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Issue 990

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

# The Island Moon

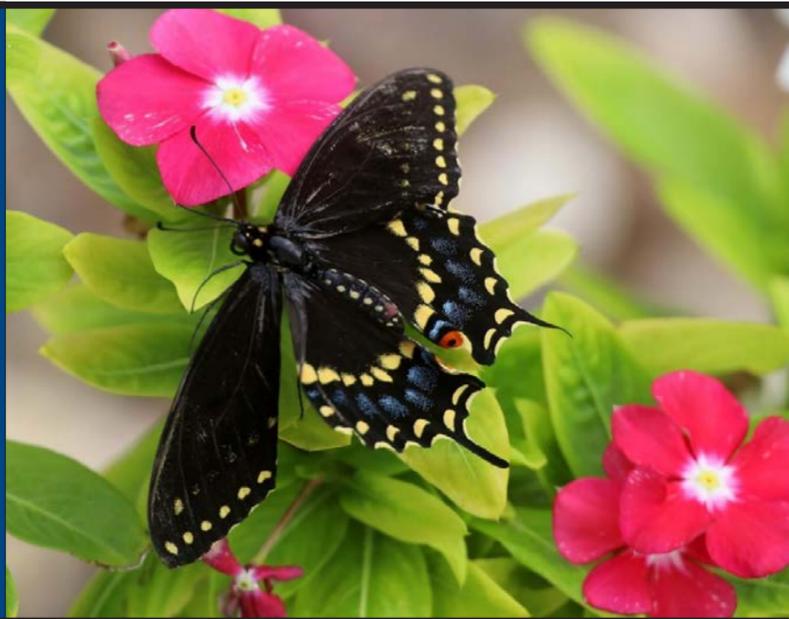
The voice of The Island since 1996

April 7, 2023

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By Dale Rankin

Around The Island this week has felt more like Around Seattle only with less rain. The gods were angry for a short while and put a ball of fire in the sky but it didn't last long. March went out like a lamb but so far April has not roared in like a lion.

**Causeway news**



New entrance to State Highway 361 from Lake Padre

Governor Gregg Abbott made a whistle stop in town this week to take a victory lap on the second causeway to Padre Island now making its way through the planning department at the Texas Department of Transportation. We thank the governor and our State Representative Todd Hunter for getting the funding to move this project forward and the events of the last few weeks on the JFK Causeway have driven home the need for a second road to our island. The causeway has been blocked several times over the past few weeks due to wrecks and there are now weekly fender benders or worse at the approach to the SPID/Aquarius intersection. The traffic jam last weekend was self-inflicted as work crews had one of the lanes leaving The Island blocked for repair work on Sunday and when check-out time hit in Port Aransas the traffic snake slithered all the way back to the Packery Channel crossing and southward to Whitecap on SPID. Someone apparently got word to the Home Office and by early afternoon crews were picking up the traffic cones and the snake slithered on across The Oso.

**It's a picnic!**



New picnic tables at North Packery

If you are looking for a place for an Island Picnic look no further than the park on the north side of

## Governor Touts New Island Causeway



Gov. Greg Abbott spoke at a luncheon hosted by the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce this week touting his push for a second causeway to Padre Island.

In March, State Representative Todd Hunter said the Texas Department of Transportation has agreed to fund an Environmental Impact Assessment for the next roadway which is the first step in

moving it forward. A consultant for the study is expected to be hired within the next few weeks. The cost of the study is expected to be between \$3.5 million and \$8 million depending on its scope. "The environmental study was supposed to begin in 2035," Abbot said. "I told TxDOT I want them to begin now, and that's exactly what they are doing. That's was about a 12 year acceleration in the process," he said. Prior to the recent vote the study for the causeway to set to begin no earlier than 2035 but under the current timeline it could be completed by that time. Under a plan completed by TxDOT in 2017 the route of the new causeway would be south of the JFK Causeway in Kleberg County.

## Easter Sunrise Service Whitecap Beach

Island Presbyterian Church invites the congregation, and all Islanders for their Easter Sunday services, April 9th. The services begin at 7:00 a.m. on Whitecap Beach and are held by the combined congregations of Island in the Son United Methodist, and Island Presbyterian Churches with the highlight of watching the sun come up over the Gulf of Mexico. Sunrise is at 7:11 a.m. They will celebrate the resurrec-

tion of Jesus Christ with song, communion and shouts of "He is Risen," "He is Risen Indeed". To attend follow the parking attendants and please do not block the beach roadway. Bring your lawn chairs and a flashlight, Beach Parking Permits are required by the city of Corpus Christi. If it rains, the service will be moved to the church sanctuary at 10 a.m. at the corner of Gypsy and Fortuna Bay (14030 Fortuna Bay).



Last year's Easter Sunrise Service.

## A New Gas Line for Padre Island

Just a few weeks after a gas outage swept across Port Aransas crews from the City of Corpus Christi this week are installing a new eight-inch steel gas line designed to increase reliability and allow for future growth on Padre Island. The line runs north from State Highway 361 west of Packery between Packery Channel and SPID in the right of way of the platted but never built Sand Dollar Street. The other utilities along Sand Dollar have been in place for decades with gas being the last to be installed. City officials said there are no current plans to pave



the street. City Public Works officials said this week the line will be a connection between two main gas pump stations between SPID and Packery Channel and will increase reliability, flow, and supply of

natural gas to Island customers. They said the line could supply gas to the new development around Lake Padre but so far no request to extend gas service there has been filed with the city. City officials said they are working with Port Aransas on an option to extend backup service there but as of now no commitments have been made yet. They said that upgrade would support the project but an additional main would have to be constructed between Zahn Road and Fish Pass to provide the connection to Port Aransas.

## A little Island history Revolution in Mexico, Raid on a Texas Train, Heads in a Gunny Sack, and Finally Peace in The Valley

By Dale Rankin

The relationship between the United States and Mexico with regards to The Border has always been a symbiotic one. Whether it be a maquiladora plant where cheap Mexican labor assembles parts made in China with a finished product shipped to America, or whether it be a deadly border fight among drug cartels literally fighting for access to an underground American market. The problems along the 1915 U.S./Mexico border were much like the ones we face now, except the cause of the fight going on in



Pancho Villa (left center) and Emiliano Zapata in the National Palace in Mexico City

## Island Moon Rain Report January – March

Padre: Aquarius St.	2023 year to date	0.61"
2022 year to date	2.98"	
Padre: Cayo Cantiles	2023 year to date	0.76"
2022 year to date	2.64"	
Padre: Dyna St.	2023 year to date	0.86"
2022 year to date	3.76"	
Padre: Elbow St.	2023 year to date	0.85"
2022 year to date	3.56"	
Padre: Scallop St.	2023 year to date	0.84"
2022 year to date	2.70"	
Mustang: Beachwalk Ln.	2023 year to date	1.20"
2022 year to date	4.40"	
Flower Bluff: Piper Dr.	2023 year to date	1.31"
2022 year to date	4.34"	
Average of these 7 stations	2023 year to date	0.92"
2022 year to date	3.50"	
Source: CoCoRaHS Network		
Corpus Christi norm = 5.36"		

*By the numbers...*

## Bob Hall Pier Data

With the plan for the new Bob Hall Pier still underway here is a quick look at the pier's history. Compiled by Mary Craft

- 1950 Gulf Park Pier built 300'
- 1952 Pier lengthened to 600'
- 1953 Pier renamed Bob Hall after the Nieces County Commissioner
- 1960 Padre Island Land & Cattle Company owned by the Jones family put up barricades two mile stretch on the beach either side of pier made of railroad ties. They claimed they owned the beach and did not want to be liable. Private people who wanted to go through needed to sign a liability form. They gave the county sites for three parks in 1950 one on the beach, one 140 acre on the Packery and another 400 acre near the "ski basin" and only one developed so they took back the land.
- 1961 Pier destroyed by Hurricane Carla
- 1962. Pier rebuilt to 1200' with three T-sections



**Business Briefs**

**There is an optometrist office** coming to the Island this year that will include an optical. The office is currently being remodeled and I will have more details when it is further along.

**The restaurants that will be open** for sure on Easter are Doc's, Nom's Kitchen, and Padre Island Burger Co. The Mexican restaurants, Snoopy's, Surfside Sandwich Shoppe, Hardknocks, Padre Pizzeria Island Italian, Diana's place, Costa Sur, Black Sheep Bistro, and Island Time will be closed.

**The North Padre Island Bicycle Association** does a weekly Monday ride 6 - 9 pm. There are three different start times depending on the pace you wish to ride. The slowest pace they call the conversational pace. The groups ride 5 - 25 miles depending on your group. The ride begins at the Island Presbyterian Church parking lot and bike maps are given out. Riders can choose if they would like to join other riders to go to a local restaurant afterwards.

**Whoop it up Boots & Bling** will be held at Marker 37 on Saturday, April 29th to benefit the Seashore Charter Schools. There will be lots of food and a large silent auction.

**The Wind & Wave Kayak Demo** will be held on Saturday, April 8th 10 am - 4 pm at the Packery Channel Bridge. There will be more than 20 kayaks and stand up paddleboards.

**The Donut Palace** should be getting their final inspection this week and hopefully open Monday.

**Coastal Teak Company** has newly arrived banana leaf furniture from Indonesia. This handmade wicker is made from dried banana leaves and is made to last. Also new to the store are colorful handmade bags from Mexico in different sizes that are great for the beach. You can just rinse off the sand. They are located near Scuttlebutt's and are open daily 10 am - 6 pm and Sunday's noon - 4 pm.



**The 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt** will be at Billish Park on Saturday, April 8th. The time for Ages 0-4 is 11:00 am, ages 5&6 11:30 am, ages 7&8 12:00 pm and ages 9-12 12:30pm. There will be face painting, the Easter Bunny, hot dogs, jumpy house and more.

**Diana's Place** is having their Grand Opening on Saturday, April 8th. The OTB Band will play 7 - 10 pm, DJ Lou will host karaoke 3 - 7 pm and there will be drink specials. The

bartender now is Jennifer who proves good things come in small packages. She was formally with Hardknocks and Black Sheep Bistro but decided to take a year off and go to school. She happened to stop there because she remembers Diana fondly as a customer and they convinced her to work for them.

**Padre Island Beach Fitness** offers Zumba lessons on the beach in front of the Michael J. Ellis seawall parking lot. Owner/Instructor Tonya Colbert founded her business two years ago. She said "I didn't start out to start a business I did it to make friends." There are four instructors and the classes are on Monday/ Wednesday at 6:30 pm and Tuesday/Friday/Saturday at 8 am. The class is 45 minutes long and the cost is \$11-\$15/class. Call 360-4022 for more info.



**The SandFest in Port A** is the weekend of 4-14 - 4/16 and it is \$30/person any age for all three days up from last year \$20 and it started out free. Cory Morrow playing Sunday 6 - 7:30 pm makes it worth the price plus the sand sculptures are crazy good. You could wait until Monday after and see what sculptures are still intact for free.

**Sad news - JB's German Bakery owner Juergen Kazenmayer** suffered a stroke last week and has been in the hospital since. His wife Brigitte is asking for help in supporting the bakery during these difficult times to help with medical expenses. She comes to the bakery every morning at 1 am to prepare the goods with the help from the pastry chef Melanie who is from Germany. They are doing their best to replace Juergen who did all the baking. Someone is trying to

set up a GoFundMe for them. You can purchase items at their location 4141 S. Staples 7 am - 2 pm Tuesday - Sunday or you can purchase cookies online at Etsy.

**The CC Hooks baseball season** begins Thursday, April 6th at 7:05 pm and they will continue to play at home Friday and Saturday nights.

**There are about 20 shade structures** with tables near what's left of Bob Hall Pier. It's interesting that half the tables have shades slanted to protect from morning sun and the other half afternoon sun. For those who do not want to drive on sand you can get there by the road that still exists. It is broken up near the access road but if you drive around the RV Park you can access the beach in front of Padre Balli Park building parking lot.



**Hardknocks Sports Grill** has all-you-can-eat crawfish every Tuesday for \$40 and you can enjoy it with a \$3 Landshark draft. If you need an event catered call Rod Lewis at 281-960-3470 or email rodlewis@sbcglobal.net.



Briefs cont. on A5

Creating A  
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# Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



I think you mean three weeks from now, not months. The compound burned on April 19th. I was a forensic scientist for the DPS Crime Lab and was sent to help the FBI and ATF investigate that tragic scene after the fire. Still haunts me to this day.

Roxana Payne Lecoche

*Editor's note: You are correct Roxana, I stand corrected. Each time I write about that event I wonder whether it all could have ended differently. The combination of the aggressive attitude the federal authorizes on the scene and the cohesiveness of the Davidians may have made the outcome inevitable but history of the last three decades might have been written very differently if the outcome in Waco had been peaceful.*



Dog ladders,

First off I absolutely love the Island Moon newspaper. Not long ago I read that another dog had drowned in our canals. I moved to the island 5 1/2 years ago. I had two Labradors one of which I could not keep out of the water. After a lot of research I found a dock ladder called Tommy Docks 5 step folding ladder. Purchased it in October 2018 and still like new. I used stainless steel hardware instead of the ones in the box. It is rated up to 350 lbs. The perfect solution to my dogs in the canal. My dogs love it and easy for them to use as well as humans too. I purchased mine at Home Depot which still sells it for about a \$100.00 more now. \$420.33. A cheap price to help your dog stay safe. I am not employed by or affiliated with Home Depot other than a customer and a big dog lover. I don't know how to get the word out about this ladder and thought you might help or point me in the right direction.

