in Key West that well-healed visitors lease houses for thirty days when they are only going to stay for three at a cost of \$10,000-\$12,000 per month and the house sits vacant for twenty-seven days. On the rare occasion that one of the Short-Term Rentals comes up for sale the permit – without the house included – runs in the \$500,000 range.

In Key West and up the road in the city of Miami the rules for Short-Term Rentals are close to the rules for Padre Island in the ordinance heading now headed to the Corpus Christi City; they are not allowed in most residential neighborhoods, but they can be moved around in areas of town where they are allowed. Meanwhile, slips in Key West to berth commercial boats run in the range of \$10,000 per month but a single slip across a bridge on Stock Island can be had for \$600 per month – except there is no actual slip, only the ability to dock and pick up and drop off passengers.

Floating STR

The demand for short-term facilities is so hot that Chester leased out his nine houseboats for \$300 per night and moored them a quarter mile offshore, delivering his visitors to the houseboats and supplying them with a kayak to paddle back and forth to shore. But as the price of slips continues to rise that business model is breaking down and in 2020 Key West residents voted to even limit visiting cruise ships to a maximum of 1300 passengers and allow only 1,500 passengers to visit per day.

I know we are not Key West and likely never will be, but the real estate prices there are not completely out of reach here on our island as the population of Texas continues to soar and more importantly Key West is a bellwether for the Law of Unintended Consequences with regards to the decision on how to deal with Short-Term Rentals hereabouts.

Who would have thought a decade ago that people are fleeing Key West for Texas? What they are finding is that property prices here look a lot like those they are leaving behind and are chasing those of California.

But the good news is we will get to see more of Chester around here...

Senior Moments



The Lewis and Clark Story
Part 5 The End

By Dotson Lewis
Special to the Island Moon

Dotson’s Note: As I stated before: “I want to give you Moon Monkeys the clearest account possible of the last days of Meriwether Lewis”. Thanks to Irving W. Anderson, Clay S. Jenkinson, Michael Haynes, John Bakeless, Thomas Danisi, John Jackson, and The Missouri Gazette for the facts contained in this report and to my historian friend Ralph Triska for the photos. (Again, please note that any misspellings or grammatical errors are as Lewis & Clark wrote.)

Continued

All of these documents and reports should have been forwarded long since. It was their absence that led Madison administration officials, including the president himself, to question Lewis’s competence, ethical probity, and fitness for territorial office. In other words, the unusual burst of activity described by Danisi and Jackson was not a representative sample of Lewis’s administrative life in St. Louis. On the contrary, it was an emergency response to a period of significantly less focused activity.



William Clark

Lewis did not accomplish these things alone. His closest friend William Clark worked side by side with him to put his affairs into something like order. Even if Clark didn’t actually create the documents in question, it was essential that he was at Lewis’s side to calm the governor and keep him focused on the tasks before him. Clark’s account of the final day he and Lewis spent together is profoundly sad. To his brother Jonathan, Clark wrote, “I have not

Should have parted Cherefully. This is not the portrait of a man who is calmly and routinely attending to business in preparation for a long leave of absence.”

On 8 July 1809, six weeks before he received the bombshell letter from the War Department that precipitated his final journey to the national capital, Lewis wrote to an unknown friend that the Madison administration’s rejection of his vouchers was causing him great distress. “[T] his occurrence has given me infinite concern,” he wrote, “as the fate of other bills drawn for similar purposes to a considerable amount cannot be mistaken; this rejection cannot fail to impress the public mind unfavourably with respect to me, nor is this consideration more painfull than the censure which must arise in the mind of the executive from my having drawn for public monies without authority, a third and not less embarrassing circumstance attending the transaction is that my private funds are entirely incompetent to meet those bills if protested.”

Lewis met with the Governor’s Council in St. Louis for the last time on 30 August and left St. Louis on 4 September 1809. The Missouri Gazette wrote that the governor “set off in good health for New Orleans on his way to the Federal City.” John Bakeless said: “The emphasis of the statement [by the Gazette] faintly suggests official propaganda.” Lewis’s original intention was to take passage on a flatboat or keeled boat all the way down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. From there he planned to take passage on a ship through the Gulf of Mexico, around the southern tip of Florida, and then up the East Coast to the Chesapeake, where he would find additional water conveyance either up the James River to Charlottesville, which was likely, or up the Potomac River to the federal capital.

Lewis died of a gunshot wound on October 11th, 1809, in a lonely log cabin on the Natchez Trace road in Tennessee. Many believe that

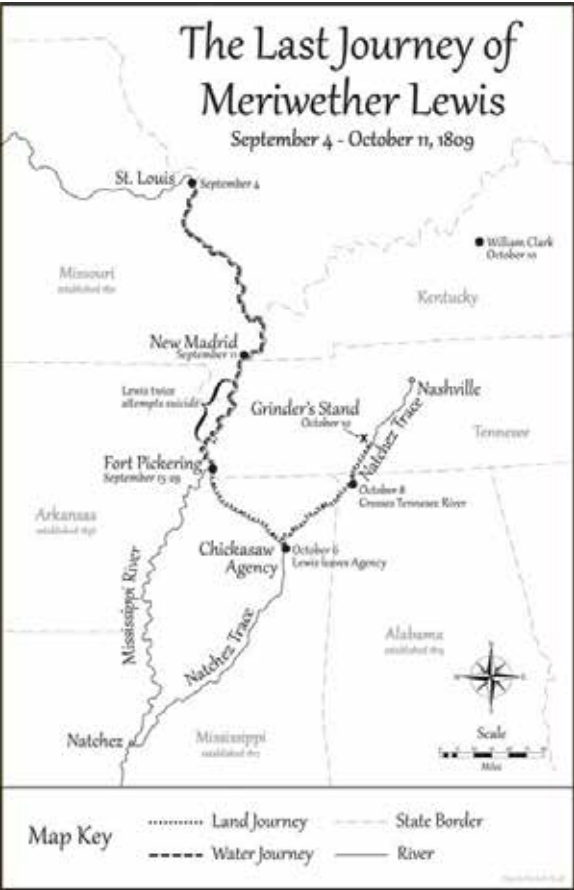


Sacagawea

Lewis had such strength of character and bright prospects that he must have been murdered, possibly as a result of political intrigues and bad business debts in St. Louis.

Other historians contend that Lewis was chronically depressed, and as a result finally committed suicide, a conclusion accepted by Clark and Jefferson.

Dotson’s Other Note: The death of explorer Meriwether Lewis by gunshot wound at the height of his fame has always been a historical mystery: Was he murdered, or did he commit suicide? Some believe that Lewis killed himself in despair because he was dying of syphilis contracted from a Shoshone Indian woman on the night of August 13, 1805, shortly after crossing the Continental Divide. Others contend that Lewis was chronically depressed, and as a result finally committed suicide, a conclusion accepted by Clark and Jefferson. Some argue the progression of syphilis can best explain Lewis’ puzzling decline, depression and periods of insanity. What do you Moon Monkeys think? 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.



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Showering With Sharks

By Pastor Kris Bair

Last Friday, I had the joy of “getting out of Dodge,” as we Kansans say—I had a meeting in San Antonio and spent the night in a nice hotel, a step up from most of those that line the interstates.

The bed was lovely—big, and soft but supportive, with three fluffy pillows. I didn’t at all need the neck roll I’d brought along.

Tables nested along one wall, and those in the nest had rollers, so we could pull them out and place them where we needed them when we ordered take-out.

It was pretty bare bones (there was only one wastebasket, for example, and it wasn’t in the bathroom--duh), but the basics provided were high quality.

Unlike the motels I inhabited on my last foray into the larger world, this one had thick, fluffy bath towels, hand towels and washcloths—in quantity—and a clerk on duty at the entry desk 24/7, so if you needed more, you could get them.

Yes!

I was impressed by their consideration of the environment. In the lobby and our rooms, cups were paper, not foam or plastic. Stir sticks were bamboo. Now they need to work on the creamer situation.

The breakfast bar featured paper plates and bowls. The pancake maker was a hand-free, push-button design—COVID friendly.

In the room, wooden clothes hangers and no plastic trays or plastic coffee machine—coffee available in the lobby 24/7, after all. Why have plastic you don’t really need?

And no small plastic packages of soap, shampoo, conditioner and/or lotion in our bathroom.

Instead, the wall beside the sink and the shower faucet had brightly colored, reusable (but plastic) canisters to dispense soap, lotion, shampoo and conditioner.

On these canisters signage proclaimed “NOT SOAP RADIO.”

Huh?

The “NOT” was poised vertically beside the word “SOAP,” with “RADIO” underneath them (see picture).

This original and highly imaginative juxtaposition, along with the use of boldface for the “NOT” and “RADIO” (but not the SOAP) left me wondering—was this NOT soap? Was this NOT radio? What radio?

Inquiring minds want to know!

Below this company logo, we find a happy comment. On the soap, we are advised “When life gives you one too many lemons (and you’ve misplaced your happy place . . .).

Below THAT bright note on the lemon-yellow canister are the words “Squeeze gently.”

If you misplace your happy place anywhere other than this hotel and squeeze, I guess you’re out of luck.

Below that, it tells us that this is not just any old soap—it’s “joy inducing.”

I’ll believe THAT when I see it. Which I didn’t.

Below THAT, it informs us that it is “lemon + sugar,” and below that, “body wash” (the one in the shower), “hand wash” or “hand lotion” (the ones next to the sink).

