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Issue 1036



**The Island Moon**

*The voice of The Island since 1996*

**February 23, 2024**

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Photo by Jacob Augs



By Dale Rankin

The sound track Around the Island this week has been the low and steady hum of boat motors as Islanders hit the water to explore new water routes that suddenly became easily accessible with the long-anticipated opening of the canal under the Don Patricio Bridge last weekend.

Not only was the Island flotilla out in force heading under the newly opened bridge canal but also in the three and a half miles of new canals on the Whitecap North Padre Island site where saltwater was introduced in the past two weeks. The opening of the canals comes almost exactly twenty years after the idea of replacing water exchange culverts under the SPID roadway with a bridge which now connects canals in Island neighborhoods directly to Lake Padre and Packery Channel under fourteen feet of clearance. Homeowners along the Gypsy Canal south of Whitecap Blvd. reported seeing an increase in the fish population in the days after the opening of the canal and in this issue Jay Gardner addresses what that means for wildlife who now have direct access to the gulf.

As word spread that the canal under the bridge was open to boat traffic under clear skies on Sunday a steady stream of boats could be seen making way through the passage, bragging rights for being the first boat under the bridge after the opening are up for grabs with many claimants. We have followed the progress leading up to the construction of the bridge and the opening of the canal for over a decade in these pages and in the past three weeks all the elements that needed to come together to make it a reality began to converge and things moved quickly. Long-time Islanders tell new arrivals that you haven't seen The Island until you see it from the water side and that ride just took on some new elements this week. It is a good time to take an Island boat ride.

**Bingo!**

The annual Island Bingo run at HardKnocks Sports Grill is in full swing and you can't swing a dauber in there without smacking a Winter Texan as the event kicks off at HardKnocks each Tuesday evening through March 5. Get there early if you want a good seat and be warned woe be unto the unlucky smo that gets between a Winter Texan and his bingo dauber...you've been warned.

**Winter Texans**

In response to a letter this week from reader Laurie Videle about the efforts of the Moon Etymology Department to come up with a name for a group of Winter Texans the early favorite is a Drove of Winter Texans since its definition by Merriam Webster as a group of animals driven or moving in

*Around cont. on A3*

# Island canals are now open... *What will it mean for sealife*

By Jay Gardner  
I've received lots of phone calls, texts and emails regarding the opening of the bridge and the connection of the waterways. You loyal readers know that I can't get into specifics about my involvement, but I can talk about what to expect next. The "trout green" water flowing through the canals is one of the best things that's happened to the canals since they were built. Except for the sightseers who are bombing

*Bridge cont. on page A7*



*Lake Padre Developer Tim Lange was on one of the first vessels to pass under the Don Patricio Bridge*

# 84 Years Young and still jumping out of airplanes... *622 down and 378 to go!*

By Ronnie Narmour  
When 84 year-old Kim Emmons Knor jumped out of her first airplane in 1959 she liked it so much she kept right on jumping and by the time she left Mustang Beach Airport in Port Aransas this week she had jumped 622 times, with another 378 to get her to her goal of 1000,

"I just love being in the sky," she said. "If I could just float around up there every day it would be nice."  
Along the way Kim has been inducted the International Skydiving Museum Hall of Fame and with the help of the United States Parachute Association arrived at Skydive South Texas in Port Aransas on Monday where she made jumps 621 and 622.



# Ski Basin Bashed! *Landowner sues to prevent 2024 event*

By Dale Rankin  
The owners of the 634 acre tract of land around the Island Ski Basin have filed suit against the organizer of the annual Ski Basin Bash to prevent the event from being held on the property in the future and seeking up to \$250,000 in damages the suit alleges were incurred during the sixth annual event held

*Ski Basin cont. on A3*



## A little Island history

# Shootout at Palo Alto

*Editor's note: This is the latest of the series of stories on the history of the Nueces Strip, the disputed piece of land between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande which in the spring of 1875 had been the scene of raids by bandits from Mexico who rode into downtown Corpus Christi and stole, among other things, eighteen prized saddles. Since the Civil War estimates were that 2000 people had been killed in the Nueces Strip and more than 900,000 cattle stolen and taken into Mexico where they were sold to*



*Ranger McNelly*

*border lord Juan Cortina who then shipped them to Cuba for sale. A troop of Texas Rangers led by Captain L.H. McNelly road after them and in the troop was Ranger George Durham, a farmboy from Georgia whose father had ridden with McNelly during the Civil War. Late in his life Durham told his story to a writer who used it and trunk full of handwritten notes by Durham to put together the story of his time in South Texas as a Ranger. That book is the basis for these stores.*

*History cont. on page A5*

# County to seek outside investor for Bob Hall Pier concession

## *Final plans for new pier due by March 1*

By Dale Rankin  
With design plans for the new \$20 million Bob Hall Pier due to Nueces County Commissioners Court by March 1 the court on Tuesday approved a measure that allows court members to seek outside investors for a new restaurant/bar operation on the new pier. Under current design plans, which are now 80% complete, the pier would be designed to allow for the future addition of a 5000 square-foot restaurant/bar space but does not include the construction of a building for that purpose. The measure approved Tuesday at the request of Precinct 4 County Commissioner Brent Chesney, allows county officials to seek outside investors who might be interested in the operating concessions on the new pier under a profit sharing plan with the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board. In a separate move on Tuesday commissioners also approved the allocation of \$1 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to be used for the rebuilding of the restaurant/bar structure on the pier. The total cost of that building is estimated at \$2.5 million. Any proposal to add an additional outside party as a concessioner on the pier would need to be approved by the Nueces County Commissioners Court. The pier was closed to the public after damage from Hurricane Hanna in July 2020 and subsequently demolished.

# Nueces County settles Mitigation issue at Padre Balli Park

## *Creation of dedicated wetlands in Kleberg County ends three-year dispute*

By Dale Rankin  
The Nueces County Commissioners Court put an end to a three-year long controversy on Wednesday with the creation of 8.76 acres of new wetlands in the 3680 acre tract of land located in Kleberg County but owned by Nueces.

Wednesday's move along with additional dedicated wetlands at Packery Channel Park ends the years-long issue which began when a previous court approved the use of fifteen acres of land at Padre Balli Park for mitigated wetlands required for the development of the project around Lake Padre. That move led to a legal challenge from the Jones family who originally donated the land for Padre Balli Park with certain deed restrictions. Under the plan approved Wednesday none of the land at Padre Balli Park will be used for mitigation.

The 3680 acres was donated to Nueces County in 2015 by the Ed  
*County cont. on A3*





Local Flour Bluff alumni, musician, and music management consultant Grant Pittman added his expertise and experience to several panel discussions at the Coastal Bend Music Industry Symposium sponsored by Visit CC, Todd Hunter's office, and the Texas Music Office last week.

# WADE IN THE WATER

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Emma James wins a Best of Fest award at the Corpus Christi Songwriters Festival over the weekend. She also participated in a song swap in the festival on Saturday at the Executive Surf Club, performing a few of her original works. Photos By Debbie Noble



Evelyn Pless Schberth



Michelle Renee Walters He's got a lot of good things to say.

## COASTAL BEND REPUBLICAN COALITION

HQ—14602 SPID—Ste 230—Corpus Christi, TX 78418—361-290-7068

### YOUR VOICE REALLY MATTERS VOTE!!!

**2024 Primary Election, March 5 (Early Voting Feb 20—Mar 1)**

**This CBRC Voter Guide** lists Endorsements that are the choices of our Vetting Committee after meeting and researching many of the candidates.

**Due to Space limitations, We only list here the contested races.**

We encourage you to **GO ALL THE WAY DOWN** the ballot and **VOTE FOR EACH OFFICE**. Several offices are hotly contested; **your vote will make a difference!** Please vote for each one of these Republicans.

\*\*\*

**State Law permits you to take this Voter Guide to the Polls.**

Federal, State & County-wide Offices	
OFFICE SOUGHT	CANDIDATE
President	Donald J Trump ✓
U. Senator	Ted Cruz* ✓
US Representative CD27	Michael Cloud* ✓
Railroad Commissioner	Christie Craddick* ✓
Justice Supreme Court, Pl. 4	John Devine ✓
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals	David Schenck ✓
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 7	Gina Parker ✓
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 8	Lee Finley ✓
District Judge, 28th Judicial District	Michael McCauley ✓
District Attorney	Jimmy Granberry* ✓
County Constable Precinct 2 (F Bluff)	Jason McMahan* ✓
Local Offices, Not for Islanders & Flour Bluffians	
OFFICE SOUGHT	CANDIDATE
County Commissioner Precinct 1	Mike Pusley ✓
County Commissioner Precinct 3	Larry Cantu Jr ✓
County Constable Precinct 5	Oscar Mendoza* ✓

**Candidate is an incumbent \***

**Ballot Propositions on the back of this card**

*Paid for by Coastal Bend Republican Coalition;  
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### WHAT ARE THESE BALLOT PROPOSITIONS?

This is an **opinion poll of Republican voters, prepared by and for the Republican Party**. It is not a policy referendum. You are not voting to make a law but merely saying YES you agree or NO you do not agree with the statement, **and believe, as a voter, that these should be made into law by the next Legislature.**

REPUBLICAN BALLOT PROPOSITIONS		
#	Issue	Vote
1	Texas should eliminate all property taxes without increasing Texans' overall tax burden.	Y
2	Texas should create a Border Protection Unit, deploy additional state law enforcement and military forces, to seal the border, to use physical force to prevent illegal entry and trafficking, and to deport illegal aliens	Y
3	The TX Legislature should require the use of E-Verify by all employers in Texas to protect jobs for legal workers .	Y
4	The TX Legislature should end all subsidies & public services, including in-state college tuition & enrollment in public schools, for illegal aliens.	Y
5	Texas urges the US Congress not to grant any form of amnesty or a pathway to legalization for illegal aliens	Y
6	The TX Legislature should prohibit the deployment of the Texas National Guard to a foreign conflict unless Congress formally declares war.	Y
7	The Texas <del>Leg</del> Legislature should establish authority within the TX State Comptroller's office to administer access to gold & silver through the TX Bullion Depository for use as legal tender.	Y
8	The State of TX should ensure that Texans are free to give or withhold consent for any vaccine.	Y
9	The Republican Party of TX should restrict voting in the Republican primary to only registered Republicans.	Y
10	The Texas Constitution should be amended to restore authority to the TX Attorney General to prosecute election crimes.	Y
11	TX parents and guardians should have the right to select schools, whether public or private, for their children, & funding should follow them .	Y
12	The TX Constitution should be amended to require proof of citizenship to registered to vote.	Y
13	Texas should ban the sale of Texas land to citizens, governments, and entities from China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia.	Y

**Coastal Bend Republican Coalition Meets Every Thursday**

6:00pm Social **Boathouse Bar and Grill**

6:30 Business Meeting 15241 Leeward Dr. - Padre Island

7:15 Guest Speaker


**Coastal Bend Republican Headquarters**

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Letters to the Editor



Attn: Island Moon Etymology Department

In the January 5 issue of the Island Moon page A5 discussed Animal group Names and requested the readers to submit a suggested name for *Winter Texans*. Soon after that date I responded by email or TXT with a suggested group name for us Winter Texans. Regretably I neither remembered what I suggested nor kept a copy of my message.

To date I failed to see any related subsequent article in the Island Moon. If overlooked please advise. Otherwise, please advise your intentions for us interested readers and long-time Winter Texans. Thanks.

Laurie Videle

*Around cont. from A1*

*a body.* That seems to make sense because that is kind of how Winter Texans tend to arrive and is also the usual answer when you ask a Winter Texan how he got here.

As a final note we beseech our Winter Texan friends to stick Around The Island right on through Spring Break rather than leave in *droves*...see how that works...as Spring Breaks hereabouts tend to be rather sedate affairs unless of course you try to go OTB in *droves* during peak traffic times. We expect our annual Spring Break Norther but if you stick around in *droves* and enjoy the Chamber of Commerce Weather that awaits on the other side you will be happy in *droves*...okay that's about enough of that. Get out there and take The Island Boat Tour everybody and say hello if you see us Around the Island.

*Thrumming and drumming...*

In reference to a recent story about drum making a thrumming sound and waking up people at night in their homes in Tampa Bay, Florida, I have heard that noise and the vibrations in the Laguna Madre when I was commercial fishing. About dark thirty, (the time between sunset and when it gets dark) I would leave the fish house to go set out my gill nets. The spot where I heard the drum a drumming was about one mile north of Baffin Bay on the west side of the Intra-coastal Waterway where a pipeline channel crosses the canal.

