



Three Chords and the Truth B16



Science Fair A2



Business Briefs A9



Flour Bluff Drill Team A2



Nature Notes A8

Issue 1032

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



The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

January 26, 2024

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Release the Turtles

Dozens of cold-stunned turtles rescued from the Laguna Madre during last week's freeze were released into the warmer waters of the Gulf of Mexico this week.



By Dale Rankin
The weather has been up and down here on our little sandbar this week and it looks like we are in for some water from the sky as we move on through the heart of January. There is a lot going on so let's get rolling.

Winter Texans

Our move to name groups of Winter Texans continues to pick up steam so if any of our visitors from the north have an idea the suggestion box remains open. We also would like to revive an item we had in the Island Moon some years ago which is our Winter Texan of the Week. Send us photos of yourself or others who made the trek to our shores along with their point of origin and why they like coming to our Island. Email them to editor@islandmoon.com and we will share them in these pages. The belt sanders will be running this Saturday at the Gaff in Port Aransas and it will be ground zero for Winter Texans.

Island medians



There was good news from the board meeting of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association this week where it was announced that the City of Corpus Christi will take over maintenance of the medians on Whitecap Boulevard, Commodores Drive, and Sea Pines Drive. PIPOA members have been paying more than \$100,000 per year to maintain the medians for the last few years after the dissolution of the Island Beautification Trust. The medians became city property when The Island was annexed more than forty years ago and the Beautification Trust was used to fund maintenance there through the PIPOA starting in 1981 after damage to the medians by Hurricane Allen the year before. However, with the dissolution of the trust the duty and cost of maintaining the medians fell to the PIPOA and its members. The news Tuesday is that city crews will now take on that responsibility we thank the city for the help.

Camping at Island boat ramps

There was also discussion at the Tuesday meeting of the long-term problem of people camping overnight to fish at Island boat ramps. This has been an ongoing problem for years, particularly at the ramp on Cobo De Baro Circle where there has been an ongoing problem with the pitching of tents and the blasting of boom boxes. Complaints from neighbors brought the police who so far have refused to issue tickets for trespassing much to the dismay of neighbors. Police

Around cont. on A7

Site work begins for Commodores Drive water exchange bridge

Final funding for Whitecap NPI projects approved



Work on detour for construction of Commodores Bridge.

By Dale Rankin
Final funding and plans for a planned \$9.2 million water exchange bridge under Commodores Drive were approved by the board of the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 (TIRZ #2) and the Corpus Christi City Council on Tuesday as crews as the Whitecap NPI site began work on a two-lane detour that will reroute traffic around the construction site for the

Bridge cont. on page A5

Second Island causeway, widening of Highway 361, redesign of Commodores intersection in TxDot planning

By Dale Rankin
The Chief Engineer of the Corpus Christi Region of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) came to Padre Island this week at the request of State Representative Todd Hunter and gave an outline and update on key projects currently underway or in the planning stages. The items outlined by Valente Olivarez paint

a picture transportation infrastructure to and around Padre for the next two decades.

Regional Parkway North Padre Island

The first project outlined by Olivarez is a planned second causeway to Padre Island to be located south of the Kleberg County line. The project has been labeled the

Regional Parkway North Padre Island and Olivarez said the Estes Group, LLC, has been hired for a \$3 million Environmental Impact Study (IES) which is currently underway and will take about three years to complete. That study will determine the exact route the new causeway

TxDot cont. on page A5

\$1.5 million for Island bridges

Gypsy and Whitecap bridges to get reinforcement

The board of the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ #2) on Tuesday approved \$1.5 million funds for maintenance at the two city-owned Island bridges in anticipation of the opening of the canal under the Don Patricio water exchange bridge. According to city documents the work will include scour protection and erosion protection at both bridges. According to city documents, the move comes after analyses by two independent consultants that con-

firmed that the channel contractions at the Whitecap and Gypsy bridges will produce increased flow velocities once the canal system is fully interconnected. The expected flow velocities are sufficient to warrant retrofitting scour protection countermeasures to the bridges.

The city document reads as follows: In August 2021, LJA Engineering,

Bridges cont. on A3



Gypsy Bridge

A little Island history

When the Island Was the Frontier It started with a raid in downtown Corpus Christi and led to a border war

Editor's note: We first ran this series of stories a decade ago but with newcomers and Winter Texas who like a good Texas Tale we will revisit them with an eye toward recalling how life was here not all that long ago seen through the eyes of a Texas Ranger who lived it. Hang on to your saddle horn.

By Dale Rankin
Corpus Christi 1875. In the

years following the Civil War the area from the Nueces River south to the Rio Grande was known as the Nueces Strip and it was not a place for the faint of heart. The U.S. Mexican War which ended with the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ceded all or part of what was later to become the states of California, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Kansas, Arizona and, depending

on interpretation, the entire state of Texas for \$15 million in cash. In Mexico it is a wound that has still not healed as many Mexican citizens regard the U.S. as a thief which picked a fight with its smaller neighbor in order to "legally" steal half of Mexico's territory. The viewpoint is summed up in the phrase often

History cont. on page A5

By the numbers

How The Island voted in the last two primary elections

With Election Day just over three weeks away we take a look back at the Party Primary elections two years ago and four years ago to see how Island voters cast their ballots. Here are the numbers according to the office of Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands.

Republican Primary 2022

Countywide
209,437 total Nueces County registered voters
19,078 total ballots cast in Republican Primary
9% turnout of total county voters

Padre Island
8512 total registered voters
1773 total voters in Republican Primary election
21% of Padre Island registered voters cast ballots in Republican Primary

Port Aransas
3208 total registered Port Aransas voters
796 voted in Republican Primary
6% of Port Aransas registered voters cast ballots in Republi-

Numbers cont. on A5

Nueces County Democratic and Republican Joint Primary Election

Election Day

March 5, 2024

Early Voting

February 20th - March 1st, 2024

Last Day to Register to Vote

Monday, February 5, 2024

Applications for Ballot by Mail for the Joint Primary Election **MUST be received (not postmarked) by February 23, 2024 5:00 pm.**

Ballot By Mail Information

Ballot By Mail Applications are good for one calendar year and expire on December 31st. You must request an application every year. To vote by mail in the 2024 Elections, you may begin submitting applications January 1, 2024. Request an application by email or phone at VoteByMail@nuecescountytexas.gov or (361) 888-0385

Seashore Learning Center Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to our SLC Science Fair winners! All of our participants did a great job on their projects and presentations. Anyone who would like to look at these projects are welcome to visit the Gym from 3:15-4:00 p.m. today. We would also like to thank our wonderful judges, Ryan Hladyniuk, Matthew Protzeller and Jesse Zamarron, for volunteering their time, and Mr. Jason Andrews, for coordinating the Science Fair once again this year. If you see them, be sure to say "THANK YOU!"

Winners:

KG: 1st Place: Dabney L ("Sparkle Bubbles"), 2nd Place: Elliot B ("Protecting Turtles from Waste")

1st Grade: 1st Place: Barrett M ("What's Poppin?"), 2nd Place: Emrie C ("The Active Heart"), 3rd Place: Madeline W ("Kinetic Energy")

2nd Grade: 1st Place: Gus M ("Flour Power!"), 2nd Place: Gunnar L ("Water Quest"), 3rd Place: Ember M ("Does Color Affect Taste?")

3rd Grade: 1st Place: Alex W ("Are Females Choosy?"), 2nd Place: Emersyn F ("Boat Bouncy Battle"), 3rd Place: Abigail P ("Bacteria Battle")

4th Grade: 1st Place: Emma P ("Which Water Weighs What?"), 2nd Place: Marina G ("How to Make Your Christmas Tree Last Longer"), 3rd Place: Sloane M ("Corrosive Candy")

Amber Faust

Administrative Assistant



Flour Bluff Drill Team headed to State Championship

Flour Bluff NJROTC has been in existence for 30 years (93-94 was the first school year) and in that time has won 24 State Championships. This February they will try for number 25 out of 30 possible years, a record no other JROTC school in the country can match. The team has been to five drill meets and taken home five first place overall finishes. The next stop is the NJROTC Texas State Championship 22-24 February at Texas A&M College Station.

Coastal Bend Classic Drill Meet results

- 1st Place Navy Overall Winner
 - 1st Place Overall Winner
 - 1st Place Female Color Guard
 - 1st Place Mixed Color Guard
 - 2nd Place Male Color Guard
 - 1st Place Unarmed Regulation
 - 2nd Place Unarmed Exhibition
 - 1st Place Armed Regulation
 - 4th Place Armed Exhibition (cold hands dropped a couple of rifles during spins)
 - 1st Place Academics
 - 2nd Place in Physical Fitness
- This meet was a great springboard for the team into the State Championship.



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BUDGET BLINDS
of Greater Corpus Christi

Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



To the Public Utility Commission of Texas

I am getting inquiries from residents on Padre Island regarding the remote resetting of their thermostat. My understanding is that under certain circumstances, such as when an alert is issued, that the PUC can reset home thermostats. Is that correct?

Dale Rankin
Mr. Rankin
No, the PUCT has no control whatsoever over anyone's thermostats. The PUCT has no authority, nor physical capability to adjust any thermostat in Texas.

Some electric providers have programs in which consumers receive some form of compensation for allowing the provider to adjust their home or business thermostat in response to electricity demand. Those are private business agreements between utilities and consumers. To learn more about what utilities may offer their customers, you'd need to contact the individual utilities. The PUCT plays no role in those programs.

Additionally, there are times when the Texas grid operator, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) may call for Texas to voluntarily conserve power when demand is high, as they did twice this week. But those are voluntary appeals and we are grateful for Texans who responded to those calls to voluntarily conserve power.

Hope this answers your question!
Thanks,
Ellie Breed
Chief Press Officer
Public Utility Commission of Texas

Island Obituary

Diane Marie McGroarty



Diane Marie McGroarty, age 61, passed away on January 20th, 2024 surrounded by her loved ones. Diane was born on March 27th, 1962 to Steve and Jean McGroarty in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota and grew up alongside her two older sisters, Cheryl and Julie. Diane married her long-time partner, Nilda Calderon on December 9th, 2023. Diane was the successful and proud owner of Diana Homes Inc. Truly a Home builder in form, Diane's work was frequently praised and highlighted by customers and publications alike since 1998.

Diane is preceded in death by her father, Steve. She is survived by her wife, Nilda; mother, Jean; sisters, Cheryl Ajax and Julie Hauck; nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews. Diane truly touched the heart of every soul in her life with her genuine personality and a sense of humor that warmed everyone she knew. The family would like to thank Samantha and Carmen for their loving care of Diane, for everything they've done we consider them as one of our own.

Diane's legacy will be honored on Saturday, January 27th, 2024, with a Rosary service at 10:30 AM and a Mass at 11:00 AM at St. Andrew by the Sea Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers please make contributions to St. Jude Children's Hospital.



Letters to Riley P. Dog



Boy that blackout we had on our island a while back worked out pretty good for me. I got stuck inside a restaurant where all the food was because the door wouldn't open. I don't know who turned out the lights but thank you. I got me two pieces of bread and part of a jalapeno pepper before my humans caught me. Boy that pepper was hot. My humans were not very happy when they had to follow me around the yard with a pocket full of plastic bags. But then I got caught trash diving at my office so all in all my week was kind of a dog wash. Now I'll answer some letters from my second and third graders.

Hey Billy,
I'm a manly dog Billy and my favorite type of dog is a friendly dog – especially if it's a

Dale,
This is in response to the Island Moon Etymology Department's request for help with finding the right word for groups of Winter Texans.

As a happy Winter Texan, my second choice for descriptor is the word SKEIN. It is almost the same as Skien, Norway. Skien is the Norwegian sister city of our summer camp in Dakota. There are lots of Norsk making the trek to Texas from Minnesota and the other Northlands.

Most importantly, the word SKEIN invokes the annual migration of large flocks of Snow Geese, Canadian Geese, and other great birds in glorian large V-formation. There is the concurrent migration of Winter Texans, sans V-formation. But, once safely grounded in Texas – the travelers are a gaggle? Really?

Bridges cont. from A1

in collaboration with Dr. Christopher Reed, was commissioned by Diamond Beach Holdings to model the flows in the Whitecap NPI canals. In August 2023, the City contracted LJA and Dr. Reed to prepare a supplemental report. The report sought to broaden the study area by including key City assets and estimate peak velocities in the canal system based on some historical extreme events. PIPOA has separately contracted Anchor QEA to conduct a similar scope of work. One area of agreement between the two consultants was that increased flow velocities would occur at the Whitecap and Gypsy bridges.

friendly dog with treats to share. I'm three months on my diet now and that's a long time to be on a diet – that's more than a year in dog years.

My favorite type of cat and dog food is whatever kind I can get. My humans make me eat diet dogfood and it's okay but I like catfood better. It tastes so good. They put all the good stuff in the catfood and then put all the leftover stuff in the dogfood. I don't know why. I think the owner of the food factory is a cat. Stoopid cats.

What kind of dog am I? I'm not a Beagle or a German Shepard or a Belgian Malinois or a Border Collie. I've never been to Germany or Belgium I have been to the border once but my humans wouldn't let me cross because they said I couldn't speak the language – but they don't either and they crossed so I don't know about them. My humans say I'm an Australia Blue Heeler but I've never been to Australia either. I met an Australian dog once and I told him "for a guy from Australia you speak English very well," and he bit me on the foot. Most of my kind of dogs run around behind cows to make them go where the humans want them to. I don't have any cows of my own but I like to look at them when we drive by. They smell so good. I've never had any cow food but I hear it's good.

