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Issue 1030



The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

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Weekly FREE





By Dale Rankin
We want to start this week by welcoming our Winter Texan friends who have been arriving Around The Island this week as the upper reaches of the country fled the bitter winds and sideways snowing. As the great philosopher Alfred E. Newman said it is truly an ill wind that doesn't blow somebody some good and the ill wind that hit the Mid-West and points north blew the Winter Texans our way and that is indeed some good for us. Let the record show that December in Texas was four degrees hotter than average but according to the Weather Wonks there is an ill wind coming our way which will sweep across our little sandbar Monday driving temperatures to sub-freezing levels for a couple of days. But alas, fear not, because around here those nasty Blue Northers don't stick around long as the air temperature tries to match the temperature of the water that surrounds us and we'll be back on the beach by mid-week. If you don't like the weather Around The Island just wait a minute...

Bingo!

As sure as the arrival of the Winter Texans in January is the arrival of Island Bingo which kicks off January 16, see the details in this issue. The surest way to get trampled Around The Island is to get between a Winter Texan and their Bingo card – you've been warned.

Island Moon Radio

The Island Moon Radio show which airs each Thursday on the Blake in the Morning show on 94.7 FM from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. is moving to a new frequency in the next few weeks. It will stay where it has been for the past three years this week and move either the following week or the next. We will have an update here as it becomes available. We feature topics of Island interest and it is a time to talk about all things Island.

A fungus among us

There is a creepy crud going Around The Island that is knocking Islanders down for a week or more with all kinds of gnarly symptoms that we won't go into here but suffice to say that according to the Island Moon Department of Communicable Diseases That You Don't Want you don't want it so as they say don't put your hands where you won't put your face. But we know some of our readers will do that anyway so wash 'em early and wash 'em often.

Visit Corpus Christi

The good folks from the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau (VisitCC) were Around The Island this week taking a look

Around cont. on A2

Whitecap NPI developers will be ready to connect to Island canals by end of January

Final connection pending approval of agreement with PIPOA

By Dale Rankin

The developers of the Whitecap NPI project said this week the canals at the site will be ready for connection to the Island's existing canal system by the end of January with the final connection to be done when an agreement for the connection is approved by the Board of Directors of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association.

tion.

As of mid-week that agreement had been signed by officials at the Whitecap NPI project and was pending approval by the PIPOA. "We are going to finish armoring the western side of the Don Patricio Bridge in the next two weeks," said Jeff Coym, Vice-President of LJA Engineering which is doing

POA cont. on A8



Nature Notes

Invasive Birds come to America

By Celeste Silling

An invasive species is one that is nonnative to a region, thrives in that region, and whose introduction causes harm. This harm can come in the form of environmental damage, economic damage, or damage to human health. Invasive species can be any kind of living organism, including plants, fungi, insects, mammals, and even birds! There are several invasive bird species on the Upper Texas Coast, including the European Starling and Monk Parakeet.



European Starling and Monk Parakeets Photos by Celeste Silling



Nature cont. on A8

Whitecap NPI developers seeking signatures to remove its property from the PIPOA

Public meeting scheduled for January 31

By Dale Rankin

Officials from Diamond Beach Holdings, LLC., (DBH) developers of the Whitecap North Padre Island project are currently seeking signatures from property owners in four adjacent subdivisions of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association (PIPOA) that would allow property at the

Whitecap project to be removed from the PIPOA in order to form their own separate Homeowners Association.

Removal of the Whitecap NPI parcels would not affect the ownership rights of property owners in the PIPOA subdivisions, nor would it effect their status as members of the PIPOA.

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

Signatures cont. on A2

A little Island history

By Dale Rankin

This one is a bit tricky as what was called the Mustang Water Exchange Pass when it was built is now known as Fish Pass. When it comes to passes through the Island the first thing to know is that the passes have moved frequently over the years and even if they stayed in the same place their names change in a seemingly random fashion.

The local expert on such things is Islander Greg Smith so we consulted him for our answer.

Natural state

Prior to intervention by humans

History cont. on page A5

Fish Pass Why it isn't open



Riley P. Dog Park gets new City Lease *Two years short of one Dog Year*

The Island's Riley P. Dog Park got a new leash on life Tuesday with the extension of its city lease of almost one dog year.

The Corpus Christi City Council approved a new lease with the park which is located at the west end of Whitecap Blvd. on land owned by the City Wastewater Treatment Department which extends the lease for three years with an option for an additional two one-year terms pushing the term of the lease two years short of one dog year.

In December 2018, City Council approved a five-year lease with Riley P. Dog Park, Inc., a Texas nonprofit corporation.. The dog park is located on a 2.5-acre tract of City property located adjacent to the City's Whitecap Wastewater but receives no city or public funds.

Under the lease agreement, the park pays for all utilities used by it on the premises which currently includes potable water, and eventually effluent water from the

Riley cont. on A3

Arrival of the Litter Critter!

Briscoe King Pavilion Saturday, January 13



The City's next Litter Critter community cleanup event takes place on Saturday, January 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Briscoe King Pavilion parking lot, located at 15820 Park Road 22. The Litter Critter initiative provides residents with a convenient way to dispose of unwanted items outside of scheduled pickup dates. Residents should prepare to off-load their own items; commercial hauling is not permitted. Items accepted include:

- Heavy brush
- Bulky items
- Household trash
- Tires
- Metal items and appliances.



Beach Finds. By Evelyn Pless Schuberth



Seashore Middle School is very grateful to artist, parent Jennifer Seymour for giving us a beautiful makeover!



Fourth Graders at Seashore Learning Center launched the SNN, Seashore News Network, on Monday. We hope to hear more from these budding young reporters.

Around cont. from A1

at the attractions they can use to help bring in visitors from out of town. We thank them for coming and look forward to seeing them Around The Island often.

And then there is this...

And finally, we had a note from a reader

this week complaining about his neighbor who puts out both of his trash cans on one-can Fridays just to mess with his neighbors. Truth be told we wish we would have thought of it first, you could bet the over and under. That’s all for now, once again welcome Winter Texans and say hello if you see us Around The Island.



Together is a very powerful place to be. Photo By Riekie Roncinske



Infrastructure going in at the Whitecap Development. Aerial by Jacob Augs

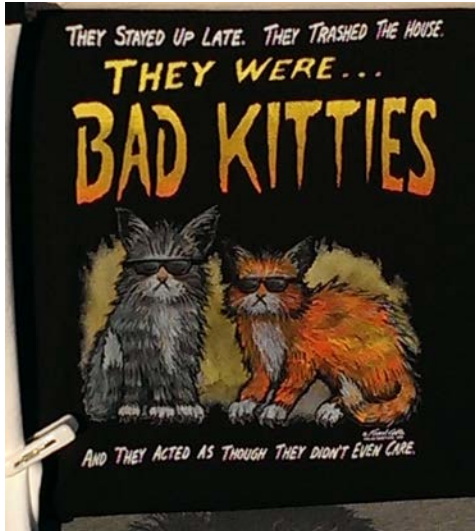
Signatures cont. from A1

“One of the obstacles to getting signatures has been a misunderstanding of a portion of the language in the agreement form,” said Doug King Sales Director of the Whitecap NPI project. “We are going to form our own property owners association for the Whitecap project, with the agreement of management at the PIPOA.” King said the language in the first draft of the consent form presented to homeowners caused consternation due to the misunderstanding that signing it would deny them the right to sue the Whitecap NPI developers for any future grievances. A column from PIPOA President Drew Digins published in the Island Moon in 2023 reads as follows: *The PIPOA board and attorney have received the Affidavit and feel it clearly states the intent of the DBH is to withdraw only DBH properties from the PIPOA.* The affidavit referred to is a supplement to the original consent form circulated to property owners to clarify the tenets of the form. The language in the original form reads as follows: *In addition, the undersigned hereby waives any claim(s) arising under the Declarations, including any claim(s) that may arise in the future, relating to the DBH Property.*

To clarify the terms of the agreement the additional affidavit includes clarifying language which reads as follows: *Notwithstanding the exact language in paragraph 2 of the Form of Amendment and the amendments actually signed by the various owners, the intent of such language is only to prevent any party signing an amendment and their respective heirs, devisees, representatives, successors and assigns with respect to the property such party owns from claiming that the DBH Property is subject to one or more of the Declarations or claiming that all or any portion of the DBH Property is breaching or in violation of any terms of the Declarations. There is no intent to waive any other type of claim.* To help property owners understand the terms of the documents being presented for their signature the developers of the Whitecap NPI project plan to hold a public forum to answer questions from property owners at their sales center at the corner of Commodores Drive and Compass Street on Wednesday, January 31, at 6 p.m. For questions contact Doug King at 704 258-4995 or email at doug@whitecaplivingnpi.com.



The beach renoursihment going on in front of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall on September 7th, and on January 10, 2024. Aerials by Jcob Augs



The best I can tell cats are crazy. My cats got a book for Christmas. Apparently my humans think cats can read. Cats can't read! And even if they could they wouldn't tell anybody. They're cats! Stoopid Cats! The book is by a human, named John Bradshaw, and it's called "Cat Sense." If you ask me John Bradshaw doesn't have much sense if he thinks cats have sense. They're cats! Stoopid Cats!

It has a study in there by a human in Japan and it confirms what we already know. Cats have selective hearing. According to this human cats can recognize their own human's voice all the time, it's just that most of the time they just don't care. Only 10% of the cats in this human's study flicked their tails when their human called them. The rest just sat there...like cats! Even though they knew it was their human talking to them.

He says humans try to apply human logic to cats – humans call it being anthropomorphized. I don't know what that means but according to this book written by a human in some place called England cats are still essentially wild animals. They wandered into human encampments when humans first started to store harvested grains, which attracted mice, which brought the cats.

We dogs have all been bred from our wolf ancestor for various purposes so we evolved. Cats don't have a purpose according to this human, and their evolution has been held back because of frequent interbreeding with wild cats. Those Tom Cats are sweet talkers. This human says cats have maintained a semi-feral state by the practice of neutering – I don't know what that is but it doesn't sound very good. As a result the only males available for female cats to date are the wildest and least human-friendly Tomcats who have left their humans behind. According to this human 85% of all cat mating is with feral cats. That explains all that commotion in the backyard in the middle of the night.

So as a result when cats interact with humans they have to rely on their natural social (or anti-social) behaviors which aren't very developed. They purr as a signal to their cat mothers to stay still and feed them, and when they knead the carpet with their paws – my humans call it making biscuits – they are trying to get milk out of the carpet

Letters to the Editor



like it's their mother cat. Stoopid Cats! You can't get milk out of a carpet. If you could we dogs would all be fat and happy! The fact is, at least according to the human who wrote this cat book, your cat thinks you are another cat. When he rubs up against a human's leg he is treating the human like a friendly cat. When they stick their tail straight up in the air it is the way they greet another cat. If a dog sticks his tail straight up in the air you better back up because he's either about to let fly or he's gonna bite and either way it's best to back up.

When a cat brings a dead animal or some other strange object into the house it's for a very cat reason. This human says that mice and other rodents leave scent marks behind to communicate with each other and cats sniff these out and wait downwind for the hapless prey to come back. So all the cats hang out at the same place looking to attack and when one of them kills something they take it into the house to keep the other cats from eating it.

Cats are crazy.

Once they get in the house they remember that canned cat food is a lot better tasting than a dead mouse so they just leave the mouse and eat the catfood – which was there before they bothered to kill the mouse! Stoopid Cats! This human says he has been studying cats for more than 30 years. What human in their right mind would want to study cats for thirty years?! Get a real hobby buddy. Or better yet get a dog! All he has figured out is that cats haven't evolved like us dogs – never mind the tailpiping and toilet drinking – and the fact is that cats think their humans are really just giant cats! Giant cats that walk around on two legs and don't purr! Stoopid Cats! So the next time you think your cat understands what you are saying just remember, the cat doesn't even care what you are saying even if he could understand you. He thinks you are a giant talking cat. At least according to this human. I'm starting to think humans might be crazy too. I'm not sure. But not as crazy as cats. Stoopid Cats! -Riley P.



