

Issue 1023



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Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

November 24, 2023

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Happy Thanksgiving

Photo by Miles Merwin

By Dale Rankin
Islanders looking south on Saturday morning may have noticed a couple of flashes of light as the world’s most powerful rocket climbed through the Texas sky after its launch from the SpaceX launch site at Boca Chica on South Padre Island. The launch was deemed a success because it ignited all 33 of its engines and the rocket separated from the spacecraft reaching an altitude of 93 miles before SpaceX lost the signal and then the rocket exploded while coming to land in the Gulf of Mexico. The launches are visible from local beaches but you have to know where to look and squint really hard. SpaceX has a style different than NASA in which is described as — test, fail, fix, test again. Seems like that would make it somewhat difficult to recruit astronauts.

Spacex launch at Boca Chica
Images Courtesy of Eric Ozolins

Big rigs on PINS

Eighteen wheelers continued their work on Padre Island National Seashore this week as the National Park Service is removing the remnants of orphaned oil and gas infrastructure from the South Spirit oil and gas site and restor-

Around cont. on A6

Ribbon Cutting for Don Patricio Water Exchange Bridge tentatively set for December 8

Canal not expected to be open

By Dale Rankin
The City of Corpus Christi has tentatively set a ribbon cutting for the \$15 million Don Patricio Water Exchange Bridge for 11 a.m. Friday, December 8. Crews this week are putting the final touches on guardrails on the east side of the structure leaving only paving of the roadway as the last major task. The contract with the construction company Haas-Anderson Construction,

calls for the bridge to be complete by the end of 2023. The canal under the bridge is not expected to be open by the December 8 date as there is currently no agreement to connect it to the Whitecap NPI site and to the adjacent canals owned by the Padre Isles Property Owners Association (PIPOA). Tim Lange the managing partner of Lake Padre Development which is building the

Bridge cont. on A6

Blocked canal looking down to the Whitecap Bridge

The Dredge has Arrived

The dredge arrived in Packery Channel this week to begin the work of dredging the channel to fourteen feet from the mouth of the jetties to the State Highway 361 Bridge. The sand will be used to widen the beach from south of Whitecap Boulevard to the Wyndham Hotel. One thousand-foot sections of the beach will be temporarily closed to allow for a line that will carry the sand. The \$3.5 million project is the third major re-dredging of the Packery Channel since its opening in 2005 and will be complete by March. Aerial by Augs Services.

How a Rogue Sea Captain influenced the Thanksgiving Holiday

Captain William Kidd

By Dale Rankin
We all grew up hearing the story of Thanksgiving. You know the one, the Pilgrims suffered through a tough winter with the help of their Native American friends and then threw a big party to celebrate and bang, we got Thanksgiving. Well, that makes for a warm and fuzzy story but that may not be exactly how it went down. Author Richard Zacks in his book

“The Pirate Hunter – The True Story of Captain Kidd” tells a slightly different version.

England 1695

The story begins in England in 1695 when some of the most powerful men in the Empire put financial backing behind the voyage of ship captain William Kidd whose mission was to put to sea and raid the ships of England’s

Capt Kidd cont. on A4

A little Island history

A Karankawa Thanksgiving on the South Texas Plains in 1534

By Dale Rankin
Part II
It wasn’t an official Thanksgiving as there was no such thing yet. It was two years before changes in church policy in Europe gave rise to the holiday we now call Thanksgiving and it would be another 86 years before the Mayflower reached the New World. But the four shipwrecked Spanish wanderers who gathered on the South Texas plains in November, 1534 while making their way among the scattered indigenous Indian tribes finally

Cabeza de Vaca among the Indians

had something to be thankful for. After years of captivity among the Indians the four were now free men, with the promise of returning to Mexico and eventually their homes in Spain; their fortunes were finally beginning to change.

A Moorish prediction

Before 1536 there were 95 Church holidays, plus 52 Sundays, when people were required to attend church and forego work and sometimes pay for expensive celebrations. In 1536 reforms

History cont. on page A5

La Posada Foundation partnering with CASA of the Coastal Bend

Event’s charities put focus on area kids

The La Posada Foundation is proud to announce that we are partnering with CASA of Coastal Bend. Through their “Butterfly Effect” program, this level of partnership for CASA Community Partnership is a level of sponsorship named after the butterfly itself, a symbol of transformation, beauty, and grace. Our anticipated donation of \$25,000 will help foster children transform their lives and achieve their dreams. We donated \$4,000 on November 14th, which was their South Texas matching funds day for the Coastal Bend Day of Giving 2023. CASA’s (Court Appointed Special Advocates) mission is to advocate for the best interest of children in Nueces and Aransas County foster care.

La Posada Foundation has partnered with Toys for Tots and the United States Marines annually to help bring Christmas to the children in the Coastal Bend and will continue to support this fund-raising initiative. Last year La Posada donated \$40,000 and approximately 7,600 toys. Another program that La Posada Foundation participates in is the Police Officers Christmas Angels. La Posada donated 5,000 last year. The money goes to feeding 150 families in the Corpus Christi area. We are hoping to double that amount this year. This program celebrated its 46th year which consists of Police Officers and volunteers. The La Posada Mission Statement states that the Foundation exists

La Posada cont. on A6

Island Moon Rain Report

Year-to-date (Jan. 1 – Nov. 19)

Padre Island	2023	2022
Cayo Cantiles	23.14”	24.76”
Dyna St.	24.62”	25.55”
Elbow St.	25.75”	25.96”
Scallop St.	27.50”	25.47”

Source: Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow Network



2023 La Posada Schedule

Kickoff Party Friday December 1

La Posada Toys for Tots Kickoff Party

Friday, December 1, 6 p.m.

HardKnocks Sports Bar & Grill

There is no charge for entry to the party, guests are encouraged to bring a toy for Toys for Tots.

La Posada Lighted Boat Parade

Friday, December 8, 7 p.m. Broadcast by KRIS 6 Television from Snoopy's Oyster Bar

Begins at JFK Bridge continues through North Island canals

Lighted Boat Parade Watch Party

Friday, December 8, 7 p.m. HardKnocks Sports Bar & Grill

La Posada Lighted Boat Parade

Saturday, December 9

Begins 6 p.m. at Caravel Boat Ramp continues through South Island canals



These are the La Posada Kick-off party volunteers.



A Blue Winged Teal flies over the pier at the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center in Port Aransas. By Darla Dollman



Thanks to everyone who supported Seashore Charter Schools at Bingo for Bags, and a special thanks to Denise Hawkins for planning this fabulous event!



