

Going Native A8



Sports A6



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March 24, 2023

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By Dale Rankin

The good weather rolled in from OTB just as the Spring Breakers rolled out and we've hit the sweet spot of the season Around The Island. This is the time of year to invite the people you like to come for a visit but tell them to slow their roll when they come across the JFK Causeway as there were in excess of 300 traffic stops there again this week and the usual number of crashes at the approach to the light at the Aquarius intersection. Maybe we need a sign at Laguna Shores that tells visitors they are on Island Time. To quote songwriter Larry Joe Taylor I start out early and I take my time...

#### POA Annual meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association is this Saturday and we include the full agenda in this issue. It will be the last meeting for POA Board President Marvin Jones and we included his last column for the Island Moon in this issue. We owe Marvin a big Island Thank You for the work he has done over the past six years at the POA and the stability and transparency he has brought to the organization. We issue an open invitation to the next President to use the Island Moon to keep members informed.



The natural gas outage that hit Port Aransas on the last big weekend of Spring Break 2022 got (late) coverage in the local media but what was lost in the clutter was that the outage included the high rises on SH 361 south of the city limits all the way to Fish Pass where the land station that accepts the gas from offshore wells is located. A trailer was stationed there for most of the weekend to feed into the line running to Port Aransas. The biggest problem for most of the seven large buildings on the Corpus Christi side of the line was that their laundry operations are gas powered meaning it was difficult get washing done. While official sources have been mum on exactly what caused the outage at the offshore wells as yet unconfirmed sources say the problem was a faulty valve.

#### Packery Dredging and Island bridges

The City of Corpus Christi has begun the bidding process for a \$4.1 million dredging project in Packery Channel by the end of 2013, the bids are scheduled to be opened by the end of March.

Around cont. on A3

# Lake Padre Development Plan Two hotels, marinas, 11 acres of public space, two miles of pedestrian trails, golf cart bridge



By Dale Rankin

The developers of 102 acres surrounding Lake Padre this week released their plans for the project now under construction there as part of a request for \$20.6 million in funding from the Island's Tax

Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 (TIRZ #2).

The request for the funds was made to the TIRZ #2 board on Tuesday, the board did not take action. If approved the money would be used for public spaces including a promenade, 11 acres of open space, two pedestrian bridges over canals, golf cart bridge over a canal, and two miles of golf cart and pedestrian paths to allow a connection between the Water

Lake Padre cont. on A5

#### Lake Padre Project Today Access to the Lake Padre

development from State Highway 361 will be through the driveway seen in the left of this aerial photo. The majority of the streets bulkheads and infrastructure is already in place as seen in this photo taken Wednesday. Aerial photo by Augs Services.



#### Now You're Cookin' with Gas

#### Coping with the Weekend Gas Outage in Port Aransas



By Chris Jordan

You've probably heard the expression. It's almost one hundred years old. Or maybe that's why you haven't heard it. It means "your performance is now optimal" --- presumably due to a change in methodology. The phrase came to mind this last spring break weekend except it was applicable in neither the literal nor the figurative sense. And

The panic kicked-off Friday evening. The Port Aransas Cookbook crew was at Island

things were definitely not optimal.

Moorings putting on a five-course dinner with table service for eight. We operate out of a self-contained, propane-powered, commercial kitchen trailer. It was around eight o'clock when I got the first call. I couldn't answer but hastily texted that I would call when I could.

Gas cont. on A3

#### A little Island history

#### A Grog Shop or Two and Hogs Running Wild in the Streets

By Dale Rankin

The period leading up to the statehood was a precarious one for the area in and around Corpus Christi. Colonel Henry L. Kinney was doing brisk business at his trading post along the bay where shallow draft boats ferried cattle and cotton. He had begun using the title "Colonel," which he claimed to have earned during the Seminole War in Florida, but there is no evidence that he took part in that conflict.

On July 25, 1846 General Zachary Taylor moved 4000 troops into the area, first landing at St. Joseph Island then ferrying them to Fort Marcy near the future sight of the

Breakers Hotel on North Beach. Eventually 5000 troops were headquartered there and Corpus Christi began to grow.

A grog shop or two A description of the town was written just before the arrival of Taylor's soldiers by William Bollaert describes the town: "...at the present time there are some 30 or 40 fighting men, a few cannons, and Colonel Kinney's house fortified...there are some half dozen American stores and one owned by a German, and a grog shop or two. All businessmen appeared to be on good terms and friendly with each other."

A portion of the diary of West Pointer Colonel E.A. Hitchcock describes the town five months



Corpus Christi 1887

after the soldiers arrived: "...in five months the small village had a population of about 2000 people...drinking, horse racing, gambling, prostitution were rampant. however, not all of the officers and men sought the lewd and licentious, since a thespian group

Corpus cont. on A5

#### By the numbers...

#### Lake Padre Development

**102 acres** project size – not including bottom of Lake Padre

\$6 million already spent on Lake Padre dredging and bulkheads

\$11.5 million already spent on canal, seagate, bulkhead caps, untilities, streets 500 new jobs when com-

**\$7.5 million** in new city tax revenue

7 years to complete entire project

Requested TIRZ #2 funds \$16.4 million for promendade and open space (11 acres)

\$1.98 million pedestrian bridges

**\$1.2 millioin** golf cart bridge

**\$1 million** golf cart paths and ramps

\$20.6 million in requested TIRZ #2 funds

Now cracks a noble heart

"Good night sweet barge: And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!"



The construction barge that took up residence on the South Packery Jetty in September is bidding The Island adieu one piece at a time. The salvage contractor Resolve Marine has completed the removal of the barge and is currently cutting the barge into smaller sections in preparation for transport to a nearby scrap facility. This work is anticipated to take approximately one week to complete. Access to the South Packery Channel jetty walkway is now open to the public.



Photo By Michael Hyatt



#### **Business Briefs**

The Sand Bar in Port A opened this month and has indoor, outdoor and rooftop seating where you can view the ships going through the channel. They have live music but no food. Smoking is allowed at the outdoor bars. It is kid and pet friendly. They are located at 118 Cut-off Road where Montego Bay & Ziggy's Hideaway was located. Hours are 4 pm - 2 am daily.

A new 14' long, 250 pound mermaid has taken up residency on the Island. She

was originally on the front of a gift shop in South Carolina and when it closed she was purchased and placed in a home there. Jess & Heather bought that home five years ago and when it came time to sell and move here they brought her along which was not an easy process. You can see her on the canal side of Punta Espada Loop.



Cory Morrow will be performing at the SandFest in Port A on Sunday, April 16th.

Riviera Outdoor Decor has award winning designers on their staff. They have outdoor furniture that lasts, retractable screens, outdoor curtains, pull down shades, specialized outdoor fans and much more. Call 765-2498 to set up a time for a tour of their huge showroom on the Southside.

Coastal Pet Supply & Exotics now has

their bathing station and is taking appointments for grooming. They sell guinea pigs, lizards, frogs, fish, snakes and more. They will be getting two cockatiels in a week or so. They are located in Pelican Plaza. Call Chandra Hackett at 589-4477 for more info.



Awesome Decks & Docks owner Nathan Hackett has done many of the dog ramps you now see along our canals. He has also done some creative mail boxes on the Island shade structure designs. Plus the usual decks, docks and boat ramps. Call Nathan at 244-3666.

Padre Foolz Day Beach Bash will be held at the Bowl just south of Bob Hall Pier Mile Marker 262-264 on Saturday, April 1st with live music noon - 6 pm. Some of the entertainers are Stevie Start, Kevin Kurtz and DJ Lou. There will be a crawfish boil and gumbo plates plus corn hole tournament and axe throwing.

Dollar General Good News/Bad News -

First the good, a dozen eggs are \$3.35/dozen and a gallon of milk is \$3.80. The bad, for a long while a 12 pack of Miller Lite was \$10.95 and it is now \$13.85. They will soon be getting in Dave's Killer Bread and it will be ridiculously lower than anywhere else from what they tell me and my sources are usually pretty reliable.

Looks like readers are enjoying the Mystery Person of the Week. Let us know if you have yourself or someone to suggest.

The wheels are starting to turn on the construction of the new clubhouse at Oso Golf Course. A pre-bid went out on March 16th for an architectural design and the bids are due by April 15th. It will be a two story structure with approximately 10,000 sq/ft. The clubhouse will include locker rooms, pro shop, patio, snack bar and lounge.

Port Aransas Community Theater will feature Drinking Habits which is a play about two nuns secretly making wine to keep the convent doors open. It will be run Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:30 pm March 30 - April 16. Call 749-6036 for more info.

The Packery South Jetty has reopened this week.

Cooking Well for a Healthy Blood Pressure classes are being offered at the Ethel Eyerly Community Center in Flour Bluff. The three interactive classes are 12:45 -2:45 pm on March 29, April 5 and April 12. Register with Carla by calling 826-2330.

Nom's Kitchen serves authentic Thai food by an authentic Thai chef. They are open 7 days a week 11 am - 9 pm. They are now accepting online ordering for pick up or delivery by GrubHub. The online menu shows a photo of each item. I had the drunken noodles this week with an order of Thai egg rolls and it was enough for two.

Hardknocks Sunday Brunch is every week 10 am - 2 pm and it has a Bloody Mary Bar, biscuits & gravy, shrimp grits and so much more. I enjoyed it so much last Sunday when our Sunday golf group cancelled due to the weather. It was a great alternative.

There is an Island-wide Garage Sale on Saturday, April 1st in the works which has never been done here before. There will be a number of streets involved. Sounds like a great idea to me because the good stuff

won't be gone by 10 am because there are too many homes to go to. It would be especially fun in a golf cart. It has been a regular thing in Port A for years.

I wrote about the reconstruction of the frontage road between Jackfish and Commodore and originally thought there was going to be a sidewalk put in. The city apparently decided to perpetuate the Island sidewalk free zone and there will be no sidewalk added. Here is the even crazier part. They insisted that the Rasheeds put a sidewalk in front of the Island Market IGA Balli Center. I have never seen anyone walk

**Keep Port Aransas Beautiful** is hosting a Native Plant Sale that will also include a plant swap at Robert Points Park Small Pavilion on Saturday, March 25th 9 am.

people walking on the frontage road.

on that sidewalk which is on a highway and

not a residential area but I have seen many

**Ace Hardware** has plenty of items to fill your Easter baskets and home decor for the holiday.

The Padre Island CC Pop Up Library will be at the Island Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, March 29th 3 - 6 pm.

#### **Random Stuff**

On a Personal Note - I believe I may be the only Islander that speaks Serbo-Croatian fluently. My parents and two older siblings came through Ellis Island and a member of a Serbian church in Chicago was there waiting with a \$100 and four train tickets. That same year I was born and my parents named me Mirjana but I was born in a Catholic hospital in Chicago and the nurses/nuns put Mary on the birth certificate but I was not called that until I started school. I spent every summer ages 18 - 26 at my aunt and uncles's bed & breakfast on the Adriatic coast. That is when I got hooked on coastal living and vowed I would live near the water and not wait until I retire to do so. And here I am 30 years later enjoying it with hopefully many more to come.





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March 24, 2023 Island Moon

#### Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



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#### Where to Find The Island Moon North Port

**Padre** 

All Stripes Stores

Black Sheep/

Barrel

CVS

Dollar General

Doc's Restaurant

Snoopy's Pier

Isle Mail N More

Island Italian

Brooklyn Pie Co.

Ace Hardware

Texas Star (Shell)

Spanky's

Scuttlebutt's

Restaurant

Subway

Island Tire

Padre Pizzeria

And all Moon

WB Liquor

Island IGA

Island Fitness

My Coastal Home

Aransas Pioneer RV

Stripes on 1A

Kody's Coffee Waves

Moby Dicks

**IGA** Treasure Island

San Juan's Restaurant Wash Tub

Shorty's Place Gratitude

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Sounds Good BBO

Spanky's Liquor

Beach Lodge Ellis Memorial Library

Bernie's Beach House

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> Ethyl Everly Senior Center

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## Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Port Aransas Gas Outage

Our thoughts are with the small-businesses and their staff/employees in Port Aransas that are going to have to get through the next few weeks. If there is any way our organizations can assist, please reach out.