Do you have any cow food Billy? Can you send me some?
Riley P. Dog

So, that leaves my not very exciting top choice from your list of terms to be DROVE. What do you call a group of Winter Texans herded into the RV parks? There was a DROVE of Winter Texans that attended the appreciation day. How did most of the Winter Texans get here? DROVE, You Betcha!

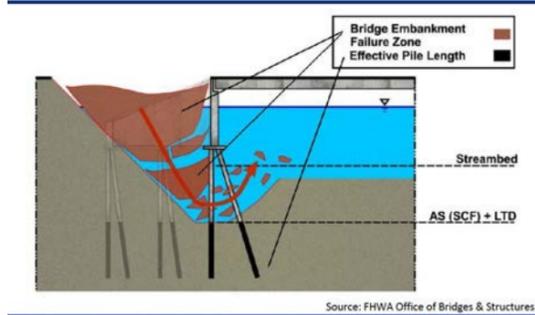
Steve Becker

A name for a group of Winter Texans I as an 18 year Winter Texan suggest that we be called; AlterTex. We are here as other than permanent Texas residents.

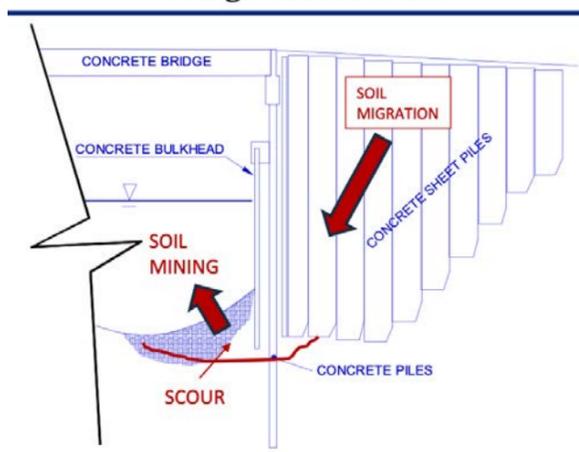
Ken Jaschob
Waupaca, Wisconsin

The Whitecap and Gypsy bridges were designed in the late 1960s. The City took on the responsibility for the bridges after annexation in 1981. The bridge designs do not incorporate any scour protection countermeasures. Additionally, the bulkheads protecting the bridge abutments have limited depth, which mean any scour that occurs would likely mine material from behind the bulkheads. The erosion of soil material could result in settlement, sinkholes, and damage to the bridge abutments and approaches. Funds in TIRZ #2 come from property tax on new construction within the boundaries of the zone after the benchmark year 2003. The work will be complete by the end of 2026.

Bridge Failure Due to Scour Simplified Illustration



Gypsy Street Bridge Cross Section



Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



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Riley P. Dog



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Senior Moments

Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Was Japan Already Beaten Before the August 1945 Bombings?

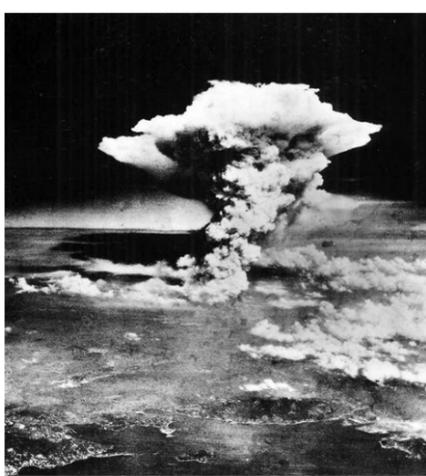
Dotson's Note: As many of my friends are aware, for about 79 years I have been trying to determine why the Japanese surrendered when they did. The following are a few of the facts that have been presented to me. Thanks to Peggy A. Lewis, Icharo Takasaki, Yoshida Hamada and Karl Compton for many of the facts contained in this report, and to Peggy A. Lewis for the photos.



About a week after V-J Day, a small group of scientists and engineers were interrogating an intelligent, well-informed Japanese Army officer in Yokohama. They asked him what, in his opinion, would have been the next major move if the war had continued. He replied: "You would probably have tried to invade our homeland with a landing operation on Kyushu about November 1st. I think the attack would have been made on such and such beaches."

"Could you have repelled this landing?" he was asked, and he answered: "It would have been a very desperate fight, but I do not think we could have stopped you." "What would have happened then?" he was asked. He replied: "We would have kept on fighting until all Japanese were killed, but we would not have been defeated," by which he meant that they would not have been disgraced by surrender.

It is easy now, after the event, to look back and say that Japan was already a beaten nation, and to ask what therefore was the justification for the use of the atomic bomb to kill so many thousands of helpless Japanese in this inhuman way; furthermore, should we not better have kept it to ourselves as a secret weapon for future use, if necessary? This argument has been advanced often, but it seems utterly fallacious.



Hiroshima

One person had an unusual opportunity to know the pertinent facts from several angles, but he was without responsibility for any of the decisions. He could speak without doing so defensively. While his role in the atomic bomb development was a very minor one, he was a member of the group called together by Secretary of War Stimson to assist him in plans for its test, use, and subsequent handling. Then, shortly before Hiroshima, this person became attached to General MacArthur in Manila, and lived for two months with his staff. In this way he learned something of the invasion plans and of the sincere conviction of these best-informed officers that a desperate and costly struggle was still ahead. Also, he spent the first month after V-J Day in Japan, where he could ascertain at first hand both the physical and the psychological state of that country. Some of the Japanese whom he consulted were his scientific and personal friends of long standing.

From this background he believed, that the use of the atomic bomb saved hundreds of thousands—perhaps several millions—of lives, both American and Japanese; that without its use the war would have continued for many months; that no one of good

conscience knowing, as Secretary Stimson and the Chiefs of Staff did, what was probably ahead and what the atomic bomb might accomplish could have made any different decision. Let some of the facts speak for themselves.

Was the use of the atomic bomb inhuman? All war is inhuman. Here are some comparisons of the atomic bombing with conventional bombing. At Hiroshima the atomic bomb killed about 80,000 people, pulverized about five square miles, and wrecked an additional ten square miles of the city, with decreasing damage out to seven or eight miles from the center. At Nagasaki the fatal casualties were 45,000 and the area wrecked was considerably smaller than at Hiroshima because of the configuration of the city.

Compare this with the results of two B-29 incendiary raids over Tokyo. One of these raids killed about 125,000 people, the other nearly 100,000.



Tokyo

Of the 210 square miles of greater Tokyo, 85 square miles of the densest part was destroyed as completely, for all practical purposes, as were the centers of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; about half the buildings were destroyed in the remaining 125 square miles; the number of people driven homeless out of Tokyo was considerably larger than the population of greater Chicago. These figures are based on information given in Tokyo and on a detailed study of the air reconnaissance maps. They may be somewhat in error but are certainly of the right order of magnitude.

Was Japan already beaten before the atomic bomb? The answer is certainly «yes» in the sense that the fortunes of war had turned against her. The answer is «no» in the sense that she was still fighting desperately and there was every reason to believe that she would continue to do so; and this is the only answer that has any practical significance.

General MacArthur's staff anticipated about 50,000 American casualties and several times that number of Japanese casualties in the November 1st operation to establish the initial beachheads on Kyushu. After that they expected a far more costly struggle before the Japanese homeland was subdued. There was every reason to think that the Japanese would defend their homeland with even greater fanaticism than when they fought to the death on Iwo Jima and Okinawa. No American soldier who survived the bloody struggles on these islands has much sympathy with the view that battle with the Japanese was over as soon as it was clear that their ultimate situation was hopeless. There was every reason to expect a terrible struggle long after the point at which some people can now look back and say, "Japan was already beaten."

Dotson's Other Note: A month after the start of the occupation General MacArthur said: "That even then, if the Japanese government lost control over its people and the millions of former Japanese soldiers took to guerrilla warfare in the mountains, it could take a million American troops ten years to master the situation." Hey, you Moon Monkeys! Your thoughts will be greatly appreciated. . FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Thursdays 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.



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

Ten years to this month I wrote a column with the following words: "Our choice on The Island is not whether to have growth, our choice is whether we manage it or not." As we sit here today I would say we have done a pretty good job of managing the growth that has come our way. Think of what has happened in the past decade.

In 2014 there was a single ownership group that owned all of the property from Leeward Drive on the east side of Lake Padre to Aquarius Drive on the west, and also the Cape Summer property around the Ski Canal. The Schlitterbahn waterpark was in the construction stage but little else in the way of planning for all that vacant land was underway. The same owners had been in place since 1993 and the Schlitterbahn park was the first major development they had undertaken and that was how things stood until 2018 when everything changed. The property owners had used land from the Michael J. Ellis Seawall, the old Padre Isles County Club, and Cape Summer as collateral for what turned out to be in excess of \$40 million in loans to raise money for the new park and in the course of two bankruptcy auctions on the steps of the Nueces County Courthouse ownership of the land passed into the hands to two additional owners. Axs Capital now owns 300 feet of gulf-front property as well as Cape Summer and IBC bank through their subsidiary owns the Whitecap NPI site, and the previous owners of the Lake Padre property, with some internal adjustments, retained ownership of that property.

The last five years

When the dust settled from the legal proceedings after the bankruptcy is when things started to change and change fast and what brings us to where we are today. Take a moment and think about what has happened around us since 2019.

First, on the Lake Padre side bulkheads have been built, a canal connecting Lake Padre to the now complete, infrastructure is in place, streets are in, and while work has slowed in recent months that project is headed toward completion and in the next few years we will see a marina, hotel, apartments, condominiums, houses, and miles of walking trails in place. The first new marina on the Gulf of Mexico between Houston and the Rio Grande Valley in decades is coming as part of what will be a \$1 billion project.

Across the SPID roadway a canal to the new bridge was dug with good-faith money as the final approval of the bridge was still not complete but the canal was dug with private money because holdup was the fear by city officials of building a bridge to nowhere, now the \$20 million bridge that was then fifteen years in the making is complete and within a few weeks will have water from the Gulf of Mexico flowing under it. We have been anticipating this bridge and what it brings since 2004 and now it is here.

Since the canal was dug the Whitecap North Padre Island project has replaced the remnants of the old waterpark and six miles of new canals have been dug and bulkheaded and the project is bringing a new type of development to The Island that will interface with the homes and businesses already here and will enhance the Island lifestyle in a way that ten years ago we never imagined.

How we got here

As stated above it was never an option for those of us who lived here ten years ago to have no growth. Private owners do not buy property on barrier islands to grow sandbars. The question is how we have

managed it and in my opinion we have done a very good job. We have the infrastructure through the Island Strategic Action Committee to allow for Island residents to thoughtfully engage and provide strategic as well as detailed advice to our city council which thankfully has taken that advice and approved funding through the Island's Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 with final approval of funding for a variety of projects coming this week. Just take a look at the front page of this edition of the Island Moon and you will see that things are moving forward in about a smooth a way as is humanly possible given the number and scope of work being done. The private property owners have come to the table and now the ball is in our court.

So now what?

With all of that said there is one final piece of the puzzle and that is still in the planning process and involves all of us who call The Island home – how to connect all of this new development. It is clear that the current road system on Padre Island which was designed long before all the current growth was a reality is not adequate to meet the challenges we face. As stated above our challenge was and is to manage the growth that has found us and relying on the current roads is only going to show itself a fool's errand.

Once again the answer is going to have to come through the ISAC and is only going to work if we all pay attention and provide input for what comes next which is completion of the Island Mobility Plan which is already underway. For years we have referred to the water exchange bridge as the lynchpin of future Island development and that is now the reality. As we sit here today with a bridge in place which consists of three arches only one of which is designed to have water flow under it, the other two are for cart and pedestrian traffic which currently can't get there. Being a glass-half-full guy I see it as a Bridge to Somewhere and that somewhere is everywhere on The Island.

The first connective sinew will be on the Whitecap NPI site where plans are already in place to build a series of cart and pedestrian bridges that will connect the new bridge to that site...but then what? The next step, and a key component of the Island Mobility Plan is how to get from our neighborhoods to the bridge and then through the Lake Padre area to the beach. The plan for doing that is going to have to come from us if it is going to work. If we don't pay attention now we forfeit our right to complain later (not that it will stop us).

There is currently \$11.7 million dollars in federal money to provide cart and pedestrian paths from the intersection of Commodore Drive to the base of the JFK Causeway along the SPID corridor which is a state right of way. Accessing that money requires a local sponsor and that sponsor is the City of Corpus Christi and the plan from the city will come from the Island Mobility Plan; whatever is in that plan is what we are going to get and that plan will be finished no later than the end of 2024.

Our job of growth management has brought us to where we are and we are in a good place, now we just have to get the final piece of the puzzle in place and that is where we sit. The idea of a completely integrated island destination is within our reach, the question now is whether it is within our grasp.

The answer is up to us.

JFK Causeway work entering final stage

Repair work on the JFK Causeway is entering the final stage and will be completed by March 1, 2024, according to information provided by officials from the Texas Department of Transportation at a meeting called by State Representative Todd Hunter this week.