When I set out the nets and heard the drumming and felt the vibrations I would only set out two 100 yard-long gill nets because I knew there was a lot of drum there and I did not want to catch more than I could haul in on my 16-foot Vannoy skiff.

If the drum were hitting the net hard and fast I would start picking up the nets just as soon as I finished putting them out and just spool the drum and nets into the bow of my skiff. I heard and felt the vibrations three or four different times and some fishing buddies of mine who fished south of Baffin Bay who slept in their houseboat said that sometimes the drumming and vibrations would wake them up at night. The houseboat was anchored in about three feet of water. At that time, about 40 or 50 years ago I don't recall telling other fishermen about the drumming and vibrations and that happening never crossed my mind again until I read the story about it happening in Tampa Bay this week. I do recall that if you held a piggy perch in your hand it will start grunting just like a pig.

Bobbie Kimbrell

*Early voting is underway...*

**February 20-March 1 at Island Presbyterian Church**

Early Voting for the March 5 Joint Primary Election has begun. During Early Voting registered voters may vote at any polling site in Nueces County, voters are not required to vote in the precincts where they are registered. As of the last party primary elections in 2022 there were 8512 total registered voters on Padre Island. At the bottom are the vote totals from that election and the 2020 primary elections in the last Presidential election cycle.

**Early Voting days and times**

February 20–24 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
February 25 (Courthouse Only) 12:00 p.m. – 5 p.m.

February 26 – March 1 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Election Day Tuesday, March 5 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Convenient Early Voting sites for Island residents**

**ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Annex Building)**  
14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.  
**ETHEL EYERLY SENIOR CENTER**  
654 Graham Rd Flour Bluff  
**ELLIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
700 W Ave A  
Port Aransas  
**ADKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL (Room A123)**  
2402 Ennis Joslin Rd  
**DEL MAR COLLEGE (Heldenfels Admin. Building)**  
101 Baldwin Blvd.  
**DEAF & HARD OF HEARING CENTER**  
5151 McArdle Rd

**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  
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  
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

*Ballot cont. from A1*

Rachel Foundation which purchased it from the Texas General Land Office for \$1.2 million. The deed of the property restricted use of the land, stating that it must be used for “transportation enhancement activities for the purpose of preserving the scenic viewshed, preserving the critical ecological functions of the barrier island system and waterway, and conserving endangered species, as well as enhancing tourism, in accordance with the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (“ISTEA”) codified under Title 23 U.S.C. Section 101 et seq.”

Those deed restrictions prohibit construction of buildings on the property which is where the proposed second causeway to Padre Island is expected to be located. Wednesday’s vote ends the major legal challenge raised by the Jones legal action, leaving only a resolution of the allowable length of stay for recreational vehicles at Balli Park.

According to documents submitted to county commissioners on Tuesday funding for the conversion of the Kleberg County land to permanent wetlands will come from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GoMESA) which are funds generated by a revenue sharing plan from offshore gas leases since December 20, 2006 under which 37.5 percent of federal revenues are shared with states surrounding the Gulf of Mexico.

*Ski Basin cont. from A1*

on August 5, 2023.

The suit filed by plaintiff Axys Capital Management, LLC against defendant Brent Wideman and his company BWide Entertainment claims officers from the private security firm of Global Security and Investigative Services were threatened by the crowd at the 2023 event who it also says threatened to shoot down a drone being flown by the company. The suit also claims that employees of Global Security also shot photos of registration numbers on boats beached on the property. It states that officials from Axys Capital requested prior to the event that it be moved to another location where “proper permitting from the City of Corpus Christi” could be obtained.

The suit requests a permanent injunction which would prevent the hosting of events or “engaging in conduct which would constitute an unauthorized entry upon Plaintiff’s Property or causing or encouraging others to engage in conduct which would constitute an unauthorized entry onto Plaintiff’s Property.” The suit is filed in Nueces County District Court but according to county records has not yet been assigned to a specific court.

What is not clear from the court filing is whether the injunction, if granted by the courts, would prevent public use of the land in the Ski Basin area – land legally styled as Cape Summer – throughout the calendar year. The applicable language in the suit reads as follows:


*This interference includes, but is not limited to, unauthorized entry upon Plaintiff’s land, and/or creating regularized conditions around or near its Property which led to unauthorized entry onto its land. – which it cannot control, causing substantial trash and debris to enter upon the Property, and creating conditions that create a high probability of pollution of its Property. Plaintiff (Axys) is entitled to the unimpeded use and enjoyment of its Property without the prospect of regular interruptions in the form of physical invasions and pollution, both potential and actual.*

“I don’t make any money on this event and never have, I do it for The Island,” Wideman said Wednesday, “I started the event when C-Sculptures was taken away. I don’t know yet if we will do the event this year and we are looking at other locations.”

Attempts to contact the attorneys for the plaintiff were unsuccessful at press time.

Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



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Thumbs up from a boater that was one of the first to embark under the Don Patricio Bridge

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# Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

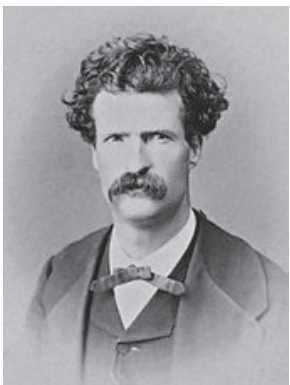
## Samuel Longhorne Clemens

### Writer Part 2

*Dotson's Note: While training, Samuel convinced his younger brother Henry to work with him, and even arranged a post of mud clerk for him on the steamboat Pennsylvania. On June 13, 1858, the steamboat's boiler exploded; Henry succumbed to his wounds on June 21. Twain claimed to have foreseen this death in a dream a month earlier which inspired his interest in parapsychology; he was an early member of the Society for Psychical Research. Thanks to my mother, Golyia E. Clark Lewis, quotes from William Faulkner, and Wikipedia, for the facts contained in this report and to my mother for the photos.*

Twain was guilt-stricken and held himself responsible for the rest of his life. He continued to work on the river and was a river pilot until the war broke out in 1861, when traffic was curtailed along the Mississippi River. At the start of hostilities, he enlisted briefly in a local Confederate unit. He later wrote the sketch «The Private History of a Campaign That Failed», describing how he and his friends had been Confederate volunteers for two weeks before their unit disbanded. He then left for Nevada to work for his brother Orion, who was Secretary of the Nevada Territory. Twain describes the episode in his book *Roughing It*.

#### The American West



Clemens 31

Orion became secretary to Nevada Territory governor James W. Nye in 1861, and Twain joined him when he moved west. The brothers traveled more than two weeks on a stagecoach across the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, visiting the Mormon community in Salt Lake City.

Twain's journey ended in the silver-mining town of Virginia City, Nevada, where he became a miner on the Comstock Lode. He failed as a miner and went to work at the Virginia City newspaper *Territorial Enterprise*, working under a friend, the writer Dan DeQuille. He first used his pen name here on February 3, 1863, when he wrote a humorous travel account titled «Letter From Carson – re: Joe Goodman; party at Gov. Johnson's; music» and signed it «Mark Twain».

His experiences in the American West inspired *Roughing It*, written during 1870–71 and published in 1872. His experiences in Angels Camp (in Calaveras County, California) provided material for «The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County» (1865).

Twain moved to San Francisco in 1864, still as a journalist, and met writers such as Bret Harte and Artemus Ward. He may have been romantically involved with the poet Ina Coolbrith.

His first success as a writer came when his humorous tall tale «The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County» was published on November 18, 1865, in the New York weekly *The Saturday Press*, bringing him national attention. A year later, he traveled to the Sandwich Islands (present-day Hawaii) as a reporter for the *Sacramento Union*. His letters to the *Union* were popular and became the basis for his first lectures.

In 1867, local newspapers *The Alta California* and *New-York Tribune* funded his trip to the Mediterranean aboard the *Quaker City*, including a tour of Europe and the Middle East. He wrote a collection of travel letters which were later compiled as *The Innocents Abroad* (1869). It was on this trip that he met fellow passenger Charles Langdon, who showed him a picture of his sister Olivia. Twain later claimed to have fallen in love at first sight.

Upon returning to the United States, Twain was offered honorary membership in Yale University's secret society Scroll and Key in 1868.

#### Marriage And Children



Twain House in Hartford, Connecticut

Twain and Olivia Langdon corresponded throughout 1868. She rejected his first marriage proposal, but he continued to court her and managed to overcome her father's initial reluctance. They were married in Elmira, New York in February 1870. She came from a «wealthy but liberal family»; through her, he met abolitionists, «socialists, principled atheists and activists for women's rights and social equality», including Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frederick Douglass, and utopian socialist writer William Dean Howells, who became a long-time friend. The Clemenses lived in Buffalo, New York, from 1869 to 1871. He owned a stake in the *Buffalo Express* newspaper and worked as an editor and writer. While they were living in Buffalo, their son Langdon died of diphtheria at the age of 19 months. They had three daughters: Susy (1872–1896), Clara (1874–1962), and Jean (1880–1909).

The Clemens's formed a friendship with David Gray, who worked as an editor of the rival *Buffalo Courier*, and his wife Martha. Twain later wrote that the Grays were «all the solace he and Livy had during their 'sorrowful and pathetic brief sojourn in Buffalo'», and that Gray's «delicate gift for poetry» was wasted working for a newspaper.

Starting in 1873, Twain moved his family to Hartford, Connecticut, where he arranged the building of a home next door to Stowe. In the 1870s and 1880s, the family summered at Quarry Farm in Elmira, the home of Olivia's sister, Susan Crane. In 1874, Susan had a study built apart from the main house so that Twain would have a quiet place in which to write. Also, he smoked cigars constantly, and Susan did not want him to do so in her house.

Twain wrote many of his classic novels during his 17 years in Hartford (1874–1891) and over 20 summers at Quarry Farm. They include *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), *The Prince and the Pauper* (1881), *Life on the Mississippi* (1883), *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884), and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889).

#### TO BE CONTINUED

*Dotson's Other Note: The couple's marriage lasted 34 years until Olivia's death in 1904. Twain was fascinated with science and scientific inquiry. He developed a close and lasting friendship with Nikola Tesla, and the two spent much time together in Tesla's laboratory. Twain patented three inventions, including an "Improvement in Adjustable and Detachable Straps for Garments" (to replace suspenders) and a history trivia game. Most commercially successful was a self-pasting scrapbook; a dried adhesive on the pages needed only to be moistened before use. Over 25,000 were sold. 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

It's been a week for the ages here on our Island. As I stood and watched water from Lake Padre flow under the Don Patricio Bridge Sunday afternoon I thought of all the time and effort people have put into getting us to this point over the last twenty years.

The first conversation I had with Island developer Paul Schexnailder about getting water flowing from Lake Padre into Island canals was in 2004 and at that time there was no canal on either side of the road where the Don Patricio Bridge is now located and the site of that bridge had only recently been moved north from the original location at the canal next to what is now Merida's Restaurant at the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The original plan going all the way back to the 1960s was for that canal to connect to the Lake Padre side but it was determined that the location was too close to Whitecap Boulevard which formed an impervious barrier and therefore didn't allow for enough fetch and reach on the prevailing southeasterly wind to push sufficient water through to the Island canals on the west side. Getting gulf water into the canals had been on the drawing board since the first plans for development on The Island were formed in the 1960s and were the cornerstone of the subsequent corps permits that are still in place. Water circulation in Island canals was not a bi-product of planning, it was the prime directive and anyone who has gone out this week and watched water flowing under that bridge can well understand why. Who knows what the future will hold for the change in wildlife and water quality in the canals on The Island some of us are lucky enough to call home, that subject matter is way out of my lane but even to the untrained eye it is apparent that we are living in a new world.

#### A chicken and egg problem

Mr. Schexnailder has moved on to greener pastures these days but the vision that he articulated all those years ago is the reality that I saw standing there next to the Don Patricio Bridge last Sunday. For the past twenty years I have listened to the naysayers telling me it would never happen and I have to admit that ten years ago I wasn't sure it would either because we had a chicken and egg problem; there would be no bridge to nowhere so the canals had to come before the bridge could be approved at City Hall, and how can a developer ask investors to take a leap of faith and build canals to nowhere? In the years from 2010 to 2014 if I had to bet on the eventual building of a bridge I would have taken the under but through the clarity of retrospection all that changed when the Schlitterbahn Waterpark came along.