Whoopers are back By Larry Thompson



Chico Martinez with a huge carve at North Packery
Photo by Augs

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Letters to the Editor

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Packery Flats Winter Cleanup

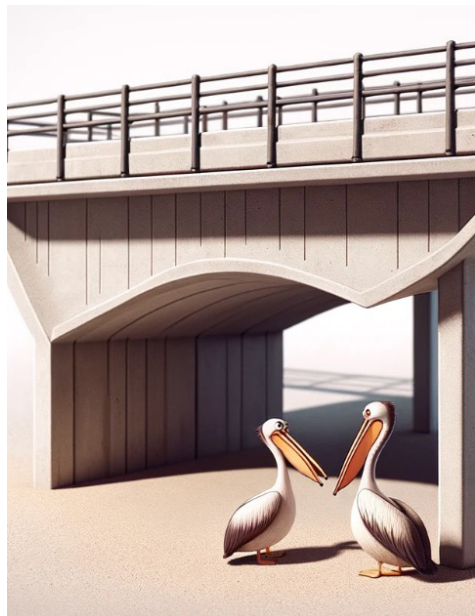
Saturday Dec 16th 9-Noon

It's time for the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program Packery Flats WINTER Cleanup! Join us for this holiday themed event where we will clean tidal flats and marsh habitats along two miles of Highway 361, from the Packery Channel bridge to the Kate's Hole Access Parking Lot.

We will have FREE Kona Ice to keep you cool, and T-shirts other goodies to giveaway as a thank you! We have also heard that the Grinch may be there causing mischief and a trashy Santa might even make an appearance!

Registration will be required. On the day of the cleanup, you will drive through to pick up a bag of clean up supplies and instructions on where to go clean, and where to leave your trash. The drive through pick up location will be located at the main Packery Flats Parking Lot, about 1 mile north of Zahn Rd. on Hwy 361. Each clean up bag will contain swag for everyone registered, as well as litter bags and gloves.

Funding for this event was made possible by a grant from the CITGO Caring For Our Coast initiative. For more information visit <https://www.cbbep.org/national-estuaries-week/>



Hey Bud isn't there supposed to be a canal under that new bridge?
I dunno Leroy I heard they sold the land as a dry lot.
Image by Mary Craft

Maximizing ROI: Top Ways to Enhance the Appeal of Your Investment Property

Investment properties present a golden opportunity for profit, provided you know how to maximize their appeal. The key lies in implementing ROI-friendly improvements that not only enhance the look of your property but also increase its market value. Courtesy of Island Moon, here are some of the best strategies to help you achieve these goals.

Elevate Your Culinary Experience

The kitchen is often considered the heart of a home, and upgrading its appliances can significantly boost your property's appeal. A range hood and modern, energy-efficient appliances not only offer an aesthetic upgrade but also promise potential savings on utility bills. This combination of style and practicality makes for a compelling selling point that can attract a wide range of potential buyers or tenants.

Smart Home, Smart Choice

In an increasingly digital world, smart home features are rapidly becoming a must-have for many property seekers. From smart thermostats to intelligent security systems, these additions

can drastically increase the convenience and safety of a home. Consulting online reviews can help you identify the best smart home products to incorporate into your property, ensuring you make investments that are both appealing and valuable.

Outdoor Oasis

Outdoor spaces are often underutilized in property development. However, creating a cozy outdoor seating area can transform an ordinary backyard or patio into a desirable retreat. Whether it's a simple arrangement of comfortable chairs around a fire pit or a fully equipped outdoor kitchen, these spaces can significantly increase the overall

living space of your property and its appeal to potential occupants.

Refreshing Fixtures and Hardware

Sometimes, the smallest changes can have the most significant impact. Replacing outdated fixtures and hardware with modern alternatives can instantly refresh the look of your property without requiring a substantial investment. Consider changing door handles, light fixtures, cabinet knobs, and faucets for a quick and cost-effective makeover.

Forming an LLC

While this may seem like a more administrative move, forming an LLC through a formation company for your property management affairs can add an extra layer of protection during the renovation process. It separates your personal assets from those tied to the property, providing a safety net in case anything goes wrong. It's a prudent step that adds value to your investment by enhancing its security.

Textural Transformation

Interior design holds a transformative power in shaping the allure of any property. One of the most effective ways to wield this power is through the strategic use of textiles and area rugs. These seemingly simple additions can infuse spaces with warmth, comfort, and a distinctive character, transforming them from mere rooms into inviting havens. Each rug or textile piece contributes to the overall ambiance, subtly weaving a narrative of homeliness throughout the property. In this way, what was once an impersonal space can become a welcoming home, resonating with the warmth of lived-in comfort.

Installing an Eco-Friendly Plumbing System

Eco-friendly features are not just good for the environment; they're also great for your ROI. Installing an eco-friendly plumbing system can lead to significant water conservation, resulting in lower utility bills. This feature is particularly attractive to the increasing number of eco-conscious buyers and renters in today's market.

Use Wall Art to Give Your Property Punch

Wall art serves as a vital element in elevating the aesthetic appeal of an investment property, making spaces feel more welcoming and personalized. Strategically chosen pieces can accentuate the architectural features of a property, complement its design theme, and appeal to a broader audience of potential tenants or buyers. Furthermore, wall art can often provide a cost-effective solution to refreshing an interior without undergoing extensive renovations. Ultimately, incorporating tasteful wall art not only enhances the property's visual appeal but can also positively impact its perceived value and marketability.

Enhancing the appeal of your investment property involves a careful balance of aesthetic upgrades and practical improvements. By focusing on areas such as the kitchen, outdoor spaces, and interior design, while incorporating smart home features and eco-friendly systems, you can significantly increase your property's market value. Don't forget the importance of securing your investment with measures like forming an LLC. With these strategies in place, you'll be well on your way to maximizing your ROI and making the most of your investment property.

Shirley Martin

Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder

Editor/Publisher
Dale Rankin

Co-Publisher, Business Ops
Jan Park Rankin

Classifieds
Arlene Ritley

Design and Production
Augs

Business and Feature Writers
Mary Craft

Reverend Dr. Ken Ritchie

Dr. Tom Dorrell

Joey Farah

Emily Gaines

Jay Gardner

Todd Hunter

Dotson Lewis

Ronnie Narmour

Dr. Ed Proffitt

Andy Purvis

Celeste Silling

Photographers
Miles Merwin (Emeritus)

Debbie Noble

Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)
Riley P. Dog
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14646 Compass, Suite 4
Corpus Christi, TX 78418
361-949-7700
editor@islandmoon.com

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Capt Kidd cont. from A1

enemies for plunder and profit. Four-fifths of the cost for the venture was paid for by noble lords, including the Earl of Orford, the Baron of Romney, the Duke of Shrewsbury, Sir John Somers, and Lord Richard Bellomont a tall, gout-ridden, sixty-year old Irish aristocrat who was heir to a baronetcy in Ireland but broke. Bellomont managed to bring King William III of England into the project and Kidd was presented with a letter of marque, signed personally by the King which reserved 10% of Kidd's captured loot for the Crown, and subsequent historical evidence suggests that the King may have even fronted some of the money for the voyage himself.

At the time, Bellomont had secured an appointment as Governor of Massachusetts Bay in the New World and was looking to add the governorships of New York and New Hampshire to his resume in hopes of garnering a combined salary of 1800 pounds a year and to reverse his falling fortunes, which he eventually did.