TxDOT officials said all the work on the three-year project that can be done at night has been completed and from now through completion of the project work will require single-lane reductions on a 24-hour basis due to the time required for setup and construction. They said when possible all four lanes will be kept open on weekends, and according to current schedules and weather permitting, that will be the case through

most weekends through the end of the project and when possible lane closures will not begin before morning rush-hour traffic subsides on weekdays.

They said the last portion of the project to be completed will be resurfacing of the roadway which will require 24-hour single-lane closures, after resurfacing is complete they said some temporary single-lane closures may be necessary to facilitate work on the underside of the bridge. All work is scheduled to be done by the arrival of Spring Break in March.

TxDOT officials emphasized that at no time will all four lanes of the causeway be closed, and at no time will both lanes in either direction be closed.



History cont. from A1

heard south of the Rio Grande, “so close to America, so far from God.”

The Nueces Strip

The way the U.S. and Texans interpreted the terms of the treaty with regard to the Nueces Strip was very different than the way the Mexican government and people interpreted it. In their eyes the land south of the Nueces River was still part of Mexico. In the years immediately after the Civil War the carpetbagger government in Austin did almost nothing to police the Strip. On the rare occasions when they would try to run down the bandits or the Indian tribes who raided Texas settlements they did so with highly-bred horses which needed grain for feed. That meant the U.S. troops were chasing Will-O-the Wisp raiders while trailing a caravan of wagons carrying horse feed. To see the futility of this plan one only needs to look a few decades down the road at how successful General Black Jack Pershing was in chasing Pancho Villa into Mexico.

Finally, in 1875 a Texan was back in the saddle in the Governor’s office and he formed a Texas Ranger troop to chase the bandits off. The group was commanded by famed Ranger Captain L.H. McNelly who had been a successful leader of a band of raiders for the Confederacy. The record keeper for the Ranger troop was a man by the name of George Durham who rode with McNelly from 1875-1876. He later authored a book about his experiences called *Taming the Nueces Strip* which gives a detailed description of this area during that period. The book is the most detailed account we have of the Nueces Strip and the Rangers role in running out the bandits during the Rangers’ most active time, the years from 1870-1876.

The first thing McNelly needed was to find men and arms. The men he recruited in Washington County east of San Antonio. Most were new arrivals to Texas and some had ridden with McNelly during the war. The Rangers in those days had their own version of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell – as in don’t ask anyone why they came to Texas and don’t expect them to tell you their real name as many people including Rangers came to Texas to get away from their past. Others came for land and a chance to get it. Many of the counties in Texas are named after Rangers who managed to turn the land given them for their Ranger service into large spreads.

Corpus Christi 1875

For arms McNelly came to Corpus Christi. He led his men to town in April of 1875 where they found a bandit that local vigilantes had caught near Little Oso Creek hanging from a pecan tree on the plaza. They found the town almost deserted due to recent raids from bandits based in Las Cuevas on the south side of the Rio Grand near McAllen – more on that later. Comanche Indians who began raiding east during the Civil War had also moved through the area recently. Durham rode into Corpus with McNelly’s troop. His description: “*Corpus Christi was a fair-sized settlement at that time. There were one or two big stores and a considerable number of little ones. As we rode into Corpus Christi that morning, I wouldn’t have known that it was Corpus unless someone had told me. I recollect the town seemed mighty quiet for a settlement its size. There were no women or children on the street. And mighty few men. The reason is they were ready for a bandit raid. They were fortified as best they could be – had their window shutters drawn close and all hands inside, except for a few outside on errands. I later learned that at the time McNelly rode into Corpus with his new Ranger outfit that April morning in 1875 the river bandits were swarming all over the area, having a big time.*”

Nuecestown Raid

In what came to be known as the Nuecestown Raid Mexican bandits in groups of fifty to one hundred had raided as far east as Goliad and Refugio before groups of vigilantes had chased them west. Rancher Mike Dunn had surrendered when thirty outlaws hit Nuecestown at a site which is now inside the city limits on Leopard Street near IH37. The town survived until 1905 when the railroads passed it by.

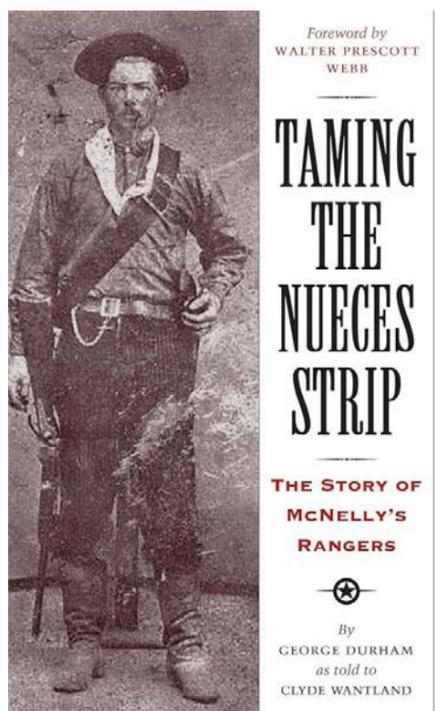
On Good Friday 1875 the bandits hit the general store in Nuecestown and set it on fire. The store’s owner, Tom Noakes, escaped with his five children through a tunnel built from under the store to the river for just such an emergency. However, his wife Martha returned to the burning store to try and recover a feather bed and was struck with a riding quirt by a man “with a heavy, deep scar, reaching from his hairline to the point of his chin” when the scarred man wanted to know where to find the store’s cashbox. The bandit was described as a “two-pistoled American dressed in all the mail-ordered finery, somewhat taller than usual with brown saddle-colored hair.” Martha escaped with the feather bed and revealed nothing about the whereabouts of the cashbox but the bandits made off with eighteen brand-new Dick Heye saddles, the Cadillacs of the saddle world. They were heavily decorated with silver conchos that allowed them to be seen several miles away on a sunlit prairie.

McNelly contacted Sol Lichtenstein who owned the largest store in Corpus and got a detailed description of the stolen saddles then issued an order to “empty them on sight. No palavering with the riders, empty them and leave the men where you drop them and bring the saddles to camp.” Lichtenstein supplied him with thirty six, single shot, fifty-caliber Sharps rifles. They were normally buffalo guns and most man hunters preferred the lighter but quicker shooting repeating rifles. The sharps had a much longer range but were slow to reload. “If you shoot at a buffalo and miss you can reload,” Sol told him, “but if you miss a man...” “I don’t want men who miss,” McNelly replied.

So the Rangers were now armed with thirty Sharps rifles and enough ammunition, parched coffee, frijoles, and corn meal to last for a campaign. The next step was to find horses that could keep up with the bandits they were after.

For that he headed to the King Ranch to see Captain King.

Next time: the Rangers join the war in the Nueces Strip.



George Durham

TxDot cont. from A1

and officials from the group have already begun gathering information from property owners on both sides of the Laguna Madre to determine the final route and once that process is complete it will be followed by public hearings.

A previous study by TxDOT completed in 2016 placed the origin of the new causeway just south of the Kleberg County Line on property owned by the King Ranch with the landing on the Padre Island side on the 3680-acre piece of property located in Kleberg County but owned by Nueces County. However, Olivares said that route will be re-examined as part of the EIS. No matter the exact location of the new causeway traffic to and from Padre Island will travel through the intersection at SPID/Commodores Drive and State Highway 361.

SPID/Commodores Drive/SH 361 intersection

Olivarez said the redesign of the crucial intersection at SPID/Commodores Drive/State Highway 361 has already begun with the hiring of consultations for the design work, however, that work is being paused so that it can be included in the reworking of State Highway 361 between the intersection and Port Aransas.

Traffic patterns through that intersection are expected to undergo a dramatic shift with the planned paving of Sand Dollar Street which intersects with SH 361 north of the intersection. City planners have said the current path of Sand Dollar Street places its intersection with the highway too near the intersection with SPID to allow for a traffic light which is expected to be needed due to the recent construction of an entryway to the development around Lake Padre just south of the Packery Channel Bridge. One possible solution, not yet decided by city planners, is to reroute the currently unpaved route of Sand Dollar Street to be congruent with the entrance to Lake Padre which would be far enough from the intersection to allow for a second traffic light.

Lighting on State Highway 361

Olivares said plans are already underway to add street lighting to State Highway 361 from Packery Channel to Port Aransas. Hunter has earmarked funding for the additional of lighting and two test sites are already in operation on the roadway there

Numbers cont. from A1

can Primary

Democrat Primary 2022

Padre Island
8512 total registered voters
394 total voted in Democrat Primary
5% of registered Padre Island voters cast ballots in the Democrat Primary

Countywide
209,437 Total Nueces County registered voters
13,687 voted in Democrat Primary
7% of registered voters in Nueces County cast ballots in Democrat Primary

Republican Primary 2000 (Presidential cycle)

Countywide
203,982 total Nueces County registered voters
17,099 total ballots cast in Republican Primary

Bridge cont. from A1

bridge. Project planners said this week that once the detour is in place work will begin to reroute utility lines that run along Commodores Drive in preparation for work on the bridge. The utility work is expected to take about two weeks after which work will begin on the new bridge. That work is expected to begin by the end of February. The new bridge will be a box beam bridge with fourteen feet of water clearance and unlike the Don Patricio Bridge which was built as two separate structures, will be built as a single structure to cut cost and construction time. The bridge is expected to take about one year to complete, according to bid documents presented to the city on Tuesday. City records show that a total of \$25.5 million in funds from the TIRZ #2 has been approved for the Whitecap NPI projects which will be reimbursed to the developers after construction is complete, that money will come from property tax paid on the new development at the site. City records show that a total of \$45.1 million will spent on infrastructure at the site, including the water exchange bridge. The developers of the Whitecap funding the \$12.9 million difference between the total cost and the city funding.

to determine the most efficient design while providing the least distraction for drivers. According to current plans the new lighting is expected to be in place no later than 2027 after public hearings in summer 2024 followed by a three-year design, bidding, and construction process.

State funding for the lighting requires a local match and Olivarez said TxDOT officials are currently in discussion with officials from the City of Corpus Christi and the City of Port Aransas to determine how to divide the cost of the project. One option is for TxDOT to fund the installation of the lights with maintenance then funded by the cities; the second option is for a 50/50 split of construction costs with TxDOT then taking on the cost of maintenance.

Widening of State Highway 361

After completion of lighting the next step will be the addition of two traffic lanes from the Packery Channel Bridge north to Port Aransas. One early decision that will have to be made is the configuration of the new roadway, whether it will be a divided highway, and where to locate turn lanes. The project will include the need for wetlands mitigation in areas where the roadway crosses water passages. No timeline for that project was given and securing a funding source is not yet complete.

Improvements to Port Aransas ferries

TxDOT officials said \$65 million in improvements to the Port Aransas ferry system which were completed more than two years ago are currently undergoing review due to the necessity of having an on-duty policeman stationed at the ferry during peak operating hours. A problem arose after the improvements with a traffic gate was installed and a new solution is needed. Olivarez said that two items will not be part of any new additions to the ferry system; first, there is no room for additional ferry landings, and two, replacing the ferry system with a tunnel is not practical and is not an option.

According to TxDOT numbers about 6% of the traffic coming across the Laguna Madre to Padre Island and to Port Aransas comes across the ferries and that percentage is not expected to increase in the future.

8.4% turnout of total county voters Padre Island

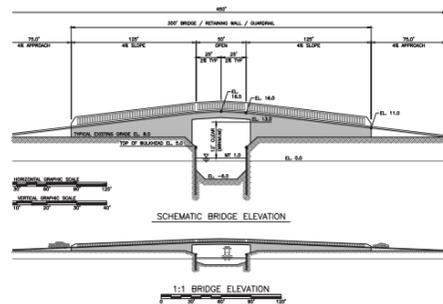
7792 total registered voters
1732 total voters in Republican Primary election
22% of total Padre Island registered voters cast ballots in Republican Primary

Democrat Primary 2000 (Presidential cycle)

Countywide
203,982 total Nueces County registered voters
22,933 total ballots cast in Democrat Primary
11.25% turnout of total county voters

Padre Island
7792 total registered voters
778 total voters in Democrat Primary election
10% of total Padre Island registered voters cast ballots in Democrat Primary

The Tuesday vote was a first reading and requires a second reading for final approval which is expected at the next meeting of the city council. City officials approved the following \$8 million in projects and funding on Tuesday.
\$1 million Effluent Line use effluent from Whitecap Wastewater Treatment Plant for constant level ponds in the nature preserve
\$300,000 in funding for additional irrigation lines
\$3 million for a public mobility bridge adjacent to the Don Patricio Bridge
\$2.1 million for an Aquarius Street Canal Walk
\$600,000 for public kayak launches
\$1 million for a water circulation culvert under Aquarius Drive



Commodores Bridge Schematic

Trust
Corpest
Padre Island and Port Aransas' Oldest Island Based Pest Control Company.
On Padre Island Since 1994.
The Pest Control Professionals OVER 30 YEAR EXPERIENCE
Locally Owned by Island Resident Bill Schroeder
15481 SPID Just past Whitecap on Right
949-0208
Residential and Commercial Services
Termite * Ants * Rodent * Critter * Roaches * Spiders * Fleas

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



By Dotson Lewis

The 25 Best Games in College Football-Part 3

Dotson's Note: As I have written the last two weeks, in College Football you never know what is going to happen. That makes this sport, however as wild it may be at times with the way it is played, so much fun. The following are, according to some, the best games in the history of college football. Thanks to Bill Morgan and Ben Kercheval for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan for the photos.

