



Skipper Tales B12

Business Briefs A9

Yacht Club Boat Show A2

Three Chords and the Truth B16

Nature Notes A8

Issue 1041



The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

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Photo by Debbie Noble. Sea Turtle Release story on B11



By Dale Rankin



If you go to a beach Around The Island keep a look out for alligators. The latest beachgator sighting was north near the Sabine but those gators can be fast movers when they want to be.

The First Annual Boat Show & Market Days at the Padre Island Yacht Club was a smashing success last weekend with over a thousand people through the door on the first day. The weather co-operated and the \$2 admission fee went towards the 4th of July Island Blast fireworks show. We look forward to next year's event.

Baltimore bridge



Overview of JFK Bridge Bumpers

The bridge collapse in Baltimore raised questions about the safety of our own JFK Bridge here on Padre Island. The two bridges each have about the same amount of average daily traffic at just over 32,000 vehicles but that is about where the comparison ends since cargo ships would face a real challenge navigating the Intra-coastal Waterway. We reached out to officials at the Texas Department of Transportation to inquire if a study had ever been done regarding the vulnerability to a strike by a passing barge and were informed that if such a study exists it would have Homeland Security implications and be classified. A TxDOT spokesman did point out that the bridge has a robust fender system in place to prevent vessels from striking the bridge's support columns. Longtime Islanders still remember the collapse of the Queen Isabella Causeway in South Padre Island in 2001 but there are no records of similar incidents on the JFK Bridge.

SandFest

SandFest in Port Aransas is just around the corner. It runs the weekend of April 19-21 on the beach in Port A. There are some changes to the parking arrange-

Around cont. on A5

New Island Bridges

The first of six golf cart bridges, each with a total of 54 pilings, is currently under construction on the Whitecap NPI site.



By Rev. Dr. Ken

A Resurrection Moment

A famous jazz musician was performing a concert in an intimate venue. While he was playing someone's cell phone rang with a distinctive musical ringtone. I have been in this spot! No one else wants to hear my ringtone! As the person panicked to silence the phone an awkward silence filled the hall. Even the musician

paused in playing, but only for just a moment. Fairly quickly he began to play the tune which was the ringtone. Can you imagine that scene? He played it repetitively, and in different keys. But the real surprise occurred when he transitioned from that tune back to his original song which he had been playing when the phone

rang. It was seamless and effortless. No one expected what they heard. The moment was redeemed. It was a resurrection moment. Resurrection moments, these are the stuff of Easter. Where there is brokenness there is the hope of wholeness; where there is death, there is the hope of life.

Pastor cont. on A3



Volunteers with the Texas Sealife Center prepare to release three rehabilitated sea turtles.

A little South Texas history

When The Island Got Bombed

Area where bombs once fell is now protected wetlands

By Dale Rankin

When colorful pamphlets and letters sent by the federal Military Munitions Response Program began arriving in mailboxes on the south end of The Island a decade ago warning residents to look out for live bombs in their yards it caused some uneasiness. The pamphlets showed ground zero for the "Old Bombing Target B-1" to be near the SPID/Encantada intersection with an area outlined in red including Balli Park

History cont. on page A5



Navy SNJs on the flight line at Cabaniss Field Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi.

By the numbers Visit Corpus Christi

Editor's note: The 2022-2023 annual report from Visit Corpus Christi (the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau) was presented to the Corpus Christi City Council on Tuesday. Here are some of the numbers.

40% of visitors come from Austin or San Antonio and most are daytrippers

77% of visitors are leisure according to a survey by Dean Runyan

23% of visitors are here for business according to the Runyan survey

81% of visitors are for leisure according to the State of Texas

11% of visitors are for business according to the State of Texas

35,000 hotel room nights were booked for sports and conventions at American Bank Center

\$41.6 million in business from sports and conventions at American Bank Center

72,434 room nights booked since January, 2023

91% of visitors say beaches are the most important reason they come to Corpus Christi

59% of residents say they are proud to live in Corpus Christi

52% of residents in 2021 said they were proud to live in Corpus Christi

High Tide Spring Fever!

By Joey Farah

Every spring we receive the gift of a big, green, spring tide, this is the official start to our SPRING FISHING SEASON! Last week's Spring Equinox started a bull tide, combined with a full moon to really push a lot of water into the bay systems. Port A and the Laguna Madre are flooded with green water. The flats that were dry over the low winter tides are alive again with new growth in plant and micro organisms. Shrimp, crabs, minnows and birds are flocking to these areas following the growth, with predatory gamefish right behind them. This flood of water can make finding concentrations of sport fish hard to find, spreading them out over vast stretches of water. This week let's touch on some of my ways to stay on consistent action and quality catches.

Shorelines and spoil dumps are a useful tool that gamefish use to herd and capture baitfish. With high tides there is more water

Farah cont. on A7

Padre Island Yacht Club Boat Show and Market Days



The first annual Padre Island Yacht Club Boat Show and Market Days was a huge success. The event Co-Sponsored by Gulf Coast Marine drew in over a thousand visitors over the two day event held on Saturday, March 23rd and Sunday March 24th. Photos By Debbie Noble

New Stride Celebrates 20 Years on the Island



Congratulations to Traci Mc Closkey on celebrating her twentieth anniversary of New Stride Physical Therapy on the The Island! Tons of island people came out to eat BBQ, win prizes, make new friends, sip some tasty Vida Caña Rum, and listen to Ty Dietz. In addition to physical therapy, they also offer massages, yoga, and Pilates. Photos By Debbie Noble

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GOOD FRIDAY

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- Sunrise service @ 7am Easter morning, March 31 @ Whitecap Beach 🌅🌊. Meet us at the bottom of the parking lot next to the Wyndham between mile 215 & 216 for coffee, worship, a great message and communion. Bring a lawn chair!

We can't wait to see you there! 🌴☀️🏛️

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Easter

Lead Pastor Micah Davidson

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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Hello Dale,

My wife and I own an unimproved lot in CC. We have watched properties here for several years now and the property taxes and valuations for even similar properties are all over the place. I believe we are seeing adjusted amounts. I understand how a mill rate is set, and I understand all the adjustments to valuations here, but for a future buyer; this wacky approach by Nueces County makes things seem unpredictable which makes buyers slow and cautious. For example, if I see two properties and they are market comparable, then the value and unadjusted taxes need to be the same. The county needs to report unadjusted taxes and property values. Part of property taxation is perceived fairness. The other thing messing with buyers is the 11% rate hike; I digress. I think the county ought to take an entirely new approach to what is reported publicly versus adjustments that are specific to a person to develop a real fairness and fair expectations of taxes versus buying from a retiree and getting hit with surprises.

Please keep me anonymous as I am from Minnesota, but want to move here. Thanks

Pastor cont. from A1

Twice a year the Christian church has the audacity to speak of deep mysteries that defy explanation. In December we celebrate the birth of a savior – the Son of God, the Son of Man, Jesus born of Mary. In the spring we celebrate that this Jesus was crucified, dead, and buried – on the third day he rose again! In December we proclaim that the Lord God of all creation took upon himself our flesh, leaving the heavenly throne room to lower himself in love and humility. In the spring we gaze in awe at the crucified Christ taking upon himself the brokenness of world, tasting the ultimate human experience – death. But God, brought life from death. On Easter morning, there is victory to be celebrated! Easter, like Christmas, so easily becomes domesticated and tamed. We speak of picture-perfect Easter fashions, Easter eggs, Easter candy, and spring flowers. However, the mystery of Easter is meant to encounter us with life, where there had only been death. The mystery of Easter is meant to transform our hearts and minds, where there had only been despair, with hope.

We don't explain Easter, we experience Easter. We experience Easter moments throughout all our days as we journey through the valley of the shadow of death. Easter does not deny brokenness and death. Death and its minions of pain are real. But God declares there is something more real, something more powerful than death itself – life. How resurrection takes place is hard to predict or understand. But faith, trusts in the victory of Christ.

As the deep mysteries of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus remain unshackled and untamed there comes a gospel that awes, brings down, binds together, reconciles, and lifts up with a light that shines in the darkness, a peace that surpasses all understanding, a hope that does not disappoint, a life that is eternal, and a love that heals. Even in the darkest moments, resurrection joy and hope can find us. It's a never-ending story of hope and life. Resurrection moments abound because when there is no way, God makes a way.

It was in the early morning hours of sunrise that the women encountered the empty

Fishing in March and April

The months of March and April are a good time of the year to catch big trout along the shorelines of the King Ranch, starting at the Laureles pier on the north side of Baffin Bay and back north for a mile of so. Most of the big trout you catch will be sow trout, females with a big sack of roe (eggs). If the water is clear or just a little murky with a little sunshine, a sliver mirror lure works real good. Sometimes the trout can be spotted by wearing polaroid sunglasses. If the water is dirty colored live bait works better using a popping cork. For bait use live shrimp, croaker, or small pinperch or if you have a perch trap use piggy perch. To catch piggy perch, squeeze the opening of the trap a little smaller and bait it with one or two crushed blue crabs. Drift fishing or using a trolling motor to get back up wind works good because it gives you a chance to see the trout but wade fishing usually works better in that you do not disturb the fish as much. This time of the year, it's not unusual to catch a tenor twelve pound trout. Be sure to bring along your camera since only one huge size is allowed per day. From April to June a lot of small trout can be caught by drift fishing on the east side of the canal a little north of Baffin Bay using live shrimp and a popping cork. Sometimes you will see a small bunch of seagulls working close to the water catching shrimp as the trout kick them up from the bottom. Bobbie Kimbrell
(Editor's Note: Bobbie Kimbrell was a commercial fisherman in Flour Bluff for five decades before his retirement.)

Port of Corpus Christi Donates \$500,000 to the Rebuild of Bob Hall Pier
Plans approved for Bob Hall Pier/Restaurant to go out for bids

What a week! I truly cannot say thank you enough to the Port of Corpus Christi commissioners and staff for their help in obtaining \$500,000 toward the reconstruction of Bob Hall Pier. That happened on Tuesday, March 19. The donation got us halfway there to the extra million we needed to finish the restaurant/third party concessionaire building. Judge Connie Scott was instrumental in helping me get this done with the Port. Then on Wednesday March 20, the court then accepted my motion to move more of my precinct 4 ARPA funds(325,000) along with Judge Connie Scott's ARPA funds(175,000) to the pier. With those funds we have found the million dollars and the third party concessionaire/restaurant space will be built. Hallelujah

I know there was a lot of skepticism and anger when this originally did not pass. I vowed then to work tirelessly to get this built for the Island and all of Nueces County. Commissioner John Marez has been a strong supporter of this project from the beginning and he along with the commissioners court should be applauded for this victory. Team work truly makes the dream work. Working with Judge Scott for months, we came up with a solution that she and the entire court could live with. I am grateful.

What also happened during this great week? Well we approved the final plans for the pier and approved it to go out for bids subject to final paperwork. The actual bid on the pier with an allowance for the restaurant space will go out sometime in April but it has been approved by the court and will go out as soon as all paperwork is wrapped up. The construction schedule provided to us by the project manager and project engineer, indicates we will award the bid this summer for the pier and start building this year. Watch out for details on a groundbreaking for that.

It has been a long and difficult task but we have stayed on budget and on track. Thanks also to the Nueces County Coastal Parks board and staff for their outstanding efforts in regard to Bob Hall Pier.

On a separate note for information purposes, once the pier and restaurant space is built, the Coastal Parks board will go out for request for proposals(RFP) to pick an operator for the pier/restaurant. That is way down the road because we need to build it first but I know that is the next question on everyone's minds. So as the pier nears completion sometime in 2025 depending on the length of construction, then the RFP will go out for the restaurant space. So look for that RFP sometime in 2025.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It is appreciated. Have a blessed week!

Brent Chesney
Precinct 4 County Commissioner



Please contribute to the Riley P. Dog Park!