Despite the signage, I did not hold high hopes. The thought of washing in sugar gives me the creeps.

When I squeezed (and it took more than a gentle one), the soap was a lovely lemon yellow, but it didn’t smell lemony.

In the shower, next to the yellow “body wash” canister hung the blue shampoo and conditioner canisters, brightly proclaiming “Shampooing with sharks (for that competitive edge in work and/or play),” but “Smoothing with sharks (for that competitive edge,” etc.) on the conditioner.

What does THAT mean?

Would YOU shampoo with sharks—not to mention “smooth” with sharks? I can’t speak for you, but I wouldn’t even schmooze with sharks. And BTW, I understand sharkskin is like sandpaper.

Towards the bottom of each of these canisters, we find that the contents therein are “self-c o n f i d e n c e boosting” and “beach + sky blue water.”

How romantic. NOT.

My happy place, when I found it, was bed. And I did NOT dream

of lemons, sugar, or sharks.

Don’t forget—if you’ve misplaced your happy place, you might find it at beach worship with Island Presbyterian Church--sans sharks--every Sunday at 8 a.m., where Whitecap meets the beach. Bring a chair, your coffee and pets on their leashes.

Or worship in our shark-free sanctuary at 10 a.m., corner of Fortuna Bay and Gypsy, and enjoy coffee and goodies afterward—sometimes lemony!

The black skimmer is the largest of the three subspecies reaching from 15-20 inches long, weighing up to 15 ounces, with a wingspan of 40-50 inches! The males will grow much larger than the females. Their unique beak is red at the base transitioning to black towards the tips with the lower mandible being elongated. Port Aransas
Photo By Marvin Orellana

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LARRY ALLEN

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION



Did Ya' Hear?

By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

Business Briefs

The 9.3 acres on the seawall that has been for sale since August for \$9 million closed at \$7 million. The land was purchased by the owners of the Island Resort.

9.31 AC Gulf-Front Property

11209 Windward Dr, Corpus Christi, TX 78418



9.3 acre property on seawall.

The future Padre Plaza with retail space property that is owned by the Rasheeds near Seashore Middle School will be getting fill dirt next month. Also during the construction they will install a 24 inch wastewater line from the Island Market IGA to the property. The 1.5 acre land immediately adjacent to the school is for sale for \$595,000.

The Quick Quack Car Wash in the Bluff is now open. Monthly membership fees are \$22 - \$32 for unlimited washes. Additional vehicles are \$17. There is free vacuuming. It is easy to apply just add your license plate number. It is located at 9513 SPID. I am guessing all the new homes being built in the Bluff are bringing in more businesses.

The Portside development on Leeward is described as a community on Padre Sound with lots to allow owners to build their own casita. A casita is a 900 - 1400 square foot home with three bedrooms and 3.5 baths. It has docks for boats or you can use the Cabana deck to fish or launch your kayak. HOA fee is \$4320 and lot costs are around \$105,000. Phase 1 with 13 lots has two lots available. Phase 2 & 3 will have 39 sites. After closing the owners have six months to get approval of their plan by the architectural control committee and 12 months after that to complete construction.



Portside casita lots on Leeward

The Beachside Bar & Grill inside the Island Resort is now serving a breakfast buffet with seasoned diced potatoes, eggs, bacon and sausage. Sometimes they have biscuits and gravy, French toast or waffles. It is served 7 - 10 a.m. and is open to the public.

The Sand Bar at the Island Resort had a soft opening last Friday and Saturday with a DJ. They will be open just weekends for now until they get more staffing.

The first public turtle hatchling release of the year at Padre Island National Seashore will be on Saturday, June 18th at 6:45 a.m. at Malaquite Beach behind the Visitor Center. Call the Hatchling Hotline at 949-7163 before you drive out to be sure it is still happening.

The Padre Isles Country Club golf cart paths have all been torn up and there are no remnants of the club left. The property owners along Dasmrinas were told by developers the canals on the property would be 60 - 100 feet wide.

Nauticool Adventures rents out "fun on the water" items at Marker 37 Marina. A party boat/pontoon boat is \$575 for four hours and \$825 for eight hours. Jet skis start at \$109/hour and kayaks \$69/hour.



Nauticool Adventures

The Delite food truck in front of the Island Market IGA hours are 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. and closed Tuesday and Wednesday. The recipes are all by Tammy Smith who runs the concession.

Padre Island Farmers Market will be at the Island Presbyterian Church on Thursday, June 16th 4 - 8 p.m.. The vendors include Laura's Cupcakery, Lorberau Legacy Farms, Oso Bay Farms, Mother Clucker Farms Off Brand Salsa and The Most Comida Food Truck. There will be 17 vendors. If you love tomatoes, like I do, get there early.

The speed limit over the JFK Bridge coming onto the Island changed from 55 mph to 50 mph.

The Packery Bar Food Truck under the bridge needs experienced line cooks to do prep and food inventory. Pay starts at \$17/ hour with a raise one month later based on performance.

Island Health Hut will be adding a juice bar with smoothies, all natural lemonades and teas. They carry beauty products, sugar-free snacks and a whole lot more. They are located at 14646 Compass.



Island Squeeze-Fresh Juice Bar and Clean Eats Akai Berry Smoothie Bowl.

other events that pop up.

The Corpus Christi Museum of Science & History weekly summer camps are available for ages 5 - 13 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. until August 5th. My 5 and 6 year old granddaughters were part of the resident scientists last week for the acid, combustion and exothermic reactions week. They made a lava lamp and bouncy ball. One of the days they had a scavenger hunt in the museum. This week is Oceans week and they are exploring the ancient and present marine life. They love it so much they even want to do that more than spend the day with Baba (grandma in Serbian.) The cost is \$270/week and they have pre and post care. You can sign up for one or more weeks.



Diamond Island by St. Eve's Noel in Port A. Photo by Debbie Noble.

monthly get together at the Waterline Bar under Doc's June 16th. The Beach Bash was a two day event at the Pavilion and beach with four bands participating. To join this charity organization you can go to the Waterline event or go online. Membership is \$20/year.



Padre Island Parrot Head Beach Bash auction items. The parrot bench by Island artist Karen Wall received the highest bid going for \$750. Photo by Debbie Nobel



Padre Island Parrot Head Beach Bash.

Jason Aldean will be at the American Bank Center on Thursday, August 18th. Tickets are \$60 - \$400 and the better seats are already disappearing.

The Roadrunner film about Anthony Bourdain is now on HBO MAX and a must see if you were a fan. I especially enjoyed the early years when the first TV show was produced in Japan. I used to say I would never remarry unless Bourdain became available which explains why I'm recommending it.

Celsitas Restaurant next to the Island Market IGA now has wine based frozen drinks that include Margaritas and Blue Hawaiians.



Celsita's frozen drinks.

The CC Public Library mobile unit will be at St. Andrew by the Sea on Wednesday, June 22nd 3 - 6 p.m..

Comedian Angela Johnson-Reyes will be at the American Bank Center on Friday, June 17th 7:30 p.m.. She is known best for her Vietnamese nail salon video. She is very popular as demonstrated by her appearing at ABC instead of Selena Auditorium. Tickets are \$40 - \$85.

Island Blast Fireworks Display still needs \$6,000 in donations to make it happen on Sunday, July 3rd. Come on folks, we can do this. Any amount helps.

Nature Notes



By Kenlynn Volz

Nesting season is in full swing here on the Gulf Coast! This season, I have joined Gulf Coast Bird Observatory's coastal biologist Taylor Bennett in monitoring Matagorda Beach and Sargent Beach for nesting Wilson's Plovers and least terns. During a recent survey of Colorado River Mouth Flats along Matagorda Beach, Taylor and I encountered another amazing bird -a reddish egret!

Reddish Egret



Dark morph reddish egret. Photo by Taylor Bennett

Dancing, leaping, and sprinting through shallow waters, the reddish egret is a joyful bird to watch! This long-legged dance is a hunting strategy employed to capture small fish, frogs, and crabs. Reddish egrets forage actively, chasing after prey and casting shadows over the water to better spot their meals which they then speared with their sharp bills.

Despite their name, reddish egrets come in two color types, or morphs. There's the dark morph, which is characterized by a rusty-brown head and neck feathers with gray to red feathers on their body, and the white morph, which is characterized by fully white feathers.

White morph reddish egrets are often mistaken for snowy egrets, great egrets, and juvenile little blue herons, which all have similar plumage coloration. White morph reddish egrets can be differentiated from snowy egrets due to their smaller size in comparison. To most easily decipher a white morph reddish egret from a snowy egret, reddish egrets lack the iconic yellow feet of the snowy egret and instead have legs and feet that are a uniform dark gray.

Observing the larger size and thicker build of the reddish egret is one way to tell the difference between a juvenile little blue heron and a white morph reddish egret. Overall, the easiest way to

tell that you're looking at a white morph reddish egret is by observing its foraging behavior. Reddish egrets will forage by zig-zagging, jumping, and spinning through the water after their prey. This active foraging strategy sets them apart from similar species which have a more patient approach.

Reddish egrets are tied to coastal habitats such as saltwater marshes. Their range extends from northern South America up through the Gulf

of Mexico and Baja California. Here in Texas, reddish egrets are present year-round, making Texas coastal ecosystems important habitats for this species.