Let me break down how 80%-90% of small businesses operate during this time of year on the Island. The week or two before Spring Break

most small businesses use almost every bit of revenue they can still scrape together from the off-season to purchase products to accommodate the demand from visitors the island gets over Spring Break. A gamble, I know. But historical evidence says it's a safe bet. And recent evidence of the amount of visitors the island receives and attempts to accommodate makes it an even better bet. Businesses generally use the first part of

Spring Break to cover their expenses, the middle part to cover the staff/payroll and the last to make sure they have enough revenue generated to get to the next timeline event. Generally Texas Sandfest, if your business is lucky enough to capitalize on the traffic generated by that event. If not, it's waiting for the Summer Season. If something happens, whether it be a natural or man-made disaster, all businesses are affected. Not just those that utilize a specific utility for their operations. For example, natural gas.

Let's say you were visiting Port Aransas and you woke up in your \$600-\$3,000 a night vacation rental with no hot water, no heat during a cold front, no way to cook (if gas cooking fixtures are present) and 90% of restaurants are closed or have a very limited menu. Like tens of thousands of people did this past Saturday. You

You wouldn't drive around and find one of the few restaurants serving a limited-menu, you wouldn't see how many stores were open and go shopping, you wouldn't find one of the few kid-accommodating business to go sit at and you wouldn't wait to see when everything would be normal gain (though thank you to those few who did). You'd leave. You would drive back to your home that was 2.5 hours or 7-8 hours away and go take a hot shower. Probably stop along the way to feed your family or eat with your group.

Business just stops. As it has during a few other significant events over the past 4-5

Then, the result trickles down to the staff and employees that have made the same bet. "Just get back to Spring Break and I'll be fine." Hours instantly disappeared, tips evaporated, service people don't have things to service and next week's schedules are on hold. The effects are realized by everyone.

Millions of dollars have been wiped out of the local Port Aransas economy within hours/days. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in credit card charge-backs are currently being issued to customers. Which will cause the rental companies to scramble and use resources to facilitate. The City of Port Aransas will lose an amount I couldn't even estimate from lost tax revenue, both Hotel Occupancy Tax and Sales Tax. At the same time they will have to activate and contract enough utility workers to manage the issue causing an extreme expense. What has happened this weekend is nothing less than a disaster for local small businesses, their employees and the City of Port Aransas. A huge shout out to all who have been

able to keep operating tried their best to keep their employees working and those who fought like crazy to keep serving our visitors and generating revenue in unfortunate conditions outside of your control. Well done and thank you for being a great example of what Port Aransas is really made of. Also, thank you to all those community

members who have done their best to keep people informed and aware of the situation. To the over-extended City Staff and Emer-

gency Services crews, thank you for going above and beyond. Again. So keep all the small businesses affected

by this weekend's circumstances that will have a really tough next few weeks, or however long it takes to figure it out, in your thoughts. Come back and visit soon. We'll all be ready to take care of you when you're back on the Island. AGAIN!! Winston Caraker

A Port Aransas Local and Small Business Owner

#### High School Students Have an Opportunity to Travel Abroad this Summer

#### Applications Available for Sister City Student **Exchange Program**

The Corpus Christi Sister City Committee invites all Corpus Christi high school sophomores and juniors to apply for a chance to travel abroad this summer to one of Corpus Christi's Sister Cities, Agen, France, and Yokosuka, Japan. The Sister City Student Exchange Program initiative has returned after being postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Student Exchange Program is an

opportunity awarded to Corpus Christi high school sophomores and juniors who have outstanding academic and leadership performance, a good understanding of what it means to be an ambassador for Corpus Christi, and a keen interest in learning about the world outside of the United States. The selection process includes a formal application and an interview with the Sister City Committee.

The selected high school students will spend two weeks in one of our Sister Cities over the summer with a host student and family. At the end of their stay, they will return with their host student to spend another two educational and fun-filled weeks in Corpus For more information and to receive an

studentexchange. The application deadline is April 14, 2023. Limited scholarships are available. The Sister City Committee is a City Council-appointed Commission. The Sister

application, https://www.cctexas.com/

City Committee liaison is Wendy Herman, with the Corpus Christi Intergovernmental Relations Department, and may be reached at CorpusChristiSisterCity@cctexas.com.

#### Gas Cont. from A1

It was Edwin Meyers, the proprietor of Kody's Restaurant & Bar reporting that his gas was out at the restaurant. On Friday night. During spring break. Yikes. Turns out they weren't the only ones. The pending calamity would be citywide.

Can you imagine every restaurant in Port Aransas being full to capacity with more people waiting to be served when the gas stops flowing? That's really putting the brakes on Spring Break 2023. A few minutes later, when our own dinner event had concluded, I packed-up my trailer and drove it to Kody's so they could cook out of it in the parking lot and resume service. My trailer stayed through Sunday helping Kody's to serve a limited menu. Kody's was one of the very few restaurants able to

Whataburger was another. I assume their kitchen is all electric. I attempted a drive-by to check it out but couldn't get anywhere near the joint. Kip Shannon and the gang at The Gaff made-out OK: their pizza ovens are electric. Trout Street Bar & Grill somehow managed to persevere with a contracted menu.

Lisabella's owner Kris Amundsen tried and failed to light the gas fireplace in his home at 5:30 a.m. Saturday morning. He found no joy in lighting his rangetop for breakfast either. Lisabella's chef Spencer Cox had not reported anything unusual the night before. The restaurant had a successful Friday serving 160 people but when Kris got to the restaurant at 8 a.m. Saturday morning it was evident they had no gas but they still managed to open Saturday night.

"I realized I had some portable cooking gear we use for catering and we could use it to get through dinner service" Kris told me and then added "We ended up serving 120 people that way."

Carlos Angel of Restaurant San Juan informed me that they also made it through their Friday night with no problems but that was not the case when Carlos arrived to open the restaurant at 5 a.m. Saturday morning: There wasn't even a whiff of gas.

Greg Villasana said his kitchen crew first noticed something was off at La Playa Mexican Grille Friday night when their broiler wasn't working right. Before long, all the cooking equipment was offline. Around 75 people were waiting up to an hour and a half for a table at the time. La Playa had already served about 125 hungry spring breakers and still managed to feed the folks who were seated when the gas went out. Then of course, they had to close "This is going to leave a bad taste in the mouths of tourists and a black eye on Port Aransas" Greg said, though he added that he wasn't personally affected by the gas outage Friday night since he had ordered a pizza from The Gaff.

There may have been a couple of other food service establishments that were able to salvage some business this past weekend, but mostly it was a bust for any place that relies on natural gas. Not to even mention both tourists and residents alike that couldn't cook, bathe, or heat their quarters.

In the 1930s, Americans were facing a choice in replacing their wood-burning cook stoves with new technology. But would their new appliance be powered by electricity or gas? If Deke Houlgate had his way, it would be gas.

Mr. Houlgate was a publicist, journalist, and football statistician who devised the system by which college teams were ranked. But he was also a marketing executive at the American Gas Association. And that, my friends, is where he had a stroke of genius that has impacted the lexicon of our very culture. The phrase would be uttered by the likes of Bob Hope, Jack Benny, and Daffy Duck — not to mention countless regular

But on this spring break weekend in Port Aransas, no one was cooking with gas.

#### Around Cont. from A1

The project will begin after the repairs now underway to the jetties are complete and after the opening of the channel under the Water Exchange Bridge (or should we call it the Don Patricio Bridge?) which is currently scheduled for June when the road will go back to four lanes, however, the Supervisor on the bridge project Mike Franklin said this week that the channel under the bridge is now ready to be opened at the discretion of the private property owners on each side. There is currently \$36 million in TIRZ #2 funds dedicated to Packery dredging through 2042 in order to maintain the depth of the channel at 8.5 feet from the channel mouth to the seagate at the entrance to Lake Padre. The plans submitted so far indicate that the sand from the dredge will be placed on Whitecap Beach south of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall to a point northward in front of the seawall to the location of the Wyndham Hotel.

Commodores Bridge

Speaking of bridges...plans have been submitted to the City of Corpus Christi for a planned water exchange bridge on Commodores Drive that will allow for the extension of the canal that currently ends at Commodores to extend under the road and onto the Whitecap NPI site. The money will come from a combination of funds from the Public Improvement District formed last year for the Whitecap site and from the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2. We have submitted an Open Records Request with the city for the bridge plans

and will included them in these pages when

they become available.

#### Lake Padre

The Big Island News this week was the release of the plans for development now underway around Lake Padre. Work on the \$675 million project has been underway for several months and the underground utilities, bulkheads, and roadways are all complete or near completion. We posted the plans for the site on our Facebook page (theislandmoonnewspaper) Tuesday and the most common question that came back was about the height of the two bridges – one pedestrian and one for golf carts – on the Lake Padre side and the answer from the TIRZ #2 meeting this week is the water clearance for both is the same as the Water Exchange Bridge at fourteen feet, which is the same for the planned bridge under Commodores Drive and for the bridge planned at Encantada Avenue. That bridge is part of the Tax Improvement District which was formed last year for the Whitecap North Padre Island project and will replace the perpetually clogged water exchange culverts under Encantada and with the opening of the Commodores bridge will bring Gulf water into our canals through the Water Exchange Bridge...bring on the gondolas! April Foolz

The 1st Annual Padre Foolz Day Beach Bash will take to the sand at The Bowl in Kleberg County on April 1. The event is a fundraiser for the Texas Sealife Center and our friend Stevie Start is going to provide the entertainment. That's all for now... as they say...the weather is here we wish we were beautiful...say hello if you see us Around The Island.

March 24, 2023 Island Moon

#### <u>Senior Moments</u>



Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

#### Sputnik Part 1

Dotson's Note: Sputnik 1 was the first artificial Earth satellite. It was launched into an elliptical low Earth orbit by the Soviet Union on 4 October 1957\* as part of the Soviet space program. It sent a radio signal back to Earth for three weeks before its three silver-zinc batteries ran out. <mark>Aero</mark>dynamic drag caused it to fall back into the atmosphere on 4 January 1958. Thanks to my Nike Ajax Ground Guidance crew for the facts contained in this report, and to The Army Signal Corps, for the photos.



It was a polished metal sphere 58 cm (23 in) in diameter with four external radio antennas to broadcast radio pulses. Its radio signal was easily detectable by amateur radio operators, and the 65° orbital inclination made its flight path cover virtually the entire inhabited Earth.

The satellite's unanticipated success precipitated the American Sputnik crisis and triggered the Space Race, part of the Cold War. The launch was the beginning of a new era of political, military, technological and scientific developments. The word sputnik is Russian for *satellite* when interpreted in an astronomical context; its other meanings are spouse or traveling companion. Tracking and studying Sputnik 1 from Earth

provided scientists with valuable information. The density of the upper atmosphere could be deduced from its drag on the orbit, and the propagation of its radio signals gave data about the ionosphere.

Sputnik 1 was launched during the International Geophysical Year from Site No.1/5, at the 5th Tyuratam range, in Kazakh SSR (now known as the Baikonur Cosmodrome). The satellite traveled at a peak speed of about 8 km/s (18,000 mph), taking 96.20 minutes to complete each orbit. It transmitted on 20.005 and 40.002 MHz, which were monitored by radio operators throughout the world. The signals continued for 21 days until the transmitter batteries ran out on 26 October 1957. Sputnik 1 burned up on 4 January 1958 while reentering Earth's atmosphere, after three months, 1,440 completed orbits of the Earth, and a distance traveled of about 70,000,000 km (43,000,000 mi)

#### Satellite Construction Project

On 17 December 1954, chief Soviet rocket scientist Sergei Korolev proposed a developmental plan for an artificial satellite to the Minister of the Defense Industry, Dim itri Ustinov. Korolev forwarded a report by Mikhail Tikhonravov, with an overview of similar projects abroad. Tikhonravov had emphasized that the launch of an orbital satellite was an inevitable stage in the development of rocket technology.

On 29 July 1955, U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced through his press secretary that, during the International Geophysical Year (IGY), the United States would launch an artificial satellite. Four days later, Leonid Sedov, a leading Soviet physicist, announced that they too would launch an artificial satellite. On 8 August, the Politburo of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union approved the proposal to create an artificial satellite. On 30 August, Vasily Ryabikov, the head of the State Commission on the R-7 rocket test launches held a meeting where Korolev presented calculation data for a spaceflight trajectory to the Moon. They decided to develop a three-stage version of the R-7 rocket for satellite launches.