Scheming governor

Kidd did indeed put to sea but when he found the pickings of foreign vessels too slim for his likings he was accused, subsequent historical evidence also casts doubt on his guilt, of instead raiding ships belonging to the English East India Company which did not win him any friends in Jolly Old England. Kidd was subsequently arrested in New England where by this time Bellomont was in fact Governor. Charges of piracy were brought against Kidd and he was clapped in irons and Bellomont, while scheming to get his hands on part of Kidd's loot, was also scheming to keep himself from being blamed for bringing King William into a pirating adventure which could have landed him in the Tower of London or worse. Battling fits of gout with visions of being drawn and quartered made for a chilly October in Boston town for the scheming governor.

October thanks

Boston at the time was under the staunch ecumenical spell of father and son ministers Increase and Cotton Mather whose beliefs were far enough on the conservative side that Bostonians didn't celebrate Christmas based on the belief that it was a pagan holiday. Since the 1660s ministers and governors in New England had been singling out various fall days in October for a thanksgiving, usually based on the harvest season for the local crops. The day of thanksgiving varied by region according to the ripening of the local harvest and in the northeastern portion of the continent that was always in October.

But as Governor Bellomont wrung his hands and pondered his uncertain future in Boston he had little to be thankful for until the middle of October when a letter arrived by ship from England. When he opened the letter he learned that Parliament had given orders to the Admiralty to send a ship to Boston to bring the jailed accused pirate Captain Kidd back to England to stand trial. Immediately, instead of facing trial for making the King a financier of a piratical cruise Bellomont now would be absolved of any guilt, which would now fall exclusively on the woebegotten Captain Kidd, and in fact the Right Honorable Governor Bellomont would be entitled to any of Kidd's loot that he could find.

Oh Thanksgiving!

If ever there was a man with a reason for giving thanks it was Governor Bellomont. He decided that all his loyal subjects should share in his joy and in his jubilation on October 23, 1695 declared that then and forever more the last Thursday in Novem-

ber of each year would be the day of giving thanks for the good fortune that had befallen him; no Tower of London, no drawing and quartering. Thanksgiving for all!

A gouty Lord and a burnt rope

But alas his euphoria didn't last long. The very next day the ship St. Antonio which Bellomont had dispatched to the island of Santa Catalina in what is now the Dominican Republic sailed into Boston Harbor and presented him with a burnt rope, called a "bass cable", that had once been attached to the treasure Kidd had left there. The rope ended at the water's edge and had been burned asunder by another pirate who knew of the treasure and sailed off with it. The gouty lord was left to sit in Boston and finger his burnt rope and think of the treasure that might have been.

On the positive side, Americans got the Thanksgiving Holiday followed by Black Friday. Captain William Kidd was convicted in a show trial in London then hauled through the streets in a cart from Newgate Prison to the banks of the Thames River in Wapping to be hanged. Along the way he was informed of the death of Governor Bellomont and celebrated in a pub so that by the time he reached the Execution Dock was drunk as, well, as a drunken sailor. He proclaimed his innocence as the floor under him fell away but his bad luck was not over. The rope around Kidd's neck broke leaving him dazed and sprawling to the ground as he looked up at his three companions on the gallows and saw his fate; he was lifted back up and ten minutes later told the clergyman present, one Paul Lorrain, to send his love to his wife and daughter back in New York, saying that his greatest regret "was the thought of his wife's sorrow at his shameful death."

Nonetheless the clergyman Lorrain rushed to the printer where he published the "deathbed confession" of the notorious captain which immediately sold 5000 copies in London.

Kidd's body, as was the custom with famous pirates, was left hanging until the waters of Thames washed over it three times before it was removed and carried twenty-five miles down the river to Tilbury Point where the river meets the sea where it was hoisted in chains on an oak gibbet to be "plainly seen" by all the ship traffic going in and out of London.

For the luckless Kidd there was little to be thankful for, but today more than 300 years later we still celebrate the holiday that his exit from America engendered from a gouty governor with a burnt rope instead of a treasure.



Lord Richard Bellomont



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

A sideswipe story on KIII Television this week stating that the Island's Riley P. Dog Park is in eminent danger of closing caused consternation among Island dog owners. After complaints about the story the word "eventually" was added to the headline; something along the lines of *The Sun may eventually turn into cream cheese* but the park's future is headed to a vote in early December.

Some background on the park

The idea for a dog park on Padre Island was launched in 2012 here in the Island Moon and soon after a group of Island dog owners formed a committee and the push for a park began. In 2013 a series of public hearings were held to determine where to locate the park and it quickly became apparent that it was going to be a problem. Billish Park was off the list due to its classification under city ordinances restricting its use to certain amenities which did not include a dog park. Hearings were held at meetings of the Island Strategic Action Committee to place the dog park at Aquarius Park and a vocal group of residents opposed it, one saying he feared high crime due to criminal dog owners and another saying he feared getting dog feces in his barbeque pit. One by one each of the Island's city parks were scratched off the list due to complaints, with the exception of the 19-acre Commodores Park which was and still is a weed patch.

Some background on the land

As this process was going on I had begun discussions with the City of Corpus Christi's Wastewater Department which had 6.7 acres of empty land located at the far west end of Whitecap Boulevard which has arguably the best view of any public space on Padre Island and an interesting history which comes to us via contemporary records and Islanders who were part of the process of Island development. When development on Padre Island first began five decades ago the site was used to form the original bulkheads as Island canals were put in place; it is still full of a lot of concrete. The site was selected because it had the best view on The Island and the idea was to sell it for a good price once the canals were finished, however, before it was sold the City of Corpus Christi annexed The Island and the land became the property of the City's Wastewater Department since the Whitecap Wastewater plant was there. The plant was located there because it was at the end of the main sewer line which made it the cheapest place to put it. Whether the land between the plant and the main canal, where the Riley P. Dog Park is now located, was ever considered for park space I can't say as I can't find any salient record. In 2016 the city's sewer system was in dire need of upgrades and a proposal was hatched to sell the 6.7 acres of land, mothball the Whitecap Treatment Plant and reverse the flow of the sewer lines to send Island sewer across the Laguna Madre to one or two super sewer plants to achieve economies of scale. That sounds preposterous and it was, especially when you consider that the buyer/developer of the land would most likely have put up a high rise building that would have had a bird's eye view of most every backyard on The Island. Cooler heads prevailed and by the time each of the city parks on The Island had been eliminated as a dog park site I had begun discussions with the head of the City Wastewater Department to place the proposed park on land next to the plant which was still owned by that department and still unused. I walked the site with the department head and a plan was hatched. When the plant was built its capacity was designed large enough to handle all of the wastewater that would be produced when Padre Island was fully developed; including Cape Summer (Ski Basin) which contains as many lots and fingertips as the rest of The Island put together. The question of the plant's capacity came up when the Schlitterbahn waterpark was built and city officials assured the city council that it was not a problem. Later when the golf course at the Padre Isles Country Club was going to be turned into a housing project a lift station was built next to the new Don Patricio Bridge and a new line installed from there to the Whitecap Plant to handle increased flow but the adequacy of the plant's capacity with several million dollars in newly completed improvements was never an issue. That is where things stood when I began discussion to put the dog park next to the plant.