Reddish egrets are regarded as some of the rarest egrets in North America. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, reddish egrets were overhunted for their feathers, which were often used in hats. With the passing of the Migratory Bird Treaty act in 1918, reddish egrets were offered protection against plumage hunters, allowing the species to survive. Currently, reddish egrets are state-listed as threatened, protecting them from direct take.

Unfortunately, today reddish egret populations are in decline. Habitat loss, often the result of human activities, is among the greatest threats to the survival of reddish egret populations. The survival of this amazing species relies on the conservation of their habitat, much of which lies here in Texas.

Kenlynn Volz is interning at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory this winter and spring. GCBO is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving the birds and their habitats along the entire Gulf Coast, and beyond into their Central and South America wintering grounds.



Padre Island Farmers Market. Photo by Mary Craft.

March 17
April 21
May 19
June 16

July 21
August 18
September 15

October 20
November 17
December 15

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Hank Aaron-Baseball Player-Part 1

By Dotson Lewis

Dotson’s Note: He was the home run king, who held the most celebrated record in sports for more than 30 years. Top of Form

Bottom of Form



Hank Aaron was among the greatest all-around players in baseball history, earning his home run record in the face of hate mail and even death threats. Thanks to Bill Morgan, Mark Ruckerntal, William C. Rhoden, Lew Burdette and Richard Goldstein for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan for the photos.

Hank Aaron, who faced down racism as he eclipsed Babe Ruth as baseball’s home run king, hitting 755 homers and holding the most celebrated record in sports for more than 30 years.,

Playing for 23 seasons, all but his final two years with the Braves in Milwaukee and then Atlanta, Aaron was among the greatest all-around players in baseball history and one of the last major league stars to have played in the Negro leagues.

But his pursuit of Ruth’s record of 714 home runs proved a deeply troubling affair beyond the pressures of the ball field. When he hit his 715th home run, on the evening of April 8, 1974, against the Los Angeles Dodgers at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, he prevailed in the face of hate mail and even death threats spewing outrage that a Black man could supplant a white baseball icon.

Aaron was routinely brilliant, performing with seemingly effortless grace, but he had little flash, notwithstanding his nickname in the sports pages, Hammerin’ Hank. He long felt that he had not been accorded the recognition he deserved.

He played for teams far beyond the news media centers of New York and the West Coast, and his Braves won only two pennants and a single World Series championship, those coming long before he approached Ruth’s record.

Aaron did not enjoy the idolatry accorded the Yankees’ Mickey Mantle or match the exuberance and electric presence of the Giants’ Willie Mays, his outfield contemporaries and rivals for acclamation as the greatest ballplayer in major league history.



Hank Aaron 1952

But when he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982, his first year of eligibility, Aaron received 97.8 percent of the vote from baseball writers, second at the time only to Ty Cobb, who was inducted in 1936.

Aaron grew up in Alabama amid rigid segregation and its humiliations, and he faced abuse from the stands while playing in the South as a minor leaguer. Years later, he felt that Braves fans were largely indifferent or hostile to him as he chased Ruth’s record. And the baseball commissioner at the time, Bowie Kuhn, was not present when he hit his historic 715th home run.

All that, and especially the hate mail that besieged him, seared Aaron for years to come. As the 20th anniversary of his home run feat approached in the early 1990s, he told the sports columnist William C. Rhoden of The New York Times, “April 8, 1974, really led up to turning me off on baseball.”

“It really made me see for the first time a clear picture of what this country is about,” he said. “My kids had to live like they were in prison because of kidnap threats, and I had to live like a pig in a slaughter camp. I had to duck. I had to go out the back door of the ball parks. I had to have a police escort with me all the time. I was getting threatening letters every single day. All of these things have put a bad taste in my mouth, and it won’t go away. They carved a piece of my heart away.”

Aaron’s achievements went well beyond his



Number 44 Hank Aaron.

home run prowess. In fact, he never hit as many as 50 homers in a single season.

He was a two-time National League batting champion and had a career batting average of .305. He was the league’s most valuable player in 1957, when the Milwaukee Braves won their only World Series championship. He was voted an All-Star in all but his first and last seasons, and he won three Gold Glove awards for his play in right field.

Aaron combined with the Hall of Fame third baseman Eddie Mathews for 863 home runs during their 13 years together on the Braves, the most ever for two teammates.

Aaron remains No. 1 in the major leagues in total bases (6,856) and runs batted in (2,297); No. 2 in at-bats (12,364), behind Pete Rose; and No. 3 in hits (3,771), behind Rose and Cobb. He won the National League’s single-season home run title four times, though his highest total was only 47, in 1971. Matching his jersey number, he hit exactly 44 home runs in four different seasons.

On April 4, 1974, Aaron hit his 714th home run, tying Ruth’s record, during a game against the Cincinnati Reds before a sellout crowd of 52,154 at Riverfront Stadium.

At six feet tall and 180 pounds, Aaron was hardly the picture of a slugger, but he had thick, powerful wrists, enabling him to whip the bat out of his right-handed stance with uncommon speed.

“He had great forearms and wrists,” Lew Burdette, the outstanding Braves pitcher, recalled in Danny Peary’s oral history “We Played the Game” (1994). “He could be fooled completely and be way out on his front foot, and the bat would still be back, and he’d just roll his wrists and hit the ball out of the ballpark.” Aaron was quick on the bases and in the outfield.

TO BE CONTINUED

Dotson’s Other Note: Hank Aaron was the best of the best.



By Andy Purvis

Strike Three, Yer Out

Someone once said, “Baseball is the key to life—if we just understood baseball better, all other questions would be answered by the baseball gods.” If baseball really is the key, then numbers and the word “out” make up the metal of that key. I can’t imagine baseball without numbers. Numbers not only tell the story of a game, they also reflect the results. Numbers even allow us to measure greatness and mediocrity. They are used to substantiate a Hall-of-Fame induction or determine which player has picked the wrong career. Numbers signify reward, as



2015 Jan. George Springer and me.

in payment, and are even used to support the game within the game, by the umpire’s count on a batter. Numbers are also used to measure one team against another, both today and yesterday. Numbers are even found on the back and fronts of some player’s jerseys, to identify them from other players. There was a time when no numbers or only numbers with no names were worn on the uniform. Your seats at the ballpark are numbered and match the numbers on your ticket stub. Your food and drinks come with a perceived numbered value, as do programs and parking. The bases are numbered, and outfield fences are labeled with numbers used to measure distance. Players’ positions are given numbers to transcribe the game onto scorecards. Scorecards are used to store these numbers, and box scores reflect this process. Baseball stories are told using numbers, as TV and radio announcers relay the numbers of the game to the fans. As you can see, baseball and numbers could be one and the same. Without one, there is no other. It’s impossible to even talk baseball without using numbers.

Now for the other part of that key; the word “out” is used far more than its opposite, “safe,” in baseball. How difficult would it be to describe the game if the word “out” had never been invented? The word “out” can be used as

an adverb, adjective, or even a noun, in the game of baseball. Let’s start with the umpires. “Yer out,” is probably the most often heard phrase in the game. “He’s out,” “It’s an out,” or “He’s called out” are all forms of the umpire’s jargon.

“For its one, two, three strikes, you’re out,” is the most important line in the song, “Take Me out to the Ballgame.” There’s that word “out” again. Players are punched out, put out, thrown out, or struck out, at every turn. Fly-outs, popped out or lined out are used to describe the results of hitters. “Fouled out,” “out of play” and “out of bounds” can also be used by announcers to describe the game. The biggest explosion of the usage of the word “out” has paralleled the frequency of home runs hit. “Its outa’ here,” “He hit it out of the park” or “This one’s hit out of sight” are all used to describe the long ball. Players sit in a dugout when they are not in the outfield. A good pitcher will have an out pitch and will occasionally pitch out, to stop the running game. Managers are sometimes thrown out of a game by the umpires, and pitchers are sometimes yanked out of a game by managers. Three outs signify the inning is over, and twenty-seven outs per side ends the game. Pitches are sometimes thrown outside the strike zone for balls, while umps throw baseballs out of play when damaged. Rain-outs are part of the game except in a dome stadium, and the most exciting play may be the tag out at home plate. Fans will cry out when a call goes against their team. Outbursts from players sometimes occur in the heat of the battle, when a player is hit by a pitch. Managers try their best to outsmart or outmaneuver their opponent, to tip the outcome of the game in their favor. Some teams are simply outclassed in the field of play, while others appear to be outplayed.

If you’re counting, how many times did I just use some form of the word “out” in this article. It appears that the word “out” could be just as important to baseball as the use of numbers. Maybe the key to life really does lie in the understanding of numbers and the use of the word “out” in baseball. All I know is that when it’s over for me, I never want to hear, “Strike three, you’re out” from the “Big Guy” upstairs. There go those numbers and that word “out” again.

Andy Purvis is a local author and radio personality. Please visit 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. 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.

Turtle Count

By Donna J. Shaver, Ph.D.

Chief, Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery, National Park Service, Padre Island National Seashore

This report updates the numbers of sea turtle nests recorded in Texas since the large June 5 and 6 nesting days and incorporates a nest total correction.

With more Kemp's ridley nesting likely before the nesting season ends in mid-July, this will likely be the second largest Kemp's ridley nesting year recorded in Texas since record-keeping began in 1979.

On 12 June, 2 Kemp’s ridley nests were documented on the Texas coast, on North Padre Island at Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS).