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Bay Fishing! **BAY KING**

Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Pancho Villa Expedition Part 3



Dotson's Note: While executing the withdrawal order, Dodd and a portion of the 7th Cavalry fought an engagement on April 22 with about 200 Villistas under Candelaro Cervantes at the small village of Tomochic. As the Americans entered the village, the Mexicans opened fire from the surrounding hills. Dodd first sent patrols out to engage the Villistas' rear guard, to the east of Tomochic, and after these were "scattered", located the main body on a plain to the north and brought it into action. Skirmishing continued, but after dark the Villistas retreated and the Americans moved into Tomochic. The 7th Cavalry lost two men killed and four wounded, while Dodd reported his men had killed at least thirty Villistas. Thanks to Mrs. Golvia E. Lewis, The First Cavalry Division, and Wikipedia, for the facts and photos contained in this report.

Patrol District Actions



Above, Herbert Dargue (left) and Edgar S. Gorrell (right) pose with Signal Corps No. 43. in 1916 with the 1st Aero Squadron in Mexico during the Pancho Villa Expedition. The five districts that Pershing established west of the Mexican Central Railway on April 29, 1916, were:

- Namiquipa District (10th Cavalry) south of the 30th parallel to Namiquipa;
- Bustillos District (13th Cavalry), below the eastern part of Namiquipa District around Laguna Bustillos to San Antonio de Los Arenales and Chihuahua City;
- Guerrero District (7th Cavalry), below the western part of Namiquipa District and west of the Bustillos and San Borja Districts;
- San Borja District (11th Cavalry), south of Bustillos District between the Guerrero and Satevó Districts to Parral; and
- Satevó District (5th Cavalry), southeast of the Bustillos District and east of the San Borja District, south to Jimenez.

The next significant engagement took place on May 5th. A small Carrancista garrison at the silver mining town of Cusiuhiriachic was attacked by Villa's forces on May 4th, prompting the garrison commander to request help from U.S. forces at nearby San Antonio. Six troops of the 11th Cavalry, its machine gun platoon, and a detachment of Apache Scouts under 1st Lt. James A. Shannon, totaling 14 officers and 319 men, began a night march under Major Robert L. Howze. Arriving at Cusiuhirischic, Howze found that 140 Villistas under Julio Acosta had pulled back into the mountains to the west to a ranch at Ojos Azules, and that the garrison commander had received orders not to cooperate with the Americans.

Howze was delayed three hours in finding a guide and by the time he located the ranch and was deploying to attack, day had broken. When Acosta's guards and Howze's advance guard exchanged fire, Howze with Troop A immediately ordered a charge with pistols through the hacienda. Unable to deploy on line, the charge was made in column of fours and closed with the fleeing elements of Villistas. The other troops deployed to either side of the hacienda attempting to block escape and were supported by plunging fire from the machine gun troop. Friedrich Katz called the action the "greatest victory that the Punitive Expedition would achieve." Without a single casualty, the Americans killed forty-four Villistas and wounded many more. The survivors, including Acosta, were dispersed. Above, General Pershing and General Bliss inspecting the camp, with Colonel Winn,

Commander of the 24th Infantry. Also on May 5th, several hundred Mexican raiders, under a Villista officer, attacked the geographically isolated towns of Glenn Springs and Boquillas in the Big Bend region of Texas. At Glenn Springs the Mexicans overwhelmed a squad of just nine 14th Cavalry troopers guarding the town, set fire to it, then rode on to Boquillas where they killed a boy, looted the town and took two captives. Local commanders pursued the Mexicans 100 miles into the state of Coahuila to free the captives and regain the stolen property. On May 12, Major George T. Langhorne and two troops of the 8th Cavalry from Fort Bliss, Texas, reinforced by Colonel Frederick Sibley and Troops H and K of the 14th Cavalry from Fort Clark, rescued the captives at El Pino without a fight. Three days later a small detachment of cavalry encountered the raiders at Castillon, killing five of the Villistas and wounding two; the Americans had no casualties. The cavalry force returned to the United States May 21st after ten days in Mexico. On May 14, 2nd Lt. George S. Patton raided the San Miguelito Ranch, near Rubio, Chihuahua. Patton, a Pershing aide. and was out looking to buy some corn from the Mexicans when he came across the ranch of Julio Cárdenas, an important leader in the Villista military organization. With fifteen men and three Dodge touring cars, Patton led America's first motorized military action, in which Cárdenas and two other men were shot dead. The young lieutenant then had the three Mexicans strapped to the hood of the cars and driven back to General Pershing's headquarters. Patton is said to have carved three notches into the twin Colt Peacemakers he carried, representing the men he claimed to have killed that day. General Pershing nicknamed him the "Bandito".



Above, Soldiers of Company A of the 6th Infantry Regiment of the US Army stationed in a trench in Las Cruces on 10 April 1916.

Dotson's Other Note: The Villistas launched an attack of their own on May 25th. This time a small force of ten men from the 7th Cavalry were out looking for stray cattle and correcting maps when they were ambushed by twenty rebels just south of Cruces. One American corporal was killed and two other men were wounded, though they killed two of the "bandit leaders" and drove off the rest. On June 2nd, Shannon and twenty Apache scouts fought a small skirmish with some of Candelaro Cervantes' men who had stolen a few horses from the 5th Cavalry. Shannon and the Apaches found the rebels' trail, which was a week old by then, and followed it for some time until finally catching up with the Mexicans near Las Varas Pass, about forty miles south of Namiquipa. Using the cover of darkness, Shannon and his scouts attacked the Villistas' hideout, killing one of them and wounding another without losses to themselves. The Villista who died was thought to be the leader as he carried a sword during the fight. The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Thursdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 - 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397. It's your two hours; please let us hear from you. TO BE CONTINUED



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

Between now and November of this year three non-partisan elections will take place that will have direct and profound impact on Padre Island.

Nueces County Appraisal Review Board

Last week in this space I addressed a new election which has sprung up on the calendar with Election Day on May 4 and Early Voting to begin on Monday, April 22. For the first time three members of what will become a nine-member Board of Directors of the Nueces Appraisal District (NCAD) will be elected, and under the new rules appointees to the Appraisal Review Board, (ARB) which hears appeals from property owners, must have the approval of two of the three new members of the Board of Directors who will be elected in May. That means that two of the three elected board members will have veto power over any new appointees to the ARB that actually determines property values for the purpose of taxation.

I raised the question of whether board candidates will have to file campaign finance reports so that taxpayers and property owners can see who is contributing to the races for seats on the district board that will select members of the ARB since the Texas Senate Bill is not specific on that point. The candidates file for the seats with the Nueces County Judge's office but they are simply the record keepers, the election, by law, is conducted by the Nueces County Appraisal District making this the district's first attempt at running an election of any kind.

The district itself has been silent on this issue but since last week the judge's office responded that campaign finance reports in the races will be due on April 4, however, they will only cover the period between the date of the candidate's filing through March 25. I expect there to be very little information in those reports since it is early in the election cycle. The question then is when the next round of campaign disclosure reports will be due and more importantly whether they will be available to voters before the beginning of Early Voting on April 22 so that voters will have that information when they go to the polls.

According to the rules of the Texas Ethics Commission the next campaign/candidate financial disclosure filings are not due until July 15 and would cover the period through June 30. Those dates however, are designed for the normal November election cycle and unless separate rules are written by the Nueces Appraisal District for these three elections that would mean that voters would not be able to see campaign finance reports until after the election of the new members to the NCAD board. This is troubling and unless addressed likely litigious.

This election came out of the last session of the Texas Legislature and eventually these elections will be moved to the November election cycle and at that time may become partisan based, but for this cycle they are not and in just over three weeks are we are going to begin choosing three people for the Nueces Appraisal District Board by direct election for the first time in our history with eleven candidates running who are split into three separate races with four candidates in two races and three in the third. The new law requires that the winner in each race get a majority of votes and with those crowded fields there is almost certainly going to be three runoff elections in June.

As stated here last week the last countywide May election was in 2022 when only 6412 of 211,321 (3%) registered voters in the county cast ballots and if there is a June runoff election it is quite possible the races for the three seats on the Appraisal District Board of Directors will be the only races on the ballot. If that is the case cut that 6412 number by at least half and all three seats could be decided by 1500 votes. That means a good turnout of the 8459 registered voters on Padre Island could swing all three races for seats that arguably will have the most

impact on the daily lives of Islanders of any of the other races through November. After years of complaining about out property values we now have a chance to do something about it.

Flour Bluff School Board races

In November there will also be non-partisan races for four seats on the seven-member Flour Bluff ISD Board of Directors. FBISD property taxes make up almost half of the tax burden of taxpayers on Padre Island and as things now stand the next board chosen at the district is likely going to be the author of a bond package that would go before voters in 2025. The last FBISD bond election was in May, 2013 when a \$49 million school bond package passed by a vote of 269 *for* and 187 *against* with only 456 votes cast, a 2.6% turnout. Whether to schedule that bond election on a November ballot when turnout will be higher or to schedule it off-season could have a deciding impact on the outcome and the four members elected this November can make that decision.

City Council

While it is early in the election cycle for the non-partisan races for Corpus Christi City Council it looks like it could be a crowded field with desalinization being a dividing point and some revised version of Proposition A the second. The belief among the political class is that substantial money from outside the city will pour in to stop desal and the last round of city races bears that out. The word from the local political circles is that as much as \$5 million will be raised locally to push back against the desal move since it would impact expansion at the Port of Corpus Christi. As a reminder, our system elects three At-Large candidates to the nine-member council, with five Single-member seats including our District 4, and the Mayor. This means Islanders can vote in a majority of the races on the ballot.

The Island has a lot at stake at city hall with the managing of the approximately \$4 million that comes into the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 each year and will increase to an estimated \$14 million per year by 2042, streets, the Island Mobility Plan, improvements to Commodores Park and under the JFK Bridge, and the structuring of a city bond package that will go before voters in November. As readers of this space know while we make up about 4% of the city population we now account for just under 15% of the property tax base –and that will increase - but we historically get scant attention in city bond packages. This does not include revenues from Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) of which we contribute about 25% directly and as much as 60% if you include areas of the city where hotels fill up during peak beach-going holidays. We have a dog in this fight – five of them to be exact.

By the numbers

In the May primaries just past at total of 2311 voters (24.5%) cast ballot in the two precincts that make up Padre Island out of 8459 registered voters, all according to the records of the Nueces County Clerk's office. In the same Primary Elections 21,435 votes cast ballots countywide out of 213,343 total registered (10.5%).

In the last Presidential cycle in November, 2020 128,098 votes were cast countywide out of 212,098 registered ((60%) while on Padre Island the turnout was 73% with 6275 votes cast. You can do the math and if those numbers hold we will make up around 5% of the turnout in the city races which is enough to decide most.

As for the critical races for the three seats on the Nueces County Board of Directors we offer space in these pages to hear what you have to say. Drop us a line. and for voters the last day to register for that election in April 4.

While these elections are all by partisan, our party is The Island.



Hummingbirds and Oriole visiting my yard this morning, what a way to have your coffee.

By Riekke Roncinske



History cont. from A1

and Seashore Learning Center. It sounded incendiary on its face, but a closer look at existing federal and historic records at the time found no evidence of a “Bombing Target B-1” located in Nueces County. A check of the historical records found 370 former bomb sites in Texas, with five listed in Kleberg County, and four in Nueces County (all across the Laguna Madre) but no mention of a “B-1” bombing range in Nueces County. The list shows Targets B-2, B-3, B-4, and B-7 in Kleberg County, but no mention of a “B-1” range of any kind. The pamphlet circulated by federal authorizes on The Island says “Bombing Target B-1 was located on Padre Island, inside the City Limits of Corpus Christi.” The federally maintained website mentioned in the pamphlet lists no such site. But in fact, our island has a long history of being fired on by trainees in the U.S. Navy and Army Air Corps – which later became the U.S. Air Force.