Above, last remaining piece of Sputnik 1: metal arming key which prevented contact between batteries and transmitter prior to

launch; on display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. On 30 January 1956 the Council of Ministers approved practical work on an artificial Earth-orbiting satellite. This satellite, named Object D, was planned to be completed in 1957–58; it would have a mass of 1,000 to 1,400 kg (2,200 to 3,100 lbs, and would carry 200 to 300 kg (440 to 660 lb) of scientific instruments. The first test launch of "Object D" was scheduled for 1957. Work on the satellite was to be divided among institutions as follows: The USSR Academy of Sciences was re-

sponsible for the general scientific leadership and the supply of research instruments The Ministry of the Defense Industry and its primary design bureau, OKB-1, were assigned the task of building the satellite The Ministry of the Radio technical Industry would develop the control system, radio/technical instruments, and the teleme-The Ministry of the Ship Building Industry

would develop gyroscope devices The Ministry of the Machine Building would develop ground launching, refueling and transportation means

The Ministry of the Defense was responsible for conducting launches Preliminary design work was completed in July 1956 and the scientific tasks to be

carried out by the satellite were defined.

These included measuring the density of the atmosphere and its ion composition, the solar wind, magnetic fields, and cosmic rays. This data would be valuable in the creation of future artificial satellites; a system of ground stations was to be developed to collect data transmitted by the satellite, observe the satellite's orbit, and transmit commands to the satellite. Because of the limited time frame, observations were planned for only 7 to 10 days and orbit calculations were not expected to be extremely accurate. By the end of 1956 it became clear that the complexity of the ambitious design meant that 'Object D' could not be launched in time because of difficulties creating scientific instruments and the low specific impulse produced by the completed R-7 engines (304 sec instead of the planned 309 to 310 sec). Consequently, the government rescheduled the launch for April 1958. Object D would later fly as Sputnik 3. Dotson's Other Note: Fearing the U.S. would launch a satellite before the USSR, OKB-1 suggested the creation and launch of a satellite in April-May 1957, before the IGY began in July 1957. The new satellite would be simple, light (100 kg or 220 lb), and easy to construct, forgoing the complex, heavy scientific equipment in favor of a simple radio transmitter. On 15 February 1957 the Council of Ministers of the USSR approved this simple satellite, designated 'Object PS'. This version allowed the satellite to be tracked visually by Earth-based observers, and it could transmit tracking signals to ground-based receiving stations. The launch of two satellites, PS-1 and PS-2, with two R-7 rockets (8K71), was approved, provided that the R-7 completed at least two successful test flights. Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at dlewis1@stx.rr.com. FOR YOUR IN-FORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 – 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-

\*At his time I was assigned to The Nike **Ajax Ground Guidance Division, fort** Bliss, Texas TO BE CONTINUED

hear from you.

882-5397...It's your two hours, please let us



With the annual meeting of the members of the Padre Isles coming up this weekend I went to do some research and it sent me down a rabbit hole reminding me of the chaos that was the Padre Isles Property Owners Association only a six years ago. The first story I found from March 2017

POA Monthly Meeting Erupts in Accusations, Heated Exchanges, and Board Resignation

Annual members meeting Saturday, March

By Dale Rankin Since mid-2016 there has been an armed guard at each of the monthly meetings of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association. So far he has not had to draw his weapon but if things continue down the path trod at the organization's monthly meeting Tuesday the day may not be far ahead when a warning shot is in order. The most tumultuous meeting in memory, it included a vigorous hour-long exchange between board members and about thirty agitated, POA members/Island homeowners, voicing long-held complaints about lack of transparency, POA landscaping regulations, and a perceived lack of communication between association members and board members, ending in a request from several audience members that the organization needs to "move in a new direction." The election that immediately followed was without a doubt the most contentious and chaotic in the history of the organization requiring three, three! rounds of voting to elect three new members to the seven-member board. The reason for that was that no one had read the organization's bylaws and for decades elections had been done on a plurality basis but when the bylaws were finally consulted they stated that to be elected a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast. That doesn't sound like a big deal but it turned out to be an insurmountable hurdle with one exception; in the first round of balloting Marvin Jones was elected with 869 votes out of 1292 cast with 646 needed for a majority. Another round of voting failed to produce a majority for any candidate and a third round of voting was launched and looked like it would produce the same lack of resolution until the board - while the voting was underway – changed the rules to call for a plurality rather than a majority for election and a full board was elected meaning that Mr. Jones is the only member of the board to be elected by a majority of

#### A change in the wind

The POA is by nature an unwieldy beast which is the umbrella organization for 35 separate subdivisions each with their own set of bylaws. It is operated as a non-profit Limited Liability Corporation made up of property owners on The Island and at the time of that election it had an annual operating budget of about \$1.5 million and total assets of about \$9 million and it was an organization in the throes of dramatic and systemic change. The turmoil had begun two years before when it was announced that the board was moving to issue a design-build contract for a \$1.3 million community center which I described at the time as the organization's Stamp Act. It brought attention and was the catalyst for the change that was to come over next few years. It woke up members many of whom had no idea the organization had \$1.3 million to spend on a project or \$9 million in the bank and once again the bylaws were consulted and it was discovered soon enough that the board could not spend more than \$300,000 in a year and the community center project was dropped. But the first result of that turmoil waere questions about the POA Beautification Trust which at the time was being funded at \$20,000 per year from PIO dues. An audit was begun but the final result of the process was not an audit but rather styled as an Agreed Upon Procedures Report of the Island Beautification *Trust Account.* It looked at the period from October 2009 to June 2015 and a review of the check register found a total of \$226,082 had flowed through the account with \$126,170 of it coming from POA dues with little in the way of invoices or receipts. Without a formal audit the trust could not be dissolved under federal rules so the Beautification Trust was simply defunded but the fallout was still in the atmosphere

During this period the meetings frequently turned into shouting matches and on one occasion Jones had to leave his seat at the table and step between the board and an angry property owner after what the member perceived as an insult aimed at his wife from the board and the next meeting is when armed guards became part of the landscape at monthly meetings. It was into this environment that Jones stepped as the first Indian into the fort of an eventual slate of new members of the board who soon called for an audit of the POA books which led to this story in the December 12, 2018

when Jones joined the board in 2017.

issue of the Island Moon. POA Audit for 2017 Complete "Magnitude of errors" found The results from an audit of the books at

the Padre Isles Property Owners Association for the year 2017 and part of 2018 was released at the organization's monthly meeting Tuesday night found "no evidence of intentional wrongdoing" but numerous errors in recordkeeping that in one case over-reported income by \$1.2 million. It also found that due to lack of recording keeping some cash accounts and credits issued to homeowners cannot be tracked. CPA Nita Jayroe from the firm of Jennings, Hawley, & Co., P.C. read off a litany of specific problems she found with the recordkeeping and lack of systems for tracking incoming funds and outgoing credits extended to homeowners. The largest error in terms of dollars was \$1.2 million in income during the first three months of 2018 which under the Accrual Accounting Method being used by the former bookkeeper and accountant was recorded twice resulting in the reporting of \$2.4 million in assets in the organization's account when the amount was actually only half that sum. The mistake was discovered during the audit and has been corrected. Jayroe said the audit began in July, 2017 but was delayed due to "a magnitude of problems" and "because of the magnitude of errors we found we increased the scope" of the audit. "We don't normally do an audit in this scope unless we find this many problems," she said. The litany of problems found in the audit included but were not limited to: Poor internal control. Cash disbursements were not approved internally resulting the inability to track outgoing cash. She recommended a multiple-signature system be

put in place. Lack of documentation for

transactions. Jayroe said under the old sys-

tem there was "no way to tell when money

moved" and recommended that an officer of

the organization sign each cash transaction so that if questions arose at a later date they could be directed at the signator. Multiple credits on homeowner accounts. Jayroe reported that credits issued to individual homeowner accounts, in some cases going back several years, could not be tracked, verified, or the reason for the credit nor the amount determined. She said that while the dollar amounts of the credits issued by the POA could be found in some cases there were no explanations of whether the credit was a cash refund on money previously paid, a credit against future dues, why the credit was being issued, or what year the initial transaction took place. In some cases signatures were affixed indicating who in the POA structure authorized the credits or refunds, but not why they were being issued. "It is a question of poor practice," Jayroe said. "There is no documentation, how many dollars of credit were issued? Was it for an overpayment or an overcharge? There is no way to tell." **Offsetting journal entries.** It was this problem that led to the over-reporting of the \$1.2 million in the organization's bank account when three months of income was incorrectly recorded. Builders' deposits. Jayroe said that records of deposits made by builders, required when construction begins, in 2017 had "insufficient details or source of payment" making them difficult or impossible to fully track. Parking stickers. The parking stickers sold to Island residents by the POA are not tracked. "There is no way to know how many were sold," Jayroe said, making it impossible to know how many were purchased in cash. She recommends that the stickers be individually numbered to make them possible to track. **POA accounts.** Jayroe said that POA accounts were used for fundraising for non-POA projects and recommended the practice be stopped. In one case a check for

but no way to cross reference recipients of POA funds to see who got how much. We make them up! For years I had attended monthly POA meetings where two single sheets of paper were handed out; one a Balance Sheet and one a Cash Flow Statement with no backup material to show where the numbers came from for either. When a new Treasurer pointed out to a POA official that the numbers on the balance sheet did not in fact balance he asked if he could see the backup material and was told there wasn't any. "Where do you get these numbers?" he asked. "We make them up," came the reply.

\$3800 was issued from the POA accounts to

an Island organizations and once discov-

ered had to be refunded. When the smoke

cleared it was discovered that the organiza-

tion had seven separate bank accounts with

seven check books and seven debit cards

An Island thank you

That is a long way to get to my point here but I felt some perspective was in order as Marvin Jones leaves the board as President this month. I still can't figure out why he has put up with the slings and arrows that come with the unpaid job for six years except that he was simply trying to fix an organization that was badly in need of fixing. As I have told him for years he has made the POA meetings boring and leaves behind an organization in a much better place than where he found it.

And for that I can only say thank you for both, you will be missed.

#### Lake Padre cont. from A1

Bridge on SPID and gulf beaches. Funds for TIRZ #2 come from property taxes on new development inside the TIRZ #2 Zone, which encompasses the Lake Padre Development, between the years 2002 and 2042.

Developers have previously said the plan includes a minimum of \$750 million in private investment which according to plans filed this week include 50 acres of commercial space with two hotels, a retail village and entertainment district along the main canal, plus a full service marina, an apartment complex, townhomes and condominiums, a drystack boat storage facility, a gated residential area, and public space for outdoor events, and a pharmacy and grocery store. According to the filings when complete the development would provide more than 500 permanent jobs and \$7.5 million in annual city tax revenue.

Phase I of the project is now underway and the plans call for construction of buildings to begin in the fourth quarter of 2023. Plans call for the full project to take seven years to complete with construction of buildings at the site to begin in the fourth quarter of



# INFRASTRUCTURE **Underground Utilities** Canal, Seagate, & Bulkhead Cap Misc. Costs - Streets & Utilities

#### PHASE I | YEAR 1 (2023) | PROJECTED 5 YEAR BUILDOUT

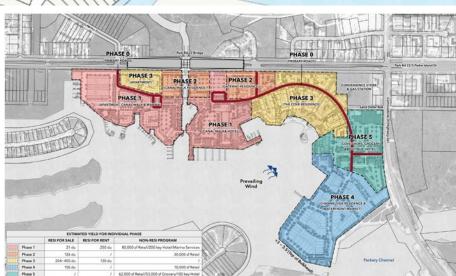
Proceed & Storage
Marina Retail
Phase I Marina Slips & Fuel Dock
Apartments - Phase 1
Resort Hotel
Canal Retail
Canal Residential for Sale
Boardwalk
Golf Cart & Pedestrian Bridge

#### PHASE II | YEAR 5 | Canal Residential for Sale Canal Retail II Parking Garages

PHASE III | YEAR 3 | PROJECTED 5 YEAR BUILDOUT Cove - Multi Family for Sale Apartments - Phase 2

pjected \$188,433,439





Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone

Corpus Cont. from A1

Phasing

sponsored a theater that was well attended." Future President U.S. Grant was one of the thespians who participated.