*Editor's note: About fifteen years ago Island Moon Publisher Mike Ellis took this issue on and held meeting in many of the Island neighborhoods to hold an Islandwide event on each fingertip to get the dogs familiar with where the ladders are located. A good place to start might be with a gathering at the Riley P. Dog Park to come up with a plan. This is an ongoing issue and a problem that can be solved with a little help from the humans. The Island Moon will help in any way possible.*



Hello, Name is Norma Porter. I am a volunteer at Rural Nueces County Shelter in Robstown, TX. We have three dogs that are in need of immediate rescue. Can anyone help?

## Hello Winter Texans!

The City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Department hopes your time here on our island has been great. We want to thank you for your support and continued enrollment in our winter activities. It has been a pleasure to develop these new and exciting relationships with all of you. We are really looking forward to your return and another fun season here in beautiful Port A.

We will be working hard this summer to develop a fun filled schedule for 2024 taking into consideration all the great feedback we received..

Registration for these programs is scheduled to be released November 1, 2023. Hope you all have an amazing summer. Until we meet again, your Port Aransas family will anticipate your return. Stay safe, stay fit, stay awesome!



The Cub Scouts were visited this week by two of our finest Coastal Bend Texas Parks and Wildlife Officers. (They are very similar to Game Wardens, however their responsibility is within on our State Parks System) State Park Sergeant Stephen Dishong and Officer Dillon Callaway.

*They educated the Scouts on How to Keep our Environment Clean, Protect Local Species, Keep our Parks pristine, and why the laws are there to protect our great state. There were about 60 people in attendance and all left better stewards of our state.*

## State Route 22/JFK Causeway Utility Route

In August 2017 Hurricane Harvey struck the area and one of the results was damage to the aerial utility route along the north/east side of the causeway from Flour Bluff to North Padre Island. The route is owned (I believe) by AEP and has attachments owned by (from the top down) AEP, Spectrum, Astound, and AT&T. Some of the damage continues to get worse and can and has resulted in partial collapse of some of the utilities.

Several poles have supporting guys that were worked loose by the high winds. This allows the pole and adjacent poles on each side to move and can result in breaking or working loose and falling over. Across the causeway from the Red Dot fishing pier a pole fell over and blocked a lane of traffic on or about November 16, 2022. The winds were about 40 miles per hour that day, not unusual for the area. It took until November 21 or 22 to stabilize the pole and open up the lane of traffic.

Multiple spans of communication cable have broken lashing wire letting the cable swing in the wind and some have even detached from the pole. Crossing the ship channel beside the JFK Bridge is a loose span of cable that can eventually hang down low enough to be grabbed by a tall enough ship to be a real problem. Adjacent to the pole that fell over was a loop of fiber cable owned by AT&T that was swinging in the wind due to broken supports and could have been grabbed by hand or by a passing truck that could have broken more poles or possibly disrupted power and or communications and CATV services to the island. The loop had been hanging that loose for at least a year if not actually since Harvey in 2017. When the pole was stabilized by the contractor for AEP it was re-supported to one of the CATV cables above AT&T.

In August of 2023, after watching the wind blow the cable loop and seeing the spans of cable swinging in the breeze for a very long time I decided to contact the Texas Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to see if they could get the attention of the owners of the defective utilities. At the time I did not know which company or companies were responsible for the trashy look and potential hazards. The following is

an approximate time line of my correspondence.

On August 30, 2022 I wrote the PUC and gave my concerns. The PUC passed on my concerns on September 1. On or about September 2, I was contacted by Spectrum, by Astound and by AT&T. Spectrum and Astound both said they would inspect the route and called me back by September 6. Spectrum said their plant was not involved but I believe they have at least two areas along the route with broken lashing wire. Astound said they had minor issues which would be taken care of. I believe that has been resolved. Paulette, the secretary of the president of AT&T called me and gave a case number and said it would be investigated. I got a call from an AT&T employee who said yes it had been a problem and would be taken care of.

On October 3, I called the secretary of AT&T who said the work was held up due to supply reasons and would be complete by October 16.

On October 18, after no further action I wrote the PUC again and they replied that they would again pass on the information to AT&T.

On October 20, (Paulette) the secretary for the AT&T president called to inform me the work was still held up due to supply reasons but also because it was hurricane season the work was postponed with no completion date.

On November 1, Paulette called me to give me a completion date of December 30, 2022 with the same case number assigned in September.

On November 16, as mentioned previously, a pole adjacent to the hanging loop fell over toward the causeway and blocked the outside lane for about five days while it was being re-supported. The hanging cable loop was supported on the cable above it, which is a different company than AT&T.

On January 4, 2023 I got a voice-mail from Paulette and returned her call on January 6. She assumed the work was completed and was following up. I told her again about the entire issue and asked

for a copy of the transcript of our conversation, (which she was recording.) She said that was not possible. She said she would get with the construction and maintenance departments and get an update.

On February 3, 2023 Paulette called to give me an update on the issue. She again refused allowing me a transcript of our recorded conversation. I went over all my concerns and she gave the new start date of April 3, 2023 as the new start date.

This letter is for information for anyone concerned about the safety and the responsibility of the utility companies serving our area. They should have more pride in their public appearance and the reliability of their aerial plant. I cannot imagine the lack of "supplies" that would hold up a normal maintenance issue like this. Hurricane season happens every year and is no excuse for not completing the work. As a matter of fact the longer it is put off the more likely the damage will compound. As mentioned before the poles are subject to constant pressure from winds working the loose guys looser and eventually causing failure as happened in November. Hurricane season starts again June 1<sup>st</sup> as it has the previous six times since Hurricane Harvey. If the season is the excuse for not completing the repairs, then we can expect to see the situation drag on for another summer and fall AT LEAST. As of April 4, 2023 the work has not begun.

I have pride in where I live and I don't like it looking like a third world country or a warzone. I also expect the utility companies to step up and be responsible.

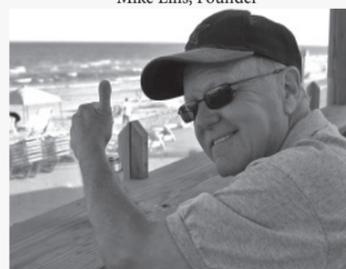
Rick Self

COPIES TO THE FOLLOWING BY MAIL OR EMAIL:

- Texas Department of transportation
- City of Corpus Christi street department
- City Councilman Dan Stuckley
- State Representative Todd Hunter
- Editor, The Island Moon newspaper
- Texas Public Utilities Commission

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About the Island Moon

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## Where to Find The Island Moon

Port Aransas	North Padre
Pioneer RV	All Stripes Stores
Stripes on 1A	Black Sheep/ Barrel
Kody's	CVS
Coffee Waves	Dollar General
Moby Dicks	Doc's Restaurant
IGA	Snoopy's Pier
Treasure Island	Isle Mail N More
San Juan's Restaurant	Island Italian
Wash Tub	Brooklyn Pie Co.
Shorty's Place	Ace Hardware
Gratitude	Texas Star (Shell)
The Gaff	Spanky's
Red's Riviera	Scuttlebutt's Restaurant
Sounds Good BBQ	Restaurant
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## Senior Moments

## Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Meet The 32<sup>nd</sup> President of The United States

Above, President Roosevelt, circa 1939, appealing for the U.S. to maintain its neutrality in the face of war in Europe.

*Dotson's Note:* FDR won all of his presidential elections in landslides. In what came to be called the "New Deal coalition," disparate groups such as Southern whites, Catholics, Jews, African-Americans, labor union members and small farmers united to comfortably elect Roosevelt to four terms in the White House. During his first presidential race in 1932, with the Great Depression at its height, he defeated unpopular incumbent Herbert Hoover by an electoral vote tally of 472-59. He then vanquished Kansas Governor Alf Landon in 1936 (523 electoral votes to eight), businessman Wendell Willkie in 1940 (449 electoral votes to 82) and New York Governor Thomas Dewey in 1944 (432 electoral votes to 99), winning at least 53.4 percent of the popular vote each time. Thanks to a bunch of old friends for the facts contained in this report and to my Dad's collection from Life Magazine for the photos.

### Roosevelt Was Distantly Related To 11 Other Presidents

An only child with maternal roots dating back to the Mayflower, Franklin D. Roosevelt spent a privileged childhood in Hyde Park, New York, prior to attending an elite Massachusetts boarding school. He then enrolled in Harvard College, where he began courting another Roosevelt, Anna Eleanor, his fifth cousin once removed as well as the niece (and goddaughter) of his fifth cousin, then-President Theodore Roosevelt, whom FDR greatly admired. When the couple married in 1905, Theodore Roosevelt took a break from his White House duties to give Eleanor away in lieu of her deceased father. "Well, Franklin," the president purportedly exclaimed at the wedding, "there's nothing like keeping the name in the family." Theodore was his closest relative to head the country, FDR claimed to have traced his family tree to 10 other presidents as well.

### He Had Little Love For The Law

After Harvard, FDR went on to Columbia Law School, where he promptly flunked contracts and civil procedure and had to make up the classes over the summer. "Franklin Roosevelt was not much of a student and nothing of a lawyer afterwards," one professor later recalled. "He didn't appear to have any aptitude for law, and made no effort to overcome that handicap by hard work." In fact, Roosevelt didn't even stick around to get his degree, leaving Columbia



In the summer of 1921, while on vacation in Canada, 39-year-old Roosevelt fell ill with what was ultimately diagnosed as polio, a disease with no known cure. Paralyzed

from the waist down, he underwent years of painstaking physical rehabilitation to try and regain the use of his legs. Yet although he made some progress, learning to move short distances with the help of steel leg braces and a cane (usually while holding the arm of a companion), he would remain wheelchair-dependent for the rest of his life. FDR could not even dress or bathe himself. The public never knew the full extent of his disability, however, in part because the media rarely mentioned it. At Roosevelt's request, most images from the time show him seated in an open car or standing at a podium. When the occasional photographer did try to catch him in his wheelchair, Secret Service agents reportedly tore the film out of their cameras.

### He Sanctioned the Imprisonment Of Japanese-Americans

Anti-Japanese sentiment in the United States reached a fever pitch following the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. In California, for example, the governor, the entire congressional delegation, numerous newspapers and top U.S. Army commanders all called for Japanese residents to be removed so that they could not commit acts of espionage and sabotage. Some government officials had misgivings about what's now considered one of the most shameful episodes in U.S. history. But not Roosevelt, a humanitarian in many other respects, who told the War Department to do what it thought best. In February 1942, he signed an executive order delineating "military areas ... from which any or all persons may be excluded." About 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of whom were American citizens, were then forcibly removed to internment camps, their property sold off at bargain-basement prices. German-Americans and Italian-Americans were generally spared this fate. A few decades later, Congress issued a formal apology and awarded \$20,000 to each surviving detainee.



*Dotson's Other Note:* FDR was the first sitting president to fly in a plane. At a time when air travel was much more dangerous, Roosevelt flew to Chicago in 1932 to accept the Democratic nomination for president. He then became the first sitting president to journey via airplane—and the first sitting president to leave the country in wartime—when he took off from Miami in January 1943 aboard a Boeing 314 flying boat. After making stops in Trinidad, Brazil and Gambia, he got on a second plane, a TWA C-54, which brought him to Casablanca, Morocco, for a conference with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. More flights followed, including one from Malta to the Soviet Union just a couple of months before his death. I am sure that many of you Moon Monkey's don't remember when FDR was president, so this report is especially for you.. Hope you learned something.

Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at [dlewis1@stx.rr.com](mailto:dlewis1@stx.rr.com). FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 - 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397...It's your two hours, please let us hear from you.



By Dale Rankin

## Stuff I Heard on the Island

Let's talk Property Taxes

The basis of our current Property Tax system has its roots in the *Peveo Bill* passed by the Texas Legislature in 1979 after several failed attempts in previous sessions to reform the Property Tax System. It came on the heels of steady increases in the Consumer Price Index of 13.3% in 1979 and 12.4% in 1980 and as a result allowed taxing entities including cities, counties, and school districts to increase revenue (taxes) by 8% annually with no recourse from taxpayers. Boards and councils at the time cried poor and said they would have to cut essential services as their annual increases fell below rising interest rates and cost of living increases. Somehow they survived but when interest rates fell to near zero by 2021 the 8% annual tax increases continued essentially doubling property taxes every ten years.