Complications...

The process to put a park on land owned

by the wastewater department meant that the first step was to get a letter from them stating that they did not need the land to expand the plant. To air on the side of caution I walked the site with the wastewater department head and a decision was made to move the boundary of the dog park 100 feet from the plant's fence line which, according to the department head, would allow for the addition of another production line that with technology and equipment improvements since the plant was built would effectively double its capacity and be more than adequate for any future Island development. A letter outlining that agreement was drafted and signed by the wastewater department head, forwarded to the City Parks and Recreation Department and a five year lease was approved by the Corpus Christi City Council and the Riley P. Dog Park was born; named after the recently departed Island canine Riley P. Dog. The plan was to use effluent water from the plant, which had been used for years to irrigate the golf course and which was and still is drained directly into the canal on the west side of the plant, to irrigate the dog park. Six years later that has not happened. What I quickly learned is that the city's parks department does not like – well not in this case – spend money on land it does not own so there has never been any money to build the line to connect the plant to the park. But it gets worse...

If citizens petition and place park land in the city's Adopt A Park program the park gets potable water at a deeply discounted rate that we could then afford to use to irrigate the park since we had raised donations to bring drinking water for the dogs to the park. But because the park is located on land owned by the wastewater department it is not eligible for the Adopt A Park program and under city rules is considered a commercial development and charged commercial water rates in spite of being a 501c3 not for profit making it too expensive to use that water to irrigate. That is where things stood until about three months ago when park officials approached the new head of the wastewater department who agreed to extend the contract for another five years and run a line from the plant to the dog park property line where donations would be raised to connect it to an irrigation system in the dog park. That's when things stalled.

Crickets...

During this time the city Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee had been pushing the parks department to get water from the plant to the park, and in fact are still trying to do that. But about two months ago all communication from the city's side stopped; phone calls and emails from the park side were not returned and then District 4 City Councilman Dan Suckley got involved to try and move things forward and the answer that came back is that the city will not put any *more* money into the dog park because the Whitecap plant may have to be expanded. This was interesting for two reasons; the city has never put a dime into the Island dog park, and the question of capacity had been asked and answered at least twice before the lease with the dog park was signed.

So what happened?

We still don't know the answer to that question but let's start with Ockham's Razor; generated by William of Ockham in the 14th Century it suggests that the simplest theory that covers all known facts is probably true. First, we know that the city parks department doesn't want to spend money there which is fine since none is being asked for. But as of now several millions in tax money has been spent on dog parks all over town some costing in the half million dollar range each, and Empire Building 101 says the parks department would probably like to be in control of money spent on an Island dog park. Second, things went quiet from the city side just about the time that the push to pass the city's Proposition A kicked in and it was not a big hit with Island voters. I will tell you that there has been pressure on longtime advertisers in the Island Moon and you will notice that there are some ads that have run here for years that have disappeared in recent weeks. Whether there is a direct connection between that and the complications with the renewing of the dog park lease I will leave to the reader's discretion.

Then the story aired on KIII Television in which city officials were interviewed and which carried the headline listed in the first

Dog Park cont. on A6




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Cinnamon Shore Draws Alys Beach Executive Home to Texas to Lead Construction and Development



Shane Campbell

The Cinnamon Shore development in Port Aransas has hired a new Vice-President of Construction and Development. Shane Campbell has been hired from the Florida community Alys Beach. “Shane will help us fulfill the promise we made to build an authentic seaside village with a vibrant coastal lifestyle rich with resort-like amenities, walkable streets, and noteworthy, disciplined design,” says Developer Jeff Lamkin of Sea Oats Group. “Cinnamon Shore will benefit from Shane’s experience and stature in the industry, and we believe that his enthusiasm about coming onboard testifies to the quality of our community and to the direction it’s going.” A Texas native and Texas Tech University grad with more than 27 years of industry experience, Campbell will work closely with General Manager of Development Daniel Mazoch to ensure that Cinnamon Shore continues to meet the highest standards. Mazoch has led development since 2017, guiding the community through the successful launch and swift growth of an expansion

at Cinnamon Shore South. With Campbell’s addition, the team will see an increase in the capacity for development and construction and find new ways to use its strong, internal capabilities. Immediate projects include the build-out of neighborhood town centers at Cinnamon Shore North and Cinnamon Shore South, as Campbell and Mazoch plan for future development on the Gulf-front and bayside of Mustang Island, the narrow, barrier isle near Corpus Christi, Texas, where Cinnamon Shore is based. “I loved my time on the Florida Gulf Coast, but I’m a Texan at heart, and it’s great to find a community in the Lone Star State that has such a thoughtful master plan to help execute and continue to shape,” Campbell says, pointing to a long list of coming amenities. “We’re implementing plans for South Town Square, new pools, fitness centers, an event pavilion, future dining and retail, and more—all prized elements to enhance the Cinnamon Shore experience.” Campbell remains on the advisory board at Alys Beach, signifying alignment with the values and goals for such master-planned, coastal communities. “Longtime developers across the Gulf Coast have started to take notice of what we’re doing here in Texas,” says Lamkin, who envisioned Cinnamon Shore as a Texas outpost for New Urbanism. The movement prizes classic American neighborhood design, with broad streets, friendly front porches, walkable sidewalks, and accessible green spaces. Cinnamon Shore now has more than 250 residences.

Port Aransas Community Theatre and the Narada Radio Company Present “It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play”

This beloved holiday classic will come to life as a live 1940s radio broadcast for two weekends, Dec. 14 - 22, 2023
PORT ARANSAS, Texas (Nov. 18, 2023) — A beloved holiday classic will come to life on the Port Aransas Community Theatre stage with the Narada Radio Company’s production of “It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play.” In this family-friendly production, 11 talented voice actors from around the Coastal Bend portray almost 50 roles to tell the story of George Bailey, whose troubles lead him to wish he had never been born. It will take help from a lovable angel to show George what life would be like if he had not been born. George has a change of heart and understands the true spirit of the holidays. “It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play” is directed by Pete Lutz, the founder of The Narada Radio Company, the Coastal Bend’s only audio drama production troupe. This is The Narada Radio Company’s fifth live production of “It’s A Wonderful Life” and their third at the Port Aransas Community Theatre. “I’m proud to say that our production is becoming an annual tradition for the Coastal Bend,” Lutz said, “and it’s something truly different from the holiday fare at other area venues.” The cast members of “It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play” are Tré Minor, Michele Barnett, Jessica Valdez, Richard Robinson, Lisa McGrew, Chuck Wilson,

Pete Lutz, Aileen Corpos, Merilee Robinson, Dawn Robertson and Ross Bernhardt (Music Director). All cast members are long-standing members of The Narada Radio Company, and several of them have been part of this show for many years. The Narada Radio Company boasts between 80 to 90 regular members, most of whom live in the Corpus Christi area. Thanks to the miracle of modern technology, however, other members of the troupe hail from various parts of the United States as well as from Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Germany and the United Kingdom. General admission tickets are \$10 and are available at the box office before performances and online at portaransascommunitytheatre.com. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. Intermission will include trivia contests with prizes. The Port Aransas Community Theatre is located at 2327 State Highway 361 in Port Aransas. For more information, visit portaransascommunitytheatre.com. About the Port Aransas Community Theatre The Port Aransas Community Theatre is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more than 25 years, PACT has presented a variety of live performances. PACT’s 139-seat theatre is located at 2327 State Highway 361 in Port Aransas, Texas. For more information visit the PACT website, at portaransascommunitytheatre.com.