11. Colorado 27, Michigan 26

Sept. 24, 1994-You can't ask for much more than two Associated Press Top 10 teams squaring off in an early-season game, especially when said game comes down to the final play. One of the more memorable endings of the past 25 years came in Ann Arbor between Michigan and Colorado—back when both programs were near the top of the college football world. Down 26-21 in the final seconds, Colorado quarterback Kordell Stewart launched a 64-yard Hail Mary pass, which landed in the hands of Buffs receiver Michael Westbrook after being tipped. The play would later be known as “The Miracle at Michigan.”

10. Miami (Fla.) 17, Florida State 16

Nov. 16, 1991-In the 1990s, perhaps no rivalry had more fuel than Miami's battles with Florida State. Though they weren't ACC foes yet, the Florida schools were at the top of the college football world. One of the most memorable games in the series was the initial “wide right” in which Seminoles kicker Gerry Thomas missed a would-be game-winning field goal. Little did fans know “Wide Right” would actually be “Wide Right I,” with other editions coming later. There would also be a “Wide Left,” only adding to Florida State's misery against the Hurricanes.

9. Alabama 14, Penn State 7



Jan. 1, 1979-One of the best goal-line stands in the history of college football came on one of the biggest stages. The 1979 Sugar Bowl between Alabama and Penn State, the top two teams in the country, was a defensive struggle. Appropriately, the Tide won the game on a heroic goal-line stand against the Nittany Lions' rushing attack. Legendary play-by-play announcer Keith Jackson had the famous call, via ESPN.com: “Fourth down and a foot separating top-ranked Penn State from a possible national championship. Fusina hands to Guman. He didn't make it! He didn't make it! What an unbelievable goal-line stand by Alabama!” Two storied programs, one defining series. The '79 Sugar Bowl is considered one of the best bowl games of all time.

8. Notre Dame 35, Houston 34



Jan. 2, 1979-We're a little behind the times news-wise, but we think this Joe Montana guy from Notre Dame could be pretty good in the NFL. Need proof? Head back in time to the 1979 Cotton Bowl between Notre Dame and Houston. The Cougars led 34-12 during an icy Dallas day in early January. The comeback was even more impressive given that Montana was suffering from

the flu. However, a little chicken soup at halftime was apparently all he needed. (The game was later dubbed “The Chicken Soup Game”.) Montana helped lead Notre Dame to 23 fourth-quarter points to come away with the 35-34 win.

7. Cal 25, Stanford 20

Nov. 20, 1982-As far as improbable finishes go, the ole' five-lateral play is up there among the best. That's why The Big Game between Cal and Stanford in 1982 is one of the greatest games in college football history. At the very least, it has one of the most iconic finishes. Down a point with only seconds remaining, Cal returned a squib kick for a touchdown, evading tacklers and Stanford band members alike. You're also not going to find a more memorable call than Joe Starkey yelling “Oh, the band is out on the field!”

6. Boston College 47, Miami (Fla.) 45

Nov. 23, 1984-The term “Heisman moment” may have been born on this late November night in the Orange Bowl. Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie, the 1984 recipient of the award, cemented his place in college football history with his Hail Mary against Miami (Fla.) in an all-time classic. With six seconds remaining, Flutie took the snap, scrambled backward and launched the ball about 64 yards into the hands of Gerard Phelan. And, just like that “Hail Flutie” was born.

5. Ohio State 31, Miami (Fla.) 24

Jan. 3, 2003-No pass interference call in recent memory was more controversial than the one called in the 2003 BCS national championship between Miami (Fla.) and Ohio State. The Hurricanes led 24-17 in overtime, and the Buckeyes faced a game-defining 4th-and-3. Ohio State's pass was broken up by Canes defensive back Glenn Sharpe. Game over. Except it wasn't over. A late flag fell on the field while Miami players celebrated. Pass interference on Sharpe. Two plays later, running back Maurice Clarett ran in for a touchdown. Ohio State would win the national championship over the star-studded Hurricanes in the next overtime series.

4. Miami (Fla.) 31, Nebraska 30



Jan. 1, 1984-The 1984 Orange Bowl between Miami (Fla.) and Nebraska will forever be known as the game where Cornhuskers coach Tom Osborne decided to go for two points instead of a tie—and failed. The Huskers had many great teams during Osborne's tenure, but the 1983-84 team was one of his best. Among the players on the roster were Turner Gill, Irving Fryar and Mike Rozier. Miami was just starting its football dynasty with Howard Schnellenberger.

Nebraska fell behind early but kept battling back throughout the game. A touchdown in the final minute of the game pulled the Huskers to within one point. But instead of going for the tie, Osborne opted to go for two. He wanted the win outright. However, Gill's pass was batted down in the end zone, and the Hurricanes' dynasty was officially underway.

TO BE CONTINUED

Dotson's Other Note: This week there are 8 games, 3 to go. Surprisingly, all of you Moon Monkeys have been quiet so far. Are all of you in agreement? If not, suggestions are welcome.



The Only Real Game, Baseball

By Andy Purvis

I thought I would share what the game of baseball means to me. Kids have hit round balls with sticks for as long as there has been time. Americans have played baseball for over 200 years. In fact, you can tell the history of America by knowing the game of baseball. The game has been played in cities, meadows, parks, pastures and backyard fields by children and old men alike. Every city has a baseball team. It has been played by minimum wage workers and multimillionaires, seedy characters and upstanding citizens, fools and champions. Yet, players who fail seven times out of ten are considered heroes.

It's a well-paced game that requires tremendous hand-to-eye coordination and incredible speed. The game follows the seasons, spring until fall, and it's the only game where the defense has the ball. The game even tolerates cheating if you're clever enough to steal the other team's signs. The pace of the game has been argued, but it does allow for conversation and reflection. Why did he bunt? Should he pinch-hit? There is no clock so you never run out of time, and ninety feet between the bases was a pick from Heaven. Just think how different the game would be, if they had used more or less distance between the bases. The game can be played outside the boundaries, and the objective is to always come home. It's a game where today's players can be measured against all the other players who came before them.

Baseball is fun. It makes you feel young. The best known and best loved athlete in American history is “Babe” Ruth. I'm 72 but I feel 16 when I'm watching a baseball game. It looks so easy to play from your seat in the stands, but it is in fact the hardest of all games to play. Taking a round bat and hitting a round ball that travels at speeds up to 100 mph, while sinking, curving or rising, is the most difficult task in all of sports. Even in golf, the ball is sitting still. Still, the game fosters the illusion that we can hit like Mickey Mantle or catch like Brooks Robinson. Baseball is an old man sitting with his grandchildren and seeing the same game. I have no doubt that every one of you who have had children has an old ball of some kind at home. Baseball may be the best game ever devised.

I love the game of baseball because it makes me feel American. It's our game. It takes us outside in the fresh air. I like double steals, barnstorming, hot dogs, magic numbers and bobble-head dolls. I liked reading about the Negro Leagues and baseball movies. I like bubblegum cards, scoring the games, batting practice and the minor leagues. I like the sports page, Vin Scully, and baseball on the radio. I like seeing-eye singles, stories about Casey Stengel, and the smell of fresh-cut grass. I like talking about baseball on the radio and writing about the game for the newspaper and magazines. I like “Dizzy” Dean, “Satchel” Paige, “Candy” Cummings and “Stan the Man.” I liked shaking hands with Eddie Mathews, Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays, Willie Stargell, Steve Carlton, “Buck” O'Neil, Bob Feller and Pete Rose. I like every coach who has hit a fungo. I like fungos. I like the big fly,

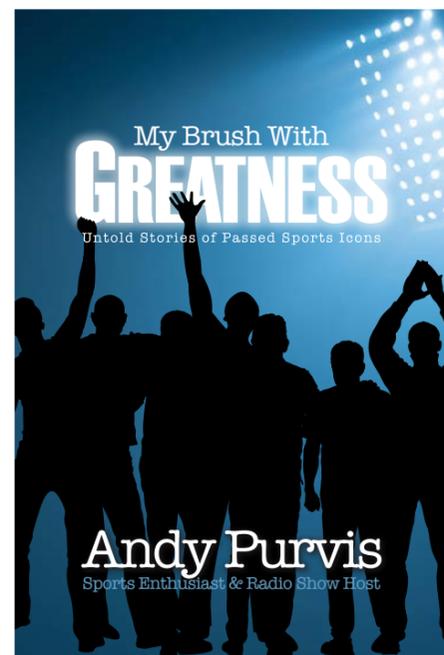
knuckleballs and the squeeze bunt. I like fastballs on the corner, triples, and managers who yell from the dugout. I like my radio partner of twenty-two years, Dennis Quinn. Man, have we had some fun. I like organ music, 3-and-2 counts, and the National Anthem. I like the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, “Casey at the Bat,” and “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.” I like conducting interviews with players and coaches like Tommy LaSorda, “Buck” Showalter, J.R. Richards, Bill Lee, “Ozzie” Smith, Ron Santo, George Springer, Alex Bregman, Jake Marisnick, Mike Fiers and Larry Dierker. I like the hit and run, the *Sporting News* and the MLB channel. I like umpires, *Baseball Tonight*, post-game interviews and Derek Jeter saying “Hi Andy!” I will miss the voices of “Studs” Terkel and Milo Hamilton. I miss the smiles of Ernie Banks, Tony Gwynn and Yogi Berra. I miss the unique sounds of the game, like the umpire's call, the ball popping the catcher's mitt, the ball against the bat, and the gibberish from the players during the game. I like that Reid Ryan has time for me and his dad Nolan does, too. I like baseball because it's always 1960. I liked 1960. That was the first year I remember the World Series. It was a better time. Rogers Hornsby once said, “People ask me what I do in winter when there is no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring.” I think I would have sat awhile with Rogers.

You see, I've never been unhappy at a ballpark. I've always been mad about baseball. I get lost in the game. There are very few things besides family that you can go through your entire life caring about. Baseball is one of those. I think I would like to go through life age 16, giggling with my hat falling off. I may grow up someday. I hope not.

Man, I miss the game already. I can't wait until Spring.

Andy Purvis

www.purvisbooks.com



Annual Island Bingo begins

Seven week run started January 16

The annual Kiwanis Club of Corpus Christi will kick off its run of BINGO games at HardKnocks Sports Bar & Grill on Padre Island beginning January 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Kiwanis BINGO offers door prizes, cash prizes, with all proceeds going to children's charities on Padre Island, Corpus Christ, in the Coastal Bend. Bring door prizes to get your business recognized. Also, make a donation to become a co-sponsor and have you or your company mentioned weekly.

The events will run January 16, 23, 30 February 6, 20, 27, and March 5. For information call Brent 361 244-7603 or John 361 779-0477.



Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

I don't even know where to start this week folks. I feel like I have political whiplash, and it's still early in this election season. I'm kind of nervous to look and see what's behind door number 2. Word is now official that the next Margaritaville is going up the coast to Galveston. Maybe we'll be lucky on the next round, and that reminds me that I need to check in on the one down in South Padre next time I'm bombing around down there. I completely missed the ones in Grand Cayman and Key West when I was at those places last. Oh well. Bob Corbett and I went down to city council the other day to report our recommendations regarding the FEMA elevation issues and Packery Channel no-wake zone extension, respectively. There were 54 people signed up for public comment, and I think we were the only two not talking about desalination. That was a mess, and that's all I have to say about that at this point. Yes, extending the no-wake zone in Packery Channel was part of the ISAC meeting last week, and I didn't explain it in my last article. There have been complaints about folks blowing through the channel from Billings all the way to the houses on Packery. There is a sharp dogleg there in the middle, where anyone that has boated through there in the summer has seen a near miss (accident). In addition, every season a large center console will miss the turn and wind up parked on the flats in mere inches of water. Besides causing a yard sale in the boat and potentially injuring passengers, this also damages seagrass and oysters in the area. Then there's the embarrassment of the driver and a call to a local marine salvage operation.