Colonel Kinney for his part, is said to have made up to a million dollars through deals with the Army and with interests in Mexico. He went so far as to mark the trail to Laredo by attaching a plowshare to the back of a wagon headed there to mark the route. Next he tried to get dredging done across the muddy flats between Aransas Pass and Corpus Christi. There apparently was some doubt about whether this would get done because when a newspaper editor wrote a story about the effort he ended with the sentence, "Every word of the above is true." Kinney organized a World's Fair and began promoting Corpus Christi as a jumping off point for caravans headed for the California gold fields.

But when General Taylor's army left town business had dropped off precipitously. In the 1850 census Corpus Christi had a population of 689 souls with 150 dwellings.

Hogs running wild in the streets Most prospectors arrived with everything they would need in California but little in the way of equipment to get there. Local merchants sold them wagons, carts, mules, and mustang horses caught in the Wild Horse Desert and tamed. The county commissioners court found it necessary to take action to keep hogs from running wild in the streets.

Indians continued to be a problem. Most of the trouble was along the trails in and out of Mexico in the vicinity of San Patricio township and along the banks of the Nueces River. A man who went out to bring in his cows for the evening milking was found murdered. Another went out to camp along the reef road and his mutilated body was found the next day.

A new Ranger company led by M.B. "Mus-

"All of our rangers are either mustered out

tang" Gray was organized and the Corpus

which renders the frontier entirely exposed at this time. Thieving parties of Indians may now make a descent upon the unprotected towns'

#### Gunfight in a Matamoros alley

Colonel Kinney served in the Senate for the First, Second, Third and Fourth legislatures of the new state of Texas. He also became increasingly involved in land speculation by buying large tracts of land and selling them to new immigrants. In 1852 he organized the Corpus Christi Fair in an effort to promote the region which was a success, however, h was less successful in luring settlers, and he began to lose money quickly. To recover some of his losses, he went to Washington in an attempt to persuade the government to invest in several schemes, including a camel corps to transport goods from Corpus Christi to San Francisco and an army hospital in Corpus Christi. None of the ideas took hold and Kinney then embarked on a venture to establish a colony in Nicaragua. Financed by New York speculators, he contracted for thirty million acres of land along the Mosquito Coast but faced stiff opposition from the United States government, and when his largest financial backer died Kinney was forced to abandon his plans.

When he returned he found that his wife had divorced him and then in 1862 he became involved in a feud between the Rojos and Crinolinos families in Matamoros and was shot and killed. The Fort Bend Flag newspaper of February 27, 1862 carried the official story which put Kinney in a dark alley one night while attempting to rekindle an old romance with a lady named Genoveva, with whom he had a daughter, and her current husband shot him.

Colonel Kinney went out the way he lived, down the barrel of a gun in a murky corner of civilization. But he had helped to birth a town and Corpus Christi was here to stay.



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Christi Star carried a story seeking troops: or are being mustered out of the service,

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



#### Basketball March Madness NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament

By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: The NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament, branded as NCAA March Madness and commonly called March Madness, is a single-elimination tournament played each spring in the United States, currently featuring 68 college basketball teams from the Division I level of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), to determine the national champion. The tournament was created in 1939 by the National Association of Basketball Coaches, and was the idea of Ohio State coach Harold Olsen. Played mostly during March, it has become one of the most popular annual sporting events in the United States, Thanks to my many friends in the NCAA and to all the more than 20K basketball officials that I have met and worked with from October 1946 to today March 20th 2023, for the facts contained in this report and, to Bill Morgan for the photos.



It has become extremely common in popular culture to predict the outcomes of each game, even among non-sports fans; it is estimated that tens of millions of Americans participate in a bracket pool contest every year. Mainstream media outlets such as ESPN, CBS Sports and Fox Sports host tournaments online where contestants can enter for free. Employers have also noticed a change in the behavior of employees during this time: they have seen an increase in the number of sick days used, extended lunch breaks and even the rescheduling of conference calls to allow for more tournament watching. Many handicappers and pundits also offer advice for winning their own bracket.

The tournament teams include champions from 32 Division I conferences (which receive automatic bids), and 36 teams which are awarded at-large berths. These "at-large" teams are chosen by an NCAA selection committee, then announced in a nationally televised event dubbed Selection Sunday. The 68 teams are divided into four regions and organized into a single-elimination "bracket", which pre-determines, when a team wins a game, which team it will face next. Each team is "seeded", or ranked, within its region from 1 to 16. After the First Four round, the remainder of the tournament begins the third Thursday of March, and is played over the course of three weekends, at pre-selected neutral sites across the United States. Teams, seeded by rank, proceed through a single-game elimination bracket beginning with the First Four round, a first round consisting of 64 teams playing in 32 games over the course of two days, the second round consisting of the 32 remaining teams playing in 16 games that weekend, the "Sweet Sixteen" and "Elite Eight" rounds the next week and weekend, respectively, and – for the last weekend of the tournament - the "Final Four" round. The two Final Four games are played the Saturday preceding the first Sunday in April, with the championship game on Monday. These four teams, one from each region (East, South, Midwest, and West), compete in a preselected location for the national championship.

The tournament has been at least partially televised on network television since 1969. Currently, the games are broadcast by CBS, TBS, TNT, and truTV under the

trade name NCAA March Madness. These networks paid the NCAA to broadcast the games in 2011. The contract was for 14 years and they paid \$10.8 billion. However, in 2018 that contract was extended for another seven years making it valid through the year 2032. The average payment over the years comes out to be \$891 million annually. Since 2011, all games are available for viewing nationwide and internationally. As television coverage has grown, so too has the tournament's popularity. Currently, millions of Americans fill out a bracket, attempting to correctly predict the outcome of 63 games of the tournament (not including the First Four games).

Both 2020 men's and women's tournaments were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 tournament was subsequently played at various venues in Indiana, the first (and only) time that a tournament has been hosted in its entirety by one state.

**Tournament Format** 



The tournament consists of 68 teams competing in seven rounds of a single-elimination bracket. Thirty-two teams automatically qualify for the tournament by winning their conference tournament, played during the two weeks before the tournament, and thirty-six teams qualify by receiving an at-large bid based on their performance during the season. The Selection Committee determines the at-large bids, ranks all the teams 1 to 68, and places the teams in the bracket, all of which is revealed publicly on the Sunday before the tournament, dubbed Selection Sunday by the media and fans. There is no reseeding during the tournament and matchups in each subsequent round are predetermined by the bracket.

The tournament is divided into four regions, with each region having sixteen to eighteen teams. Regions are named after broad geographic regions of the United States, which vary from year to year.

Dotson's Other Note: The tournament is played over three weekends, with two rounds occurring each weekend. Before the first weekend, eight teams compete in the First Four to advance to the First Round. Two games pair the lowest-ranked conference champions and two games pair the lowest-ranked at-large qualifiers. The First and Second Rounds are played during the first weekend, the Regional Semifinals and Regional Finals during the second weekend, and the National Semifinals and Championship Game during the third weekend. Regional rounds are branded as the Sweet Sixteen and Elite Eight and the third weekend is branded as the Final Four, all named after the number of teams remaining at the beginning of the round. All games, including the First Four, are scheduled so that teams will have one rest day between each game. This format has been in use since 2011, with minor changes to the schedule in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**How Is Your Bracket?** 

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#### Is Anyone Sitting Here?

By Andy Purvis



**Bob Aspromonte** 

It was a Saturday afternoon in June of 2002, when I arrived at Minute Maid Park in downtown Houston, Texas, home of the Houston Astros. I had two weekend season tickets in the last row behind home plate. On this particular day, I was alone and a fellow dressed in a suit and tie approached me and asked, "Is anyone sitting here?" "No," I said, "Have a seat." He was over 6 feet tall, slender, wore glasses and had gray hair. You don't see very many people in coats and ties at a baseball game. Over the years I had sat close by many different scouts and former players from other teams and once met President George Herbert Bush and his wife Barbara, along with Astros' owner, Drayton McLain.

My new friend asked if I knew a lot about baseball. I said "I think so." Then he said, "I see you like to keep score," and I nodded, yes. "Do you know who holds the record for grand slams?" he asked. I said, "Yes, it's Lou Gehrig with 23." "No," he said, "I mean for the Astros. Who holds the record for grand slams for the Astros?" I did not know but was willing to guess. I offered Glenn Davis, Jeff Bagwell, Jimmy Wynn, Jose Cruz, and Rusty Staub as he shook his head side to side, and then I said, "I don't know, who was it?" He said, "It's me." Now I'm embarrassed, especially since I'd had a radio sports talk show for about ten years at the time and really do spend a lot of time on baseball. So, I said, "And who are you?" He grinned like a catfish, stuck out his hand and said, "I'm Bob Aspromonte."

I remembered the name and shook his hand while he snickered at me. I knew a bit about his background and asked him to autograph my program. He was actually with his brother Ken, who had played professionally for six different clubs before becoming the Manager of the Cleveland Indians. They both had seats down in front of me. I remembered a story I had heard years ago about Bob and a kid who was blind. I asked him to tell me the tale.

Bob Aspromonte signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1957 at the age of 18. He was from Brooklyn, New York, and went to high school with pitcher Sandy Koufax. He played third base for the Colt 45's from 1962-1968 and became one of Houston's first baseball stars. He set the National League record for errorless games with 57 at third base. Bob hit 60 home runs during his thirteen-year career and, in 1971;

he became the last of the original Brooklyn Dodgers to retire.

In 1962, a nine-year-old kid named Billy Bradley, living in Arkansas, was struck by lightning and blinded while playing on a baseball diamond. He was moved to Methodist Hospital in Houston for eye surgery and listened to the Colt 45's games on the radio. His favorite player in baseball was Houston's Bob Aspromonte. Billy's dad called the Colt 45's and asked to meet with Aspromonte. Bob was told what Billy had said and decided to visit Billy in the hospital. Bob took Billy Bradley a signed ball and a glove. Billy was blindfolded and could not see anything, including Bob. Shades of Babe Ruth, Billy Bradley asked Bob to hit a home run for him in his next game.

Once the press caught wind of the request, added pressure was applied in interview after interview. As fate would have it, in Bob Aspromonte's last at-bat with Billy Bradley listening to the game on the radio in the hospital, Bob hit a home run. Houston announcer Bob Elston screamed, "This one is for you, Billy Bradley.'

Interestingly, the following year, after several more surgeries, Aspromonte visited little Billy one more time in the hospital and again Billy asked Bob to hit him a home run. Bob Aspromonte delivered this time with a grand slam. Luckily for Bob, Billy eventually regained part of his sight, but this is not the end of the story.

On July 26, 1963, after receiving partial sight from further surgery, little Billy Bradley attended his first Houston Colt 45's baseball game. He had asked Bob Aspromonte to hit him another home run. Billy was finally going to see his hero play in person. "When he asked again, I said, 'Billy you're really pushing your luck. Will you settle for two base hits?"" said Bob. In the first inning Bob came to the plate with the bases loaded against the New York Mets. Pitching for the Mets was Tracy Stallard, the same guy who had given up Roger Maris's 61st home run in 1961, to break Babe Ruth's single season homerun record. Apsromonte hit another grand slam over the left field wall and the place went crazy. Bob was crying, Billy was crying. The fans were crying. The game was stopped so Billy could come down on the field where the two embraced. Bob gave Billy the baseball. All was right in the world, or was it?

There is still more to this story. In 1974, during a freak accident, Bob Aspromonte was blinded when a car battery blew up in his face. The same surgeon who had restored Billy Bradley's vision performed surgery on Bob Aspromonte. The surgery gave Bob back about 40% of his sight, but required him to wear glasses. Bob Aspromonte hit a team record six grand slams during his career for the Houston Astros and became a successful Budweiser Distributor and Billy Bradley became an executive with Merrill Lynch Insurance Company in Memphis, Tennessee. They still visit with each other quite often. Bob turns 84 this year. A life well lived as the

last of the Brooklyn Dodgers. So, that's the story of how I met Bob Aspromonte.

> Andy Purvis www.purvisbooks.com



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# The Island Outdoors



By Jay Gardner

Talk about being at the right place at the right time! I'm sure you've heard about this already, but if you haven't, check this out; the other day at Nueces County Commissioners Court during public comment, someone had a full-on heart attack in the audience (go back and watch it!). Guy

passes out on camera, and the meeting shuts down. What you don't see, however, is that our buddy JP Hominick from ESD#2 was there because they were on the agenda for discussion on their future. JP immediately got the guy down and started CPR on him and saved his life! Way to go JP! Desalination briefing

I invited myself to the Port of Corpus Christi's (PoCC) presentation on desalination the other day. Abraham Tenne, former Chairman of the Israeli Government Desalination Administration gave a talk on their history, trends, and future plans of their desal plants. That was extremely eye opening to hear from someone who's been doing desal for the past 30 years. The crowd, which included half of city council and City Manager Peter Zanoni, were pretty spellbound the whole time. I took maybe two pages of notes, and I'll try to give you the short story.