Crews working on expansion of the park road at PINS in 2013 found four “ordinances” during excavation work; four were live bombs and one was a dummy bomb. They were practice bombs typically used for training, about three feet long with a charge about the equivalent of a ten-gauge shotgun shell in the nose to show the pilot where they landed.

The history
The history of the ranges on Padre Island comes to us from a variety of sources, including the historical data compiled when Padre Island National Seashore was founded, a few eyewitness accounts, and locals who came later and saw the aftermath. Pilot training began at the new Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi began in March, 1941 and accelerated quickly as World War II increased the demand for pilots. By the end of 1942 Corpus Christi NAS and its auxiliary bases were processing 2,500 pilots per month and became the largest naval pilot training facility in the world. Among the notables trained here were future President George Bush, Senator/Astronaut John Glenn, actor Tyrone Power, and TV emcee Bob Barker – where he may or may not have found that the Price Was Right. Island is off limits to civilians
Early in the war The Island was declared off-limits to civilians and all information concerning activity on the island was declared classified making the finding of the sites of seven bombing targets and eight strafing targets, difficult to pinpoint later. According to visitors to Padre Island during the war the sites also moved on a regular basis.

The bombing targets consisted of large white bull’s-eyes encircled by concentric white rings 100 yards in diameter. The eight strafing targets consisted of vertical cloth or paper and, along with the bombing targets, were built spaced about five miles apart. Bombs dropped on the targets were usually very small and contained only enough explosive for pilots to check their accuracy. The principal practice bomb, the Mark IV, was only nine inches long and contained a 40-gauge shotgun shell in the nose as an explosive. Some larger bombs were dropped on occasion, a few 500-pounders, and typically half of their weight would be explosive.

With the construction of the targets also came the need to service and repair them and naval personnel had to perform this duty. Initially, crews had to travel by boat to reach many of the targets, but eventually a housing facility known as Caffey barracks was built. Caffey barracks is still on the island and now serves as the ranger station at Padre Island National Seashore.

Patrols also were established on Padre Island to ward off German submarines and by 1943, nine patrol stations were established. In spite of the new military presence on the island, cattle operations continued as they had for over a hundred years. Bombing practice was halted during the annual round-ups and for the rest of the year several thousand cattle roamed The Island as they had since the days of Padre Balli. Observers noted that cattle would move away from

targets at the first sign of an airplane engine, then “move in and around the targets as soon as the firing stops and graze bombing areas when the ranges are quiet.” After World War II Things began quieting down after World War II and according to locals, by the Korean War the number of bombing ranges was down to only two. But the bombing stopped when Park Road 22 was extended south of the Nueces/Kleberg county line in 1960. The last range was decommissioned in 1966 and the Navy sent out ordinance experts to sanitize the ranges of all unexploded ordinance. The sand at the targets was sifted down to a level of 18 inches using heavy equipment and the bombs removed. But from time to time, even into the late 1990s calls would come into the Island Moon Newspaper office that someone had found an old bomb on PINS. In 1966 bombing operations were moved to McMullen County managed by NAS Kingsville. That range was often referred to as Yankee/Dixie range, identifying its Yankee and Dixie target complexes.

Corpus Christi attorney David Coover whose father was a ranch foreman on The Island through 1960, and who frequented the ranch and the bombing areas as a teen, told the Island Moon he does not believe there were any bombing ranges north of the Kleberg-Nueces line.

“The northernmost bombing range that I ever saw or heard of was about four miles south of the county line,” Coover said this week. “There were as many as six sites through World War II, by the Korean War that had been reduced to three, and there were only a couple left when the military shut them all down in 1960.”

A near miss
We Islanders can’t help but wonder what would have happened if the military had pushed forward with a proposal to use Padre Island to explode the first atomic bomb. South Padre Island was one of eight sites that the US Military considered as a place to explode the first atomic bomb and it actually came down to about three sites that were pretty high on the list: one was in California, one was the Alamagordo site in New Mexico and the other one was South Padre Island. Fortunately for us Island dwellers, Alamagordo won the contest. An official involved in the decision said later: “South Padre had been used as a gunnery range for the Army Air Corps. It was a very remote area... It was, at that point of course, really undeveloped as a tourist site and then across from it was the King Ranch which was also, at that time, nearly one million acres of undeveloped land. But, on the plus side, Corpus Christi was 120 miles away and it had rail connections and there was also a Naval Air Station there. So it would have worked.”

Then in the early 2000s a Kingsville economic development group pushed for a new bombing site in Kenedy County to replace the bombing range being closed at Vieques, Puerto Rico. The 220,000 acre site near the National Seashore was considered since it was across the Laguna Madre from the vastness of the King Ranch and it also offered the chance to practice amphibious landings. Opposition from Texas politicians stopped the proposal before it reached the official application level. The only evidence that The Island was once a bombing range comes in the form of the occasion report from the Corpus Christi Police Department which includes language that accuses violators of “Trespassing on a Federal Superfund Site,” and the occasional notice from federal authorizes who send out notices like the one mentioned above to meet federal guidelines because somewhere in the annals of federal files there still exists a bombing range on Padre Island. But the last time any evidence that bombs were dropped here was the find by work crews in 2013. So while there may be a paper bomb site on Padre Island don’t expect to be needing a bomb shelter.

Texas State Representative Todd Hunter Appointed to Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act Oversight Committee

Texas State Representative Todd Hunter (R-District 32) Appointed to Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act Oversight Committee (CORPUS CHRISTI) –State Representative Todd Hunter has been appointed to serve on the Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act Oversight Committee by Speaker Dade Phelan.

The Oversight Committee, as mandated by Section 403.618 of the Government Code, has the critical responsibility of recommending to the legislature projects that should be considered for statutory inclusion or exclusion within the definition of “eligible project”

outlined in Section 403.602. Representative Hunter’s expertise and leadership will play a vital role in shaping policies that drive economic development, foster technological innovation, and ensure energy security for the state. Expressing gratitude for the appointment.

Representative Hunter stated, “I am honored to be entrusted with this important responsibility. Texas is a beacon of innovation and opportunity, and I am committed to working diligently alongside my colleagues to ensure that our state remains at the forefront of job creation, energy advancement, and technological innovation.”

Around cont. from A1

ments this year and parking is always an issue there.

Sea Pines lots



Survey stakes going up at the southwest corner of Sea Pines Drive and SPID this week raised questions about the goings

on there. Sources say the sale of three lots there is expected to close this week with the buyer undisclosed at print time. The process has begun at city hall to rezone adjacent property as Planned Unit Development (PUD) which is a broad zoning allowing for multiple uses. There are no city records showing what is planned for either property but we will monitor progress there.

Turtle releases

As Padre Island National Seashore has cut the number of public turtle releases from 25 to five per year the Texas Sealife Center is picking up the slack with releases like the one featured here. The latest on Michael J. Ellis Beach on Saturday drew a large crowd and more will be schedule as needed. You know you live in a good spot when a turtle release draws a crowd like that!

That’s all for now as we roll along through the Island year, the sheephead are still running in the Packery so jump out there everybody and say hello if you see us Around The Island.



Wednesday during their beach survey they rescued their first stranded Loggerhead Sea Turtle of the year named Ripcurl! Each year they receive several debilitated Loggerheads all presenting with similar symptoms.

They show a heavy epibiota load due to lethargy as a result of severe debilitation. Their bloodwork typically also shows anemia, a low glucose, and low protein levels. Amos Rehabilitation Keep

- ARK at UT Marine Science Institute



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My new neighbor By Gary Tomsic

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



By Dotson Lewis

Shohei Ohtani's Interpreter Fired by Dodgers

Dotson's Note: Shohei Ohtani's interpreter and close friend has been fired by the Los Angeles Dodgers following allegations of illegal gambling and theft from the Japanese baseball star. Thanks to The Los Angeles Times and ESPN, Hiro Higashimoto, Frederic J. Brown and CNBC for the facts contained this report and thanks to Hiro Higashimoto, for the photos.

Above, baseball player Shohei Ohtani speaks during a press conference on his presentation after signing a ten-year deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers at Dodg-



ers Stadium in Los Angeles, California on December 14, 2023. Ohtani signed a record-shattering \$700 million deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers, the richest in North American sports history. Interpreter Ippei Mizuhara, 39, was let go from the team Wednesday following reports from The Los Angeles Times and ESPN about his alleged ties to an illegal bookmaker. The team is in South Korea this week as Ohtani makes his Dodgers debut.

"In the course of responding to recent media inquiries, it was discovered Shohei has been the victim of a massive theft and we are turning the matter over to the authorities," law firm Berk Brettler LLP said in a statement Wednesday. Sports gambling is illegal in California, even as 38 states and the District of Columbia allow some form of it. Mizuhara is a familiar face to baseball fans as Ohtani's constant companion, interpreting for him with the media and at other appearances since Ohtani came to the U.S. in 2017. He even served as Ohtani's catcher during the Home Run Derby at the 2021 All-Star Game. When Ohtani left the Los Angeles Angels to sign a \$700 million, 10-year contract with the Dodgers in December, the club also hired Mizuhara.

The team did not have an immediate comment. Mizuhara's firing was confirmed by Major League Baseball.

On the Tuesday the week the story broke, Mizuhara told ESPN that his bets were on international soccer, the NBA, the NFL and college football. MLB rules prohibit players and team employees from wagering — even legally, on baseball and also ban betting on other sports with illegal or offshore bookmakers.

"I never bet on baseball," Mizuhara told ESPN. "That's 100%. I knew that rule; we have a meeting about that in spring training."

Mizuhara was born in Japan and moved to the Los Angeles area in 1991 so his father could work as a chef. He attended Diamond Bar High School in eastern Los Angeles County and graduated from the University of California, Riverside, in 2007.

After college, Mizuhara was hired by the Boston Red Sox as an interpreter for Japanese pitcher Hideki Okajima. In 2013, he returned to Japan to translate for English-speaking players on the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters. That's where he first met Ohtani, who joined the team that same year.

After Ohtani signed with the Angels in 2017, the team hired Mizuhara to work as his personal interpreter. ESPN said Mizuhara told the outlet this week he has been paid

between \$300,000 and \$500,000 annually. ESPN said it spoke to Mizuhara that Tuesday night, at which point the interpreter said Ohtani had paid his gambling debts at Mizuhara's request. After the statement from Ohtani's attorneys saying the player was a victim of theft, ESPN says Mizuhara changed his story Wednesday and claimed Ohtani had no knowledge of the gambling debts and had not transferred any money to bookmakers.

Mizuhara said he incurred more than \$1 million in debt by the end of 2022 and his losses increased from there.

"I'm terrible (at gambling). Never going to do it again. Never won any money," Mizuhara said. "I mean, I dug myself a hole and it kept on getting bigger, and it meant I had to bet bigger to get out of it and just kept on losing. It's like a snowball effect."

It would be the biggest gambling scandal for baseball since Pete Rose agreed to a lifetime ban in 1989 after an investigation for MLB by lawyer John Dowd found Rose placed numerous bets on the Cincinnati Reds to win from 1985-87 while playing for and managing the team.

The MLB gambling policy, posted in every locker room, prohibit players and team employees from wagering, even legally, on baseball and also ban betting on other sports with illegal or offshore bookmakers. Betting on baseball is punishable with a one-year ban from the sport. The penalty for betting on other sports illegally is at the commissioner's discretion.

Ohtani's stardom has spread worldwide, even as the two-way player has remained largely media-shy. While he underwent surgery on his right elbow last September and will not pitch this season, he will be used as a designated hitter and there is a possibility he could play in the field. He went 2 for 5 with an RBI in his first game, the season opener against the San Diego Padres in South Korea.