The land where the park was to be located was under the same ownership as the land at Lake Padre so it made sense to connect the two parcels of land with a bridge but it had already been a decade since the 2004 bond issue which had committed \$1.2 million in city money to turn the planned water exchange culverts into a water exchange bridge and the price had jumped from \$2.1 million in 2004 to \$9 million. So where was the additional money going to come from? Into the breach stepped the Island Strategic Action Committee which came into being in 2010 and its members pushed for funding from the Island's Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 which was then generating about \$4 million annually and along with some funds leftover from already completed bond projects the money was scraped together to get to the eventual \$20 million cost of the bridge; just under \$4 million of that amount was used to build the wastewater lift station that now sits just west of the approach to the new bridge and which had to be in place before work on the bridge could begin.

At that stage of the game there were two major obstacles to moving forward. The first was the lack of canals leading to the bridge and the second was the unique de-

sign of the bridge with the three arches you see there now. To address the first problem I remember telling Mr. Schexnailder that it would be very difficult politically for the city council not to build a bridge if there was a canal connecting to Lake Padre and as it turned out that was true, but there were complications there which I will get to in a minute.

The second problem was that the location of the bridge was in a Texas Department of Transportation right of way but didn't fit the squared-up pier and beam design that was their normal. The unique design was the product of an engineering firm hired by Schexnailder's group and was not only slowing things down but driving the price up but that wouldn't matter if the bridge never got built. To their credit the investors saw what needed to be done and the canal from the Lake Padre side was put in place and solved half the problem. The design plans that included the waterpark called for a «riverwalk» feature that extended under the bridge from both sides and would require a new canal on the west. But the same Schlitterbahn park that offered the solution created a final obstacle when the park failed and ownership of the land on opposite sides of the road split after a bankruptcy sale on the steps of the Nueces County Courthouse in 2018. The new owners on the west side of the road were Axys Capital and without them funding a canal there the bridge was dead. At the urging of the managing partner on the Lake Padre side, Tim Lange, the Axys owners saw the added value the creation of the canal would bring to their land and within a year the canal there was dug with the sole intention of development along the canal and to connect existing Island canals to those owned by the Padre Isles Property Owners Association because at that point it was assumed the waterpark would remain in place.

#### Serendipity is a patient player

What no one foresaw then was that the park would eventually be torn down and the new owners, International Bank of Commerce which had bought the land on the courthouse steps, would go in a completely different direction with the 3.5 miles of new canals which exist on that site today. The bridge originally designed to connect Lake Padre to old canals now also connects it to those new waterways that many Island boaters have already explored and also brought about the idea of connecting the canal north of Commodores Drive to the Don Patricio Bridge; an idea not even being contemplated when construction began on the bridge three years ago.

So as we sit here today we have a new bridge which is completing the vision of getting gulf water to Island canals that was decades in the making but also connects to canals not even being considered when this process all started. The idea that there will be another canal that will connect under Commodores Dr. and make it possible to reach that canal directly from the new bridge is icing on the cake and unlike the Don Patricio Bridge which took two decades to become a reality the Commodores Dr. bridge now already under construction took less than three years from conception to the beginning of work only a month ago. I think it was very fitting that Mr. Lange was on one of the first boats to pass under the Don Patricio Bridge last Sunday because without his work there would have been no bridge.

If you had told me ten years ago there would be miles of new canals with a new passageway on their northern border I would have thought it crazy talk, but as I stood there watching the water flow under the Don Patricio Bridge Sunday afternoon I also was watching the past flow into the future of our Island.

Serendipity counts.



The last of the tower on August 30, 2021





# Unclaimed Property

Texas is currently holding about \$8 billion in cash and other valuables waiting for their rightful owners to claim. The Texas Comptroller estimates that one in four residents of the State of Texas have unclaimed property. Examples of unclaimed property include dividend, payroll, or cashier's checks; stocks, bonds, and mutual fund accounts; utility deposits and other refunds; insurance proceeds; mineral interest or royalty payments; dormant bank accounts; and abandoned safe deposit box contents. The Texas Comptroller's office receives unclaimed property as required by law from financial institutions, businesses, and government entities that are holding personal property which is considered abandoned or unclaimed. The unclaimed or abandoned property is turned over to the Comptroller's office when the property owners' whereabouts are unknown, and the property has been inactive on the books of the reporting company after the necessary abandonment period has expired. It is important to know that the Comptroller's office acts only as a custodian of the unclaimed property and holds the property in a trust until such time as it can be claimed. Texas does not take legal ownership of the unclaimed property, so there is no time limit for filing a claim. Over the past several years, the Texas Comptroller has travelled around the state to bring public attention to the billions in unclaimed property being held by the State of Texas. In fiscal year 2023, the agency paid a record \$334 million in claims. This is important because since the unclaimed

property program began, the Comptroller's office returned more than \$4 billion worth of unclaimed property. In order to make the process of claiming your property easier, the Comptroller's office has outlined a number of recent features on their website to help enable the process. The website is regularly updated with new property that has been received by their office. To find out if you are one of these Texas residents with unclaimed property, I strongly recommend that you check the unclaimed property list by visiting Texas Unclaimed Property at <https://claimitexas.org/> or by calling 800-321-2274 (CASH). 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 (Part) County. He can be contacted at [todd.hunter@house.state.tx.us](mailto:todd.hunter@house.state.tx.us) or at 512-463-0672.*

## Ten Years ago in the Island Moon



How Island parks looked in 2014



The oldest hosue on The Island was once part of the Dunn Ranch.



Island Tumbleweed



Million Dollar Inn Pool circa 1970.

### History cont. from AI

Since we began the series we've had many inquiries about where to find a copy of the book, which was originally published in 1953. We have found a few copies available on Amazon but they tend to sell quickly.

### July 1875, in the Nueces Strip near the Laguna Madre south of Corpus Christi.

The troop of forty Rangers had hidden themselves in an oak mott about one hour's ride from the Laguna Madre while their scouts patrolled the prairie in search of bandits running their stolen cattle south toward the Rio Grande. Just after sundown the scouts rode into the Ranger camp with a captive they had found riding one of the Dick Heye saddles stolen in the raid on Sol Lichenstein's store in downtown Corpus Christi. The man said he was a gambler and had won the saddle in a poker game at a place called Neale's Ranch. They lashed the man's hands behind him and put a lariat around his neck and strung him up to a cottonwood tree. The man was able to tuck his chin and keep his windpipe open so they began bouncing him on the end of the rope. It produced the desired effect. He was a scout from a raiding party of about fifty people, he said, who had been raiding around La Parra and had rounded up more than three hundred beeves. The raiders were heading south down the road blazed by General Zackery Taylor in the war with Mexico which hugged the Laguna Madre. They would cross the Arroyo Colorado in the early evening, a point just below the present city of Harlingen, skirt the edge of the Palo Alto prairie and make a dash for the river. They would cross the river in eight to ten hours.

The U.S. troops sent to stop the bandits had failed due to their rule against bouncing prisoners on the end of a rope to get information. The Rangers had no such prohibition and now they had their sights on a group of bandits and know their route. They were twenty-five miles from the river. In the parlance of the Western it was "time to head them off at the pass."

**"You could smell a fight in that salt air"**  
The Rangers moved out a down in skirmish formation, with advance patrols out front and flank riders to the side. "You could smell a fight in that salt air," George Durham said. They moved east toward the Laguna through the hardpan country with salt cedars, marsh patchy scrub-oak motts. It wasn't hard to see the trail of the stolen herd when they crossed it. The lead scout named Rock stopped his horse and circled his hand twice before then dropped it to the south - the Ranger way of saying,"they went that away."

Rock rode ahead at a gallop to the top of a small rise and repeated the jester, this time indicating he had sighted the gang eight miles distant. The Rangers spurred their horses and drove hard. The bandits sighted them at the same time and crowed their stolen herd at tight as they could as they picked up their pace. But after a chase of about three miles they could see they couldn't outrun the Rangers and they drove the herd onto a small island in the salt marsh then took their stand in the fringe of the brush on the far side of the resaca. They had half an hour to get ready as they watched the Rangers ride on them off the open prairie. When Captain McNelly spurred his horse Segal that Captain Richard King had given him a few days before the horse took off with so much force he kicked hardpan mud forty feet in the air. The Rangers followed suit and began closing on the by now fortified bandits. They reined in five hundred yards from the bandits, just out of rifle range. The circled in around McNelly who spoke to them. Durham put his words down for posterity.

"Boys, across the resaca are some outlaws that claim their bigger then the law - bigger than Washington law, bigger than Texas law, right now we'll find out if they're right or if they're wrong. This won't be a standoff or a dogfall. We'll either win completely, or we'll lose completely. Those cutthroats have plundered and raided and murdered at will. They've mistreated our women and carried off some in slavery. You will follow me in a skirmish line spaced at five-pace intervals. Don't fire a shot until I do. Don't shoot either to your right or left. Shoot only at a target directly in front."

While the captain was talking the bandits began fired but their shots fell short, only splashing the shallow water standing in the reaca. Some of them were still mounted and holding the herd together while others also mounted and drifting around behind the herd. They were dug in for a fight while they sent for more men to come from across the river and move the herd. What they

hadn't counted on was a charge and that's exactly what the Rangers did with McNelly leading the way.

As the Rangers got within pistol range some of the bandits broke for their horses and lit out across the prairie headed for any place where there weren't Texas Rangers. The ones who stayed began firing wild, mostly low. McNelly had yet to fire a shot, he was spurring in closer in a way that scared not only the bandits but some of the Rangers as well.

It was the first time most of them had seen the usually soft spoken, mild mannered Captain in fighting trim. In the mind of Durham, "We were glad we were on his side and not the other." The first of the Ranger horses went down and a Corporal Rudd barely managed to jump clear, grabbing his carbine in the process. Other horses began rearing as more of the bandits jumped on their horses too as others stayed in the brush. The line of Rangers was not a hundred paces from the bandits in the brushline. Durham's horse fell to his knees and Durham gragged his .50 caliber Sharps rifle and ran toward the fight. At thirty paces McNelly drew his pistol and opened fire. Twenty paces from the brush Durham saw a man squatting behind a clump of scrub and cedar. His head showed first as he jumped up to get away and Durham could see a fancy beaver hat and a long scar down his cheek. It was the man who had pistoled whipped a shop owner's wife back on the Nueces during a raid a few week before to try to get her to reveal the hiding place of the store's cash. He was now running for his horse. Durham pointed his .50 at the scar and dropped the hammer. In Durham's word, "he had on a big beaver had and when I fired his head just seemed to explode along with that hat. I had made my first shot in combat and I hit my target. I had brought down the prize - that scar-faced dude who quirted down Martha Noakes. Right then I quite being a scared country boy. I was a Rangers. A little McNelly.

### Brandishing a Bowie knife

The Rangers were off their horses now and beating through the brush, taking the fight close in firing as they went. The brush line was only twenty paces deep. As the Rangers closed in bandits would pop up and make for their mounts but they had waited too late. Two jumped on one horse and took off but a Ranger got in a good carbine shot and one fell, the other made it another twenty paces before he fell too, two bandits with one shot. "I got dubs," he shouted. McNelly had his section of the brush under control but one bandits was wounded and not firing but not dead. McNelly called to his men, "My pistol's empty. Bring me some more shells." At that the outlaw broke cover and ran toward McNelly grinning and brandishing a Bowie knife. McNelly fired his pistol and struck the man right in the mouth. McNelly mounted and rode out to where a Ranger was kneeling over the first man McNelly had shot while riding in. "He's asking for a chaplain," the Ranger said. "He must be a war veteran." The man had taken a .50 caliber Sharps round under the ribcage. McNelly, who had been a Virginia minister before becoming a Ranger took a bible out of his pocket and read scripture until the man died.

On the other end of the brush line a bandit broke and ran, jumping on his horse. "Ranger Smith brought him down with a pistol shot. He was slashing the grass and floundering when Smith came up too close. The outlaw rolled over, got one shot into Smith, and killed the Ranger in his tracks." Smith had broken the Captain's rule about approaching a wounded man. Durham jumped on an outlaw's horse which carried the King Ranch Running W brand and joined the pursuit but the remaining bandits had a good head start. The fight was over. McNelly rounded up his Rangers and put them in a dry camp on the on the edge of Brownsville then he headed for the Miller Hotel. "My name's McNelly," he told the man at the desk. "I want two rooms. Two big downstairs rooms for our headquarters. We're Texas Rangers."