He started off with some background, and that there are some similarities between Texas and Israel, the main one being is that we are both on the edges of both the desert and the sea. We have similar rainfall totals, and he characterized both of our areas as being globally "water stressed." That's pretty much where the similarities ended, as they have been proactive about their water sources and usage. He also mentioned that they are getting less precipitation over the years and are planning to go entirely to water re-use and desal.

The Israelis treat their water as their most important commodity. They get less than half of their water from rainfall, while we are entirely dependent on rainfall. They also re-use their wastewater, and boast an 87% reuse percentage, while we just dump our wastewater straight into the bays. I inferred a bit of judging from Abraham when he said that. They have invested in major infrastructure to clean and re-use their

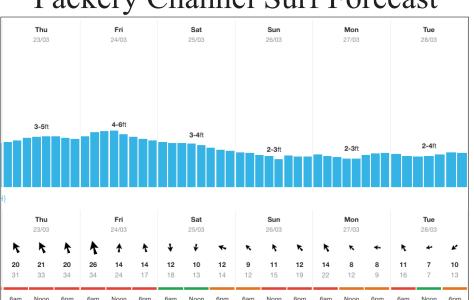
wastewater and pipe it all over the place, where it is primarily used for agriculture. They also charge their end users (us!) full price for the water and don't subsidize it with government funds. The funny thing is that the price per thousand gallons is about the same as what we are charged today, here. I suppose the thing that shocked everyone in the room is that the brine that they pump back into the sea only affects an area 700-900 feet (guessing circumference?). He also said that the outfall pipe is a popular fishing spot as it aggregates fish. They have invested in smart meters that alert them when either water or the reuse water pipes have a leak. He boasted less than a 10% loss of water (which includes evaporation from some use of open aqueducts) and inferred that we might be experiencing a 30% loss of water alone, besides the wastewater which is a 90% loss (accounting for the removal of solids). These meters also check up on end users, and landlords can get data on their renters in nearly real time. Seems like Big Brother is watching you take a shower over there, but they take water seriously. They are allocating real estate for fu-

On the Rocks

ture plants. They have five main plants, including the Soreq, Hadera, Ashkelon, Palmachim, and the Ashdod plants which produce about 475,000-acre feet per year, and plans to expand the Sorek plant. They currently use natural gas to run the

plants and plans that future plants will use renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. Their plants produce enough water that they have built a pipeline to the Sea of Galilee and have restoration plans for that body of water. I would like to see us take the pressure off the Nueces River and allow more freshwater to get into the Nueces delta. Who knows, maybe we could get tarpon and snook back in the bays in the process of creating a permanent, reliable water source for the future. I can dream. Anyhoo folks, we're past spring break and hopefully headed into actual spring, as I'm tired of the cold. Welcome to town Laura and family. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and I'll see you next week here On the Rocks

#### Packery Channel Surf Forecast



#### Tides of the Week

|        |        | Truc   | S 01   | LIIC V | VCCK   |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 24 Mar | 25 Mar | 26 Mar | 27 Mar | 28 Mar | 29 Mar | 30 Mar | 31 Mar |
| Fri 🛂  | Sat 🚜  | Sun 🛂  | Mon ∠* | Tue 🥕  | Wed 🥕  | Thu 🥕  | Fri 🥕  |
|        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |

| <b>6:46AM</b><br>1.71ft | 8:13AM  | 9:53AM  | 11:41AM | 1:01PM  | 1:58PM  | 2:39PM | 3:07PM |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| <b>3:44PM</b><br>1.08ft | 1.71ft  | 1.74ft  | 1.77ft  | 1.77ft  | 1.74ft  | 1.71ft | 1.61ft |
| 2:03PM<br>1.05ft        |         | 00:20AM | 1:10AM  | 2:09AM  | 3:19AM  | 4:35AM | 5:46AM |
| <b>11:35PM</b> -0.1ft   |         | -0.16ft | -0.16ft | -0.1ft  | -0.03ft | 0.07ft | 0.1ft  |
| 7:28AM                  | 7:27AM  | 7:26AM  | 7:25AM  | 7:23AM  | 7:22AM  | 7:21AM | 7:20AM |
| 7:42PM                  | 7:42PM  | 7:43PM  | 7:43PM  | 7:44PM  | 7:44PM  | 7:45PM | 7:45PM |
|                         |         |         |         |         |         |        |        |
| 11:03PM                 |         | 00:05AM | 1:05AM  | 2:02AM  | 2:55AM  | 3:42AM | 4:24AM |
| 9:22AM                  | 10:00AM | 10:41AM | 11:27AM | 12:17PM | 1:10PM  | 2:05PM | 3:01PM |

#### Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah Farah's Fishing Adventures



Big reds like Mr. Dick Butler's are hunting the islands south of Bird Island. We caught this giant on a DOWN SOUTH LURES Poppa Pearl colored model.

We are getting Spring from all sides now! Spring tides are rolling in from the north, water and fish of all kinds entering from Port A and PACKERY Channel, and from the southern flow from Port Mansfield. This is a wonderful time of year to get out and get your first sunburn, and experience some of the best fishing of the year.

We have been seeing lots of bait and gamefish flowing in from the Gulf Passes for a month, but now there are floods of trout spawning, redfish hunting crabs, and black drum digging for shrimp. This is an island walk a mile in any direction and cast out a line, odds are your going to catch a fish. The Port A jetties are a dynamite place to take the family fishing, or walk the rocks hunting big trout. First light is always best swimming silver spoons and soft plastics between the rocks. The north Jetty can be accessed by the jetty boat and offers a remote beach and the rocks are definitely laid out differently over there. Using live shrimp or soft plastic lures under a popping cork will keep you out of the rock Staggs and attract fish to your bait. Sheep head and sand trout are also still thick along the rocks and an easy walk through will let you know where and what bait fishermen are catching them on.



Ricky From Italy came to visit Chuck and Julie Holloway who he lived with during his time as an exchange student, and brought this nice trout to hand along the King Ranch Shoreline.

At dawn's light, the white pelicans were already swimming off of the beach. Moving out into the flat spreading out to herd small minnows into the thick grass and dip down and grab them by the mouthful. I laid our drift right between the flocks, when we neared the thick grass they had been surrounding three rods bent over at once with trout coming to the top of the bay jumping and thrashing. We drifted through the school and let out two anglers that wanted to wade fish. They circled around to apron upwind of the thick grass and school of trout. I watched from the boat on second drift a hundred yards down. I could see the surface erupt in white water every few casts, between us hooking up from the boat. Following spring bird consecrations will keep you close to the richest fishing areas. Birds of all kinds indicate some food sources, not just sea gulls diving into the water. Islands and shorelines with shore birds eating small crabs or digging for worms will tell you that redfish are hunting it's banks for the crabs and drum are digging up the worms. Small key insides to

#### Baffin Bay and Island canals

send you into the right direction.

My boat has been aimed towards the famous waters of Baffin Bay. Getting away from the crowds and hunting the highway of gamefish in the most remote reaches of our bay system. Topwaters at first light have been yielding explosive strikes to start the days off. We are sight casting to sand pockets all day in 2-3 feet of water. Many times watching big trout slam the lures and eye us as they fight their way to hand.

Even the fishing in the canals behind the homes has been good, many friends have sent pictures of keeper trout caught off of the docks. This is a special time of year when our minds, bodies, and souls need the winds of Spring to blow away winter's cover, and the warm sun to clear our hearts of winter's chill. Give me a call and let's find your day this April, May, and summer to share life long memories with friends

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Some great slot sized trout from shallow water wade fishing this week in Baffin Bay.



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Island Moon March 24, 20

#### Nature Notes

#### Texas Ants: Friend or Foe?

By Celeste Silling



Red Harvester Ants have large, square heads. Photo by Judy Gallagher:

Ever since I moved to Texas, I have been plagued by ants. In New Mexico, where I grew up, ants were nothing more than mildly annoying pest. But here, they can be real terrors! I can't tell you how many ant bites I've gotten in my few years of living here, and some of them were truly painful. So in an effort to better understand what I'm up against, I did a little research on Texas ants. Know thy enemy, right?

There are over 14,000 species of ants in the world and more than 250 of them are native to Texas. Additionally, we have some ant species that are invasive to the area. Native species are ones that are originally from here. Invasive species are ones that are not originally from here and are thriving after being introduced to the area. Why is does this distinction matter? Well, invasive species don't really belong here and can harm the native species or take away resources from native species.

Perhaps the most well-known invasive ant species is the Red Fire Ant. These bugs are on my naughty list. They are reddish brown, build large mounds, and have a

terrible attitude. If disturbed, they will bite and sting repeatedly. Red Fire Ants were brought to North America in the 1930s from Argentina. They were most likely brought in on accident as they were stowing away on imports. And they've been wreaking havoc ever since, displacing native insects, taking over habitats, and biting me!

On the other hand, many native ants play important roles in our ecosystem. Red Harvester Ants, for example, gather seeds and store them underground. This can help plants grow because they disperse seeds. These ants are relatively easy to spot; there's usually a big open area around their nest, and they have big square heads. On the downside, these ants can bite and sting, so watch out!

One of my new-found favorite ants is the Pyramid Ant. These are small and pale orange to dark brown. They don't bite or sting, and they benefit humans by eating garden pests, including fire ants. While I'm not the biggest fan of ants, I might keep these in my garden, as they sound like nice neighbors.

One of the most important things that native ants do is improving the soil. They turn and aerate the soil, allowing plant roots better access to water and air. This helps the plants grow. Native ants can also be an important food source for other wildlife such as toads, lizards, and woodpeckers.

So, it would seem that there is far more to these little bugs than one might think. While the invasive ants, like the Red Fire Ants, are a complete nuisance, the native ants are not. Of the hundreds of native ant species in our state, each one has its own niche and role to play in the ecosystem. Many don't bite and are actually quite beneficial to humans. So, before you call an exterminator, make sure: are these ants friend, or foe?

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#### Going Native

By Ed Proffitt

#### Coral Bean

I like hummingbirds. These little bits of avi-nature can go from hovering in front of a flower or feeder to zipping off at what appears to a casual observer to be near warp speed. They migrate through our area in Spring and Fall, and if we have more of the plants that they like, we get to enjoy their company in abundance for a while. Various native plants will attract these birds, one of the best in my opinion is coral bean, Erythrina herbacea, a woody legume shrub with thorns beautiful red, tubular flowers. In this area they can grow several feet tall and produce dense foliage. If you travel into Mexico, where in most lowland places winters are very much not-winter as we know it, you may find this to be a tree perhaps of twenty feet in height. One of the small ones in my yard is blooming this

This very showy plant will do well in full sun and is somewhat drought tolerant, once it has established deeper roots. Coral bean grows well on dry sand or clay with little nutrients or water. It may die back during hard freezes but will often resprout from the base in the spring and grow rapidly. The picture showing a coral bean plant growing half as tall as an adjoining mesquite tree was taken a on a vacant lot on Padre Island a couple of years ago and appears to have survived the 2021 freeze.

Coral bean may drop its leaves in the winter even if there are not hard freezes as it is deciduous, especially in our climate. However, a few months later it may bloom even before leaves appear, so don't be surprised if you see that occur. Seed pods crack open to reveal red shiny seeds, but be careful, they are poisonous. In some places they are used as a rat poison. For those who want to eat them (not me!) reports say that only the young leaves and red flowers are non-toxic and then only if boiled. Like certain other native plants that we consider poisonous, some Native American tribes used various concoctions of plant parts to treat some illnesses. So, if you have rats --- show them your coral bean! That said, some animals, such as deer, will consume the seeds and may thereby aid in dispersal.

The plant can be readily propagated from cuttings of stems, from root stock,



or from the seeds once mature (scarify the seed coat a bit with a knife...they'll germinate readily). They are somewhat salt tolerant, and can handle a degree of wind-born salt mist. If your location borders saline water, you'll need to plant coral bean well above where any inundation occurs. A future article will suggest cool native plants for sites frequently or occasionally inundated with salty water.