Dotson's Other Note: Japanese baseball superstar Shohei Ohtani has unveiled the identity of his new wife after weeks of speculation. The Los Angeles Dodgers star shared a photo of Mamiko Tanaka, a former basketball player, for the first time.



The newlyweds are seen in front of an airplane as the team makes its way to South Korea as part of the Major League Baseball (MLB) World Tour.

Ohtani did not reveal her identity when he announced their marriage last month.

The 29-year-old also gave no details about their wedding at that time, only describing his Japanese bride as someone "who is very special to me". The announcement came as a shock to many and caused a stir on social media, leaving many of his fans guessing who she might be. Are any of you Moon Monkeys interested more of this story, please let me know.



By Andy Purvis

"Impossible"

If you were to push the words unbelievable and impossible together you just might get "impossible." It's the only way I can describe the 1983 NCAA basketball upset of N.C. State over the University of Houston. Jim Valvano, known as Coach "V," was a young, loud, brash, New York Italian basketball coach who owned enough nose to mind everybody's business; if he ever fell face first, it would two days to dig him out. Likeable and excitable, Valvano initially became known more for splitting his pants while jumping up and down during a game than winning. My mother, Edith Purvis, worked at N.C. State for over 25 years. She introduced me to Coach Valvano. He had so much energy; it was like meeting three people at once.

Television and radio loved the guy; he was two-thirds con man and one-third coach. Let's just say he was different. Jim loved people, food, and basketball and ate life in large gulps. Basketball allowed him to enjoy and share his passions, and generating the greatest upset in college basketball history would insure that he be remembered. His coaching style allowed his team to practice cutting down the nets one day a week, instead of working on stopping the back-door cut. They talked about dreaming instead of baseline defense, about playing with confidence instead of implementing the half-court trap. They worked hard, played hard, and had fun; but more importantly, they learned to trust one another while listening to their vagabond coach, who could take any defeat and turn it into dessert. He was contagious, believable and could sell M&M's to a diabetic.

Head Coach Jim Valvano and Assistant coaches Ed McLean, Ray Martin, and Tom Abatemarco, would lead the Wolfpack to a 26-10 season record which included an 8-6 ACC record. N.C. State would end their season ranked #14 in the Coaches' poll and #16 in the Associated Press poll. Just being invited to the dance would require them to win the ACC Tournament. The Wolfpack would defeat Wake Forest 71-70, the Michael Jordan, Sam Perkins, and Brad Daugherty UNC team 91-84 in overtime, and then Ralph Sampson and The University of Virginia 81-78, in succession. State would receive the ACC Trophy and a #6 seed from the committee and was promptly sent out West to be discarded.

The NCAA Tournament started on March 2nd and ended at "The Pit" in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on April 4, 1983. Only fifty-two schools participated in the tourney at that time, and the lowest seeds became the #13's. There was no shot clock or three-point line. The field would be expanded the following year. No one had any idea at that time that the real Cinderella would come to the party dressed like a wolf. The Pepperdine Waves led by 6 points with one minute to play, in regulation. It would take two overtimes for the Wolfpack to shake Pepperdine by the final score of 69-67.

Waves' Head Coach, Jim Harrick, still does not believe they lost. Dead ahead lay Jerry Tarkanian's UNLV bunch that had only lost two ballgames that year. Sidney Green and UNLV led by 13 points with ten minutes to play. State would prevail 71-70 in another nail biter. N.C. State would now prepare for their Sweet Sixteen match-up with the Running Utes of Utah, coached by Jerry Pimm. N.C. State was being held in high esteem by the press as a "team of destiny." In Raleigh, they referred to the team as "The Cardiac Pack." The Wolfpack would win in a laugh-er 75-56. It had been their first easy win. They say what goes around comes around. Up next awaited Goliath, the college player of the year, Ralph Sampson, and his 29-5 Wahoos of Virginia. Coach Terry Holland and his team were looking to avenge their ACC Tournament Championship loss to the Wolfpack. But it was not to be. Virginia was up by 7 points with six minutes to play. State won 63-62 by fouling Virginia with seconds to go, in a tie game, on purpose. Who fouls late in a tie game on purpose? "I couldn't believe my ears when V started yelling 'foul' with the game tied" said Wolfpack forward, Thurl Bailey. After N.C. State returned from their victory in the regional, 5,000 people showed up to watch the Wolfpack practice in the Reynolds Neal Coliseum. Valvano was on top of the world, and everyone lay at his feet. "Survive and Advance" became his motto. The Final Four would pit Georgia against

N.C. State and #1 Louisville against #2 Houston (The Doctors of Dunk vs. Phi Slama Jama). Hugh Durham's Georgia Bulldogs had upset UNC, the 1982 National Champs, and thought they were prepared to take on the Wolfpack. N.C. State won 67-60 and then waited to see who they would play. The game they watched with the rest of the nation was incredible.

Houston outlasted Denny Crum's Louisville Cardinals, led by brothers Rodney and Scooter McCray, in what most thought was the championship game. This up-and-down-the-floor playground basketball, with exclamation points provided by rim-rocking dunks, held the basketball world in awe. The winner of this game would surely be crowned National Champ on Monday night. The final score: Houston 94, Louisville 81.

The next day during their press conference, Valvano claimed they would hold the ball against Houston. "If we get the opening tip on Monday night, we may not take a shot until Tuesday," exclaimed Valvano. "Even my mother took the eight points and Houston."

Head Coach Guy V. Lewis, with great players like Clyde Drexler, Larry Micheaux, Hakeem Olajuwon, Reid Gettys, Benny Anders, Michael Young, and freshman Alvin Franklin, waited to claim their rightful title. I found it interesting that both Guy and Jim both used the "V" in name recognition and both teams' colors included red and white. Before the game, Valvano did what he does best, "Talk." He also made it clear to his team that they were not going to hold the ball in front of 50 million people who would be watching on TV. N.C. State missed ten shots in a row at the start of the game, but still led 33-25 at halftime. Houston stormed back to lead by 7, with ten minutes to go. Wolfpack strategy included not letting the Cougars dunk and fouling to get the ball back. In short, it worked. Freshman Benny Anders was fouled in a tie game with seconds left, as Guy Lewis hid his eyes in his red-and-white checkered towel. Anders missed. N.C. State now with the ball moved up court. The ball went into the corner to Bailey who returned it to Derek Whittenburg as time was running out. Whittenburg launched a 30-footer that appeared to be on target, but short. Time stood still for everyone but Wolfpack forward, Lorenzo Charles, who jumped up, caught the ball and dunked, all in the same motion. It was over; N.C. State 54-Houston 52. "If we win, pigs will fly, and pink elephants will drive Cadillacs," said Valvano before the game. Can anyone say "Impossible?"

I should have known that my pal Dotson Lewis was seated courtside with Blackie Sherrod, the senior sportswriter for the Dallas Morning News. When I asked Dotson for his thoughts, he said, "What a shocker. I thought Guy Lewis had fainted when the game ended," said Dotson. "He was one of the most underrated coaches in college basketball."

At the end of the 1983 season, several Wolfpack starters were drafted. They are as follows: Thurl Bailey was drafted by Utah Jazz, Sidney Lowe by the Chicago Bulls, and Derek Whittenburg by the Phoenix Suns. Lorenzo Charles and Cozell McQueen would later be drafted in 1984, by the Atlanta Hawks and Milwaukee Bucks, respectively.

N.C. State won their last nine games of that 1983 season; and in seven of those games, they were behind on the scoreboard with one minute to play. It was as if this team had been touched in some special way. Was it divine intervention or luck? Who cares? Sometimes things happen in sports that bring attention to real life experiences. I believe that Jim Valvano's ESPY speech would not have had the same impact without his upset victory and later his bout with cancer. The Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research still continues twenty years after his death to lead the nation in money raised. In short, Valvano's seven simple, yet powerful, words will live on, "Don't Give Up, Don't Ever Give Up." True heroes never surrender.

Andy Purvis



The Crested Caracara is the only falcon that collects material to build a nest. Other falcons lay their eggs in an old nest built by another species or in a scrape on the ground.



By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks

Well, it's that time of year, where we have a day of spring on Friday and then back to fall, or "reverse-spring", whatever you want to call it, on Tuesday and Wednesday, and then a touch of summer by Friday. This time of year is kind of annoying because it messes up my hair a lot. If you haven't been out to the beach, the tide has been to the dunes recently, and it will be that way for a while. If you're a surfer, this is one of the sweet spots of the season. Time to wax it up and get out there, but don't forget your wetsuit. The water temperature was pushing the mid 70's and got knocked back down to the upper 60's. Still a little chilly for my old bones.



South Padre versus North Padre
I had to go to South Padre the other day for work, and I haven't been to an amusement park in a long time, but it had that vibe. Bumper to bumper, golf carts everywhere, dogs and cats living together, and mass hysteria. Actually, there was no hysteria at all. Just tourists. And more tourists. Tourists everywhere and speaking a jumble of languages, some I couldn't guess. I couldn't imagine being a waiter in that mess, but everything was flowing. There is quite the difference between the two ends of our Island, as I am occasionally reminded.

Hairy Woodpeckers and other flying friends

I stopped as I always do, at the TxDoT

rest stop just on the south side of Sarita. It breaks up the drive nicely, is a decent facility, and typically has a fair number of birds. Yes, I know it's chock full of European sparrows and grackles talking Spanish, but it also boasts a pretty good population of Baltimore orioles, occasionally some green jays, and a few other fun things like hairy woodpeckers. Ha! Who says birding names aren't fun?

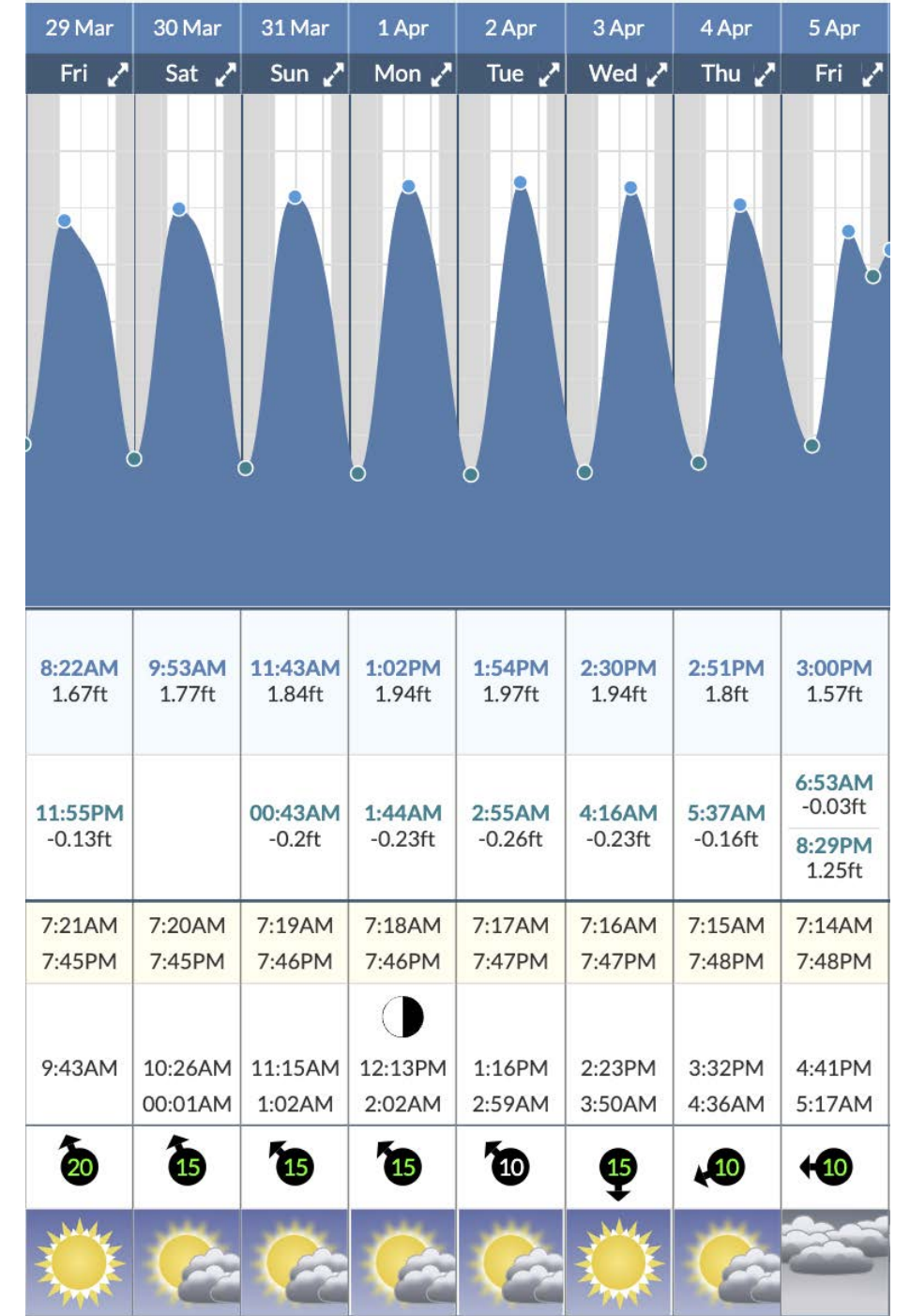
The birds are showing up in force though. I'm feeding three hummingbird feeders and have them spread across the yard pretty good right now. That's not stopping the early signs of aggression between the black chinned hummers though, which is hard wired into their DNA. Don't forget to keep a watch on BirdCast to ensure you're not missing some really great birding. We are still a bit early for some of the larger pushes, but RoadKill reported a black and white warbler moving through his area in addition to the buff belly hummingbird making a nest in one of his oak trees. It's sure to be a wild migration season.