History cont. from A1



Cabeza de Vaca

reduced the number of Church holidays to 27 and the Thanksgiving holiday as we now know it began to take shape. Days of Fasting were called for after the drought of 1611, and for relief from the plagues of 1604 and 1622; in 1588 it was the defeat of the Spanish Armada and in 1705 the deliverance of Queen Anne, then the failure of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605. These were Protestant celebrations that were foreign and probably unknown to the four Catholic Spaniards who had found themselves washed upon what is now the Alabama shoreline on November 4, 1528. The men had set out from Spain in 1527 to seek their fortune in the New World. On their voyage to Florida by way of Santo Domingo a Moorish woman had predicted that few of the men who went ashore would survive and anyone who did survive would be blessed by God who would perform great miracles through them. By November of 1534 the four survivors had arrived on the Isle of Misfortune and had little to be thankful for other than their simple and unlikely survival.

They talked with a “click”

On the blustery night of November 4, 1528 a group of Karankawa Indians were huddled around the hearths of their open-sided wigwams on the Isle of Misfortune sheltering from the violent storm which was upon them. As they had always done they migrated to the Texas Coast each fall, leaving behind the long hot summers of the upland river valleys where they ate fruits and seeds and hunted the bison. They came to the barrier Islands, now called Galveston, Mustang, and Padre, where fish and cattail roots would keep them fed through the season of the Blue Norther. The Karankawas had seen passing Spanish ships on the horizon but they were now about to come face to face with the Spaniards for the first time. The Karankawas were later described by the Europeans as tall and angular people, unlike the builds of the squat, thicker Indians they would later encounter inland. Little is known of the Karankawa culture as they left little behind in the way of structures or writings. Their unusual appearance and the peculiar “click” which was part of their language and was also peculiar to the tribes of the African shore has lead modern linguists to speculate that their origins may

have been from that part of the world. Their origin is still the subject of speculation.

As the storm abated the Karankawas set about their business; the men inspected fishing traps set along the Laguna Madre, others waded out with their bows ready to shoot the large black drum and sheephead that came to shelter in the calm shallows. The women searched for fresh water and uprooted the tubers which the tribe ate for their starch, and searched the beach for driftwood for fires. It was there they first sighted something rising and falling with the sea as it came closer to them and their shore. It was a boat much larger than the canoes they knew and the children were dispatched to tell the men of the approaching boat which by now they had realized was filled with men, four of whom would celebrate the first “Thanksgiving” in the New World.

The survivors

Now, six years later, in November of 1534 only four of the original shipload of men had survived to make their way to South Texas. Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, [Andrés Dorantes de Carranza](#), [Alonso del Castillo Maldonado](#), and an black Moroccan [Berber](#) slave named Esteban (later called [Estevanico](#)) who had made the Atlantic crossing in bondage, had seen much hardship and suffering at the hands of the elements and the cannibalistic Karankawa. They were trying to get to the Spanish settlements in Mexico.

The four had survived thus far by making themselves valuable to the Karankawas along the coast by gathering wood and performing whatever task they could find to stay in the good graces of their captors. Six years of living among the Indians left them little but their survival to be thankful for but had taught them a few things about life among the Karankawas and their roles had eventually evolved to that of shamans whose charms were valuable to the primitive coastal peoples. Cabeza de Vaca’s account of his journey, Shipwrecks, would later fascinate Europe. It told stories of shamanism, miracles, and how the four survivors became the first celebrities of the New World, celebrated from the Indian campfires of the Texas plains to the court of the Spanish King. How it came to be should be regarded as cause for the first Thanksgiving story of the New World.

The season of the tunas

Castillo and Esteban, who were kept together among the Iguace band of the Tonkawa Indians, began to work as “doctors” among the Indians as early as 1533. De Vaca did the same among the Karankawas with whom he lived. The American Indians, unlike their Spanish visitors who were fresh off the Inquisition, were tolerant of other belief systems and were inclined to incorporate other religious practices into their own. The Indians found comfort in the incantations and rituals

which the Spaniards brought with them from their training in the Catholic Church. Their acceptance as shamans was helped by the long blonde beards of the Spaniards and the “sunburned” skin of Esteban which made them mysterious to the Indians.

Each year in the late summer the scattered bands of the Karankawas gathered in the area just south of the Nueces River. Their daily wanderings took them from the mainland to the island in search of food, but as the days grew shorter they migrated to the inland prairies in search of the ubiquitous prickly pear cactus which grew there. It was during this time of year when the tunas fruit of the prickly pear ripened to a bright red and became the staple of the Indian diet.

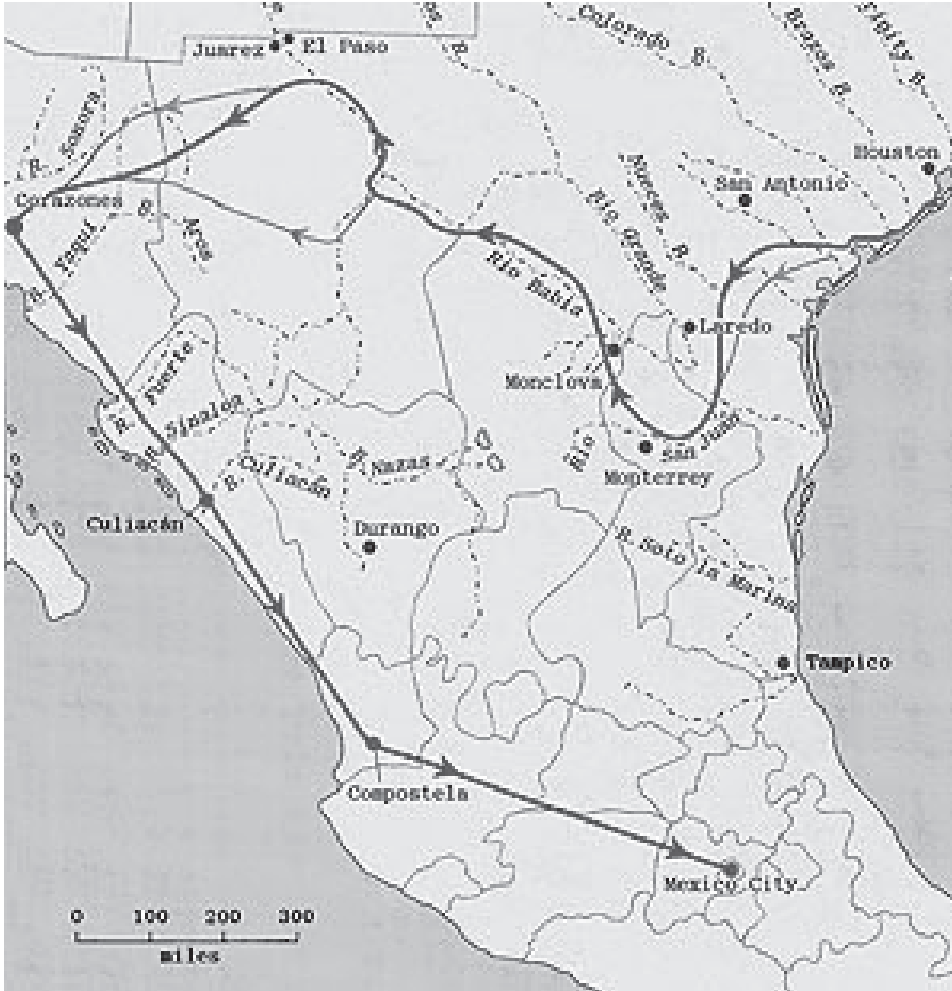
“It was the best time of year for these people,” Dorantes later told the Mexican Audiencia. “For, although they have almost nothing else to eat other than these prickly pears and a few snails they search for, they fill their bellies day and night. That makes them very happy, because for the rest of the year they waste away from hunger.”