Is the Municipal Management District a Trojan Horse?
By Marvin Jones

Last week, Dale Rankin wrote an excellent piece on the history of the Municipal Management District (MMD). I write this article to point out some of the pitfalls and dangers associated with this District. Section .003 of the Act creating the MMD describes the purpose of the District. Item 2 states, "Seek and provide needed funding for the district to preserve, maintain, and enhance the economic health and vitality of the district territory as a residential community and business center." This section could be used for economic development within the PIPOA. It is entirely possible that this purpose could be used to raise money for commercial purposes such as building a shopping mall. Do you, as members of the PIPOA, want your current or possibly future CAM fees used to pay for this type of economic development? Beware!

The District Board of Directors chooses the Board of Directors for the District. Therefore, the Board is self-perpetuating, leading to control of the District by a click of perpetually like-minded Board members. Beware!

The District is a governmental entity. The bulkheads would be conveyed to the District by the PIPOA to become operational. Under the control of the District Board, the District would be responsible for the maintenance and repair of the bulkheads. However, the District has no money. The District has no taxing authority. That is, the District cannot tax the members of the PIPOA. Therefore, the District would be forced to raise money by issuing bonds. Bond money could then be used to repair or replace bulkheads in the event of a cataclysmic event such as a hurricane. In addition, as a government entity, the District may qualify for FEMA reimbursement funding. In the event that FEMA funding was not forthcoming, the members of the PIPOA would be forced to repay the bonds and the bond's interest. Of course, this would be on top of any expenses homeowners would have for the reconstruction of their houses.

The City of Corpus Christi is the overseer of this District. Given the current conflicts between the City and the PIPOA Administration, it is certainly foreseeable that cooperation between the City and the PIPOA Board would be strained at best. Remember President Ronald Regan's famous words, "I am from the Government, and I am here to help."

I raise these issues to bring them to the attention of the members of the PIPOA. In theory, the MMD could be beneficial to the PIPOA. Unfortunately, the way it is currently written is risky. In my opinion, the legislative act and the City governing document should be modified to provide PIPOA members with safeguards.
Marvin Jones

PIPOA election

What is the deadline for the PIPOA sending out the mail in ballots for the upcoming board election?

Leslie Beaubien Tansey

Editor's note. According to Gary Klepperich, Executive Director of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association the ballots for the March election of the PIPOA Board of Directors will be mailed the second week in February and if mailed in must be received no later than March 22 prior to the March meeting. Members may vote by mail in, by email, and new this year by phone. The election is being handled by an outside company Election Buddy which specialized in conducting elections. Klepperich requests that ballot not be dropped off at the PIPOA office.

"We don't want to handle ballots," he said. If members do bring their ballots to the PIPOA office the staff will help them put them in the mail to the election administrators. Ballots can be cast at the March meeting and completed ballots can also be dropped off there. Last year a total of 4496 ballots were cast, however, about 2000 of those were cast the Axys Capital which no longer is a voting member so this year's total is expected to be around the traditional 2000 votes, which is about 40% of the total membership. For more information on the election see the story in this issue.

Moon Monkeys

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Riley cont. from A1

adjacent Whitecap Wastewater Treatment Plant. Wording from the city briefing material presented to the council on Tuesday reads as follows:
These utilities would include water and effluent water. Currently, Riley P. Dog Park, Inc. has an effluent water purchase agreement with the City. The purpose of the agreement is to provide Riley P. Dog Park, Inc. with effluent water to be used for watering the dog park grounds. However, there is currently a Tax Incentive Reinvestment Zone project with the purpose of upgrading the effluent pumps at the Whitecap Wastewater Treatment Plant. After the project is completed, effluent water will then be available for use by Riley P. Dog Park, Inc. Riley P. Dog Park, Inc. is aware of this project and understands that they will have access to effluent water once the upgrades are made.
The new lease takes effect after a second reading on Tuesday, January 16, but no opposition is expected.

Legend
Property Lines
Riley P. Dog Park
Whitecap WWTP

WHITECAP WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

RILEY P. DOG PARK

PROJECT LOCATION

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Senior Moments

Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Nuclear Testing Part 2



Dotson's Note: With the Soviet Union's first atomic bomb test on 29 August 1949, the "cold war" nuclear arms race between the USSR and the United States was on. Thanks to Major Huffly and Captain Cabin (Both U.S. Army) for the facts contained in this report, and to Rick Bajornas, UP, and CTBTO, for the photos.



First Soviet Nuclear Test

At the outset, neither the United States nor the Soviet Union had many nuclear weapons to spare so their nuclear testing was relatively limited. However, by the 1950s the United States had established a dedicated test site (Nevada Test Site) and was also using a site in the Marshall Islands (Pacific Proving Grounds) for extensive nuclear testing. The Soviet Union also began testing on a limited scale, primarily in Semipalatinsk in the Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan. Early tests were used primarily to ascertain the military effects of nuclear weapons and to test new weapon designs.

Exacerbated tensions and an atmosphere of pervasive fear and suspicion catalyzed competition to build more powerful and sophisticated bombs. During the 1950s new hydrogen bomb designs were tested in the Pacific, as were new and improved fission weapon designs.

In 1954 India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru became the first statesmen to call for a "stand still" agreement on nuclear testing.



The United Kingdom became the third country to test nuclear weapons on 3 October 1952. Initially, the United Kingdom tested mainly in Australia and later on in the United States.

On November 1st 1952, the United States became the first country to test a hydrogen bomb. The Castle Bravo test on 1 March 1954 yielded 15 megatons and was the largest nuclear weapon ever detonated by the United States.

India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was the first statesman to call for a "stand still" agreement on nuclear testing on 2 April, 1954. However, this did little to stop the extensive nuclear testing that characterized the following 35 years, not subsiding until the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s.

From 1955 to 1989, the average number of nuclear tests conducted every year was 55. Nuclear testing peaked in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The year 1962 alone saw as many as 178 tests: 96 conducted by the United States and 79 by the Soviet Union. The preceding year had seen the testing of the largest nuclear weapon ever exploded, the Soviet Union's "Tsar Bomba" with an estimated yield of 50 megatons. It was tested at the Novaya Zemlya test site near the Arctic Circle.

France and China became nuclear weapon States in 1960 and 1964 respectively. France initially tested in Algeria, and later on in the South Pacific. China conducted all its nuclear tests at Lop Nur in Xinjiang Province.

The 1963 partial test ban treaty banned nuclear testing, including testing for peaceful purposes, in the atmosphere, underwater and in space... but not underground.

The early 1960s also saw the introduction of the only testing limitation effort that had concrete effects on how testing was conducted during the Cold War. The 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty banned nuclear testing for military and for peaceful purposes, in the atmosphere, underwater and in space.

The world's nuclear arsenals ballooned throughout the Cold War, from slightly more than 3,000 weapons in 1955 to over 37,000

weapons by 1965 (United States 31,000 and the Soviet Union 6,000), to 47,000 by 1975 (United States 27,000 and Soviet Union 20,000), and over 60,000 in the late 1980s (United States 23,000 and the Soviet Union 39,000).

According to the Nuclear Threat Initiative, Israel initiated a nuclear program in the 1950s, and had completed the R&D phase of its nuclear weapon programmed in 1966, although it has not, to public knowledge, tested such a weapon.

Officially, India became the sixth nation to develop nuclear weapons, conducting a nuclear test, declared as a peaceful nuclear explosion, in May 1974.

In 1982, one additional nation, South Africa, acquired nuclear weapons, according to the Monterey Institute's Center on Non-Proliferation Studies. To public knowledge, South Africa did not conduct any nuclear tests. Less than ten years later, with the anticipated transition to a majority-elected government, South Africa dismantled all of its nuclear weapons, the only nation to date that voluntarily relinquished the nuclear arms under its complete control. The dismantling was completed in 1991. The same year, South Africa acceded to the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon State.

Underground nuclear testing was banned by the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which bans all nuclear explosions on Earth.

The world did not witness any significant decrease in nuclear testing activities and nuclear weapons acquisition among the nuclear weapon States until the early 1990s. The total number of nuclear tests in the second half of the 1980s amounted to as many as 174.

But warmer relations between the Soviet Union and the United States from the mid-1980s prepared the way, as did the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the 1991 dissolution of the Soviet Union. Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine who, together with Russia, had hosted the Soviet nuclear arsenal, became non-nuclear weapon States under the Non-proliferation Treaty. The USSR's main test site, Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan, was closed in 1991.

In 1990, the Soviet Union proposed a moratorium on nuclear testing that was agreed to by the United Kingdom and the United States. This created an opportunity to move ahead for those advocates who, for decades, had promoted a comprehensive ban on all nuclear testing.

The Soviet Union's last nuclear test took place on 24 October 1990; the United Kingdom's on 26 November 1991 and the United States' on 23 September 1992. France and China conducted their last tests in January and July 1996 respectively, before signing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. France closed and dismantled all its nuclear test sites in the 1990s — the only nuclear weapon State to date that has done so.



Ten nuclear tests were conducted between 1998 and 2017: two by India and two by Pakistan in 1998 and six by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in 2006, 2009, 2013, two in 2016, and in 2017, thus breaking the de facto moratorium that the CTBT had established.

Dotson's Other Note: India conducted two underground nuclear tests, code-named "Shakti (Power)" '98", on 11 and 13 May 1998 at its Pokhran underground testing site. In contrast to India's initial nuclear test in 1974, this time there were no claims that these were "peaceful tests". On the contrary, government officials were quick to emphasize the military nature of the explosions. FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Thursdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College. Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 – 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397. It's your two hours; please let us hear from you.

TO BE CONTINUED



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

It's the time of year when Old Man Winter comes rolling across the American Heartland and flushes the Winter Texans out of their homes and into their campers, trailers, and motor homes and brings them rolling in OTB. We welcome them and ask only that you leave the blizzard that is now blasting its way through points north somewhere north of Swinney Switch and pick it up on your way home. The water temperature in the Gulf of Mexico these days is on the chilly side for those of us who stick around all year and each year we are amazed as we drive the beach with heater blasting wearing our only pair of long pants only to look seaward and see Winter Texans swimming. Our blood is too thin for that. When I was a kid we called our visitors Snow Birds since they tended to migrate with our winged friends who head south ahead of the cold weather but there is one big difference between the two in that we don't normally shoot at the Winter Texans/Snow Birds unless they are ducks so that's good. Frequent flyers who have been coming this way for a while no doubt have noticed that some things have changed around here in recent years but for those who are flocking in for the first time here is a primer on the lay of the land as it were.

A time of change

I think history will record that the years 2017-2019 were a time of change here which we are still sorting out. In 2017 Hurricane Harvey hit Port Aransas and demolished many of the older homes there displacing many of the long-time residents and they were replaced by new structures that are now short-term rental properties. The aftermath of Harvey has also had the effect of reducing the number of pads there for recreational vehicles and to drive up the price of those that are left. The lowest-priced RV parks — known as the Last Chance Trailer Parks — are gone. Port Aransas has become more of a tourist town than it was prior to Harvey and with that has become more expensive which has pushed more Winter Texans to the Padre end of The Island where we have had no new recreational vehicle sites constructed in decades. Then in 2019 Covid came to The Island and the pace of change begun by Hurricane Harvey increased by several orders of magnitude as the population of Texas — particularly in the San Antonio/Austin corridor — mushroomed bringing in new arrivals from both the Left and Right Coasts who eventually all found their way to Their Beach. As 2024 kicks off we are seeing a return to the "normal" that existed before Covid but we are still sorting out the effect of that surge in first-time visitors. But it was not just new Texas residents who came OTB as we began seeing license plates from the Northeast and the Northwest U.S. and other points north that we had not seen before. As the locals say, "They found us."

All good news

It is important to note that when Island residents talk about "natives" that is a relative term since no one was actually born on The Island we just got here as fast as we could and each arrival — we are now just under 10,000 permanent residents — has their own benchmark for the transition from when "The Island isn't like it used to be." If you arrived last year The Island isn't what is used to be. While there is no way to determine an exact figure my guess is that somewhere around half of the permanent residents started as either Winter Texans or lifelong weekend visitors and then got here as fast as they could. The result of that is that depending on how far away your point of origin sooner or later you will see just about everyone you knew back home because sooner or later they will find their way here. Over time many Winter Texans form their own group of friends (see the sidebar story) and communicate through the summer to time their simultaneous arrival. Call it the Spirit of The Island.

What Winter Texans need to know

So for first-timers and for repeaters what do



Long-time Island favorite Patsy Jones has joined the heavenly choir but for a decade she was a favorite of Winter Texans. That's Island Moon founder Mike Ellis taking her picture for the Moon. If you want to get a sense of how The Island was back before Al Gore invented the internet Google up Patsy Jones That's My Island and picture yourself there....where the dolphins and seagulls guide the ferryboats to land...

2024 Winter Texans need to know?

Since I first moved to The Island twenty-four years ago — I'm getting old — I have noticed a change in the demographics of the migrating Winter Texans and also in the number; they are showing up earlier and staying longer. A few years ago Island landlords would jack up rental rates when Spring Break arrived but soon figured out that it is better to hold steady on rates during Spring Break and Winter Texans will stick around until either mid-April (tax day) or even through early May when Island weather is on its best behavior.

As for the demographics, the age of Winter Texans has gotten younger as I have gotten older, funny how that works. Many years ago when our friend Betty Crawford was singing with the Medicare Band at the old Sharkey's things shut down by nine o'clock if not earlier. Then a few years ago I was in Bernie's Beach House in Port A and Richard was bartending as I looked up and it was almost midnight and the place was packed and the dance floor full and the Port A Rockers were rattling the plaster. "What's going on?" I asked Richard. "Why are they all still here?" "These aren't our parents," Richard said. "These are our big brother and they've all got a blue pill in their pocket." Sharkey's is gone now and I'm not sure about the Medicare Band but the Port A Rockers are still rattling the plaster every week through the Winter Texan season.

The change remains the same

Some things have changed since the last Winter Texan season and some remain the same.

Bob Hall Pier is still a hole in the water, we still drive on our beaches, and part of Whitecap Beach is temporarily closed while Packery Channel is being dredged. A walk on the Packery Jetties is still the most fun for the price on The Island, we now have an oyster bar — the Pearl — and a tapas spot — Merida's where the German Bakery used to be, we still have a grocery store, The Gaff still has belt sander racing, the rates at Padre Island National Seashore are very favorable for those over a certain age, you can now take a boat ride on the Packery Queen, you can get a frosty glass of Estrella Jalisco beer for \$2.50 at most watering holes, beach permits are still \$12 per year and as far as I know they are still making blue pills. This is still a favorite part of the year because we locals get a chance to tell our tall tales and outright fibs to people who haven't heard them before, but best of all we get to meet new people without having to go OTB; now where else can you do that...take a trip and never leave The Island! One final piece of local color; don't be afraid to strike up a conversation with a local who is a stranger because you just might find out they are from your home town! Welcome back and we'll see you at the belt sander races...



Back in the Day, Betty Crawford sang every Friday at Sharkey's with the Medicare Band

Animal Group Names

In an attempt to add to the South Texas vernacular The Island Moon Etymology Department seeks to expand the local vocabulary by coming up with a word for groups of Winter Texans. We have struggled to find the right term so we are asking readers – particularly Winter Texans – to help us find a term that fits? Here is list to choose from or to add to so let us here from you.

- Antelope: a herd
- Ants: a colony or an army
- Apes: a shrewdness
- Baboons: a troop
- Badgers: a cete
- Bass: a shoal
- Bats: a colony, cloud or cauldron
- Bears: a sloth or sleuth; Cubs: a litter
- Beavers: a colony
- Bees: a swarm
- Boar: a sounder
- Buffalo: a gang or obstinacy
- Camels: a caravan
- Caterpillars: an army
- Cats: a clowder, glaring, pounce, nuisance or clutter; Kittens: a litter or kindle; Wild cats: a destruction
- Cattle: a herd or drove
- Cheetahs: a coalition
- Chickens: a brood or peep; Chicks: a clutch or chattering



- Clams: a bed
- Cobras: a quiver
- Colts: a rag
- Cows: a kine, drove, herd or fold; twelve or more cows are a flink
- Coyotes: a band
- Cranes: a sedge
- Crocodiles: a float or bask
- Crows: a murder
- Deer: a herd
- Dogs: a pack or cowardice; Puppies: a litter
- Dolphins: a pod



- Donkeys: a drove
- Doves: a dule
- Ducks: a brace, paddling or team
- Eagles: a convocation
- Elephants: a herd or parade
- Elk: a gang or herd
- Emus: a mob
- Falcons: a cast
- Ferrets: a business or fesnyng
- Finches: a charm
- Fish: a school, shoal, run, haul or catch
- Flamingos: a stand or flamboyance
- Flies: a swarm, hatch or business
- Foxes: a skulk or leash



- Frogs: an army or a colony
- Geese: a gaggle or flock, a skein when in flight
- Giraffes: a tower
- Gnats: a cloud or horde
- Goats: a herd, tribe or trip
- Goldfinches: a charm

- Goldfish: a troubling
- Gorillas: a band
- Grasshoppers: a cloud
- Greyhounds: a leach
- Hares: a down or husk
- Hawks: a cast or kettle
- Hippopotami: a bloat or thunder



- Hogs: a drift or parcel
- Horses: a team or harras
- Hounds: a pack, mute or cry
- Hyenas: a cackle
- Jaguars: a shadow
- Jellyfish: a smack or brood
- Kangaroos: a troop or mob
- Larks: an ascension or exaltation
- Lemurs: a conspiracy
- Leopards: a leap
- Lice: a flock
- Lions: a pride
- Locust: a plague or cloud
- Magpies: a tiding or tittering
- Mallards: a sord
- Manatees: an aggregation
- Mares: a stud
- Martens: a richness
- Minnows: a steam
- Moles: a labor
- Monkeys: a barrel, cartload or troop
- Mules: a pack, barren or span
- Nightingales: a watch
- Otters: a family, romp or raft
- Owls: a parliament
- Oxen: a team or yoke
- Oysters: a bed
- Parrots: a pandemonium or company
- Partridges: a covey
- Peacocks: a muster or ostentation
- Penguins: a colony
- Pheasants: a nest, nide or bouquet
- Pigeons: a flock or flights
- Pigs: a drift or drove (younger pigs), or a sounder, litter or team (older pigs)

- Ponies: a string
- Porcupines: a prickle
- Rabbits: a colony or warren
- Raccoons: a gaze
- Rats: a colony, pack, swarm or mischief
- Rattlesnakes: a rumba
- Ravens: an unkindness
- Rhinoceroses: a crash
- Sharks: a shiver
- Sheep: a drove or flock
- Skunks: a stench
- Snakes: a nest or knot
- Sparrows: a host
- Squirrels: a dray or scurry
- Starlings: a murmuration
- Stingrays: a fever
- Storks: a mustering
- Swans: a bevy or lamentation, a wedge when in flight
- Tigers: an ambush or a streak
- Toads: a knot or knob
- Trout: a hover
- Turkeys: a gang, posse or rafter
- Turtles: a bale or nest
- Vultures: a venue
- Wasps: a pledge
- Weasels: a colony, gang or pack
- Whales: a pod, school or gam
- Wolves: a pack or route
- Wombats: a wisdom
- Woodpeckers: a descent
- Zebras: a zeal



History cont. from A1

the main opening between Corpus Christi Bay and the Gulf was Corpus Christi Pass. Generally speaking Corpus Christi Pass began on the bay side near where Fish Pass is now located and ran parallel to the beach to a point near the end of Whitecap where it entered the Gulf. That means that the current Michael J. Ellis Seawall and the buildings behind it would have been on Mustang rather than Padre Island. Feeding off of Corpus Christi Pass and running through the Island to the Gulf were various passes over the years went by various names and moved up and down the Island according to currents and storms. Up until the mid-1800s the deepest of these passes was about fourteen feet deep, but only 3-4 feet at the bar meaning large ships could not enter. Two events greatly altered this natural configuration. The first was the dredging of the ship channel which altered the currents in the bay and resulted in the silting up of the water exchange passes. The next event was the completion of State Highway 361 (originally called the 17-Mile Road) which was built without any bridges and blocked all the passes through The Island. No sooner had the road been completed than a move began by civic minded people – in those days there was no such thing as environmentalists – to cut a permanent water exchange pass through The Island. In 1957 the Game and Fish Fund No. 9 was created to raise money for the project and the Parks and Wildlife Commission recommended the pass in its budgets in 1965 and 1967.

Let the infighting begin

Mother Nature had her own idea of how traffic should go and water should flow and when Hurricane Beulah raked across The Island in 1967 she cut more than a dozen passes through the Island and left the road from North Padre to Port A cut into pieces. It took several months before the passage along the Island road was completely rebuilt. Fish Pass was opened to the Gulf with or without governmental approval and the need to make the pass permanent took on a new urgency. A move to fund the pass was approved by both houses in Austin and in 1969 Governor Preston Smith signed it into law. Then in April of 1970 Texas Parks and Wildlife approved \$3 million to build jetties and the necessary bulkheads to keep the Pass – first called Mustang Island Pass then eventually Fish Pass – open permanently. Construction was to begin by August of 1970 and take about two years to complete. But as is usually the case with such things the infighting among members of the TPW Board began immediately. Mrs. Sam E. Wilson was to donate the land for the pass but Commission Chairman Pearce Johnson objected to various clauses in the contract and the fight between Johnson and Wildlife Commissioner Harry Jersig of San Antonio was on. Jersig was owner of the Lone Star Brewery and an avid outdoorsman. The fight centered around two issues: First, Johnson questioned the legality of using money from the General Fund or from Fund No. 9 to build the pass.



The current state of Fish Pass at Highway 361.

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Mother Nature intervenes

While the commission was fighting over Fish Pass Mother Nature intervened once again when in August of 1970 Hurricane Celia reminded the humans that Mother Nature was not crazy about having an impervious barrier paralleling her beach and cut the road to pieces again. Finally in February, 1971 the groundbreaking for the pass was done with the notable absence of TPW Chairman Johnson who not only failed to show up but refused to sign the enabling documents for the project. The squabbling continued during the dedication ceremony as Jersig in his comments said the new commissioner recently appointed to the board by Governor Smith, “was nominated because he holds the same negative opinion about the Island just like Smith” and was appointed because he “wants a park in East Texas near Livingstone.”

A horse designed by committee

While opponents were unable to stop the building of Fish Pass they were able to stop some of the approximately \$4 million set aside for its construction from being used. If a camel is indeed a horse designed by committee then Fish Pass is a channel designed by a committee that couldn’t get along. This produced two developments which resulted in the silted up “pass” we have today. Eventually just under \$2 million of the money was spent on the project. So rather than a bridge with enough clearance for boats to pass there is just enough room for water. The second cutback was on the jetties extending into the Gulf. Rather than pushing the jetties out about 700 feet as originally designed, far enough to keep the mouth of the pass from silting up, the cutbacks meant the jetties barely make it to the water’s edge. The result is a pass designed by a committee that couldn’t get along; the pass soon enough silted shut allowing for passage of neither boats or fish, and the jetties now serve only as an impediment to traffic down the beach and a permanent reminder of what might have been. The bulkheads you see now as you drive down SH 361 were meant to line a permanent water pass and a fund was to be set aside to dredge the pass as needed. The cutbacks resulted in jetties lining a sandy flat on the Gulf side and no money for dredging. Fish Pass stands today a monument to bureaucratic wrangling and a job only half done; a pass that isn’t a pass, waiting for Mother Nature to come along once again and remind us where she wants the water to flow.

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



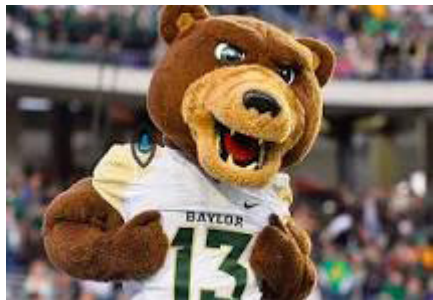
By Dotson Lewis

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

25. Ohio State 42, Michigan 39

Nov. 18, 2006: It seems a long ago that Ohio State and Michigan were battling for a spot in the national championship. In fact, there was a case being made that, even with Ohio State's win, a rematch in the national championship game would pit the two best teams in the country against each other. (This, of course, wasn't true. Ohio State would get blown out by Florida in the national championship and Michigan would lose to USC in the Rose Bowl.) The game had high stakes, too. It was the first time in the rivalry's history that the two teams were ranked No. 1 and No. 2. The Buckeyes jumped out to an early lead and held off Michigan throughout the second half.

24. Baylor 61, TCU 58



Oct. 11, 2014 Baylor-TCU has an underrated and rich history as far as rivalry games go. The series has taken a more dramatic and nationally relevant turn in recent years, however. There was the 50-48 shootout in Waco in 2011 that introduced Bears quarterback Robert Griffin III as a legit Heisman candidate (he would go on to win the award that year). But even that game couldn't top what happened three years later. Down 58-37 with just less than 12 minutes to play, Baylor fired off 21 unanswered points in the span of about seven minutes to tie the game. With time expiring, Bears kicker Chris Calhahan hit a 28-yard field goal to complete the come-from-behind victory. Adding to the drama was that Baylor and TCU were named co-champions of the Big 12, but neither was selected to the first playoff field.

23. Colorado 33, Missouri 31

Oct. 6, 1990 - Many of the games on this countdown get recognition for what was at stake. Usually, national championships or major bowl victories were on the line. The ending between Colorado and Missouri in 1990 gets on this list, however, because of an officiating blunder. And thus the "The Fifth Down Game" was born. Down 31-27 to Missouri, Colorado faced a 1st-and-goal in the final minute of the game. After spiking the ball and a failed rushing attempt, the Buffs called their final timeout. However, the chain crew did not change the down, and the officials didn't notice. After another failed run and a second spike—which should have resulted in a turnover on downs—Colorado completed a quarterback sneak for a touchdown.

Even the matter of whether he crossed the goal line or not was controversial. In any case, the Buffs got an extra down and were awarded the touchdown, coming away with a 33-31 win.

22. Florida State 18, Nebraska 16



Jan. 1, 1994 - Amazingly, neither Tom Osborne nor Bobby Bowden had a national championship ring when Nebraska and Florida State met for the national championship in the Orange Bowl in 1994. Bowden came away the victor, but it was a nail-biter all the way to the end. Huskers kicker Byron Bennett hit a field goal to give his team a 16-15 lead with just over a minute remaining in the game. However, the ensuing kickoff went out of bounds, giving the Seminoles good field position. FSU's Scott Bentley then hit a field goal with 21 seconds left, giving his team an 18-16 lead. Nebraska actually had the chance to kick another game-winning field goal, but Bennett's 45-yard attempt sailed wide left as time expired.

21. Auburn 43, Georgia 38

Nov. 16, 2013- Sometimes, you need a miracle. Auburn got a couple of those during its run to the BCS championship game in 2013. One of them came against Georgia in mid-November, one game before the miraculous "Kick-Six." Down one point with less than a minute to go and facing a 4th-and-18, Auburn quarterback (and former Georgia defensive back) Nick Marshall threw a Hail Mary pass to Ricardo Louis. The ball was actually overthrown, which turned out to be a blessing in disguise. The ball was tipped and fell right into the waiting hands of Louis, who sprinted the rest of the way for a 73-yard touchdown. Auburn had a comfortable lead early in the fourth quarter but gave up 21 straight points to the Bulldogs. However, that slate was wiped clean with one of the more miraculous catches of the season.



20. Texas 15, Arkansas 14

December. 6, 1969 Ah, the good ol' Southwest Conference days. One of the original lost rivalries in conference realignment was Texas-Arkansas. In 1969, the two played in one of many games given the "Game of the Century" title. The Razorbacks had a 14-0 lead heading into the fourth quarter. However, the Longhorns scored a touchdown and a two-point conversion (head coach Darrell Royal didn't want to go for the tie), making a 14-8 game. Facing a fourth down with less than five minutes to go, Texas opted to go for it, throwing a pass that would set up the game-winning score.

Dotson's Other Note: Afterward, President Richard Nixon declared Texas to be the national champion (back when national champions were declared before bowl season), much to the dismay of undefeated Penn State. So far, the foregoing is only 20 thru 25. Still 1 thru 24 to go. Suggestions are welcome.



By Andy Purvis

Unsung Hero



Jethro Pugh

Jerry Jones sees fit to eventually place Pugh in the Cowboys' Ring of Honor. Pugh roomed with Hall-of-Fame offensive tackle, Rayfield Wright. Jethro would become one of the unsung heroes of the "Doomsday Defense." That group included Larry Cole, Bob Lilly and George Andrie. In 1979, after Jethro Pugh finally decided to retire, his teammates on the defensive line had been Hall-of-Famer Randy White, Ed "Too Tall" Jones and Harvey Martin. I can close my eyes and see it even now, December 31, 1967, 47 years ago. The temperature was listed at minus 13 degrees at kickoff, with a wind-chill factor of minus 48. "I remember the officials yelling to stop play during the game rather than blowing their whistles," said Cowboys' Lee Roy Jordan. Head referee, Norm Schachter, tore off a piece of his lip at the start of the game while trying to remove his whistle from his mouth. "He bled for almost all the game," exclaimed Jordan. "That guy looked pitiful. His shirt was bloodied all the way to his belt. After that game, the NFL went to plastic whistles." It was so cold, CBS announcer Frank Gifford was heard saying on air, "I'm going to take a bite out of my coffee." Steve Sabol of NFL Films claimed it was so cold that some of the cameras quit working. Packers against Cowboys, Lombardi against Landry, Starr against Meredith; there were 16 seconds left on the clock at Lambeau Field. The winner of this game would represent the National Football Conference in Super Bowl II. Green Bay had the ball first-and-goal on the Cowboys' one-yard line. Packers' halfback Donny Anderson ran the ball twice, but was stopped both times at the two-foot line. I remember "Mr. Cowboy" Bob Lilly digging furiously with his cleats, trying to carve out a place to get his footing. Starr called timeout to confer with Lombardi. On third and goal, they decided to run a play called "Brown Right 31 Wedge." As the play unfolded, center Ken Bowman and right guard Jerry Kramer double-teamed Pugh, as Starr took the snap and shouldered his way for a touchdown on a quarterback sneak. The scoreboard would now read "Packers 20, Cowboys 17," with the extra point to be kicked. "It wasn't Jethro's fault, they could have gone over anybody; we were standing on pure ice," said Bob Lilly. NFL lore would remember this game as the "Ice Bowl."

Pugh later commented on that play. "You are responsible for your situation, good or bad," said Pugh. "That is how it is. I had a tough time with it for about a year, but I had a good season in 1968 and decided to look to the future." I had the privilege to meet Jethro Pugh in Dallas on the sidelines of a football game against the Seattle Seahawks. Pugh, Randy White and Calvin Hill were there as guests of Jerry Jones. Jethro was quiet and reminded me of a nice Deacon Jones. They both had worn the #75; they were about the same height and weighed about the same; yet their demeanor was totally opposite. (I was in football heaven.) Pugh retired to a fine career where he was successful running airport concessions and western-themed gift shops at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. He also hosted the Jethro Pugh Celebrity Golf Tournament each year, to raise funds for the United Negro College Fund. The old saying is, every athlete dies twice, once when he retires. According to his family, Jethro Pugh died in his sleep of natural causes on January 7, 2015. He was 70 years old. His pal Bob Lilly said, "I think the world of him and am so sad to hear this news. He was tough. He played through a case of appendicitis one year and kept taking shots of penicillin to take the field." The truth is always far stranger than fiction, and I find it interesting that Pugh would leave us four days before the Cowboys travel to Green Bay for a post-season game. I hope they took his memory with them.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail." This guy was so big he was worth three electoral votes. He had no choice but to leave a trail. If you saw his footprints in the sand you'd run. He owned the toughness of a sidewalk, and his shoulders were as wide as a door. The man was about the size of your average four-lane bridge. The word "fear" was not in his vocabulary. In his day, defensive linemen were taught to come in high when they tackled a quarterback. That way you could either destroy their vision in the passing lanes or break their arms. He wasn't complicated, just consistent, and he could muster the speed of a racquetball. This guy looked so calm on the outside that he made Tom Landry look kinky, but the fact is he was so intense at game time that he could change the temperature on the field. He didn't just ride in on a bale of hay from North Carolina; he made the kind of plays that made you lean forward in your seat, and you knew no one on the field was safe. As a great athlete he had the willingness to pay the price, to give it his all for a moment in time. I wondered how many times a running back came to the sidelines and told his coach, we need to change the game plan. We can't run against this guy. He was so young when he was drafted, he didn't know how to shave; but he sure knew how to rush the passer. He loved hitting quarterbacks and, no matter what he did to them, he never felt bad. The guy was so good you would get a lump in your throat watching him hit ball carriers. As a kid he was hungry and poor, and he never had two twenty-dollar bills to rub together. He would eat anything that wouldn't eat him. Jethro Pugh became the unsung hero of the "Doomsday Defense," a group that hurt more people than the plague.

Jethro Pugh Jr. was born in Windsor, North Carolina, on July 3, 1944. Very intelligent, Pugh graduated from Bertie High School and then enrolled at Elizabeth City State University, at the age of 16. He played on both sides of the ball and became a two-time All-CIAA (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association) defensive end, in 1963 and 1964. Pugh is only one of five players to have his jersey retired at ECSU. In 1965, Pugh became an 11th round draft pick out of Elizabeth City State University, for the Dallas Cowboys. He was just 20 years old. Pugh was also offered a contract by the Oakland Raiders of the AFL that same season. All man, Pugh stood 6' 6" tall and weighed 260 pounds. He was given \$1,000 as a signing bonus and a one-year contract worth \$10,000. There is no telling what he would receive in today's market. "He was big, long arms, very athletic, very fast; just a great competitor and smart. He was beyond his years," said Cowboy personnel director, Gil Brandt. Pugh was given the nickname "The Buzzard," by his teammates because he always kind of hunched over when standing. He was tall and lean and it looked like his shoulders were higher than his head, so he looked like a buzzard sitting on a tree limb waiting for his prey. It was later shortened to "Buzzy" and then just "Buzz." No. 75, Jethro Pugh, played during a time when your team's knuckles-in-the-dirt ground game was designed to annihilate the other team. There were no VCR's, no nets in the end zone, and no NFL properties (logos, cheese heads, jerseys or gear) for sale. There were no network sponsors, just local sponsors. There were no names on the backs of jerseys and the joke was that the PA announcers didn't introduce the players by name. They went up into the stands and shook hands with the fans. Pugh played in 183 games over his 14 years, all with the Cowboys. Pugh recorded 95.5 sacks and led the Cowboys in sacks for five straight years (1968-1972). He recovered 14 fumbles, two safeties and had one interception, while playing in Tom Landry's "Flex Defense." He was selected Second-Team All-Pro in 1968. Pugh retired on January 29, 1979, with five NFC Championships and two Super Bowl rings. Dallas beat Miami in SB VI and Denver in SB XII. Pugh has been inducted into four different Halls of Fame. In 1979, he was inducted into the CIAA Hall of Fame. In 1980, he was added to the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame and, in 1981, he was inducted into the ECSU Sports Hall of Fame. In 2010, Pugh was inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame. I hope that

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By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks

My neighbor Bob and I were visiting about shoreline erosion around the city the other day, and he mentioned that he saw a big pile of broken concrete on the side of the road in Flour Bluff that was headed for disposal. We also visited about the bull rock that someone put on the north edges of the JFK Causeway in the vicinity of the bridge. We're still not sure who did that, and we're glad that someone is trying, but it's kind of a thin band aid. As the city moves to using more concrete in projects, and these projects near their design lifetime and have to be repaired, this is providing for lots of broken concrete. Most of the contractors are figuring in recycling and selling the broken concrete in order to ameliorate material cost increases, however there are other things that could be done.

I was visiting with Parks and Rec's committee ex-chair Alissa the other day, as she had been chasing shoreline erosion with some of the city parks, especially on the bay facing north. This shoreline is where we are literally losing ground as I type this article here in January with a 25 mph north wind. These parks include North Beach, Ropes, Doddridge, Poesnish, Hans and Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge (there has been a little movement there lately), South Bay Park, and of course what we have happening on the Island around the causeway. South Bay Park and the JFK Causeway access roads are great examples of what happens when you're not proactive about shoreline erosion.

One of the perceived issues with shoreline protection is the permitting aspect of a project, mainly through the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and/or the Texas General Land Office (GLO) depending on where you put your hard engineered protection (and it pretty much has to be a hardened solution due to \$\$ and permitting timing). Nationwide Permit #13 – Bank Stabilization allows you to place material centered on the mean high tide for up to 500 linear feet in a density no more than 1 cubic yard per linear foot. There are a few other conditions, but generally shoreline protection projects can occur without formal permitting, and I mean like yesterday (you loyal readers know that this is part of what I do for a living). The short story is

that there are materials of opportunity literally piled up all over the city that could be used to stem the erosion issues before they get out of hand.

City Council

City council next week looks kind of fun; they will be discussing the developer reimbursement funds which always creates sparks, the creation of a TIRZ #6 associated with the old Pharaoh's golf course, and miracle of miracles, an extension to the lease agreement with Riley P. Dog Park and the City. I have a feeling that public comment will be like the lines at the workout gyms after the New Year; stacked up.

Seatrout scoping

Next Tuesday is also the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) spotted seatrout scoping meeting at the NRC building on the TAMUCC campus from 6-8 p.m.. I expect that these meetings up and down the coast will vary in public opinion; the meetings up north in Port Arthur and Texas City will be people against a reduction in bag limits, and the local meeting will be a majority of folks in favor for the reduction. This is based on data from TPWD and firsthand observations from local guides. This info will be collected from the meetings and be presented by staff at the next TPWD Commission meeting in Austin January 24-25th and you can watch/listen online if you can't make it to Austin via link on their website.

ISAC January 16

What will not be held next week is the January meeting of ISAC, which is slated for the following Tuesday, January 16th. Island liaison Roger will be giving some updates on the Mobility plan and announcing a Commodores Park Master plan open house in February. We will be discussing an extension to the no-wake zone in Packery (again), FEMA/retaining walls, as well as other things critical to the future development of the Island. Good things to come in 2024. Hope you all had a safe set of holiday and the ACA robocall centers didn't drive you up the wall. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Speckled Trout Print by islander Mardi Ros



By Joey Farah
Farah's Fishing Adventures

Backwater Adventures



We caught this 15lb 29" black drum on a soft plastic this week while we were drifting the Laguna Madre'. Live and dead shrimp along the bottom of the ICW and the deeper natural sandy bottoms in the Lagoon will get you hooked up on plenty of these.

Winter's Wrath

We are receiving three cold fronts in just a few days that will send us to the bottom of Winter's Wrath. These are the times in nature that everything is in survival mode. It is also a reset in the ecosystem that plays an essential part of the circle of life in our inland bays. Anglers can brave the cold and enjoy some great success and even some of the largest trophies of their lives. As with everything in nature we must respect Mother Nature and keep in mind she can take us at any time and take precautions.

As water temperatures dip down into the low 50s and even the 40s all the small bait sources go deep. Shrimp, crabs, worms and anything that can bury in the mud does so. Baitfish ball up and dive to the bottom. Larger gamefish will also move towards deeper water and seek out any advantage of even a few degrees. In years past during freeze events I've seen gamefish migrate long distances. It wouldn't take us long to walk five miles or more, and fish can easily swim as fast as we can walk. Most mature gamefish have already positioned themselves close to deep water winter survival zones. These can be the deep flats, soft muddy bottoms in 5-8' of water, side channels off of the ICW Canal, old oilfield channels, and housing developments. The cold has and will have pushed down to the bottom after this week, making it more difficult for fish to run and hide. We will see all species run for the shallows as soon as it warms up. This may be just moving towards the drop offs where wind and tide pull the water warmed by the sun out to them in the mid depths, but they will be searching for any kind of warmer temperature advantage. Using my HUNMINGBIRD SOLIX I scan all of my fishing areas for even fractions of change in water temperatures. It does make a difference. Slowly moving while using my side scan I locate schools of fish along the edge of deep water, hold the boat in position with my MinnKota Spot Lock or the Raptors to give slow and low presentation of my lures. Often I scratch baits along the bottom tickling them along in the faces of dormant gamefish. Fast and erratic motions will mostly go untouched. Baitfish that are cold stunned lose much of their color so I like white baits or light colors often. Even though air temps will bounce back quickly fish will be cold for a while and their metabolisms will also slow down to a crawl. Most trout and redfish will feed like crazy until



This mighty nice trout struck a DOWN SOUTH LURES Purple Reign from a grass line between 3-4 inches along the King Ranch just south of Pure Oil Channel. Farah

12 Jan	13 Jan	14 Jan	15 Jan	16 Jan	17 Jan	18 Jan	19 Jan
Fri ↗	Sat ↗	Sun ↗	Mon ↗	Tue ↗	Wed ↗	Thu ↗	Fri ↗
6:43PM 0.5m	7:06PM 0.44m	7:16PM 0.37m	3:41AM 0.29m 7:18PM 0.3m	5:53AM 0.26m 7:15PM 0.26m	8:11AM 0.26m 7:06PM 0.24m	11:07AM 0.31m 6:19PM 0.26m	1:26PM 0.4m
9:05AM -0.35m	9:57AM -0.31m	10:50AM -0.23m	1:07AM 0.28m 11:45AM -0.11m	1:15AM 0.17m 12:46PM 0.02m	1:51AM 0.06m 2:11PM 0.16m	2:39AM -0.05m 5:06PM 0.26m	3:32AM -0.15m
7:20AM 5:53PM	7:20AM 5:54PM	7:20AM 5:55PM	7:20AM 5:55PM	7:20AM 5:56PM	7:20AM 5:57PM	7:20AM 5:58PM	7:20AM 5:59PM
7:24PM 8:38AM	8:34PM 9:23AM	9:42PM 10:02AM	10:46PM 10:38AM	11:50PM 11:11AM	11:44AM	00:52AM 12:18PM	1:55AM 12:56PM
50	15	35	45	15	10	50	25



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Nature Notes

Nature cont. from A1

The European Starling originated, unsurprisingly, in Europe. Most sources trace their introduction back to a number of intentional releases of the bird into America. Most famously, a man named Eugene Schieffelin released about 100 European Starlings into Central Park in New York City in the 1890’s. The story (and this part is much debated) goes that Schieffelin, who was a devoted fan of William Shakespeare, wanted to introduce the starlings because Shakespeare had mentioned them in his writings.

Whether motivated by Shakespeare or not, it appears that Schieffelin got what he wanted; North America is now riddled with an estimated 150 million European Starlings, making them one of the most common species in America. With such a booming population, Starlings now take vital nesting and foraging habitat away from native species. They also damage agricultural property and spread disease in livestock. In fact, the USDA estimated that Starlings cause about \$800 million of agricultural damage every year.

Monk Parakeets have a very different backstory. This bird is native to South America, from central Bolivia and southern Brazil south to central Argentina. It was imported into the U.S. and other countries as part of the pet trade. Many of the parakeets were released or escaped, and they eventually formed breeding populations. Today, there are breeding populations in several countries and U.S. states, including Texas.

While the Monk Parakeets do take some resources from native wildlife, they mainly do damage to electric utility facilities. Here in the U.S., away from their natural breeding habitat, the parakeets commonly nest on electric utility substations, electric poles, and towers. The birds’ nests can complete circuits between two pieces of equipment, resulting in fire. While a fire-starting parakeet might sound bizarre and unlikely, this problem is more common than you might think, and the afflicted power providers put millions of dollars into removing these nests every year. Even more concerning, this invasive species has the capacity to cause fires and dangerous power outages.

Of course, the European Starlings never asked to live in Central Park, and the Monk Parakeets never asked to be pets. They were introduced to this continent entirely at the whim of humans! It is therefore up to us to recognize our own mistakes and learn from them. The term “invasive” might bring to mind an invading army, intending to colonize and destroy. That isn’t the case here. These invasive birds were brought to a new place and did what they naturally do—they survived, bred, and thrived, all without malicious intent.

So, while these species do pose a real threat, they are not ultimately to blame. These invasions, and many others, were caused by humans. Let’s learn from these mistakes and be more cautious about what plants we plant, what pets we import, and what other non-native species we introduce.



Monk Parakeet

POA cont. from A1

the project. “Once we are finished with that which we expect will be in about two weeks we will start on the connection the south side.”

Officials at the Whitecap NPI project announced this week they have reached an agreement with the Flour Bluff school district to include a slice of the 6.7-acre site owned by the district on the west side of the site where the connecting of the two canals will be made which will allow for a straight path for water flow between the two systems.

The agreement between the Whitecap NPI developers and the PIPOA will include a release of liability in case of damage to the PIPOA bulkheads adjacent to the connection site during construction as well as drawings for the structure that will connect

the concrete PIPOA bulkheads to the south and the primarily composite bulkheads at the Whitecap NPI site.

Coym said crews will dig the bulkheads on the Whitecap NPI side to within three feet of the PIPOA bulkheads by the end of January and be prepared to complete the connection pending the agreement between the two parties.

Tim Lange, the managing partner of the development around Lake Padre which holds the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers governing the terms of connecting the two canals told the Island Moon he will remove the earth barrier currently preventing water from flowing under the Don Patricio Bridge on the Lake Padre side once an agreement is reached to allow water to flow into the PIPOA-owned canals.

Annual Island Bingo begins
Seven week run starts January 16

The annual Kiwanis Club of Corpus Christi will kick off its run of BINGO games at HardKnocks Sports Bar & Grill on Padre Island beginning January 16th at 7:00 p.m. Kiwanis BINGO offers door prizes, cash prizes, with all proceeds going to children’s charities on Padre Island, Corpus Christ, in the Coastal Bend. Bring door prizes to

get your business recognized. Also, make a donation to become a co-sponsor and have you or your company mentioned weekly. The events will run January 16, 23, 30 February 6, 20, 27, and March 5. For information call Brent 361 244-7603 or John 361 779-0477.



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Going Native

Spiranthes vernalis Spring Ladies’ tresses

I’m starting the new year right and writing about Padre Island’s only native orchid. Yep, you read that right an orchid native to the natural habitats of our sand bar. *Spiranthes vernalis* commonly called spring ladies’ tresses occurs from here up into New England and South Dakota. Further south it ranges into Central America. Diamond et al. list it occurring in the Padre Island National Seashore in their study and mapping of vegetation associations. However, it’s not commonly noticed, I first saw it here on a dirt ‘road’ near my house while walking my dog, Mistral.

As you might guess from its common name including the word “spring” this is an early spring bloomer at our latitude. In New England it’d likely bloom in August, here you’ll most likely see it in February or March. Most of the rest of the year it basically is obscured by the more abundant and larger grasses and other plants with which *Spiranthes* often co-occurs. This orchid will grow in relatively dry grasslands and prairies as well as in wetter areas and is sometimes listed as a facultative (meaning it doesn’t have to be) wetland species. It also commonly occurs in disturbed sites, like the side of the dirt road mentioned above. In other places I’ve lived I’ve seen it pop up a bloom in a fairly manicured lawn.

So, although not abundant, it’s pretty hardy and will obviously tolerate our hot, dry and salt-misty conditions. Also, from the range noted above, you can be pretty well assured that it’d not even blink at our coldest winters! Blooms occur along a single spike that reports say can be up to eighteen inches tall, but the ones I’ve seen locally are much shorter, probably something like half that. I find it very pretty, but it’s not showy



Spiranthes vernalis orchid spring ladies tresses

like many orchids you’re used to seeing. Plant Delights Nursery in North Carolina report that it grows well in acidic loamy soil. Clearly, here it also does quite well in our relatively sandy soil as well. From its grassland and meadow habitat, it’s clear that it does well in full or partial sun, but probably not heavy shade. The nursery mentioned notes that it attracts native bees, which is great. A USGS note that I found on line also mentioned personal observation that it appeared to attract some ant species. So, there you have it! Our Sand Bar home is now officially a true tropical isle, complete with native orchids. You know me, I’ll keep Going Native on you.

Island Municipal Management District
could take care of Island bulkheads
eligible for bonds and federal assistance
Board member requirement and transfer of ownership of
Island bulkheads could be problematic

By Dale Rankin

The process of how to restart the Padre Isles Management District (PIMMD) created by the City of Corpus Christi and the Texas legislature in its 2013 session to facilitate the maintenance and repair of Island bulkheads is currently awaiting a ruling from the Corpus Christi City Attorney’s Office at the request of District 4 City Councilman Dan Suckley.

As reported here last week the district was created to allow for application for funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and also grants the district the ability to issue bonds of up to thirty years in case for maintenance or repair of Island bulkheads if ownership is transferred from the PIPOA to the PIMMD. The district, by statute and city ordinance is managed by a five-member board of directors appointed by the Corpus Christi City Council. The seats on that five-member board are currently empty with the last of the terms of its members expiring in June, 2023. How to legally reseal the board is the subject of Councilman Suckley’s request to the city attorney’s office.

A reading of the qualifications of the five members of the board may also need review. They read as follows:

Sec. 3912.052. QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTORS APPOINTED BY CITY. (a) To be qualified to serve as a director appointed by the governing body of the city, a person must be:

- (1) a resident of the district who is also a registered voter of the district;
- (2) an owner of property in the district;
- (3) an owner of stock or a partnership or membership interest, whether beneficial or otherwise, of a corporate partnership, limited liability company, or other entity owner of a direct or indirect interest in property in the district;
- (4) an owner of a beneficial interest in a trust, or a trustee in a trust, that directly or indirectly owns property in the district;
- (5) an agent, employee, or tenant of a person described by Subdivision (2), (3), or (4); or
- (6) an initial director.

The meaning and application of those requirements are part of the request to the city attorney, as well as the process for appointing new members of the board. Under rules for the district put in place by a state statute styled *Added by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 607 (S.B. 1098), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.* the district may issue

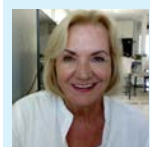
bonds through the City of Corpus Christi but does not have the authority to levy tax or the power of eminent domain. The PIMMD was the subject of a study by the then-Padre Isles Property Owners Association (PIPOA) attorney John Bell in October, 201 which found a tenet in the bill which could prove problematic depending on the ruling from the current PIPOA attorneys or from the city attorney. A portion of the five-page study by Bell reads as follows:

The proponents of the legislation anticipated that the Padre Isles POA would transfer ownership of the bulkheads to the District, but the Protective Covenants authorize the POA to transfer owners of the bulkheads only to a governmental entity “with the power to tax” such as a city, the county or a public district with such powers (See Article VI, Section 7 in most Covenants). Since the District does not have the power to tax, the Padre Isles POA may not legally transfer ownership of the bulkheads to the District under the present circumstances.” How that language would impact a re-starting of the district and whether moving forward with the transfer of ownership of the bulkheads to the district would require an amendment to the PIPOA bylaws and/ or legislative action would need to be the subject of review by attorneys for both the PIPOA and the City of Corpus Christi which authorized the creation of the district in early 2013.

Another section of the enabling legislation reads as follows:

Sec. 3912.131. IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND SERVICES; LIMITATIONS. (a) The district may provide, design, construct, acquire, improve, relocate, operate, maintain, or finance an improvement project or service described by Subsection (b) using any money available to the district, or contract with a governmental or private entity to provide, design, construct, acquire, improve, relocate, operate, maintain, or finance an improvement project or service authorized under this chapter and Chapter 375, Local Government Code. (b) The district may undertake an improvement project or service only as necessary to reconstruct, preserve, and maintain bulkhead property.

What is included in the parameters of the authority included in the language of Section A was not a part of the 2017 review, i.e. can money from the district be used for project other than Island bulkheads, is currently unknown.



Business Briefs

By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

The old Sonic has been leased by the owner of Cafe Calypso that opened about 30 years ago and is located next to Half Price Books at Moore Plaza. There is also a location that opened a year ago downtown on Starr Street. The original location serves breakfast, lunch, desserts and pastries. The downtown spot is more of a wine and tapas restaurant with live music. I'm looking forward to getting details on what the plans are for the Island when made available. Obviously, it is going to be a great addition to the Island especially since it is not a chain and is a popular local destination.

Bingo at the Beach by the Kiwanis Club is back at Hardknocks. It will be on Tuesdays for seven weeks starting January 16th at 7 pm with the sale of cards starting at 6 pm. The cost is \$20 per set of Bingo cards. All proceeds go to children's charitable causes.

Black Sheep Bistro will be featured on America's Best Restaurants show on the Food Channel. The show travels throughout the country visiting restaurants they recommend. They will be filming here on Monday, January 15th 3 - 6 pm during that time the restaurant will be closed. Besides great food the restaurant has over 100 choices of whiskeys and bourbons.



Whataburger will be closed for remodeling until about January 22nd.

The Island's Pickleball Group will host the First Annual Seashore Middle Academy Indoor Pickleball Tournament with six indoor courts on February 23 - 25. The school is next door to Hardknocks Sports Grill.

Grow Local Farmers' Market is at the Art Center of Corpus Christi courtyard every Wednesday 5 - 8 pm. You will find fresh produce, meats, cheeses, bread, flowers, plants and more. There is at least one food truck and live music every week.



Parker Park in Flour Bluff will be getting upgrades including two pickle ball courts and a dog Park. Work should begin next month.

Port Aransas Restaurant Week is Friday, January 19th - Sunday, January 28th. There are 18 restaurants participating with special prix-fixe menus of \$25 lunch, \$25 weekend brunch, \$35 dinner and \$50 dinner options.



Castaways scallops with beef Wellington filet

The next ISAC meeting is Tuesday, January 16th 5:30 pm at the Seashore Middle Academy. The Island liaison Roger will be giving updates on the Mobility plan and announcing a Commodores Park master plan open house in February.

The American Legion Post 229, the Island-er Post meets at the Island Italian Restaurant monthly. They are hosting a "Salute to Service 2024" dinner, concert featuring Jake Bush and Ty Dietz and silent/live auction on Saturday, January 20th 6 pm at Marker 37 Marina. Some of the auction items include a helicopter hog hunt, a private dinner by Chef Gail Huesmann, and offshore fishing trip. General admission tickets are \$35. More information about the event, sponsorship packages, donation opportunities or tickets can be found at: salutetoservice2024.betterworld.org.

Seashore Learning Center Blood Drive will be on Friday, January 19th 7:30 - 10:30 am. Donors will receive a Find the Hero in YOU t-shirt, a stadium cup for National Blood Donor Month and a coupon to Outback Steakhouse.



Pelican Lounge is celebrating their 20th anniversary with music by the Diamond's Edge Band on Saturday, January 13th and Sunday at 9:30 pm. It is also a celebration of the remodel with the wall being taken down doubling the size of the space. The shuffleboard tables and pool tables are now in the corner where the stage was but enlarged with a counter bordering the area for drinks.

The former Scuttlebutt's unit is for lease at \$1.75/square foot plus .62cents for common area making it \$2.37/square foot. The entire building is 8,700 square feet but originally there were separate businesses on either side so the

core restaurant building is 5,700 making the basic lease payment about \$13 - 14,000. So far about 20 parties have checked it out but no commitments. For more info call 815-8461.

Merida's Tapas & Cantina parking lot is huge and you can access or leave it on Nemo Court. Striping is being done this week and should be available for parking shortly after. Six foot wooden fencing is in the plans to surround the lot.



Ace Hardware has a nice, fun display of bird feeders and they also sell a variety of bird food.



Best Estate Liquidators will be having a sale this weekend at a home on Palmira behind the Island Market IGA.

Random Stuff

Ryan Seacrest will be the new host of Wheel of Fortune but not until September. Vanna White will remain until 2025.

The best cough suppressant for the coughing cold I had was Delsym Cough 12 hour.



Twilight Zone By Lu Ann Kingsbury



A group from the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau took a tour of The Island this week. One of the stops was Merida's Tapas and Cantina.



*Stonehenge on the Island
By Debbie Nobel*

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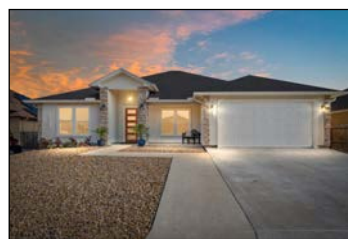
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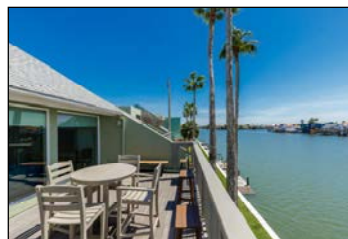
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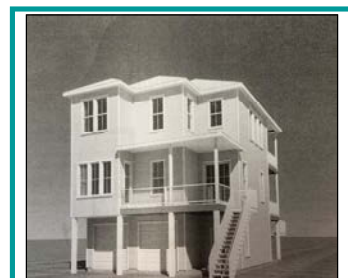
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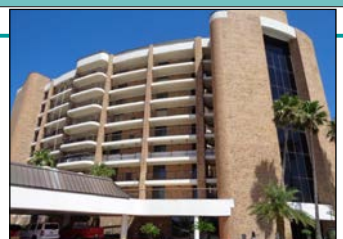
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White morph Reddish egret dancing for his dinner. Photo by Paula Baker



It was a big week on Padre Island for a group of friends and relatives that came to visit.

Left to Right Dixie Crabb Howe, Texas, Della – Islander, Teri Vanderwall – travelled from CA, Gayala Lawrence Irving, TX, and Becky Airhart-Smith Valdasta, TX.



Henry and Janice Jackson took the Island Moon on their New Year's cruise on the Harmony of the Sea .



Egret photo By Riekie Roncinske



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Since the cold weather is here in Corpus Christi. These cold temperatures can impact sea turtles by causing them to become lethargic and causing them to strand on the beach. This is known as a "Cold stun". This happens when the water temperatures reach 50 degrees Fahrenheit or below. If anyone finds a stranded sea turtle stranded on the beach, report it to the 24-hour Texas Sea Turtle Stranding Line at 1-866-TURTLE-5 (1-866-887-8535)



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Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

Growing up in our Arizona desert household meant regularly watching the evening news. Although a young boy in the early sixties, I understood what a tumultuous time it was. My dad was never shy about expressing his opinions, especially regarding the current issues and events as Walter Cronkite solemnly delivered the day’s news.