New Public Fish Cleaning Station
CC Water and the Parks department got the fish cleaning station that was donated by SEA installed at the Packery Channel boat ramp. Good to see some attention out that way, and we also have to thank Councilman Dan Suckley for riding herd on that and getting it accomplished. I was also hoping that they would run a waterline over to the pavilion that was built, but on second thought, if there was water and power over there, I might move in myself. What do they say, location, location, location. With all the sheephead being caught there at the jetties lately, there would be no reason to leave.

If you haven't submitted your application for the Island Strategic Action Committee yet, then by the time this comes out, it's probably going to be too late. I'm sure there have been a bunch of candidates apply, and it will be interesting to see how the next elections work out at city council.

Well folks, the wild ride keeps getting wilder, and as Hunter Thompson said, when the going gets weird, the weird turn pro. Then you pile political season on tops of things. I think I need a vacation. However, this weekend my sister Olivia and Mike are slated to get married. We're all proud of them and the old folks wish them well. Have a Good Friday and Happy Easter. Eat some chocolate bunny ears, drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.

Tides of the Week



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah's Fishing Adventures



I landed this GIANT LADY SPECK this week while casting lighty weighted soft plastics to shallow sand pockets in the Laguna Madre. The trout was 9lbs and released after a few quick photos.

Farah cont. from AI

above the bottom for bait to escape attacks, wider surface area for bait to spread out, and harder hunting. Trout and reds will push schools of bait up against these barriers so that they can cut them off when they are pushing bait. Look for birds of various species along shorelines to show you where bait is plentiful. This week we watched four white pelicans sitting on the beach along the west shoreline of the Lagoon. Just a few yards out was a stand of thick grass along the bank. I watched them shake off the morning chill and walk and swim out to the grass just off the beach. They did not spread out and herd minnows as usual, they just swam over and started dipping minnows and swallowing them. I knew that they had just filled their stomachs and had been resting waiting to go grab a mouth full of those tiny minnows, just as the trout were most likely doing on the outside sandy edge of the thick grass. As we approached we caught a few mature male trout in the near bye sand pockets. The moment my soft plastic bait hit the water next to the thick dark grass there was a flash and I felt a tick in the line. I reeled down and bowed the rod in half. Her head breached the surface and shook with gills flared open. White frothy foam filled the air before she dove down and out away from her shoreline hide. I walked her over to my wade fishing partner and had the cameras rolling while I brought her to hand. Her back was black and wide, she was full of eggs and fat. After a moment of touch I let her go right back to her area so she could find her spawn. Check out this beautiful fish on my Facebook page at Joey FARAH'S Backwater Fishing.

High tides are rolling down the ICW a channel, the submerged spoil islands are a great place to find concentrations of all gamefish species. The area south of Bird Island Basin is rich with these spots. Drifting over and around them with shrimp and popping corks, or anchoring up and throwing from the deep edges into the shallows with popping corks or bottom rigs is very successful. We drift these grass spoils with soft plastics and topwaters hunting giant specks and hard pulling reds. The big rock piles in Baffin Bay are starting to hold pots of fish right now with these high tides. The edges will be the best zone as throwing on top with popping corks and live shrimp is good anything sun surface over the rocks will hang you up. The Rocks will yield black drum and trout for the next two months like fish hotels.

The Land Cut to the south and the shipping channels around Port A are game-

fish highways. Throwing lures along their edges can be some of the most fun fishing of the year. Like bass fisherman pitching and sight casting to structure we will connect with some true giant trophy fish in the next few weeks in these travel zones. One great technique is to SPOT LOCK ANCHOR with your trolling motor along any change in the side of the canal. Catching fish that I have located on my HUNMING-BIRD SIDE SCAN makes it seem easy, then hooking multiple times while spout locked down, moving to a new position and hitting them again. Gamefish pick certain areas for a reason and will often return after feeling your fishing pressure.

NEW TROUT LIMITS WENT INTO EFFECT THIS WEEK. THREE TROUT 15-20" with one trout to be kept over 30" a day. I'm sure after the summer these size restrictions will be altered a bit to fit the public more comfortably but for this spring it will no doubt increase our fishery into the absolute great status. This year has already been the best of many years past. I'd love to invite you to give me a call and find YOUR DAY to learn and widen your fishing awareness and learn new spots and techniques. Follow all of our fishing on Facebook at Joey FARAH'S Backwater Fishing.



This fine sow trout was following a fresh bull tide into the Laguna Madre when we talked her into eating one of our lures. Drift fishing in the boat along scattered sand pockets in 3 inches of water.

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Nature Notes

Birding Basics

By Chris Schnurbusch



Middle Schoolers going on a birding walk, practicing with their binoculars. Photo by Celeste Silling

four characteristics: bird size, feather color, behavior, and location. These will help narrow down the bird you're looking at and help make identification easier. Blackbirds are bigger than chickadees, Blue Jays bigger than blackbirds, and hawks are bigger than Blue Jays. Seems simple enough, but it's crucial for narrowing down choices. Some birds look similar but are different sizes, like the Cooper's Hawk and the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Notice the color of the bird; for example, a Black-crested Titmouse looks almost identical to the Tufted Titmouse, except it has a black crest on top of its head. Birds can also have drastically different behaviors; a kinglet will bounce around between branches, barely sitting still, while a woodpecker will bob its head while climbing up the sides of trees. These differences can help you identify the bird even when you can't get a good look at the plumage. Location can refer to geographical or local. Species will be found in varying parts of the country, so it's good to know which ones are in your location. Local location refers to sitting on a wire, soaring in the sky, or feeding in the water. All these clues can help determine which species you're seeing. This is a great time of year to pick up the birding hobby, as we're beginning to see migrants flying in. The Texas coast is a great rest spot for migrating birds, as they've just finished crossing the gulf and need a place to recover. Migration provides a great chance to see species that reside farther North in the summer. They won't stick around long, so go on out there and start watching birds! If you're interested in learning more about species around Texas or want to know how birds are studied, here at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory we band songbirds every third Saturday of the month. Our program is free and open to the public, and you'll get an up-close view of our local songbirds and have an opportunity to take photos. We're happy to answer any questions you may have about birding or the research we do.

Going Native

Texas Persimmon *Diospyros texana*



Diospyros-texana photo by texas native plant society

By Ed Proffitt

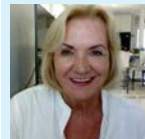
In the Spring often our thoughts turn fruitful – as in finding the right native plant fruit-bearing species to include in our yards. Texas Persimmon, *Diospyros texana* in the Family Ebenaceae is an excellent candidate. Depending on conditions this plant will be a medium size tree or a large shrub. It can be grown in the yard, or in some cases is put in a large container. The fruit is sweet and palatable, but contains more seeds than many folks might like dealing with. Fructivorous birds and mammals, however, love it. Some references suggest removing the black outer skin of the fruit before eating. Others note that the fruit can be used to make jams, jellies, and wine... yum. In some locales, the fruit is also used to make a black dye. One report I read said the fruit had been used to treat hemorrhoids but I don't even want to think about how that might work!

Texas persimmon is dioicous meaning that some individuals are males and others are females. To get the fruit, you of course want females. But, they'll need a male nearby so you'll likely want to have both, unless a neighbor also has one. It is pollinated largely by flying insects, so trees don't need to be that close to one another. It can also reproduce from root sprouts which

is one way it forms thickets in some areas.

The wood is not as prized as its cousin the ebony tree but has its uses. The very dark and dense heartwood of larger individuals has been used to build furniture and black keys for pianos. Early Americans also made tools for digging from it. One of the beauty features of Texas persimmon is its bark. Once mature, the light grey bark will begin to peel somewhat and reveal very pretty pinkish bark underneath.

The species is widespread along the U.S. coastal states and in Mexico. It is not listed in Diamond et al. flora of the Padre Island National Seashore, so it may not be native to the Island, but is to our general region of south Texas. It occurs all the way from near sea level, to mountain and hill-sides, and sometimes forms dense thickets in sites with rocky limestone soils. It is drought tolerant and will need little, if any, watering after it becomes established. It will need fertilization only every couple of years or so. It is easily propagated from commercially available seeds, which do not need scarification. As an ornamental in your yard, this plant has value to us as well as wildlife. So, think about this one as you keep Going Native.



Business Briefs

By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

The Captain's Table Seafood & Steaks Diner has an extensive menu. One of the appetizers is Maryland style crab cakes that have more meat and less filling allowing the crab to shine. The berry nut salad has dried cranberries, roasted pine nuts, walnuts, strawberries, avocado and served with warm pita bread. There will definitely be the classic diner dishes along with the fancier ones. It is not a Greek restaurant but will have Greek salad, Greek burger, gyros and Greek salmon. Owner Minos wants to embrace the Island and is having old Island photos framed to hang throughout the restaurant. The decor will also include a wooden ship steering wheel and blue and white life preserver rings. Hours are planned, for now, to be weekdays 11 am - 9 pm, Saturday 7am - 9-10 pm and Sunday 7 am - 4 pm. Plans are to open by mid-April. It is the blue building between Angry Marlin and Hardknocks.



Chopped Sirloin.



Greek Salmon

Real Life Church will have Good Friday service at 6:30 pm at their temporary home at Island in the Son 10650 SH-351. Easter sunrise service will be at the beach between MM 215 and 216 in front of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall parking lot. Coffee will be served just bring a chair. Everyone is invited.

The Padre Island Neighbors 2nd Annual Community-wide Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, April 13th 8 am - 5 pm. To participate send an email to PadreIslandNeighbors@gmail.

Merida's Tapas & Cantina Easter Sunday Brunch Buffet will include many of your brunch menu favorites. In addition there will be a build your own omelette station, U-peel 'em shrimp and steak. I had my best ever eggs Benedict plate at their brunch. The Easter Brunch will be by reservation only and the cost is \$55/person which includes a mimosa, beermosa, Bloody Mary or sangria. For reservation call 470-9050. On Fridays they have added Karaoke with The Jer 7 - 11 pm out on the patio. Happy Hour is Monday - Friday 2 - 6 pm with most domestic beers \$3 draft or bottle, #3 wells and \$4.50/glass house wine plus eight appetizer specials.