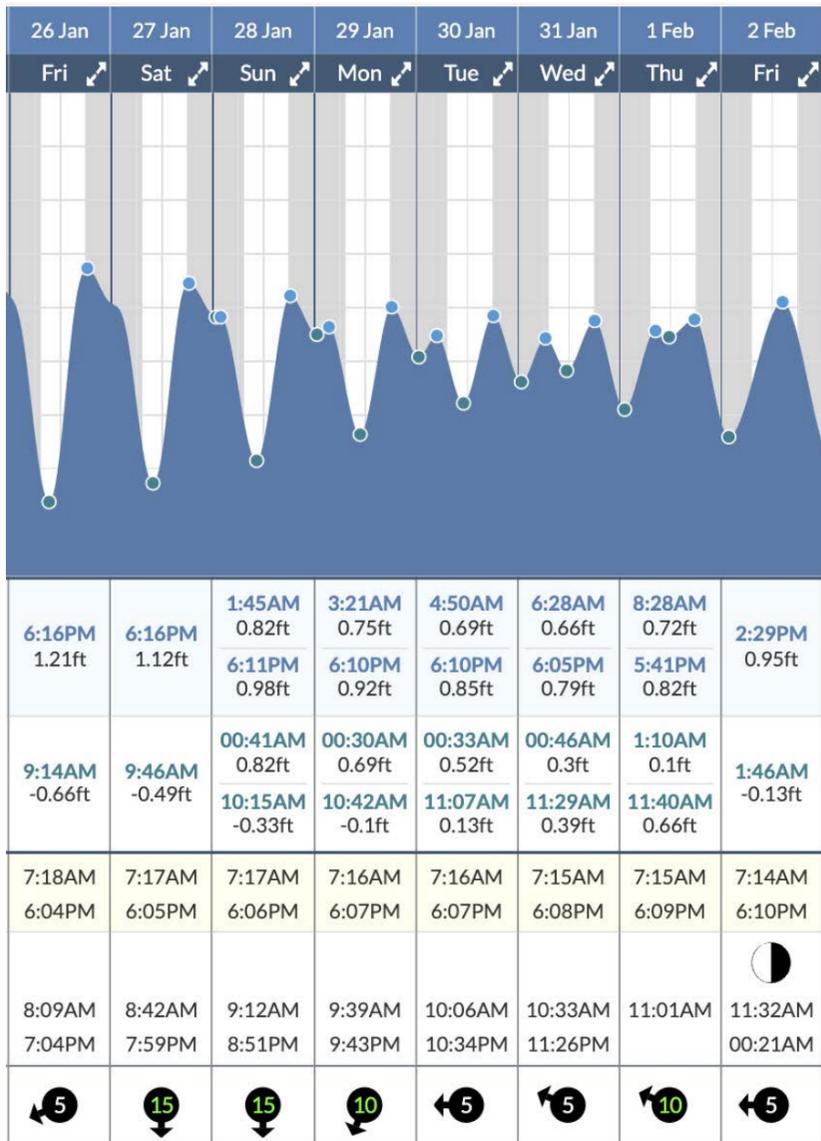
This extension of the "middle part" of the no-wake zone has been a perennial topic at ISAC since I started on as ex-officio nine years ago. And I can see both sides of the issue, as it adds another 1.4 mile no-wake zone, which adds about another 20 minutes to the already 20-minute commute from Marker 37 to the Packery Channel boat ramp if you're headed offshore. It will make it seem like it takes forever to get out the jetties, but I think the safety aspect is worth the extra time. There are boaters and a boat business operator on ISAC, and they begrudgingly agreed that it's for the best. The no-wake zones are going to expand with the new 4.6 miles of canals being created in the Whitecap development as well. So, the city will put up signs likely before summer, and we'll see if Texas Parks and Wildlife game wardens enforce it (hope-

fully staff has contacted them to amend their agreement). You loyal readers will remember that we actually had a patrol boat dedicated to Packery Channel at one point in time, but it got mothballed and sold some years ago. The patrol was one of conditions of the Texas General Land Office (GLO) lease with the city regarding the construction of the channel (among other things - I'll get to more in a minute). The idea was that the USFWS and TGLO were worried that the increased boat traffic would cause erosion of the environmentally sensitive Mollie Beattie Birding area (now owned by the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP)). The patrol boat was supposed to enforce the no-wake zone, but most of the time the kids driving the boat would tie up in the shade of the Hwy 361 bridge and chill. I like to think that most everyone has gotten the message, and hopefully they will adhere to the extension of the no-wake zone all the way to the JFK. Remember, the county also recently asked us to move the no-wake zone up a few hundred yards in advance of them constructing a living shoreline on their property as well. Our friend Tess Clark has been finding some absolutely amazing shells south of the site formerly known as Bob Hall. I told her to look closely at the whip coral that is washing in for the rare Atlantic wing shells that grow on them, and she sent me a pic of some whip coral with what appears to be Sea Whip Simnia on them! Totally awesome! Thanks for the pic Tess. There is so much going on folks, it's hard to keep up with it all. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Sea Whip Simnia by Tess

Tides of the Week



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah's Fishing Adventures



This week has been awesome on big trout as we warm up and recover from the recent cold snap. This giant Laguna Madre Trout fell for a DOWN SOUTH LURES SUOER MODEL.

We have survived the cold of winter and everyone on the island is dreaming of warm summer sun again. Local fish are as well, but it's more a game of survival to them. After the last cold blast, gamefish have moved towards the shallows during the warm up period. We have been having some of the most incredible days up shallow wade fishing and drifting in the boat. The fish that have been occupying the 4-5' depths have moved up into knee to waist deep water. Throwing big soft plastic lures during the major and minor feeding times have produced handfuls of trout over 6&7lbs along with redfish and slot trout. Do not blaze in a rush and jump out somewhere. Slow down and idle along a shoreline slowly. Take your time it might take you a while to locate a cove or point with active baitfish on the surface. Slip in quietly and stay in that area.

Looking ahead in the next few weeks gamefish will be moving back and forth from the mid depths to the shallows balancing their body temperatures. On

sunny days look for that Magic transition between 1-3ft, this shallow mud falling off to scattered grass and sand. Large mullet is a good sign but not in their diet. Look for small bait and varied birds to tell you when you are in the right place. Long casts with soft plastics picking apart pockets with a 1/16-1/8th oz jig head. If you have not experienced wade fishing now is the time to pick up the phone and find one of my open days. The tranquility is good medicine for the soul. This morning I heard a symphony of birds all of different species all playing to the same beat. A rain shower crept up on us but was not a surprise as we could hear the droplets coming in the fog. It was a special time when we were emerged in nature, part of it not working against it. These times when we blend in I feel invisible, and that's when I find myself along with some of the best trophy fish of my life.

MARKER 37 MARINA SPRING FLING! Mark your calendar I am planning a event APRIL 12&14th with FREE SEMINARS FROM SOME OF THE BEST ANGLERS AROUND, LURE COMPANYS, and lots of vendors and more. We will be covering everything that we do here! TROPHY TROUT BEACH FISHING OFFSHORE LIVE BAIT FISH CLEANING CLASS AND MORE!!

Follow all of my hookups on Facebook at JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING. 361-442-8145



I got my hands on this mature spec this week while fishing Baffin Bay.

Around cont. from A1

officers have reported they were ordered to stand down after a ruling from the City Attorney's Office for reasons unknown and No Trespassing signs placed at the ramp by PIPOA employees two years ago were removed. State Game Wardens have also been summoned but any violations written to the campers have to be prosecuted by the Nueces County District Attorney's Office which, according to information at Tuesday's meeting, has so far declined to take the cases. Boat ramps and adjoining parking lots inside PIPOA boundaries are owned by PIPOA members but are open for public launching and retrieving under a decades-old agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Parking in the lots requires a sticker from the PIPOA, those without stickers must park on the street. But there is no provision in PIPOA rules or the agreement that allows for overnight stay at Island boat ramps. It appears the solution to this long-term problem is going to have to come through the City of Corpus Christi and the police department. We are looking for some help here.

Meeting at Whitecap NPI

Officials from Diamond Beach Holdings, LLC., (DBH) developers of the Whitecap North Padre Island project are holding a meeting at the sales office on Compass Street at 6 p.m. Wednesday, January 31 to answer questions about their attempt to remove their property from the PIPOA. PIPOA board members said Tuesday they are in favor of residents who live in the five subdivisions adjacent the Whitecap NPI location signing the petition allowing

the Whitecap NPI lots to leave the PIPOA. Their exit will not impact the residential homeowners who will remain in the PIPOA. See the story in this issue for more information.

So long

We lost three long-time Islanders this week. First, our good friend and good Islander Diane McGroarty who founded and owned Diana Homes Inc. here on The Island passed away. Diane was born in Minnesota and got to The Island as fast as she could and was known to just about all of the long-time Islanders. Among many other things Diane was part of the small group of friends who started the Barefoot Mardi Gras event more than a decade ago. Diane will be greatly missed and we will gather this Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew by the Sea Catholic Church to remember our friend. Also this week two long-time friends of the Island Moon are leaving after twenty-three years on The Island. Peter and Jo Allsop are moving east to Memphis to be near family. Pete did deliveries for the Island Moon for more than a decade while bringing golf courses in this area to their knees. They will be missed and we will hold down the fort here on The Island until they come back for a visit.

Barefoot Mardi Gras

And don't forget that the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade will happen on Saturday, February 10 on Whitecap Beach, a date which also rings in the Chinese New Year, so it's going to be a day of celebration hereabouts. We'll see you there and in the meantime say hello if you see us Around The Island.



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Nature Notes

Brown Creeper

by Taylor Bennett



Brown Creeper observed on a tree trunk during the Brazoria Christmas Bird Count in Brazoria, TX.

Picture by Taylor Bennett on December 30, 2023.

At Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, we participate in several of Audubon's Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) every year in the winter. The counts are a way to provide population data for use in conservation and biological studies. They are conducted nationwide and have grown to include several countries as well. This year, I participated in the San Bernard CBC, Freeport CBC, and Brazoria CBC. It was during the Brazoria CBC that I just so happened to encounter one of the most cryptic birds we have here, the Brown Creeper. Brown Creepers are very small tree-climbing songbirds that can be observed in Texas during their winter migration. It is the only species of creeper in the United States. They prefer forested habitats with lots of large, live trees for foraging and forests with abundance of dead and dying trees to nest in. Their breeding range is widely distributed, ranging from Alaska to Canada, Western and Eastern United States, and Middle America.

Brown Creepers can be a bit difficult to spot. Just imagine a piece of bark moving that just so happens to have a long downward-curved bill. That is exactly what a Brown Creeper looks like. Their back is speckled brown, black, and white, camouflaging them perfectly well with the tree bark. Their bellies are whitish, heads are small with slender decurved bill, legs are pink and short with long curved toes and claws, and tail is long and stiff. Breeding and non-breeding plumage are the same

and the only known way to tell male from female is the size of their bill; female bills are slightly shorter.

Brown Creepers mainly prey on insects that can be found within and on the bark of trees. This includes a large variety of insect and larvae such as flies, beetles, weevils, spiders and their eggs, ants, and pseudoscorpions. During the winter, if insects are scarce, they have been observed eating small seed and vegetable matter.

Brown Creepers are incredibly adapted for climbing trees. They use their long stiff tails to prop themselves up and their long toes and claws to hook onto the outside of the tree bark. The term creeper comes from the way they behave. They move in a hopping spiral up and around tree trunks with their legs sprawled out on either side of their body. They move their legs and feet at the same time while their body is kept vertically parallel to the tree trunk and their heads are pointing upward.

As they are spiraling, they are constantly using their long bill to pick off insects. Once they reach the top, they fly down to another nearby tree trunk and start the process again, always moving in an upward spiral and never down.

Like other migratory species, Brown Creepers are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, so please give them their space. On behalf of Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, thank you for reading and keep your eye on the trees you may never know what you might find.

Last Saturday, both the 7th grade and 8th grade SMA girls basketball teams took first place at the IWA tournament, continuing a record-breaking season. Neither team has lost a single regular-season or tournament game; it's the first time two teams have gone undefeated in the same season in the school's 18-year history.



The undefeated SMA 7th grade girls team poses with Coach Cherish Ruddick after defeating Bishop Garriga, WINGS, and Rockport to take 1st place at the IWA tournament.



8th grade SMA girls, also undefeated, pose with Coach Cherish Ruddick after beating St. James, Rockport, and IWA to earn first place.

Over the past week and a half, we have received 82 cold-stunned sea turtles in total. We rehabilitated them at our facility and then yesterday, on Tuesday, Jan 23rd, the weather and water temperatures were suitable for a release. We ended up releasing 56 sea turtles back into the gulf that they call home! These 56 turtles were analyzed and tagged before being chosen to be released. These turtles have shown that they were ready and eager to go back! They were more than strong enough, eating really well, and showed no signs of needing any more help!

We want to thank all our volunteers who were involved in prepping, transporting, and releasing these sea turtles! We appreciate all your dedication, commitment, and help each and every single day! Also, BIG thanks to the Padre Island National Seashore and Amos Rehabilitation Keep - ARK at UT Marine Science Institute for helping transport turtles to our facility throughout the week!



Padre Island National Seashore Seeking Volunteers for Sea Turtle Nesting Season

Kelly Taylor
Chief of Interpretation and Education
Public Information Officer
361-949-8173 ext. 427 (office)

The Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery (STSR) at Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS) is seeking volunteers to assist park biologists during the Kemp's ridley nesting season. The Kemp's ridley is the smallest and most critically endangered species of sea turtle in the world. Efforts to conserve and protect the species in both the United States and Mexico have been underway since the 1970's, led in part by PAIS. PAIS is the primary nesting beach for Kemp's ridley turtles in the United States. From April to mid-July, biologists conduct daytime patrols to find, document, and protect nesting sea turtles and their eggs. When a nest is detected, the eggs are relocated and placed in an outdoor enclosure or incubation facility for protected incubation. Once the eggs hatch, the hatchlings are safely released into the Gulf of Mexico. Volunteers are crucial to our success at every step of this process.

Volunteers are currently being recruited to perform the following responsibilities:
Drive UTV patrol vehicles on the beach
Conduct walking patrols on the beach
Transport eggs on the beach and highway
Perform radio dispatching

All volunteers are required to register for and attend one 8-hour virtual training class delivered via Microsoft Teams. Training are

being offered in February and March 2024. To register for training sessions, visit [Calender - Padre Island National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/pais) Volunteers interested in driving government vehicles and UTVs are required to possess a valid driver's license. Volunteers driving UTVs are required to attend one virtual UTV Classroom Session webinar delivered via Microsoft Teams and one in-person Beach Driving Practical Session held at PAIS at a future date that has yet to be determined.