At the order of Captain McNelly the bodies of sixteen dead bandits were stacked up like cordwood in the town square at Brownsville. An order was put out that if anyone tried to come and claim a body arrest them and bring them to the Captain. The bodies of the slain bandits would be used as bait for their fellow outlaws.

### Next time: Cortina retaliates.

Dale Rankin



# Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon

## Sugar Ray Robinson-Boxer

### Part 3



By Dotson Lewis

*Dotson's Note: After winning his second world title, he embarked on a European tour which took him all over the continent. Robinson traveled with his flamingo-pink Cadillac, which caused quite a stir in Paris, and an entourage of 13 people, some included "just for laughs". Thanks to Bill Morgan, Joseph C. Nichols and Lou Jenkins for the facts contained in this report and to Lou Jenkins for the photos.*



He was a hero in France due to his recent defeat of LaMotta—the French hated LaMotta for defeating Marcel Cerdan in 1949 and taking his championship belt (Cerdan died in a plane crash en route to a rematch with LaMotta). Robinson met President of France Vincent Auriol at a ceremony attended by France's social upper crust. During his fight in Berlin against Gerhard Hecht, Robinson was disqualified when he knocked his opponent out with a punch to the kidney; a punch legal in the US, but not Europe.

The fight was later declared a no-contest. In London, Robinson lost the world middleweight title to British boxer Randolph Turpin in a sensational bout. Three months later in a rematch in front of 60,000 fans at the Polo Grounds, he knocked Turpin out in ten rounds to recover the title. In that bout Robinson was leading on the cards but was cut by Turpin. With the fight in jeopardy, Robinson let loose on Turpin, knocking him down, then getting him to the ropes and unleashing a series of punches that caused the referee to stop the bout. Following Robinson's victory, residents of Harlem danced in the streets. In 1951, Robinson was named *Ring Magazine's* "Fighter of the Year" for the second time.

In 1952 he fought a rematch with Olson, winning by a decision. He next defeated former champion Rocky Graziano by a third-round knockout, then challenged World Light heavyweight champion Joey Maxim. In the Yankee Stadium bout with Maxim, Robinson built a lead on all three judges' scorecards, but the 103 °F (39 °C) temperature in the ring took its toll. The referee, Ruby Goldstein, was the first victim of the heat, and had to be replaced by referee Ray Miller. The fast-moving Robinson was the heat's next victim – at the end of round 13, he collapsed and failed to answer the bell for the next round, suffering the only knockout of his career.

On June 25, 1952, after the Maxim bout, Robinson gave up his title and retired with a record of 131–3–1–1. He began a career in show business, singing and tap dancing. After about three years, the decline of his businesses and the lack of success in his performing career made him decide to return to boxing. He resumed training in 1954.

#### Comeback

In 1955 Robinson returned to the ring. Although he had been inactive for two and a half years, his work as a dancer kept him in peak physical condition; in his autobiography, Robinson states that in the weeks leading up to his debut for a dancing engagement in France, he ran five miles every

morning, and then danced for five hours each night. Robinson even stated that the training he did in his attempts to establish a career as a dancer were harder than any he undertook during his boxing career. He won five fights in 1955, before losing a decision to Ralph "Tiger" Jones. He bounced back, however, and defeated Rocky Castellani by a split decision, then challenged Bobo Olson for the world middleweight title. He won the middleweight championship for the third time with a second-round knockout—his third victory over Olson. After his comeback performance in 1955, Robinson expected to be named fighter of the year. However, the title went to welterweight Carmen Basilio. Basilio's handlers had lobbied heavily for it on the basis that he had never won the award, and Robinson later described this as the biggest disappointment of his professional career. "I haven't forgotten it to this day, and I never will", Robinson wrote in his autobiography. Robinson and Olson fought for the last time in 1956, and Robinson closed the four-fight series with a fourth-round knockout.



In 1957 Robinson lost his title to Gene Fullmer. Fullmer used his aggressive, forward moving style to control Robinson, and knocked him down in the fight. Robinson, however, noticed that Fullmer was vulnerable to the left hook. Fullmer headed into their May rematch as a 3–1 favorite. In the first two rounds Robinson followed Fullmer around the ring, however in the third round he changed tactics and made Fullmer come to him. At the start of the fourth round Robinson came out on the attack and stunned Fullmer, and when Fullmer returned with his own punches, Robinson traded with him, as opposed to clinching as he had done in their earlier fight. The fight was fairly even after four rounds. But in the fifth, Robinson was able to win the title back for a fourth time by knocking out Fullmer with a lightning fast, powerful left hook. Boxing critics have referred to the left-hook which knocked out Fullmer as "the perfect punch". It marked the first time in 44 career fights that Fullmer had been knocked out, and when someone asked Robinson after the fight how far the left hook had travelled, Robinson replied: "I can't say, but he got the message."

*Dotson's Other Note: Later that year, he lost his title to Basilio in a rugged 15 round fight in front of 38,000 at Yankee Stadium, but regained it for a record fifth time when he beat Basilio in the rematch. Robinson struggled to make weight, and had to go without food for nearly 20 hours leading up to the bout. He badly damaged Basilio's eye early in the fight, and by the seventh round it was swollen shut. The two judges gave the fight to Robinson by wide margins: 72–64 and 71–64. The referee scored the fight for Basilio 69–64, and was booed loudly by the crowd of 19,000 when his decision was announced. The first fight won the "Fight of the Year" award from The Ring magazine for 1957 and the second fight won the "Fight of the Year" award for 1958.*

TO BE CONTINUED



By Andy Purvis

## "Whatta Rip"



Cal Ripken Jr.

I wonder if Cal Ripken, Jr. likes Civil War history. The great Southern General Stonewall Jackson once said, "You may be whatever you resolve to be." Cal has proved that good things do happen to good people, and you've got to believe that Cal has accomplished so much more than he ever dreamed, in the game he loves so much. So, there he stood in Minnesota with 2,997 hits on a Saturday night. The date was April 19, 2000. In anticipation that Cal could reach the magic 3,000-hit club, about twenty thousand additional fans attended. Cal's first hit was a lazy single to right field. This grizzled veteran understood that it's not how hard you hit the ball, but where you hit it that counts. Cal has made a good living hitting to the opposite field. Hit number two came in the fifth inning on a "Baltimore Chop." How fitting is it that a player who was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles in 1978 would receive his 2,999<sup>th</sup> hit named after the city for which he plays. For you history buffs, the "Baltimore Chop" was a phrase used to describe a hitter intentionally striking a pitched ball down toward the ground. The diamond dirt in Baltimore was so hard that the ball would bounce very high and sometimes over the infielder into the outfield, or so high that a base runner could beat the throw to first base for a single. History was about to be made in the seventh inning as Cal approached home plate. This was Cal's 2,800<sup>th</sup> game played and "Father Time" had begun to show himself. Cal's hair is now gray and his batting helmet hides the bald spot, but the eyes are still sharp and emerald green. His ever-changing batting stance in the batter's box speaks to his work ethic to always get better. So, there he stood like Jackson, ready and resolved.

With my compliments to General Bee, it could be said of Cal, "There stands Ripken like a Stonewall." Cal would stand his ground and drive a Hector Carrasco fastball back up the middle for his 3,000<sup>th</sup> hit, and run to first base where friend, teammate, and Coach Eddie Murray waited to congratulate him. Cal became the twenty-fourth member of the 3,000-hit club and only the third shortstop to reach that plateau. Honus Wagner and Robin Yount were the other two. Cal's hit would also make Metrodome history as the park became the first to host three 3,000-hit games. Dave Winfield in 1993 and Eddie Murray in 1995 recorded their 3,000-hits in the same building. Cal also joined ten other players who recorded their 3,000-hits while playing for the same team, and became one of seven to record 3,000-hits and 400 home runs in their ca-

reer. The names on that list are legendary: Mays, Aaron, Musial, Winfield, Murray, and Yaz now welcome Cal to this exclusive club. If you're wondering which pitcher gave up the most hits to Cal, on his way to 3,000 hits, the answer is thirty-two by Mark Langston, who retired in 2000.

After shaking hands with his entire team and saluting the Minnesota fans, 39-year-old Cal Ripken received the ball from teammate Will Clark. Cal then trotted over (he never walks on a baseball field) to the first base stands, and flipped the ball underhanded to his wife Kelly, who stood between their two children. Cal later spoke of his special relationship with Eddie Murray by saying, "My dad told me the words, but Eddie showed me the way." Their relationship is the very definition of friendship.

Cal was voted the American League Rookie of the Year in 1982. He won two American League MVP Awards, in 1983 and 1991, while playing on a World Series championship team. He holds the record for home runs hit by a shortstop at 431, and he's played in 19 All-Star Games. He has also collected two Gold Glove Awards, and is known mostly for breaking Lou Gehrig's record of consecutive games played. Cal has now pushed the new streak to 2,632 games. In my opinion, this record will never be broken.

Andy Purvis

*Andy has a book signing on Saturday March 16 at 1 pm at Barnes & Noble in Moore Plaza. It features his tenth book of the Greatness Series titled "My Brush With Greatness."*

*Would love to have you stop by.*



White Pelicans By Lu Ann Kingsbury

### New Boat Coming to Buccaneer Cruises in North Padre Island!

The Bay King is 55ft of bay fishing excellence! For many years this vessel fished the waters of the lower Laguna Madre out of South Padre Island. Starting March 2024, this legend makes its way to the upper Laguna Madre to call North Padre Island it's new home.

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By Jay Gardner

## On the Rocks

Bridge cont. from A1

around on plane. It’s a no-wake zone folks, just because the signs aren’t up yet doesn’t mean you can go full speed. One of the important concepts that I’ve written about in the past is a term called “ocean-estuarine coupling.” This is the physical proximity of the Gulf of Mexico with the bay systems, laguna, and estuary of the Nueces Delta. Many of our favorite marine fish species including redfish, trout, flounder and yes even bull sharks depend on the passes, as they spawn offshore/near-shore, but the eggs and young float in with the tides and grow up in the relative safety of the seagrass beds and shallow water habitat.

### In the days Before Packery

Back BP (before Packery), our passes were limited to the Aransas Pass and the Mansfield cut. Fish, shrimp, crabs, and the other sea monsters had to use the ICWW to get to our little slice of heaven. This increased distance between the passes and estuaries made it difficult for the larvae to get to safety. AP (after Packery), the distance was reduced, and the larvae were able to come in and settle out quicker. But it was still a soda straw that was/is channelized for the most part. So close and yet so far. Today, with the Don Patricio Bridge open, there is another pathway that larvae and juveniles can take to get to the seagrass flats of the Laguna Madre; through Lake Padre, down the main canal, and out into the Laguna. This effectively has doubled the access of the organisms to the resources they need and access for the breeders to get out. This is a huge boom for our fisheries from a productivity standpoint. Now, this doesn’t include a discussion on the carrying capacity of our system, but at least we know we’re getting a better shot at healthy stocks from the bottom up.\

### New species

There will be a natural succession of benthic and epiphytic species on the new areas recently opened and inside the old canals. This includes fun things like barnacles, sea squirts, anemones, and marine algae like sea lettuce. Basically, go out to the jetties and look at the rocks there; the areas closer to the pass will mimic these habitats. Of course, the farther away you get, the habitats will look like those in the Laguna, which are typically hyper saline. Fish like snook and tarpon will be moving through the canals in greater frequency than they already do. These species rely heavily on the estuarine coupling, as they are sensitive to brackish waters and prefer them. The freshwater signatures that are a

result of people watering their lawns and a/c’s dripping into the canals actually lower the salinity enough to make a difference. I could write four chapters on this, but we’ll save this one for another day.

### Changing salinity levels

In addition, salinity readings have been changing in response to the fresher gulf water coming in. The canals on the south side of the silted in culverts of Encantada have remained at a steady reading however, while the rest of the canals have changed to reflect what the salinities are coming in from the gulf. The canal systems have never been under such a positive influence. I ran into Diver Dave a while back, and he mentioned that it’s past time to clean out the culverts. I’m not sure where that is in the process with the POA.