### An insidious dance of misdirection

The *Peveo Bill* established the county Appraisal Districts we have now and to keep the annual 8% tax increase under the radar and the money flowing an insidious dance of misdirection developed each budget cycle to obscure the reality from taxpayers. The game was simple: each August county appraisal districts issued an Effective Tax Rate that if adopted would hold revenue steady in the face of continually rising property values. Not surprisingly each year the increase in appraised taxable property values across the city and county went up by 7.9% or thereabouts, just under the 8% cap allowed without the possibility of a vote by taxpayers who would complain to elected officials who would in turn blame it on those insufferable bureaucrats over at the Appraisal District who kept raising property values. The Corpus Christi City Council, the Nueces County Commissioners Court, and the Flour Bluff School District would then hold the Tax Rate steady – claiming they were not raising taxes which was not a lie but a Black Lie – while increasing the Effective Tax Rate just under the 8% limit which combined with the 7.9% increase in property values raised 7.9% in additional tax revenue each year for forty years running. For those forty years cities, counties, and school districts raised their revenue by just under 8% while claiming they never raised taxes all the while doing just that.

Finally, in the 2021 session of the Texas Legislature Senator Paul Bettencourt from the Houston area took a stab at tax reform by passing a law limiting the annual increase without the possibility of a vote by taxpayers to 3.5% for cities and counties, and 2.5% for school districts. But in the 2023 Fiscal Year the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County Commissioners and the Flour Bluff school district all raised Property Taxes by more than 6% - how did they do that when the limit was 3.5% and 2.5%? Each case is a little different.

### City and County

It took two budget cycles for city councils and commissioners courts across the state – addicted to the annual 8% tax increase – to find the loopholes in Bettencourt's reform bill. By moving debt service around in the budget they could keep their increases above 6% by meeting the letter of the new reform law while stomping all over its spirit which was to keep annual increase below 3.5%. The Corpus Christi City Council and the Nueces County Commissioners Court fell right in line and without an intervention would do the same in the 2023-2024 budget cycle.

To prevent that Bettencourt took a more direct tack in the current legislative session; instead of employing a maximum annual revenue increase which demonstrably does not work he took aim at appraisals. In the 2021 session lawmakers passed mandatory reductions in appraised value for calculating Property Taxes it that effectively plugged the loopholes in the previous law. Cities and counties can still use the loopholes to get to 6% hikes in collections but they will do so on appraised values mandatorily reduced by state fiat. Bills now making their way through the current legislative session are increasing those mandatory appraisal reductions and the

move at Corpus Christi City Hall aimed at Property Tax relief now pushed by At-Large Councilman Mike Pusley and under consideration by the council would add a local appraisal reduction for calculation of city taxes that would actually lower the amount of Property Taxes.

The reaction from the City Manager and the city staff, which last week recommended against the appraisal cuts which would reduce city revenue by \$9.5 million next year, was predictable; something along the lines of "If we do that we will have to wipe out the police and fire departments!" It's an age old tack of empire builders by dragging a red herring across the trail – an insidious dance of misdirection - and was seen as such by council members who told the staff to come back with cuts that don't include police and fire service. Island property taxpayers are about to find out who our friends are.

### Flour Bluff ISD

The Flour Bluff school board is in a different pinch. They needed \$4.1 million in new tax revenue in the current fiscal year to cover, among other things, pay increases already promised to teachers. Keep in mind this was after they took a meat ax to their budget chopping 15% in spending across all departments. They went to voters for a tax increase in November, 2022 and the increase was voted down 6639 against and 3623 for (65% against, 35% for). So what did they do?

In a December meeting after the vote they were told by staff they had a One-Time Only operational surplus of \$4.5 million – \$3.7 million from food service operations – but rather than apply that to the \$4.1 million they needed they put about half in reserve and used \$1.5 million of it to increase insurance coverage. Then to make up the shortfall created when voters revolted at the tax hike, they invoked an emergency decree from the governor related to Winter Storm Uri – for which the district listed no damages – that allowed them to increase taxes on a One-Time Only basis.

During the December board meeting the chief financial officer (now departed) rose and informed the board that the district will not have the funds to meet their operational budget in the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. When the emergency funding goes away in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 they will be faced with a Devils Choice of cutting more spending or going back to taxpayers for another tax hike. Further, the use of the emergency funding so incensed Senator Bettencourt that he wrote a Senate Bill (pending) that would specifically prohibit what the FBISD board did to circumvent the vote by the public leaving the board back where they were when their chief financial officer told them they don't have the money to balance the operational budget next year. So where does that leave things.

In a meeting this week FBISD Board Vice-President Jerry Hooper made a suggestion of moving to a Zero Based Budget process based on "needs" rather than "wants" with a review of everything in their \$55.8 million General Fund including but not limited to existing consultant contracts, funding for off-campus school trips, district activities including athletics, travel to competitions, booster clubs, the campus police force, and any program considered non-essential including free meals for school board members during meetings.

"We need to look at everything with a different set of eyes," Hooper said this week. Evidence of that comes from across the state as the Texas Education Agency has stepped in and taken over Houston ISD and Austin ISD in the past few weeks and there is a push in Austin to reduce local Property Tax for schools and replace it with a perennial \$15 billion state surplus. Spending by school districts across the state is coming under scrutiny as more state funding means more state control. After four decades lawmakers in Austin have come to grips with the problem created by their predecessors in 1979 and those changes are rolling down to the local level. The days of quiet annual 8% tax increases are over.

The music is finally about to stop on the insidious dance of misdirection.

### Around Cont from A1

Packery Channel where picnic tables have been placed under the shade structures there. You will have a ringside seat for the repair work continuing at Packery Channel where crews have now begun bringing in the new jetty rocks via truck rather than barges which tend to chart a course of their own. Also this week bids were opened for a dredging project in Packery Channel scheduled for later this year after the jetty repair work is done.

### Island Strategic Action Committee

Some good Island Information came out of the Island Strategic Action Committee

meeting this week. First, the work to add sidewalks along the west side of SPID from Jackfish Avenue to Commodores Drive is scheduled to begin by the end of 2023. The work is connected to the Island Mobility Plan which is funded in the early stages of development. The plan is designed to provide cart and pedestrian connections from one end of The Island to the other and there is already \$17.5 million in state money in place for construction once the plan is done. It will also include plans to get carts to the area under the JFK Bridge with the possibility of a cart path cantilevered out from the existing roadway to get carts over the water. it may just be Crazy Talk after twenty years of trying but it looks like

there may be some new signage, paving, and lighting under the JFK Bridge with the \$1 million in 2018 bond money still in the bank and District 4 City Councilman Dan Suckley working to push the improvement project over the finish line. The plan is to rework the exit from the bridge and to place signage pointing out to those arriving on The Island that there are currently seven businesses paying city taxes located there.

Also underway is a study by the Texas Department of Transportation for the redesign of the SPID/Commodores/State Highway 361 intersection which is about to see increased traffic with the entrance to the Lake Padre development just south of

Packery Channel and the outlet to SH 361 from the Paper Street (more on that in the next issue) that connects to the new Speedy Stop next to American Bank. That is in addition to a hotel at the Commodores/Compass intersection along with the other development at the Whitecap North Padre Island site. In The Island Field of Dreams they are coming OTB whether we build it or not...and we're building it! Get out your white Easter pants everybody, be ready for SandFest 2023, and here's hoping the Great Island April Weather will come rolling in from Swinney Switch any day now. In the meantime say hello if you see us Around The Island.

*History cont. from A1*

Mexico then had nothing to do directly with the United States. It has been accurately said over the years that there are three ways of doing things; the right way, the wrong way, and the Mexican way.

The Mexican way to fight a revolution was not to divide into two camps and fight it out, but rather to divide into five camps and fight a Balkanized war of attrition. By the fall of 1915 the revolution had narrowed to two groups; one headed by agrarian land reformer Emiliano Zapata in southern Mexico and Pancho Villa in the north, the other by Venustiano Carranza who's policies, unbeknownst to American President Woodrow Wilson, had been the cause of the cross-border killing spree along the Rio Grande River.

Carranza's flirtation with the Germans who were looking for a foothold on the American continent had encouraged him to foment the Border War. Even as the warfare continued along the border Carranza had forged an alliance with General Álvaro Obregon in Northern Mexico and was closing in on victory in the revolution.

In October Carranza requested and was granted permission to move troops over the American Railroads from Eagle Pass, Texas to Sonora to reinforce Obregon's forces fighting Villa. Wilson, unaware of Carranza's double game of pushing a Border War on one hand while seeking diplomatic recognition for his government on the other, recognized the Carranza government effectively making him the winner of the Mexican Revolution.

Carranza received American diplomatic recognition on October 19, 1915. This opened the way for Carranza to move his troops across American soil on American railroads, it also made him the de facto President of Mexico.

The train will be a little late

Unbeknownst to Wilson was an attack the night before his recognition of Carranza on the St. Louis, Brownsville, & Mexico Railroad by Mexican Revolutionaries acting presumably without Carranza's orders. At 10:45 p.m. raiders stuck the rail line which was the lifeline of the Rio Grande Valley. The southbound passenger train was less than seven miles north of Brownsville, near Olmisto, when sixty raiders, mostly from Matamoros and led by Luis de la Rosa and Aniceto Pizana derailed the train. They had pulled up the spikes holding a rail in place and as the locomotive approached they yanked the rail away. The engine overturned, killing the engineer and severely scalding the fireman with steam. The engine, tender, baggage, and express cars left the track, while the smoking car and first-class coach remained upright.

Half a dozen masked raiders stormed the train yelling, "Viva Carranza, Viva Luis de la Rosa, Viva Aniceto Pizana and began robbing and shooting Anglo passengers.

Hispanics were not molested. Three soldiers in uniform were shot immediately, one died and the other two were wounded.

An ex-Texas Ranger and a Texas quarantine officer tried to hide in the lavatory but a Hispanic youngster on the train revealed their hiding place and the raiders fired through the door. The ex-Ranger had a finger shot off and was shot in the shoulder but survived. The quarantine officer died.

The local District Attorney, John Kleiber, was returning from court in Corpus Christi and was saved because he was covered in blood from one of the soldiers who was shot and the raiders thought he was dying. Kleiber later said there was blood from one end of the coach to the other.

The raiders took \$325 in cash from the passengers along with diamonds and watches, even a sample case from a traveling salesman. They stole shoes – favoring regulation U.S. Army footwear which they stripped from the soldiers. Kleiber had his shoes stolen as well but would later prosecute several men who participated in the attack. The ex-Ranger later testified he recognized Luis de la Rosa even though the raider was wearing a mask.

"I'm going to kill those fellows"

What really disturbed the Texas authorities was that de la Rosa had learned that the army had removed the detachment guarding the train station near where the raid occurred only a few days before. The raiders had an infiltrator in the American Army's ranks. They headed out for Mexico and burned a railroad trestle south of the station so that when the Army troops arrived to help they had to walk the last mile. By then the raiders were back in Mexico.

Along with the army troops from Fort Brown the Texas Rangers also arrived from their camp in Brownsville along with about 1000 Brownsville citizens who flocked to the scene, including a "large number of Brownsville women who had to be carried from the scene due to fainting spells." The Texans wanted revenge and Ranger Captain Henry Ransom obliged by seizing four random Hispanics and executing them. This act created a rift between state and local lawman. Sheriff W.T. Vann from Brownsville later testified "We came out there and arrested those four men. Captain Ransom had them and walked over to me and says, 'I am going to kill those fellows' and I told him no. He says 'if you don't have the guts ... to do it, I will go myself.' I says, that takes a whole lot of guts, four fellows with their hands tied behind them, it takes a whole lot of guts to do that."

A few days later a local newspaper reported that "no inquest would be held" over the four bodies found. The same day as the newspaper posting twenty-five raiders attacked the fifteen-man Signal Corps detachment at Ojo de Agua killing three and wounding eight soldiers. This was the last straw for U.S. General Frederick Funston who issued a statement of No Quarter authorizing the execution of captured raiders on the spot. He also asked the Secretary of War for bloodhounds and Apache scouts to be sent to the border. Three days later raiders tried to burn the railroad trestle which had been rebuilt but were driven off by Army troops.

Heads in a gunny sack

Little did anyone know this was to be the last raid of the Border War which had begun in 1911 and burst into full combat in 1915. This was due partially to Wilson's recognition of Carranza and partially due to 800 men from the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry regiment sent to South Texas to augment the 5000 troops already there. Local citizens put up a \$1000 reward for the killing of either or both de la Rosa or Pizana. The U.S. Attorney General reduced the amount to \$250 apiece and stipulated that the reward would only be paid to persons who delivered the heads of either of the men in a gunny sack to the American side of the Rio Grande – an unusual bounty to be issued forth by the U.S. government.

But Carranza had withdrawn his support for the raids and they stopped. The guerrillas were now so busy dodging the Mexican Army they had no time for raids into Texas. The death toll from the Border War was put at around 5000 – about 300 executed by hanging or shooting by governmental entities. The war to return South Texas to Mexico was over. Carranza executed Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa would flee into the Mexican interior pursued by the U.S. Army.

But the damage caused by the war between Anglos and Hispanics in South Texas was done. The Anglos viewed the Mexican-Americans as a fifth column for Mexican interests. The Mexican-Americans, many of whose families had live on their land since before it was part of Texas or the United States, were ostracized by former friends.