So there you have it. Another potential native plant addition to your flower garden, possibly placed near a window so you can watch the hummingbirds from the comfort of your favorite chair with coffee in hand, or in the afternoon, maybe something stronger. Keep in mind you'll be not only promoting bird (and butterfly) habitat, you'll be conserving south Texas water supplies in this semi-arid region.

This, and all plants native to Padre Island have deep roots in our area. Deep in terms of having adapted to the somewhat stressful environmental conditions associated with a barrier island in a semi-arid climate. They deserve our respect, our actions to aid in their conservation, and that includes the use of native plants, where appropriate, in our yards. Go native, help conserve Padre Island.



#### Full Transparency and Disclosure

PIPOA News by Marvin Jones, President

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

Members of the PIPOA, this is my last article for the Moon as a member of the Board and President of the PIPOA Board. I am not running for re-election because the bylaws have a two-three-year term limit. However, I am grandfathered in so that I could run again. Therefore, I am adhering to the intent of the two-term limit. It has been an honor to represent property owners for the past six years. Thank you one and all for your support. A big Thank-you to Sandy Graves, whose three-year term is expiring and is not running again. Hope to see you around the Island.

Bylaw Amendment- This is the Bylaw Amendment that will be on the upcoming ballot. Simply put, the amendment says that a subdivision that reduces or eliminates the Maintenance charge shall cease to qualify for membership in the PIPOA. The Board of Directors asks that members vote for this amendment to the

oylaws .01 MEMBERSHIP. Membership n the Association shall be limited to wners of record title of a lot within hose certain platted subdivisions located on Padre Island, Nueces County, Texas, dentified in Exhibit A attached hereto hereinafter sometimes referred to as he "Subdivisions") that are subject o a recorded Protective Covenants and Landowners Agreement or other ledicatory instrument that obligates he owners of lots in such Subdivision o pay an annual maintenance charge o the Association (the "Maintenance Charge Covenant"). Owners of lots n a Subdivision that terminates the Maintenance Charge Covenant or modifies he Maintenance Charge Covenant in such manner that it eliminates or reduces the mount of the annual maintenance charge

obligation to be paid to the Association

by the owners of lots subject to such

Maintenance Charge Covenant shall

be a member in the Association.

cease to qualify for membership in the

Association and shall thereafter no longer

Election Ballots- The ballots for the Board Election to be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023, have been mailed, and you should have received your ballot. You have two options regarding how to cast your ballot.

- 1. You can vote electronically via the internet. Simply follow the instructions in the voter guide. This is the preferred way as it is fast and simple. Please vote online!
- 2. You can vote by bringing your ballot to the annual meeting and depositing it in the ballot box. The annual meeting will be held on March 25, 2023, at 10:00 AM. You must drop off your ballot no later than 10:20 for the ballot to be counted. The address where the annual meeting will be held at the North Padre Island Baptist Church, 14253 South Padre Island Drive, across from Whataburger.
- 3. There are two board seats up for election. One person has registered to run, and his name appears on the ballot. There are two write-in places on the ballot. There is a bylaw amendment on the ballot as well.
- 4. Do not bring your ballot to the PIPOA office. It will not be accepted.

Your vote is important. Please vote now.

The Padre Isles Property Owners Association's Annual meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2023, at 10:00 AM at the Padre Island Baptist Church across from Whataburger. There are two seats on the Board up for election. Only one person signed up to run during the registration period. Therefore, there will be an opportunity for write-in candidates on the ballot, and nominations for candidates may be made from the floor at the meeting. If you are interested in being on the Board, here is an excellent opportunity.

There is a regularly scheduled monthly Board meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Padre Island Baptist Church across from Whataburger.



Brion and Lynnda Hunsaker took the Moon to Pagosa Springs Colorado for Lynnda's birthday on February 4. Lynnda says she and Brion were given normal names with unusual spellings and they fell in love at their 20 year King High School reunion and she says it's been a wonderful life 29 years. Congratulations you guys and thanks for taking the Moon along!



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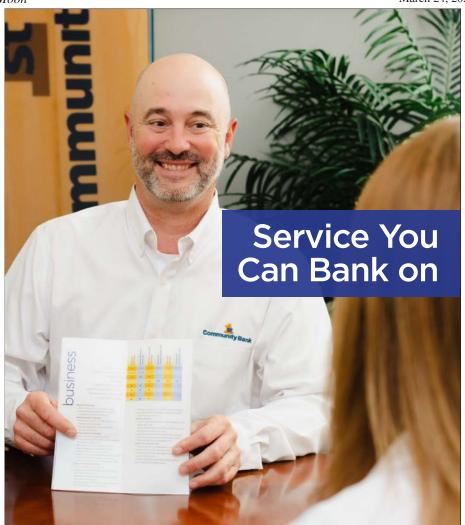
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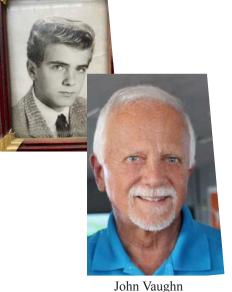
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# Island University Student Selected for Houston Rockets Clutch City Dancers

Corpus Christi A&M student Lissa Beth will graduate this spring with a Bachelor of Science in University Studies with a focus in biology but meanwhile has landed a spot on the NBA Houston Rockets Clutch City Dancers. Beth was also a member of the Islander Dance Team. After making the team, she performed regularly at university events like Islander Lights performed at Islander basketball games earning the role of team captain during the 2021-2022 season. She was also a founding member of the TAMU-CC Dance Company. Beth said it was the Islanders Men's Basketball historic appearance in the 2022 NCAA March Madness Tournament that

"At the time of March Madness, I had just heard about an opening on the Clutch City Dance Team, but I was still unsure of my next move," Beth said. "Performing at the

inspired her to take her talents to the next



NCAA Tournament was the turning point that finalized my decision. It was my first experience performing in front of thousands of basketball fans in Ohio. The energy I felt in that arena was electric."

Following the NCAA Tournament, Beth

Following the NCAA Tournament, Beth was invited to attend a summer training camp alongside a cohort of former Rocket's dancers. There, she said, she built the courage to attend try-outs.

"To be completely honest, I was in shock the second I found out I made the team," Beth said. "I could not believe that my lifelong dream of being an NBA dancer for my home state came true. I get to work with the best dance coaches in the NBA who have given me so much perspective. My teammates inspire me and it's a true sisterhood. I am still so overwhelmingly grateful for every second I get to spend on that court."









Wildlife Photos by Tom Howe

# Texas Shorelines: Know How to Escape the Grip of the Rip

By: Sara Carney Communications Manager, Texas Sea

Now that it's spring and warmer weather is on the way, you may be planning a trip to the beach. And with Texas' nearly 370 miles of coastline, there is a lot of beach to explore. Before you go, there are a few things you need to know about staying safe from rip currents. According to the United States Lifesaving Association, approximately 30,000 rescues from rip currents in the U.S. each year.

"It's the number one public safety risk at the beach in the U.S. and worldwide," said Dr. Greg Dusek, NOAA senior scientist and rip current expert. In 2022, 98 rip current fatalities were recorded in the United States, according to NOAA, up from 74 in 2020.

Rip currents are sneaky and form where water appears to be calm. They generally appear where there is a gap in the line of breaking waves. Sometimes the water can appear darker where there is a rip current. You may even see sand and foam being pulled away from shore by the rip current. Rip currents often form near piers, jetties and groins. Rip currents can be from 100 to 400 meters long, 15 to 100 meters wide, and can last anywhere from minutes to months, according to NOAA.

Rip currents typically travel at 1 to 2 feet per second but can reach speeds up to 8 feet per second, similar to the pace of the fastest Olympic swimmers. Stay safe from rip currents by checking the surf conditions before you go to the beach. While at the beach, stay near lifeguards and if waters are rough, don't go past your knees.

Beaches on the Texas coast use the standard

flag system from the International Life Saving Federation. Each flag has a meaning that details important information about beach conditions. Green means conditions are calm, but caution should be exercised. Yellow flags indicate medium hazard, meaning that some rip current activity is expected. Red flags mean high surf and strong currents are present, and that dangerous and intense rip currents are expected to form.

These flags are generally found at beach entrances and at lifeguard stations. Use these flags to make informed decisions about going to the beach and getting in the water. Just because a flag isn't there, doesn't mean there aren't hazards present. While rip currents will not pull you under the water, you can exhaust yourself if you try to swim against them. If caught in a rip

current, don't fight. Instead, try to float or

swim parallel to shore once you've escaped

tread water, yell and wave for help, and

the current. Marine Masters Mobile Marine Service We've been providing Certified Technicians quality marine repairs at Yamaha Honda your place since 2001. Suzuki Mercury Operator Owner Evinrude • Mariner Jon Reynolds Johnson Volvo

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# Get Quackin"! By Pastor Kris Bair

Seen any ducks lately? For the record, my ducks would be in a row if they didn't keep multiplying on me!

This happens every spring—and not just because I'm a pastor and it's Lent.
Once we lose that hour of time,

things just start piling up. At least, it feels that way.

At church, it's on beyond busy four worship services to prepare for Holy Week, in addition to the weekly Sunday services during the weeks before Palm

I don't use a "canned" service. Worship deserves to be crafted carefully, and I try to do so, aiming all its parts toward helping to explain the sermon and the Scriptures behind it.

This means one must have the sermons in mind, if not written, before the service can be pulled together.

Did you know? A Pew survey of ministers of a variety of faiths (not just my flavor) revealed that pastors average about 12 hours a week preparing for Sunday worship. At our church, multiply that by four for the eight days of Holy Week/Easter.

Of course, we could choose to provide daily

services and/or lengthy ones—like the allnight vigil before Easter morning.
And lots of churches, including ours,
provide special Lenten Bible studies,
fellowship meals, mission projects, etc.
Lent comes on top of Spring, and that, in
itself, brings a load of tasks that impact not
just our lives, but Lent!
Time change is the biggest bother, IMHO\*.

I'm still in Daylight Savings Time recoverythe switching is worse than intercontinental jetlag.

And as you reel in adjustment (quack,

quack), you've got to do some real-world multitasking—gardens to plant; spring break to prepare for; house to clean; visitors to feed; Easter meal to plan; cars to swab out; closets to reorganize, etc.

Through it all, hairy pets are shedding winter coats here, there, and everywhere. Sigh.

During Lent you can count on three things:

1. Lenten days will steadily pass, one by one--Lent will not extend beyond Easter!

- 2. Potholes will get bigger.
- 3. And you can count on NOT being able to count on the weather. After all, it's spring.

Actually, the list of things you can NOT count on is vast.

Easter lily availability.

Palm branches arriving in time for Palm Sunday.

The weather.

Choir members all being in town for either Palm Sunday or Easter.

The causeway bridge being finished.

The weather.

Sinuses being adequate as the air fills with pollen from up north, blown south on those fronts that keep moving through with the weather you can't count on.

Breads rising properly; cakes not collapsing The weather.

The grocery store having stocked enough (toilet paper?).

Kids, if you have them, staying healthy and well-behaved as they careen through a week off from school.

The weather. Isn't it just ducky?
That barge being demolished and removed.
Bars and restaurants having enough

staff for spring break.

And, yet again, the weather.

Welcome, sweet springtime—quack, quack,

quack!
At Island Presbyterian Church,
Gypsy and Fortuna Bay, we are quacking
along nicely, thank-you. Check us out at
10 a.m. on Sundays, in the sanctuary or on
livestream and Zoom from our website or
Facebook page.

Beach worship through October begins on May 7. Shoes are optional!

And Spring Fling--with lots of vendors, free info, fun projects for kids, free pet chipping food and drink, and much more--happens in the church parking lot on May 6, 11-2. If you'd like to be one of our vendors at no cost, contact us through our FB page, ASAF And may your ducks start lining up for summer!

\*For non-texters, IMHO means "in my humble opinion."



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Going Easy On You...