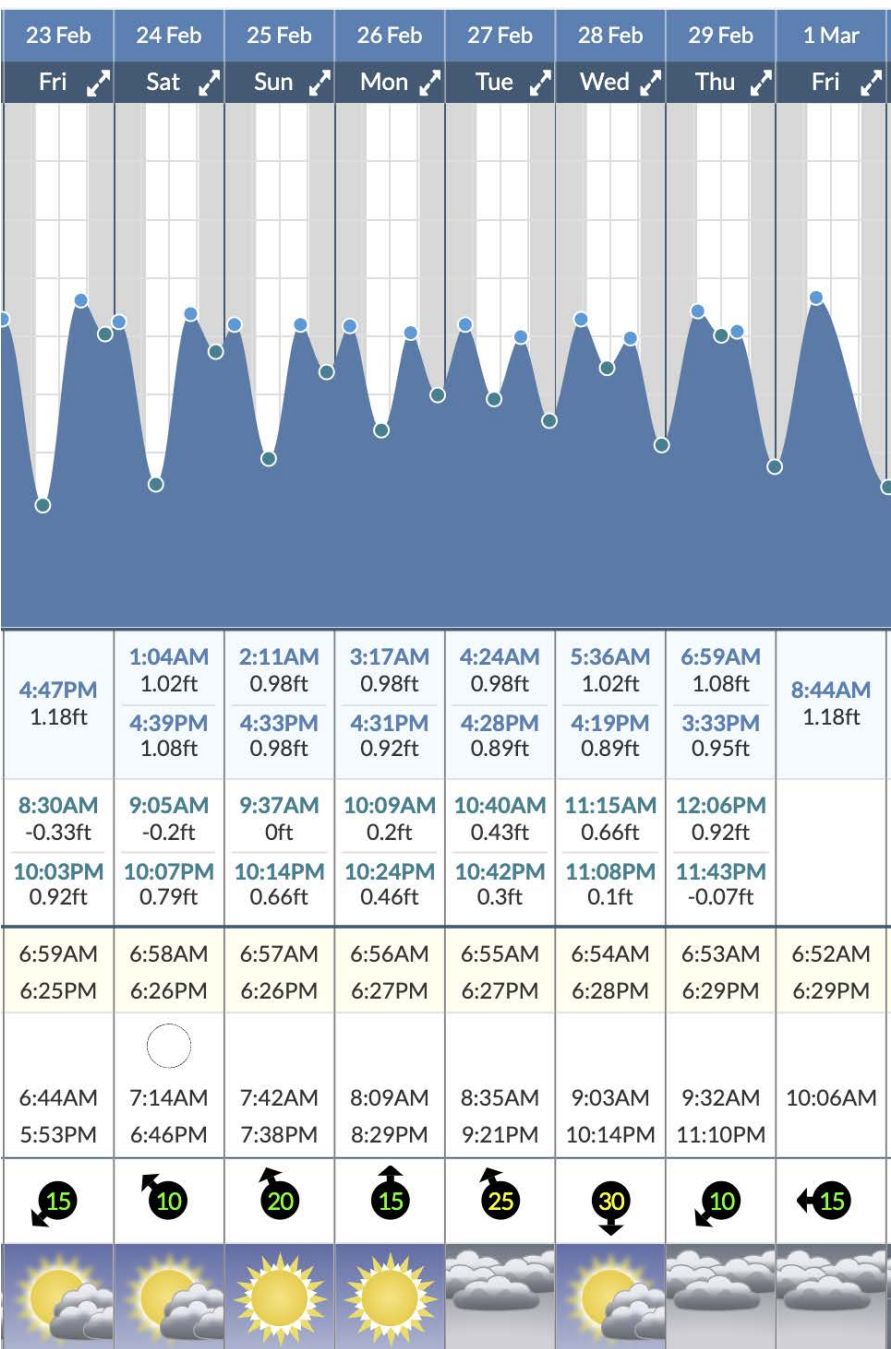
### Billy Sandifer Big Shell Clean Up

Well folks, it’s that time of year again to suit up, show up, and get it done with the Billy Sandifer Big Shell Clean Up. The weather looks pretty good this year, and we’re expecting everyone to come out. We will have plenty of pizza and hotdogs, shirts and stickers for everyone after the event. We will load up in the visitors center parking lot before 8am this Saturday and move out in sections. The earlier sections head farther south first, and the later sections stay up north; something to think about. Head south, turn around behind your leader, and work north. If you haven’t been to a clean up yet, you’ve GOT to come out to this event, it is something to witness for sure. I will be leading a section as usual somewhere in the 20’s and you can go find the Friends of Padre on social media for more information. Drop me a line at [tarponchas-er@mail.com](mailto:tarponchas-er@mail.com) and we’ll see you on the sand.



Zep and Nash with a nice big ugly (Black Drum)

## Tides of the Week



## Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah  
Farah’s Fishing Adventures



Sheila landed this nice redfish from the PACKERY Channel area this week, as tides roll in carrying shrimp and crabs.

SPRING has SPRUNG! In all areas of land and sea the spring season is here. On the bays we have seen consistent water temps around 70 degrees and this week a flood of small food sources moving into the far reaches of the back bays. With this movement, gamefish are following the flow of bait. The small shrimp, crabs, and other crustations and baitfish have come out of the depths of Corpus Christi Bay, the Ship Channel, and the Gulf and started pairing into the shallow bays. This past New Moon they came out of the bottom, now with the lowest of tides present and the flow already moving, look for incoming tides next week with the FULL MOON TO REALLY IG-NIGHT OUR FISHING ACTION!

### Black Drum Run

The black drum run is on fire in Rockport, Port A, and in the Laguna Madre. Look for gravely sand bottoms close to good tidal movement. This is their spawn and mixed into the slot sized drum are the giant bull drum as well. These fish over 30” must be handled gently and released. It takes many years for them to reach this size and they are the key in the population of black drum that we enjoy. Do not just dump or throw them back into the water. They develop cramps and acid build up while fighting the angler. Gently sway the fish back and forth, giving them time to recover before you let the swim away. Redfish are also riding the tides of bait entering the bays. I’m finding them close to the ICW Canal in the Laguna Madre along the spoil islands. Using soft plastics, DOA SHRIMP under a popping cork has been best. Fisherman using live shrimps are also doing well also under popping corks.

### Trout Time

This is THE SUPER BOWL OF TROUT SEASON! MATURE FISH ARE VERY HEAVY AND AGRESSIVE RIGHT NOW BEFORE THEIR FIRST SPAWN OF THE YEAR. We are doing well along the Eastern edge of the Laguna Madre during high wind days. The Island shelters green water and bait will move against the wind finding refuge along the eastern side. Soft plastics and topwaters in 2-4’ of water, where you can find scattered sand pockets along the grass flats. The edges of Baffin Bay and along the shallow rocks are where we have handled some of the biggest trout I’ve seen in the last ten years so far this season. It’s been SPECTACULAR! Looking ahead I can see an amazing but windy March and then April will see our winds lay down and BULL TIDES sweep in bringing more gamefish from the south to spawn in the Baffin Bay Area. They will come through

the land cut and spread out from there reaching all parts of the back bays. The same thing happens in our northern waters as fish come through Port A and journey back into bays North of Corpus Christi.

### Go Fish

I’ve been guiding here from North Padre Island for 28yrs now! I’m still having a great time on the water every day. Teaching people to be better anglers and showing them how to understand our bay systems and the fish we hunt in them. I have only a few days open in March and April, and can guarantee that you will have a lifelong memory, learn years of knowledge and catch great fish. Give me a call to find YOUR DAY. 361-442-8145

### Marker 37 Marina Report

Live shrimp are becoming more and more available, call or watch for the white flag to fly above the roof. Sea lice are also available and can be some of the best baits of black drum. Trim them into chunks, this hearty bait will last longer on the hook that shrimp, avoiding perch and catfish. There are still slips available for YOUR BOAT! Covered, shaded, and safe and ready for you to walk into and take off. Come back to gas, bait, ice and great food and drinks every day at Marker 37 Marina. I can’t tell you how much more your family will use and enjoy the boat when you have a slip as home base. Hope everyone has a safe and beautiful week on the water.



This sunny day trout hit a Bright Pink soft plastic along the King Ranch Shoreline. Farah



# Work begins on Port Aransas ferry landings



Work has begun on a \$64 million project to upgrade ferry system landings on the Port Aransas.

Texas Department of Transportation said this week the initial work will occur around the fuel dock and adjacent ramp, which are on the west side of the ferry facility. As work progresses eastward, updates will advise the public when ramp closures are required.

The project involves upgrading existing

structures and landings, including ramps, pile clusters, fenders, counterweight structures, steel sheet pile bulkheads, fueling systems, electrical systems, pavement and illumination.

The work is expected to take about three years to complete. A similar project to upgrade ferry facilities on the Harbor Island side is in the design stage and is scheduled to go to bid by the end of 2026.

# Texas Prepaid Tuition Program Enrollment Deadline Approaches

Texas families can lock in today’s cost of undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide, required fees at Texas public colleges and universities by enrolling their children in the tax-advantaged Texas Tuition Promise Fund before the close of the current general enrollment period on February 29.

The Texas Tuition Promise Fund, the state’s prepaid college tuition program, allows participants to prepay undergraduate resident tuition and schoolwide, required fees by purchasing tuition units towards a four-year degree, two-year degree or just a few classes. For additional flexibility and portability, tuition units also can be used out-of-plan at Texas medical and dental schools, Texas private colleges and universities, out-of-state colleges and universities, career schools and registered apprenticeship

programs where tuition and schoolwide, required fees are not locked in and the benefits and payouts would be based on the transfer value of the units.\*\*

While the general enrollment period ends Feb. 29, the enrollment period for children younger than 1 at 2023-24 prices is extended through July 31. The next general enrollment period begins on Sept. 1, with new contract prices based on Texas public college tuition and schoolwide, required fee costs for the 2024-25 academic year.

Complete plan information — including residency and other requirements, current prices, enrollment forms and more — is available online at [TuitionPromise.org](https://www.tuitionpromise.org), or by calling 800-445-GRAD (4723), Option 5.



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Canavalia rosa beach bean

By Dr. Ed Proffitt

Winter is winding down and it’s time to start thinking about ground cover for sandy, salty environments to supplement or replace non-native, water-hogging “trash grasses” that occur in some lawns. One plant to consider is beach bean (*Canavalia rosea*) in the pea-family (Fabaceae). This is a wide-ranging dune plant throughout the tropics and subtropics, including our Sand Bar according to the Diamond et al. (2017) who mapped the vegetation of the Padre Island National Seashore.

*C. rosea* is used in dune restoration and stabilization projects and as a ground cover or climbing vine in lawns with dry sandy soils and considerable salt spray. It’s also a very good pollinator attractor. It should be especially good in settings where a sloping yard is beginning to suffer erosion. Naturally, its seeds float in ocean currents and are deposited during high tides in or at the base of dunes, where it roots and stabilizes sand as it grows. It can be a fast grower, with some reports suggesting 20 feet per year, although that seems like a lot to me. Regardless, it may be aggressive and you may want to be careful where you plant it if you have ornamental plants that you need to protect. An additional benefit is that species should tolerate the occasional hard freezes we get just fine.

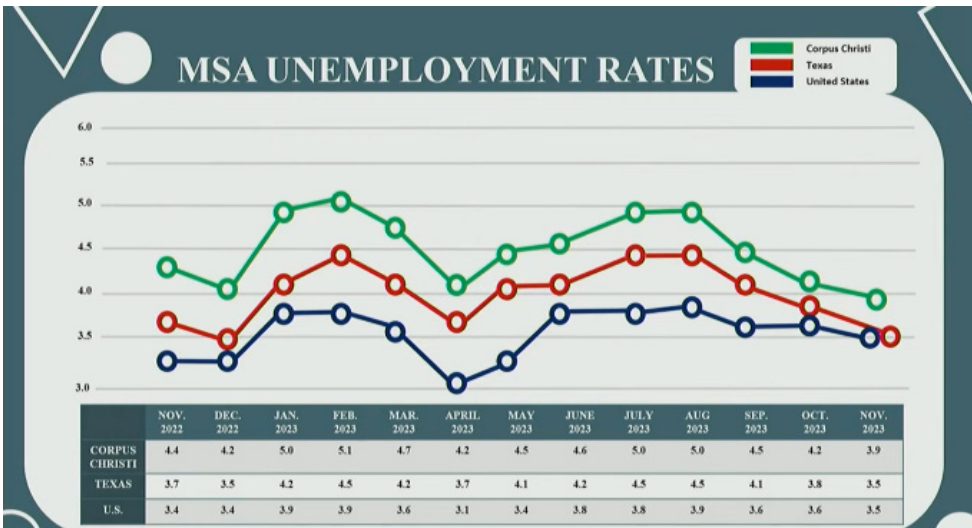
Beach bean, or sometimes called Bay Bean or Coastal Jackbean (that’s why we don’t use common names) has a beautiful, pink-purplish flower and trifoliate roundish leaves. It produces pea pods which although edible after boiling or roasting when young and tender (caveat, I’ve not tried this!), as reportedly are the leaves, the pods and seeds become toxic when they get older --- just like some people I know. So, if your pets like to muddle around the yard eating plants, you might want to find a different plant to use! That said, I saw a report that this species was a staple for Captain Cook, during his extended voyages.