The Border War was history but its legacy was not.

The Mexicans who had instigated the war with the intent of retuning Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California to Mexico were left with nothing but the oft repeated fateful line still heard today in the Border Region, "Tan cerca de Estados Unidos tan lejos de dios;" So close to America so far from God."



*The Border War was a dirty fight*

*Briefs cont. from A1*

**"Catholic Charities Flour Bluff Pantry** at St. Paul the Apostle Church is open every Tuesday and Thursday 9am-2pm, and the 3rd Wednesday 4:30-7pm. For more information please call 361-929-607.

**Island Moon Radio** this week will have Augs, Dale, Mary, Joey Farah and Frank "The Car Guy" DeLa Rosa. Listen in Thursdays 7 - 9 am at 94.7 FM or us947.net.

**Random Stuff**

**Lowreys microwavable spicy pork rinds** are a great, virtually no carb, alternative to potato chips. What's funny is that even if you don't like the bagged pork rinds you will still like these because they are not puffy but are smaller, crispy, warm snacks that taste sort of like barbecue potato chips.



*Bob Cont. from A1*

**1967** Hurricane Beulah destroyed half the pier leaving 600.' 127' was added making it 727'

**1970** Hurricane Celia caused minor damage.

**August 1980** Hurricane Allen destroyed the pier. That summer there was record 186,000 people that visited the pier.

**Now is a great time to buy CDs** especially through your brokerage like Etrade, Schwab etc. I had cash sitting in my IRA Etrade cash account that was not making me any money. The money ended up there because I would sell a stock and not reinvest. To purchase cd I just went to "Trade" then "CDs" then picked out a San Francisco bank that had the highest interest which was 5.05 for a 3-month CD. No worries about risks because the banks are federally insured. So on the maturity date in July my invested cash plus the interest made will go back to my cash account. The interest is not taxed until I withdraw that money because I have a Traditional IRA with Roth IRA it is not taxed. I was quoted 4.25% for a 3-month by my bank which is obviously significantly lower. I only bought a 3-month because I believe interest rates might keep going up. Last August interest rate for a 3-month cd was 2.3 about half what it is now. Another advantage buying through your brokerage is that you can sell cd before the maturity date if you need the cash without penalty.

**The Packery Bar** will feature the Matt Hole Band Friday April 7th from 8-11 pm

**1983** Pier was replaced with concrete pier six feet higher and 15' wide with 146' long 19' wide T-Head.

**2020** Hurricane Hanna destroyed the Pier

**2023** Future undetermined.



*Evelyn Pless-Schubert*

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# Sports

*Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon*



## Baseball Catcher's Mask

By Dotson Lewis

*Dotson's Note: The baseball catcher's mask is a fundamental piece of equipment in the game. The catcher is positioned behind home plate and is needed there, but it is a dangerous position to play. From the catcher's vantage point, he can see the whole field. This lets him observe and respond to the ongoing game in a way that no other player can. But it also puts him in the direct line of fire during batting. He may be hit by an errant pitch or a flying bat or pieces of a splintered one. Injuries from any of these causes can be serious. Catchers have been known to be knocked unconscious during play. Protective gear is essential. Thanks to Bill Morgan, the Baseball Hall of Fame, and Kate Kelly for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan for the photos.*



### How the Baseball Mask Came About

According to information from the Baseball Hall of Fame, the early catchers wore only a rubber mouth guard—there was no mask, no chest guard, no shin guards, and most surprisingly, no glove.



Thayer's Catcher's Mask

Because they wore no protection, they stood a few feet back from the plate and caught pitches on the bounce. With this type of play, there was also no need for catchers to crouch.

The development of the curveball in the late 1860s or 1870s brought about the need for the catcher's mask. Catchers needed to come in closer to the plate in order to be there for the catch. This put the player in a position where he could be hit by either a ball or the bat.

### Fred Thayer Comes Up With Concept

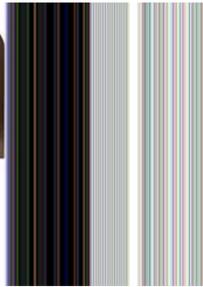
A Harvard student named Fred Thayer is credited with having invented the first catcher's mask. Thayer was team captain of the [Harvard Nine](#). He also played third base. The pitcher for Harvard's team was working on perfecting the curveball. It wasn't an easy pitch to master, and there was controversy over the use of it. Slowly, teams, including Harvard and other college teams, were adding it.

Thayer's concern centered on a new catcher who joined the team. James Tyng had just qualified for the team and would play catcher. Thayer wanted to keep Tyng and other players safe. What would protect Tyng from being injured with the new style of play? As he walked across the campus to classes and to team practices, he noticed the face masks being carried by members of the fencing team. He wondered if that model could be used for a catcher's mask.

### Thayer Took Idea to Tinsmith

Catchers need to see everything on the field, so the density of the webbing on the fencer's mask would need to be modified. A mask strong enough to protect against a

ball and yet open enough to permit good vision were the elements Thayer had in mind when he visited a tinsmith in Cambridge

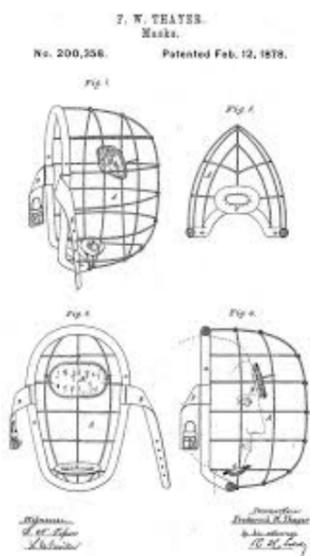


The two were able to work together and modify the creation to Thayer's satisfaction.

Thayer's mask was first worn by James Tyng in a game in Lynn, Massachusetts (1877). There was some grousing from the opposing team that the mask gave the Harvard Nine an unfair advantage, but overall, the use of the mask gained approval. The new mask was proved a complete success, since it entirely protects the face and head and adds greatly to the confidence of the catcher, who need not feel he is in every moment in danger of a lifelong injury. To the ingenious inventor of this mask we are largely indebted for the excellent playing of our new catcher, who promises to excel the fine playing of those who have previously held this position.

### The Patent on the Catcher's Mask

Fred Thayer applied for a patent for his "Face-Guard or Safety-Mask for Base-Ball Players" on January 15, 1878. The patent was approved less than a month later.



His application describes the mask this way: "It consists of a forehead and a chin rest or bottom bearing, and a wire cage to receive them and extend about the face, the whole being substantially as represented [in the illustrations provided with the patent application], and provided with straps or means of securing the cage to the head of a player."

The application also specified that the cage was "arched both horizontally and vertically, in order to deflect a ball when struck by it."

### Catcher Mask Adopted By Professional Teams



The Harvard Nine; Thayer is in the center holding the catcher's mask he invented. The value of the mask for professional teams was understood relatively quickly despite a cultural environment that honored "manliness." If a player suffered an injury (including a serious one), the honorable thing to do was to get up and resume your position. In the press, there are mentions of catchers who blacked out briefly from a hit, but the reporters wrote of the player's heroic action in getting up and continuing to play.

Initially, catchers were taunted by the crowds when they wore masks for the first time. But because of the very real risks of the position, catchers soon started wearing the new gear. By the late 1880s, there are enough modifications on record in the pat-

*Mask Cont. on A8*

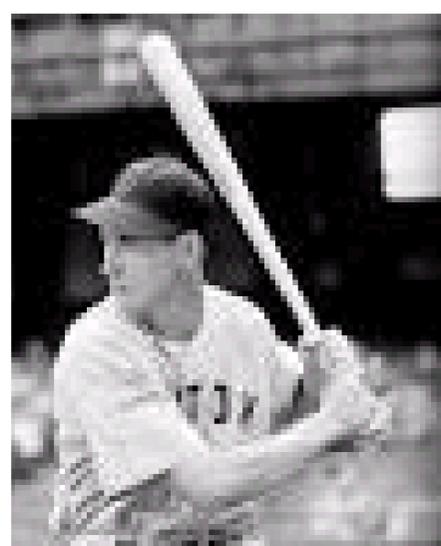
## Williams or Wayne



By Andy Purvis



John Wayne



Ted Williams

Ted Williams (The Kid) is, was, and always will be, one of the greatest hitters that ever lived. Most people agreed that he had forgotten more about hitting a baseball than most players would ever learn. Ted's temperamental, high-strung nature combined with his immense confidence in his beliefs propelled him to the top of the world of Major League Baseball. When Ted stepped into a batters box, he knew he had to be perfect. John Wayne (The Duke), on the other hand, was labeled "The Greatest Cowboy Star of All Time." His loyalty to this country and the American West made him a legend of the big screen. The power of his raw presence screamed the words American, honor, dignity, and strength. They were both American heroes in every sense of the word: One in real life and the other in the minds of the public. The similarities were remarkable. They were both, tall, masculine, good-looking men. They each stood over 6'4". Both started their careers in 1939. One became famous on a movie set in Hollywood during the filming of "Stagecoach" and the other, on baseball diamonds across the country with the Boston Red Sox. One was shot down, for real, flying a plane in the Korean War, while the other was shot down on a World War II movie set in "Flying Tigers." Both were American as baseball, apple pie, and Chevrolet. They both grew up in poverty during their early years and each received their formal education in California. They stood for justice, hard work, fair play, courage, patriotism and the American Way. One earned two Triple Crown Awards in baseball and the other, two Oscar nominations in acting. One was selected to the Baseball Hall of Fame Museum in 1966, and the other received a People's Choice Award for the most popular motion picture actor in 1976. One became an MVP in Major League baseball, twice, and the other received his profession's highest honor in 1970, an Oscar. One has an airport named after him in Los Angeles and the other, a tunnel in Boston.

They were both loud, had nicknames, and preferred those over their real names. One carried a gun most days to work, the other a bat. Both have museums honoring their lifetime accomplishments. They have both written books and had many books written about them, some good, and some bad. Both were raised primarily by their mothers, but each had a male mentor (Tom Yawkey and John Ford, respectively) who helped them attain legendary status in their chosen professions. Their images appeared on many products over the years. Williams's image could be found on soft drinks, all types of Sears's sporting goods equipment, baseball cards, and national magazines. Wayne's image was seen on lunch boxes, chocolates, cigarettes,

playing cards, and comic books. One had a television show about fishing and the other, a radio show about detectives. One received the Medal of Freedom in 1991 from President George Herbert Bush, and the other received the Congressional Gold Medal in 1979 from Congress. One was elected to the All-Century Team; the other received a square on the Hollywood Walk of Stars.

Both were very active in the fight against cancer. One helped finance the "Jimmy Fund" in New England, while the other supported the John Wayne Cancer Hospital in California. Both were married three times, and all ended in divorce. One has a life-size statue in the foyer of the Baseball Hall of Fame and the other, a life-size statue, on a horse, in front of the Great Western Bank Building on Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles, California. One hit a home run in his last at-bat of a Major League game and the other went out with guns a blazing in his last film, "The Shootist." Theodore Samuel Williams was born August 30, 1918. He became a professional baseball player, U.S. Marine fighter pilot, and fly fisherman. Ted died at the age of 84 of cardiac arrest, July 5, 2002.

Marion Robert "Duke" Morrison was born May 26, 1907. He became an actor, artist, and patriot. John died at the age of 72 of lung cancer, June 11, 1979.

Throughout the years, as Ted grew older, he was asked by reporters, "How do you want to be remembered by baseball fans?" His answer was always the same, "When people see me walk down the street, I want them to say, 'There goes the best damn hitter that ever lived.'" It's a cinch that if he wasn't considered the best, it surely didn't take long to call roll.

When Wayne was also asked the same questions by reporters in his later years, he replied: "Feo, Fuerte y Formal," a Spanish proverb which means, "He was ugly, strong and had dignity." It appears that both men were greatly loved in the eyes of their fans. Wayne wanted very much to go to Annapolis and become an officer in the Navy; but after being denied, he chose to make movies and support the USO to fulfill his need for being a part of the American military. He even had an Army RAH-66 Helicopter named after him, "The Duke." Ted Williams on the other hand, actually lived the character that John Wayne portrayed in the movies. Ted served as a U.S. Marine fighter pilot during both World War II and the Korean War, flying a propeller-driven F4U Corsair and a F9F Panther jet aircraft. Was one man anymore famous than the other? I doubt it. Take your pick, Williams or Wayne. Both will be remembered forever.

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# The Island Outdoors

## On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner



Our new friend, Dawn Buckingham, Land Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, recently put out a press release regarding the Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan (TCRMP) 2023 and the projects that were selected. This program is simply “to guide state planning, resources, and funding to build a more resilient Texas coastal zone and defend against prevailing coastal vulnerabilities.” I couldn’t have said it more succinctly myself. You can easily find the plan and press releases online.