The first Thanksgiving

It was also the only time of year when the four Spaniards who lived apart, got to see each other and in the Prickly Pear Season of 1533 they had begun to plan their escape. Now in autumn of 1534 it was now time to move. As the new September moon waxed they bided their time until its full face would shine its light on the trails they

would follow to the place of rendezvous they had agreed on. The tunas season was winding down but would provide sustenance for the four as they fled their captors. As the four men gathered they made their decision. “And so, Oviendo recorded, “believing that it were better to do their duty as Christians and as noblemen, which each of them was, than to live like godless savages, they entrusted themselves to Our Lord” and fled. “And Jesus Christ in his infinite mercy guided them, showing them the paths they should follow, while God tamed the wild hearts of the indomitable savages.” As so it was they rushed headlong into the brush country of South Texas with no idea of where they were going or how they would get there. With fear driving them forward at the end of the first day of their journey Oviedo later recorded, “It pleased the Mother of God that the very same day at sunset, they came upon some Indians of the kind they had hoped for. They were very gentle and although they had heard something of the Christians, they know nothing of how badly we had been treated. This was a very good thing from the point of view from a bunch of sinners.”

By now the end of November was approaching and the three Spaniards and the former slave were free of their captors and headed out across the South Texas flatlands. They had plenty to be thankful for in what was in fact, the first Thanksgiving in North America – if not in record at least in deed.



Route of Cabeza de Vaca

The second sign of the season is the appearance of the Christmas light display at the Mazoch house at the west end of Whitecap

La Posada cont. from AI

It is our supporters who have given us the opportunity to help our children throughout the Coastal Bend area. Our tax returns are

Bridge cont. from A1

the marina and other amenities around Lake Padre and which holds the permit requiring that the canal be connected to the PIPOA canals told the Island Moon that he will not cut the canal through from Lake Padre to the bridge until an agreement is reached to connect it through to the PIPOA canals. Drew Diggins, President of the PIPOA said this week the board is awaiting the results of a third water flow study before moving forward with connecting the PIPOA canals to the new canals at the Whitecap NPI site. Two water flow studies have been conducted by LJA Engineering and the data provided to the PIPOA board which is awaiting the results from a third study by another firm. The City of Corpus Christi owns the bridges over the PIPOA canal on Whitecap

Boulevard which went up this week. Long-time Islanders know that each year there is a steady stream of cars who make the pilgrimage to see this Island tradition.

La Posada

As the La Posada Lighted Boat Parade season arrives on the heels of Thanksgiving we want to take a minute to remind readers that since the event is a toy raiser for the Marines Toys for Tots organization there are now collection boxes all Around The Island and at each of the events which kick off on Friday, December 1, this year. We all have a tendency to bring toys for the little tots – teddy bears and rattles – but many of the kids who are in need of some holiday cheer are a bit older, say 10-14 years old, and need bigger kid toys – bicycles are always a big hit – so keep that in mind if you plan to donate. Our little sandbar comes alive this time of year so get out the seven-layer bean dip and get ready to La Posada everybody! We have a lot to give thanks for Around The Island, have a good holiday and we'll see you at the La Posada kickoff party...

public, and you can review them at www.guidestar.org

Thank you,
The Board of the La Posada Foundation:
Hilda Perez Garcia - President
Debbie Davenport -Treasurer
Rose Crookston-Secretary
Ann Aylesworth-Boat Captain
Bob Corbett-Boat Captain
Lee Neitzel -Board Member
Rob Tagliaferro-Board Member
Brad Freeland-Board Member
Marvin Jones-Board Member

Boulevard and Gypsy Street. The December 8 ribbon cutting could be postponed but no announcement had been made by press time.

Diggins said the topic will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the PIPOA board which is set for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12 at the Wyndham Corpus Christi Resort, 15202 Windward Drive.

The bridge is funded through \$4 million from the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2, original funding from \$1.5 million under a 2004 bond, \$1.29 million from a general obligation bond in 2005 and \$6.29 million from a general obligation bond in 2008.

Sports



By Andy Purvis

Call Me Crazy

We are half way through the NFL season and I decided to write a note to the Commissioner. Dear NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell, I think you could use my help. Did you see the scores in college football games last week? Hold on, I think Washington just scored again. Let's not forget that in the big scheme of things, you guys in the NFL are being paid well to put on a show. Is the NFL eating itself? I don't mind all the NFL hype, Roger, but here's the part I can help you fix. Let's make the games more exciting. No more 17-10 games. The game has become somewhat predictable and, kind of like the weather in South Texas, hot. It sometimes resembles two bull elephants slugging it out in a mud pit. It's not a game, it's a computer match. Put the ball in the air, Roger. Is C.J. Stroud the only guy who gets it? Most of the games have become kind of dull, one-sided and almost devoid of surprises. When is the last time anyone spoke about the results of a game a week after it was played, unless the referees got it wrong? Part of the problem is that coaches don't want to be embarrassed, so they don't take any chances. When the stakes become too high, everybody freezes up. So, most teams go out there and play George Allen football. I mean, two cracks at the line, a swing pass behind the line of scrimmage, a punt and wait for the other team to make a mistake. I have some ideas that I would like to share. Pick up your phone and make the call. Here's what the fans want to say. Let's try some Statue of Liberty plays, a flea-flicker or two, or double reverses with four guys in the backfield. They want to see the bomb thrown on first down. Any coach who sends in, or quarterback who calls, a run off-tackle on the first play of the game, gets an automatic fine or is barred from playing or coaching in a future Super Bowl. No field goals can be kicked from less than 45 yards away. Any team that has a fourth-and-one inside the other team's territory, even if it's the 49-yard line, must go for it. There will be absolutely no falling down on the ball by the quarterback, just because

there is only a minute or so to go in the game and he has four downs to use up the clock. The second he falls on the ball, we give the ball immediately to the other team. If a guy fumbles the ball, I don't care whether his knee was down or not. You've got to hang onto the ball; none of this whistling it dead. What you're whistling dead is the game, Roger. When you come down from a tackle, you have to have the ball with you. This is particularly true in the end zone. No ball, no touchdown! By the way, it's hard enough to get in the end zone, so let's let them dance. If a guy runs the wrong way with the football for a touchdown, give the other team a touchdown, not a safety.