There are a few commercial sources, but none that I’ve found in Texas. If you know of any, please let me know. However, it is abundant enough that you should be able to collect cuttings to root or in the Fall seeds that have ripened and are in “dry pods” on the plant. Please be careful not to trample dunes, and don’t take the plants from the National Seashore or state parks... thanks. Moderate watering will be needed until they take root. After that, you can leave them alone and watch them grow as you keep Going Native!



The following figures were presented to Corpus Christi City Council this week by the Metropolitan Planning Organization

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS ALLOCATIONS						
	NOVEMBER 2023	NOVEMBER 2022	OCTOBER 2023	2022	2021	2020
CITY OF ALICE	6,524,169	6,065,934	5,955,423	6,664,603	5,627,384	5,286,345
CITY OF ARANSAS PASS	2,779,532	2,659,860	2,519,631	2,898,404	2,743,723	2,516,619
CITY OF BEEVILLE	3,965,119	3,841,227	3,558,090	4,189,005	3,785,579	3,605,444
CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI	89,519,643	85,134,154	80,972,532	92,547,633	86,039,294	79,718,714
CITY OF GREGORY	446,150	480,089	407,636	519,021	690,915	612,363
CITY OF INGLESIDE	4,466,406	2,900,616	4,116,447	3,184,198	3,214,477	3,786,173
CITY OF PORT ARANSAS	3,580,912	3,547,551	3,234,566	3,839,290	3,372,428	2,687,502
CITY OF PORTLAND	6,979,432	6,317,872	6,328,588	6,830,660	6,399,502	5,735,562
CITY OF ROBSTOWN	2,072,546	1,733,344	1,846,713	1,879,188	1,860,293	1,974,500
CITY OF ROCKPORT	3,409,366	3,384,163	3,082,003	3,665,496	3,243,897	2,864,158
CITY OF SINTON	1,588,814	1,500,020	1,420,043	1,614,741	1,653,229	1,357,784
COMBINED TOTALS:	125,332,094	117,564,831	113,441,672	127,832,241	118,663,365	110,205,722



EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR FOR SELECTED MONTH/ CORPUS CHRISTI							
	NOV 2023	OCT 2023	NOV 2022	NOV 2021	NOV 2020	MONTHLY CHANGE	YEARLY CHANGE
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURE	197,400	196,100	193,800	187,900	182,900	0.7%	1.9%
MINING, LOGGING & CONSTRUCTION	22,100	21,700	20,100	19,400	19,200	1.8%	10%
MANUFACTURING	9,000	9,100	8,700	8,100	8,000	-1.1%	3.4%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	34,800	34,100	34,600	34,100	33,100	2.1%	0.6%
INFORMATION	1,600	1,500	1,500	2,600	2,600	6.7%	6.7%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	9,300	9,300	9,200	8,400	8,100	0.0%	1.1%
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	19,900	20,200	20,300	18,300	17,800	-1.5%	-2.0%
EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES	32,900	32,600	31,600	30,800	31,000	0.9%	4.1%
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	26,200	26,200	26,200	25,600	23,200	0.0%	0.0%
OTHER SERVICES	6,400	6,400	6,300	6,100	5,800	0.0%	1.5%
GOVERNMENT	15,500	15,500	15,100	14,500	14,500	0.0%	0.0%

## 2023 BRE VISITS: 60

INDUSTRIES BY NAICS CODES:

- MANUFACTURING
- BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES
- CONSTRUCTION & CONTRACTORS SPECIAL TRADE
- OTHER

### TOP BUSINESS CHALLENGES

1. WORKFORCE
2. INFRASTRUCTURE
3. QUALITY OF LIFE

### TECHNOLOGY

17% OF COMPANIES INDICATED THEY ARE INVESTING IN NEW TECHNOLOGY IN THE NEXT YEAR INCLUDING:

- BATTERY STORAGE TECHNOLOGY
- VEGETABLE OIL AS FEEDSTOCK
- CARBON REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY
- VIRTUAL WELDING TRAINING
- AUTOMATION FOR MACHINERY PROCESSES

39% OF BUSINESSES INDICATED PLANS TO EXPAND IN WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR

73% OF COMPANIES INDICATED THEIR KEY PRODUCT(S) MARKET SHARE WAS STABLE OR INCREASING





## Business Briefs

By Mary Craft  
mkay512@aol.com

**The Cuban** restaurant will be opening at Marker 37 and serve authentic Cuban food. The chef has been hired, the furniture came in and the murals are done. It will be serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. It will be the only Cuban restaurant in Corpus Christi so I suspect it will attract in town customers, as well as, Islanders. The food trailer kitchen on the Sunset Deck will be where the food is prepared. Indoor dining will be where the Tiki Bar is currently located and the outdoor covered patio next to the trailer will be enclosed for additional indoor dining. They are still finalizing the menu. They are planning on a March opening.



**Chad and Julia, the owners of My Mimi's Kitchen** in the Bluff, will be opening Papa's Seafood & Steaks in the former location of The Lookout Restaurant on the waterfront near Bluff's Landing. They hope to open in April. It's a beautiful location all upgraded on the inside with a large patio. No doubt with those two involved that the food will be great.

**Queen Legacy: A Tribute to Queen** will be at the Port Aransas Community Theater on Saturday, March 2nd 8 - 10 pm. The general admission tickets are \$25 and the

front auditorium tickets that were \$35 have sold out.

**Salty Oak BBQ** has closed its location on Alameda and will be opening this spring across from Kohl's at the former Yaloe's Asian Bistro 5649 Saratoga. They will have a drive-thru, bar and stage. They are currently taking orders for spring catering at 876-1920 and hope to open by spring break. They are also working on having a play area for the kids. They are also opening a second location at the airport.

**The 29th Annual Billy Sandifer Annual Big Shell Cleanup** will be on Saturday, February 24th 8 am at Padre Island National Seashore. The Friends of Padre organize this annual event. They need volunteers with 4x4's and utility trailers to transport volunteers to and from Malaquite Beach Visitor's Center to work areas. For more info call Vice President Tyler Thorsen at 779-3044 or email him at tylerthor44@gmail.com.



**There will be a parking lot party** at the Clock Tower Shopping Center celebrating the Grand Opening of St. Ann's Skin Studio on Sunday, February 25th 9:30 am - 3 pm. The Latin Calzone food truck and more than 20 vendors selling desserts, jewelry, candles, clothing and more will be participating. Music will be provided by Javier Soliz from Austin.

**The Padre Isles Property Owners Association Candidate Meet & Greet** will be at the Wyndham Resort on Thursday, February

29th 6 pm. Eight members are running for three seats. The board election is March 23rd.

**The 25th Annual Home & Garden Show** will be at the American Bank Center Friday, February 23rd 2 - 6 pm, Saturday 10 am - 6 pm and Sunday 11 am - 5 pm. It is free admission.

**Island Joes Coffee** has a new parking lot adjacent to and it has been completed and is available for use.

**Merritt Wruble is an instructor with Laguna Infant Swimming Resource** and she teaches infants as young as six months to roll on their back to float. The instruction is one-on-one and she accepts kids up to age 6. Call 793-0844 for more info.

**The Island-wide spring garage sale** will be on Saturday, April 13th. The fall event was a huge success and was especially fun to tour the sales in a golf cart. Some of the parents gave their kids like \$10 to buy things for themselves. There were 80 - 100 participants on 80 streets and I suspect it will be just as big in April.

**Seashore Charter Schools** have registration opening up March 1 through the end of March. Students living in Port Aransas, Flour Bluff, NAS and the Island can enroll. They are a tuition free school system and serve grades kindergarten through 8th grade. You can call to schedule a tour of K - 4th at 949-1222 and 5- 8 654-1134.

**Paul's Seafood Market** in the Bluff and Port A now have live crawfish for \$6.99/ pound.



**The JFK Bridge bid package** said it must be done by March 1st. So soon the zippering will be in our rear view mirror.

**The 3rd Annual Hooked on Padre Fishing Tournament** will be on Friday and Saturday April 5th & 6th at Doc's Waterline. Registration is for teams up to four and all are welcome to participate.

**What not to put in your recycling can:** trash bags, single use bags and caps on plastic bottles.

**Daylight Savings Time** is getting closer - just two weeks away.

## Random Stuff

**Boom Chicka Pop** sweet and salty kettle corn is my new favorite snack. Its simple ingredients are popcorn, non-gmo sunflower oil, cane sugar and sea salt. It is not overly sweet, just a hint. I discovered it at CVS.



**I enjoyed the Many Lives of Martha Stewart** who was the first female billionaire and self-made on top of that. Her rise from teenage model to stockbroker after college in the early 60s (she was the only female at the Wall Street Stock Exchange) to prison and beyond kept my attention. It is made up of four 42 minute episodes.





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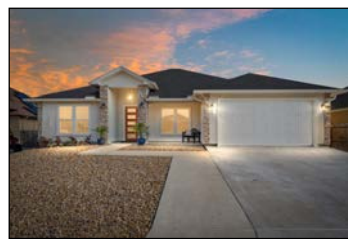
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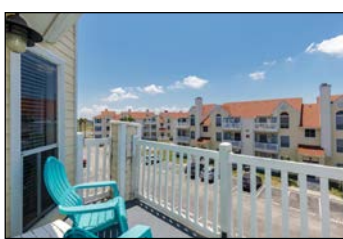
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**14721 Whitecap Blvd. #395** Beautiful studio condo with vaulted ceilings with an amazing view of Lake Padre and short walk to the beach. **\$183,650** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



**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.



**14521 E Cabana #301** 1 of 2 pool side units at Marquesas Townhomes. Selling fully furnished and turnkey ready to rent or use. New interior paint, new furnishings, and new exterior AC. **\$331,900**  
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## 350 Royal Dunes

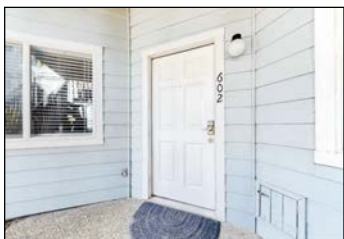
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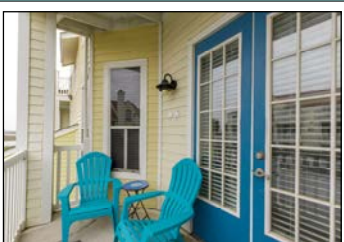
**15201 Cartagena**  
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**WATERFRONT**

**13906 Mingo Cay #6**  
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**15426 Grass Cay Ct. D**  
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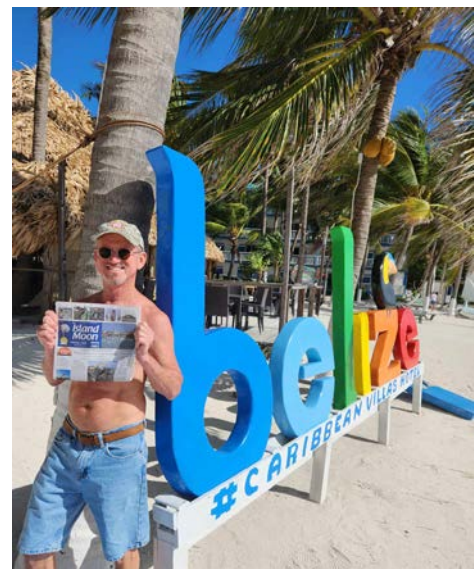
**PADRE**  
*Escapes*







This group of islanders took the Moon to the beach at Bimini while on a Virgin voyages cruise. They apologize to the island bars that suffered in their absence!