The TCRMP is funded by several mechanisms, notably the State’s portion of the Deepwater Horizon funds (the RESTORE Act) CEPR, and other federal pass-through funds like Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) to promulgate projects along the Texas coast. Most of you loyal readers are aware that we live on the coast, and we have a unique environment with a unique set of issues. I don’t need to go in for flowery language attempting to describe all the activities that occur here, from fishing, shrimping, port activities, water sports, the beach, the gulf, etc. You get it. You live it. And you’ve been reading my articles for years. Ha! However things like sea level rise, coastal erosion, overfishing of oysters, marsh loss, and stormwater pollution are real issues that need to be addressed, and often these issues are very costly to tackle.

The coastal bend is included in Region 3 of the master plan, which includes 29 projects worth a total of \$254 million headed this direction for coastal projects. This is from about the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on the edge of San Antonio Bay south to the upper reaches of Alazan in Baffin Bay. While this program has been around for a while, and a lot of people have been waiting for these funds to cut loose, they finally are hitting the bank. Some of these projects had a matching component, most did not. Let’s check the scorecard, shall we?

The big winner in our area was Nueces County with a little over \$60 million for their projects, including the Gulf Beach Renourishment and Protection (looking at offshore sand sources), Hydrologic Restoration, Packery Channel Park Restoration, Petronila Creek and Oso Creek Improvements, and the Rincon Reef Breakwater (North Beach breakwater, \$31 million!) projects. Wow! Congrats for staying the course and having faith leading the county

through this lengthy process over the past four or so years. You all know who I’m talking about.

The next big winners in our area were the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP) with over \$30 million right here in the Corpus Christi Bay area, and then a little over \$58 million total if you add in their projects up the coast. One of my favorites are the Triangle Tree and Tern Island protection projects. You loyal readers would have to dig really deep in my articles to figure out my association with Triangle Tree, but I’m glad it’s getting continued attention. They are also doing some work for the Baffin watershed, Indian Point marsh system, Nueces Bay Delta, Mustang Island seagrass and marshes, and up the coast around the Aransas NWR. Good stuff!

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will receive over \$36 million for whooping crane restoration up the coast. The Nature Conservancy will receive over \$16 million for some of my favorite projects, including Shamrock Cove and Shamrock Island. The Port of Corpus Christi partnered with Ducks Unlimited to get over \$9 million for habitat restoration and enhancement projects on the north side of the bay. The City of Port Aransas got over \$5 million for marsh and tidal flat repairs at Charlie’s Pasture. The City of Corpus Christi will receive \$1 million for stormwater system improvements. Hopefully they will apply for funds in the future for the erosion response plan that four independent committees have been calling for. Congrats to everyone that applied and will be doing projects.

We made quorum at the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) the other evening and got a few updates from the city on Bond projects and beaches updates. We’d like to thank District 4 councilman Dan Suckley and Chrissy Romeros from Rep. Todd Hunter’s office for attending not only ISAC, but some previous meetings and coordination with TxDOT and the city on the Bond 2018/JFK Causeway projects. There’s been some movement, stay tuned for more on those. I presented the committee with a list of Island projects that we’ve compiled over the years, and we will be discussing them at the subcommittee level in advance of the next TIRZ #2 meeting. Have a Happy Easter, everyone travel safe out there, drop me a line at [tarponchaser@mail.com](mailto:tarponchaser@mail.com) and I’ll see you here next week On the Rocks.

## Lions and Tigers in the Gulf? Invasive Species Pose a Threat to Native Ecosystems

By: Caleb Hess, Communications Intern Texas Sea Grant

He cautions that lionfish are “dangerous and must be handled with care,” because of the venomous spikes that coat their bodies. But, once they’ve been killed and dressed, they’re as edible—and delicious—as any other fish.

What comes to mind when you think about an invasion? UFOs hanging ominously above the world’s major cities? What about shrimp larger than your head, or fish studded with poisonous spikes? Sometimes, reality is stranger than fiction: these creatures exist, and they are invasive. Invasive species infiltrate ecosystems other than those where they naturally belong. They can have devastating impacts on both native species and the environment.

There are many ways invasive species can end up somewhere they do not belong. Some are brought in on cars, ships and planes. Other times, they are introduced through trafficking and trade; some species are imported for their exotic appearances then are released or escape their enclosures. Some invasive species were introduced for commercial or ecological purposes. Invasive species generally lack natural predators to keep their populations controlled. And, because their populations can grow unchecked, they can quickly outcompete native species.

### Gulf of Mexico

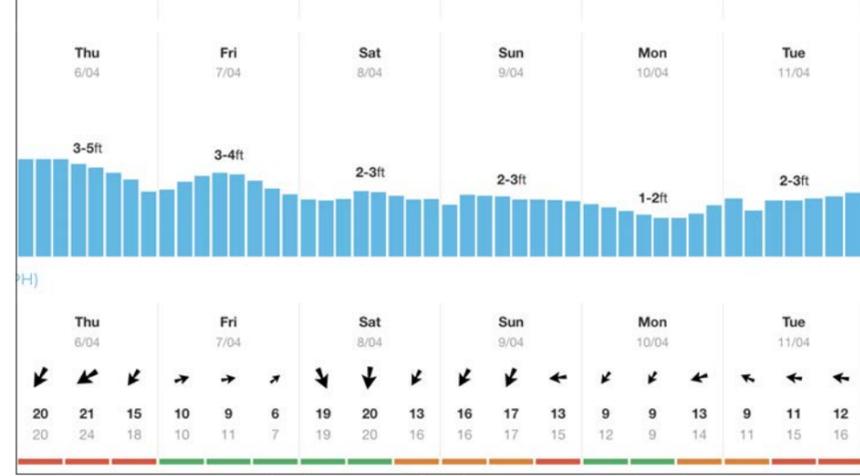
The Gulf of Mexico has become home to many invasive species that are cause for concern. Once invasive species take hold in an area, “they are not manageable,” says Tony Reisinger, Texas Sea Grant coastal and marine extension agent for Cameron County. “You do what you can to eliminate the ones you know about, but there will always be another one lurking around the corner.”

Lionfish, for example, are invasive and voracious predators that outcompete most native fish. They are covered in venomous spines which offer protection against any would-be predators in the Atlantic. In areas where lionfish have become established, such as the Caribbean, Bahamas, and the Gulf of Mexico, these invaders have ravaged ecosystems and decreased biodiversity. Reisinger says that “we didn’t know when they [got] here, but they’re here. People are seeing them [in Texas], and they’re reporting them.”

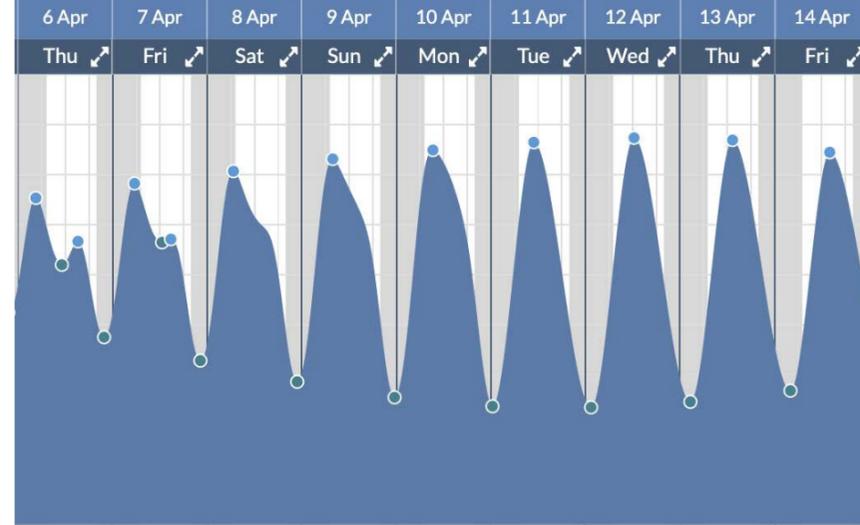


The Asian tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) is another species native to the Indo-Pacific that has taken up residence in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. These shrimp are massive—they can grow up to a foot long and weigh nearly a pound. Tiger shrimp are much larger than the species of shrimp that naturally inhabit the Gulf, and experts worry that tiger shrimp might pose a threat to native shrimp species, either by spreading diseases or outcompeting them for resources. Reisinger says that while, “the population hasn’t seemingly taken off, I suspect that they’re here, and they’re breeding. We’ve had fishermen bring us juveniles—about eight inches long—that were caught in the Brownsville ship channel.” Reisinger notes that you can, in fact, eat the Asian tiger shrimp. He shares a recipe from Shrimp Farmer, Gordon Lipscomb, “You peel it, leave the tail on like you usually do, then you split it open and lay in some cream cheese and jalapeno and then wrap it with bacon and put it on the grill.”

## Packery Channel Surf Forecast



## Tides of the Week



4:28AM 1.54ft	5:32AM 1.67ft	6:38AM 1.8ft	7:51AM 1.9ft	9:16AM 1.97ft	10:53AM 2.03ft	12:20PM 2.1ft	1:21PM 2.07ft	2:02PM 1.97ft
3:09PM 1.15ft	2:45PM 1.18ft							
11:04AM 0.95ft	12:30PM 1.15ft	10:49PM -0.1ft	11:32PM -0.23ft		00:24AM -0.33ft	1:26AM -0.33ft	2:39AM -0.3ft	4:03AM -0.16ft
9:47PM 0.3ft	10:14PM 0.1ft							
7:13AM 7:48PM	7:12AM 7:49PM	7:11AM 7:50PM	7:10AM 7:50PM	7:09AM 7:51PM	7:08AM 7:51PM	7:07AM 7:52PM	7:06AM 7:52PM	7:05AM 7:53PM
7:33AM 8:32PM	8:04AM 9:31PM	8:39AM 10:34PM	9:19AM 11:39PM	10:07AM	11:01AM 00:44AM	12:03PM 1:47AM	1:10PM 2:45AM	2:19PM 3:37AM



This nice trout was our first cast at dawn along the King Ranch Shoreline. A big DOWN SOUTH LURES in Magic Grass with a 1/4ounce jig head casting over scattered sand and grass in 3' of water.



Haden came all the way from Michigan to tie into a redfish, mid day he used a DOA 3" Cal Shad to pick a fight with this big boy. Photos: Joey Farah



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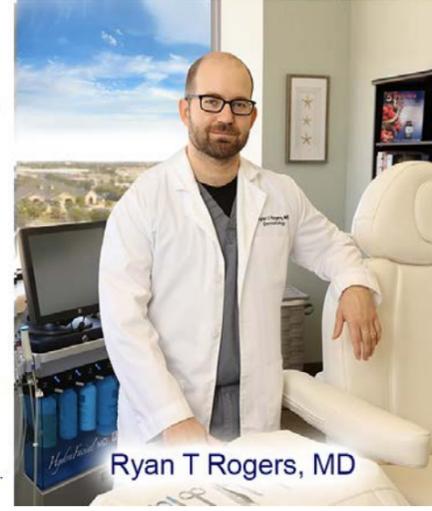
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Ryan T Rogers, MD

Nature Notes

Cattle Egrets: The Coach Potatoes of the Bird World

By Taylor Snyder



Photo: by Mike Williams

range expansion has been primarily of their own doing, the spread of modern agriculture—particularly mechanical farm equipment and large-scale ranching—has definitely been a helpful factor. This is largely due to the fact that Cattle Egrets are kind of lazy.

While these egrets are perfectly capable of foraging for food on their own, they much prefer the easy pickings stirred up by farm equipment or large animals. Sometimes you'll even find them perched on the backs of cattle, waiting for parasites like ticks to make themselves an easy meal. Funnily enough, Cattle Egrets even rely on other species of herons to establish heronries—essentially just a word for a group of breeding herons—rather than take the initiative to do it themselves.

If you're interested in spotting a Cattle Egret, you shouldn't have to look far. These birds are gregarious—which essentially means that they like to hang out with each other—and can be found in agricultural fields and wetlands. A good rule of thumb is: if you spot cattle, Cattle Egrets might not be too far behind.

Since some Cattle Egrets spend both their breeding and nonbreeding season in Texas, you'll probably get the opportunity to see them in both versions of their plumage. During their non-breeding season, they are all white with a yellow bill and black legs. But during their breeding season, Cattle Egrets swap their all-white appearance for white with a few buff dashes on their head, chest, and back. Additionally, their legs and bill are both yellow—sometimes their bills can even transition from purple near the eyes to yellow at the tip, it is quite the sight to see! Be sure not to mistake them for Great Egrets which are taller and more slender, or White Ibis which have a characteristic long, curved pink bill.

While you might not know them by name, you've undoubtedly seen the stocky white birds that follow cattle and tractors around as they move through fields. Scientifically speaking, these are Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) but, depending on where you live or even who pointed them out to you for the first time, you might call them something else. Personally, I grew up calling these birds Charley Birds. And while I can't exactly tell you why, I can tell you that these birds go by a lot of different names.

Regardless of what you call them, these birds are incredibly adaptable. They've been documented following pretty much anything—tractors, cows, camels, hippopotamuses, and even fire—that will help them and their pals on their quest for food.

Originally from Africa, these resourceful birds made their way to South America in the late 1870s and wound up in North America by the 1940s. While their

Ten years ago this week...