Krispy Kreme donuts will be available at all McDonald's restaurants by the end of 2026.

The Corpus Christi Hooks will have an exhibition game vs Texas A&M Corpus Christi on Wednesday, April 3rd at 6:30 pm. Their season officially begins on Friday vs Midland at 7 pm and there will be a Bud Light Fireworks display. The Saturday game is at 7 pm and Sunday 5 pm.

Bob Hall Pier construction should begin by the end of the year. The 1,256 foot long pier designs have been completed and are headed for the bidding process.

The Corpus Christi Car Show will feature custom car, truck and motorcycles at the American Bank Center Exhibit Hall on Saturday, April 13th starting at noon. The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders will also be there. All of the fees received from those who register a vehicle will go to Bikes for Kids. Admission is \$10 and free for age 11 and under.



The Star Wars Day 5K Run (\$30) and 1K Kids Run (\$15) will be held on Saturday, May 4th 8am at the Briscoe Pavilion. It is a Flour Bluff High School Community Booster to raise funds to modernize the cafeteria. There will be a costume contest, caricatures by art students, face painting, music, prizes and more. They are seeking participants and sponsors. Those who register by April 15th will get a t-shirt. The link and QR code can be found on the school Facebook page.



Whoop it Up Boots & Bling needs auction donations which can be an item or a service. It is the Seashore schools largest fundraiser and will be held at Marker 37 on Saturday, May 4th. To donate call Denise Hawkins at 003-450-5962 by April 15th.

The City has applications available online to become a member of the ISAC (Island Strategic Action Committee) board. This board has helped the Island get many things that were deserved over the years. It is a very important committee and you can become part of it.

The Commodore Park latests plans to be decided on and approved call for four phases with the first starting out with pickle ball courts, tennis courts, covered pavilion with a basketball court, playground and walking trail. The second phase will add a community pool. The third will add a gymnasium and then lastly the community center. So nothing etched in stone yet but get some idea of what is being considered.

1st Annual Padre Island Pickleball Tournament in partnership with Seashore Charter Schools will be held on Saturday, March 30th. The tournaments will be at the two school gyms. Every participant will get a Padre Island Pickleball yeti, drawstring bag, cap and sticker. The cost is \$50/person and all proceeds go to the school. You can register at the Padre Island Pickle Facebook page. Padre Island Pickle will be a 12 indoor court facility on SPID near Seapines. The property has been bought but no construction as of yet.



The Padre Island Easter Market will be held on Saturday, March 30th at the Island Presbyterian Church 10 am - 3 pm. There will be lots of vendors, a kid's craft corner and photo ops with Mermaid Alva.

Random Stuff

Coconut oil has many proven health benefits and what I use it for is the dry skin on my legs and feet. Studies have shown it helps boost the moisture content of the skin. When I use body creams my skin still looks dry but not with coconut oil. Just remember "a little dab'll do ya." Definitely showing my age with that Brylcreem men's hair gel jingle. Coconut oil is not necessarily recommended as a moisturizer for the face because it can clog pores.

The United Football League (UFL) schedule for the eight teams starts Saturday, March 30th with two games and two on Sunday. The San Antonio Brahmas vs D.C. Defenders game is Sunday at noon on ESPN. So there's a temporary fix for you until the NFL starts back up.

Seascape artist Wade Koniakowsky holds three-day workshop at The Port Aransas Art Center



Seascape artist and Portland native Wade Koniakowsky will hold a three-day workshop at the Port Aransas Art Center May 27-May 29.

The workshop will be held at The Port Aransas Art Center on May 27th, 28th and the 29th, 12:00-3:00 each day.

All skill levels are welcome, from beginners to experienced artists looking to enhance their skills.

Day 1 and 2 – Wave Painting

A step by step, deep dive into painting waves realistically. Students will learn to render spray, froth, backlight and all fundamentals, tips and tricks of wave painting.

Day 3 – Tropical Scenes

The last day, we will delve into painting a lush, tropical scene. (NOTE: You can elect to spend the last day on Waves).

It’s been said about Wade’s tropical paintings, “Wade Koniakowsky’s focus is capturing Polynesian dreamscapes and the related emotional tie we have with far away lands.

His vibe intersects with those same emotions—unspoiled, nirvana-esque landscapes, islander portraits, and ephemeral visions that make you want to sell it all and travel.”

– Jim Moriarty, President of the Surfrider Foundation.

Sign up [online](#) or call (361)749-7334

28th Annual Great Texas Birding Classic Begins April 15

Registration remains open until April 1 for those wishing to join more than 1,000 birders who will flock to the coast, forests, prairies and mountains of Texas to compete in the nation’s biggest, longest and wildest bird watching tournament. The 28th annual [Great Texas Birding Classic](#) runs from April 15-May 15. This statewide tournament invites participants to document the different species of birds migrating through Texas during the spring. “Since the Classic started a lot has changed,” says Shelly Plante, nature tourism manager for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. “The competition has expanded statewide to record participation and is no longer just for experts since the new categories appeal to budding naturalists and avid birders alike.” Competitors can choose from a variety of categories to test their birding skills, participating for as little as half a day or as long as a week in the statewide tourney. Participants can form a team and compete in such categories as the Big Sit!, in which birders must remain within a 50-foot-diameter circle to count their birds. Other categories include a sunrise-to-noon event, youth-only tournaments, a human-powered contest and one tournament held entirely within Texas State Parks.

Last year, more than 1,100 people competed in the Birding Classic, sighting 413 out of 666 documented avian species in Texas. The 2023 event attracted a record-breaking 202 teams that competed from Far West Texas and the Texas Panhandle to the “Golden Triangle” in southeast Texas and the Rio Grande Valley down south. The Birding Classic sported family teams, teams of work colleagues, birding buddies having their spring birding get-away together and more. Registration fees and team sponsorships for the event raise money for birding and habitat conservation, restoration and enhancement grants throughout the state, helping preserve critical bird habitat and support nature tourism. Last year, the tournament raised \$47,000 for conservation grants. Since its inception in 1997, the Great Texas Birding Classic has awarded conservation grants totaling \$1,163,000. To register online and learn more about the tournament, visit [www.BirdingClassic.org](#). This event is made possible by sponsorship and registration fees, donations from event sponsors Toyota and Texas Ornithological Society and awards ceremony sponsor Audubon Texas.



Painted bunting courtesy of lyricbirdfood.com

Easter Sunrise Beach Service

**Sunday, March 31st
7:00 AM**

@ Whitecap Beach

Join us for the celebration of the resurrection of **Jesus Christ**

Service presented by:
**Island Presbyterian Church
Island in the Son UMC**

Bring your beach chair and coffee.
City of Corpus Christi, TX Beach Parking Permits required.
Well mannered, leashed pets welcome.
Each church will hold regular Easter Sunday worship services in their respective sanctuaries at 10:00 AM.

Island Presbyterian – 14030 Fortuna Bay
Island in the Son – 10650 Hwy. 361

In case of inclement weather each church will meet in their respective sanctuaries

Easter at Island Presbyterian Church

7:00 AM

Beach Sunrise Service @ Whitecap Beach

10:00AM Worship in the Sanctuary

14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.

Special Music
Everyone is welcome!
Please join us in our celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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So that all of our valued team members may celebrate the Resurrection of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST with their families. We encourage all families to do the same.



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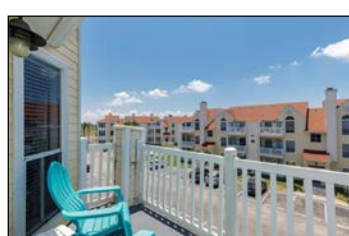
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14825 Windward Dr. #219
1BR/1BTH @ 504sqft multi-level condo with fresh paint, new furnishings/decor, butcher block counter-top, vanity, cabinets, and toilet. **\$179,000.** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914



14149 La Blanquilla Dr. 4/3/2
Light, bright, and airy with a spacious open floor plan with 2712 sq. ft. of living area. Close to the beautiful beaches of TX. **\$604,990** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499.



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



13801 Captains Row - Exceptional custom home, 151' canal front at fingertip of gated st. Elevator, pool, 2 lifts, sunset over ICW **\$1,750,000.** Call **Pam Morgan** at 361-215-8116.



14911 Village Beach Dr. 2/2
gorgeous poolside townhome just a quick walk to the beach! 1041 sq. ft. & fully furnished. **\$419,000.** Call **Kim Mogford** at 361-434-8522.



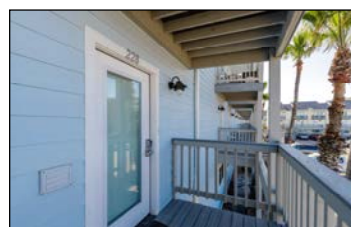
14521 E Cabana #301 1 of 2 pool side units at Marquesas Townhomes. Selling fully furnished and turnkey ready to rent or use. New interior paint, new furnishings, and new exterior AC. **\$324,900** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914.



15005 Windward Dr. #214 Fully furnished 2 bed, 1 bath, 955 sq ft Surfside Condo walking distance from the beach/seawall. **\$237,000** Call **Madeline Casey** at 361-443-0687.



14920 Packery View Loop 4 bed/ 4 bath 3-story townhome with views of the Gulf. Completely furnished. **\$585,000** Call **Kim Mogford** 361-434-8522.



14802 Windward #228 2 bed 2.5 bath condo with amazing duneside views at a beautiful beachfront property. Fully furnished and ready for island living. \$399,900. Call **Charlie** 361-443-2499



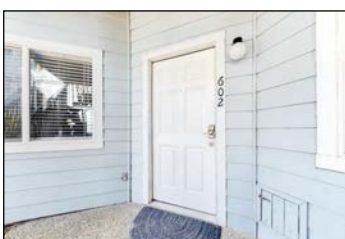
13969 Lanyard 4/3/2 2,540 sq.ft., stainless appliances, quartz & tile throughout plus lots of extras. **\$585,000** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914 or **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499.



350 Royal Dunes
New Port Aransas Beach House in Mustang Royale built by Steve's homes.
3200 sq. ft.
3 story with 4 bedrooms,
2 full & 2 half baths,
2 living areas, 2 car garage,
covered patio,
3 balconies with amazing
views, impact windows.

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Great primary or vacation home. Onsite pool, boardwalk to beach. **\$1,700,000**
Call **Cindy Molnar** at **361-549-5557**, for more details.



15010 Leeward #602 1BR/1BTH @ 620sqft. First floor fully furnished unit with a 3min walk to the beach. Notables are new bathroom sink, tub, kitchen faucets, water heater, & sofa bed mattress. **\$235,000** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914



14428 Compass #204 Canal front 1BR/1BTH @ 636sqft condo newly renovated with paint, decor, granite countertops, and new hurricane sliding glass door and windows. **\$236,500.** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914.



15109 Dasmariñas Dr. Beautiful 3 bed, 2 bath, and 2 car garage home. It is a 1 owner home that has been updated and well kept with newer appliances. **\$525,000** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499.



15396 Caravel Dr. Fingertip east facing backyard for afternoon shade with great views. Priced to sell and well below city appraised value. **\$899,000** Call **Charlie Knoll** at **361-443-2499.**

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\$845,000



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13841 Hawksnest Bay Dr.
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\$585,000



15230 Capstan
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\$559,900



15886 Punta Espada
4/3/2 Waterfront
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14813 Leeward 502
3/2/1
Waterfront
\$2,600/month

13906 Mingo Cay #6
2/2
waterfront complex
\$1,250/month

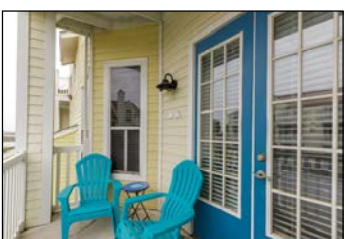
15422 Salt Cay A & D
1/1 waterfront units
\$1,000/month each

15542 Cuttysark
3/2/2
\$2,600/month

13906 Mingo Cay #7
1/2
\$1,000/month



14802 Whitecap Blvd. #203
2/2 and only feet from the beach! Great views. Completely furnished. **\$349,000** Call **Kim Mogford** at 361-434-8522.



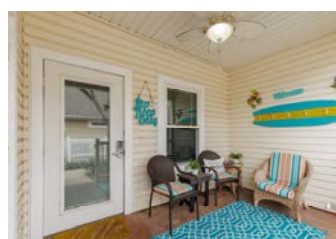
14721 Whitecap Blvd. #294
Island living ready. Fully furnished condo with pretty views. Great complex amenities! **\$194,900** Call **Charlie** 361-443-2499 or **Sam Luarca** 361-765-0390



14213 Cabo Blanco 5BR/4BTH plus two flex rooms @ 2892sqft. Spacious custom built Empire Home with a beautiful outdoor living space that includes a fully turfed backyard. **\$699,000.** Call **Randy** 361-765-9914.



14300 S Padre Island Dr. #214
Waterfront 2 bed/1 bath condo with amazing views! Fully furnished. **\$199,900** Call **Kim Mogford** 361-434-8522.



15209 S Padre Island Dr. #802
Adorable 1 bed/1 bath townhome outfitted in coastal decor. Fully furnished. **\$259,900** Call **Kim Mogford** 361-434-8522



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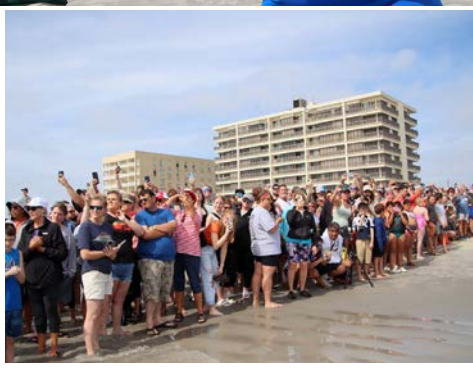
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The south jetty at Packery channel was packed on Saturday.



This past Sunday was the Texas Sealife Center's first public release of the year! They released a total of 9 green sea turtles in front of a crowd of hundreds of onlookers. The turtles were admitted into the facility due to the cold stun event this past January. They were finally strong enough to be released back to the Gulf of Mexico. Photos by Debbie Noble.



The Flour Bluff High School Hornets were the TMSCA (Texas Math and Science Coaches Association) 5A Champions for the second year in a row.

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Wildflowers By Lu Ann Kingsbury

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NOW OPEN

Skipper Tales

The Fiddlin’ Crab
By Bob Skipper

Down on the beach of Padre Isle
A strange sight caught my eye.
A fiddler crab with a tiny fiddle
Stranded ‘neath a hot, bright sky.
A shore bird tried to make a meal,
Of the old crab lying there.
But the crab told the greedy bird,
If his life he would spare...
He said he’d play the bird a song,
If his body, he wouldn’t eat.
So, he grabbed his fiddle and started to play,
With a rowdy, down home beat.
He played Fire on the Mountain,
Jenny Lind, with a spin and a do-se-do.
Then a band of shrimp joined right in
And danced to the Cotton Eyed Joe.
A pod of dolphins joined the fiddler crab,
They sang back up harmony.
A group of starfish lit up the shore,
So, everyone could see.
That fiddler crab and all his friends
Put on one helluva show.
They finally stopped at break of day,
As the sun began to glow.
So, if you’re ever on Padre Isle
And you hear a fiddle play.
It’s a sho nuff beach side hoe down,
To brighten up your day.



Fiddler Crab

Work on Port Aransas ferry facility resumes

Initial activity on western side of ferry facility will require closure of one ramp, fuel dock

After pausing for spring break, the Texas Department of Transportation’s \$64 million project to upgrade ferry system landings on the Port Aransas side has resumed.

Initial work will occur around the fuel dock and adjacent ramp, and those two ramps, which are on the west side of the ferry facility will be closed. Three ramps will remain in service at the Port Aransas landing as well as all five ramps at the Harbor Island landing. As work progresses eastward, updates will advise the public when other ramp closures are required.

The project involves upgrading existing structures and landings, including ramps, pile clusters, fenders, counterweight structures, steel sheet pile bulkheads, fueling systems,



electrical systems, pavement and illumination.

The purpose of this project is to ensure that the TxDOT ferry facility is positioned to safely and efficiently serve the public for decades to come.

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

Padre Island Rotary Club Invites the Community to Nite at the Races April 11

By Linda Moyer Walsh

We are excited to announce we are bringing back an Island Favorite activity after 7 years, “Nite at the Races 2024,” a unique blend of fun and fundraising. Follow us on Face Book for pictures of past “Race Nites”. Slated for Thursday, April 11, 2024, this event is more than just a fundraiser. “Nite at the Races 2024” is an innovative, interactive event where participants can experience the thrill of horse racing in a fun, simulated environment.

Padre Island Rotary Club is extending an open invitation to the entire community to join in on this exciting event at HardKnocks Sports Grill. It’s an opportunity to have fun, meet new people, and most importantly, contribute to meaningful causes. Tickets for “Nite at the Races 2024” are now available on line. You can also reserve a 4-top or 8-top table on line as well. Those interested in purchasing tickets, or learning more about the event can visit <https://padreislandrotary.org/nite-at-the-races>. You can also visit the Padre Island Rotary Club face book page and click on the event at top of page.

Get out your Derby Best! There will be a parade of interested participants for the Best Ladies Derby Hat and the best Derby Outfit for Men. The winners will each receive a \$100 VISA gift card. The evening will include simulated horse races and betting with Island Bucks (funny money). You can also purchase a horse for \$20 cash, 10 horses per race and if your horse wins, you win \$100 and a bottle of champagne! Doors will open at 5:30. A buffet dinner will begin at 6:00, and races begin at 7:00. When you enter you will receive an envelope with your dinner ticket, a door prize ticket and \$1000 in Island Bucks (funny money). This will enable you to place one bet for each race. Minimum bets are \$100 Island Bucks. If you run out you can always buy more, \$10 US Dollars will buy you \$1000 Island Bucks.

We have some awesome raffle items donated by various business partners and individuals supporting the goals of our Rotary Organization. You will be able to purchase raffle tickets for \$10 each and put your ticket in the jar in front of the item you want. At the end of the evening you can also trade your Island Bucks (funny money) winnings in for raffle tickets. \$1000 Island Bucks buys One raffle ticket. We will have the

drawings at the end of the evening. We have a fantastic Beach Shrimp boil and bonfire for 10 including chairs, music and games. A Beach Day in Port A for 2 including umbrella, 2 chairs, table and food delivery. Jewelry. A Certificate for 4 people to play golf at Lozano/Oso Golf Course, A chartered fishing trip for 2 in the Upper Laguna Madre and Baffin Bay, Kentucky Derby Gift basket, A shrimp Boil and Bonfire for 20. Other beautiful gift baskets and we are still receiving items all the time. If you would like to donate a gift item or basket contact Linda Walsh by email; lawalshva@yahoo.com

The proceeds from “Nite at the Races 2024” will go towards various community service projects. These projects range from local environmental efforts to educational initiatives, such as the enhancement and maintenance of Maryanne’s Way Memorial Park at the end of Whitecap and the addition of a Memorial paver park. The Butterfly and Bee Gardens partnering with our Seashore Schools and the community to preserve and protect natural habitats on the island helping to save the endangered Monarch butterflies and increase the bee population. We will educate students and community individuals with the help of local naturalists and Master Gardeners. Various programs to help and serve our local Veterans. The SIL program, Supervised Independent Living, a partnership with TAMU-CC and the Department of Family and Protective Services to help young adults aging out of Foster Care to transition from foster care to independent living at TAMU-CC while earning a degree. Adoption Awareness is one of our most endearing projects held two times per year at various locations in our community. Partnering with the Department of Family and Protective Services we provide a memorable day for children in the foster program to help facilitate adoptions with vetted individuals, while providing these children time to reunite with siblings for a fun day with games and food. These projects and many more are aimed at enriching our Island and its residents.

For more information on The Padre Island Rotary Club contact Linda Moyer Walsh at lawalshva@yahoo.com and our FB page, Padre Island Rotary Club. The club meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at HardKnocks at 5:30 pm in the back meeting room. Come and join us anytime and get a glimpse of what we are all about.



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of the
United States
Corpus Christi Council



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Sudoku

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

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

1. "And another thing ..."
5. Small progression
9. Addis ____ (Ethiopia's capital)
14. Act rashly
15. Leander's love
16. Docket fill
17. Brocaded fabric
18. Complain, complain, complain
19. Pleasant surprise
20. It's a capital place
23. Bradley and Trixie's husband
24. Comstock load
25. Brings to the boiling point
29. Wet, spongy ground
31. Some are natural, some are broken
35. Takes wing
36. Object in a quiver
38. Child seat?
39. It's a capital place
42. Palindromic conjunction
43. "... ____ evil, speak ..."
44. Audio signal receiver
45. Put through the paces
47. Word with takers or day now
48. Takes the helm
49. They precede mis
51. Haggard work
52. It's a capital place
60. 18 holes, for example
61. Sugar substitute?
62. They may be beaten
64. Compel through coercion
65. No one's in until this is put in
66. Got on one's high horse?
67. Trusty mount
68. Unpleasant situation
69. Otherwise

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			

Down

1. Word with in or out
2. Primary role
3. Matching
4. File command
5. Does an office chore
6. They're shed
7. Roberts of "Runaway Train"
8. Game of chukkers
9. Action may make him laugh or cry?
10. Wine container
11. On the Baltic
12. Form droplets
13. Regarding
21. Lawsuit preposition
22. Get ready to surf
25. Coveted quality
26. Dame's introduction?
27. Stares with open mouth
28. Newsworthy period of history
29. Like the ocean
30. Yes ____ (one of two answers)
32. Not with another
33. Spring offering
34. Practices for a boxing match
36. Communicant's word
37. Damper
40. The absolute minimum
41. Cash's boy
46. Hypnotic sleep
48. "... to the ____ of Tripoli"
50. Finished
51. Part of a full house?
52. Canine sounds
53. Horn sound
54. Work as a barker
55. Father of Cain and Abel
56. Tunney of the ring
57. Horror film fare
58. Adored one
59. Increases
63. Figure out



Ginny Whitworth's birthday party at Shorty's.
Photos by Ronnie Narmour

Police Blotter March 20 - March 24

JFK Causeway to SPID/

Aquarius Intersection

Disturbances

13200 block SPID 10 pm March 24
Found Narcotics

13500 block SPID 11 pm March 20

Suspicious Person

11800 block SPID 9 pm March 24
10800 block SPID 1 am March 23
13500 block SPID 1 pm March 24

Traffic

24 Traffic Stops
SPID/Aquarius Dr. 10 pm March 23
Crash
13500 block SPID 11 pm March 20
Crash

SPID West to Laguna

Madre

Crimes against Person

14000 block Fortuna Bay Dr. 11 am
March 22 Harassment

Crimes against Property

Cobo de Bara Circle/Carlos Fifth Ct.
7 pm. March 23 Trespassing
Cobo de Bara Circle/Carlos Fifth Ct.
7 am. March 23 Trespassing
15400 block SPID Midnight March
23 Damage to a Vehicle other than
Collision
Cruiser St./Whitecap Blvd. 8 pm
March 21 Burglary of a Vehicle

Disturbances

15100 block Aquarius 9 am March
23 Noise Ordinance Violation

15200 block Main Royal Midnight
March 23 Noise Ordinance Violation
13600 block Catamaran 1 am March
20

Suspicious Person

14800 block SPID 5 pm March 24
13600 block Camino de Oro
Midnight March 20

Traffic

89 Traffic Stops
14300 block SPID 1 am March 22
Crash
14300 block SPID 10 pm March 21
Crash
14500 block SPID 1 pm March 21
Crash
SPID/Whitecap Blvd. 1 pm March
24 Crash

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico – north to the City

Limits

Suspicious Person

15700 block Gulf Beach 9 am
March 23
15100 block Kokomo 9 pm March
24
Beach Access Road 3A/St.
Bartholomew Ave. 7 pm March 22
11000 block Gulf Beach 7 am March
20
SH 361/Beach Access Road 2 2 pm
March 22 (two counts)

Traffic

50 Traffic Stops

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Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Crossword Solution

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

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Photos by Debbie Noble



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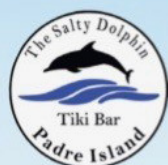
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2024 EVENTS
April 25th
May 30th

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The caravan and sign up starts at the Black Sheep Bistro/Barrel at 6pm, continues to the Boathouse, moves to the Salty Dolphin 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

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Padre Isles Property Owners

Association Election

The votes in the annual election for the Board of Directors at the Padre Isles Property Owners Association are as follows as released by the organization.

Total eligible votes were 4,966.44. Quorum requirement of 10% 496.44. A total of 687.33 votes were cast. Candidate votes are as follows:

Thomas Gottemoller = 236.83

George Redd = 217

Chul Kim McGuire = 145

Drew Diggins = 275.33

Michael Gdula = 109

Ray Singleton = 311.33

Charles Cantu, Jr. = 64

Kevin Tansey = 121

Drew Diggins and Ray Singleton were re-elected. Thomas Gottemoller was elected as a new Board Member, replacing David Rossi.

Editor's note: On the ballot item regarding language regulating Short-Term Rentals in Island residential neighborhoods PIPOA Executive Director Gary Klepperich issued the following statement:

"Those numbers are quite a bit more complicated; however, the number of amendment votes failed to reach the 51% required in each of the subdivision(s)."



The scissor-tailed flycatcher, also known as the Texas bird-of-paradise and swallow-tailed flycatcher. By Riekke Roncinske

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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com
Spring time on the island...



Our garden is offically planted.

We are currently immersed in the throes of springtime. Me and **My Mermaid Gal** have been busy getting our garden planted. We waited too long to plant last year and it was a dismal failure compared to the year before when we had tomatoes coming out of our ears. But everything is looking strong and healthy right now. My pal **Chris Jordan** is also a keen gardener and has the “Baskin Robbins of herbs” with 31 varieties popping up in his many pots with such exotic items as *Korean shiso, fennel, marjoram, chervil, lovage, turmeric* and *tarragon*, etc. He uses all those spices in the many delicious dishes he concocts for his catering and private chef business. We have a little plant swap going with Chris and it’s a lot of good clean fun. I’ll toss in a few pics of our garden through the season and keep you updated on our progress. I truly love this time of year.

On the local front...



Birthday boy Ty Dietz will be available for his spanking this Sunday at Shorty’s.

This Sunday is Easter and I want to wish our good buddy **Ty Dietz** a very happy birthday. He plays at *Shorty’s* every Sunday as he has for the last bunch of years sharing the bill with **Coach Dude Dugan**. I’m not sure how old Ty will be but I think a good spanking is in order. He plays at 8:00 so I think we can start lining up around 7:00 for his “birthday spankathon”. I digress. As April rapidly approaches we have a couple of events to look forward to. *Shorty’s* will be celebrating their 78th Anniversary on the 13th with the uncontested *King of Tex-M ex*, the great **Joe King Carrasco**. Joe is an amazing character and I’ve known him for many years. His brother **Tucker Tuetsch** (RIP) was an old friend of mine and his nephew **Tucker 3.0** used to be my roommate in San Antonio. I used to love to go up to their ranch, the *Lazy T*, in Talent, Oregon and shoot pistols at pumpkins. Through the years Joe King has become the “go to guy” for all the big celebrations at *Shorty’s* (Pig Party, Anniversary, New Year’s Eve, etc). When he’s not touring he spends his time between Austin, Puerto Vallarta and France... plus he has his *Rancho No Tengo* around Llano, Texas. He’s always a great show and we consider him family. Also on the line-up with Joe King will be **Heavy Soul** and **Peter Salas**.



The great Joe King Carrasco will play Shorty’s 78th Anniversary on April 13th.

SandFest 2024...

Our beloved *SandFest 2024* will be here in a few weeks (April 19-21). This event is a big deal around here. It began in 1997 as a small, local deal with mainly kids building sandcastles while their parents would watch. Initially, it was a fundraiser for the *Port Aransas Community Theater*. It has evolved into the biggest sand sculpturing event in the country and donates many thousands of dollars each year to local non-profits and scholarship funds. Sand sculptors from around the world will descend upon us to create masterpieces on a rapidly deteriorating medium (sand). It’s truly an astonishing process to observe. The sculptors will start arriving a week before the event starts to create the centerpiece, *Monument Mountain*, where all the sponsors are celebrated. Then come the numerous vendors and volunteers. I’ve gotten to be friends with a couple of the returning artists, **Abe Waterman** and **Amazing Walter**, who are usually at the top of the heap when the winners are announced. I used to book and manage the music tent for about seven years back when **Janet Planet**, **Elise Calvert** and **Arnie Govella** were running the show. They have a nice line-up of bands this year with such stellar acts as **Bri Bagwell**, **Sarah Hobbs**, **SA Lights**, **The Squeezebox Bandits**, **Micky and the Motocars**, **The Selfless Lovers** and the **Spazmatics**.



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

Scattered shots...

It was business as usual last week. *Bron’s* had a couple of really good shows last weekend with **Cruise Control** and the **Palacios Brothers**. I heard *Cruise Control* play a song I hadn’t heard them do before. It was a **Led Zeppelin** tune that their lead singer, **Lisa Lehman** just flat nailed. Their horn players took a break and let their guitarists take center stage. It gave me goose bumps. It was also good to see the brothers **Palacios**. They were still talking about that big bachelorette party that came in last year when they were playing *Bron’s* and had such a good time with. They knew exactly how to work that party. They’ll be back May 11th... hint, hint to any of you brides to be. I also caught **Funk Rock Stereo** at *Treasure Island* and **Aloha Dave and the Tourists** at *Shorty’s*. It was a little on the dead side last weekend. And BTW... I failed miserably with my new belt sander racer, **Moon Monkey Too**. The competition was beyond stiff and I lost by a hair. They had 28 racers last Saturday at the *Gaff*.

DO NOT MISS LIST
Coming this weekend...



Lisa Lehman with Cruise Control knocked it out of the park at Bron’s with a Led Zeppelin song.

And the hits keep right on coming... on Friday the 29th we have the great **Oscar Gonzales** and **Bushbullit** playing his **ZZ Top** tribute and blues rock at *Shorty’s* and the red hot psychedelic jam band **Triptonite** playing *Bron’s*. Plus the **Jam Band** will be over at *Treasure Island* on Friday. On Saturday the 30th, **John Elijah and the CBDB** ‘s will play *Shorty’s*, the 80’s dance band **Dreaming in Color** with the great vocals of **Debra Scott Brown**, will play *Bron’s* and the **Back Pew Revival** will play *Treasure Island*. On Sunday be sure to catch **AhhFugYeahs** at the *Packery Bar* on Padre Island. They play island stuff in the reggae, ska vein. And coming next Thursday to the *House of Rock* will be a great show with **Tyrone Vaughan** (son of **Jimmy Vaughan**), **Richie Segura** and **Heavy Soul**. I may have to make that show. That ought to hold you for a while. Be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that’s the truth ♪♪♪

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Triptonite will play Bron’s on Friday.



Bushbullit with Oscar Gonzales, Vic Godines on drums and Jody Jenkins on bass will play Shorty’s on Friday.

LIVE MUSIC
TONIGHT

Friday, March 29

Bushbullit @ Shorty’s
Triptonite @ Bron’s Backyard
Jam Band @ Treasure Island
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Clark Bros @ Virginia’s on the Bay
Raul Ayala @ Packery Bar
Trisum @ Brewster Southside
Seattle Rising @ Brewster Downtown
Groove @ Doc’s
Jam Council @ Rockit’s
Flatbroke @ Vernon’s
Matty Lee @ Exchange
Young Klassics @ The Annex
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard’s
Michael Burtt’s @ Tannin’s
Aaron Jacobs @ London Bar & Grill
Michael Anthony Perez @ KBob’s
John Cortez @ Cinnamon Shore North

TRIPTONITE
DREAMING IN COLOR
RICH LOCKHART
CRUISE CONTROL
LUCKY DOG

MAR 29
MAR 30
APR 5
APR 6
APR 12

@ Shorty’s
AhhFugYeahs @ Packery Bar
Clark Bros @ Virginia’s on the Bay
Catfish Blues Jam @ Rialto Theater
Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard’s
Eli Brown @ BUS

Monday, April 1

Lance Covington @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday, April 2

Open Mic w/Rev Matt @ House of Rock

Wednesday, April 3

Brad Ethridge OPEN MIC @ Gaff
Cleartone’s @ VFW
Ty Dietz @ Vernon’s
Dave’s Duo @ Katz
US @ Pelican Lounge
Billy Snipes @ Doc’s

Thursday, April 4

Selfie @ Shorty’s
Clark Bros @ Virginia’s on the Bay
Jam Night @ Exchange
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard’s
Michael Anthony Perez @ Brewster Southside
Tyrone Vaughan, Heavy Soul, Rich Segura Q @ House of Rock
Raul Ayala @ Pooks Pub

Friday, April 5

Funk Rock Stereo @ Shorty’s
Rich Lockhart @ Bron’s Backyard
National Nobodys @ Treasure Island
Clark Bros @ Virginia’s on the Bay
Raul Ayala @ Retro
David Martinez @ Brewster Southside
Spazmatics @ Brewster Downtown
Cruise Control @ Executive Surf Club
Jonmikael Mrez Band @ Pelican Lounge

Saturday, April 6

John Cortez @ Shorty’s
Tumble Dry Low @ Treasure Island
Cruise Control @ Bron’s Backyard
Clark Bros @ Virginia’s on the Bay
Raul Ayala @ Annex

Treasure Island
JAM BAND
BACK PEW REVIVAL
NATIONAL NOBODYZ
TUMBLE DRY LOW
BUDDY CORTINEZ
MAR 29
MAR 30
APR 5
APR 6
APR 12

SHORTY'S
SELFIE EVERY THURSDAY
BUSHBULLIT
CBDB'S
FUNK ROCK STEREO
JOHN CORTEZ
BOUDREAUX & POUSSON
MAR 29
MAR 30
APR 5
APR 6
APR 12
78th Anniversary
Saturday, April 13
Joe King Carrasco (4-7:30)
Heavy Soul (8-12)
Peter Salas (12:30- 3:30)

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Saturday, March 30

CBDB’s @ Shorty’s
Dreaming in Color @ Bron’s Backyard
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Back Pew Revival @ Treasure Island
Clark Bros @ Virginia’s on the Bay
The Happys, Indre’ @ House of Rock
Diamond’s Edge @ Rockits
Chainlinks @ Pelican Lounge
Cathouse @ Exchange
Joey St. Vincent @ Eighteen 18 Bar
3rd Coast Duo @ Rockits
Felix & Fingers
Dueling Pianos @ Brewster Downtown
Michael Burtt’s @ Brewster Southside
FBI Blues Band @ Harley Davidson
Alley Catz @ Cassidy’s Pub
John Cortez @ Beach Bums
Billy Snipes @ Pier 99
Ruben V @ Palm Republic

Sunday, March 31

Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz

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