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|   |   |   |   | 4 | 6 |   |   |   |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 |   |   |   | 2 |   |
| 2 | 5 |   |   | 9 |   |   |   | 1 |

#### Knuckle-Cracker

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|   |   | 6 | 3 |   |   | 7 | 4 |   |

#### Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

#### Brain-Buster

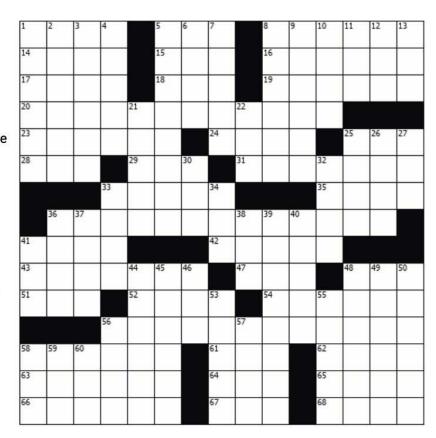
|   | Brettit Buster |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 |                |   |   |   |   | 4 | 1 |   |
|   |                |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 4              |   | 1 |   |   | 9 | 8 |   |
|   |                |   | 8 |   |   |   | 2 |   |
| 7 |                |   | 2 | 5 | 6 |   |   | 9 |
|   | 8              |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |
|   | 2              | 5 |   |   | 9 |   | 4 |   |
|   |                |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 9              | 3 |   |   |   |   |   | 6 |

#### **Moon Crossword**

#### Crossword Solution on classifieds page

#### Across

- 1. Get it all together?
- 5. Word on terrycloth, sometimes
- King and queen, e.g.
- 14. Guy closely following the news
- 15. Giant great
- Highway access
- 17. Bitty's partner
- 18. Debussy's "La \_\_\_"
- 19. One-named folk singer
- NASCAR pit worker, e.g. 23. Site of the Apollo
- Theater
- 24. Dole (out)
- 25. Brave moguls
- 28. NFL scores
- 29. Break fast or breakfast
- 31. Mimic 33. Half of an audio
- cassette
- 35. Hearing aids
- 36. It's often found in the
- attic
- 41. Long, long time
- 42. Regions
- 43. Super saver?
- 47. Pt. of USDA 48. Public transport
- 51. Mork's planet
- 52. They sometimes clash
- 54. A-flat, enharmonically
- 56. Result of a rough workout, perhaps
- 58. Pancake comparative 61. Olive, for one
- 62. Elisabeth of "Leaving
- Las Vegas"
- Sound at an opened floodgate
- 64. "Just the Way You \_\_\_"
- 65. Informed 66. Noted Kitt
- 67. Born
- 68. Fix, at the vet's



#### Down

- 1. Slender
- 2. Foursome
- 3. Buries
- King or queen, e.g. 5. Like Mom's apple pie
- 6. List unit
- 7. Senator Thurmond
- 8. Grew fond of 9. Financially strapped
- 10. Deuce beater
- 11. Back muscle, to Billy Blanks
- 12. CPR giver
- 13. Relaxing resort
- 21. "Now you \_\_\_, now

- 22. Compag rival 25. Sweep with
- binoculars
- 26. Small racer that
- makes kids "go" 27. "\_\_\_ Now or Never"
- 30. Driver's aid
- 32. Pro votes
- 33. Trap topper
- 34. Chicken \_\_\_ king 36. Tear's partner
- 37. Pawn
- 38. Big Band \_\_\_
- 39. "Fever" singer 40. Like some criticism
- 41. GI's address

- 44. Go over and over and ...
- 45. Mystery writer
- Christie
- 46. Craggy height 48. Cruise the pubs
- 49. Actress Andress 50. Rapid
- 53. "Wake of the Ferry" painter
- 55. Party givers
- 56. Coagulate
- 57. Land of the
- leprechaun 58. Wonderment
- 59. \_\_\_ Na Na
- 60. "\_\_\_ he's a jolly ..."

#### **Police Blotter** March 14-20th

#### intersection Disturbance

13500 block SPID 10 a.m. March 19 Possession of Marijuana/Controlled Substance Suspicious Person 13500 block SPID 1 p.m. March 15

Traffic

154 Traffic Stops 13500 block SPID 10 p.m. March 18 Crash

14000 block SPID 10 a.m. March 17 Crash 14000 block SPID 10 a.m. March 17 Crash SPID West to Laguna Madre

#### Crimes against Person 15200 block SPID 6 p.m. March 16 Physical

#### Altercation

15000 block Fortuna Bay 3 p.m. March 17 Terroristic Threat SH 361/Newport Pass Road 8 p.m. March 16

Crimes against Property

#### 15500 block Cruiser 5 p.m. March 17 Theft of

Services 14200 block Allamanda 10 p.m. March 15 Burglary

Disturbance 13900 block Blackbeard 9 p.m. March 18 Noise Ordinance Violation

13800 block Captains Midnight March 18 Noise Ordinance Violation 14400 block Compass 9 p.m. March 17 Noise

Ordinance Violation 14500 block SPID 9 p.m. March 16 15400 block SPID 7 p.m. March 16

14900 block Canadian 1 p.m. March 16 Crash/ Possession of Marijuana 14800 block SPID 11 p.m. March 15 Noise

Ordinance Violation 13900 block Blackbeard 7 p.m. March 15 Public Intoxication

14500 block SPID 9 a.m. March 15 13900 block Longboat Midnight March 15

Noise Ordinance Violation 13900 block Longboat Midnight March 14 Noise Ordinance Violation

14500 block SPID 9 p.m. March 14

JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius 14200 block Jackfish 1 a.m. March 14 Noise Ordinance Violation 14000 block La Blanquilla 2 a.m. March 18 Ordinance Violation

Noise Ordinance Violation

Wanted Person 14200 block Natal Plum 6 a.m. March 14

Suspicious Person 14300 block Indigo 2 p.m. March 19

13800 block Primavera 1 a.m. March 14 15600 block Cumana 6 a.m. March 19 Cruiser/Encantada 5 a.m. March 18 15600 block Cumana 7 a.m. March 17

#### 166 Traffic Stops 15200 block SPID 6 p.m. March 17 Crash

14400 block SPID 8 p.m. March 16 Crash SH 361/SPID 7 p.m. March 16 DWI 15500 block Cruiser 7 p.m. March 16 Crash 11100 block Gulf Beach 6 p.m. March 18 SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to city limits

#### Crimes against Person 15300 block Gulf Beach 9 p.m. March 16

#### Shots Fired

10900 block Gulf Beach 9 p.m. March 15 Assault

SH 361/West Palm Beach 9 p.m. March 15 Shots Fired Crimes against Property

15200 block Leeward 3 a.m. March 19 Theft of Services

15200 block Leeward 2 a.m. March 19 Theft of Services

11000 block Gulf Beach 9 p.m. March 15 Criminal Mischief \$100-\$750 11000 block Gulf Beach 6 p.m. March 15

Theft \$750-\$2500 8100 block Beach Break 4 p.m. March 17 Theft of Services

Disturbance

Beach Access Road 6/Gulf Beach Noon March 17 Public Intoxication (two counts) 15100 block Kokomo 2 a.m. March 19

#### Noise Ordinance Violation 15000 block Aruba 11 p.m. March 16 Noise

15400 block Fortuna Bay 11 p.m. March 17 11400 block Gulf Beach 6 p.m. March 15 Found Narcotics

15400 block Fortuna Bay 10 a.m. March 14 14900 block Leeward 9 p.m. March 14 14800 block Windward 1 a.m. March 14 100 block Zahn Road Midnight March 14 Noise Ordinance Violation

11100 block Gulf Beach 9 p.m. March 16 14800 block Cobo de Bara 3 p.m. March 16 11100 block Gulf Beach 8 p.m. March 14 14300 block Commodores Midnight March Suspicious Person

16200 block Gulf Beach 9 a.m. March 19 15800 block SPID 10 p.m. March 17 Beach Access Road 6/Gulf Beach 2 p.m. March

15600 block Gulf Beach Noon March 18

14800 block Windward 10 p.m. March 18 15800 block SPID 10 p.m. March 17 14800 block Windward 11 p.m. March 16 15000 block Aruba 1 p.m. March 20 14800 block Windward 10 p.m. March 18

14800 block Gulf Beach 1 p.m. March 18 14700 block Running Light 1 a.m. March 17 14800 block Windward 11 p.m. March 16

11400 block Gulf Beach 6 p.m. March 16 14900 block Gulf Beach 2 p.m. March 16 11100 block Gulf Beach 6 p.m. March 18 11000 block Gulf Beach 8 p.m. March 15 7200 block SH 361 Noon March 17

6300 block SH 361 Midnight March 19

Traffic 138 Traffic Stops

15100 block Leeward 2 p.m. March 14 Parking

15000 block Leeward 2 p.m. March 14 Parking

11100 block Gulf Beach 8 p.m. March 18 Crash 10600 block SH 361 11 p.m. March 16 Crash

SH 361/Access Road 3 10 p.m. March 16 Crash 9300 block SH 361 1 a.m. March 14 DWI SH 361/La Concha 11 p.m. March 16 Crash 7400 block SH 361 10 p.m. March 15 DWI 6300 block SH 361 11 p.m. March 17 DWI

6500 block Gulf Beach 10 a.m. March 15 Crash

# ISLAND'S EDGE

# 361.244.5748

Island Fire Calls

March 13-March 19

Fire Station #15 14202 Commodores Drive

Assist Invalid- 3 Dispatched & canceled en route- 5

Electrical wiring/equipment problem, Other- 1 Rescue, EMS incident, Medical Assist - 21

8185 State Hwy 361

Overheated motor- 1 Water problem, Other- 1 <u>Fire Station #16:</u> Rescue, EMS incident, Medical Assist-1

# Salon for Her Text Roni To Book Your Luxury Appointment 15033 S Padre Island Dr

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To place an ad you can call me at 361-834-1382 or Email your ads to:

#### moonclassad@twc.com No texts please

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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#### Al-Anon & AA Meetings

Is alcohol causing a problem in your family? Try Al-Anon Al-Anon meets at

7:00 pm Sundays at **Padre Island Baptist Church** 

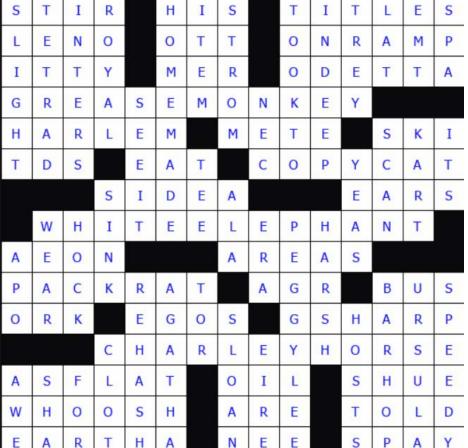
#### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS **MEETINGS** The Sunset 7 AA Meetings are

held on Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7 PM at: The Presbyterian Church

On the Island 14030 Fortuna Bay Dr. In addition Sunday AA Meetings are held at 8 AM at

The Pavillon on the Boardwalk Near Padre Bali

#### **Crossword Solution**







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Nursery - 15605 SPID, Ste. 9



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#### Seashore Charter School, Flour Bluff ISD, and Port Aransas ISD to receive funds from American Relief Protection Act

Seashore Charter Schools and Port Aransas ISD will receive \$49,000 and Flour Bluff ISD will receive \$114,000 for school safety funding under a plan announced by Nueces County Commissioner Brent Chesney this

The school are recipients of American Relief Protection Act (ARPA) funds specifically allocated for qualified projects in County Commissioner Precinct 4. The amount of the grants were based on size of the schooldistrict and need to help improve school safety at each of these districts.

'On behalf of the Seashore Charter Schools Board of Trustees, teachers, staff, and most of all students, I want to sincerely thank Mr. Brent Chesney for his diligence in helping Seashore Charter Schools obtain much-needed funding from the American

Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA funding will help Seashore Charter Schools with increasing safety and security measures throughout the district." Seashore Charter Schools Superintendent Christopher Daniels said.

"Flour Bluff ISD is honored and thankful to be a recipient of the American Relief Protection Act Funds that have been generously allocated to our School District to be used

for safety and security initiatives. With your sponsoring this action, Flour Bluff ISD is certain that this funding opportunity will give the Flour Bluff School District the means in

assisting in strengthening the safety and security of the campuses and ensuring that

students, faculty, and staff maintain a safe learning environment for the future of our community" said Eric Gonzalez, Chief of Police for Flour Bluff ISD.

"These funds will be used to purchase and install additional fencing to enclose our perimeter, which provides an additional layer of security for

our students, staff, and visitors. Keeping our Marlins safe here at school is our priority, and we appreciate this partnership which

us to increase our safety measures" said Port Aransas Superintendent, Sharon McKinney.