On 11 June, 1 Kemp’s ridley nest was documented on the Texas coast, on South Padre Island.

On 8 June, 1 Kemp’s ridley nest was documented on the Texas coast, on Quintana Beach.

On 7 June, 4 Kemp's ridley nests were documented on the Texas coast, including 1 on Galveston Island and 3 on North Padre Island (including 2 north of PAIS and 1 at PAIS)

Total numbers of nests found this year, by species and area, have been updated below.

Kemp’s Ridley Turtles

So far this year, 240 nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast including (north to south in state):

- 2 Bolivar Peninsula
- 4 Galveston Island
- 4 Brazoria County, N. of Surfside
- 0 Surfside Beach

- 1 Quintana Beach
- 0 Bryan Beach
- 0 Brazoria County, N. of Sargent Beach
- 0 Sargent Beach
- 3 Matagorda Peninsula
- 0 Matagorda Island
- 8 San Jose Island
- 13 Mustang Island
- 133 North Padre Island, including 117 at Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS)
- 59 South Padre Island
- 13 Boca Chica Beach

Loggerhead Turtles

So far this year, 1 nest has been confirmed on the Texas coast, including (north to south in state):

- 1 North Padre Island, including 1 at Padre Island National Seashore
- 0 South Padre Island

Green Turtles

So far this year, 0 nests has been confirmed on the Texas coast, including (north to south in state):

- 0 North Padre Island, including 0 at Padre Island National Seashore
- 0 South Padre Island

Leatherback Turtles

So far this year, 0 nests have been confirmed on the Texas coast, including (north to south in state):

- 0 North Padre Island, including 0 at Padre Island National Seashore
- 0 South Padre Island



Spa Day for Boots Photo ny Lu Ann Kingsbury.

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Send photos and letters to editor@IslandMoon.com

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Left my beautiful Island to visit family in Milan/Italy. Here in front of the majestic gothic cathedral Duomo di Milano. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

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13754 Hawksnest Bay Dr 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage 2544 sq. ft. **WATERFRONT!** Well maintained, landscaped, quartz countertops. **\$989,000.** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914




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14918 Island Village Dr. 2/2 comfortably sleeps 8, pool side. Great location with quick outs, to surf, fish, dine, cocktails and so much more. **\$465,000** call **Charlie Knoll** to see. 361-443-2499.




15396 Caravel 4/3.5/2 3709 sq. ft. Nice floor plan. Lots of decking. East facing fingertip location w/great views. Easy access to Laguna Madre. **\$1,175,753** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499.




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1341 Sea Secret, Port A. Beautiful Island Beach home 2/2.5. Completely remodeled, like NEW! Large corner lot w/ room for pool. Call **Carrie Downs** 361-949-5200 for appt.



14911 Village Beach Dr. 2/2 gorgeous poolside townhome just a quick walk to the beach! 1041 sq. ft. & fully furnished. **\$485,000.** Call **Kim Mogford** 361-434-8522




13929 Coquina Bay Prepare to be impressed with this beautiful 3 bedroom, 3 bath home with an office/study & 2 dining areas **\$479,900.** Call **Cindy** 361-549-5557



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15513 Cruiser "B"
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\$1,800/month



14149 La Blanquilla
4/3/2 New construction
\$4,500/month




14266 Natal Plum
4/3/2
\$4,000/month



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13833 Hawksnest Bay Dr.
4/3/3
\$545,000




13741 Hawksnest Bay Dr.
4/3/3
\$599,500



Sale Pending!

14026 Coquina Bay Dr
4 beds, 3 baths, 3 car garage
\$549,000


Call Cindy Molnar 361-549-5557




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By Jay Gardner

If you're not sneezing, then you must be immune to the effects of the Saharan dust which is blanketing the hemisphere lately. The Tradewinds that brought Christopher Columbus across the Atlantic and our hurricanes from Africa are the same mechanism that is bringing us the Saharan dust layer (SAL). This comes from northern Africa, from Algeria, Mali, and jumps off in Mauritania (yes, I had to look that up, and believe me, that is a wiki rabbit hole. Not sure whether to say you're welcome, or I'm sorry.)

Besides causing respiratory distress in most humans, there are ecological side effects, one being the lovely red tide events off the Gulf coasts. Years ago, I was talking with my mentor Dr. Wes Tunnell, and we were talking about the nearshore currents, and the upwelling that occurs when they shift directions about this time of year. While we were interrupted before he got to draw the lines together for me, I think he was alluding to the timing of the Saharan dust hitting the upwelling at the right time which is what kicks that whole chain of events off. I looked up the sea water temps and saw that there is an upwelling event occurring as I type this all the way from south of Tampico into South Padre. At first I was really worried, but upon closer inspection, for the time being, it is flowing offshore from there. Hope the nearshore currents stay in this pattern. Keep your fingers crossed.



Brothers and sisters are as close as hand and feet ...
- Vietnamese proverb
Females typically lay one to four eggs. Both Roseate Spoonbill parents take turns sitting on the clutch, usually for about three weeks. After the chicks hatch, both parents feed them by regurgitating remains of their last meal.
Chicks leave the nest at four or five weeks. They usually remain nearby and are fed by their parents until at least eight weeks, at which time they've perfected the art of flying. Then the parents' job is done
Smith Oaks Sanctuary
High Island. Photo by Riekie Roncinske

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The dust is obscuring many of the satellite layers we all like to see, including chlorophyll, but at least it's giving us great sunrise and sunset photos, plus a little cloud seeding. The experts say that the Saharan dust layer suppresses tropical storm development, so hopefully it will be a quiet season. Fingers crossed, but now is a good time to make a plan. I need to fire my generator up and make sure it still works after sitting for a spell. Oh look, squirrel!



The Reddish Egret stalks its prey—mostly small fish—more actively than other herons and egrets. The birds first locate their quarry by sight, then the dance begins. They dash, lurch, and zig-zag after their prey, often holding their wings over the water as they hunt. Reddish Egret white morph at N Padre Island, TX Photo By Riekie Roncinske

ISAC surprises

There were a few surprises the other day at the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) from the city. The Bond 2022 list was announced, and you can read more about Commodores Park in this issue. What surprised me was that they didn't include a continuation of the Bond 2018 projects, which was supposedly a priority for project selection, continuation. City staff fully admitted that the improvements under the JFK Causeway that were a priority of ISAC years ago, are likely "no longer a priority." The cause was stated as "we can't build anything on someone else's land", which we all kind of knew years ago. This begs several questions, which I asked staff to look into, why can't we get TxDOT to make those improvements, and where else can we use the funds? Bond money is earmarked for specific projects, and then voted on by the populous, so it's a good trick to move that into other projects. What I really appreciated from staff was the candid conversation that we all had about it. They are amenable to working with us on picking another project. We do have a list of priorities from ISAC, and we'll see what happens. Thanks to ACM Neiman Young for getting in front of this and getting it off high-center.

Turtle hatchling release

We are finally getting on track with summer, I did manage to retrieve my truck from Houston, and am looking forward to getting down the beach. This weekend looks great as far as weather, and the seashore appears like it might have the first turtle hatchling release. These are wildly popular, and if you're a local and haven't seen one of these, shame on you. Call 361-949-7163 before you go out to make sure that it's actually going to occur. I went out on a super-secret mission last week with my buddy Jace Tunnell, and we had more than enough fun with turtles. #creepydollcrew. Y'all drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and I'll see you next week here On the Rocks.



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah's Fishing Adventures

Seasonal changes are happening now with the rise of temperatures on land and sea. We are starving for rainfall, with none in sight. Crowds on the water fighting over fishing holes every day. Seems like an apocalypse in Paradise. Guess what, it's just times of change, hold your breath for a few moments and things will change, it's Padre' Island!

The winds will finally lay down and tranquil mornings will be in order. Less winds will slow the clouds to thicken and rain to build, we might even suck in a tropical storm or two. Tides are low with this last full moon, but they will soon flood in and bring with them green water and bait and gamefish from the deeper areas. Flow with the changes in your fishing, making changes an offing to tide, wind, and water conditions

Moving with the tides

Tide has been moving both bait and gamefish back and forth from the shallows to the deeper areas. Deeper areas could be out into the Gulf, Corpus Christi Bay, the ICW, or the deeper flats in the bay. Low tide and high winds mean low oxygen, brown salty water, all of which can make for difficult fishing.

I'm having great success because we are not anchoring up throwing live bait to one specific

spot. We are drifting the flats covering lots of water and passing thousands of fish. Most of the guide boats are fishing live bait in the larger sand pockets, and grass lines. We are fishing much smaller structure. A different small sand pocket on each cast. We are watching trout and redfish attack on baits within ten feet from the boat!

In the shallows

Clear waters up in the shallows are full of life and allow anglers to look into the ocean like a book of life streaming the undersea world into our hearts. With a few minutes of practice casting, my guests lose their stress and worry and focus on feeling the lures through the fishing pole. Life-like presentation starts with the general grip of the rod and the soft play of the rod. I'M AT THE DOCK EVERY DAY AT MARKER 37 MARINA BETWEEN 1-2, come stop by have a cold drink from the bar, order SNOOPYS for lunch, I'd love to sit and visit with any of you and talk fishing.