No team is allowed more than five punts a game. A team that has the ball and a two-touchdown lead with eight minutes or less to go, must pass the ball, two out of three plays. No such thing as killing the clock, in any form, will be tolerated. If a team one touchdown behind, has the ball on the other team's 35-yard line when the time runs out, give them another two minutes or, if they run out of time-outs during a drive in the last two minutes, give them a couple more.

Every coach in the NFL knows that there are only fifteen to twenty minutes of actual action during a game, and lots of team strategy, including trying not to lose. It's like a golfer chipping to the fat part of the green or a boxer shuffling away from the opponent, while waiting for the bell to ring. It reminds me of a jockey taking his horse on a safer route by running in the outside lane. Call me crazy, just trying to help! Keep doing it the way you're doing it and you're going to get a 12-9 Super Bowl. If that happens, Roger, do us all one favor, anyway. Wake me up when it's over; I've got work to do.

Andy Purvis
www.purvisbooks.com

Dog Park cont. from A4

line of this story under the premise that the land might be needed for expansion of the plant and further the new city lease with the dog park is now limited to one year rather than the original five year. It should also be noted that Island volunteers have come forward who will dig the trench to connect the effluent line to the treatment plant at no cost to the city and raise the money to pay for the line; money is not nor has never been the issue because the park operators have not and are not asking for any. Limiting the lease to one year in case of expanding the plant is interesting because as anyone familiar with our city knows nothing around here happens in one year. Once again apply Ockham's Razor. My sources tell me that the water department officials

were surprised by this requirement since it did not originate with them. As of this writing a few days before Thanksgiving there is an item scheduled for a vote by the Corpus Christi City Council at its Tuesday, December 12, meeting that would approve the one-year rollover lease as well as provide effluent from the plant to the park. But if the mantra from the city is that it does not want to spend “any” money on the park and if they assume that the city would pay for the line then based on that the council could vote no even on the one-year lease and the Riley P. Dog Park would be in peril. Supporters of the dog park might want to show up at that meeting. Old William of Ockham is looking smarter every day.



This bird is believed to have arrived from a ship around Panama. The rare Cattle Tyrant still lives downtown. Photo by Elizabeth Pianta



Gourgous sunset from Oso Creek!
Michelle Renee Waters



Here's looking at you kid By Donna Watts
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Red Snapper Fishing Closed in State Waters November 20



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) closed red snapper fishing in state waters on Monday, November 20, at 11:59 p.m. until January 2024. Federal waters remain closed until the summer.

“While we are disappointed to close state waters earlier than we had hoped, the pattern of prolonged federal seasons highlights the success of Texas’ state-managed red snapper fishery,” said Robin Riechers, TPWD Coastal Fisheries Division Director. “This year, anglers had a chance to take advantage of a 93-day federal season. Also, unusually calm offshore conditions in early June and July allowed anglers to catch red snapper at a higher rate than in 2022.”

Under an agreement between TPWD and the National Marine

Fisheries Service, the department can establish the opening and closing dates of the annual red snapper fishery in federal waters while also continuing to manage red snapper fishing in state waters. As part of this agreement, Texas must close the entire fishery when the state’s allotted poundage is reached for the year.

Traditionally, TPWD has provided a year-round red snapper fishing season in state waters and a limited red snapper fishing season in federal waters, which begins in June and closes after a certain number of days. The length of the season in federal waters has been calculated to attempt to allow for a year-round season in state waters while remaining under the allotted annual catch limit. The catch limit applies to fish landed from state and federal waters combined.



Family is anyone who loves you unconditionally ... By Riekie Roncinske

Tides of the Week

24 Nov	25 Nov	26 Nov	27 Nov	28 Nov	29 Nov	30 Nov	1 Dec
Fri ↗	Sat ↗	Sun ↗	Mon ↗	Tue ↗	Wed ↗	Thu ↗	Fri ↗
2:08PM 1.87ft	3:26PM 2.1ft	4:32PM 2.23ft	5:32PM 2.26ft	6:30PM 2.23ft	7:26PM 2.17ft	8:18PM 2.03ft	9:02PM 1.94ft
10:34PM 1.38ft							
6:14AM 0.3ft	6:47AM -0.03ft	7:24AM -0.26ft	8:04AM -0.39ft	8:45AM -0.46ft	9:27AM -0.43ft	10:09AM -0.33ft	10:51AM -0.2ft
8:44PM 1.35ft							
6:56AM 5:34PM	6:57AM 5:34PM	6:58AM 5:33PM	6:58AM 5:33PM	6:59AM 5:33PM	7:00AM 5:33PM	7:01AM 5:33PM	7:02AM 5:33PM
4:03AM 3:42PM	5:07AM 4:19PM	6:12AM 5:00PM	7:18AM 5:47PM	8:21AM 6:39PM	9:20AM 7:35PM	10:13AM 8:33PM	10:59AM 9:31PM

Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah’s Fishing Adventures



I’ve been waiting for this weekend for a long time! My Granddaughter Haisley’s first hunting trip!! Such a blessing to be in the brush with both of my kids, grandbaby and my girl. Can’t imagine next season with this one running around and [Joey Farah](#) and my expected Sloane baby! Lots of great times ahead. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!



Rick Crosby with another nice trout this morning! He wouldn’t take MAGIC GRASS Down South Lures off his rod! His wife smoked us both on numbers with beautiful light winds clear water and a hungry trout bite!



Mr Mike used the same Down South Lures SUPER MODEL ALL DAY LONG! Reds and trout were brought to hand on STRAWBERRY WINE& WHITE!



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Open dates: Dec 4 & 5, 20, 21, 22 Jan dates open as well.

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Nature Notes

Mystery Sounds Affecting Cities

Author: Ashley Van Wieren



Plainfin Midshipman fish

For those of us who live in cities or busy towns, noise pollution is a constant presence in our lives. Noise pollution is defined as unwanted or disturbing sound. This is created by traffic from vehicles, aircraft, heavy machinery such as construction crews, concerts, and even home appliances. We often don't even notice the presence of noise pollution until we find ourselves in a perfectly quiet place and feel the loss of the noise.

The effects of noise pollution on humans can include increased stress, high blood pressure, sleep disturbances, sleep disturbance and even hearing loss. These harmful effects extend beyond humans, as noise pollution also negatively impacts wildlife. Noise pollution affects the physiology, behavior, and distribution of animals from as young as the embryonic stages of development. Bats use echolocation for navigation and foraging, but exposure to traffic sounds can mask the sounds that they use to echolocate. Noise can also mask the quiet sounds of animal movement. This can hinder the ability of predators to locate their prey.