Macky Ward comes from old time Port A family. He's part of the Mathews clan. In fact it was his grandfather, Teddy Mathews, who took FDR on that famous tarpon fishing trip in the Farley Boat. Don had the darts/pool tables, shop in Port A for years and ran the 8 ball tournaments.



Sunset by Christopher Ghormley

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Photo By Anthony Clements



Marilyn Knapp Litt

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# Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

Ours is an age of crisis. The shrill of breaking news dominates the various platforms on our devices and screens. As a bumper sticker states bluntly, “If you aren’t enraged, you’re not paying attention.”

Given the many urgent and seemingly intractable problems encircling us, it’s easy to turn inward during this season of Lent. Faith becomes a sedative to dull our pain. We view the symbolic acts of letting go and giving up something relatively small as a way to earn spiritual brownie points. It’s easy to get caught up in the idea that we’re making some sort of huge sacrifice for God. Yet, at the end of the day, it’s really a subtle ego trip that ignores the pain and brokenness that is omnipresent. Yup, sedative spirituality.

Lent is a season to let go, emphasizing both spirituality and action. It is to move away from sedative spirituality and to move in solidarity towards people who suffer in very real ways today. The action of fasting invites us to explore practical and meaningful ways that we can step away from anything in our lives that contributes to injustice or harm for others. It is a time to serve others without expectation of gain or merit.

I came across a wonderful spiritual discipline for Lent. The source is unknown, but wise. Fast from criticism, and feast on praise. Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy. Fast from ill-temper and feast on peace. Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment. Fast from jealousy, and feast on love. Fast from pride and feast on humility. Fast from selfishness and feast on service. Fast from fear and feast on faith.

This practice of fasting and feasting offers opportunity for transformative faith and compassionate care that can make a real difference in this age of crisis. No one person can solve all the world’s ills. However, everyone can do something to serve others, tend to creation, or advocate for those who are marginalized in our society.

Brian McLaren has suggested that the word *protest* needs to be expanded to mean *pro-testify*. Protesting shouldn’t just involve complaining about what’s wrong. It should also include speaking out in favor of positive change. We pro-testify for a more just and peaceful world that we know is possible.

Fasting and feasting give us an opportunity to move beyond shrill and complaint. Fasting and feasting move us beyond escape to meaningful and loving engagement with each other and with God. After all, that’s what Lent is about.

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



# American Legion Post 229

## The Islander Post

### Black History Month

By Ken Ames

February is Black History Month. As veterans, the month of February is a time we remember the sacrifices of African American service members such as the Buffalo Soldiers, the Harlem Hellfighters and the Tuskegee Airmen. We honor the African American men and women who continue to serve their nation with honor and distinction.

Buffalo Soldiers were African American soldiers who served on the Western frontier following the American Civil War. In 1866, six all black cavalry and infantry regiments were created after Congress passed the Army Organization Act. Mainly tasked with controlling the Native Americans of the Plains, they also captured cattle rustlers and thieves, and protected settlers, stagecoaches, wagon trains and railroad crews along the Western front. Buffalo Soldiers served as park rangers and fought forest fires and poachers in Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. In the late 1890’s the Buffalo Soldiers headed to Florida to serve in the Spanish-American War. They fought heroically in the Battle of San Juan Hill, the Battle of El Caney and the Battle of Las Guasimas. Later they served in the Philippines, provided national security during World War I, and served in World War II before the units were deactivated in 1944.

The Harlem Hellfighters, the most celebrated African American regiment in World War I, confronted racism even as they trained for war, helped bring jazz to France, then battled Germany longer than almost any other American troops. Mostly New Yorkers, the first black troops in their states National Guard, became the 15th New York National Guard Regiment in 1916. Led by Commander William Hayward, a white officer that told white officer candidates to “meet men according to their rank as soldiers,” and warned that if they “intended to take a narrower attitude, [they] had better stay out. Hayward recruited African American bandleader James Reese Europe, as a Lieutenant, to form a first-rate marching band for parades, recruitment and fundraisers. The 2,00 troops arrived in Brest, France in 1918 and surprised the locals with a jazz version of “La Marseillaise.” Renamed the U.S. 369th Infantry Regiment, they were soon assigned to the French as a combat unit to reinforce the badly depleted divisions. Fighting the Germans a month before the main American Expeditionary Forces, the 369th spent 191 days (about 6 and a half months) on the front lines, more than any other Americans. Private Henry Johnson and his partner on watch Private Needham Roberts, despite sustaining several gunshot

and shrapnel wounds, repelled a German attack, killing 24 German soldiers and were the first Americans to be awarded the French Croix de Guerre. In 2015, President Barack Obama awarded Johnson a posthumous Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military award.

The Tuskegee Airmen existed because of a push by black newspapers and civil rights groups like the NAACP in arguing that Black Americans should be allowed to train as military pilots. In September 1940, Franklin D. Roosevelt responded to the lobbying campaigns by announcing that the Army Air Corp would soon begin training black pilots. The site chosen for the training was the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama. The first class of aviation cadets had only 13 members, but more than 1,000 pilots and nearly 14,000 navigators, bombardiers, instructors, mechanics, control tower operators and other maintenance and support staff were trained at the facility. In April 1943, the Tuskegee trained 99th Pursuit Squadron deployed to North Africa and then Sicily. In February 1944, the 100th, 301st and 302nd fighter squadrons arrived in Italy; together with the 99th these squadrons made up the new 332nd Fighter Group. By the time the 332nd flew its last combat mission on April 26, 1945, the Tuskegee Airmen had flown more than 15,000 individual sorties over two years in combat. They had destroyed or damaged 36 German planes in the air and 237 on the ground, as well as nearly 1,000 rail cars and transport vehicles and a German destroyer. Their impressive performance earned them more than 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses. In 2007, more than 300 of the original Tuskegee Airmen were on hand to receive the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush.

These brave men fought for a country where they didn’t even enjoy the same rights as others and were considered inferior humans. After their brave service, these soldiers paved the way for racial integration of the military, which began with President Harry Truman who issued Executive Order 9981 desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces and mandating equality of opportunity and treatment on July 26, 1948.

Want more information on, want to donate to, or want to join the American Legion? Contact our adjutant at [Americanlegion-post0229@gmail.com](mailto:Americanlegion-post0229@gmail.com). Family members wanting to join the American Legion Auxiliary can email [mandy.margeson@gmail.com](mailto:mandy.margeson@gmail.com). Our Facebook page is American Legion Post 0229 “The Islander Post”.



## Beauty on the Beach

by Bob Skipper

The orange sun rises out on the bay,  
The seabirds scream in flight.  
The shore lights up with a blinding glare  
That heralds the coming light.

On the golden sand a figure walks,  
Strolling along the beach.  
Loving the sound of a rolling surf  
And seashells just out of reach.

She stops to savor sights and sounds,  
The cloudless azure skies.  
A lovely woman of sun lightened hair,  
And beautiful cobalt blue eyes.

She turns to leave, begins to walk,  
Then sighs a gentle sigh.  
This lovely woman with sun lightened hair,  
And beautiful cobalt blue eyes.



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## Sudoku

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

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

## Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

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

Across

1. Slam  
5. Save up  
10. Maybe yes, maybe no  
14. Take a coat off  
15. Restorative  
16. Word on a sign on the lawn, perhaps  
17. Short break for the breadwinner  
19. Offshore  
20. Monogram of Dr. Jekyll's creator  
21. Repose  
22. Puck's worker  
24. Talk of the Gaelic  
25. Bird with brilliant colors  
26. Consummate  
29. Window or wall opening  
32. Some game  
33. Loren's husband  
34. Displayed fear  
35. Venomous snakes  
36. Faint from surprise  
37. Cargo platform  
38. Year in St. Evaristus' papacy  
39. Kind of paper  
40. Coeur d'\_\_\_\_, Idaho  
41. Firedogs  
43. Refrained from punishing  
44. Rifles  
45. Sportscaster Gowdy  
46. Raid site  
48. Singer Tennille  
49. Curative waters  
52. Rajah's consort  
53. Reason to slow down  
56. Temptation location  
57. Silent star, Bara  
58. Chrysler Building style  
59. Ovid's existence  
60. Oscar winner Spacek  
61. Pull a switch

Down

1. Inscription of Caesar's time  
2. Burglar's take  
3. Author of "Topaz"  
4. Sleuth in pulp fiction  
5. Finally  
6. Pad type  
7. One of the Windsors  
8. Oft-bracketed word  
9. Composer of "Godspell"  
10. Prophetic OT book  
11. Productive one, to the boss  
12. Take a powder  
13. Kind of book  
18. Typeface extensions  
23. Start of a play  
24. They may be ringing kit  
25. Billing period  
26. Ropemaking fiber  
27. Bow application  
28. Express trains  
29. Tires (with "out")  
30. "I Believe" singer  
31. Wrapped up  
33. Schemata  
36. Public demonstrations  
37. Bedframe crosspiece  
39. Pirate potable  
40. Showery time  
42. Bottle in a first aid kit  
43. Blue law subject  
45. Many college students  
46. Emancipate  
47. Dangerous dosages  
48. Ball-bearing items  
49. Merganser's kin  
50. Variety of type  
51. Surmounting  
54. Key letter  
55. Some cards and tags

## Police Blotter February 12-18

### JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection

Crimes against Property

13500 block SPID 10 am February 15  
Damage to a Vehicle other than a Collision

Disturbances

11600 block SPID 10 pm February 16

Suspicious Person

10800 block SPID February 18 Midnight  
13300 block SPID 2 pm February 16  
11500 block SPID 1 pm February 16  
11800 block SPID 9 am February 16  
10800 block SPID Midnight February 16  
13500 block SPID 5 pm February 15 (two counts)

Traffic

26 Traffic Stops  
13500 block SPID 11 pm February 17 DWI  
13500 block SPID 4 pm February 16 Crash  
13500 block SPID 11 am February 13  
Parking Violation  
13500 block SPID 11 pm February 17 DWI  
13500 block SPID 4 pm February 16 Crash  
13500 block SPID 11 am February 13  
Parking Violation

### SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Person

14700 block Aquarius St. 3 pm February 17  
Terroristic Threat Displays Weapon  
14400 block Verdemar Dr. Midnight  
February 12 Assault/Interfere with  
Emergency Call

Crimes against Property

14300 block SPID 10 pm February 18 Theft  
of Services  
15300 block SPID 5 am February 18  
Trespassing  
13700 block Tajamar Ct. 5 pm February 17  
Theft from Motor Vehicle \$2500-\$30,000

Disturbances

14700 block Aquarius 10 pm February 18

Emergency Backup

13900 block Longboat 6 pm February 13  
Prostitution Violation

Editor's note: We contacted Corpus Christi  
Police and received the following reply:

"There was not a report generated for that  
incident. The case number you provided  
is an event number. The officer on scene  
noted on the call for service that no illegal  
activities were observed."

Suspicious Person

15800 block Portillo 9 am February 13

Traffic

125 Traffic Stops  
14800 block Cobo De Bara 9 am February  
18 Crash  
Whitecap/SPID 9 pm February 15 Crash  
15200 block Barataria 11 am February 13  
Parking Violation  
15400 block Grass Cay 11 am February 17  
Crash  
Whitecap/SPID 9 pm February 15 Crash  
15200 block Barataria 11 am February 13  
Parking Violation

### SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to City Limits

Crimes against Person

Whitecap Beach 10 pm February 18  
Assault/Aggravated Robbery  
100 block Zahn Rd. 10 pm February 12  
Assault with Injury

Disturbances

14700 block Whitecap 6 pm February 18  
Noise Ordinance Violation

Suspicious Person

14700 block Whitecap 10 pm February 14

Traffic

64 Traffic Stops



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Costs start at \$12 for 25 words, 20 cents a word after that per issue. For a small additional charge, your ad can be centered, made larger or pictures or clip art can be added. Ads with payment can be taken to our office at: 14646 Compass St., Suite 3

Deadline for classified ads is no later than NOON on Tuesday


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In addition AA meetings are held Friday 7 PM and Sunday 8 AM at The second Gazebo on the Boardwalk behind Brisco King Pavilion



Christopher Ghormley



By standing still and curving their wings forward around their body to form a canopy, they create an appealing shady area in the water that attracts small fish, frogs, tadpoles, crustaceans, etc., which they quickly snatch up. This shadow-casting strategy is also thought to reduce glare, allowing the egret to more accurately sight and spear its prey.