PADRE ISLES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. REGULAR MONTHLY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Padre Isles Property Owners Association Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 28, 5:30 p.m. Padre Island Baptist Church 14253 South Padre Island Drive Streaming to PIPOA Facebook Page NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

Members of the audience will be provided with an opportunity to address the Board during Public Comment. Please speak into the microphone located at the podium and state your name and address. Your presentation will be limited to three minutes. Please sign in prior to the meeting with your name, physical address, email address, and the subject to be addressed.

- CALL TO ORDER
- 2. RECEIVE CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT(S)
- PRESENTATIONS: 3.
- MR. DAVID HEITZMAN, CHAIR ACC 1.
- 4. MEMBERS' COMMENTS (3 minutes, per member)
- PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT The Board will receive a report on important topics from the previous meeting.
  - Next Board Meeting: April 25, 2023
- New Boat Ramp Permit Sticker Policy Transition
- Compliance Enforcement Update
- Current Open Violations / Closed Violations Reports (Enclosed)
- Bulkheads

1.

- Repair Activity Report (Enclosed)
- CONSENT AGENDA: (Routine items; acceptable without further discussion)
  - Secretary's Report: February 28, 2023
- 8. TREASURER'S REPORT - FINANCIAL REPORTS: (The Board will review, discuss, and then accept all financial reports, with possible motions.)
- February 28, 2023 Treasurer's Report & Approval of February 28, 2023 Financial State-1. ment
- OLD BUSINESS (with possible motions):
- Boat Ramp Slab Epoxy Crack Filling 1.
- Sample Testing 2.
  - TorcSill 2023 Pricing Schedule
- 10. NEW BUSINESS (with possible motions): 1.
  - 2023/2024 Insurance Renewal Quote
- EXECUTIVE SESSION: 11. Legal Matters
- Personnel Matters
- 3. Contract Matters
- Appeals 4.
- RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION 12.
- 13. **ADJOURN**



## Island Rites and Wrongs of Spring

Spring Break 2023 is behind us but the memories linger on ... not all of them good.















Spring Break in Port A. Photo Mark Wysocki

#### Property Tax Relief Package headed for State Senate Vote Relief for homeowners over 65 and school taxes

\$16.5 Billion in Property Tax Relief heads to Senate Floor

A package of bills that would provide \$16.5 billion tax relief to Texas property tax payers were approved by the Texas Senate Committee on Finance this week on a unanimous 17-0 vote and will go the full Senate for a vote.

"I believe this is unprecedented blockbuster property tax relief that the public will vote for if given the opportunity. I predict it'll pass by 85 percent or more if it goes to the voters!" Said State Senator Bettencourt, "the architect" of the Senate's Property Tax Plan. SB 5 will create an Inventory Tax Credit totaling \$1.05 billion. First, SB 5 will raise the

Property Exemption to \$25,000 from \$2,500, totaling \$450 million. It would also cut business compliance

costs, therefore saving businesses more money.

**Business Personal** 

Senate Joint Resolution 3, SJR 4, and SJR 5 were rolled into one Constitutional Amendment that voters will vote on during the November 2023 General Election if passed. If approved by voters, the Senate Property Tax Relief Plan consisting of SB 3, SB 4, and SB 5 will go into effect. SB 3 will save 5.72 million Texas homestead owners \$800 per year when they see their next tax bill in the fall by raising the Homestead Exemption 75% to \$70,000.

Senate Bill 3 would also save 2.07 million homestead owners over-65 and disabled \$1,000 plus per year by tripling the over-65 and disabled exemption to \$30,000, and it will add it onto the \$70,000 homestead exemption for

\$100,000 in total for over-65 and disabled Texas homesteaders.

SB 4 will provide an additional \$5.38 billion in ISD tax rate compression and will reduce

expanding the school equity finance band to 20%. "This is 16+ billion dollars of unprecedented property tax relief that will be felt by all

the State of Texas," Bettencourt said. SB 5 and SJR 3 are moving to the Senate Floor for



Spring Broke...



Spring Break 2023 has come and gone.

Just to state the obvious, Spring Break 2023 has come and thankfully gone. The Festering Den of Sin has been dismantled and the kids have gone back home. It would have been an epic holiday except the city's natural gas supply took a dump due to "mechanical issues affecting off shore gas wells." Fortunately, the temperatures weren't too bad and except for the bars, restaurants and lodges, life went on with just a few extra blankets on the bed and no hot showers for a while. Shout out to Nicole Boyer with the city for keeping us updated through the outage. As of this writing on Monday, most of the businesses are back online and the residences are coming along. To have to go around to EVERY business and residence in town and turn the gas back on and light all the pilots is a monumental and time consuming task. My understanding is they had to bleed out and re-pressurize the system before turning us back on. And did I mention this was on our biggest weekend of Spring Break? I'd like to know how much money it ended up costing the businesses of Port A in lost revenue. By Sunday, it was a ghost town. Talk about bad timing! It wasn't Spring Break... it was Spring Broke.

On the local front...



Heather and KK got the party going good at Red's on St. Patty's Day.

Last Friday was St. Patty's Day which in Port Aransas means you jump in with 50 locals and hit a half dozen bars and drink like you're an Irishman. We caught up with the group at the Gaff and again at Red's. Both places were beyond packed and were definitely a hangover in the making. I don't drink anymore. Evidently, I did it wrong. But I do get a contact buzz just watching everyone else party... that is to a point. I was hoping to run into my buddy Irish Mike Shannon but he was nowhere to be found. He was probably busy running snakes out of town. Our next big event will be *SandFest* in the middle of April. They have already announced their music lineup and it includes Ty Dietz, Clay Hollis, Wilder Blue, Jon Stork, Mark Powell, John Elijah and Cory Morrow. I hoping my sand sculptor pals Abe Waterman and The Amazing Walter will be here as they are every year. Also coming on April 12, the state of Texas and the Port Aransas Tourism Bureau & Chamber of Commerce team will host Port Aransas Day with legislative visits, speakers, and a beachy fun reception at the state capital in Austin. Also on April 6th, the Farley Classic

Beach Golf Club. Scattered shots...

Golf Tournament will be held at Palmilla



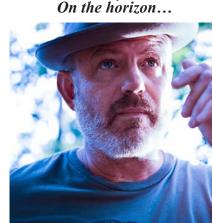
Dreaming in Color played Bron's Backyard on Thursday.

Last week Bron's Backyard had shows on Wednesday with the Groove and on Thursday with Dreaming in Color. Then came the cold front and its relentless winds. And being that they have outdoor stages, Bron's was forced to cancel their weekend shows with Ruben V, The Toman Brothers and Lee Haile as did Treasure Island with the OTB Band and Back **Pew Revival**. In short, it wasn't happening if it wasn't indoors. Me and my Mermaid Gal did find a show on Saturday at the Port Aransas Community Theater. My friend Rick Adams invited us out to PACT to attend the AC/DC Tribute Band: Back in Black concert. We went to the KISS Tribute Band concert the week before and really enjoyed it. Neither of us were every big KISS fans but the shear "campiness" of it, made this show a lot of fun. The AC/DC tribute was even cooler. These guys were obviously talented musicians who really could play their instruments well. They had their act down to a science and delivered two hours of fun filled music. I was in to other genres when AC/DC was a thing. I would, of course, hear their hits on the radio but I never bought their records. In the 70's my taste were more along the lines of Howlin' Wolf, Jerry Jeff Walker, Ramblin' Jack Elliott and Townes Van Zandt. I didn't pay much attention to the heavy metal scene back then. Oh well, time marches on.



The Groove played Bron's Backyard last week for Spring Break. **DO NOT MISS LIST** Coming this weekend...

Coming this weekend on Thursday the Rasta Cowboy his own self, Billy Snipes will play the Gaff. Billy is one of our constant companions around here and it's a treat every time he plays. On Friday the 24th, the great singer-songwriter Ty Dietz will play Bron's Backyard, the **OTB Band** will be at *Treasure* Island and **Kevin Kurtz** will play the Gaff. On Saturday, we have the WORLD FAMOUS BELT SANDER RACES at 4PM at the Gaff with troubadour **Jim Dugan** playing before and after the race. I might have mentioned that my racer, the **Moon Monkey**, took home the first place prize at the last race. Yeppers, that was me. Also on that Saturday, the Port A Parks and Wildlife Department will have their annual "Native Plant Sale & Plant Swap" from 9-12 at the Roberts Point Pavilion. Me and my Mermaid Gal will definitely be attending that. We've planted a few live oak trees around town with the trees they've provided in past years. And also on Saturday over at Bron's Backyard, the Latin tinged pop band, the **Profiles** will perform and the 80's dance band, the Groove will play Treasure Island, the **Dunebillies** will perform at the VFW and the great Mike McClure will take the stage at the *Third Coast Theater* in Port A. On Sunday Ty Dietz will be at *Kody's* and you can find your boot scootin' over at Bernie's Beach



*House* with **Tumble Dry Low**.

Mike McClure will play the Third Coast Theater on March 25th.

On the near horizon watch for performances from Chris Boss, Fortunate Youth, Splendiferous, Triptonite, Brooke Graham, Cruise Control, The Jasper String Quartet, The Voice of Addiction, Smile Easy Soul, Jack Ingram, Hayes Carll, Bonnie Lang, The Circle Jerks, Part One Tribe, Crucial Riddim and Dub Collective.

ISI And, that's the truth ISI



Back in Black, an AC-DC tribute band played the Port Aransas Community Theater on Saturday.



Reggae & Ska maestros Fortunate Youth will play the House of Rock on April 6th.

#### LIVE MUSIC Thursday, TONICI-IT

March 23 Billy Snipes @ Gaff

Jerry Ward @ Pelican Lounge Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's Ruben Limas @ Island Italian Ty Dietz @ Packery Bar Sonny Salinas @ Rockit's Arise Roots @ House of Rock Alley Catz Duo @ Brewster Southside Kyle Nix & the 38's @ Brewster Downtown

Expressway @ **Executive Surf Club** Downtown Eli Brown @ Nucky's Robert McCoy Duo @ Pier 99

<u>Friday,</u> March 24

Crosstown

Ty Dietz @ Bron's Backyard OTB @ Treasure Island Kevin Kurtz @ Gaff The Groove @ Pelican Lounge Art Barrera @ Packery Bar Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's Jam Council @ Rockit's 18 Hours @ House of Rock Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside Latin Talk @ Brewster Downtown Barbara Jenice @ Scuttlebutt's JonMikael MREZ @ Riley's Pub John Elijah @

<u>Saturday,</u> March 25 **BELT SANDER** RACES 4 PM @ Gaff Jim Dugan @ Gaff Native Plant Sale & Plant Swap (9-12) @ Roberts Point Pavillion Profiles @ Bron's Backyard

The Groove @

Treasure Island

Dunebillies @ VFW

Rockport Crawfish

Vernon's

Allstars @

Exchange

Antone & the

BACKYARD TY DIETZ **PROFILES BRAD ETHRIDGE** MAR 31 **CHRIS BOSS** BOONE HOLDING APR 7 314 E. Ave G, Port A. | (361) 336-4723

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Cookbook

361-453-0147



Cook-Off Mike McClure @ Third Coast Theater Chainlinks @ Pelican Lounge Ruben Limas @ Blue Marlin OTB @ Doc's Rockholics @ Packery Bar Aaron Jacobs @ Brewster Southside Diamond's Edge @ Brewster Downtown The Max, Sonny Salinas @ Rockit's Covertones @ Exchange Triptonite @ Vernon's Afterglow @ Rock Bottom Billy Snipes @ Poco Playa Matagorda Eric Graham, David Martinez @ Executive Surf Club Rock Bottom String Band, Red Tree Runners @ House of Rock J.R. Cole & the Banned @ San Benito

Sunday, March 26

Fairgrounds

Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's Ty Dietz @ Kody's Jerry Ward @ Pelican Lounge Ejay Red Feather @ Packery Bar Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeards Shayna Sands, Outraged, Triptonite, Josh Baco @ Vernon's John Elijah @ The **BUS** Damn Right Duo @ House of Rock William Skrobarczyk @ Executive Surf Club

Monday, March 27 Chuck Almarez @ Blackbeard's

Ruben Limas @ Blue

Tuesday, March 28

Marlin

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









BELT SANDER RACES

THE GAFF

LIVE MUSIC

HOT PIZZA



OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM