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Issue 992



**The Island Moon**

*The voice of The Island since 1996*

**April 21, 2023**

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Mermaid found on San Jose' Island. Photo by Jace Tunnell



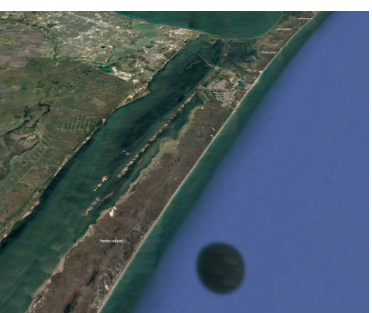
By Dale Rankin

This week will be one that will be remembered over the next two decades as a watershed for Island development as the story in this issue outlines. We'll get back to that in a moment but first the most asked question of the week Around The Island; what is that thing that has appeared in the water offshore from Whitecap Beach and how long will it be there? What looks like a new drilling rig is in fact a vessel placed there by an operator who is plugging an old well, according to Patty Ramon, a spokesperson from the Communications Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Ramon says that once the work is done the vessel be gone but no timetable was given. In the meantime...a word to fisherpersons...Structure!



**The Island's Black Hole**

Last issue we ran an image of a black hole which appears on Google Earth less than a mile offshore from the north end of Padre Island National Seashore. While we are still not sure why the darkened image appears on the Google Earth site we do have some information on what lies below from longtime Islander Mike Hurst who has been diving on the site since five rigs from the Chevron Corporation were located there in about forty feet of water. Mike says when the rigs were removed the beach ball-sized rocks that were used as the foundation of the rigs located there were left behind and are still there. He says that visibility at the site is short but the rocks rise up four to five feet above the bottom. So much for our speculation that it was an entry to another space and time.



**Time to pay back...**

Now back to the funding for Island projects that were approved through the Island TIRZ #2 this week. We include the details in this issue and Jay Gardner includes details in his column in this issue but there was a very telling moment in Tuesday's meeting when

*Around cont. on A8*

## City Approves \$29.1 Million for Island Development

*Tax Increment Financing part of expected \$2 billion in new Island investment*

By Dale Rankin

The Board of Directors of the Island's Tax Increment Refinance Zone #2 on Tuesday approved \$29,139,050 in bootstrap financing for two major ongoing Island projects providing \$11.5 million for public amenities at the Whitecap North Padre Island project and

\$17,848,990 for the Lake Padre project both currently under construction.

The sweeping vision laid out by Tuesday's action calls for the \$29 million to be generated by a projected \$2 billion in new Island development over the next twelve years culminating in a connected

web of pedestrian and cart paths connecting current Island neighborhoods, the two new developments with Gulf Beaches, along with multi-model paths from Commodores Drive to the JFK Bridge that will provide off-street connectivity across Padre Island with the two paths currently being constructed under the Park Road

## Brush Fire Sweeps Across North Kleberg Property



*A snorkel truck from the Corpus Christi Fire Department was used to keep flames away from homes on Sea Pines Drive during Sunday's fire.*

A brush fire listed as arson by the Corpus Christi Fire Department swept across about 200 acres of the privately-held tract of land that abuts the Nueces and Kleberg County line on Sunday. City officials said the case was still under investigation at mid-week but appears to have been accidentally set. No charges have been filed. No buildings were destroyed in the fire.



*The winning creation at Texas Sandfest 2023 this weekend for the Master Duo Division was created by Sue McGrew and Benoit Duthelage. Photo by Neesy Thomkins*

*Sandfest Cont' on page B11*

### A little Island history

## An Island Legacy Streets that Exist Only on Paper *Streets Platted Were to be the Retail District*

By Dale Rankin

When City of Corpus Christi officials approved funding from the Island Tax Increment Refinance Zone #2 for major Island projects on Tuesday buried in the paperwork was a mention of paving long-designed but never finished streets running parallel to SPID between Verdemar Drive south, to State Highway 361 near the Packery Channel Bridge which would provide access to more than 40 undeveloped lots there were intended

to be the Island downtown retail district.

Due to a wrinkle in the city process for funding new streets those streets have never been built in spite of underground utilities already being in place. Under the city plan new streets are paid for by private developers and eligible for reimbursement from the City Development Fund, however, since the lots along the so-called Paper Streets are each owned separately there is no single, large property



*Tortugas Avenue looking south owner will to step forward with the original funded needed to build them.*

The original design of Island streets what is now called Sand Dollar Street was to run from

*History cont. on A5*

## Flour Bluff ISD Educator Named National Distinguished Principal for Texas



Flour Bluff Primary and Elementary schools principal Nikol Youngberg, EdD this week was named the 2023 National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) National Distinguished Principal of the Year for Texas by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. In addition to serving as principal of the two schools, Dr. Youngberg is also the district's Curriculum and Instruction Director for PK-4th grades.

Sponsored by the National Association of Elementary School Principals the National Distinguished Principals program honors outstanding elementary and middle-level administrators who ensure that America's children acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement. The

*Flour Bluff Cont' on page A6*

### Going Native

## Bermuda grass a popular invasive



By Ed Proffitt

One obstacle to increased use of native plants is the continued promotion of non-native turf grasses for use in lawns, golf courses, and the like. This has been fostered by a wealth of plant-breeding science to develop various species and cultivars that can dominate a patch where planted. Let's reflect for a minute on the use of the word "dominate."

In this context, I mean it can crowd out and otherwise inhibit other plants. How does it actually "do that"? For plants like some trees, it's pretty obvious...their canopy produces enough shade that few other plants can tolerate. But, short herbaceous plants can inhibit others as well. Some are strong root-competitors for water and nutrients. Some naturally produce chemicals (termed allelopathic as a class of compounds) that inhibit germination, growth, or outright kill other plants. Some produce flammable chemicals or sufficient

*Native cont. on A8*

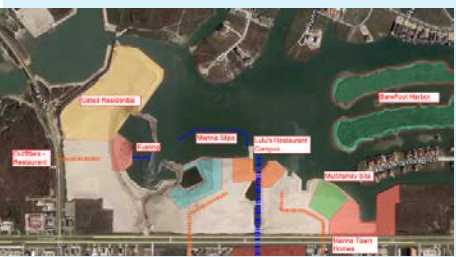




Business

Briefs

**Lulu's Restaurant** is on the platting map of Lake Padre in the Phase 1 section. I hope that is going to be a reality and not just something they hope to have. Lulu is Jimmy Buffett's sister whose name is Lucy but was called Lulu growing up. There are currently three locations. The first one was at Gulf Shores, Alabama on the intracoastal near where she grew up, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and Destin, Florida. She has written two popular cookbooks and her gumbo is the signature item on the menu.



**Texas Sealife Center** will have a turtle release on Sunday, April 23rd at 11 am at MM 216 near the Michael J. Ellis Seawall parking lot.

**The food truck** in front of the Island Market IGA will be spruced up in and around it and start serving food soon if everything goes through.

**The first Padre Island Poker Run** of 2023 will be on Thursday, April 27th and the theme is "Under the Sea." Get in the

spirit by decorating your vehicle, pups and yourselves with sea animals. The run starts at Black Sheep Bistro at 6 pm, next is Island Italian then Boathouse Bar & Grill and ending at Angry Marlin where winners and prizes will be announced around 9 pm. Island Italian is a new addition to the Poker Run and access to it will be from the dirt road off of Whitecap that goes to Dollar General.

**Gulftex Properties** over the years has contributed much to the Island including a significant donation to Billish Park where my three grandchildren are regulars. When the Donut Palace lease was near expiration they looked for a business to put in its place that would be different and beneficial to the Island. They found a tenant that fit the bill and that was a Bait A& Tackle Shop. However, that fell through recently and that unit is now available. Call Gulftex at 992-9700 ext. 112 for more information.

**Padre Island Farmers Market** will be at the Island Presbyterian Church on Thursday, April 20th 4 - 8 pm. Vendors include Oso Bay Farms, Floyd & Rosie's Backyard Garden, Subtropical Nursery, food trucks and more.

**The 46th Annual Beach to Bay Relay Marathon** registration is now open and prices will increase May 1st. One runner and a two person relay is \$100. A six person relay team cost is \$275. For those of you not involved in the marathon stay home. It is a traffic nightmare until about 11:30 am.

**Swingo de Mayo Golf Tournament** will take place at Lozano Golf Center on Sunday, May 7th 1 pm. The event is a four man scramble and the cost of \$80/golfer includes range balls, a fajita dinner, kegs of beer, contests and prizes. The tournament fills up fast so register online now at the Lozano web site.

**The Padre Island Art Gallery** monthly Sip & Shop will be on Friday, April 21st 5 - 8 pm. Singer/songwriter Emma James will provide the entertainment.

**Islander Bobby Mogford** has moved his Edward Jones office from in town to the Island. His team is transferring with him including Chayla Nguyen. The office is located in the Clock Tower strip center near Whitecap. Call

949-9500 for more info.

**The Port Aransas Community Theatre** will hold auditions for the comedy "5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche" on April 30th and May 1st. The Theatre will be installing a large screen outdoors for a Drive-In theater for golf carts and pedestrian, hopefully, by the end of the summer.

**The Dr. Mario Martinez medical facility** is currently under construction next to Pelican Plaza on SPID. It will offer primary care services, lab services and spa services. There will be a doctor's office for rent and they are looking to get a specialist, such as, an orthopedic surgeon. The building is 9,000 square feet and the opening date is anticipated to be early 2024.

**Sunset Sounds Concert** in Port A at Roberts Point Park will be on Friday, April 21st starring Zach Carney 7 - 9 pm.

**The Corpus Christi Ballet** will present Cinderella with over 90 dancers on Saturday, April 22nd 7:30 pm and Sunday at 3 pm.



**The Nueces County Appraisal District** will hold workshops for property owners to discuss property values face-to-face with appraisers and key staff from the District and to informally settle disputes between property owners and the appraisal district. In the past I was able to decrease my assessment at the site by bringing in documentation. The workshop in the Bluff will be held on Saturday, May 6th 8:30 am - 3:30 pm at the Flour Bluff High School cafeteria 2505 Wal-

dron. In Port A it will be held Saturday, April 22nd at the Civic Center 710 W. Avenue A.

**Wallbangers** is moving soon to 6542 S. Staples where Montana Mike's was located.

**Seafood & Spaghetti Works** has a food trailer to house their To-Go Kitchen in preparation for the busy summer months when it will open.

**The Donut Palace** will open Monday, April



24th at its new location across the street from CVS. The hours are 4 am - 2 pm but they are considering extending to 4 pm during the summer.

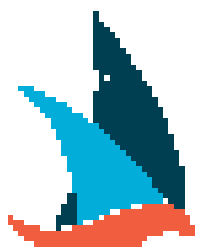
**Whoop it Up Boots & Bling** is the largest fundraiser for the Seashore Learning Center Island Foundation. There will be music by the Five Card Draw Band, tables of food and the most silent auction items you will find anywhere. So put on your boots and rodeo gear and head out to Marker 37 on Saturday, April 29th. Admission is \$75 and the link to purchase tickets is on their Facebook page.

**Port A for Peace** will be forming their human peace sign near the Horace Caldwell Pier at noon on Saturday, April 22nd. The photo will be taken at 1 pm so bring along a chair.



Briefs cont. on A3

## Creating A Destination Community Like No Other



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Briefs cont. from A1

**Fishing Guide** **Joey Farah** will be giving a two hour fishing seminar at the 1st Annual Texas Oyster Round-up on Saturday, April 22nd 5 pm at the Water Street Oyster Bar. There will be shucking contests, vendors and entertainment.

**Good & Crisp Chicken** is still closed. The building was purchased by the owners in 2007 and best guess is that is closed due to staffing.

**Corpus Christi Horse House** is offering Summer Horse Camp for children 1st - 8th grade with no experience necessary. The camp is five days 8 am - 1 pm and the cost is \$500 and the camp runs from June 5th - July 17th. This will be the 6th summer camp they have had. They are located at 2902 Roscher in Flour Bluff. Call 500-7920 or visit their Facebook page for more info.

## Random Stuff

## Letters to the Editor



Island life,

My wife Debbie and I moved to the island in September of 2022. We lived in a small town 20 miles east of Austin. Moving here was the smartest thing we ever did.

Ever since we arrived people have been so friendly and welcoming to us. Immediately we met great neighbors who made us feel at home. I love to wave to everyone and it is so nice to have someone wave back. Also, the businesses on the island are very friendly and helpful.

We had friends visit last weekend and they commented how people around here actually drive friendly. They were amazed how people would stop and let them merge into traffic. This practice is no longer followed around Austin.

I especially enjoy reading The Island Moon cover to cover each week. We could not be happier and hope to live in this great place a long time!

Chuck Fromme  
Reales Drive

**A drawer organizer for 355 storage bags** keeps all size bags with clean, neat removal. It is by Up & Up and the cost is \$13 at Target which is the only place I could find it. The box is sturdy enough to refill which is good because usually it is the sandwich size that goes the fastest.



**For hiccups** drink a glass of water upside down. You need to bend over and drink from the far side of the glass. I was playing cards with friends and actually witnessed this working.

### The structure that recently appeared off Whitecap Beach...

That is a lift boat. Can work in shallow waters driving piles or rock work. Sometimes work by the small platforms for specialty work. They are not capable of drilling a well. Suspect they might be standing by to position by bob hall when seas are calm. Via [Sherry Clowers Howe](#)

#### Chip Rayburn

That is a lift boat used in the offshore oil & gas industry. Each “pole ” or leg has a pad on it that rests on the sea floor. It does not appear that they are near a structure, so maybe they were moving and either had engine trouble or shut down for some rest. Could have started getting rough seas also. Spent many a day on one of those in the early 1980’s

**Brian Wruble** Unfortunately, you are mistaken. The vessel out there now serves as a stable area to perform maintenance. It does not drill for petroleum products.

#### Sherry Clowers Howe

I asked a friend that should know. “No that is a lift boat. Can work in shallow waters driving piles or rock work. Sometimes work by the small platforms for specialty work. They are not capable of drilling a well. Suspect they might be standing by to position by bob hall when seas are calm.

#### Mike Flores

It’s installing light post to run electrical lines.

# Time to buy a Generator! (As long as it is under \$3000) Sales Tax Holiday for Emergency Supplies, April 22-24

With Hurricane Season 2023 right around the corner Texans this weekend can purchase certain items tax-free during the state’s sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 22, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 24.

The Texas Comptroller’s office estimates shoppers will save nearly \$2 million in state and local sales taxes during the tax holiday, which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2015. There’s no limit on the number of qualifying items you can purchase. These include:

- Household batteries, fuel containers and flashlights priced less than \$75;
- Hurricane shutters and emergency ladders priced less than \$300; and
- Portable generators priced less than \$3,000.

For purchases made online, note that delivery, shipping, handling and transportation charges are part of the sales price. Consider these charges when determining whether an emergency preparation supply can be purchased tax-free during the holiday.

For example, if you purchase a rescue ladder online for \$299 with a \$10 delivery charge, the total sales price is \$309. Because the total sales price of the ladder is more than \$300, tax is due on the \$309 sales price.

#### Purchases that do not qualify include

- batteries for automobiles, boats and other motorized vehicles;
- camping stoves and camping supplies;
- chainsaws;
- plywood;
- extension ladders and stepladders; and
- tents.

A list of [emergency preparation supplies](#) that may be purchased tax-free can be found on the Comptroller’s website.

## Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



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## Where to Find The Island Moon

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Spoonbill by Morgan Faulkner



Firefighters did a precautionary controlled burn after the fire in Kleberg County.

Photo by Augs

**Rain Graph**  
For those who were confused by my Island Moon Rain Report (page 3, Apr. 14 issue), the color-coded chart landed on a black and white page in the printed edition. As a result, the bar graphs are indistinct. However, it is easy for you to read online at [islandmoon.com](#) where the colors pop on almost every page. Here’s a make-good version that will communicate the totals more clearly.  
Tom Cullinan

We have a Color Version on Page 9 in this issue!





## WHOO IT UP 2023 BOOTS & BLING

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## Senior Moments



### Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

# Corporal Freddie Stowers United States Army

Medal of Honor



Above, Stowers' sisters, Georgina Palmer and Mary Bowens, with Barbara Bush and President George H.W. Bush at the Medal of Honor presentation ceremony

Shortly after his death, Stowers was recommended for the Medal of Honor; however, this recommendation was never processed. Three other black soldiers were recommended for Medals of Honor, but were instead awarded the next highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross. This decision may have partly been motivated by racism; however, the criteria for the Medal of Honor were becoming stricter during this time period, partly due to a perception that it was being awarded too frequently, especially to members of the Army, while members of the naval services could receive one of two different medals, both called the Medal of Honor. Marine officer Smedley Butler, for instance, might have received three or four, instead of two, total Medals of Honor, or he might have received only one, if the actions for which they were awarded had occurred only a few years earlier or later than they did. Many possibly deserving whites and persons of color were denied medals, while some possibly less deserving people received them. In Stowers' case, the official position is that his recommendation was "misplaced," which is plausible given that the other three MOH recommendations for black soldiers were at least processed, even if the decision to award the DSC remains controversial and possibly racism-related.

In 1990, at the instigation of Congress, the Department of the Army conducted a review and the Stowers recommendation was uncovered. Subsequently, a team was dispatched to France to investigate the circumstances of Stowers' death. Based on information collected by this team, the Army Decorations Board approved the award of the Medal of Honor. On April 24, 1991, seventy-three years after he was killed in action, Stowers' surviving sisters, Georgina and Mary, received the medal from President George H. W. Bush at the White House.



*Dotson's Other Note: If Stowers is forgotten today, this lesson was not. The outcome of the Stowers review led to a new Army study in 1992, which found that several African American and other minority Distinguished Cross recipients from World War II, were actually deserving of Medals of Honor that were not awarded because of bias on the part of the Decorations Board. Their DSCs were upgraded to Medals of Honor which were presented to living recipients (or their next of kin. Stowers Elementary School on Fort Benning, Georgia, and the Corporal Freddie Stowers Single Soldier Billeting Complex on Fort Jackson, South Carolina, are both named in his honor. Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at [dlewis1@stxrr.com](mailto:dlewis1@stxrr.com). FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 - 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397...It's your two hours, please let us hear from you.*



By Dale Rankin

## Stuff I Heard on the Island

It is often said that no Texans' liberty or property is safe as long as the legislature is in session. Under the Texas Constitution state government packs all the planning and budgeting for two years into a session that lasts five months every other year and due to a holdover provision that allowed time for members to arrive by covered wagon no bills can be filed in the first two months. That means when the window to file bills opens the bills come flying in. The chaotic nature of the process was driven home to me many years ago when a representative from San Antonio came by the press scrum on the House floor and said, "Watch this" and proceed to read into the record the United States Bill of Rights which was voted down without discussion along party lines.

Into that environment a bill has been submitted that if approved will have a profound effect on residents of Padre Island neighborhoods. In January, 2022 the Corpus Christi City Council approved a Short-Term Rental ordinance that allowed property owners to rent their residence overnight anywhere in the city except Island neighborhoods zoned RS-6 - that is single-family lots of 6000 square-feet. It covers the neighborhoods west of SPID, where overnight rentals are prohibited, it allows overnight stay in areas zoned for multi-family there and all of the area on the Gulf of Mexico side of SPID. It was a resolution that met the wishes of both permanent Island residents and operators of STR properties and has worked quite well since that time. But since it is working so well certain members of the State House, no doubt pushed by lobbyists hired by the Texas Realtors organization which bills itself as the Voice of Texas Real Estate, to take away the right of cities, including ours, to regulate Short-Term Rentals. The statewide effort to force SRTs into our neighborhoods mirrors that of the local arm of the organization when the city ordinance was voted on two years ago. Both seek to force us to accept what we have said we do not want.

The bill is now in the hands of the House Land & Resource Management Committee and I can't predict whether it will be signed into law this session. What I can say is that every session someone proposes such a bill and sooner or later such a move may end up as the law of the state and if so what can we do here on The Island to protect ourselves? The good news is that we have an option that we can use right now that would head off possible passage of any state bill.

### A Little Background

The common belief is that Homeowner and Property Owner associations cannot regulate Short-Term Rentals. That is false. The misinformation stems from a case in Boerne in which a homeowner successfully sued his homeowner association after they prohibited him from leasing his house for less than thirty days. He was renting it by the day and when the association stepped in told him to stop he sued and won; but it is in the language of covenants of that Boerne subdivision and the court ruling that our Island opportunity lies. The language in the Boerne deed covenant reads that the homes there must be used for "residential" purposes only. The Texas Supreme Court ruled that the property owners association had no authority to prohibit Short-Term Rentals because the short-term renters were using it for residential purposes.

Their ruling reads as follows: *The covenants in the (Boerne) deeds fail to address leasing, use as a vacation home, short-term rentals, minimum-occupancy durations, or the like. They do not require owner occupancy or occupancy by a tenant who uses the home as his domicile. Instead, the covenants merely require that the activities on the property comport with a "residential purpose" and not a "business purpose."* We decline to add restrictions to the (Boerne) covenants by adopting an overly narrow reading of "residential. They fail to address leasing, use as a vacation home, short-term rentals, minimum-occupancy durations, or the like. They do not require owner occupancy or occupancy by a tenant who uses the home as his domicile. Instead, the covenants merely require that the activities on the property comport with a "residential purpose" and not a "business purpose." We decline to add restrictions to the (Boerne) covenants by adopting an overly narrow reading of "residential."

### So where does that leave us?

That leaves us with an opening. The Padre Isles Property Owners Association is an umbrella organization formed when all of the subdivisions on Padre Island were owned by a single entity. The duty of the PIPOA was to maintain the bulkheads and common areas but each of the 39 individual subdivisions that fall under the purview of the PIPOA have their own set of deed covenants which apply only to that subdivision and can be amended by a vote of 50.1 percent of the property owners who live in each. For an example I use the language in Barataria Bay Section 5 Unit 4 because that is where I live but it mirrors the language in many if not most of the other subdivisions on Padre Island It reads as follows:

*No commercial, trade or business activity of any nature shall be carried on upon any lot, nor shall anything be done thereon which may or become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood.*

That language is less ambiguous than the language in the Boerne case and based on the language in the Supreme Court ruling would seem to outlaw Short-Term Rentals, but if litigated the question would be whether *commercial, trade or business activity of any nature* prohibits Short-Term Rentals and whether they are *annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood*. It could be argued that the language refers to retail businesses only leading back to the ruling in the Boerne case that leasing for overnight stay for residential purposes is not specifically prohibited and therefore allowed.

### The risk of doing nothing is twofold

If we do nothing and a state law removing city authority over Short-Term Rentals is eventually approved experience has shown us that two things happen: We only have to look to Port Aransas to see what those are.

First, once Short-Term Rentals are approved for any neighborhood that can never be rolled back. Cities, even without any new state law, cannot rezone (downzone) an area in a way that reduces property values without paying the property owners the difference out of public money. That's a deal stopper. Once a neighborhood allows Short-Term Rentals they cannot realistically be removed.

Second, the value of a dwelling that is being leased for Short-Term Rentals will increase over time because its value will be based on the cash flow from the rentals. So if your neighbor is leasing for Short-Term Rentals their sales price will be higher than if they were living there; which is why the *Voice of Texas Real Estate* wants to put Short-Term Rentals in Island neighborhoods. The elevated sales price of your neighbor's house then becomes your *comp* for Property Tax appraisal purposes raising your tax bill in spite of the fact that you are not renting short-term.

### The Solution

The solution then presents itself in the form of amendments to the Deed Covenants of each of the individual Island subdivisions which were written before Short-Term Rentals existed and was therefore not explicitly addressed. If 51 percent of the property owners in any or each of the subdivisions add language specifically prohibiting Short-Term Rentals there it would negate the Texas Supreme Court ruling by avoiding ambiguous language. Once the vote is taken the new language and covenants are then filed with the Nueces County Clerk they are in effect and if that is done before September 1, 2023 when new State Statutes approved by the legislature take effect it won't matter if the proposed law to take away city authority to regulate Short-Term Rentals is passed into law of the land.

We have a short window of opportunity between now and September 1 if the new law is passed this session. If it is not that window is extended for at least two more years. But Austin lobbyists stay busy pushing their interests everyday while the rest of us go about our daily lives and they only have to win once and the game is over.

The ball is in our court.

### Early Life and Induction into The Army

Stowers was born in Sandy Springs, South Carolina, the grandson of an enslaved person. Before the war, he worked as a farmhand. He married a lady named Pearl, with whom he had one daughter, Minnie Lee. He was drafted into the Army in 1917, and assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion of the segregated U.S. 371st Infantry Regiment, originally part of the 93d Infantry Division.

While the United States had established permanent African-American military units in 1866, these did not participate in the American Expeditionary Force; a peacetime role as frontier police and cavalry experts was gradually devolving into labor duties, the fate of many black troops in the world wars, despite the protests of some officers and organizations like the NAACP. Some of these "Buffalo Soldiers", as they were nicknamed, did participate in a border skirmish with Mexican troops accompanied by German military advisors near Nogales.

By contrast, Stowers was part of a new division that, by the end of the war, included a commissioned African-American officer, and saw sustained combat. Due to compromises with the institutionalized racism of the day, this combat did not take place under American command: although his unit had arrived in France as part of the American Expeditionary Force, Stowers' regiment, like the others in the division, was seconded to the 157th French Army "Red Hand Division", badly in need of reinforcement, under the command of the General Mariano Goybet.

### The Assault on Côte 188

Early on the morning of September 28, 1918, Stowers' company was ordered to assault Côte 188, a tall, heavily defended hill overlooking a farm near Ardeuil-et-Montfauxelles, in the Ardennes region of France. At first, the German defenders offered stiff resistance, bombarding the Americans with mortars, raking them with machine guns, and keeping up steady rifle fire. The advance was not halted, however: the Americans steadily gained ground until the Germans communicated their surrender with verbal and hand signals. This proved to be a ruse, and as Company C drew near the German trenches, the machine guns opened up again. Within minutes, the company's strength was reduced by half. The lieutenant commanding Stowers' platoon went down, followed by the more senior noncommissioned officers. Corporal Stowers, trained to lead a section of a rifle squad, was now in command of a battered and demoralized platoon. Stowers began crawling toward a German machine gun nest and shouted for his men to follow. The platoon successfully reached the first German trench line and reduced the machine guns by enfilade fire. Stowers then reorganized his force and led a charge against the second German line of trenches. During this assault, Stowers was struck by fire from an enemy machine gun, but kept going until he was struck a second time. He collapsed from loss of blood, but ordered his men not to be discouraged and to keep going and take out the German guns. Inspired by Stowers' courage, the men forged ahead and successfully drove the Germans from the hill and into the plain below. Stowers, meanwhile, succumbed to his wounds on Côte 188. He is buried, along with 133 of his comrades, at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial east of the village of Romagne-sous-Montfaucon.



By the numbers...

## Island Tax Increment Refinance Zone

**\$8.1 million** Fund Balance available for use beginning of 2023

**\$4.9 million** expected to be collected this year

**\$13 million** Fund Balance expected by end 2023

**\$13 million** in SPID corridor improvements (Capital Improvement Budget City)

**\$17.3 million** funding in place for improvements to SPID corridor from Commodores Drive to JFK Bridge (Texas Department of Public Transportation funds)

**\$4.3 million** dedicated to Packery Channel maintenance (dredging planned for late 2023)

**\$14 million** in expected annual revenue to be generated annually by 2042 when TIRZ #2 expires

History cont. from A1

Verdemar Drive south to State Highway 361 taking some traffic pressure off of the SPID main corridor. Along the way, behind Scuttlebutt's Seafood Bar & and the Pelican Lounge, the Island's original designers planned an area for retail and commercial space. Construction on the utilities for the three streets originally designed to run through the area Sand Dollar Street, Ocotal Drive, Tortugas Avenue, was halted with but not before sewer and water lines, including some fire hydrants, were built with a four-inch gas line installed in March, 2023 and are still in place today awaiting the streets and adjoining development they were designed to serve.

The planned routes for the streets are visible as four-wheel drivers use them as short-cuts, and even the curb cuts where the streets were expected to enter State Highway 361 and Whitecap are in place - exits waiting for streets. The original developers of Padre Island had not finished the three streets before the area was annexed by the City of Corpus Christi which for almost forty years has ignored them.

But with the recent addition of an exit from the Lake Padre development onto State Highway 361 and a new, platted street set to connect the Speedy Stop now under construction next to American Bank to the highway as well the need to pave the streets has taken on a new urgency. The new roadways south of SH 361 mean traffic in the area along SH 361 between SPID and Packery Channel will increase dramatically and the need for the connection between the highway and Verdemar Drive and which under the vote taken by the board of TIRZ #2 on Tuesday can be funded through that funding. Texas Department of Transportation has set aside \$1.5 million for a redesign of the intersection but no design contract has been issued.

### Problem dates to Island development

The problem began as a solution to previous problem; a lack of park space in the city. Developers in Corpus Christi in the 1960s and

1970s could either pay a Development Fee to the city, or set aside land dedicated for parks. Island developers chose to set aside large chunks of parkland in lieu of paying the fee. The developers also had the option of increasing the amount of dedicated Island park land or building sidewalks and chose that option that was cheaper at the time of dedicating 49 acres of parkland and accounting for the lack of sidewalks along most Island streets. Building sidewalks across private property now would require the use of imminent domain and would be prohibitively expensive.

In other areas of the city funds from the Development Fee are placed in a non-interest bearing account and used to pay for new streets. As the owners of lots along the new streets developed their property and hooked into the utilities they paid an initiation fee which was used to re-pay the money in the fund from the Development Fee. When the last dollar was gone from the development fund it corresponded with the development of the last vacant lot on the new street. It was a pay-forward system which worked in most areas of the city but without Island developers paying the fee for the past three decades there has been no funding source to establish the account to build the original streets; no funds, no construction of the Paper Streets. There is currently no money in the city Development Fund and city officials are searching for a new system to fund new infrastructure.

### 35 years of inattention

There has been an ongoing debate at City Hall, still unresolved, about whether street bonds can be used to build already-platted but unconstructed streets. New streets are routinely built from the planning stages on with street bonds, but, on at least on Padre Island, no bonds have ever been used for Paper Streets. The Aquarius Extension, built with bonds from 2004, was considered an extension of the existing Aquarius Street rather than a new thoroughfare.

But for almost forty years that has not hap-

Island cont. from A1

22 Water Exchange Bridge being the connecting nexus.

In each case the funds come from Property Tax generated by new construction as the two projects roll toward completion over the next decade. Under the plans approved Tuesday the developers of both projects will initially fund the amenities inside their respective developments that will be open for public use and be reimbursed through the Island Tax Increment Refinance Zone #2 (TIRZ #2) funds as those public amenities are completed and generate new Property Tax revenue through the city and county.

Of particular note in Tuesday's action was the approval of \$3.2 million for the construction of a water exchange bridge under Commodores Drive where the current dead-end canal will be extended under the roadway onto the Whitecap North Padre Island site providing a new 66-foot wide open for water exchange, and \$2.7 million for a new water exchange bridge under Encantada Avenue, each with fourteen feet of clearance above the waterline to match that of the Park Road 22 Water Exchange Bridge now near completion. Those projects will be built under the direction of the developers of the Whitecap North Padre Island project who will initially fund their construction and be eligible for reimbursement from TIRZ #2 funds after completion. Plans for the Commodores Drive bridge are currently 90% complete and have been filed with city planners.

In addition to the TIRZ #2 funds the City Council in 2022 approved the establishment of a Public Improvement District which will allow Ashlar Interests, LLC, developers of the Whitecap North Padre Island Project, to issue bonds to fund a portion of the public

amenities there the cost of which will ultimately be funded by the private purchasers of property at the site.

On the Lake Padre side of SPID the \$17.8 million TIRZ #2 reimbursements will fund improvements for public use on 102 acres use including a **Retail Village and Entertainment District along the canal, a two-mile long promenade** at a cost of \$13.6 million, open space including 8.64 acres, two pedestrian Bridges over the canal at a cost of \$1.2 million, a golf cart bridge over the canal, and golf cart paths and ramps connecting the Park Road 22 Water Exchange Bridge to Gulf Beach through the Whitecap Boulevard corridor at a cost of \$1 million each. **Phase I of vertical construction at the Lake Padre site is scheduled to begin by the end of 2023 and when complete is expected to create 500 permanent jobs and \$7.5 million in annual city and county tax revenue.**

The TIRZ #2 boars is made up all nine members of the Corpus Christi City Council, four members of the Nueces County Commissioners Court, both of which contribute funds to the TIRZ #2, and a representative of the Del Mar College District which has yet to make a decision on its participation.

Under the plan approved Tuesday the city will contribute 100% of the city's share of Property Tax on new construction inside the TIRZ #2 boundaries through 2028, dropping to 75% in 2029, then decreasing 5% each year through years 2030-2033, then at 50% from 2034-2044 when the TIRZ #2 is set to expire.

Color Maps on B11



## Lake Padre Phases

### Infrastructure

Completion Second Quarter 2023  
Streets

Underground Utilities  
Canal, Seagate, & Bulkhead Cap  
Misc. Costs - Streets & Utilities  
**Total Cost - \$11,455,739**

### Phase I 2023

Projected Five Year Build out

Drystack & Storage  
Marina Retail  
Phase I Marina Slips & Fuel Dock  
Apartments - Phase 1  
Resort Hotel  
Canal Retail  
Canal Residential for Sale  
Boardwalk  
Golf Cart & Pedestrian Bridge  
**Projected \$188,433,439**

### Phase 2

Projected Three Year Build Out

Canal Residential for Sale  
Canal Retail II

### Parking Garages

**Projected \$78,180,000**

### Phase 3 2026

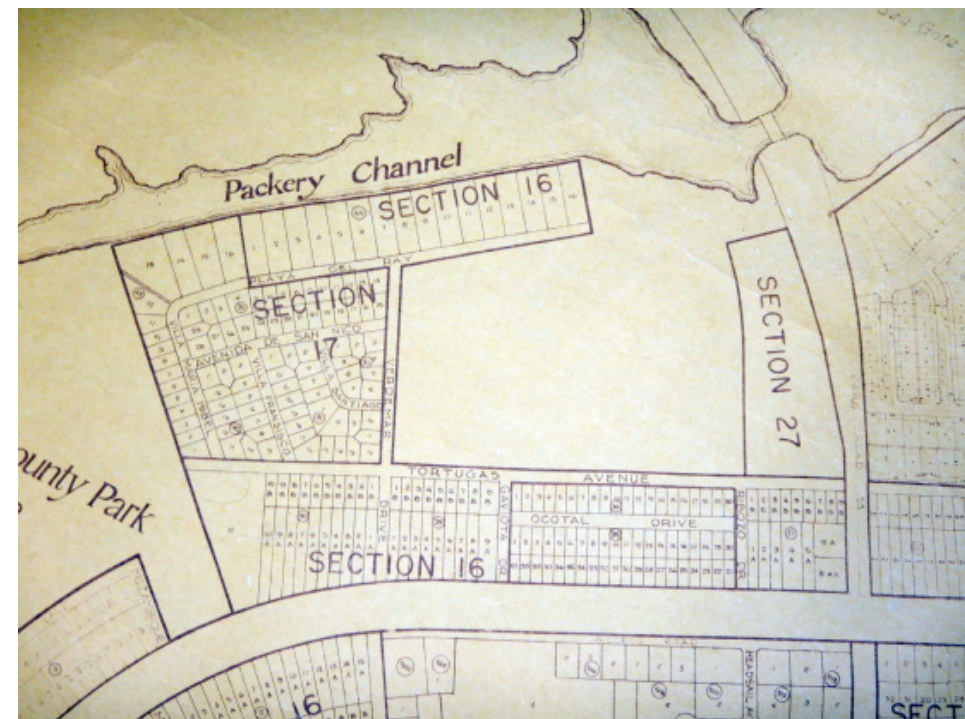
Projected five year build out  
Cove - Multi Family for Sale  
Apartments - Phase 2  
**Projected \$196,210,000**

### Phase 4 2026

5-7 Year Build Out  
Channelside - Townhouses  
Channelside - Single Family  
Channelside - Retail  
Cove |Channelside Infrastructure  
**Projected \$172,504,400**

### Phase 5 Year 7

5 Year Build Out  
Cove Shops  
Cove Grocery  
Cove Hotel  
**Projected \$61,205,000**



Original plans showing Paper Streets east of SPID

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# Sports

## Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



## Nolan Ryan Baseball Player and Owner

By Dotson Lewis

*Dotson's Note: Pitching for the Houston Astros and Texas Rangers for 14 seasons, Ryan dominated the American and National Leagues with a blazing fastball and competitive spirit. Beginning his career as a wild but hard-throwing pitcher with the New York Mets, Ryan solidified his pitching with the California Angels, becoming one of the most dominant pitchers in the game before taking his talents to his home state of Texas. Pitching for 27 years in the Major Leagues starting in the late 60s and ending in the early 90s, Ryan remains one of the most dominant power pitchers in baseball history. Thanks to Bill Morgan, Ryan Holbrook, Joe Patronato, Tom Morgan, and Stephen Dunn for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan and the Southwest Conference for the photos.*



Lynn Nolan Ryan, Jr. was born on January 31, 1947, in the South Texas town of Refugio. Before he was one year old, the family moved to Alvin, Texas where his dad, Lynn, worked for the *Houston Post*. He was the youngest of six children, and often helped his father with various odd jobs around the house and for the newspaper.

He and his father would get up at 1:00 AM almost every day for the job. Ryan credited his father with encouraging him to play baseball, since his given skill as a child for throwing anything he could find at different targets. He increased his skills playing baseball with his older brothers and the neighborhood kids. He was almost 10 years old when he started playing organized baseball for the first time. He was soon successful, making All-Star teams and even pitching a no-hitter, which was the first of many he would throw in future. In middle school, Ryan played football and baseball but only played baseball in high school. He had an incredibly strong throwing arm and threw much harder than anyone else his age.

### Nolan in High School

He entered Alvin High School as a pitcher and threw hard but was wild. He was a strike-out machine., He held the school's record for strikeouts in a single game (21) for 46 years. Batters were often afraid to step into the batter's box, because they were afraid of being hit by one of Nolan's fastball. In high school, he started getting attention from Major League scouts. One of the scouts was from the New York Mets.

After four outstanding seasons at Alvin High School which included a trip to Austin for the state championships, he was drafted by the Mets in the 12th round of the 1965 draft. His fast ball was fast, but his lack of control was of great concern. But since he had such raw baseball skills, the Mets decided to sign him to a contract. Nolan agreed to sign the contract instead of taking one of the many college scholarships he was offered. He reported to the Appalachian League, where he continued his strikeout ability and improved his skills. The Mets were repeatedly impressed with the hard-throwing rookie, and they promoted him multiple times during the 1965 and 1966 season through their farm system.

He made his Major League debut at Shea Stadium in 1966 at just 19 years old. Many of his family and friends came out to see him make his first big league start at Houston's Astrodome just a week later. Ryan's fastball baffled Major League hitters even at such a young age and he was quickly becoming one of the most talked-about young pitchers in the league. He jumped up and down between the Mets and their minor league teams in order to get more experience; he was still wild and was not yet ready for full-time major league pitching.

### The Majors

The Mets kept Ryan up for good beginning in 1968. In his first start against the Astros that year, Ryan threw five no-hit innings to begin the game and earned the first win of his career. Ryan's 1968 season propelled him to the forefront of the baseball world, earning national attention with his dominant performances

against some of the best teams in the National League. Despite the success, Ryan battled a number of injuries including multiple blisters on his throwing hand. These injuries slowed his dominant pace and he also missed some time that year due to military service. Injuries and missed starts aside, Ryan's 1968 season gave him and the Mets something to look forward to moving forward.

The 1969 season was a dream come true for Ryan and the Mets, and the once-awful "Miracle Mets" made the World Series for the first time in team history. They defeated the heavily-favored Baltimore Orioles in five games, becoming the first expansion team to win a pennant and a World Series. Ryan was on the mound when the Mets defeated the Atlanta Braves in the NLCS, and he made the only World Series appearance of his career in game three.

The 1970 and 1971 seasons were up and down years for Ryan, and he maintained his strikeout tear but continued to struggle with walking batters. He pitched to a 3.42 and 3.97 ERA in these seasons, but his fast ball beginning to slow down. He had a great arm, but he wasn't able to put it all together while in New York.

### Moved to The California Angels



After the 1971 season, the Mets traded Ryan to the California Angels in a deal with other players for shortstop Jim Fregosi. This is now considered one of the most lopsided trades in Major League history. Ryan would go on to play eight fantastic seasons with the Angels while Fregosi stayed in New York for just two years.

In 1972, his first season with the Angels, Ryan led the American League in strikeouts with 329 and pitched to a remarkable 2.28 ERA. He was selected to his first All-Star team and threw 284 innings, 130 more than his previous career-high. Ryan's change of scenery and the chance to pitch on a consistent schedule (something he never had in New York) did wonders for him, leading to a dominant season.



### To Be Continued Perhaps

*Dotson's Other Note: In addition to a change of scenery, Ryan also received more support from Angels' pitching coach Tom Morgan. Ryan began a weight-lifting program, hoping building strength in his upper body would help reduce the chance of injury. Everything was coming together for him in Anaheim, where he had the most productive stretch of his entire career.*



By Andy Purvis

## Heart of the Order



Mike Coffin

It's time for Hooks baseball. George Bronner once wrote, "Be strong. You never know who you are inspiring." It's no secret that I wanted to be a baseball broadcaster when I was younger. I loved listening to baseball on the radio. Oh, I could catch and throw, but I found out early on that I couldn't hit the curveball. Besides, I don't think I could learn all those different handshakes. Nevertheless, I fell asleep many summer nights to the voices of Mel Allen, Red Barber and Chuck Thompson on my transistor radio. Now I listen to our local guy, Michael Coffin, on KKTU 1360 AM. I imagine him stretched out in a field of grass, one arm under his head, thinking about the game. To refer to baseball as just another game is like saying the Grand Canyon is just another ditch. Baseball fills a need for belonging. It's like being young again. How can you not like baseball?

Coffin is so cheerful, he could call play-by-play on a kamikaze flight. You get the feeling he could call baseball games in his sleep. Umpire Doug Harvey once said, "When I'm right, no one remembers. When I'm wrong, no one forgets." The same could be said for baseball broadcasters. Calling play-by-play requires that you have the eyesight of a bald eagle. Michael may be undefeated in a staring contest. Coffin's glass is always half full. He is so positive that when talking to him, you get the feeling he still believes in the tooth fairy. Listening to Michael Coffin call a Corpus Christi Hooks' game provides excitement in your chest. Confucius once said, "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." Michael and I agree. Coffin didn't just drink the Kool-Aid, he went back for seconds. While listening to Coffin, you can hear the anticipation and feel the possibilities of the game. It's as if he is speaking to you personally. Even though Coffin doesn't take his turn at bat, he's never turned a double play or dropped a curve off the table; but as far as I'm concerned, Michael Coffin is the heart of the order when it comes to Hooks' baseball.

Michael Coffin was born in Orange, Texas, and he's married to the love of his life, Miranda. "My first love was high school football," said Michael, "That's how my parents got me to do

homework. I couldn't go to the game until I did my homework." Michael became the public address announcer for his high school baseball and basketball teams. "I just learned on the job," said Michael. In May of 2006, Michael graduated from Sam Houston State University with a degree in Radio and Television. He wrote stories for the Huntsville Item and was invited to do an internship during the summer of 2006, with Milo Hamilton and the Houston Astros. "I skipped my graduation ceremony to work an Astros - Rockies game," laughed Michael. "My mother could have killed me."

Coffin joined the Hooks in 2007 and by 2010, found himself on air with Matt Hicks. Coffin took over for Hicks in 2012, when Matt left for the Rangers. He also handles the public address job of the Texas A&M Corpus Christi Islanders' men's and women's basketball teams, and works the CCISD Game of the Week in high school football for KCCT 1150 AM. Michael Coffin is a fine broadcaster; his nickname should be "Mr. Automatic." As a baseball broadcaster, Michael is not in love with instant replay and not much of a fan of the designated hitter (DH).

When I asked Michael where he wanted all this to go, he answered. "I wanted a craft that I could spend my life in, being the best I can be. Ryan-Sanders Baseball has been terrific to me. My life has gotten better each year. I wouldn't want to be anywhere but right where I am."

Recently, Coffin was asked by the Astros to sit in for Alan Ashby on Astros' radio because Ashby had laryngitis. Coffin joined Steve Sparks in St. Louis for two games against the Cardinals. "I have been fortunate in how many doors have opened for me," said Coffin.

If you find yourself unable to attend a Hooks' game, no worries, just set the dial on 1360 AM and break the knob off. Enjoy my pal, Michael Coffin.

Andy Purvis  
www.purvisbooks.com

### Flour Bluff Teacher Cont. from A1

program was established in 1984 to recognize and celebrate elementary and middle-level principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and climate for the students, families, and staff in their learning communities.

"Dr. Youngberg's knowledge of curriculum and instructional practices has been instrumental in the academic success of her campuses and our district," Flour Bluff ISD Superintendent Velma Soliz-Garcia wrote in her recommendation letter. "She strongly advocates for the educators she leads and the students she serves."

A statement from Flour Bluff ISD said Dr. Youngberg is guided by the belief that academic growth happens best when a child is cared for as a "whole individual," and has created holistic and innovative learning environments for students at Flour Bluff Primary and Elementary schools in Flour Bluff ISD. Under Dr. Youngberg's leadership, the two schools have been successfully integrated into a shared school to increase student achievement and improve the alignment of curriculum and services. In addition to serving as principal of the two schools, Dr. Youngberg is also the district's Curriculum and Instruction Director for PK-4th grades.

"Nikol is a dedicated and highly knowledgeable instructional leader who is focused on what matters most—her students," TEPSA Executive Director Harley Eckhart said. "Ensuring each child has access to highly effective teachers and has every opportunity to succeed drives every decision she makes on her campuses and in her district."

As an instructional leader, Dr. Youngberg is intentional about visiting classrooms, being present with students, and investing in teachers to provide an engaging and creative educational experience for students. Besides the rigorous core curriculum, students are provided opportunities to explore arts, leadership, and service to others. The school also provides various supports for students and families in need. Dr. Youngberg works closely with the school counselor and social worker to help connect families to resources, and the campus has earned the Purple Star Designation from the Texas Education Agency for its support of military students and families.

Dr. Youngberg and her school will receive \$2,500 each courtesy of long-time TEPSA partner Curriculum Associates. She will also be recognized throughout the year, including at the NAE awards gala in Washington, DC.

"We are proud to help TEPSA recognize such a deserving leader," said Claudia Salinas, Vice President of English Learning at Curriculum Associates. "Dr. Youngberg is committed to her students and the greater community. Her deep knowledge of best practices in curriculum and instruction supporting meaningful gains for students in Flour Bluff."

TEPSA has served Texas PK-8 school leaders since 1917. Member-owned and member-governed, TEPSA represents more than 6,000 members who direct the activities of more than 3 million PK-8 schoolchildren.



# The Island Outdoors

## On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner



I saw a funny meme the other day that said, “if we get another cold front, I’m just going to put the Christmas tree back up.” I forget that this time of year we get the back end of cold fronts when spring is attempting to spring, usually timed with Friday nights; perfectly timed to ruin the weekend. Some of us Weekend Warriors have been trying to get out and sight cast some redfish with the high tides, but alas, doesn’t look like it’s going to happen yet again this weekend. Guess I’ll just keep working on those wintertime projects that never seem to get done anyway. The Tax Incremental Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ #2) meeting was held the other day in council chambers, and it was a packed house. The main goal was to determine the tax rate at which the city is going to dedicate to the TIRZ over the next 20 years. You loyal readers know that Nueces County has already signed up to do 75% for the first 5 years, and then ratcheting down 5% a year to 50% for the last 10 years. City staff proposed several scenarios in front of the board the other day, which ranged from 50% all the way through the 20-year life, to 75% (matching the county) and then 100% for the first five to seven years, and then ratcheting down to meet Nueces County (front loading, which I’m in favor of).

Discussion was all over the board, literally. One new board member remarked that they understood that the Island makes up 3% of the voters, but pays 15% of city property taxes, and then turned around and said that they would only support 50% for the TIRZ because “that’s what’s right for the rest of the city”. Many of us in the audience sat bolt upright when that was said, and we realized that there is a contingent that wants the gravy train with biscuit wheels financed by the Island to keep rolling without our fair share of returns from OTB. The tax bills hitting the mail this past week only exacerbate that statement; talk about timing for that statement.

Things devolved even farther, as the discussion ran over the time allotted and filibustering and reiterative speech patterns became apparent in an effort to drag the process down. In addition, one board member, at the very end while there was a motion and a second to approve the 100% rate, decided to attempt to add on additional funding (\$10 million) for the second causeway. Staff ex-

plained that would take money away from infrastructure on the list, and that caused instant disruption. That maneuver did nothing but obfuscate the agenda item and caused the timer to expire before a vote could be rendered clear. Thankfully the default is currently set at 100%, so we’re at least not losing any funding, just progress. The TIRZ board will have to have another meeting, and staff was directed to communicate with ISAC for our priorities. I have turned on the bat signal and will be meeting with the TIRZ #2 subcommittee post haste. The birds are starting to migrate through, and I swear I saw a cerulean warbler get up and out of my little pond feature the other day. While I didn’t get to fully focus on the bird, the color of a cerulean is unmistakable. Plus the fact that other people have been seeing them nearby is strong anecdotal evidence. Hummingbirds are thick and the dove birds are starting to talk to each other. There have been some pretty good migrants at the typical birding spots, and hopefully they will stick around for a while, as the McMorran boys are scheduled to descend on us from California for a visit late next week for some dedicated birding.

The beach and bay water levels remain high as of this writing and are showing no signs of dropping below the spring bull tide level. While the high water isn’t conducive to helping beach fishing, it makes both boating and fishing a little easier in the bays and Laguna. I read a report from the southern Laguna that shrimp are flooding into the bays down there and are being pushed around by schools of redfish and trout. This yearly pattern will work its way north, and by next week you should be able to see flocks of laughing gulls above schools of fish. Right on time.

Well folks, the rains have been nice, but they’re not enough to break this drought that we are in. I’m glad to see that there have been a lot more intelligible discussions about desal, and that several entities that were pitted against each other have joined forces against their oppressors. I know, sounds like a medieval story plot, but alas, it’s about us and our water supply. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and I’ll see you here next week On the Rocks.



## Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah  
Farah’s Fishing Adventures



*I still get pumped when I get my hook and hands into a good trout. This girl came to hand this week while fishing large soft plastics in windy conditions. Farah*

Cleaning my own fish every day gives me the opportunity to see feeding patterns on all of my gamefish. Fish cleaning is becoming a lost art, a loss of paying tribute to the fish we harvest as well. Each trip we talk about what our gamefish are feeding on and lunar times. While we clean the fish I improve my points on the water by showing the contents of our catch to my guests.

The most obvious is the stomach contents. The most popular food sources are pin perch, shrimp, mullet, dogfish, crabs, and other small baitfish. Right now we are on a New Moon so the dark nights are when shrimp, crabs, and invertebrate species such as clam eels, mud worms and others swarm the bay systems on dark windy nights. The last few weeks we have been seeing a giant increase of DOGFISH or TOAD FISH in the specs. This is not unusual, and has always been a regular occurrence. Pay close attention to body size, shape, and bone structure of the bait in their stomachs to identify the prey they have taken. Some of my favorite matches to these food sources are the DOA 3” CAL SHAD for pin and piggy perch, mud minnows, and kill fish. Its small profile and rapid tail flutter sound completely natural. The larger DOWN SOUTH LURES SUPER MODEL is great when trying to trick them into believing you are presenting a small mullet, dog fish, eel, or needle gar. The DOA 5.5” Jerk Shad is my sand eel and ballyhoo trick.

Timing and figuring out when gamefish are feeding is also read on the cleaning table. Pay close attention to the lunar feeding times, then when checking the stomach contents of your fish notice what fish you caught at what time of day. This will show a direct mirror of when they are eating to the stage of digestion of the food fish in them. A good major feeding on shrimp at midnight will show almost fully digested shrimp and orange liquid in the belly. A pre dawn feeding on pin perch will show your first trout caught having pin

perch so fresh their flesh hasn’t been digested and you can see the stripes and eyes clearly when you catch them mid morning. Colder conditions lead to longer times for digestion, while baitfish can be processed fairly quickly in the warm months. Paying attention to those lunar charts every day can have you noticing weather changes, and tidal movements.

I guess I’m a little religious about my harvest. I like cleaning my fish and game. Their power, Wisdom, and spirit is transformed when we consume them. It is truly God’s way, and mine. Honor them by learning how to clean them or bringing them to MARKER 37 MARINA SO THAT THEY ARE CLEANED PROPERLY. At MARKER 37 you can hand them your fish and they will ice them down immediately, clean and bag them WITH NO BONES!, and hand them back or shake them over to the SNOOPYS PEARL where they can cook them all kinds of ways and even have your dinner and table ready for you at your desired time.



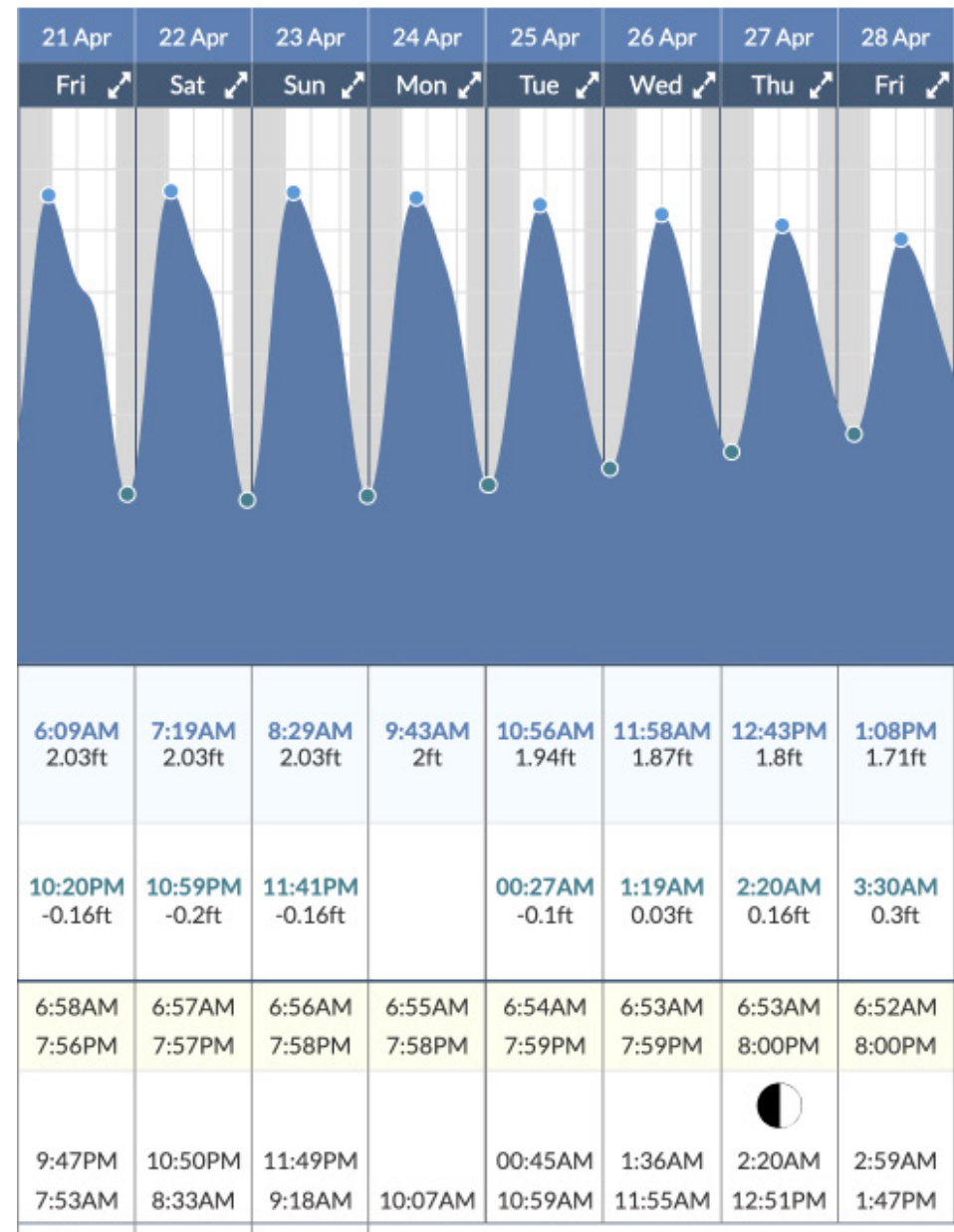
*Brandon got into some good trout fishing this week on my boat in windy conditions using DOWN SOUTH LURES MAGIC GRASS.*

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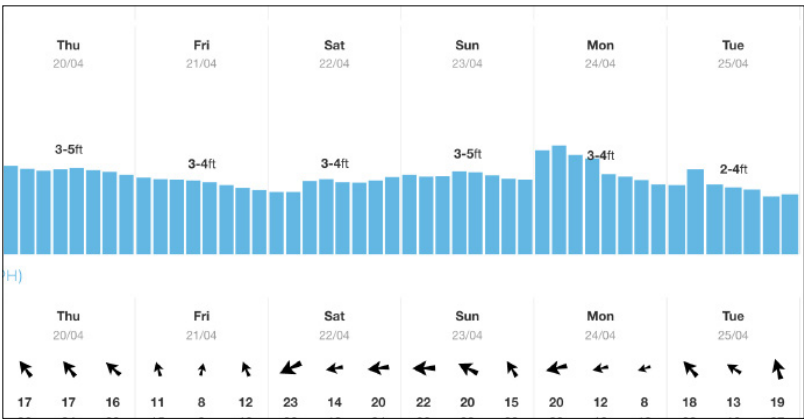
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## Tides of the Week



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## Nature Notes

### Vultures: Man's True Best Friend

Article By: Taylor Snyder

The New World vulture family consists of seven different species of vultures— three of which most Texans are likely familiar with. These include, Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*), and the distant conservation success icons, California Condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*). Regardless of which species they are, vultures have always had a bad reputation. It probably has something to do with most of them having bald or almost bald heads, but most definitely has to do with the ecological role that they fill as scavengers.

While it isn't the most glamorous position, scavengers play an important role in the food web. By feeding on carrion, or dead animals, these birds do us a huge favor—not only by improving ecosystem aesthetics (fewer dead animals laying around) but also by limiting the number of dangerous pathogens that could pass to humans. In fact, vultures have iron stomachs with incredibly strong stomach acids that are capable of killing anthrax, botulism, rabies, and other pathogens. By consuming carcasses that are infected with these diseases, these birds reduce the risk of disease transmission, including into soil and water.

Vultures actually have a lot of amazing adaptations that make them very good at what they do. For instance, their featherless or near-featherless heads help prevent gunk from sticking to them while they're feeding. Turkey Vultures, in particular, are unique in their own way as they possess an incredibly strong sense of smell which allows them to detect and seek out common chemical odorants emitted from carrion. Additionally, other species of vultures—like many species of birds of prey—rely on their incredible eyesight to locate dead animals or other clues, such as other scavengers, which could indicate that dinner is nearby.

You may have had the opportunity to watch a vulture sunbathe, and maybe wondered if they had more in common with your family cat than you realized. While they may just enjoy sunning themselves, some believe that they have other motives, like harnessing the sun's energy to kill pathogens, parasites, and remove any gunk that may have



*Black Vultures can often be seen sunning themselves, spiraling overhead, or enjoying a meal on the side of the road.*

*Photo by Mike Williams*

been left over after their meals.

If you need any more reasons to dispel any preconceived notions about these birds, they also need our help to look out for them—which is a great reason to love them. Old World vultures, which include beautiful species such as the Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) and the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), are an unfortunate example of how imperiled these essential birds can become. Since they rely on dead animals to survive and have an unfortunate reputation, they are very vulnerable to both accidental and intentional poisoning. The majority of Old World vultures are teetering towards extinction for this reason, and New World vultures could head that way as well due to the consumption of lead and other poisons found in their food. So, please keep in mind how wide-reaching our choices can be and how many creatures they can impact for the worse. And, as always, show vultures some love (from a distance)!

#### About Cont' from A1

District 2 City Councilwoman Sylvia Campos, who voted against letting The Island keep some of its Property Tax money on The Island, that sent a collective gasp through crowd of Islanders present. Campos said she voted against the move on the grounds that "The Island needs to start giving back." This was a rather astounding statement coming from the same Councilwoman who only moments before had stated that "The Island is 3% of the city's population and 15% of the city's tax base." We couldn't find a definition of "giving back" in our Funk and Wagnall's Dictionary – for our younger readers that's the big thick book that holds the door open – but it seems paying in five times more than we get back might fit that bill. City bond issues are doled out by population so The Island gets 3% of that money and the Property Tax rebate which councilwoman Campos voted against is then the only way to do that.

With Padre Island anticipated to have \$2 billion – with a B – in new development over the next twelve years we are at the forefront of development of the tourism industry in the city and leaving a little meat on the bone to help keep things moving seemed like a good decision to those gathered Tuesday, with the exception of course of Councilwoman Campos. We thank District 4 City Councilman Dan Suckley with help from former City Councilman Greg Smith and the support of most of the city council, including Mayor Paulette Guajardo, as well as the Island Strategic Action Committee who have set the stage for the next twenty years of The Island's future.



Visit Corpus Christi, our HOT tax funded convention and tourism bureau, hosted a town hall meeting at HardKnocks Wednesday. Staff members armed with markers and flip charts listened to small groups of Island residents brainstorm about opportunities, challenges, and initiatives. Photos by Debbie Nobel

## Going Native

By Ed Proffitt

dry mass that any wildfire that occurs burns hotter and thus eliminates even some native plant species that usually rely on

One reason that certain turf grasses do so well is that they are naturally "good" at one or more of these avenues of competitive exclusion. For species that don't tend to spread from where you plant them, this isn't much of a general problem. However, this is not the case for certain lawn grass species. Take for instance bermudagrass, *Cynodon dactylon* introduced to North America from Africa around 1900, and widely used in planted turfs. This species has escaped cultivation and is now a widespread invasive throughout much of the U.S. and is especially a problem in warmer climates like we have here. It is sometimes listed as being drought-tolerant, but that depends on how you look at that. It can survive in dry conditions, and some drought, but goes dormant with extended drought meaning your lawn will become brown...unless you water with 1 to 1.5 inches of water PER WEEK during that time.

It has become invasive throughout many native grasslands and prairies. Indeed, it has been, and still is, planted as cattle forage as (for some reason) they love it. Locally it occurs in various habitats, including the wetter portions behind dunes, and it's been recorded in the National Seashore.

#### *Why is this plant so successful?*

The short answer is it was introduced into a new biome in which it had no (or few) natural

enemies, and thus its populations can rapidly expand. A longer answer, using many more words than I'm allowed here, involves the breeding of various cultivars and varieties, some work with manipulation of the plant's genetic material. But, what plant traits are allowing the spread and dominance? What are the effects on native grassland ecosystems? Bermudagrass can produce dense, deep-penetrating roots which allows it to be a strong competitor when water or nutrients are in short supply. As it grows clonally via rhizome or stolon "runners" (depending on variety) its competitive advantage in patches of habitat is enhanced. In certain native grasslands, the consequences of Bermudagrass invasion has been reduced plant diversity, as well as that of various mammal, bird, and reptile inhabitants of these systems (see article by Farthing et al. 2018 in the journal Restoration Ecology).



## Island Scouts Visit the ARK

Padre Island's Boy Scout Troop 949. Scouts volunteered at the Amos Rehabilitation Keep (ARK) in Port Aransas. Scouts helps spread new sand in one of the bird areas and had a great (and wet) time scrubbing the turtle tanks!



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What a great catch by a student in Mr. Andrews class on the 3rd grade field trip at The Fish Hatchery.



Dan Abel The man in the hole



Elizabeth Belaire and Patrick Somerville took the Island Moon to the Nakalele blow hole on Maui.



Scott Shafer and Jamie Landez on Renaissance Island in Aruba.



## Flour Bluff Math and Science team wins at Math and Science Tournament

Flour Bluff Intermediate Math/Science Team won at the Texas Math & Science Coaches Association on April 15.

The 6th-grade Hornets were the State Runner up for TMSCA Sweepstakes, State Runner Up in Team Number Sense, and State Runner Up for Team Calculator, only losing first place to their 7th and 8th-grade Hornets.

These students were competing against 7th and 8th graders from all over Texas and came out shining, winning second place by over 80 points. The 6th graders won 12 out of 15 (80%) Top 5 finishes in individual Math Events. Sweeping the Top 4 spots in 6th Grade General Math. Of special note, Jack Provenance was the State champion in 6th Grade Science, and Alice Liu was the State Champion in both 6th General Math and Number Sense.

## Island Moon Rain Report

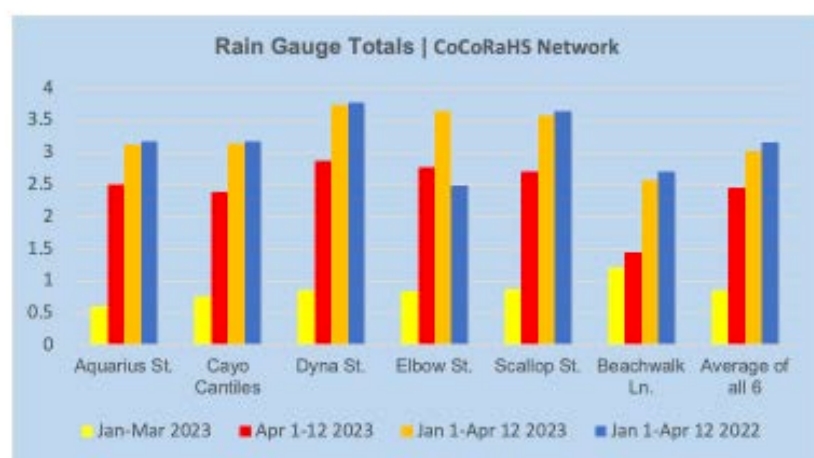
By Tom Cullinan

After less than an inch of precipitation fell on Padre Island throughout the first three months of 2023, those early April storms tripled our total rainfall for the year so far.

The days leading into the Easter and Passover weekend brought in unsettled weather from the hill country. High winds accompanied locally heavy rains in amounts not seen around here in more than five months. As the chart illustrates, the current year-to-date totals have caught up to or surpassed our 2022 totals.

The year-to-date catch in these six island neighborhood gauges after the storms averaged 3.02" compared to 0.92" prior to the wet weather.

The Island Moon Rain Report uses data posted by local volunteers in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow Network.



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# Sandfest 2023



3rd Solo winner Bruce Phillips



2nd. Solo Winner Thomas Koet



Photo Mark Wysocki



Photo Mark Wysocki

## Sandfest Award Winners 2023

### SOLOS

- 1st. Abe Waterman
- 2nd. Thomas Koet
- 3rd. Bruce Phillips
- 4th. Amanda Bolduc

### SEMI-PROS

1. Jim Butler
2. Marc Mangia
3. Leonardo Gonzales
4. Lisa Donzo

### PEOPLES CHOICE

Semi-Pro: Darrel O'Conner

Master Solo: Thomas Koet

Master Duo: Wade & Brittany Lapp



3rd. Chris Guinto & Melineiege



2nd. John and Laura Gowdy

## Last Week's Mystery Islander! Greg Smith



Our Mystery Person of the Week from last issue is our friend and former City Councilman Greg Smith who is a descendent of the Dunn family which ranched Padre Island for more than five decades. Greg is also past Chairman of the Island Strategic Action Committee and was instrumental in the building of the Island Water Exchange Bridge, the repairs to the Packery Channel Jetties, and this week in the funding from the Island Tax Increment Refinance Zone #2 for Island projects over the next twenty years. He is also a regular on the Island radio show on FM 94.7 which broadcasts from Doc's Seafood & Steaks each Thursday morning from 7-9 a.m.

## This Week's Mystery Islander!



## Lake Padre and Whitecap Development Plans



## Birding Festival

April 26-30

The Corpus Christi Birding Festival is set for April 26-30 and boasts several unique features. First, we're the "Birdiest City in America."

The spring migration puts the Coastal Bend at the hub of major flyways and the Gulf provides water and shorebirds. This year's festival offers new classes on avian art and there will be entries from the Build a Birdhouse contest on the grounds. We draw visiting birders and families from 30 states.



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## Cress, Camping, and Caviar

By Chris Jordan

When I was a child — and even well into my adulthood — my extended family went camping in the Texas Hill Country for several days every summer. At least once. Sometimes in the spring. We had several cherished private properties we would go to: a horse farm on the Blanco River, a deer lease on the headwaters of the Nueces River, or a ranch on the Medina River. And there were others. All of them were owned by family friends or were just places my dad, grandfather, or an uncle had scouted. Some were available for camping to the public; some not. Mostly they didn't have electricity or running water. Some had outhouses; some didn't. We almost never went to a state park, although I do remember being at Pedernales a time or two. These experiences comprise my most coveted memories.

We all had some form of camper. Uncle Jack and Aunt Mary had an RV. Uncle David and Aunt Nancy had a travel trailer. We did too and pulled it behind my mom's two-tone Suburban. My grandparents had an especially cute little bumper-pull. It had been built in the 1940's and had been a pristine example of the state of the travel trailer arts when it was built. One summer Uncle Jack brought a WWII-era Willys Jeep with a floor-shift manual three-speed transmission. We had innertubes, CB radios, trot lines, seines, and crawfish traps, block ice and banjos. There were firearms, fireworks, and firewood; field guides and fishin' poles.

My grandparents would always arrive ahead of everyone else. Mostly to raise hell and piss-off anyone they could. They were normally nice people but my grandmother was an aggressive camper. First order of business at the campsite was to get the antique mess tent set-up. It was made from heavy blue-and-white-striped canvas. I'd always imagined it had come from a circus. It smelled like mold, kerosene, and cotton candy but it was big enough for all of us to gather under for meals: all the grown-ups plus my sister and I, as well as cousins Matt, Rob, and Julie. In the later years we might have had an outsider: a foreign exchange student or somebody's girlfriend or boyfriend. We'd bring plenty of food: milk, bacon, eggs, potatoes, sausage, chicken, steaks, cold cereal, fruit, a few of the hardier green vegetables, canned goods, cold cuts, s'more fixin's, and a boatload of beer and sodas. But it was the unexpected foods we'd catch, forage, or even purchase that captivated me.

There was catfish, bass, perch, and the occasional trout. We never ate the fish any way but fried with hushpuppies. Once or twice there was an abundance of crawfish. Sometimes one of us would shoot a rattlesnake and we'd fry that, too. Uncle David even made turtle soup once — but *just* the once. It smelled so foul only the chef tried it and I'm pretty sure he spat it out when no one was looking. We'd forage for ramps, pecans, mulberries, mint, watercress, and bull nettle seeds.....dependent upon season.

My mom and her sister, my Aunt Nancy, took to having a "spa day". Really this was just them running off by themselves with a

large Thermos full of Bloody Mary. They'd find some isolated patch of flat limestone on the river bank where they'd get half-naked, three-fourths drunk, and fully sunburnt. At camp, everyone pitched-in to make sure some of our meals were exotically catered with foodstuffs. Nancy and David might bring wine and caviar. My mom and dad: deviled eggs, and homemade French onion dip. My grandmother: smoked oysters in a tin and Camembert. The others were not as sophisticated. Jack and Mary brought hot dogs and my grandfather maybe an extra handle of rotgut whisky. Every so often we'd go to town for cornmeal, gunpowder, ham hocks, and guitar strings.

On one particular trip to somewhere on the Guadalupe, the caviar and French onion dip met on top of a fancy cracker and everybody went nuts over the combo. The caviar didn't last long and everyone wanted more. There was always a little country store within a few miles of where we camped, and this time there was one very nearby. I was volunteered to ride my bike to this little country mercantile to buy.....caviar? What were these idiotic (and possible drunk) grown-ups thinking? There wouldn't be anything there but stale bread and evaporated milk. I resented being sent on this wild goose chase but dutifully went anyway.

When I got there, I pushed the screen door open. The return spring sproinged and the hinges creaked. I didn't let the door slam shut — I'd been brought up better than that. I went over to the mostly-barren shelf where the canned goods were kept, and to my surprise — nestled between a cloudy jar of pickles and a dusty can of Dinty Moore beef stew — low and behold, were two little jars of blackfish caviar with rusty lids. I was ecstatic and received a hero's welcome back at camp, replete with a barely-standing ovation.

Another memorable shop was Happy Hollow Grocery in Concan, not too far from our friend Fritz Streib's ranch on the Frio River. I was a little tike way back then, but I can still remember the sweet old couple that ran the place. They'd keep us in ice, beer, and charcoal lighter. One time my dad bought me a little slingshot there. My second happiest Happy Hollow memory was the jerky. Somebody from around there — and maybe it was the shopkeepers — made the best jerky I've ever had to this day: it was from locally bagged venison and probably not exactly legal to sell. I stopped in Happy Hollow Grocery just a few years ago. Naturally the sweet old couple had passed — this being confirmed by their daughter who was minding the store. She didn't have any venison jerky, but to my surprise there were a few handmade wooden slingshots for sale. My eyes welled-up thinking about those good times with family so long ago. One fully-formed tear did finally roll down my cheek. It was for my papa.



*Kris Bair is on vacation this week and we are running updated old columns in her absence.*

It's Prom season around the US, and this week I entertained the fatal question: Did you go to prom?

The question might better have been, "Which one?"

My first prom (c.1969) was one of those My-BFF (Sue)-Had-Another-BFF (Susan) things. Susan's mother taught drama at DeSoto High School, about 30 miles from ours. Both BFFs had met the lead/heartthrob in the DHS winter production of *Oklahoma!*, -and his not-half-bad brother—and they had invited both guys to be their dates to Prom.

In their minds, it was quite the coup—dates from outside the local gene pool, and a budding (and very handsome) actor to boot, who also happened to be a (gasp, choke) Senior! How could you lose?

Oh, my dear friends. It was a set-up for disaster.

I'm pretty sure that what was in the guys' minds was a chance to check out chromosomes in OUR high school, and nothing more.

I had had no intention of going to Prom. I didn't have a boyfriend and I was too nerdy for anyone to ask.

But the DeSoto guys had this good friend they "did everything with," so he had to be included, and my dear BFFs were always looking out for me.

I was the logical choice. I didn't have a date, I was convenient, and I wouldn't fuss. A willing and useful sacrifice on the altar of teenage romance.

So there it was--a blind date. To my first (Junior) prom.

Logic told me not to hold my breath.

The Big Night arrived. The dates did not. I repeat: the dates did NOT!

I can't remember if I twirled my fingers at home or at Sue's house, but twirl we did for about an hour.

They finally arrived and nonchalantly strolled in—wearing blue jeans, t-shirts and tennies! No ties—a HUGE no-no in the '60s.

By this time, we had missed the banquet.

When they *acted* (and "acted" is the key word here) as stunned as we felt, the two Sues forgave them immediately. A new plan was conceived on the spot—the guys would drive back to DeSoto, get dressed, and then come back to pick us up for a slightly late arrival for Prom. All we had to do was wait another hour or so.

My logic alarm was ringing madly. Hearts were going to be broken.

We waited nigh onto two hours more—the dance had begun long before the phone call

## Open Season on Prom

By Pastor Kris Bair

came (no cell phones back then) to tell us they had changed and headed back, but had (conveniently, to my mind) experienced car trouble on the road and ended up hitchhiking back to DeSoto in their fancy dress clothes.

It was a sacrifice they had had to make, and they were contrite beyond belief.

Well, it was beyond *my* belief, anyway.

But God bless them, Sue and Susan were intent on saving their dates and insisted the guys stay dressed (I kindly didn't point out that there was no evidence that they had bothered). The rescue was on the way.

We leapt into Sue's family VW van and careened down the road to DeSoto, where the guys had finally been browbeaten into pulling it together and were sort of ready to go.

Suspiciously, my blind date didn't have "dress up" clothes, but did substitute chinos for his blue jeans and wingtips for the tennies. Oh, yes, and he did sport a tie of dubious distinction (pretty sure it must've been his dad's).

We finally made it to Prom about 11:30 pm, in time to close it down. But by golly, we did go to Prom.

Now, I suspect that, given the amount of time that has passed, both my BFFs don't quite remember this the same way, but I can't fault them. You get a good story, you have to make the most of it. That means the storyteller has poetic license to exaggerate, and reclaim, and re-organize.

This is exactly what happened with the four Gospels, which weren't written down until decades after the facts. And, we might add, that the Holy Spirit was the poet giving license in the Gospel writers' case.

The point is that all good stories are filled with truths, and many good stories have different truths (and some of the same ones) in different versions. If they are human stories, they reflect the diversity of humans.

What was the Truth in my story? Well, I did attend Prom. I did care enough for my BFFs not to want them to lose out on a chance to go to Prom. And I didn't walk away when things got dicey, even though my date was pretty blah.

And I learned a few things, too. Like to trust my logic, and the usefulness of boundaries, and to beware of actors who are too talented for my own good.

And the Truth in Jesus' stories? We dig for it every Sunday at Island Presbyterian Church, at 10 a.m., or you can catch us Livestreaming on Facebook, where you'll find a Zoom link if you'd like some Fellowship, too.

And don't forget to mark your calendars for our community-wide **Spring Fling** this May 6. Watch for details!

## Symphony with a Twist!

Visitors of all Ages were applauding, cheering the Cirque de la Symphonie with Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra at Selena Auditorium last Saturday. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth.





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	7	8			9			5

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Moon Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

- Across
1. Some pub patrons
6. Bean town?
10. Room online
14. Doctor-turned-wordsmith
15. River through Opole
16. Quasimodo's creator
17. Public persona
18. "Be happy!" front
20. Happened upon
21. Projectionist's unit
23. City on the Trinity River
24. Anti or semi, e.g.
26. Turtle cover
28. Came down to earth
30. Daughter of Tethys, in myth
34. "Spoil the child" front
38. Mine piece
39. Glossary entry
40. Genetic letters
41. State with conviction
42. Catchall abbr.
43. "Three's a crowd" front
47. Capital near the Caspian
49. Chronological brinks
50. Honey badger
52. It arrives before midnight
56. Confront boldly
59. Beginning for dynamic or space
61. Hail from the past
62. "Warm heart" front
64. Jutlanders, e.g.
66. Grimace
67. "Atlas Shrugged" hero
68. Lethargic
69. Scratched (out)
70. It's pointless in the Olympics
71. Selects the dramatis personae

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18				19				
20				21	22				23					
24			25				26	27						
			28			29		30				31	32	33
34	35	36					37					38		
39						40					41			
42				43	44				45	46				
47			48					49						
			50				51		52			53	54	55
56	57	58					59	60				61		
62						63				64	65			
66						67				68				
69						70				71				

- Down
1. Pinch into folds
2. Dinger or tater
3. Colored marble
4. Cribbage marker
5. Clinically clean
6. Mother \_\_\_\_
7. Sacred cows?
8. What boys will be
9. Popular design style of the 1920s
10. Spiny, treelike cactus
11. Make one's pitch?
12. Uttar Pradesh city
13. Kiddie litter?
19. Beat on
22. One way out
25. Place in an Orwell title
27. Roman lyric poet
29. Seat of kings
31. Unstable star
32. Hemoglobin component
33. Moist, as grass in the morning
34. Proofer's "nevermind"
35. Name used in exclamations
36. Place for a keystone
37. The two for none
41. Church recess
43. Vandalize
44. Power supply
45. No longer in love with
46. Lilting
48. Ate away
51. Souper-upper?
53. Weathercocks
54. Tennis Hall of Famer
55. Puts one within another
56. Vertex
57. Kenai Peninsula inlet
58. Crossword puzzle?
60. Italy's Villa d'\_\_\_\_
63. Count a few sheep
65. Santa \_\_\_\_ winds

Island Fire Calls

March 27-April 17th

- Fire Station#15
- 14202 Commodores D
- Brush or brush-and-grass mixture
- fire- 1
- Rescue, EMS incident, Medical Assist
- 19
- Motor vehicle accident with injuries- 2
- Extrication of victim(s) from
- machinery- 1
- Gas leak (natural gas or LPG) - 1
- Person in distress, Other- 1
- Assist Invalid- 1
- Dispatched & cancelled en route- 3
- No Incident found on arrival at dispatch
- address- 1
- Smoke scare, odor of smoke- 1
- Alarm system activation, no fire –
- unintentional- 1
- Fire Station#16:
- State Highway 8185 State Highway
- Person in distress, Other- 1

Police Blotter

April 10-April 16

JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection

Crimes against Person

13300 block SPID 5 p.m. April 15 Harassment

Suspicious Person

13300 block Midnight April 13

Traffic

54 Traffic Stops

13500 block SPID 6 p.m. April 16 DWI

13500 block SPID 11 p.m. April 14 Crash

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Person

14300 block Ridley Way Noon April 16 Assault with Injury

13500 block Peseta 6 p.m. April 13 Assault with Injury

14400 block Aquarius 7 p.m. April 11 Assault with Injury

14000 block Fortuna Bay 6 p.m. April 11 Physical Altercation

Crimes against Property

13500 block Ducat 8 pm. April 16 Burglary

14500 block SPID 1 p.m. April 15 Arrest Warrant/Shoplifting \$100-\$750/Theft of Services

14100 block Cabana East 2 p.m. April 14 Theft of Services

15300 block SPID Midnight April 13 Trespassing

13500 block Carlos Fifth Midnight April 11 Burglary

14300 block Cruiser 10 a.m. April 10 Theft of Services

15800 block El Socorro 4 p.m. April 10 Theft of Services

14100 block Vincent 2 p.m. April 10 Theft of Services

Sea Pines/Spyglass 1 p.m. April 16 Arson

Disturbance

15300 block SPID Midnight April 15 Public Intoxication

14500 block Whitecap 11 a.m. April 11 Warrant

14600 block Compass 1 a.m. April 11 Warrant

SPID/Sea Pines 7 p.m. April 16

Suspicious Person

14300 block Commodores 8 p.m. April 15

13400 block Whitecap 4 p.m. April 15

Crimes against Person

13400 block Whitecap 4 p.m. April 13

14400 block SPID 2 p.m. April 13

14600 block Compass 1 a.m. April 11

Sea Pines/Socorro 4 p.m. April 10

Traffic

127 Traffic Stops

13800 block Topsail 7 p.m. April 15 Parking Violation

14500 block SPID 11 a.m. April 15 Crash

SPID/SH 361 11 p.m. April 14 Crash

14800 block Aquarius 2 p.m. April 14 Crash

SPID/Nemo Court 8 a.m. April 14 Crash

Whitecap/SPID 6 a.m. April 12 DWI

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to city limits

Crimes against Person

SH 361/Zahn Road Midnight April 16 Terroristic Threat

100 block Las Aves Court 10 p.m. April 15 Assault with Injury

Crimes against Property

100 block Aruba 7 a.m. April 14 Theft of Material Aluminum/Bronze/Copper/Brass \$20,000 Rockport Police Department

Disturbance

15200 block Windward Noon April 15

15200 block Windward 11 a.m. April 15

14500 block Whitecap 11 a.m. April 11 Warrant

15000 block Gulf Beach April 10

11000 block Gulf Beach 3 p.m. April 16

SH 361/Mariners Dr. 9 a.m. April 11 Wanted Person or Property

Suspicious Person

15800 block SPID Noon April 14

100 block Zahn Road 10 p.m. April 16

100 block Zahn 1 a.m. April 10

11500 block Gulf Beach 5 p.m. April 16

100 block Zahn Road Midnight April 16

Traffic

84 Traffic Stops

Whitecap/Windward 7 p.m. April 10 Crash



# Moon Classifieds #992

## Here's how to place a Classified Ad

To place an ad you can call me at  
361-834-1382 or  
Email your ads to:  
**moonclassad@twc.com**  
**No texts please**

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

**14646 Compass St., Suite 3**  
Deadline for classified ads is no later  
than NOON on Tuesday  
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We accept  
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Call **Arlene @ 361-834-1382**  
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for more information

The Island Newspaper since 1996

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The Island's Premier Mobile  
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Roofs

Deck Staining & Repairs

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\* Lot Mowing \* Decks  
\* Installation

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### Al-Anon & AA Meetings

Is alcohol causing a problem

in your family?

**Try Al-Anon**

Al-Anon meets at

7:00 pm Sundays at

**Padre Island Baptist Church**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

**MEETINGS**

The Sunset 7 AA Meetings are

held on Monday, Wednesday &

Friday at 7 PM at :

**The Presbyterian Church**

**On the Island**

**14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.**

In addition Sunday AA Meetings

are held at 8 AM at

**The Pavillon on the Boardwalk**

**Near Padre Bali**

## Crossword Solution

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

Trust

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On Padre Island Since 1994.

Locally Owned by Island Resident  
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OVER 30 YEAR EXPERIENCE

15481 SPID Just past  
Whitecap on Right

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# NEWS from the PIPOA

By Drew Diggins

The PIPOA Bylaws require the Board to appoint two new Board members for the remaining term ending March 2025. Any PIPOA member wishing to be considered for the open Board positions should submit a resume to the Executive Director, Gary Klepperich, by Friday, April 21st at 5:00 PM. Candidate resumes may also be mailed or dropped at the PIPOA office: 14015 Fortuna Bay Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78418.

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

## Dock Extensions

The PIPOA board has rescinded the December 13th decision to license PIPOA land for dock extensions. The board plans to fully discuss the issue at the next open board meeting. In the meantime, all applications for dock extensions will be reviewed in accordance with the applicable Protective Covenants.

## Next meeting

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

## Bbb Tip: Navigating the Car-Buying Experience

BBB Tip: Navigating the car-buying experience

Countless high school graduates are preparing for the next chapter of their lives in the coming months, whether entering the workforce, enrolling in college, or enlisting in the military. Regardless of their plans, most recent graduates require safe, reliable transportation, especially if they plan to move to an area with few mass transportation options. While some parents can provide a working vehicle to their children as a graduation gift, other young adults embrace their first opportunity to purchase a big-ticket item with varying confidence levels.

Purchasing a vehicle is not a task to be taken lightly and includes hours of research, thought and planning. With limited funds and a short timeframe, many young consumers turn to online marketplaces to search for and purchase a vehicle. Others enter a car dealership and find themselves unprepared to close the deal on their chosen vehicle. Unfamiliarity with financial terms, such as annual percentage rate (APR), compounding or simple interest and misunderstandings about required maintenance and costs further complicate the issue, causing frustration and disappointment.

In addition to these challenges, some may interact with a car seller utilizing unethical practices. In 2022, Better Business Bureau received nearly 2,000 complaints regarding auto sales, renting and leasing businesses across Texas. Additionally, reports to BBB Scam Tracker describe consumers losing thousands of dollars to fraudulent online sellers, often with no way to recover the money sent.

In February 2023, one Texas resident lost over \$23,000 when they attempted to purchase a vehicle online. After emailing the supposed owner of the car, the victim was told a transport company in North Dakota would provide the information needed to make a wire transfer to purchase the car. Once the money was provided, the buyer was told the vehicle would arrive within a week – but it was never delivered. Neither the supposed owner nor the transport company would respond to any emails or calls. “I thought I did all my homework, and it looked good,” the consumer reported. “If I had checked BBB and the bank, I would never have sent the money. The car is still for sale on the website.”

To avoid unethical business practices and scams when purchasing a vehicle, whether at a dealership or online, BBB recommends following these guidelines:

Set a budget. Before finding the perfect car, it is essential to establish an ideal budget. You will also want to factor in monthly vehicle expenses, including insurance payments, fuel, parking, and routine maintenance or repairs. A clearly defined budget will make choosing a car, negotiating with a dealer, and getting a loan easier.

Do thorough research. Once you have narrowed your search, compare models you are interested in, keeping a close eye on safety ratings, owner reviews and warranties. Visit manufacturer websites for detailed images of each car and research mile-per-gallon (MPG) statistics, interior options, cargo space, towing capacity, and more. The more time you spend on these initial steps, the more comfortable you will feel when purchasing.

Shop for a deal. These may include cash-back deals, rebates, low-interest financing options, or incentives for recent graduates, military veter-

ans, Uber and Lyft drivers, or first responders. In addition, many dealers are willing to make price cuts on the previous year’s models or any model that did not sell as well as expected. Purchasing one of these surplus vehicles can mean extra incentives from the dealer.

Speak with internet sales managers. When you find a car you want, it is time to contact an internet sales manager. During your initial conversations, focus on what car you want, whether they have it in stock or can get it, and how much the price is. If you are considering purchasing a certified pre-owned vehicle, now is the time to request a copy of the vehicle history report.

Test drive the vehicle. You should always take a test drive before you sign the final paperwork. There is no substitute for seeing a car in person, looking under the hood, sitting in the driver’s seat, and ensuring the engine runs smoothly. To do so, you may need to travel to the dealer’s place of business. Some dealers offer the ability to test drive upon delivery, and if anything isn’t as expected, you may be able to cancel the sale.

Complete the sale at the dealer or upon delivery. It is still usually necessary to sign the final paperwork in person. If you would rather avoid visiting the dealership, ask about delivery. Some dealers will drop off the car at your home or business and allow you to sign upon delivery.

Avoid Online Car Sales Scams

There are many pros to buying a car online, but caution is also needed. Anytime you shop online, and especially when making an expensive purchase like a car, you should keep the following tips in mind:

- Watch out for too-good-to-be-true deals. They are most likely a scam. Scammers often steal consumers’ personal information and money by offering them high-value goods at highly discounted prices.
- Never wire funds or complete bank-to-bank transactions. Scammers love this kind of transaction because there is no way to get your money back once completed. Instead, make legitimate purchases by check or credit card.
- Contact the seller by phone. During your negotiations, speak with the sales manager on the phone. If they are unusually vague about specific details of the sale or cannot confirm their location or the vehicle’s location, it’s most likely a scam.
- See the car first. Only buy a vehicle after an in-person inspection and taking a test drive first.
- Don’t give in to pressure. Scammers often pressure you to give up your personal information or make a down payment before you have time to consider the purchase. Take your time and think a deal over before agreeing to anything.
- Don’t trust a seller or buyer who says that eBay, PayPal, Craigslist, or another online marketplace guarantees the transaction. These sites explicitly explain they cannot guarantee that people using their services are legitimate.

See the BBB tips on buying a new car and buying a used car on [BBB.org](https://www.bbb.org) to learn more. You can also look up car dealerships to check their business rating and read customer reviews.

## Islanders Softball Sees Double Thanks to Torres Twins

Islanders Women’s Softball is seeing double thanks to twins Gabriella and Alexandria Torres. The twin sisters, who have played with the Division I team since 2019, will both graduate this spring from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi — Gabriella with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences and Alexandria with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. This spring, the women took time to reflect on their unique academic and athletic journey at the Island University.

“It was never a question of how we’d choose schools — wherever one of us went the other would do her best to follow,” Gabriella said. “Alex got her offer first and within weeks mine came next. We’ve always known this is something we’d do as a team.”

Alexandria, who plays outfield, and Gabriella, a catcher, have played softball together since they were three years old. The San Antonio natives said they have played on more than 15 teams together. From try-outs to tournaments, the duo says their time growing up on the field wouldn’t have been possible without the unconditional support of their parents.

“Our mom is a teacher, and our dad works in the oil field,” Alexandria said. “No matter how busy our schedules got or how tight finances became, they’ve never stopped supporting us. No matter how tired our dad was, he was always quick to pick up a glove and practice with us. Our mom never shied away from sacrifice and even worked two jobs for us to be able to travel with our teams. They always knew that softball would be a gateway to an affordable education.”

While the Torres twins said they don’t experience “twin-telepathy” on the field, having each other as teammates has been a key factor in their ability to find success.

“Our bond as sisters only strengthens our bond as teammates because there’s no one else I could be so honest with,” Gabriella said. “Our work ethic bounces off one another and keeps up our focus. I can say without a doubt that Alex has made me a better

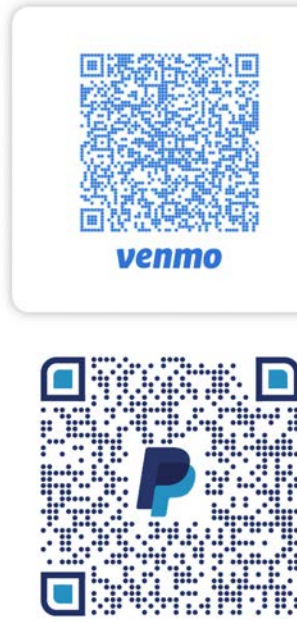
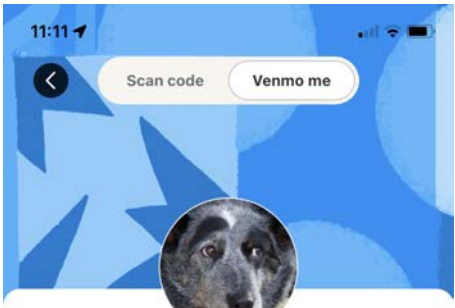


athlete.”

As Islander students, the twins have earned countless academic accolades. Alexandria was on the College of Liberal Arts Dean’s List in 2020 and 2022 and has maintained her status on the Athletic Director Honor Roll since 2019. She is also currently the treasurer for the TAMU-CC chapter of the Psi Chi International Honor Society. Gabriella has consistently been on the College of Science Dean’s List since 2020. The women, who have “twin” grade point averages of 3.7, have also maintained their status as recipients of the Achieve Academic Scholarship since 2019 and currently serve as team representatives for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

“Finding a balance between school and softball is definitely a challenge, but it’s the thing that’s molded me into the person I am today,” Gabriella said.

Following their graduation, both women say they hope to make a difference in lives off the field as they pursue careers in different aspects of health care. Alexandria hopes to be a one day counsel athletes like herself as a psychologist as Gabriella dreams of becoming a physician’s assistant.



## ISLAND'S EDGE Salon for Her

**Text Roni To Book Your  
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**361.244.5748**

## You're Invited!

### To The Padre Island Poker Run

**April, 27, 2023 6-9pm**

## Free Local Event!

**April theme: "Under-the-Sea"**  
**Join us for poker, prizes and entertainment.**  
**Dress you, your dog and/or your cart in your interpretation of the theme.**

**2023 EVENTS**  
May 25th  
June 29th

**Event and donations will benefit Texas Sealife**

The caravan and sign up starts at the Black Sheep Bistro/Barrel at 6pm, continues to island Italian, moves to the boathouse and then finishes at The Angry Marlin Tiki Bar. Last draw and prizes at 9pm.  
For more information about this event or details about the next monthly themed poker event go to Facebook @AngryMarlinRestaurant

**(210) 272-9973 [theangrymarlin.com](https://theangrymarlin.com)**  
15605 South Padre Island Dr. Corpus Christi, TX



## Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

### SandFest has come & gone...



*Sand sculptor extraordinaire , Abe Waterman, won first place solo again this year.*

Stick it with a fork, this year's *SandFest* has come and gone. And who won, you might ask. Well, I don't want to brag but it was the guy I told yall about last week...**Abe Waterman** from SPI. He won the First Place Solo Award for his amazing sculpture "Sleeping With Angels." I had a sick mermaid to attend to and didn't get to make my yearly visit on the last day of *SandFest* as I do every year. " I did go out there a couple of times during the week while they were setting up. Those poor sand sculptors had high tides and strong winds fighting them for three days. It's amazing how resilient these artists are not to mention the abuse their sculpture took. It seems that something adverse comes along every year or two. Many years ago when me and **Janet Planet** ran the music out there, the police had to shut the beach down when it started lighting and the ensuing storm blew the music tent completely down. This year they had high tides and coastal flooding to contend with, not to mention the ever present high winds. But at the end of the day, we have one more successful festival for the books. And I'm sure they made a ton of money which will be donated back into our community and to local scholarship funds. CONGRATULATIONS GUYS!!!

### Human Peace Sign this Saturday...



*Earth Day human peace sign 2016 at Caldwell Pier. Photo by Miles Merwin*

Attention all hippies and peace freaks... this Saturday, April 22 is officially *Earth Day* which around here means we all meet at the pier at noon and make a big human peace sign. I know it's a little goofy but it fits right in with all the misfits and free thinkers in Port Aransas. I applaud the efforts of **Cara Rose** to keeps this fairly new tradition going. But we need A BUNCH of people to show up for this event. The whole thing won't take that long and it's a lot of fun to circle up with a hundred or so locals and shoot the peace sign at each other and try not to start any wars. There's a lot of laughing and hugging. We will also need someone to take aerial drone pics since **Steve Coons** is in Terlingua... anybody? **Augs?**

### On the local front...



*Splendiferous played Bron's Backyard last Friday. Photo by Pam Felder*

I am happy to report that **Lara White** has sealed the deal on a new location for *Island Wine* at the new building at 505- Alister where the new *Board House* will be located. I understand it's the hurry up and wait game right now but the good news is they WILL be back. *Island Wind* filled a nice niche for a laid back listening room in an intimate setting. Also on the local front, the *Port Aransas*

*Community Theater* (PACT) has announced their next play, "Kitchen Witches" will be May 11-28. Plus they will have auditions for upcoming plays, "Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche" on April 30 and March 1 and "The Lightning Thief" on May 27-28. Also, they will have another "tribute band" show in June with **Vic Vaga's Tribute to Rod Stewart**. I spoke with **Rick Adams** with the City or Port Aransas recently and he's looking to do more with the theater. He's responsible for the latest rash of rock tribute shows (**KISS**, **AC/DC**) and is kicking around the idea of bringing the *Songwriter Showcase* back and using the theater. It's a super nice facility and could easily accommodate concerts and musical performances. I think it seats about 150 people with a very nice bleacher style balcony.

### Scattered shots...

Be that it was *SandFest* weekend, the town was jumping. I actually made it out to see quite a



*Diamond's Edge played Treasure Island on Saturday. Photo by Tommy Saad*

few shows. *Bron's Backyard* had it going on with the popular **Splendiferous** on Friday, the ever so rowdy **Triptonite** on Saturday and the rocking **CBGB's** with **John Elijah** on Sunday. *Treasure Island* had the great **Diamond's Edge** and were hitting on all cylinders when I went by there on Saturday. It looked like their dance club, *Pleasure* was packing them in. And over at the *Gaff* they had the lovely **Bonnie Lang** on Saturday and Sunday with **Chica and the Man**... which is the afore mentioned Vic Vaga and his wife **Stephanie** who knocked it out of the park with some **Alanis Morissette** into **June Carter** and **Allison Krause**. And on the way home I went by the *Tarpon Inn* and caught some of the **Dunebillies** playing on their outdoor stage. The *Tarpon* has opened a separate bar in the building that is parallel with the inn in the back courtyard. In older times, that building was referred to as the *Town Square*. If those walls could only talk...

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

We're now at that place in time when *SandFest* is done and we have six weeks until school is out and the summer tourist season begins. There's



*The Dunebillies played the Tarpon Inn on Saturday.*

lots of good live music coming and it's a magical time to be on this sand bar. Coming this Thursday, April 20, is the tongue in cheek holiday created by the counter culture of the '70's; 420, which holds meaning for some people. The *Exchange* in town will have their annual *420 Festival* and the **Circle Jerks**, **The Bronx** and **Mugger** is playing *Brewster Downtown* and the *House of Rock* has **Part One Tribe**, **Crucial Riddim** and **Dub Collective**. That's music straight out of Humboldt County and perfect for 4/20...enough said. On Friday, **Zach Camey** will play *Sunset Sounds* in the park, **Ty Dietz** will be at *Bron's*, **Bottles and Bandits** will play at *Treasure Island* and **Billy Snipes** the *Rasta Cowboy* will be at the *Gaff*. And on Saturday, **Afterglow** will play at *Bron's*, the **Groove** at *Treasure Island*, and *La Playa Mexican Restaurant* will be having their annual anniversary party with a *Mariachi Band*, **Ty Dietz** and the **Fleetwood Mac** tribute band **Dreams**. Happy anniversary **Greg!!!** We love you.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



*Triptonite played Bron's Backyard last Saturday.*



*Bonnie Lang played the Gaff last Saturday.*

# LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

### Thursday.

#### April 20

Kevin Kurtz @ Gaff  
Circle Jerks, The Bronx, Mugger @ Brewster

Downtown

Ruben Limas @

Island Italian

Billy Snipes @

Doc's

Flat Broke @

Rockit's

Brad Brown @

Blackbeard's

4/20 Festival @

Exchange

Jered Clark @

Virginia's

Flatbroke @

Rockit's

Circle Jerks, The

Brownx, Mugger

@ Brewster

Downtown

David Martinez @

Brewster Southside

John Cortez @

Stand Up & Smoke

Fest

Returned Two

Sender @ Executive

Surf Club

Part One Tribe,

Crucial Riddim,

Dub Collectors @

House of Rock

### Friday.

#### April 21

Zach Carney @

Sunset Sounds

Ty Dietz @ Bron's

Backyard

Billy Snipes @ Gaff

Bottles and Bandits

@ Treasure Island

Orlando Herrera @

Sand Bar

Cruise Control @

Longboard SPI

Afterglow @

Vernon's

Chanklas @ Pelican

Lounge

Ice Man Special @

House of Rock

Michael Burtts

Band @ Brewster

Southside

Sundance Head

@ Brewster

Downtown

Afterglow @

Vernon's

Heavy Soul @

Exchange

Alonzo Cruz @

Packery Bar

Ruben Limas @

Blackbeard's

8 Bit Serenade @

Rockit's

Kevin Kurtz @

South Texas Ice

House

Jered Clark @

Virginia's

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### Earth Day.

#### April 22

Human Peace Sign

(noon) @ Caldwell

Pier

La Playa Anniversary:

Mariachis, Ty Dietz.,

Dream @ La Playa

Port A

BELT SANDER

RACES @ Gaff

Jim Dugan @ Gaff

Afterglow @ Bron's

Backyard

The Groove @

Treasure Island

Lance Covington @

Surfside Lounge

Rich Lockhart @

Sand Bar

OTB @ Doc's

Aloha Dave @

Packery Bar

Jerry Ward & the

Dirty Birds @ Pelican

Lounge

Crawfish Fest @

Concrete Street

Dreaming in Color @

Rockit's

Meza Band @

Brewster Southside

Obsession, Dead

Love Club @

Brewster Downtown

Chillbillies @

Legends Fulton

Bumpin Uglier, Kyle

Smith @ House of

Rock

Terry & the Towns @

Exchange

Robert McCoy @

Blackbeard's

Joseph Martinez @

Bluff's Landing

Kevin Kurtz @

Sandcastle Condos

Jered Clark @

Virginia's

Returned Two Sender

@ Rock Bottom

Billy Snipes @ Poco

Playa Matagorda

### Sunday.

#### April 23

Jerry Ward @ Pelican

Lounge

Brad Ethridge @ Gaff

Open Mic @ House

of Rock

Kevin Kurtz @

Packery Bar

Jennifer Gayle

Bradley @

Blackbeard's

Joseph Martinez @

BUS

Kevin Kurtz @

Packery Bar

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