As we celebrate the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this weekend, I remember his thoughts about Dr. King’s civil rights movement. My parents were not racist. They supported the goal of equal rights and equal treatment for all people. Their Christian faith taught them that discrimination and racism were evil. Accordingly, they were against Jim Crow laws and segregation. They were supportive and sympathetic of what Dr. King was wanting to accomplish.

However, they were fairly typical White folks of that day. They thought Dr King, even with admirable ideals, was pushing too hard, was too radical. They thought he was rocking the proverbial boat too aggressively. They wanted him to tone things down, to be patient. Of course, Dr King would have none of that, and rightly so.

On Good Friday, 1963, Dr. King and fifty others were charged with violating a court order against mass demonstrations. He was arrested and placed in solitary confinement in the Birmingham city jail. That same day some prominent White clergymen published a letter in the newspaper characterizing Dr. King’s movement as “unwise and untimely.”

Dr King scribbled his disappointment on the margins of that newspaper and on stationary smuggled in by a sympathetic jailer. His response was the now-famous *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. It’s arguments for civil disobedience flow throughout the letter which was addressed to those who claim to be Christian. The letter voiced the weariness of the Black Christian community as a whole. It’s a letter worth rereading in today’s world.

As we remember Dr King this weekend, there isn’t much recognition about how nervous he and the movement made White people. Rev. Peter Marty noted how the word backlash took on new political meaning in the sixties and continues to this day. Instead of describing a machine or device that recoils, backlash came to also refer to the reaction of White Americans who fear the consequences of Black equality.

Throughout the weekend, politicians and pundits will cherry-pick quotes from Dr. King for the self-justification of their political stances. There will be the standard refrains, mostly by White people, about recognizing how far we have come since those days. It will all be fairly sanitized and will actually betray the radical and unsettling message of Dr. King.

Over the years I have been humbled to have been invited to celebrate Dr. King in various Black churches. One thing I have noticed is that while those Black churches always recognize how far we have come, they are more focused on how far we still need to go concerning the racial issues of diversity, equality, inclusion, and justice.

Bill Moyer once described the ministry of Dr. King as having subpoenaed the conscience of America. Perhaps as we hear and see all the clips and quotes from Dr King this weekend, we can allow the unsettling nature of his words to continue to subpoena our collective conscience. Because much work remains.

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

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Candidates for Padre Isles Property Owners Association Board of Directors

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

The candidates for the upcoming 2024 Board elections are

Charles Cantu, Jr.

Chul Kim McGuire

Drew Diggins (Incumbent/President)

George Reed

Kevin Tansey

Michael Gdfula

Ray Singleton (Incumbent)

Thomas Gottemoller

The 2024 Board Candidates’ resumes may be viewed on the Community Website: www.padreislespoa.net.

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



National Glaucoma Awareness Month

The month of January is recognized as National Glaucoma Awareness Month. Currently, more than 3 million people in the United States have been diagnosed with glaucoma. Furthermore, The National Eye Institute projects that this number will increase to 4.2 million by 2030. Glaucoma is sometimes referred to as “the sneak thief of sight” since there are no symptoms and once vision is lost, it’s permanent. Therefore, the purpose of National Glaucoma Awareness Month is to spread awareness about glaucoma.

According to the Glaucoma Foundation, glaucoma is a group of eye diseases where pressure is increased within the eye which is caused by a backup of fluid in the eye and eventually leads to vision loss. Vision loss is caused by damage to the optic nerve. This nerve acts like an electric cable with over a million wires and it is responsible for carrying images from the eye to the brain. Currently, there is no cure for glaucoma, but surgery and medication delay the vision loss that results from glaucoma. There are two types of glaucoma. The first type of glaucoma is open-angle glaucoma which is the most common form of glaucoma and accounts for 90% of all glaucoma cases. “Open-angle” means that the angle where the iris meets the cornea is as wide and open as it should be. The second type of glaucoma is called angle-closure glaucoma which is a less common form of glaucoma. Angle-closure glaucoma is a result of the angle between the iris and cornea closing.

Even though there are no symptoms for glaucoma, there are some risk factors. A few of these risk factors are family history, people with diabetes, those who are over 60, and people who are severely nearsighted. The only way to be diagnosed with glaucoma is to get a comprehensive dilated eye exam. An early diagnosis will help prevent further vision loss which could result from glaucoma.

To learn more about glaucoma, please visit the Glaucoma Research Foundation’s website at <https://www.glaucoma.org/>. In addition to this, you can visit the Glaucoma Foundation’s website to learn more about treatment and how glaucoma is diagnosed <https://glaucomafoundation.org/>. If you have questions regarding any of the information mentioned in this week’s article, please do not hesitate to call my Capitol or District Office. Please always feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or issues regarding a Texas state agency, or if you would like to contact my office regarding constituent services. As always, my offices are available at any time to assist with questions, concerns, or comments (Capitol Office, 512-463-0672; District Office, 361-949-4603).

- State Representative Todd Hunter, District 32

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

Police Blotter January 1 - 7

JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection

Disturbances
10800 block SPID 5 p.m. January 5 Possession of a Dangerous Drug/Drug Paraphernalia/Possession of a Controlled Substance/
Traffic Stop
Traffic
41 Traffic Stops

13100 block SPID 4 p.m. January 6 Crash
13500 block SPID 5 p.m. January 5 Crash
13900 block Suntan 4 p.m. January 5 Crash

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Person
15200 block Main Royal Midnight January 7 Assault
14700 block Aquarius St. 6 p.m. January 3 Terroristic Threat
Crimes against Property
13900 block Fortuna Bay Dr. 4 a.m. January

7 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
15700 block Cruiser St. 11 p.m. January 6 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
Disturbances
14400 block Cabana East 1 a.m. January 8 Noise Ordinance Violation
15400 block Fortuna Bay 7 p.m. January 6 Traffic
87 Traffic Stops

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to City Limits

Disturbances
11100 block Gulf Beach 10 p.m. January 6 Public Intoxication
Suspicious Person
15200 block Windward 9 p.m. January 4 Traffic
49 Traffic Stops
SH 361 – Fish Pass Road 1 a.m. January 6 DWI

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JAMES JENSEN

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

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

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

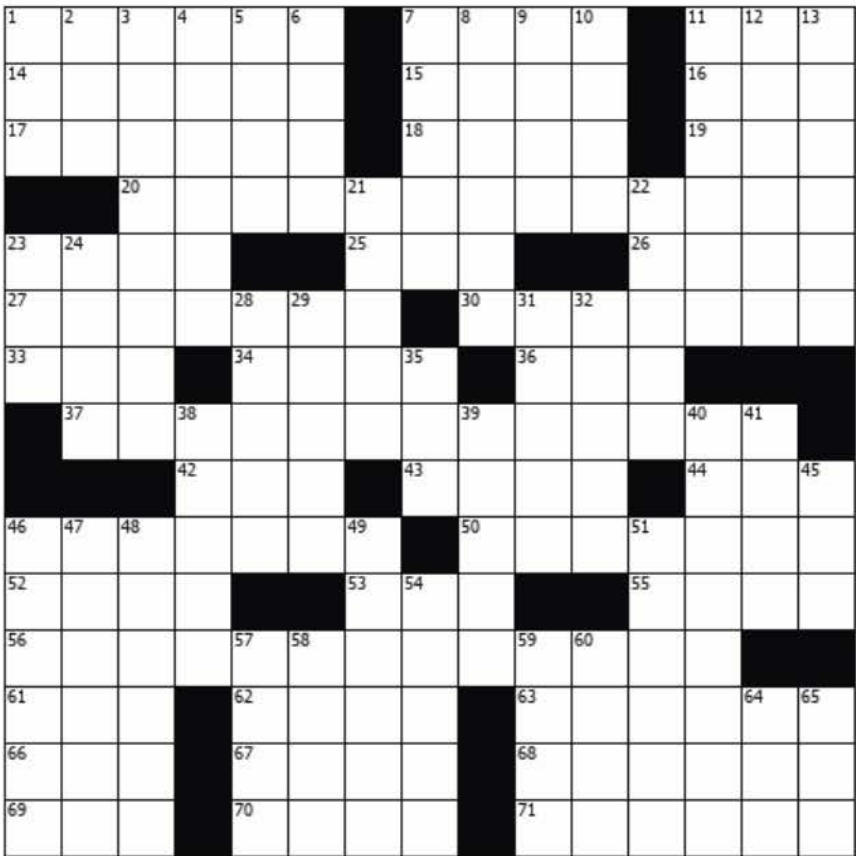
Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Across

- 1. Visits
- 7. Not very well padded
- 11. Go one better
- 14. Texas Hold 'Em phrase
- 15. Smack back?
- 16. "Ben-__"
- 17. "Friendly" toon
- 18. Like a no-brainer
- 19. Letter whose symbol is an H
- 20. Cinco de Mayo
- 23. Soil-related prefix
- 25. Site for 3-Down
- 26. Craving
- 27. Ingredient in some bars
- 30. Robert B. Parker detective
- 33. Cap with a pompon
- 34. Not opt.
- 36. H.S. subject
- 37. Cinco de Mayo, this year
- 42. Take in
- 43. Surrealist influenced by Freud
- 44. Galley measures
- 46. Site of a noted Santa Monica, Calif., promenade
- 50. Makes sleepy, hopefully, as a tot
- 52. Tenn. athletes
- 53. Bucket or pack filler
- 55. Toss out
- 56. Cinco de Mayo, MMV?
- 61. Monetary amts.
- 62. Court target
- 63. Little Red Book follower
- 66. Stephen of "The Crying Game"
- 67. First name in scat
- 68. Like one who never gets anything?
- 69. Surreptitious
- 70. Slay
- 71. Actor Liam



Down

- 1. Shot, for short
- 2. Mouths, in zoology
- 3. Deli choice
- 4. Draining tool
- 5. "Oh"
- 6. Soft ball
- 7. Opposite of 7-Across
- 8. Pontificates
- 9. Snack
- 10. Toy once called a bandelore
- 11. Better half
- 12. Power problem
- 13. Nightly ritual for many
- 21. Basra resident
- 22. Mold and mildew
- 23. Deal maker: Abbr.
- 24. Agassi's wife
- 28. Mountain nymph
- 29. Set-up punches, usually
- 31. 1777 Philadelphia-area battle site
- 32. Fairylike
- 35. Netflix rental
- 38. Vice can precede it
- 39. Stand for the arts
- 40. Pompeii destroyer
- 41. Crash respondents: Abbr.
- 45. Plastered one
- 46. Den combos
- 47. Cyclor's haven
- 48. "And how!"
- 49. Copenhagen's __ Gardens
- 51. Shout to a Yankee
- 54. It covers the House
- 57. Lose part of a coat
- 58. Graph opening
- 59. Former African despot
- 60. "Ditto"
- 64. __-Globe: common paperweight
- 65. Looker, numerically

Victory or Death!

Travis Letter returns to the Alamo

One of the most iconic artifacts in Texas history is making its return to the Alamo 188 years after it was written by the commander of the Texian troops as the Mexican Army of closed in as the Battle of the Alamo began. The Victory or Death letter written on February 24, 1836, by William B. Travis during the siege of the Alamo is not just a document but a symbol of bravery and sacrifice in the face of overwhelming odds. The Travis Letter, known for its stirring call for aid and its resolute closing, “Victory or Death,” will be displayed at the Alamo from February 23 - March 24, 2024. The return of the Travis Letter to the Alamo, its original place of composition, is a historic event, marking its first appearance at the Alamo since 2013. The contents of the letter are:

To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World:

Fellow citizens & compatriots—I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna—I have sustained

a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken—I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch—The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country—Victory or Death.

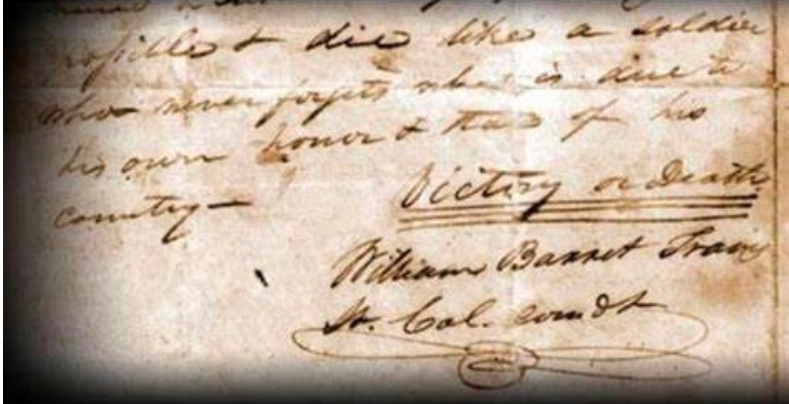
William Barret Travis
Lt. Col. comdt

P.S. The Lord is on our side—When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn—We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels & got into the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves.



A Peaceful transition of Power
Deno Fabrie is handing the presidential “gavel” of the Parrot Heads of Port Aransas to incoming president Cindy Muir. Deno was either Vice President or President of the group for 15 years and attended several of the group’s national conventions in Key West. Deno ran a tight ship with a concentration of his policies on the issues of not too much ice in margaritas, no karaoke until after the third round, and no seagull left behind.

The pelicans, which belong to the Pelecanidae family, are large water-birds found worldwide. They primarily inhabit warm regions. The diet of a Pelican consists mainly of fish. They often catch the fish by expanding the throat pouch which must be drained above the surface before they can swallow. There are 8 species of pelicans. Some species catch fish while swimming, while others mainly catch fish by diving from their flights. These are at Billings Bait hovering around for pieces of filleted fish. Photo By Riekie Roncinske



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A lot of beach at low tide Wednesday morning. Photo By Evelyn Pless Schuberth

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I	R	A	I	S	E		E	R	O	O		H	U	R	
C	A	S	P	E	R		E	A	S	Y		E	T	A	
			T	H	E	F	I	F	T	H	O	F	M	A	Y
A	G	R	O				R	Y	E			U	R	G	E
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C	T	S			H	O	O	P		M	A	O	I	S	T
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Ten Years ago in the Island Moon

Messages in a Bottle Project



By Sheri Henneberger

Sailor Sheri is the communications manager with the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce/Tourist Bureau.

An SOS bottle, filled with messages of hope from all over the world, sailed along an aqua trail of diamond sun-drops Saturday, January 11, 2014. Led to Federal waters by dolphins and Roseate Spoonbills, the crew of *Los Ninos* cast the bottle into the strong currents of the Gulf, with wishes for goodwill to everyone everywhere.

The Message in a Bottle Project was born last fall when Dianna Aston, a children's book author, former journalist and founder of The Oz Project, moved from San Miguel de Allende, Mexico to Port Aransas. Traveling thousands of miles, she began stopping to talk to the people on the side of the road, the poor, the homeless, the hungry. Most were veterans. She talked to minimum wage workers, oilfield workers and jobless Americans—people who were struggling to stay alive.

On October 1, 2013, when the elected officials in Washington, D.C. shut down the nation's monuments, parks, museums and Amber Alerts, she had an epiphany. After listening to so many people's stories of despair, hopelessness and desperation, she decided to begin collecting their hopes, dreams, wishes and prayers in a notebook. She thought she would gather a dozen messages for an SOS bottle.

Four months later, there were more than one hundred messages from people all over the world. The United States, Mexico, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Senegal, Thailand, Germany and Columbia, most written in their own languages.

"I realized that it was time to show the world our true faces—our true colors, our stars and stripes," she said. "To take back our country from the people in power whose decisions have made our hearts hungry for peace and freedom, and made the people of the world see us as ugly Americans. Nobody's dream was to continue to fight each other in wars that tear us apart. These messages are the songs in the hearts of the world's people. Their desire for peace and goodwill to all."

Among the messages:

“Why do we do these things...like casting messages in a bottle, writing in airplane exhaust systems in the sky, holding banners up at football games for millions of viewers to see? It is because we want to feel the



connection among us, the invisible thread stitching the quilt of the world's people together....And now you have this bottle, dear one – proof that you are not alone, nor will you ever be. Please share the contents of the bottle with everyone you know. YOU are the messenger now!" Minnesota
 "Love, Light and Happiness!" Thailand.
 "My wish is that every soul finds the greatest love inside for each other...We are ONE...We all have the birthright to eat and sleep warm." Mexico

“Everyone will find their peace and happiness,” Sri Lanka
 “Be the change you want to see!”
 “It started out so simply,” Aston said. “to
 put our messages in a bottle—but last Saturday became the third happiest day of my
 life. The birth of my children are the first
 two.”
 Friends aboard the trawler, *Los Ninos*,
 stuffed all the letters into the bottle, decorated
 with nail polish paintings of flowers,
 hearts, rainbows and stars. With purple and
 red LED lights tucked among the messages,
 the bottle floated toward its destination.

“As we took turns reading the messages from all points of the globe, and placing them into the bottle, there wasn’t a dry eye in the bunch – truly a moving experience,” said Jim Johnson.



1-07-14

Dear Finder,

This washes up into your hands with messages of peace, ♥, and hope... that not only you will be inspired to give others all the ♥ in your ♥ but that others who hear about "The Messages In A Bottle Project" will reach into their own ♥♥♥ and share the joy, awe and wonder for our world.

We are here, together, on EARTH at the same time. We are ONE. There are no borders in this world. By air, by sea, by land and by ♥, we are a part of each other.

The finder of this bottle will receive a \$107.00 reward.

Contact Dianna Hutt's Aston ^{US: 361-332-6387}
www.diannahaston.com www.theozproject.org

Dianna Aston's message in bottle



By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com
On the local front...

Three Chords and the Truth

And I want to commend **Casey Lane** and his *House of Rock* for a great show they put on last weekend they called the *Passion Project* with **Nick Par and the Selfless Lovers, Identity Crisis, Raul Ayala and Heavy Soul**... I heard from a bunch of people that it was great and am so sorry I missed it.



Boudreaux and Pousson will play Shorty's this Friday the 12th.

DO NOT MISS LIST Coming this weekend...

OK. Here we go! It's now week two of the New Year and we're off like a herd of turtles. Coming this weekend we have the astonishing **Boudreaux and Pousson** bringing their authentic Cajun/Zydeco sound complete with accordion and scrub board, to *Shorty's* on Friday. Also known as **Boo and Poo** aka **Ty Southerland** and **Adam Pousson** are Louisiana natives that now live in Rockport and Orange Grove. I'm delighted to see that the *Gaff* is also picking up on these fellows too. I am NOT exaggerating when I tell you that this band is a *DO NOT MISS LIST* if there ever was one. So welcome our Louisiana cousins to the neighborhood! What took yall so long? Also on Friday *Rasta Cowboy* **Billy Snipes** will play the *Gaff* and in town you can catch **Neal McCoy** at *Brewster Street*, **Michael Burtts** at the *Executive Surf Club*, **Raul Ayala** will play *Rockit's* and one of the best bands anywhere, **Triptonite** will play their home bar at the *Exchange*. Coming this Saturday the world famous **BELT SANDER RACES** at the *Gaff* will host their first race of the New Year. And this is the time of the year when our Winter Texan family shows up and kicks our collective rears every race. **Coach Jim Dugan** will be supplying the music before and after the race. Otherwise on Saturday it's **Heavy Soul** at *Shorty's*. I also want to wish **Irfan** at the *Pelican Lounge* on Padre a hardy CONGRATULATIONS on their 20th Anniversary this weekend. Attaboy Irfan!!! Keep her going. And finally, I want to mention that **Tumble Dry Low** will return to *Bernie's* every Sunday until further notice and the **PA Rockers** will start their Wednesday residency also at *Bernie's* this Wednesday the 10th. You DON'T want to miss that.

On the horizon...



The Winter Texans will be back in full force when the PA Rockers start their winter residency at Bernie's this Wednesday the 10th.

And on the near horizon watch for seasonal shows at the *Third Coast Theater* in Port A with such stellar artists as **Ray Wylie Hubbard** on January 19 and 20, **Keith Sykes** on January 27 and my old pals **Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines** on February 17. Also, I know it's a bit early, but Texas legends **Asleep at the Wheel** will play *Brewster Street Downtown* on February 9th. Y'all be safe.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Diamond's Edge will play the Pelican Lounge's 20th Anniversary this weekend.



Western swing band Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel will play Brewster on Feb 9.



Ray Wylie Hubbard will play the Third Coast Theater for two sold out shows on January 19 and 20.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Friday.

January 12

Boudreaux & Pousson @ Shorty's
Billy Snipes @ Gaff
Splendiferous @ Pelican Lounge
Neal McCoy @ Brewster Downtown
Eric Graham @ Double Tree Hotel
Michael Burtts @ Executive Surf Club
Raul Ayala @ Rockit's
Triptonite @ Exchange
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Joey St. Vincent @ Leaping Lizard

Saturday.

January 13

BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Heavy Soul @ Shorty's
Pelican Lounge 20th Anniversary w/ Diamond's Edge
Jam Council, Rudolph Llanes @ Executive Surf Club
Seattle Rising @ Brewster Downtown
Rock N Roll Flea Market, Raul Ayala @ House of Rock
The Groove @ Rockit's
Carson Miller and the Coastal Cowboys @ Legends
Eric Graham @ Topsy
Bean Port Lavaca
Ruben Limas @ Snoopy's
Flatbroke @ Exchange
Thirty Foot Fall, Urinary Anxiety, Oldie Hawn @ House of Rock
Joey St. Vincent @ Eighteen 18 Bar
Jennifer Gayle
Bradley @ Dobie
West Theater

Sunday.

January 14

Ty Dietz, Jim Dugan @ Shorty's
Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's
Diamond's Edge @ Pelican Lounge
Michael Burtts @ Pier 88

Monday.

January 15

Raul Ayala @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday.

January 16

Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Eric Graham @ La Palmera Mall
Victoria Jane @ Exchange

Wednesday.

January 17

Brad Ethridge Open Mic @ Gaff
Cleartones @ VFW
PA Rockers @ Bernie's
Alonzo Cruz @ Pelican Lounge
Billy Snipes @ Doc's
Michael Burtts @ Pompanos
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Joe Ruelas @ Exchange

Thursday.

January 18

Selfie @ Shorty's
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's
That One Guy @ House of Rock
Michael Burtts @ Brewster Southside
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian
Raul Ayala @ Rockit's

Friday.

January 19

Red Tide @ Shorty's
Ray Wylie Hubbard @ Third Coast Theater
The Groove @ Doc's
Triptonite @ Pelican Lounge
OB Gonzales-Bushbullit @ K-Bob's
Calallen
Michael Burtts @ Tannin's Downtown
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Covertones @ Exchange
Raul Ayala @ Retro

Saturday.

January 20

Raul Ayala @ Shorty's
Ray Wylie Hubbard @ Third Coast Theater
Eclipse: Journey Tribute @ Brewster Downtown

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PORT ARANSAS, TX

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RENTALS

Treasure Island

LIVE MUSIC
WHISKEY BAR
DANCE CLUB

SHORTY'S

SELFIE EVERY THURSDAY

BOUDREAUX & POUSSON	JAN 12
HEAVY SOUL	JAN 13
TY DIETZ, JIM DUGAN	JAN 14
RED TIDE	JAN 19
RAUL AYALA	JAN 20

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