For more information about volunteering, contact Martha Villalba-Guerra, STSR Volunteer Coordinator, by email at pais_seaturtevolunteer@nps.gov or by phone at (361) 949-8164 ext. 266.

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Business Briefs

By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

Padre Dermatology/ Dr. Ryan Rogers now has a Medi Spa with their experienced licensed aesthetician Nicole Williams. The Darwin Laser, high power IPL treats sun damage, red blood vessels, hair removal and radio frequency microneedling. Some of the other cosmetic procedures are fillers, chemical peels and more. They are located at 14650 Compass Street Suite 1. Call 361-867-1032 for appointment.



St. Ann's Skin Studio opened last week in the Clock Tower Shopping Center near Whitecap. Esthetician Ann Marie Powell delivers holistic naturalist non-toxic medical grade skin care. She offers many different facials safe for pregnant, oncology or breast feeding clients. She does brow shaping and waxing and invites men to come and get their brows trimmed up. She offers a long list of services and is open Monday - Saturday 9 am - 7 pm. Book online or call 371-0841.



Whataburger reopened this week after a two week interior/exterior remodel. It has a sleek, clean contemporary look and still has booths just not as many.



There are three lots side by side for sale between Nemo Court, where Coldwell Banker is located, and the Don Patricio Bridge. Each one is 50 feet wide x 150 feet deep. One seller owns two of those lots and is selling them together for \$498,000. The third lot is listed at \$306,900. Those are the only lots for sale between Whitecap and Commodores.

Amos Rehabilitation Keep (ARK) in Port A released 68 turtles on January 23rd at Mile Marker 35. There were lots of Winter Texans enjoying the event. ARK had 273 rescued turtles with three remaining at ARK and the rest transferred to the Texas State Aquarium, UT Marine Science Institute in Port A and Aransas Pass.

Costa Sur Wok & Ceviche Bar will have a pop-up Brunch Sunday, January 28th 11 am - 4 pm with new brunch items. The Kansas City/Baltimore 2 pm game will be on so you do not have to miss out on football to enjoy brunch.

Lone Star Home Improvement Company has 25 years of experience installing decks, docks, boat lifts, fishing piers, pergolas and more. They are a HiTide boat lift dealer. Call this Islander owned business at 537-4045 for a free estimate.

Freedom Fitness opened up their new location this week in the old Sears building on Airline Road. Besides huge areas of the usual gym equipment they have a sauna room, hydromassage room, group exercise classes like Zumba and yoga. There is a Freedom Nutrition store and the Freedom Kids room has a movie theater, Playstation 5 section and areas for smaller children. They provide childcare for age six months - 13 years of age.



Free Pickleball Beginners Group 101 at Aquarius Park Thursday, February 1st and 8th 4:30 pm. Great way to learn more about this popular sport just bring water and a chair no paddle needed. There is limited space so sign up at playtimescheduler.com.

Champs Meat Market has started work on their Island location next to the Island Cleaners in the old Donut Palace location. They flash freeze the meats then vacuum seal them to lock in the flavor. They started in Calallen and opened their huge one on the corner of Everhart & SPID in October. It is from there that they will be delivering the products to the Island. They hope to be open here by the end of March.

Texas Hold'em Poker games are played at the Pelican Lounge every Wednesday at 7 pm.

Ace Hardware has Valentine's Day gift items and the most unique one is the red heart shaped bird feeder.



Celsita's Restaurant now serves breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays 9 am - 11:30 am. Besides the Mexican breakfast plates there are also pancakes on the menu.

Random Stuff

Bar Keepers Friend Cleanser has saved the day for me often. When my grandkids got non-washable marker on my counter it got it clean when nothing else would. It even removed a red wine ring I hadn't noticed that was there for awhile. It is a powder and you would think it is too abrasive for stainless steel sinks but it is not. It has been around since 1882 similar to the time the pumice stone came out and I still have people thanking me for that recommendation. Funny, I just realized I never talked about cleaning products until I retired a couple of years ago. One downside of retirement is you feel guilty hiring a cleaning service, at least I do. Hmmm, I think I need to get over that.



Peace out.



Huck Finn was not sighted.
Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



The star of the sea.
Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Proud smiles were the order of the day as islander and Airman Noe Silva II, pictured with parents Karen and Noe on the parade ground, is one of 639 who completed basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland in mid-January. He has started technical training in security services. Interestingly, during the same week, 23 of the new Airmen became American citizens after immigrating from various countries including Nigeria, Cuba, Cameroon, Italy, and Vietnam. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

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13801 Captains Row - Exceptional custom home, 151' canal front at fingertip of gated st. Elevator, pool, 2 lifts, sunset over ICW **\$1,750,000**. Call **Pam Morgan** at 361-215-8116.



14911 Village Beach Dr. 2/2 gorgeous poolside townhome just a quick walk to the beach! 1041 sq. ft. & fully furnished. **\$430,000**. Call **Kim Mogford** at 361-434-8522.



14010 Eaglesnest Bay 3/2.5/2 + bonus/flex room at 2,142 sq.ft. Open plan, new roof & HVAC in 2017. All new hurricane windows, 3M water treatment system. Large backyard w/room for a pool. **\$459,900**
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Ten Years ago in the Island Moon



Greg Reynar, Jorge Mendizabal, James & Angela Brown, the owners Doug Brown, Me, David Turk at the Oveja Negra cigar factory. Esteli, Nicaragua



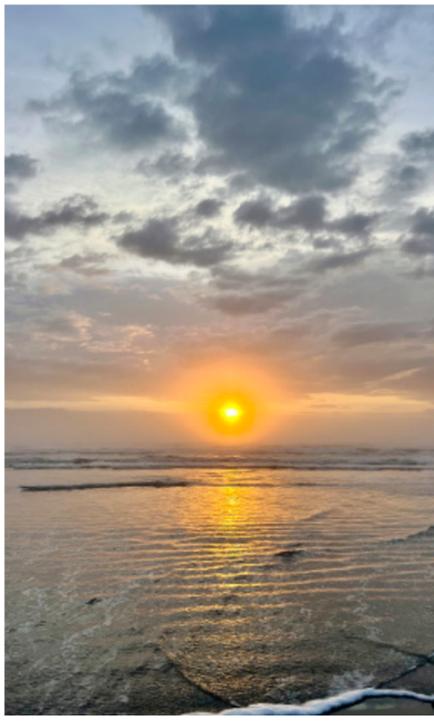
Schlitterbahn was going up.



Ten years ago this week they cut the ribbon at Stingray's Tap House in Port Aransas.



Bird's Eye View By Lu Ann Kingsbury



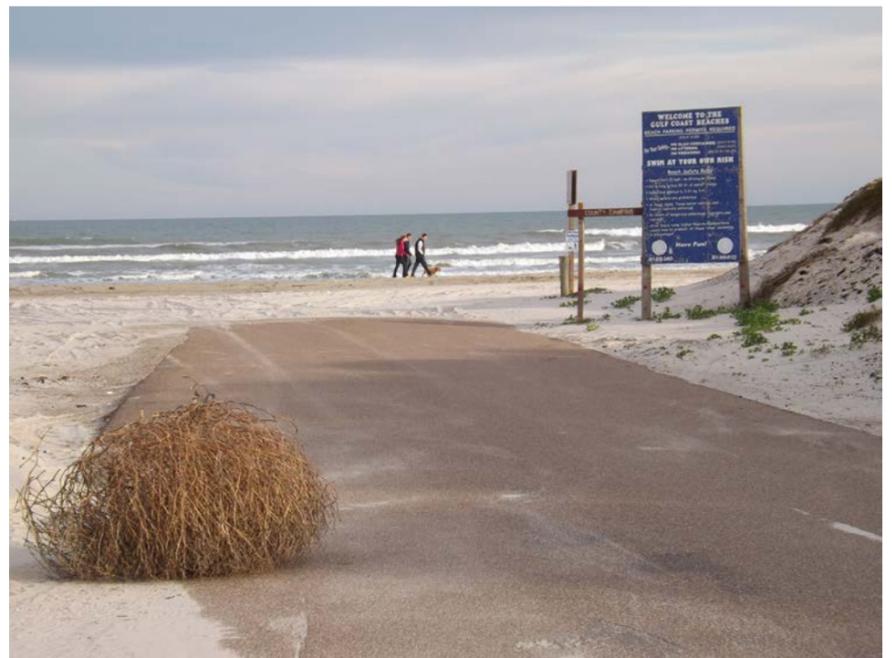
The morning sun burning up the atmosphere. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Islanders Ryden and Rylan placed in homemaking and their rabbits made the auction at the Nueces County Junior Livestock Show.



Scuttlebutts Bar & Grill held a fashion show.



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Evelyn Pless-Schuberth made the Barefoot Mardi Gras Kickoff Party.

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Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

Zero-sum thinking is pervasive across our society. One person's gain must mean another person's loss. Which is ironic, given that the foundation of our capitalistic economy is a win-win positive-sum worldview. Yet, it does seem a natural fit for our narcissistic, "it's all about me" culture.

Zero-sum thinking views all of life as a competition. There are winners and losers. For me to win, you must lose. If I lose, you win. To win is to succeed and to lose is to fail. This view assumes that a finite amount of goods exists in the world. Zero-sum thinking is rooted in a pessimistic and often materialistic understanding of human beings as consumers.

Zero-sum thinking is great for athletic competition. Nobody wants a game to end in a tie. However, when it comes to politics, communities, and relationships, zero-sum thinking is disastrous. By the way, zero-sum thinking is pervasive in the red and blue tribes, the liberal and conservative tribes.

Fear and anxiety fuel zero-sum thinking. Consider the classic bell curve grading system. A finite number of students will get A's. This can create fear and anxiety. To help another a fellow student, might negatively affect me.

Compromise is a dirty word and something to be avoided in a zero-sum worldview. Just ask Speaker Johnson. Zero-sum rhetoric blinds us to solutions. It's easier to think it's us versus them, than to think it's us and them.

When zero-sum thinking infiltrates our relationships, we act more competitively towards those whom we love. We see the other as a competitive threat. Therefore, when disagreement occurs it becomes a struggle of winning or losing. Compromise, a necessary ingredient in all healthy relationships, is pushed aside. Yet, without compromise and a win-win attitude, relationships will almost always crash against the rocks of brokenness.

Love is not a zero-sum game. When Jesus talked about love, he talked about a love that seeks the best interest of the other persons. He called for love of another as

you would love yourself. Love is a positive-sum, win-win, that produces empathy and compassion, kindness and generosity. Love overcomes and vanquishes fear. This is what our society needs!

Contentment and trust fuel positive-sum thinking. In a zero-sum world, positive-sum thought has to be learned. A regular practice of gratitude helps us to move away from the notion of scarcity.

Steve was waiting in line at his favorite bakery for a scone. When his turn came, he ordered the last scone. The man behind Steve grumbled that the scone was to be his. Steve could have apologized and claimed victory. Instead, he offered the man half of that last scone. The man was shocked into silence. He accepted the offer and bought another pastry to split with Steve.

They sat down together at a table to share their pastries. Steve said they had almost nothing in common, especially their political and social views. They were strangers that shared a moment of connection and simple kindness. They discovered their common humanity as they shunned the zero-sum world. Steve wanted more.

Walking away from the tribalistic us against them thinking helps us move towards the embrace of diversity and inclusion. It breaks down the walls of division erected in fear. Learning ways of communication that respects and honors another helps us turn away from the vitriol of only winners and losers. Which allows us to lead with goodness and kindness.

Each Sunday morning, a bunch of humans gather to worship God in community at Island Presbyterian Church, giving thanks for grace, forgiveness, love, healing, and hope, working for peace, justice, and reconciliation. There is always room at the table for you! I look forward to seeing you on Sundays at 10 a.m., 14030 Fortune Bay Drive, or on our Facebook page.

Choose kindness, compassion, and love; do justice and make peace; welcome the stranger.
pastor@islandpresby.com



TxDOT #EndTheStreakTX Campaign

I would like to draw attention to a very important topic we face in Texas, which is roadway safety. Since November 7, 2000 at least one person has died every single day, with an average of 10 deaths everyday. As a result, The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently launched the annual #EndTheStreakTX campaign. During this campaign, TxDOT asks all Texans to join the effort to end the deadly 23-year streak on roadways in Texas. The Texas Transportation Commission has set a goal aiming to end all fatalities on Texas roads by 2050, with an interim goal to reduce them by half by 2035. I hope we can work together to end this deadly trend to make all roadways in Texas safe.

The leading cause of fatalities continue to be failure to stay in one lane, alcohol, and speed. November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas Roadways with fatalities resulting from vehicle crashes around 67,000. In 2018 alone, there was 3,641 lives lost. Furthermore, there is 1 reportable crash every 58 seconds, and 1 person killed every 2 hours and 24 minutes. These staggering statistics should serve as a reminder to drive safely and avoid distractions while driving.