As always I have pockets of lures for you to try as well. Give me a call or text and let me know you're coming up, let's enjoy this summer season and let this heat melt any towers of stress away, 361-442-8145. Follow all of our Hookups on FACEBOOK @ Joseph Farah OR INSTAGRAM@ jfarah72. Get wet



Big fish like pretty ladies! This nice redfish was caught this week drifting scattered sand pockets in the Laguna Madre in 2-3 feet of water.

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F-SAT 11 AM - 10:30PM

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Sudoku

Sudoku answers are not available. Play at your own risk!

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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



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Amy Atkins, NMLS #745049

Nick Black, NMLS #689770

Joe Ingle, NMLS #745050

Karen Stipp, NMLS #489383

Across

1. First name among classic TV wives

6. More than a twitch

11. Pendulum direction?

14. Croce's Brown

15. Video partner

16. Ring around the collar?

17. Worked as a British tour guide?

19. Fashion monogram

20. D.C.-N.Y.C. heading

21. Appreciate

22. Busy one

23. Chicago suburb

27. Passed on

29. Cookbook phrase

30. Houston bane

32. Put in order

33. Shower powder

35. All-encompassing

37. Inasmuch as

40. Abu Dhabi honcho

41. Has status

43. Use a harrow

44. Destroyer detector

46. Part of a casa

47. "The Morning Watch" author

48. "National Velvet" author

Bagnold

50. Pinball transgression

52. Broom rider

53. Brings close

56. "Close, but no cigar!"

58. Here-there connection

59. Caustic substances

61. Word from a herd

62. Digit

63. Leap for a clumsy skater?

68. TLC providers

69. Prevention unit

70. Oscar winner Marisa

71. Ballot option

72. Snake in the grass

73. Tree climber of Borneo

Down

1. It's game

2. Scouting unit

3. Feeling of anger

4. Hotel provision

5. African carnivores

6. What spirits may do

7. Word on a door

8. Firefighting Red

9. Tackle box item

10. New cars in 1928

11. Sir Elton soaring closely by the control tower?

12. Spot again

13. Blotto

18. A Catwoman portrayer

23. Author Joyce Carol

24. Memorable mission

25. Baseball Hall of Famer's garb?

26. "___ a Stranger" (Sinatra film)

28. Author Loos

31. Alluded to

34. Try to get a better look

36. Woody Allen film

38. Like some nail polish

39. Gray work

42. Strauss opera

45. Theater districts

49. Test

51. Became fond of

53. A password provides it

54. Nary a soul

55. Left Bank river

57. Grief

60. Animal rights org.

64. Albanian coin

65. Hollywood's Thurman

66. Pin number?

67. Turn sharply

Moon Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
17						18						19		
				20				21				22		
23	24	25				26		27				28		
29				30			31		32					
33			34		35			36		37			38	39
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
				48		49		50			51		52	
53	54					55		56			57			
58					59			60		61				
62				63				64				65	66	67
68				69						70				
71				72						73				

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64. Albanian coin

65. Hollywood's Thurman

66. Pin number?

67. Turn sharply

Police Blotter

June 7 - June 13

JFK Causeway/to Aquarius

Crimes against Person

13300 block SPID 10 p.m. June 11 Assault by Contact

Disturbance

13400 SPID 11 p.m. June 11 Found Narcotics/Drug Paraphernalia

13300 block SPID 10 p.m. June 10 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia/Possession of Controlled Substance

Suspicious Person

13500 block SPID 2 p.m. June 9 Aquarius/SPID 11 p.m. June 12 Failure to Identify

Traffic

31 Traffic Stops

13300 block SPID 7 p.m. June 12 Crash

13000 block SPID 7 p.m. June 11 Crash

13300 block SPID Midnight June 10 Crash

13300 block SPID 9 p.m. June 7 Crash

SPID/West

Crimes against Person

14400 block SPID 3 a.m. June 11 Assault

144000 block SPID 2 a.m. June 11 Assault

15300 block Tortuga Noon June 10 Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon

Disturbance

14200 block SPID 5 p.m. June 13

Neno/SPID 8 a.m. June 11 Possession of Marijuana

14300 block Cruiser 11 p.m. June 10 Noise Ordinance Violation

15700 block SPID 3 a.m. June 11 Possession of Controlled Substance

Gypsy/Encantada 9 a.m. June 10 Noise Ordinance Violation

Gypsy/Encantada Noon June 7 Noise Ordinance Violation

Suspicious Person

SH 361/SPID 6 p.m. June 11

Whitecap/Aquarius 10 p.m. June 12

Traffic

99 Traffic Stops

14600 block SPID 5 p.m. June 8 Crash

14100 block Bounty 9 a.m. June 12 Crash

15400 block Dyna 7 p.m. June 11 Crash

15200 block Cruiser 6 p.m. June 11 Crash

15200 block Cartagena 11 a.m. June 10 Parking Violation

152000 block Cartagena 1 p.m. June 7 Parking Violation

13500 block King Phillip 2 p.m. June 8 Crash

15400 block Dyna 7 p.m. June 11 Crash

13900 block Coquina Bay 4 p.m. June 11 Crash

East of SPID/Gulf side

Crimes against Person

15000 block Leeward 8 p.m. June 11 Assault with Injury

11200 block Gulf Beach 6 p.m. June 10 Assault

11200 block Gulf Beach 6 p.m. June 10 Injury to Child/Elderly

Crimes against Property

15100 block Leeward 1 p.m. June 12 Theft of Services

15200 block Windward 1 p.m. June 12 Trespassing Violation

14900 block Leeward 5 p.m. June 9 Trespassing Violation

14900 block Windward 3 a.m. June 7 Criminal Mischief \$100-\$750

100 block Zahn Road 9 a.m. June 12 Trespassing

11200 block Gulf Beach 6 p.m. June 10 Criminal Mischief \$100-\$750

7900 block Gulf Beach 8 p.m. June 10 Theft of Services

7900 block Gulf Beach 5 p.m. June 10 Theft under \$100

Disturbance

15600 block Gulf Beach 2 p.m. June 13 Public Intoxication

15600 block Gulf Beach 7 p.m. June 11

14700 block Whitecap Midnight June 12 Noise Ordinance Violation

15000 block Leeward 8 p.m. June 11

14700 block Whitecap 1 a.m. June 11 Noise Ordinance Violation

11200 block 6 p.m. June 10

Suspicious Person

4100 block Gulf Beach Midnight June 13

Traffic

30 Traffic Stops

14800 block Windward 3 a.m. June 7 Crash

15200 block Windward 9 p.m. June 8 Parking Violation

Whitecap/Windward Noon June 7 Crash

Windward/Augustine 3 p.m. June 7 Crash

14800 block Windward 3 a.m. June 7 Crash

SH 361/Beach Access Road 3 10 p.m. June 9 DWI



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Full Transparency and Disclosure

PIPOA News by Marvin Jones, President



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

Boat Ramp- The Caravel boat ramp will be closed for resurfacing began Tuesday, May 31, 2022. The resurfacing should take approximately three weeks. However, it should be open and ready for use for the July 4th holiday.

Towing- Last week, eight trucks and boat trailers were towed. Please get your sticker for your boat trailer. You can purchase your sticker for \$10 at the PIPOA Office located at 14015 Fortuna Bay Drive.

There is a problem with some condominium complexes. That is, the condo management is telling short-term renters that they can go ahead and park their trucks and boat trailers on the boat ramps. Unfortunately, the condo management is not providing the tenants with a PIPOA trailer or vehicle sticker. Therefore, these poor folks are getting towed. Condo managers, please buy stickers for your tenants. Please do not tell them to park on the boat ramps without stickers.

Short-term rentals (STRs)- The City Planning Department has published a draft/proposed City ordinance. According to this proposal, the current residential ordinance prohibiting short-term rentals in the single-family RS-6 zoning for the entire City will be replaced. The City, with this new ordinance, will allow short-term rentals in all residential areas in the City.

The good news is, thanks to the efforts of the PIPOA and many others, the above ordinance leaves the RS-6 zoning prohibition against short-term rentals in place for the PIPOA neighborhoods. As I write this article, the ordinance must be voted on and passed by both the planning commission and the City Council. Your

support is needed to ensure the ordinance passes these votes. Those that are opposed to turning our neighborhoods into a hotel zone, please email and otherwise contact the City Council Members to voice your opposition to short-term rentals in our residential neighborhoods.

Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC)- On Tuesday, June 14, I attended the ISAC meeting. It was reported and discussed that the 2018 Bond issue provided approximately \$750,000 for redesigning and reconstructing the exit from Park Road 22 to the area under the JFK Causeway bridge as you go to Docs and Snoopys. Apparently, \$75,000 was spent on engineering. Unfortunately, there has been no coordination between the City, the State Highway Department, and the State General Land Office. Thus, no construction or improvements have been made. It appears this project has been stymied. The money for the project is sitting somewhere unused.

Jay Gardner, the current Committee Chairman, was reelected chairman for another term.

The 2022 Bond issue includes money for park improvements. There was much discussion at the meeting regarding how to spend the money allocated for the Island. There seems to be a push to spend money on the Compass park. The idea of building a senior center was discussed, with many ISAC members preferring a community center.

Litter Critter- According to the City website, the next Litter Critter is scheduled for July 9, 2022, at the Briscoe King Pavilion off Park Road 22. The time is usually from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please see the City website for items accepted. <https://www.cctexas.com/solid-waste/community-cleanup-programs>

Board Meeting- The next PIPOA Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 5:30 PM at the Padre Island Baptist Church located across from Whataburger.