From the April 4, 2013 Edition of the Island Moon



Sand was being plowed from the Micheal J. Ellis Seawall



This is my friend who is a Big Bird



What's wrong with this picture?



Sand from canal dredging was being pumped to this site near Aquarius.



The annual Easter egg hunt was held in Billish Park



Easter service at Trinity by the Sea

Mask Cont from A6

patent office that the masks must have come into wide use by that time.

Improvements to the Masks



Above, the "open view" catcher's mask invented by George Barnard.

One of the early patents on file that amends

the invention was one by George Barnard (1888) who realized that the catcher's neck was still exposed. (A powerful ball to the neck can be painful and sometimes fatal.) He added another bar beneath the main part of the mask in order to provide more neck protection. His mask is also described as the "open view" mask as he saw that one of the horizontal bars across the eyes could be removed to provide greater visibility.

**Catcher's Mask Changes Game**  
Dotson's Other Note: James Tyng, and those who followed, were able to move closer to the plate. Soon catchers began to crouch, enabling them to form a target with their hands in the strike zone. Over time, it became clear that other protective measures needed to be implemented. Today the catcher wears shin guards, a chest protector, and a glove. The all-important catcher's mask is sometimes an all-in-one piece combining the mask with a shell-type helmet. This provides the catcher with the protective head gear needed.

Thousands of people flock to the Botanical Gardens for the Big Bloom event each spring to buy wagon loads of plants, or to just enjoy a fun family day at one of our city's main attractions, posing with birds, handling snakes, and releasing butterflies and ladybugs. We caught lots of Island people way OTB to enjoy the day! Photos by Debbie Nobel



The beauty that's a beast. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



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# Yard of the Month

The Island Gardeners have selected April's yard of the month. Lola Grundy's yard is full of vegetable and fruit plants. She has used flagstone to create a great design including a center circle with raised beds and crushed granite walkways. Her back yard has even more attractive plants. Take a look at 15222 Reales.



The Chaney's took the Moon to Louisiana this week and shot this picture under the Calcasieu River Bridge.

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Members of the Flour Bluff Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps got a chance to meet the Governor this week.

Last Week's Mystery Islander!



Our Mystery Person of the Week last issue was Islander Lori Rasheed who along with her husband Mohsin will go down in Island history for bringing us a grocery store. The photo of Lori last week was from her high school years, this one is her today at the IGA Island Market.

This Week's Mystery Islander!

This week's Mystery Person is getting ready to help launch a NASA spaceship and was also deployed to the Desert Shield/Desert Storm.



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# Contrary to Popular Beef

By Chris Jordan

Turns out, we were in the middle of a series of extreme weather events in New Braunfels on January 20th, 1973. Just the previous spring, seventeen people lost their lives due to the flooding caused by a massive rainstorm. On this day we got our very own tornado. Our family took shelter in my treehouse. I know that doesn't sound like a great idea, but the treehouse was made from a rail car shipping container and was quite stout. Plus, a giant pecan tree was growing up through the middle of it so it wasn't going anywhere. Being a famously overprotective parent, Mom wanted Dad to lash us all to the trunk with some rope, just to be on the safe side. Dad didn't have any rope but he was able to produce some antenna cable leftover from the recent installation of an aerial so we could get the San Antonio TV stations. There were three broadcasting on VHF channels four, five, and twelve. Well, there was a fourth station if you counted PBS on channel nine. Heck, five if you could tune-in the Spanish language station over on the UHF band. Anyway, there we were: Mom, Dad, my infant sister Claudia, and I in a treehouse, bound to a tree trunk with aerial wire, waiting-out a tornado. I was four years old.

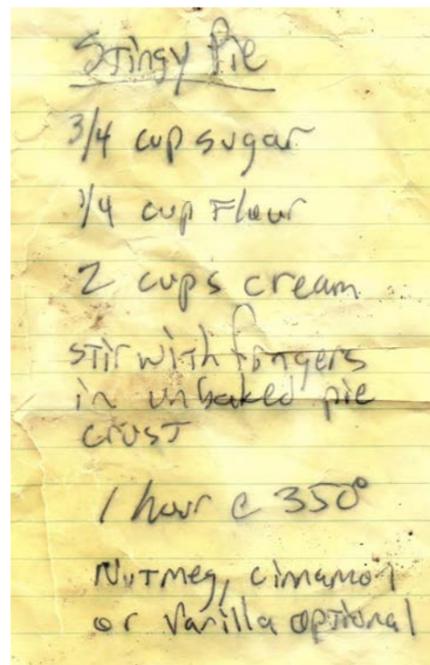
Just a few days before on January 10th, it was dang cold in New Braunfels. It only got up to 28° all day. My father Ritchie Harbord Jordan was a *nostaroma* — which is a compound word I just coined for someone who is both nostalgic and romantic. At least he didn't pass any of that nonsense on to me. In the evening, we were all hunkered-down when Dad got a hankerin' for some stingy pie. Now, I'd had stingy pie several times but only at Grandma's house. The thing is, stingy pie is so-named because it's a tiny little pie you might make in a shallow bowl so as to not waste leftover pie crust dough. Of course, you wouldn't have any leftover pie filling as that is precisely recipe'd to fill a pie crust. So there was the matter of what goes in a stingy pie. Dad didn't know so he would have to ask his mother.

In those days, long distance phone calls were not undertaken lightly. They were costly. But the urgency of this occasion warranted it. A connection was made to a modest old country home way over on the southside of San Antonio. It wasn't really in the country, but it felt like it. There was quite a bit of land, some out-buildings, and a small-scale commercial garden. It was on Harding Avenue right in the middle of Harlandale if you know where that is. I don't even think the house was that old either, but it contained old things and had old inhabitants.

Initially, Grandma wouldn't budge from her position that there was simply no recipe. The idea of my dad setting out to make a stingy pie that wasn't the by-product of some other proper pie did not sit well with her. All dad got out of her was that you put milk, sugar, and flour directly into the pie crust and stirred it around with your finger tips. That last part was specified with an emphasis that conveyed its importance.

When done properly, a stingy pie is sort of like a custard or chess pie but the filling is very dense, moist, and sweet. Goopy even. Dad and I stayed up late making stingy

pies that wintery night. Our first one was too runny. We burnt our second one. We were able to at least sample the third one, but it wasn't sweet enough. Stingy Pie #4 was legend. Dad had done it: he'd made a full-sized pie that was not even supposed to exist and purportedly could not be created by anything resembling a recipe.



Stingy Pie Recipe

Dad wrote down his recipe on a lined, yellow, miniature, legal pad. He then tore that piece of paper off, folded it in half, and slipped it between the endsheet and back cover of my Mom's 1959 Farm Journal Country Cookbook. She'd been given the book as a wedding gift in 1962 and referred to it often. It was a good place to stash a hard-earned, handwritten recipe.

We were too busy noshing stingy pie and drinking milk to notice how late it had gotten. Dad was a little disappointed he'd missed the ten o'clock news. Pops and I fell asleep on the couch at some point during The Tonight Show. Johnny Carson didn't wake us. The Star-Spangled Banner didn't wake us. The NTSC screen of colored bars and the 1,000 hertz test tone didn't wake us. The fuzzy sound and static screen of a TV station that isn't broadcasting only lulled us deeper into slumber.

Finally a shared ethereal sense of wonder brought us 'round. It was still dark out. There was that eerie glow from the snow on the TV screen. Dad hoisted himself off the couch and shut the television set off. Without the background drone of that fuzzy sound, it was unusually quiet in our little house. It was dark inside now too with the TV snow gone. We knew something was afoot as we cautiously peered out a window into the darkness. And there it was: real snow on the ground. January 11, 1973 was a great day in New Braunfels, Texas: I saw my first snow and Pops had made his first of many stingy pies.

The Port Aransas Cookbook offers private chef and catering services. You can look at some pretty food pics on Instagram and Facebook. Always happy to chat by phone (361-453-0147) or email (theportaransascookbook@gmail.com)



# By Any Other Name?

By Pastor Kris Bair

They come in waves on Facebook—requests to be my Friend. I know lots of folks just hit the "Accept" button. I did at first!

But then I started reading about robots and Facebook trolls, and I started checking my posts and being a responsible Facebook user.

If there is such a thing.

Only then did I experience the deep joy of engaging in Defensive Facebook Warfare. DFW is no longer merely a geographic area of Texas, it's a way of life!

Yes, you do not have to sit back and take it. You can block posts that offend or distract or attempt to manipulate you into buying something.

You can block users who do the same thing.

And you can prevent that last one by only accepting new Friends you know.

BUT if you know you've already befriended them, they've probably been hacked. Don't accept them again unless they email you and tell you to do so.

This very morning I got a Friend request from (wait for it . . . ) Harry Potash.

Give me a break. Usually the Troll trying to get my information comes up with a more realistic name. I've been in the public arena as a teacher and a preacher for nearly 50 years, and I've yet to run into anyone named after a salt.

No Lucy Limestones. No Solomon Saltpeters. No Nicky Niters. No Charlie Chalks. No Vince Vitriols (although I've known some vitriolic Vinces).

I was guessing the name was a pathetic attempt to remind us of Harry Potter—another fictional character.

This Harry Potash has a cover photo insert of a real person in camo clothing with a stocking cap on his head, posing with his arms around two large dogs.

What a sweetie. Or is it?

The photo insert covers a more complete cover photo of him standing in between two black vehicles in military-like gear out in what appears to be desert countryside.

Ironically, under the cover photos and his name is "lovely and trusting everyone thanks you"—evidently no punctuation necessary.

Harry doesn't trust us with any information about where he's from or what he does for a living. Harry's Friends are limited to six suckers who fell for the invitation to befriend him.

He lists a number of things as "interests"—none of them with details to indicate personal preferences.

His "Reading" interest (the tab displays an open book) takes you not to book choices, but to posts from the city of Reading in England!

Under "Eating" (a tab with a piece of pizza displayed on it) is a post by me, shared a year ago—a poem by Naomi Shahib Nye called "Kindness." There is food mentioned in the poem and this is how the robot got my name.

If you click on Friends to see if any of your friends might be there, you find the section is completely empty.

If you click on Photos, likewise, with the exception of the two on the cover.

If you put "Harry Potash" into Facebook's Search feature, you'll find a Harry Potash who supposedly lives in Michigan (his photo includes a highly suspect palm tree), and who looks nothing like the fake one I've been writing about.

An older man, this Harry has no photos other than a cover of himself, but many Friends, including apparent Potash relatives with LOTS of photos and life experiences to support their own FB pages.

I owe the family an apology for ever doubting the name!

But if you check out this Harry's About section, you again find very little info, except that he Follows a porn star named Anna Vasileva.

Hmmm. I must guess the real Harry was hacked and his Friends were fooled into Liking this page.

In addition to the two Harrys I've described, Search brings up four others, including one supposedly from Berlin, Germany. This one Likes five Bangladesh pages and has nine Followers, all from Bangladesh.

Two of the Potashes have absolutely no info connected with them—not even a cover photo.

And the last claims to work for Facebook in Bangladesh. He has 500 Friends and Follows LOTS of pages, including numerous Body Massage vendors.

Underneath his cover photo of a flower is "i like sex" (no punctuation). When I returned to my Search, his page had conveniently disappeared.

I'm feeling like I ought to wash my hands by now and begin writing a novel titled *Facebook Faceout*.

Why do I even mess with this? Well, Facebook redeems itself once you clear out the junk and practice good management.

It's become the "go to" social media program for grandparents who long to keep in contact with the kiddos, who enjoy seeing the posts of things they remember, who need a laugh once or twice a day, who are grateful for opportunities to see the world when they can't get out.

Facebook allowed us at Island Presbyterian Church to reach out to parishioners during COVID, when we couldn't hold services, and we continue to Livestream and Zoom because we still have some who just can't make it to church.

If you go to our FB page, you'll see we are Followed and Friendened by real people and we're careful about our content, too. But we'd be really happy to see the real you in person, too. Worship with us at 10 a.m. every Sunday, Gypsy and Fortuna Bay.

Or join us at 7 a.m. this Sunday for Easter Sunrise service at the end of Whitecap—bring a chair, a morning beverage if you need it, controlled pets on a leash. We're serving communion with the Methodists of Island in the Son.

Regular beach worship at 8 a.m. begins on May 7 and extends through October—same place, no robots, no trolls. Potashes welcome, if they're real!