Additionally, TxDOT will dedicate \$600 million for safety improvements across Texas roadways over the next two years. This includes widening some roads and adding rumble strips that alert drivers if they are veering out of their lane or off the road. Also, TxDOT will reinforce shoulders and select turn lanes, and deploy new

technology that will increase safety on the entire roadway system. However, Texans play a major role in ending the deadly trend by changing simple driving habits, such as, wearing seatbelts, driving the speed limit, putting away the phone and other distractions, and never driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

I encourage all Texans to join the effort to end this streak to protect our families. To learn more about the annual #EndTheStreakTX campaign you can visit <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/media-center/psas/end-streak.html>. Through this effort we can hopefully cause a wave of commitment and a surge of support to end the trend in Texas.

If you have questions regarding any of the information mentioned in this week's article, please do not hesitate to call my Capitol or District Office. Please always feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or issues regarding a Texas state agency, or if you would like to contact my office regarding constituent services. As always, my offices are available at any time to assist with questions, concerns or comments (Capitol Office, 512-463-0672; District Office, 361-949-4603).

- State Representative Todd Hunter, District 32

Rep. Hunter represents Aransas County and Nueces County (Part). He can be contacted at todd.hunter@house.texas.gov or at 512-463-0672

Whitecap NPI developers seeking signatures to remove its property from the PIPOA Public meeting scheduled for January 31

By Dale Rankin
Officials from Diamond Beach Holdings, LLC., (DBH) developers of the Whitecap North Padre Island project are currently seeking signatures from property owners in four adjacent subdivisions of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association (PIPOA) that would allow property at the Whitecap project to be removed from the PIPOA in order to form their own separate Homeowners Association. Removal of the Whitecap NPI parcels would not affect the ownership rights of property owners in the PIPOA subdivisions, nor would it effect their status as members of the PIPOA.

Officials from the Whitecap NPI project have been circulating the petition to property owners in the four subdivisions since mid-2023 and currently need about twenty signatures to reach a majority in each of the four. A separate round of signatures are needed in each subdivision.

"One of the obstacles to getting signatures has been a misunderstanding of a portion of the language in the agreement form," said Doug King Sales Director of the Whitecap NPI project. "We are going to form our own property owners association for the Whitecap project, with the agreement of management at the PIPOA."

King said the language in the first draft of the consent form presented to homeowners caused consternation due to the misunderstanding that signing it would deny them the right to sue the Whitecap NPI developers for any future grievances.

A column from PIPOA President Drew Diggins published in the Island Moon in 2023 reads as follows:

The PIPOA board and attorney have re-

ceived the Affidavit and feel it clearly states the intent of the DBH is to withdraw only DBH properties from the PIPOA.

The affidavit referred to is a supplement to the original consent form circulated to property owners to clarify the tenets of the form. The language in the original form reads as follows:

In addition, the undersigned hereby waives any claim(s) arising under the Declarations, including any claim(s) that may arise in the future, relating to the DBH Property.

To clarify the terms of the agreement the additional affidavit includes clarifying language which reads as follows:

Notwithstanding the exact language in paragraph 2 of the Form of Amendment and the amendments actually signed by the various owners, the intent of such language is only to prevent any party signing an amendment and their respective heirs, devisees, representatives, successors and assigns with respect to the property such party owns from claiming that the DBH Property is subject to one or more of the Declarations or claiming that all or any portion of the DBH Property is breaching or in violation of any terms of the Declarations. There is no intent to waive any other type of claim.

To help property owners understand the terms of the documents being presented for their signature the developers of the Whitecap NPI project plan to hold a public forum to answer questions from property owners at their sales center at the corner of Commodores Drive and Compass Street on Wednesday, January 31, at 6 p.m. For questions contact Doug King at 704 258-4995 or email at doug@whitecaplivingnpi.com.



Sandhill Cranes and a Doe. By Jim Gilmore

We are excited to announce the joining of James Jensen, CPA to the Penn Thomas CPA firm.



JAMES JENSEN

is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA). His taxation experience ranges from the smallest mom-and-pop businesses to publicly traded companies. James received his Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Memphis in 2016 and was licensed as a CPA in 2017. James also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Baylor University with a double major in Biology and History and a minor in Chemistry. Since entering public accounting in 2014, James quickly advanced and in 2020 was named Income Partner at a Top 25 CPA firm. James left that firm in 2021 to pursue his dream of starting his own public accounting firm. James is passionate about helping other small business owners to not only be compliant with Federal and State taxation regulations, but also to understand their financial position and help grow successful businesses.

When not practicing accounting, James and his wife, Lauren, spend time with family and friends on the South Texas coast. They moved to Corpus Christi, TX in 2018 to live out their dream of living on the beach. James is an avid fisherman and enjoys kayak fishing for Redfish and Speckled Trout. The Jensens have three dogs, Madison, Odin, and Iris. They can often be found walking the neighborhood on Padre Island. The Jensens attend Padre Island Baptist Church and enjoy learning and teaching others in the Word of our savior Jesus Christ.

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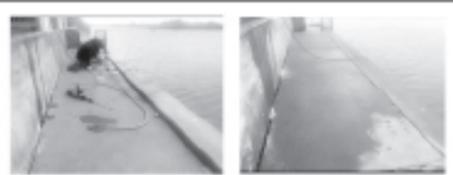
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Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

- Da Gama destination
- Was acquainted with
- Camp Lejeune truant
- Pride components
- Miles from Hollywood
- Turner of "Peyton Place"
- Bad thing to have for lunch
- Delhi garb
- "___ Howdy Doody time!"
- Less of a slob
- Powder ingredient, perhaps
- Like taking candy from a baby
- Gardener's asset
- Singer's name pronounced "Shar-day"
- Sir Richard of "Camelot"
- Canal to the Red Sea
- Director's cry
- Salt's "Halt!"
- Merry Pranksters' vehicle
- Big-time talker
- Invoice word
- Site of 1-Across
- Like many games
- Ubiquitous medicinal plant
- One may hold your hand to see?
- Organic necklaces
- Bitsy's partner
- Peres of Israel
- Enero begins it
- Legal prefix
- Suddenly remember
- "___ and Psyche" (Munch painting)
- Part of a driving test
- Pungent bulb
- Insignificant
- Unhealthy urban haze
- Japanese port city

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				

Down

- Types
- 1492 ship
- Sullen
- Troublemakers
- Pop the question
- Whine and complain
- Nitti's bane
- Stage of history
- One who dreams of fame
- Irving Berlin classic
- Sit tight
- This may be enough
- "If I Only Had the Nerve" singer
- Happy tunes
- Word with Moines or Plaines
- "West Side Story" character
- Certain birds that cannot fly
- Gold Coast, today
- "Myrrha" composer
- Terpsichore's kin
- Same old, same old
- Very bitter
- One of the Allman brothers
- Flammable solvent
- City subdivisions
- Prejudice
- Toddler corrals
- Small pianos
- "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" playwright
- "Maximum Bob" author Leonard
- Extracting ores
- Longish span of time
- Quickly deleted e-mail
- Philosopher influenced by Locke
- "Ripley's Believe ___ Not!"
- American prefix
- Soprano's big number
- Fischer's castle
- Freud's psychoanalyst daughter
- Grand total
- Infantile syllable

Police Blotter January 13-21

JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection

- Suspicious Person**
 13300 block SPID 10 pm January 21
 13500 block SPID 4 am January 21
 11800 block SPID 2 am January 21
 13500 block SPID 10 pm January 19
 13500 block SPID 11 pm January 18
 13300 block SPID 9 pm January 1
- Traffic**
 36 Traffic Stops

- 15700 block Finistere 7 pm January 18
 Noise Ordinance Violation
 15400 block Grass Cay Noon January
 15 Noise Ordinance Violation
- Suspicious Person**
 14200 block SPID Midnight January
 19
 15200 block Capstan 11 am January 18
 15700 block Finistere 10 pm January
 21
- Traffic**
 127 Traffic Stops

SPID West to Laguna Madre Crimes against Property

- 14300 block SPID 11 pm January 20
 Trespassing
 14500 block SPID 8 pm January 20
 Trespassing
 14100 block Atascadera Ave. 5 pm
 January 20 Criminal Trespass in
 Habitation/Super Fund Site (three
 counts)
 14500 block Cabana East 8 am January
 16 Theft under \$100
 14100 block Atascadera 5 pm January
 20 Criminal Trespass in Habitation/
 Super Fund Site (three counts)
 15400 block Cruiser Noon January 16
 Theft of Services

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to City Limits

- Disturbances**
 14700 block Whitecap Blvd. 1 am
 January 20 Noise Ordinance Violation
- Suspicious Person**
 Leeward Dr. & Windward Dr. 3 am
 January 21
 Windward Dr. & Leeward Dr. 2 am
 January 19
 10600 block Gulf Beach 3 pm January
 17
 10600 block SH 361 3 pm January 17
- Traffic**
 68 Traffic Stops
 15800 block SPID 3 pm January 20
 Crash
 14700 block Whitecap Blvd. 2 am
 January 19 DWI
 11300 block 6 pm January 18 DWI
 19



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Deer at Goose Island State Park By Jim Gilmore

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

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A Sweet Symphony of Mockingbirds

By: U.S. Senator John Cornyn, R-Texas Member of the Senate Finance, Intelligence, and Judiciary Committees

The early bird gets the worm, but the mockingbird gets the final word. While their outward appearance may be unassuming, these skilled songbirds are the official bird of Texas for their ingenuity in using joyous tunes and talented mimicry to not only serenade Texans but also outwit unsuspecting predators.

The history of the mockingbird's official status in Texas dates back to January 31, 1927, when the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs appealed to the 40th Texas Legislature to adopt the mockingbird as the state's bird. The Legislature did, and Governor Dan Moody approved the measure, making Texas one of the first states to designate an official state bird. Nearly 100 years later, it's still just as beloved today. Scientifically known as *Mimus polyglottos* or many-tongued mimic, the Northern Mockingbird can imitate the calls and sounds of other birds, amphibians, and people, including whistles, sirens, and even doorbells. A male mockingbird can learn around 200 songs in its lifetime, and each imitation is repeated about three times before seamlessly transitioning to another song.

But what makes the mockingbird uniquely Texan, exactly? Well, mockingbirds are an extremely territorial species. As the Texas Legislature once put it, the mockingbird is "a fighter for the protection of his home, falling, if need be, in its defense, like any true Texan," according to the Texas State Historical Association. Much like General Sam Houston storming the banks of the

San Jacinto River shouting, "Remember the Alamo," these birds bravely stand as a flock, ready to confront foes and protect their nests.

This strong defense extends to their choice of perches, which they mark by asserting dominance and displaying vocal skill. Despite their modest size, mockingbirds boldly challenge snakes, ravens, hawks, and other creatures who threaten their nests. An emblem of courage and defense, the mockingbird reflects the true Texan spirit.

On the exterior, they're recognized by their grayish-brown plumage, long tail, and white wing patches. In flight, you can catch a glimpse of bold white streaks on their wings and tail. On occasion, the mockingbird performs a "wing flash," showcasing its white undercoat to startle their prey, fend off predators, and attract mates. Mockingbirds primarily feed on insects, berries, and fruits. While gardens are among their favorite dwelling places, they are adaptable and can thrive in a diversity of environments, including rural and urban landscapes. Year-round, these majestic creatures grace the bustling streets of Dallas, sing through the mountains of West Texas, and soar across the prairies of the High Plains.

To Texans, the mockingbird symbolizes more than meets the eye – it embodies the resilience, beauty, and courage of the Lone Star State. Given their near-sacred status, it's no wonder why it is against Texas law to kill a mockingbird. The next time you hear its tune, take time to relish in the beautiful melodies, deep Texas heritage, and sweet symphony of the mockingbird.

Interesting Points to Ponder

Of Port Aransas and Cattle Crossings

By Bobbie Kimbrell

In the beginning Port Aransas was a pass and not a port. It was the first pass dredged through the island north of the Rio Grande River.

To start with Port Aransas was neither a pass nor a port. The first ships to come through the pass at Port Aransas docked at Harbor Island since there was already a road from Harbor Island to Aransas Pass and that is possibly why Aransas Pass got its name as goods and wares coming and going to the ships would pass through Aransas Pass. Later on a deep channel was dug from Port Aransas to Aransas Pass and the Conn Brown harbor was dredged to make a port for Gulf shrimp boats. At one time Aransas Pass was the shrimp capital of Texas and possibly the rest of the states as well. Many, many years later Aransas Pass put a tax on the boats and shrimp p houses which caused the shrimp boats to move out and shut down the shrimp houses, some moving to Mexico and Central America.

Some of the rocks used to make the jetties at Port Aransas came from Penescal Point at the mouth of Baffin Bay in the Laguna Madre. They were hauled by shallow draft boats and barges. Some of the rocks are still at Penescal Point in the edge of the water and onshore.

The Texas Coast pretty much of a bend all the way from Louisiana to Mexico and the bend is a little more pronounced near Corpus Christi. And since Laguna Shores Road

is on the mainland of the coast, the bend in the road just north of where Glen Oak ends at Laguna Shores Road might be the most western point of the bend in the Texas Coast and could be the reason Packery Pass is there, plus Corpus Christi and Newport Pass used to be there.

At one time, possibly two hundred years ago, Packery Pass ran straight from the Gulf of Mexico across the lagoon to the deep water on the Flour Bluff shoreline and then made a turn into Corpus Christi Bay as shown on maps when the survey for building the Intracoastal Canal Bridge took place.