On Monday, July 4, 2022, the PIPOA Office will be closed for the holiday.

Texas Oil and Gas Production Statistics for March 2022

Crude oil and natural gas production as reported to the Railroad Commission of Texas for March 2022 came from 162,387 oil wells and 87,163 gas wells.

The RRC reports that from April 2021 to March 2022, total Texas reported production was 1.5

billion barrels of crude oil and 10.7 trillion cubic feet of total gas. Crude oil production reported by the RRC is limited to oil produced from oil leases and does not include condensate, which is reported separately by the RRC..

Statewide Production 2022		
Product	Reported Total Volume	Average Daily Production
Crude Oil	110,900,350 bbls (barrels)	3,577,431 bbls
Natural Gas	829,451,543 mcf (thousand cubic feet)	26,756,501 mcf

Statewide Production 2022			
Product	Total Volume	Daily Production Total Volume	Average Daily Production
Crude Oil	125,288,298 bbls	4,041,558 bbls	114,487,044 bbls 3,693,130 bbls
Natural Gas	887,140,698 mcf	28,617,442 mcf	474,377,149 mcf 15,302,489 mcf

Texas Top 10 Crude Oil Producing Counties Ranked by Preliminary Production		
Rank	County	Crude Oil (bbls)
1.	Midland	17,632,320
2.	Martin	13,444,625
3.	Karnes	7,932,926

Art Gallery Celebrates Two Years With Two Events

Summer is here and the weather is beautiful—except for this crazy wind. However, we all know the winds can blow in changes and change is coming soon. I have sold the gallery business to a very capable lady, Melissa Mitchell. She will be taking over the gallery as of July 1, 2022. She will also be here the last few days of June to get to know how the business runs. Please make her feel welcomed and continue to support the gallery and the 75+ artists represented here.

so excited—first time to do this for us—this girl has some serious talent. Vanessa Spittler will be showing you different styles of fluid art—take one of her classes to learn for yourself. She is an excellent teacher. Chris may be here with his forge and demo his art—we will see—he is a little busy moving my things. Donna Labrie will be painting on porcelain, her first time too. It will be a fun night and hope to see you here!!

Big Event...Don't miss it!!!

June 30th, 4-8pm. We will be celebrating the end of our 2nd year in business. This is also my farewell party and Melissa's welcome party. We will be having a Shrimp Boil and of course some yummy adult beverages. Emma James will be blessing us with her beautiful voice from 6-8pm. Please join us! I would like the opportunity to say goodbye to everyone & introduce you to the new owner too. It has been my pleasure getting to know everyone and I am grateful for all of you that have supported us these last 2 years.

Don't forget we have art classes

- Alcohol Ink...\$50....adults only
- *Water Color...\$50 adults....\$45 kids
- *Fluid Art...\$65 all ages
- *Acrylic painting...\$50...\$45 kids
- Quilling...\$45...age 10+
- Wreath Making...\$75....adults only
- Silversmithing...\$105-125 depends supplies & length of class
- ***adults & kids 6+. Kids must be able to sit & follow instructions for at least 1 1/2 hours.

Events

We have two events this month. First, Sip & Shop will be on June 17th, 5-7:30. Please join us for a Pina Colada and some snacks. The following artists will be here demonstrating their skills. Kaleigh Glover will be painting—we are

Rooster Fighters Arrested in Rio Grande Valley

he Cameron County Sherriff's Office (CCSO) this week arrested two men in connection with a rooster fight.

On June 11, deputies received information about a rooster fight event in progress in San Benito and responded to the scene, according to a release by the CCSO. The release said that deputies saw multiple vehicles and found a shed where the rooster fights took place, as well as razor blades, slashers, and syringes. Items commonly used in rooster fights.

According to CCSO, deputies found Miguel Angel Turrubiarates who identified himself as

the owner of the shed and the host of the rooster fighting event. Police said Carlos Fransisco Vega interfered with the investigation being conducted by deputies. Deputies asked Vega to leave the premises which he refused to do, the release said.

The CCSO said Turrubiarates has been charged with Cockfighting, a Class A Misdemeanor, and Vega faces a charge of Interference with Public Duties, a Class B Misdemeanor. Both men were transported to the Carrizales-Rucker Detention Center, the release said. The investigation is ongoing.



Red-shouldered hawks are solitary and very territorial. They hunt by day and search for prey while perched on a treetop or soaring over woodlands. When hawks spot prey, they kill it by dropping directly onto it from the air. They may cache food near their nest for later consumption. Like most raptors, they have very sharp vision and reasonably good hearing, with talons capable of killing animals at least equal to their own size. Juvenile Red-Shouldered Hawk Photo By Riekie Roncinske

Digital plates are now available for commercial fleets in Texas

Starting this month commercial fleet owners in Texas now have the option to put a high-tech tool on the back of their vehicles to replace metal plates.

State law authorizes the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to offer digital license plates to government and commercial fleet vehicles. These plates, manufactured by Reviver, became available on June 1. Multiple plate models are available at different prices. The vehicle must already be registered in Texas to qualify for a digital license plate. An additional annual \$95 administrative fee is applied to digital license plate orders.

Eligible commercial fleet owners interested in upgrading to digital plates or reviewing pricing options may visit [Reviver.com/geo-expansion/texas/](https://reviver.com/geo-expansion/texas/).

Stakeholders Meeting for Council District 4

June 16, Ethel Everly Senior Center

The City's Development Services Department is holding stakeholders meetings in each of the city council districts to discuss current projects. Topics to be discussed will include:

- * Military Compatibility Area Overlay Districts (MCAOD)
- * Historic Preservation Plan Update
- * Master Planning and Impact Fee Study Update
- * 2021 International Code Adoption Update
- * STAR Program (Contractor Registration)

The meeting is District 4, is June 16 at 6:00 p.m. - Ethel Everly Senior Center, 654 Graham Road.

County Bans Sale of Certain Fireworks for July 4

Restrictions due to dry conditions

Nueces County Commissioners this week placed a ban on the sale and use of certain types of fireworks in unincorporated areas of the county due to "several drought conditions."



Fireworks stands across the county will not be allowed to sell Skyrockets with sticks, Bottle rockets, or missiles with fins.

"the fireworks in question are currently more dangerous in the unincorporated areas because their flight paths are unpredictable," said Nueces County Emergency Management Coordinator Louie Ray. "The ground conditions are at a higher than usual risk for fires and we need to take measure to secure all persons and property."

The ban will remain in place until county officials determine that drought conditions no longer exist in Nueces County.



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By Del Smith

Back again to 1998 for a late season anchor-out-mosquito-warfare. Seems as though it might be a little different than the land based version;

I have been taking a break. Away from working on the boat that is. And in doing so, I have been enjoying this beautiful fall weather by taking the ARIES away from it’s safe haven of it’s slip. – After all, boats are supposed to be used. Well that’s what the “Wharf Committee” tells me. Rather pointedly too.

Even got to anchor out a couple of times. Spent a night over in the Spinnaker Hole. Had the place to myself that night, but had to leave the next morning when the jet-skiers and the water-skiers started their discomfort of wake making and noise making. But was able to enjoy the sunrise and a cheese and fruit breakfast, washed down with hot, sweet tea before the weekend water-warriors drove me away to quieter place.

I don’t think they enjoyed the place the same way I did, however.

Then, just recently, I dropped the hook in my favorite of all local anchorages; Shamrock Cove. I then furled the sails, prepared the anchor light, before digging out a tall cool one to enjoy the on-coming sunset. Almost had the place to myself, but for that other sailboat about a half mile away. Probably doing much the same thing as I was.-- In this peaceful spot.

After the sun was properly bid ‘adieu’ for that day, it was the task of preparing the boat for the night. Then it was the task of preparing ‘me’ for the night, as my tummy was telling me that sailing demands a lot of nourishment. So I let a ‘turkey-day’ ham sandwich set up a dialog with the complaining organ. After which it was a cigar and a ‘sunset’ libation to enjoy the early night sky and the soft sounds of the water. Then a major attack of the ‘eye-lid-droopys’, sent me to the vee-berth for a long night’s rest in my 30 foot long water bed.

Then “THEY” came. Must have been tired little ‘suckers’ after that quarter mile flight from land to my boat. I did know, however, that those vampire insects were very, very hungry and extremely irritating. ---- well the eyelids became undrooped and the ‘WAR’ began. – Trench war. Nerve gas war. Out from the vee berth I lit a couple of mosquito coils, slipped into my blanket-toga, poured a liberal drop of grog for one hand and re-lit the cigar for the other one and retreated to the cockpit. Closing all the hatches behind me.

War is hell, is it not? – After all,“Ole Chap”, one must maintain one’s dignity in the face of adversity. – ‘WHAT?’ I thought to myself as I was puffing on the cigar, sipping the grog, while gazing at the star-studded night sky above.

Then I became introspective. – Maybe it was the cigar, the grog or the leaking mosquito coils ‘nerve gas’, from below, I do not know. --- For I started to have these strange inner conversations with my other “self? – It started with a thought I had, “Boy Howdy! It sure is beautiful out here! Why haven’t I been doing this all along, before now?”

“Hey Mon, guess what?” came back the answer from my ‘inner self’.

“AHHH. ---What?”, I thought.