## Crossword Solution

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

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# Island Moon offering space for PIPOA candidates

With the election cycle for the PIPOA Board of Directors getting underway we offer space here each week for candidates to communicate with the membership. We run them unedited. Send submissions to [editor@islandmoon.com](mailto:editor@islandmoon.com).

**Padre Isles Property Owners Association, INC.**  
**Candidate Meet and Greet**  
Thursday, February 29, 2024  
6:00 PM  
Wyndham – Corpus Christi Resort North Padre Island Hotel  
15202 Windward Drive

Come and meet the candidates for the upcoming March 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Election. You can submit questions for the candidates at the meeting or email questions to Gary Klepperich, Executive Director at [gary@pipoa.net](mailto:gary@pipoa.net). The meeting will be live streamed via the PIPOA Facebook page.  
The following persons have registered to run for the three seats up for election: Thomas Gottemoller, George Reed, Chul Kim McGuire, Drew Diggins, Michael Gdula, Ray Singleton, Charles Cantu, Jr., and Kevin Tansey. Eight members are seeking three seats.

## Candidates for Padre Isles Property Owners Association Board of Directors

Candidates for the Padre Isles Property Owners Association received eight Candidate application resumes for the 2024 Board election, to be held at the March 23, 2024 Annual Meeting. Three of seven Board of Directors seats are up for election. The seats are currently held by Drew Diggins, Ray Singleton and David Rossi, respectively.

The candidates for the upcoming 2024 Board elections are

Charles Cantu, Jr.  
Chul Kim McGuire  
Drew Diggins (Incumbent/President)  
George Reed  
Kevin Tansey  
Michael Gdfula  
Ray Singleton (Incumbent)  
Thomas Gottemoller

The 2024 Board Candidates’ resumes may be viewed on the Community Website: [www.padreislespoa.net](http://www.padreislespoa.net).

As of Tuesday according to Gary Klepperich, Executive Director of the PIPOA, “The Board has not made its determination as to what third party election service they will be engaging. Once they have made that determination, I will know what suite of voting services will be available.”

### Early voting underway

## Nueces County Democratic and Republican Joint Primary Election

*Election Day March 5, 2024*

**Early Voting**  
February 20th - March 1st, 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.  
Request an application by email or phone at [VoteByMail@nuecescountytx.gov](mailto:VoteByMail@nuecescountytx.gov) or (361) 888-0385

## WaterStreet Ltd. Announces the Official Grand Opening Pachanga for El Camino Comida & Bar

Waterstreet Ltd is thrilled to announce the upcoming grand opening Pachanga of El Camino, its latest culinary venture poised to redefine Tex-Mex dining in the Coastal Bend. Following a highly successful soft launch in December 2023, El Camino has already established itself as the go-to destination for authentic Tex-Mex cuisine, garnering praise from locals and visitors alike.

The exciting celebration is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 2 at 5:00pm at the vibrant location of El Camino, situated at 314 N Chaparral Corpus Christi, TX 78401. Guests can expect even more excitement, with sizzling hot fajitas, handcrafted margaritas, live mariachis, and, of course, a 1969 El Camino!

“The response to El Camino’s soft launch exceeded our expectations,” said Richard Lomax, CEO of Waterstreet Ltd. “While conceptualizing this idea, we were dedicated to providing quality ingredients, exceptional service, and an atmosphere that brought the Tex-Mex perception to life. With the exceptional turn out during our soft launch, we hope

El Camino is set to become a beloved fixture in the local dining scene.”

The vibrant and inviting environment at El Camino effortlessly transports guests into a realm where the rich flavors and cultural tapestry of Tex-Mex cuisine come to life with every bite. Gin Design Group masterfully captured the essence of a 5-star Tex-Mex environment and delivered an ambiance that immerses guests in the vibrant spirit and culinary excellence of El Camino.

In addition to the culinary delights, the grand opening pachanga will also serve as an opportunity for guests to connect with the American Cancer Society to learn about how the community can support the upcoming 2024 Cattle Baron’s Ball happening on April 13<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds from the limited edition El Camino swag bundles will be generously donated to the Cattle Barons Ball, supporting their noble cause.

Join us as we celebrate the official grand opening of El Camino and raise a toast to the best Tex-Mex in the Coastal Bend!

## Whitecap NPI Project Stages and Master Plan







By Ronnie Narmour  
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

On the local front...

Three Chords and the Truth

all being discussed right now but they're pretty tight lipped. Also last weekend I caught music at *Shorty's* from the **CBDB's** on Friday and the **Mike O'Neil Band** on Saturday. Also on Saturday, singer-songwriter **Ty Dietz** played a rare show at *Red's Riviera* celebrating bartender **Jeff Gregory's** birthday.

**DO NOT MISS LIST**  
**Coming this week...**



Lloyd Maines and Terri Hendrix played the Third Coast Theater last Saturday.

Coming this week to the Coastal Bend (February 23- March 1), we have options. First of all we have the **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Whooping Crane Fest** (Feb 23-25) @ Port Aransas Pirates & Poets w/ Jerry Diaz (3-5) @ Shorty's Identity Crisis (9-1) @ Shorty's Boudreaux & Pousson @ Gaff Raul Ayala @ Executive Surf Club Dreaming in Color @ Pelican Lounge Fabulous Thunderbirds @ Antone's Austin Gypsy Kings @ American Bank Center Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Southside Giovannie & the Hired Guns, Kody West @ Brewster Downtown Dreaming in Color @ Pelican Lounge CBDB's @ Exchange Eli Brown @ Nucky's Kingsville Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's Michael Anthony Perez @ South TX Ice House Jonmikael Mrez Band @ Riley's Pub

On the horizon...



Ty Dietz played Red's Riviera for Jeff Gregory's birthday bash last Saturday.

Briefly on the near horizon, watch for shows from **Queen Legacy**, **Kolby Cooper**, **Chris Boss**, **Heavy Soul**, **Pecos & the Rooftops**, **Midland**, **Dreams**, **Flying Free**, **Toadies** and the **Palacios Bros**. Bueno bye!

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Trop Rocker Jerry Diaz will play Shorty's on Friday afternoon (3-5)



Funk Rock Stereo will play Shorty's this Saturday.



Identity Crisis will play Shorty's on Friday

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Friday.

February 23

27<sup>th</sup> Whooping Crane Fest (Feb 23-25) @ Port Aransas Pirates & Poets w/ Jerry Diaz (3-5) @ Shorty's Identity Crisis (9-1) @ Shorty's Boudreaux & Pousson @ Gaff Raul Ayala @ Executive Surf Club Dreaming in Color @ Pelican Lounge

Fabulous Thunderbirds @ Antone's Austin Gypsy Kings @ American Bank Center Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Southside Giovannie & the Hired Guns, Kody West @ Brewster Downtown Dreaming in Color @ Pelican Lounge CBDB's @ Exchange Eli Brown @ Nucky's Kingsville Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's Michael Anthony Perez @ South TX Ice House Jonmikael Mrez Band @ Riley's Pub

Saturday.

February 24

Whooping Crane Fest @ Port Aransas Pirates & Poets w/ Dan Sullivan & Jonas Lorange Pirates & Poets w/ Jerry Diaz @ Shorty's BELT SANDER RACES@Gaff Funk Rock Stereo @ Shorty's Chainlinks @ Pelican Lounge Giovannie & the Hired Guns, Huser Bros @ Brewster Downtown Joe Buck Yourself, Drastic Actions @ House of Rock Los Lonely Boys @ Aztec Theater S.A. Matty Lee @ Exchange Damon Scott @ Brewster Southside Michael Anthony Perez @ KBOB's Joey St. Vincent @ Eighteen 18 Bar Ruben Limas @ Pearl Oyster Bar

Sunday.

February 25

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's Lance Covington @ Pelican Lounge Catfish Blues Jam @ Rialto Theater

Monday.

February 26

Raul Ayala @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday.

February 27

Open Mic w/Rev Matt @ House of Rock Comedy Night @ Exchange

Wednesday.

February 28

PA Rockers @ Bernie's Cleartones @ VFW Billy Snipes @ Doc's Michael Burts @ Pelican Lounge Eli Brown @ Rockit's Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Thursday.

February 29

Selfie @ Shorty's Raul Ayala @ Rock Bottom Igor & the Red Elvises @ House of Rock Trisum @ Brewster Southside Falco & the Wolf @ Brewster Downtown Jam Night @ Exchange Michael Anthony Perez @ Nucky's Kingsville Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's Ruben Limas @ Island Italian

Friday, March 1

Justin and Niki @ Shorty's Raul Ayala @ House of Rock Spazmatics @ Brewster Downtown Damon Scott @ Brewster Southside JonMikael Mrez @ Pelican Lounge Cover Tones @ La Playa By the Bay Eli Brown @ Lucy Coopers John Cortez @ Retros

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**MARCH 8**  
**MARCH 9**  
**MARCH 15**  
**MARCH 16**  
**MARCH 22**  
**MARCH 23**

**Treasure Island**  
**LIVE MUSIC**  
**COMING IN MARCH**

**SHORTY'S**  
**SELFIE EVERY THURSDAY**

<b>IDENTITY CRISIS</b>	<b>FEB 23</b>
<b>FUNK ROCK STEREO</b>	<b>FEB 24</b>
<b>POETS &amp; PIRATES</b>	<b>FEB 23-24</b>
<b>JUSTIN &amp; NIKI</b>	<b>MAR 1</b>
<b>JOHN CORTEZ</b>	<b>MAR 2</b>
<b>OPEN JAM W/ RAUL</b>	<b>MAR 4</b>

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Boudreaux and Pousson will play the Gaff this Friday, Feb 23

OK. Where are we? What are we doing here? Mardi gras has come and gone with a high degree of fun and merriment. I heard old timers claiming this may have be the biggest one yet. I sure like having those **Boo and Poo** Cajun guys around. I just love Cajun/zydeco music... well the people and food too. They play often at *Shorty's* and the *Gaff*. But now we're on to pre-spring break mode as March rapidly approaches. You'll notice an increase in higher profile live music shows around town. *Bron's Backyard* has put out their March calendar and *Shorty's* is looking strong, too. The big week for Texas universities during Spring Break will run March 9 through the 17<sup>th</sup>... which is *St. Patty's Day*. *Treasure Island* has been closed this winter and **Tommy Saad** has been hard at it with his new projects to enhance the place. That's one hard working man right there. I drove by there this morning and he had taken the roof down in the patio where his stage is. And I know **Jimmy Jam** and **Shawn** have been busy with their upgrades at *Bron's*. I saw where they had put new wood stain on their massive deck and remodeled a new and better gift shop next to the stage. This pre-game warm up is fun. If everything goes according to plan, our Winter Texan families will be heading home about the same time the Spring Breakers are plotting this year's *Fester-ing Den of Sin*. Soon two story pickup trucks with stripper poles in the back will be circling their wagons. Nothing is chiseled in stone but historically the lodges and trailer park rates go up dramatically at *Spring Break*. Of course the weather is still crazy all over the country, so who knows what the norm is anymore. Coming in April we have *Shorty's 78<sup>th</sup> Pig Party* on the 13<sup>th</sup> featuring **Joe King Carrasco** and *SandFest* on April 23-25... more on that soon. The new joints in town; *Beach Bums*, the *Sandbar* and the *Beer Haus* will now get their shot at this year's tourist season. I haven't bonded with those places... and vice versa. And work continues on the massive *Sip Yard* going in on the corner of Alister and Cotter. The jury's still out over there. This whole town is one big work in progress. You might have noticed new condos going up on every street. And I'm not even going to talk about the new gas lines they've been putting in all over town and the citywide street repairs about to happen for the next three years. There's NO WATER service on Alister businesses as we speak. I have to keep reminding myself that there's no whining in rock and roll.

Scattered shots...



Joe King Carrasco will play Shorty's Pig Party in April.

My old pals **Terri Hendrix** and **Lloyd Maines** played a show at the *Third Coast Theater* last Saturday and it was stellar. They have played this theater for 24 years straight. You read that right. It's my understanding that **Jim Urban** has sold the theater and *Sea Shell Village*. I'm trying to find out what the future of the theater will be but my source says it's undecided. It has to be one of the finest listening rooms anywhere and I certainly hope it remains. Their usual lineups of such amazing artists as **Ray Wylie Hubbard**, **Max Stalling**, **Keith Sykes**, **Mark McKinney** and **Radney Foster**, etc would leave a cavernous void without *Third Coast*. I'm pretty sure it's

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