Dunn's Crossing in the Laguna Madre is where cowboys from Padre Island herded cattle across the lagoon to be shipped to the stock markets. The cattle came ashore where Yorktown Blvd. would end at the shore of the lagoon. After the Intracoastal Canal was dug the cattle were herded across the lagoon one more time and then ceased because some of the cattle got bogged down in the soft silt of the spoil dumps and the cattle had to swim across the canal where some of them drowned.

That land where the holding pens were located is still undeveloped today, possibly because it gets underwater in a seasonal high tide or hurricane ride. I believe that a historical marker at that site would be in order, thereby preserving Padre Island and Flour Bluff history.

Property Tax Today

A message from Texas State Comptroller Glenn Hegar



Constitutional Amendments

On Nov. 7, 2023, Texas voters approved the following property tax-related amendments to the Texas Constitution:

- A property tax exemption of real property used to operate a child-care facility.
- A property tax exemption of certain tangible personal property held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products.
- A temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead; to increase the residence homestead exemption for school districts from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for property tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the Legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts.

Our *2023 Texas Property Tax Law Changes* (PDF) publication summarizes property tax laws that changed due to legislation passed by the 88th Legislature

State Revenue 2024-2025

In October, I released the Certification Revenue Estimate (CRE) for the fiscal 2024-25 biennium. After each legislative session, the agency releases the CRE to provide the detailed basis by which my office certified the budget and any other bills making appropriations to revise estimates in the biennial revenue estimate, reflect legislative activity and current economic information, and consider final revenue numbers for the recently ended fiscal year. As a result of legislative actions and an updated economic forecast, I now expect revenue available for general spending in 2024-25 to total about \$194.57 billion, up 24.8 percent from the 2022-23 biennium.

Appraisal District Ratio Study (ADRS)

Tax Code Section 5.10 requires the Comptroller's office to conduct a ratio study to measure the performance of each appraisal district in Texas at least once every two years and to publish the results. The purpose of the ADRS is to measure the uniformity and median level of appraisals

performed by an appraisal district within each major property category. To conduct the ADRS, the Comptroller's office applies appropriate standard statistical analysis techniques to data collected through the SDPVS required by Government Code Section 403.302. We recently released the *Report on Appraisal District Ratio Study Results for Tax Year 2022* (PDF). The published report provides ratio study results for each appraisal district studied that year and includes:

- the median levels of appraisal for each major property category;
- the coefficient of dispersion around the median level of appraisal for each major property category; and
- other appropriate statistical measures.

Complete results are available on our *Appraisal District Ratio Study Results* webpage.

Operations Survey

Tax Code Section 5.03(b) authorizes our office to require an annual report on the administration and operation of each appraisal office, and the operations survey provides data for that report. We sent electronic surveys to appraisal districts for collection of their operations data for the 2023 tax year on Jan. 17, 2024. Appraisal districts must submit responses directly in the online survey by March 31, 2024. Paper copies are not accepted, but you can request a non-fillable PDF version of the survey from our Education and Communications team for use as a working copy only. Survey data from previous years and a data visualization tool are available on PTAD's Property Tax Data Reports and Surveys webpage.

Tax Bills and Delinquency

In most cases, the deadline for paying your property taxes is Jan. 31. Taxes that remain unpaid on Feb. 1 are delinquent. Penalty and interest charges are added to the original amount. If taxes become delinquent, the tax collector adds a 6 percent penalty and 1 percent interest on Feb. 1. The penalty continues to accrue at 1 percent per month until July 1. On July 1, the penalty becomes 12 percent. Interest is charged at the rate of 1 percent per month, with no maximum. PTAD offers a 2023-24 Penalty and Interest Chart for use in calculating the total amount due on delinquent property tax bills. Private attorneys hired by taxing units to collect delinquent accounts can charge an additional penalty of up to 20 percent to cover their fees. If the delinquency date is postponed, penalties and interest begin accruing on the postponed delinquency date.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not affect the validity of the tax, penalty or interest due, the delinquency date, the existence of a tax lien or any procedure the taxing unit institutes to collect the tax. Check with the tax collection office on local payment options that may be available, such as credit card payments, deferrals, discounts, escrow accounts, installment payments, split payments, partial payments and work contracts. Information regarding property tax payments is available on PTAD's Property Tax Bills webpage.

November 2023

Jobs by City

Rate	Civilian Work Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment
Texas	15,277	14,741	535	3.5%
Beaumont	170	162	9	5.1%
Brownsville	183	175	8.6	4.7%
McAllen	388	367	20	5.3%
El Paso	381	367	15	4.0%
Corpus Christi	206	199	8	3.9%
Killeen	189	181	7.3	3.9%
Houston	3,645	3,506	137	3.8%
Victoria	45	44	1.6	3.5
San Antonio	1,303	1,261	42	3.2%
Midland	117	114	2.4	2.2%

*Numbers by Thousands

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Three Chords and the Truth



By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Keith Sykes: hacker bait...



Singer-songwriter extraordinaire and hacker bait, Keith Sykes, seen here at Shorty's in 2014, will play the Third Coast Theater on Saturday the 27th.

I had an interesting weekend. Some evil hacker cloned **Keith Sykes**, a musician pal of mine's Facebook page and started up a conversation with me that ended with said hacker instructing me to send him \$825,000,000 to fund his upcoming double CD release. You can't make this stuff up. Here's the deal... **Keith Sykes** is an internationally renowned musician and songwriter who comes to Port Aransas once a year to perform at the *Third Coast Theater* and spend a month writing songs. He's done it for years. Here's *Wikipedia's* take on Keith, "More than 100 of Sykes' songs have been recorded by **John Prine, Rosanne Cash, The Judds, Jerry Jeff Walker, and George Thorogood**, though he may be best known for co-writing "Volcano", the title track of **Jimmy Buffett's** 1979 album." Get it? This cat is the real deal.

The back story...



The Raul Ayala Band played Shorty's last Saturday and will host an Open Jam there every other Monday.

I first met Keith through **Lighthouse Rick Richenbach** about ten years ago when Rick was the *Lydia Ann Lighthouse* keeper. Rick was a music buff and loved to have picking parties on the front porch of the lighthouse. It wasn't uncommon to see the likes of **Larry Joe Taylor, Michael Hearne, Kelly Mickwee, Kinky Freeman, Ray Wylie Hubbard, The Trishas** and many, many other noteworthy musicians and songwriters. And he would always insist that I come to these sessions so everybody would get their pictures in the paper. And Keith Sykes loved to spend a month writing songs at the lighthouse every year when he played *Third Coast*. Since Rick died, Keith now writes at the skinny house when he's in Port A. And while he was here Keith would sometimes try his new songs out on a live audience at *Shorty's*. What I'm trying to say here is that Keith Sykes has a long history in Port A and I consider him a friend of mine... which is how the hacker figured out how to hustle me. He/she/it (AI?) apparently did their homework.

Will you take a check...



Eli Brown played Shorty's last Friday.

But there were just way too many red flags to take it seriously. First of all I recently got a new friend request from Keith of which I accepted with trepidation. And it wasn't unusual for Keith to send me a text, email or Facebook message.

This hacker **ONLY** used Facebook...no phone, no email. And the FB conversation seemed harmless enough at first but after a series of small talks, he/she/it spilled it, "I sent you a request for a purpose, I have been busy with shows and many more, traveling, thank you all for the support and love, I appreciate. I'm looking for someone I can definitely trust because I have got some few things I need to do and take care of without my management knowing about it so I need one of my loyal fans to handle this for me!!" ... to which I replied, "HUH? I don't understand. What do you want from me?" That's when the red flags morphed into criminal activity, "I'm doing a double CD's album which have cost me more than \$825,000,000 which I don't want my management to know about because they have ripped me and I have decided to leave them, so I took them to cook and they put a lien on my account I needed to sort out producer from Germany this morning I need you to help me I will give it back next week, please I don't want nobody to know about this!!! Thanks!" That's when I finally called Keith directly and he told me he hadn't sent the friend request nor asked me for \$825 million dollars to fund his next CD and don't tell anybody about it. I promise I'm not making this up.



The Gaff's BELT SANDER RACES will be this Saturday at 3PM.

Scattered shots...

Shorty's welcomed soloist **Eli Brown** last Friday for his debut appearance at "Port A's Oldest and Friendliest". It was a cold, windy night but *Shorty's* had a nice crowd of locals inside and the music was perfect... warm and comfortable. On Saturday the new hot kid on the block, **Raul Ayala Band** blew the roof off the joint at *Shorty's*. Thanks to the aggressive drive of their keyboardist and band manager, **Chris Ivory**, this band is officially on fire. They are playing all the "A" rooms and just recorded a new video, "Pat Mac". Keep an eye on these guys. Their energy is infectious. And speaking of Raul and *Shorty's*, they started their new "Open Jam" every other Monday from 8-12. I'll let you know how it went last week. Also last weekend the *Gaff* had their "Pawgarita" fundraiser for the *Animal Friends of Port Aransas* with a silent auction and doggie show. We love our pups in Port A.

DO NOT MISS LIST Coming this weekend...



Boudreaux and Pousson will play the Gaff this Friday the 26th.

Coming on Friday the 26th our favorite Cajun band **Boudreaux & Pousson** will play the *Gaff*, island beaters **Justin & Niki** are at *Shorty's*, **Dreaming in Color** is at the *Pelican*, **Funk Rock Stereo** is at *House of Rock* and Americana standout **Austin Meade** is at *Brewster Street Ice House Downtown*. On Saturday the *Gaff* will have their **WORLD FAMOUS BELTSANDER RACES** and my **Moon Monkey** has a new motor. Lookout **Booty Call, Boomer** and **Booby Trap**... the **Moon Monkey** is back (maybe). Also on Saturday I may have mentioned that **KEITH FRIGGIN SYKES IS PLAYING THE THIRD COAST THEATER**. It could be eventful. Plus on Saturday Blues Runner **Mike O'Neil** will play *Shorty's*, **Diamond's Edge** will play *Brewster Downtown*, the **Groove** will bring their 80's dance show to the *Pelican Lounge*, the **Young Klassies** will play the *Exchange*. And coming this Tuesday the 30th there's a **HUGE ROCK SHOW** in the big room at the *American Bank Center* with **Tool**. Coming this Wednesday the 31st there will be the *Winter Kite Fly* at Pole 13 on the beach in Port A plus the **Cleartone's** will play the *VFW* and the hybrid **PA Rockers** will play their Winter Wednesday residency at *Bernies*. Be safe.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Kip Shannon, Connie Beane, Heidi Hagan Shannon, Memi Harper and Otis the dog at the Gaff's Pawgarita fundraiser for the Animal Friends of Port Aransas last Saturday.



Asleep at the Wheel will play Brewster Street Downtown on February 9th.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Friday,

January 26

Justin & Niki @ Shorty's
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Gaff
Dreaming in Color @ Pelican Lounge
Funk Rock Stereo @ House of Rock
Austin Meade @ Brewster Downtown
Damon Scott @ Brewster Southside
Eric Graham @ Cassidy's Pub
Michael Burtt @ Tannins Alameda
Aaron Jacob @ Tannin's Southside
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Raul Ayala @ Exchange
Dana Cooper @ Harbor Listening Room
Fulton
Joey St. Vincent @ Eighteen 18 Bar

Saturday,

January 27

BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
Mike O'Neil @ Shorty's
Keith Sykes @ Third Coast Theater
Diamond's Edge @ Brewster Downtown
Meza Band @ Brewster Southside
Go Ahead and Die, Second Shooter, BODYBOX + 2 @ House of Rock
The Groove @ Pelican Lounge
OB Gonzales-Bushbullit @ K-Bob's
Calallen
Ruben Limas @ Snoopy's
Young Klassies @ Exchange
Raul Ayala @ Pooks
Damon Scott @ Tannin's Alameda
Joseph Martinez @ Tannin's Southside
Tom Cat @ Eighteen 18 Bar

Sunday, January 28

Ty Dietz, Jim Dugan @ Shorty's
Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's
Friends of John Eric @ Pelican Lounge
Michael Burtt @ Pier 88

Haus of Glitter, Celebutante @ House of Rock

Monday,

January 29

Raul Ayala @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday,

January 30

Tool @ American Bank Center
Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Eric Graham @ La Palmera Mall
Open Mic w/Rev Matt @ House of Rock

Wednesday,

January 31

WINTER KITE FLY @ Pole 13 Port A Beach
Brad Ethridge Open Mic @ Gaff
Cleartones @ VFW
PA Rockers @ Bernie's
Michael Burtt @ Pelican Lounge
Billy Snipes @ Doc's
Michael Burtt @ Pelican Lounge
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Tom Cat @ Eighteen 18 Bar

Thursday,

February 1

COUNTRY
HOEDOWN @ Port A Community Center
Selfie @ Shorty's
Robert McCoy & Luis Villareal @ Gaff
Social Order, Rookie of the Year, Like Ghosts, Tilde @ House of Rock
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's
Raul Ayala @ Rockit's
David Martinez @ Brewster Southside

Friday, February 2

Joey St. Vincent @ Shorty's
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Gaff
JonMikael Mrez @ Pelican Lounge
Spazmatics @ Brewster Downtown
Raul Ayala @ Lulu's

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SHORTY'S
SELFIE EVERY THURSDAY

JUSTIN & NIKI	JAN 26
MIKE O'NEIL	JAN 27
TY DIETZ, JIM DUGAN	JAN 28
JOEY ST. VINCENT	FEB 2
RAUL AYALA BAND	FEB 3

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