“You be the one, Mon. Da problem. You the one that’s always changing the boat. Doin’ this. Doin’ that. RRRRipping out something, jest because you got dis ‘BRIGHT’ idea you making it ‘BETTER”! Mon, don’t ya know, you not been doin’ this, cause ya always got the boat lookin’ lik’ some dumb construction site!”

“But. --- But”

“Shut up, Mon! I be not done yet! You stop all these ‘BRIGHT’ ideas and you could be out here all the time! Why Mon, look over there behind yo frontal lobe. That be the plans for a new dinghy! Whats you need a new dinghy fo’? You gots a good dinghy floating out there behind da boat now!!

“But! – But!!-- But!”

“But is right! But oooh nooo ya always got a hammer in one hand and a saw in the other , with con-struction / de-struction gleam in yo eye, while’s everybody else goes sailing by on the way to Shamrock! ---- WITHOUT YOU! MON!!!”

“Ouch!” --- I looked at the cigar, then the rum, and thought, “This trench warfare is turning real ugly. Do mosquitos have some sort of Star Wars thought control thing? Hand to hand combat with the little critters would be better than this.” So I took a final puff on the cigar, finished the rum and popped open the hatch to a cabin full of coil fumes and no mosquitos. --- YAHHH! I won! So I set one coil out side and settled back to my berth, thinking, “Boy, that new dinghy would sure be nice!”

“OHH! Mon, do you not ever learn?”

Science and the Sea



To Serve a Higher Porpoise

Many people have heard the cry “Save the whales,” but these massive creatures aren’t the only marine mammals at risk of disappearing. In fact, the smallest of the whales, the vaquita porpoise, is on the verge of extinction: just 10 individuals are estimated to remain in the world. Fortunately, those 10 appear healthy—as long as they can continue avoiding a specific fishing practice that continues illegally.



Despite high genetic diversity, vaquita porpoises may still disappear due to illegal gillnet fishing. Credit: Alfokrads, CC BY-SA 4.0

Vaquita porpoises measure just 4 to 5 feet long and live only in the Gulf of California, the strip of water between the Baja Peninsula and mainland Mexico. With only about 10 individuals left, biologists didn’t know what their chances of survival were, especially if inbreeding could endanger their survival. But a study published in May revealed good news. Scientists analyzed the genomes—the complete genetic code—of 20 vaquita porpoises that lived between 1985

and 2017. The findings suggest the species has an excellent chance not only of surviving, but of fully recovering as a population, at least in terms of their health and genetic diversity. Of the dozen marine mammal species whose genomes were analyzed, vaquita porpoises had the fewest possibly harmful mutations—encouraging news for future breeding.

Less optimistically, though, the only way vaquita porpoises can survive is if officials adequately enforce bans against gillnet fishing.

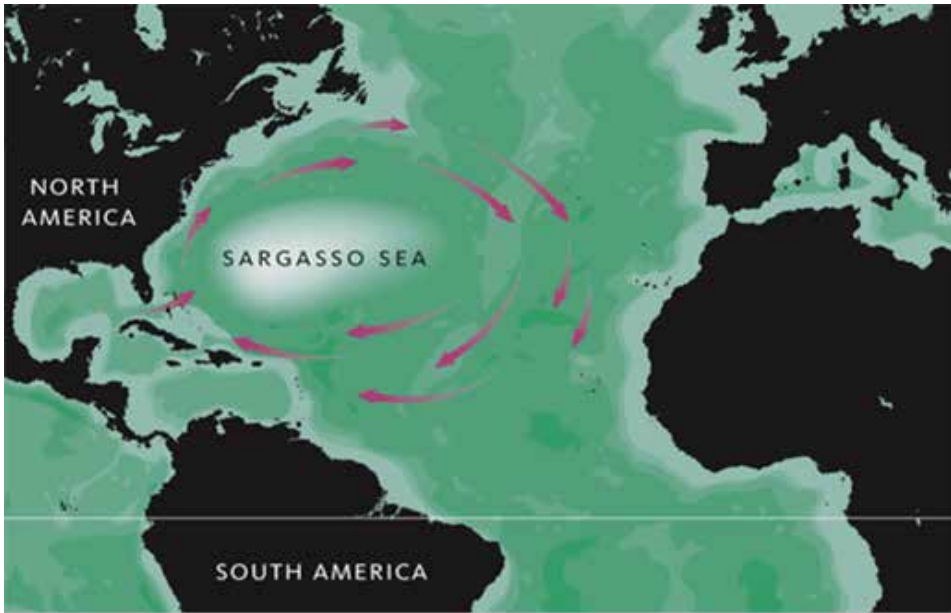
Going Native by Dr. Ed Proffitt



Sargassum the good, the bad, the ugly

By Ed Proffitt

Pictures of the seaweed sargassum, which isn’t a plant by the way but a macro-algae, have been making the rounds in the Island Moon recently so I thought a bit of a review might be in order. There are over a hundred species of sargassum in different parts of the world --- all considered to be “brown algae” (Phylum or Division Phaeophyta). In the Gulf, we have two important species, Sargassum natans and S. fluitans. Historically (meaning here the algal “good old days”), patches of floating sargassum seaweed occurred in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean, but was most abundant off the Atlantic seaboard where it constituted an entire ecosystem termed the Sargasso Sea. The ocean explorer and scientist, Sylvia Earle, once termed the Sargasso Sea as a “golden floating rainforest.” Here’s a bit of trivia that you can use to impress your friends with at parties: it’s the only sea that is bounded on all sides by currents (four major ones together forming a clockwise circulating gyre) rather than by a land mass on at least one side. Now see...aren’t you glad to know that!



Sargasso sea map.



Sargassum bloom Cancun 2015

The Sargasso Sea ecosystem, as well as floating patches elsewhere in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico, are critical habitat for many species of fish and invertebrates, and some odd species have evolved to mimic sargassum in appearance such as the sargassum fish (genus Histrio).

However, the good old days appear to be gone as “blooms” of sargassum have occurred regularly in recent years and cause serious problems for local ecologic and economic

conditions over a broad area. Some increases were noted a bit earlier, but large blooms began happening every year or so in 2011 and truly massive blooms occurred in some years such as 2018. The blooms can was up into shallow waters (where they smother seagrass and coral) and on beaches (where they can drive tourists away with the stink and insects they attract). There are also reports with floating mats being so thick in some places that sea turtles and dolphins have trouble getting to the surface to breathe.

Researchers from the University of South Florida (my alma mater!), NOAA, and elsewhere have been studying the “blooming issue” (sorry, I had too). For details on their work tracking sargassum blooms via satellite and modeling “ecological drivers” that cause the blooms visit the USF web site:

[https://www.usf.edu/marine-science/news/2019/scientists-discover-the-biggest-seaweed-bloom-in-the-world.aspx#:~:text=ST.,\)%2C%20as%20re](https://www.usf.edu/marine-science/news/2019/scientists-discover-the-biggest-seaweed-bloom-in-the-world.aspx#:~:text=ST.,)%2C%20as%20re)

They term the area of blooms the Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt that can arise off the coast of Africa, and extend across the Atlantic to the Caribbean and then enter the Gulf of Mexico via the Loop and other currents. These scientists link deforestation in the Amazon coupled with increased fertilizer for agriculture in that basin, along with changing temperature regimes and ocean upwelling, as the cause of the larger than typical blooms that begun in 2011. In some years, like 2013, when blooms didn’t occur they believe that atypically low amounts of sargassum in the winter just didn’t provide a sufficient “starting point” for massive algal growth in spring and summer. Their unhappy prediction is that large blooms are the new normal and without a means to control massive fertilizer runoff communities will have



Sargassum-fish Histero

to learn to adapt and prepare as they would for a hurricane or other natural disaster. This year, winter levels of sargassum were high and so large blooms seem likely in 2022.

So far, the quantities of sargassum we get are miniscule compared to the Caribbean and parts of Florida. We’ll have to wait and see if that remains the case.

Retired Florida Largemouth Bass Broodfish Headed to Rio Grande Valley Community Fishing Lakes

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Division will stock several retired Florida largemouth bass broodfish into three Rio Grande Valley community fishing lakes in June. Dean Porter Park Resaca in Brownsville, Town Lake at Fireman’s Park in McAllen and the Old Hidalgo Pumphouse Channel in Hidalgo will receive these special fish.



The broodfish, adult bass that average more than four pounds, are coming from their former home at the A.E. Wood State Fish Hatchery in San Marcos and are expected to provide excellent fishing opportunities and rewarding catches to anglers. In addition, the broodfish will add outstanding Florida largemouth bass

genetics to these popular fishing destinations.

“We are excited to bring these extraordinary fish to these local communities and are committed to improving freshwater fishing in the Rio Grande Valley,” said Greg Binion, Inland Fisheries Corpus Christi District Supervisor.

Old Hidalgo Pumphouse Channel will also receive 3,000 bluegill this fall. A popular prey of largemouth bass, the bluegill will offer additional food for the largemouth bass and offer additional fishing opportunities for anglers. The City of Hidalgo received a Habitat and Angler Access Program (HAAP) grant to enhance fish habitat and improve shoreline angling access at the historic Old Hidalgo Pumphouse Channel site. The grant funding will enable the construction of a T-head fishing pier and an additional fishing dock, plus fish habitat structures and a pond aeration system.

The program, which launched in June 2021, is primarily funded by the purchase of freshwater fishing licenses. HAAP supports projects to restore and enhance fish habitat in Texas’ public inland waters as well as develop, enhance, and increase shoreline fishing access. The TPWD Inland Fisheries Division is dedicated to improving fishing opportunities in the valley and throughout the state.

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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Who's gonna fill his shoes...

One of my heroes and a solid pillar of our community, **Ken Yarbrough**, is finally calling it quits after 18 years and over a hundred productions at the *Port Aransas Community Theater*. In all those years Ken has worn many a hat at *PACT* including actor, director, producer, voice coach and general “go to dude”



After 18 years, Ken Yarbrough is hanging up his theater hat.

for everything that goes on in that building. Ken was born in Dallas and raised in Arkansas. He's been involved in theater all his life, in fact he played **Scrooge** in *A Christmas Carol* when he was in the 4th grade. Let it be known, Mr. Yarbrough spent his junior high and high school years in band, choir and drama class. The first time I met Ken was when he played a weekly piano bar gig at the now defunct *Wild Horse Saloon* with his pal **Mike Jones** as *Unrehearsed* and *Unafraid*. They were not only really talented but also quite hilarious and I was immediately impressed with his talents on stage but also as his role of a leader. Some of the highlights Ken claims are being on stage with his children, producing the *Greater Tuna* plays and working with Mike Jones. He's also very, very proud of their latest play and Ken's one swan song, *The Laramie Project*. He's not leaving his day job at *Parks and Rec* but is really exhausted after rebuilding the theatre after *Hurricane Harvey* and then working through the Pandammit and the boy could sure use some “me time” right about now. So I asked him, “Who's gonna fill your shoes?” To which he replied, “The pact board is being lead by some of the finest people I know. **Jacob Williams** and **Savannah Sidor** are young adults that grew up in PACT and having them take a seat in the board along with **Tiffany Arnold**, **Yvette Hernandez**, **Ronni Smith**, and veterans, **Rick Adams**, **Glenda McCormick**, **Chris Alexander** and **Kerri Alexander** the board is positioned for growth and success. I couldn't be prouder.” He went on to say, “I'm retiring from being at the theatre 20 plus hours a week. I will still help with special projects and offer my opinions from times to time and when they are asked for my family **Chelle**, **Kelsea** and **Cathryn** who are the inspiration behind my personal success at *PACT*. Providing the youth of Port Aransas a place to grow and to watch a child come in that is shy and introverted go from being quiet and reserved to so self confident and proud is something everyone at *PACT* should be proud of. It takes a village and PACT has had a mighty powerful village to offer to the families in the coastal bend community. *Grease* was my first show at *PACT* when both of my daughters were young and were in that show as well as several others. I love that. I really do.” We bid adieu to our hometown hero and wish him nothing but the best. Mr. Yarbrough I give you my coveted “attaboy” and hope to see you around campus. Now go take a nap and somebody please peel him a grape.

On the local front...

The *City of Port Aransas Parks and Rec* has announced the “Crazy Cart Crawl” on Saturday, June 25th. Basically, it's a scavenger hunt with 4-6 member teams racing around in golf carts to take pics of 60 hidden items placed all around town. The Crazy Cart Crawl is open to all ages. For more info and to register contact kstevens@cityofportaransas.org or call 361-749-4158. This sounds like a lot of fun.

Scattered shots...



Jon Car rocked the house at Treasure Island last Saturday.

concert series, *Sunset Sounds* featuring **Ruben Limas** and **Luis Villarreal** on stage at the *Patsy Jones Amphitheater*. We watched the show from our golf cart with many friends and mostly locals. It really is a spectacular setting with the sun setting at the ferry landing as a backdrop. From there we made it over to *Bron's Backyard* to see a very cool band, **Profile**, from Corpus. They were mostly *Tejano Music Award* recipients and played the appropriate beat. We then beat it over to *Shorty's* to hear the amazing **Dreaming in Color** band featuring **Debra Scott Brown** with her husband **Doug Brown** on bass and **Richard Mendez** on guitar. That there is



Debra Scott Brown and Dreaming in Color played Shorty's on Saturday.



The Profile from Corpus Christi played Bron's last Friday.



Ruben Limas and Luis Villarreal played Sunset Sounds in the park last Friday.

are a four piece band of twenty something guys that must have picked up their love of rock and roll from their parents. They call themselves the **Tri County Bounty** who claim to have over 150 songs in the repertoire with covers of **Pink Floyd**, **Kiss**, **Thin Lizzy**, **13th Floor Elevators**, **Golden Earring**, **Parliament**, **Santana**, **Hendrix**, **The Rolling Stones**, **Beatles**, **CCR** and **Cream**, just to name a few. I'm telling you, these kids have it going on and trust me, you WILL be seeing them around town soon.



Will, Jordan and Josh aka The Tri County Bounty will soon be leaving their gig on the corner of Avenue G and Alister to play venues with walls very soon.



Kevin Kurtz will play Island Wine on Thursday.

DO NOT MISS LIST
Coming this weekend...



Brothers Russell and Randy Toman will play Shorty's this Friday.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪

a mighty fine band. We wrapped up Saturday night at *Treasure Island* with rocker **Jon Car** at *Treasure Island*. I have been curious about this guy for some time. That cat is awesome and was born to rock and roll. On Sunday I got a call that the buskers were back on the street corner in Port A so I went to check them out and meet them. They



The Wayward Gypsies will play the VFW on Friday.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, June 16
Selfie @ Shorty's
Sierra Dawn @ Palmilla Beach Red's
John Elijah @ Bron's
Kevin Kurtz @ Gaff
Michael Amos @ Island Wine
Artie V @ Treasure Island
Yosh & Yimmy, The East & The Crow @ Cole Park
Jered Clark @ Virginia's on the Bay
Sonny Salinas @ Rockit's
Michael Burts @ Brewster Southside
Meza Band @ Brewster Downtown
Wrath Upon the Skies @ House of Rock
Groove @ Harley Davidson CC
Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard's
David Salinas @ Paradise Key
Rockport
Trey Maresh @ Packery Bar & Grill
Ruben Limas & Dylan Limas @ Island Italian
Billy Snipes @ NB Builder's Ass.
Fishing Tourny

Friday, June 17
Toman Bros @ Shorty's
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Starlite & the Moonbeams @ Bron's
Wayward Gypsies @ VFW
TBA @ Treasure Island
Jered Clark @ Virginia's on the Bay
Bloodline @ Packery Bar & Grill
After Glow @ Pelican Lounge
Sierra Dawn @ Marker 37
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Benny Perez @ Salty Dolphin
The East, The Crow @ House of Rock
Flatbroke, Alley Cats @ Rockit's
Triptonite @ BUS
Red Tree Runners @ Boozers
Art Barrera @ South Texas Icehouse
Caleb Navarro @ Sunset Hideaway
Billy Snipes @ NB Builder's Ass. Fishing Tourny

Saturday, June 18
Robbie Lee @ Island Wine
Ruben V @ Shorty's
The Daze @ VFW
Jim Dugan, White Rabbit @ Bron's
Jason Suthern @ Treasure Island
Wayward Gypsies @ Gaff
Jered Clark @ Virginia's on the Bay
Jim Dugan @ Fisherman's Wharf

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JUNE 18

JUNE 19

JUNE 21

JUNE 22

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Thursday: Bingo 6:30
Michael Amos 7-10 PM
Friday:
Karaoke 7pm- close
Saturday:
Robbie Lee 7-10 PM
Sunday:
Beto Ramon 3-6 PM

Treasure Island

ARTIE V

TBA

JASON SUTHERN

AFTER GLOW

REX ALLEN McNEIL

JUNE 16

JUNE 17

JUNE 18

JUNE 24

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JUNE 18

JUNE 19

JUNE 24

JUNE 25

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Tracing Paces @ Pelican Lounge
Matt Hole @ Packery Bar
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Bark at the Dark: Ozzie Tribute @ House of Rock
Splendiferous, Michael Burts @ Rockit's
Meza Band @ Brewster Southside
Kyle Park @ Brewster Downtown
OTB @ BUS
Dreaming in Color @ The Barn
Sharioko @ Salty Dolphin
Rich Lockhart @ Texas Mesquite
Afterglow @ Rock Bottom
Kevin Kurtz @ Sunset Hideaway
Robin Blue @ Hook & Ladder AP
The Groove @ La Playa By the Bay

Sunday, June 19
Dreaming in Color @ Bron's
Beto Ramon @ Island Wine
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's
Jered Clark @ Virginia's on the Bay
Dam Right Duo @ House of Rock
Mike Guerra @ Blackbeard's
Stoney LaRue @ Heritage Park
Ruben Limas @ Salty Dolphin
Jerry Ward @ Pelican Lounge
Sierra Dawn @ Doc's

Monday, June 20
Stevie Start @ Doc's
Chuck Almaraz @ Blackbeard's

Tuesday, June 21
First Day of Summer
Kevin Kurtz @ Bron's
Billy Snipes @ Doc's
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Robin Blue @ Scuttlebutt's
Open Mic @ House of Rock

Wednesday, June 22
Singer-Songwriter Open
Mic w/ Jay Springer @ Island Wine
Riptide @ VFW
Billy Snipes @ Bron's
Art Barrera @ Pelican Lounge
Kevin Kurtz @ Packery Bar & Grill
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Aaron Jacob @ South Texas Icehouse
Dave's Duo @ Katz 21
Damon Scott @ House of Rock

Thursday, June 23
Selfie @ Shorty's
Brooke Graham @ Gaff

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