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



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# Sudoku

*Sudoku answers are not available. Play at your own risk! Going Easy On You...*

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

## Knuckle-Cracker

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

## Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

## Brain-Buster

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

# Moon Crossword

*Crossword Solution on classifieds page*

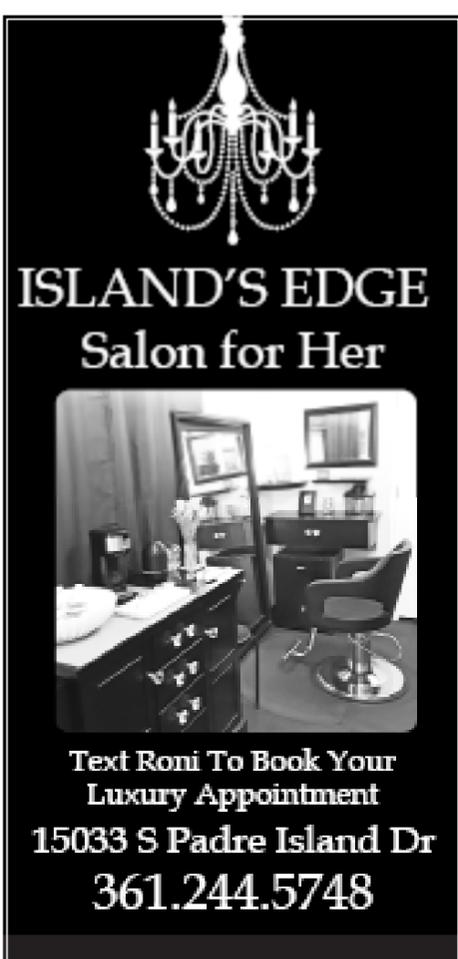
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20					21				22					
					23						24			
25	26	27					28	29	30					
31						32					33	34	35	
36						37					38	39		
40						41					42			
						43	44				45			
46	47	48							49					
50						51		52				53	54	55
56							57					58	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

### Across

- 1. Reindeer herders
- 6. Hotfooted it
- 10. Melville's whaler
- 14. Everglades wader
- 15. Gymnast Korbut
- 16. Scale down
- 17. Where to find TV dinners
- 20. One of the Smothers Brothers
- 21. Miniature-golf shot
- 22. Roofing pro
- 23. Buffalo Bill \_\_
- 24. Weightlifter's exercise
- 25. Head over heels
- 28. Young girl
- 31. Sheer fabric
- 32. Actress Winslet
- 33. Tanning-lotion letters
- 36. Place to find bargains
- 40. Sweetie
- 41. Be abundant
- 42. Stiller's mate
- 43. Disreputable nightspots
- 45. Army radioman's nickname
- 46. Long-eared equines
- 49. X marks it
- 50. Italian city
- 52. Abbr. on a phone
- 53. Bullring cry
- 56. Fast-food restaurant feature
- 59. Fall tool
- 60. Abba of Israel
- 61. Grammarian's concern
- 62. Singletons
- 63. All-work, no-play student
- 64. City leader

### Down

- 1. Took off
- 2. "Farming" starter
- 3. Year-end formal
- 4. Dispenser candy
- 5. Avoid, in a way
- 6. Easy mark
- 7. Whodunit's essence
- 8. Freudian concern
- 9. Most scoutmasters
- 10. Beehive's locale
- 11. Waste maker, maybe
- 12. Van Gogh locale
- 13. Brewpub lineup
- 18. Hosiery shade
- 19. Mont Blanc's range
- 23. Fountain offering
- 25. Allergy symptom
- 26. \_\_ contendere
- 27. Creditor's claim
- 28. Ceremonial staffs
- 29. Tabloids couple
- 30. Dry, on wine labels
- 32. Patella's place
- 33. Have top billing
- 34. Exec's extra
- 35. Become threadbare
- 37. Off-road goer, briefly
- 38. Marketplace
- 39. In order
- 43. Digs deeply
- 44. "Understood"
- 45. Cast out
- 46. "Male" word form
- 47. Clear wrap
- 48. Sports-shoe feature
- 49. Gumption
- 51. Hobo fare
- 52. Algerian port
- 53. Jazz singer Anita
- 54. Letterhead symbol
- 55. Fancy jug
- 57. "The Sopranos" network
- 58. Code-cracking org.



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**Island Fire Calls**  
March 27-April 4

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**Fire Station #16**  
8185 State Highway 361

**Police Blotter March 28th -April 2nd**

**JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection**

**Crimes against Property**  
14000 block SPID 10 a.m. March 30 Criminal Mischief  
14000 block SPID 5 a.m. March 30 Criminal Mischief \$100-\$750

**Traffic**  
30 Traffic Stops

**SPID West to Laguna Madre**

**Crimes against Person**  
14400 block SPID 7 p.m. March 30 Shots Fired

**Crimes against Property**  
14500 block SPID 9 p.m. March 30 Trespassing  
15300 block SPID 3 p.m. April 2 Trespassing  
14300 block Cruiser 11 a.m. March 30 Burglary  
15800 block Cuttysark 11 a.m. March 30 Theft of Services

**Disturbance**  
14500 block SPID 1 a.m. March 28  
14900 block Aquarius 2 a.m. April 2 Evading Arrest/  
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia/Possession of Marijuana/Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon  
13900 block Fortuna Bay 7 p.m. April 1  
14000 block La Blanquilla 6 p.m. March 31 Public Intoxication  
15900 block El Socorro Loop 7 p.m. March 29

**Suspicious Person**  
14300 block Commodores 6 a.m. April 2

Commodores/SPID 7 p.m. April 1  
14300 block SPID 7 p.m. April 1  
SPID/Whitecap 2 p.m. April 1  
15300 block SPID Midnight April 1  
Port Royal/Cobo De Bara 4 p.m. March 28  
Whaler/Finistere 1 a.m. April 2  
15700 block Cuttysark Midnight March 29

**Traffic**  
231 Traffic Stops  
14300 block SPID 11 p.m. April 1 Crash  
14500 block SPID 2 p.m. March 31 Crash  
Dasmarinas/Aquarius 10 a.m. March 29 Crash

**SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to city limits**

**Crimes against Person**  
100 block Zahn Road Noon March 3 Pursue Suspect

**Crimes against Property**  
16100 block Gulf Beach 1 p.m. March 31 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle  
15300 block SPID 3 p.m. April 2 Trespassing  
11100 block SH 361 11 a.m. March 31 Criminal Mischief \$100-\$750/Burglary of a Motor Vehicle

**Disturbance**  
Windward/Leeward 8 p.m. March 30  
15200 block Windward 11 p.m. April 1

**Suspicious Person**  
Whitecap/Windward 2 a.m. April 2  
15300 block SPID Midnight April 1

**Traffic**  
56 Traffic Stops  
9800 block SH 361 April 1 Crash

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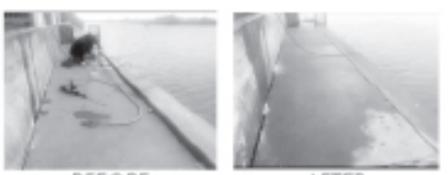
L	A	P	P	S		S	P	E	D		A	H	A	B				
E	G	R	E	T		O	L	G	A		P	A	R	E				
F	R	O	Z	E	N	F	O	O	D	A	I	S	L	E				
T	O	M				P	U	T	T		S	L	A	T	E	R		
						C	O	D	Y			P	R	E	S	S		
I	N	L	O	V	E					M	I	S	S	Y				
T	O	I	L	E						K	A	T	E			S	P	F
C	L	E	A	R	A	N	C	E	C	E	N	T	E	R				
H	O	N				T	E	E	M			M	E	A	R	A		
						D	I	V	E	S	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

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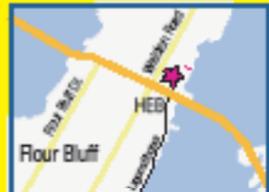
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# Sea Turtle Nesting Season Begins on the Texas Coast

## March -September

With sea turtle nesting season beginning along the Texas coast in late March, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is urging everyone using Texas beaches to do their part to help detect and protect threatened and endangered sea turtles on the beach. This includes the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, which is the most critically endangered sea turtle in the world, as well as the threatened loggerhead and green sea turtles.

"The public can help us protect these imperiled species by keeping an eye out and reporting all nesting sea turtles, their nests, and hatchlings from late March through September," said Mary Kay Skoruppa, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sea Turtle Coordinator for Texas. "We also ask that visitors drive slowly and carefully on beaches so that vehicles do not inadvertently collide with nesting turtles or emerging hatchlings. By working together, we can help ensure these species continue to find safe nesting conditions on the Texas coast now and into the future."

This year marks 45 years (1978-2023) of bi-national Kemp's ridley sea turtle conservation. In 1947, an estimated 40,000 Kemp's ridley turtles nested on one stretch of beach near Rancho Nuevo, Mexico. This was the only known nesting site at that time. Over the next four decades, the species suffered a devastating decline with a 99.4 percent reduction in numbers of nests. In response to the dramatic loss of this species, the Service and its partner agencies launched a cooperative international project in 1978. The project focuses on nest protection efforts in the U.S. and Mexico, implementing regulations requiring the use of turtle excluder devices on commercial fishing trawlers, and establishing a second nesting colony of Kemp's ridley sea turtles at the Padre Island National Seashore, Texas, where historical nesting had been documented.

Cooperative efforts continue to help the Kemp's ridley sea turtle population. In 2022, 284 Kemp's ridley nests were found in Texas – the largest number recorded in Texas since 1978 was in 2017, when 353 nests were documented. The Kemp's ridley sea turtle remains the most endangered species of sea turtle in the world; therefore, bi-national conservation efforts must continue to fully recover the species.

If a nesting sea turtle is seen, the Service advises visitors to quickly report the event by calling 1-866-TURTLE-5 (1-866-887-8535). After observing and reporting a sea turtle, visitors are asked to remain at the site until a biologist arrives. If it is not possible to stay until a biologist arrives, visitors are asked to carefully mark the site by laying pieces of beach debris, such as pieces of wood or other debris, in a large circle around the nest area, not on top of the nest, so biologists will be able to find the nest when they arrive.

When encountering a nesting sea turtle, the public is urged to keep their distance and avoid disturbing the turtle and their nesting site. After the females dig their nests in the sand to lay eggs, they must not be kept from returning back to the surf. The Kemp's ridley sea turtle is the smallest species of sea turtle, measuring about two feet long and weighing up to 100 pounds. Kemp's ridley sea turtles usually come ashore during the daylight hours to lay eggs in the sand. The green sea turtle and loggerhead sea turtle also nest along the Texas coast but in smaller numbers than the Kemp's ridley, and unlike the Kemp's ridley, usually come ashore at night.

# Texas' Rainy Day Fund Projected to Hit Cap for First Time Record Growth Fills State Savings Account

By Jamie Falconnier and Moise Julot

The extraordinary economic factors that have given the 88th Legislature an unprecedented amount of money for general-purpose spending also are generating record high revenues for Texas' Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF), the state savings account that's commonly called the Rainy Day Fund.

For the first time, the Comptroller's office, in the 2024-25 Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE), projects that the ESF in 2025 will hit the upper limit on its balance, which in each biennium can be no more than 10 percent of the amount of certain revenue deposited into the General Revenue Fund during the previous biennium. Comptroller Glenn Hegar, whose BRE sets parameters for the state budget, stresses the responsibility that goes along with unique funding opportunities.

"The revenue increases that we have seen truly have been historical and unprecedented. We have never seen anything like this in the past, and I don't think we'll see anything like this in the future," Hegar says. "I am glad to see that lawmakers are giving careful thought to how this tremendous asset can be best put to work for Texans."

Record growth in tax revenue collections in 2022 contributed to a projected \$32.7 billion ending balance in 2022-23, aided by a remarkable economic rebound after pandemic restrictions were lifted, spikes in energy prices and — unfortunately — the highest rate of general price inflation in 40 years. In fiscal 2022, total tax collections rose by 25.6 percent from the previous year; to put that in perspective, the maximum change in years prior was 13.4 percent. Sales taxes rose by 19.3 percent, motor vehicle taxes by 12.5 percent and severance taxes (i.e., taxes from oil production and natural gas production) by an astounding 116 percent in 2022 compared with 2021, all well above the average growth rates between 1996 and 2021.

### Birth of the Rainy Day Fund

The ESF was created by constitutional amendment in 1988 in the wake of an economic recession caused by plunging energy prices that forced a tax increase. The Legislature structured the fund to automatically set aside a portion of the state's volatile severance tax revenues, lessening the reliance on this money to support day-to-day expenses. The structure of the fund showed great foresight, as oil and gas prices (and, thus, severance tax revenues) have remained highly volatile. Since fiscal 1997, annual percent changes in severance tax revenue have ranged from 116 percent in 2022 to -53 percent in 2002.

### ESF Reaches Record Highs

The ESF has proved highly successful not only in reducing the state's reliance on volatile severance tax revenue but also in becoming one of the largest state savings funds in the nation. Aided by strong growth in severance tax revenues and a large transfer from the unencumbered and unobligated balance of the state's General Revenue Fund, the ESF balance is expected to rise sharply to \$27.1 billion by the end of fiscal 2025, up from \$10.7 billion at the end of fiscal 2022.

### Funding for Rainy Days

The ESF is funded primarily with severance taxes. Until fiscal 2015, the ESF received 75 percent of the previous year's oil production and natural gas production tax revenues exceeding the amounts they yielded in fiscal 1987 — \$531.9 million and \$599.8 million, respectively. To address urgent transportation needs, voters approved a 2014 constitutional amendment that shifted half of the oil and gas tax revenue that would have been transferred to the ESF to the State Highway Fund (SHF). Barring further legislative action, this arrangement will expire in December 2034, and the transfer to the ESF will return to 75 percent of oil and gas tax collections above the fiscal 1987 threshold in fiscal 2036. Between fiscal 2023 and 2025, total severance tax transfers to the ESF would be \$10.5 billion, with annual transfers well above historical norms. As the ESF is projected to reach its constitutional cap in

2025, about \$690 million that would go to the fund will remain in general revenue, and the ESF is projected to receive \$9.8 billion.

In addition to severance tax transfers, half of any unencumbered and unobligated general revenue balance remaining at the end of a biennium must be transferred to the ESF. An unencumbered balance is the amount not restricted or committed for future liabilities, such as payroll for work already performed, vendor payments, grants payable or future construction expenditures under an existing contract. Absent legislative action, the ESF is projected to receive about \$5.71 billion in a transfer from the General Revenue Fund in fiscal 2024, the first unencumbered transfer to the ESF since 2008. Other projected proceeds during this period include \$2 billion of interest earned on the ESF balance and investment returns from a portion of the fund.

Notably, lawmakers may take actions to eliminate or greatly reduce the amount of unencumbered general revenue to be transferred to the ESF in fiscal 2024, meaning the fund may not reach its cap in 2025.

### When to Spend

The Texas Constitution authorizes the Legislature to make appropriations from the ESF in response to a budget deficit during a biennium or a projected revenue shortfall in an ensuing biennium. These circumstances require approval by three-fifths of the Legislature. The Legislature may also make appropriations for any purpose it chooses at any time, requiring a two-thirds majority for passage.

The Legislature has authorized a total of \$17.4 billion in expenditures from the ESF since its inception. The targets of these appropriations have included water projects, disaster relief, public education, economic development and health and human services. One appropriation — \$3.2 billion in 2011 — was made to cover a budget gap.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has received the most funding from the ESF, followed by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. TEA has received contributions in several fiscal cycles, the largest being \$1.75 billion for the Foundation School Program in 2013. TWDB received \$2 billion in ESF appropriations to establish the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas in 2014 and about \$1.5 billion in 2019 for various infrastructure and hazard mitigation projects. The Comptroller's office received the largest amount paid by the fund in 2011 to cover the budget gap; it also received a \$211 million contribution in 2019 to the Texas Tomorrow Fund.

Hurricane Harvey relief funding was a major expense and a fulfillment of one of the fund's core functions — disaster recovery. Across 11 state agencies, the Legislature appropriated \$1.78 billion in 2019 toward direct relief, plus additional Medicaid, rehabilitation and reimbursement costs.

### Challenging Environment Ahead

Notwithstanding a record budget surplus and an enviable savings account, uncertainty and challenges persist. Texas' record revenues are due partly to high general price inflation, adding a considerable burden on Texans' pocketbooks. And in the near term, as the Federal Reserve raises interest rates to fight inflation, the Comptroller anticipates a mild recession. That makes good stewardship of these funds even more important. As its population grows, Texas faces a mounting list of issues that require attention — aging infrastructure, broadband connectivity, state workforce salaries and a host of others. With a positive financial outlook and a substantial balance for the 2023 legislative session, lawmakers will face numerous competing interests and ideas on what to prioritize. Addressing current needs while ensuring that the state remains prepared for economic downturns is a difficult but necessary task for the well-being of Texas. The Rainy Day Fund is a valuable tool in that effort.

## NEWS from the PIPOA

By Drew Diggins

President

This past Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, Tommy Kurtz resigned from the Board. Mr. Kurtz has been commuting to New Orleans for several months and has decided to move back to New Orleans when school ends this semester. I and the entire Board wish to thank Mr. Kurtz for his service to the Board and this community.

PIPOA Bylaws require the Board to appoint two new Board members for the remaining term ending March 2025. Any PIPOA member wishing to be considered for the open Board positions should submit a resume to the Executive Director, Gary Klepperich, between Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 8:00 AM, and Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM. Candidate resumes may also be mailed or dropped to the PIPOA office:

14015 Fortuna Bay Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78418.

All association members who are natural persons and are 18 years old, or older, are eligible. While the Board is comprised of volunteers, there is time and work involved. I encourage anyone who has construction, accounting, project management or corporate secretary experience to apply. If you are not interested yourself but know someone who possesses these skills or who you think would be a good addition to the Board, please encourage them to submit their name.

The next regular meeting of the PIPOA will be held at the Padre Island Baptist Church on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. You can reach me by email at [drew@pipoa.net](mailto:drew@pipoa.net), or by calling the PIPOA office at 361-949-7025.



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# Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

## Happy Easter Everybody!



Ronnie and his cousin Marcia at Easter about 60 something years ago.

Easter Sunday is upon us... which means we are smack dab in the throes of springtime. The wildflowers are blooming, the temperatures are rising and the wind is blowing like all get out. The city Parks and Rec had their Easter egg hunt last weekend at Roberts Point Park and the Gaff will have one this Sunday at 2:00. Also, Red's Riviera will have a potluck feast and deviled egg contest on Sunday. I posted a photo here of my cousin Marsha and I hunting Easter eggs when we lived in the Rio Grande Valley about 65 years ago. Those are the kind of memories that will never be forgotten.

### On the local front...



Eloy Martinez has passed. His send off will be on April 24 at the Rialto Theater in A.P.

In case you hadn't heard, Eloy Martinez passed away. I first met Eloy through my pal Preecher Williams who often played music with him. Eloy was a talented bass player and just an all around good guy. His send-off will be at the Rialto Theater in Aransas Pass on Monday, April 24th. Rest in peace big guy. You will be missed. And islander Annette Ables also passed away a couple of weeks ago. She worked at UTMSI and will be dearly missed. Also on the local front, I ran into Chris Jordan last week and he tells me Shorty's is making good progress and looks to be on schedule to open by summer. Works for me. Also, not to be forgotten: the Gaff's WORLD FAMOUS BELT SANDER RACES will be held this Saturday at 4:00. I'm not making any predictions here but my Moon Monkey is rip roaring and ready to go. And finally, be aware that it is now turtle nesting season and it's possible you might run across some big mama turtle laying her eggs near the beach road. The green sea turtle and loggerhead sea turtle nest at night along the Texas coast but in smaller numbers than the Kemp's ridley who usually come ashore during the day. If you do come across one nesting don't disturb them but please call 1-866-TURTLE5 or the ARC at 361-749-6793. We love our turtles around here and make it a practice to watch out for them.

### Scattered shots...



Brad Ethridge played Bron's last Friday and will play the Gaff this Friday.

Bron's Backyard had it going on last weekend. Soloist Brad Ethridge played there Friday and an old friend of mine from San Antonio, Chris Boss played on Saturday. Chris is old school and played a variety of classic rock tunes from the likes of ZZ Top and the Cure.

I guess I've worked with Chris since my days at the Laboratory Brewing Company in the 90's. He's a total pro and a joy to work with. Expect to see more of him this season. Brad Ethridge is a singer-songwriter that uses electronic voice enhancers and loops to fill out his sound. Watch for Brad every Wednesday at the Gaff where he hosts an open mic.



Chris Boss from San Antonio played Bron's Backyard last Saturday.

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



The Back Pew Revival will play Treasure Island this Saturday. Photo by Pam Felder

There's a big reggae/ska show in town at the House of Rock this Thursday with Fortunate Youth from California. I saw last year at Brewster Street Ice House on a show with Pepper and Iration. I really dig reggae and the bands coming out of California these days. And the House of Rock and Brewster Street guys do a good job of bringing those bands around. I think **Stick Figure** is my favorite. Also on Thursday **Billy Snipes** will play the Gaff. Billy needs no introduction around here. If fact... he's a household name. On Friday Texas Hill Country troubadour, **Boone Holding** will play Bron's. Boone was introduced to me through a mutual friend, **Cousin Nancy**, whom I met through **Lighthouse Rick** four or five years ago. Cousin Nancy is a serious blogger. Solo artist **Brad Ethridge** will play the Gaff on Friday. He seems to be everywhere these days. Also on Friday **Dreaming in Color** will play the VFW. This is another great classic rock band with the dynamic **Debra Scott Brown** leading the way on vocals. There's actually a lot more going on Friday with **JonMikael MREZ**, the man with the golden pipes, playing the Pelican Lounge on Padre and **Matt Hole** plays the Packery Bar under the JFK Bridge. Matt Hole is definitely and act to catch. He's a Brit with wicked rockabilly skills. On Saturday **Coach Jim Dugan** from Frost, Texas will play the Gaff after the belt sander races. Also on Saturday **Rich Lockhart** takes the stage at Bron's, Americana studs, the **Back Pew Revival** is at Treasure Island and **John Elijah** and **Lance Covington** will play the courtyard at the Surfside Lounge. On Easter Sunday **Kevin Kurtz** is at the Gaff with a boat load of straight country. Also on Sunday **Tumble Dry Low** plays another installment of the weekly residency at **Bernie's**, blues rocker **Rich Lockhart** will play the VFW, **Ty Dietz** will play Kody's and **Riptide** plays their Wednesday residency at the VFW. BTW this Wednesday is "Port Aransas Day" at the state capital.

### SandFest is right around the corner...

On the near horizon: on Friday, April 14 our island treasure, SandFest will commence. On the first day the musical acts are **Rich Lockhart**, **Clay Hollis** and **Wilder Blue**. On Friday the 15th, SandFest will feature **Ty Dietz**, **Jon Stork** and **Mark Powell** and finally on Sunday the 16th SandFest will have **John Elijah**, **Cory Morrow** and the **Texas String Assembly**. SandFest weekend is always a lot of fun. Expect 30,000 visitors to descend on us since it is the largest beach sand sculpture competition in the USA. Their promo boasts, "What began as a small local competition in 1997 has grown into an internationally recognized three-day family event that draws renowned sand sculptors and tens of thousands of visitors from around the world each year to Port Aransas. I look forward to seeing my Canadian friend **Abe Waterman** who usually wins the competition. Lot's going on boys and girls. Get your naps in early. Be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Fortunate Youth will play Brewster Downtown this Thursday.



The Amazing Walter McDonald, the oldest sand sculptor in captivity and Abe Waterman at last year's SandFest.

# LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

## Thursday, April 6

Billy Snipes @ Gaff  
Farley Classic Golf Tournament @ Palmilla Beach Golf Club  
Fortunate Youth, Dubbest, Artikal Sound System @ House of Rock  
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian  
Brad Brown @ Bron's Backyard  
Sonny Salinas @ Rockit's  
Tumble Dry Low @ Brewster Southside  
Michael Burttis @ Brewster Downtown  
Starlite & the Moonbeams @ Executive Surf Club

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**REX ALLEN McNEIL** APR 14  
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## Friday, April 7

Boone Holding @ Bron's Backyard  
OTB @ Treasure Island  
Brad Etheridge @ Gaff  
Dreaming in Color @ VFW  
JonMikael MREZ @ Pelican Lounge  
Matt Hole @ Packery Bar  
Jam Band @ Pelican Lounge  
Eclipse @ The Barn  
Chillbillies @ La Playa by the Sea  
Stoney LaRue @ Gruene Hall  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's  
Left Hand Devil @ Exchange  
Passing Strangers @ Rockit's  
Spazmatics @ Brewster Downtown  
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster Southside  
Joseph Martinez @ BUS  
Caleb Navarro, Derek & the Nat 20's @ House of Rock  
Kevin Kurtz @ Cinnamon Shore  
Matt Hole @ Packery Bar

## Saturday, April 8

BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff  
Jim Dugan @ Gaff  
Back Pew Revival @ Treasure Island  
Rich Lockhart @

Bron's Backyard  
John Elijah, Lance Covington @ Surfside Lounge  
National Nobodyz @ The Exchange  
Lockjaw @ House of Rock  
Falco & the Wolf @ Brewster Southside  
Will Rhodes Band @ Brewster Downtown  
Audiobox @ Rockit's  
Justin & Niki @ Packery Bar  
Stoney LaRue @ Gruene Hall  
Afterglow @ Sugar Shack  
Tony Ortega & Lisa Sullivan @ Blackbeard's  
Joseph Martinez @ Executive Surf Club  
Kevin Kurtz @ Red's at Palmilla  
OTB @ Diana's Place  
Billy Snipes @ Poco  
Playa Matagorda

## Easter Sunday, April 9

Kevin Kurtz @ Gaff  
Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's  
Ty Dietz @ Kody's  
Rich Lockhart @ VFW  
Damn Right Duo @ House of Rock  
Jerry Ward @ Pelican Lounge  
Rich Lockhart @ Packery Bar  
Jennifer Gayle  
Bradley @ Blackbeards

## Monday, April 10

Chuck Almarez @ Blackbeard's  
Billy Snipes @ Doc's

## Tuesday, April 11

Open Mic @ House of Rock  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's  
Billy Snipes @ Doc's  
Darren McGill @ Packery Bar  
Sonny Salinas @ Exchange

## Wednesday, April 12

PORT A DAY @ Austin State Capital  
Open Mic w/ Brad Ethridge @ Gaff  
Riptide @ VFW

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