Noise pollution can interfere with communication between wildlife as well. Communication is essential to wildlife survival, whether it be for a call to attract mates or a warning to offspring of a nearby predator. Some North American songbirds adapt to noise pollution by changing the frequency and amplitude of their calls as well as adjusting the time they sing, avoiding peak traffic times.

Aquatic environments are also susceptible to anthropogenic sounds, which means sounds created by humans. Shipping, recreation, oil drilling, and dredging cause underwater noise pollution. This can disrupt

coral reef ecosystems, marine mammals, and aquatic invertebrates.

Of course, mother nature isn't perfectly quiet either! Human lives can be affected by the sounds of wildlife as well. For example, residents of coastal cities such as Sausalito, California to Seattle, Washington have been perplexed by a humming sound similar to that of an electric shaver. Surprisingly, not a bird, not a plane, but a fish was discovered to be the culprit behind the mysterious coastal hum!

Porichthys notatus, commonly called the the Plainfin Midshipman fish, creates a humming sound by contracting muscles around its swim bladder, an organ used for controlling buoyancy in fish. Their name comes from the button-like appearance of spots dotting their bodies that produce light. These are organs called photophores. Males travel to nearshore waters in the summer and produce their infamous loud, droning hum to attract mates. But the while the male crooning might be attractive to female Midshipman fish, it is fairly unsettling to the above-shore residents of the area.

As nobody likes their sleep being affected by noise pollution, we can be mindful of ways we can reduce our own sound levels. Ways we can limit noise pollution include planting trees to create sound barriers, riding a bike or walking when feasible, and unplugging appliances that are not in use – which also saves electricity! We can also opt in for quieter recreational activities like taking a canoe trip as opposed to a noisy boat trip. As a city we can build homes with better insulation and noise reducing roads. Together communities can work together for a better night's sleep for all.



American White Pelicans By Catheand Ray Skrobarcek



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Going Native

The Bloom of AI

By Ed Proffitt

We all know a little about AI (artificial intelligence) from movies, and more recently from the news. Like many educators I've been concerned recently if term papers written by my students are really "theirs" or are generated by one of the emerging AI Chat Bots. And, I've been wondering if use of AI in writing term papers really is plagiarism, or if it's simply some highly advanced form of editing software like Word's spell and grammar checker. Most recent higher education literature seems to come down on the side that it's really some form of cheating, since the student isn't really using their intellect to produce a paper. Of course, they ARE using their intellect to use AI to help with work which some might consider an extension of their own mind and effort. Not me, I want to see their individual writing skills and help them improve. The trick is how to determine if a piece is written by the student or by an AI! I've heard a graduate student in the UK may have worked out a program to tell the difference, but haven't tracked that one down yet.

Anyway, that's all an aside to this week's column. The Guardian has published a piece (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/18/ai-game-changer-eastern-bristlebird-queensland-artificial-intelligence>) that shows the use of AI in conservation of species so endangered as to thought to be extinct. Australian scientists, having nothing better to do, have trained a computer AI to listen for calls of the eastern bristlebird, thought to be extinct nearly so in south Queensland. The bird is small and secretive and so biologists crashing through the bush usually have small chance of hearing or seeing one. But, microphones can be deployed to record sounds when no person is around and the AI can sort through all those sounds to see if the bird is singing. The AI, you see, doesn't mind wading through many hours of a cacophony of sounds, whereas people would nod out or go for a beer well before they'd likely hear the birds chirping! Anyway, long story short (somewhat, that is) they've confirmed the bird's presence and thus further conservation programs can be developed.

That, of course, leads us to a consideration of native plants! I wondered if an AI chat bot could provide some information on plants native to coastal Texas, and their pros and cons. So, I put such a question to chatGPT AI bot as well as asking for a listing of such native plants. Feel free to do the same, it's pretty personable --- more so than some humans I know. Here's the response I received.

ChatGPT "There are several benefits to using native plants in landscaping, including:

Low maintenance: Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, so they require less watering, fertilizing, and pruning than non-native plants. Wildlife habitat: Native plants provide food and shelter for local wildlife, including birds, butterflies, and bees.

Ecosystem services: Native plants play important roles in local ecosystems, such as reducing erosion, improving air and water quality, and supporting pollinators. However, there are also some potential downsides to using native plants in landscaping, including:

Limited variety: The selection of native plants may be more limited than non-native plants, which can make it more difficult to create a diverse and interesting landscape. Invasive species: Some native plants can be invasive and can outcompete other plants in the ecosystem. It's important to research and select native plants that are not invasive in your area.

Regional availability: Some native plants may not be readily available in certain regions, making it difficult to find or purchase them.

Overall, using native plants in landscaping can be a great way to create a low-maintenance, environmentally friendly landscape that supports local wildlife. However, it's important to research and select the right native plants for your area to avoid potential downsides.

Hmmm...sounds a bit like some of the points I've made, although perhaps

better written. Then, I asked it to list native plants in coastal Texas that'd be so useful in landscaping.

ChatGPT "There are many native plants that are well-suited to the coastal regions of Texas. Here are a few examples: Sea oats (*Uniola paniculata*): A grass that is commonly found on sandy beaches and dunes. It is important for stabilizing dunes and providing nesting habitats for beach-nesting birds.

Saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*): A grass that is tolerant of salt and can be found in salt marshes, mudflats, and coastal prairies.

Black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*): A tree that is commonly found along the Gulf Coast and in coastal saltwater marshes. It is an important habitat for fish and crustaceans.

Wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*): An evergreen shrub or small tree that is commonly found in coastal woodlands, pine rocklands, and along wetlands. It provides food and cover for wildlife.

Coastal prairie wildflowers such as Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*), and Yellow Coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*)

Sea dune sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) a wildflower that is commonly found on sandy beaches and dunes.

Texas sage (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) is a small shrub that is tolerant of heat and drought and is commonly found in Texas and Mexico.

These are just a few examples of native plants that are well-suited to the coastal regions of Texas. There are many other native plants that can be used in landscaping and gardening in coastal Texas, it's important to research and select the right plants for your specific area and soil condition."

Well, kudos to the AI for finding a small subset of the plant species, but it'd not receive an "A" in a course where I asked students to do the same! Some of the plant species it listed, I have covered, but (or course!) I've done many more. Kudos for it mentioning the black mangrove *Avicennia germinans* especially since some state agency in Texas considers it an invasive...ugh...back to school! But, it used an old genus name for wax myrtle so I can do a good "gotcha" there! Plus, it did indeed leave out MANY, very many species that could be included.

All in all, being a nice guy, I'd probably give the AI a C- for this kind of report. And only then if it included literature references, although in fairness I didn't really ask it for that here. In past tries when I have asked it for scientific literature references on other topics, it sometimes gives good results and some times it just seems to "make stuff up." I think it may actually combine literature from different sources into a single reference, but with journal and volume and pages taken from other references. But that's just a guess, since I figure the AI has to be getting its information somewhere...although some of the references are completely bogus. Anyway, AI has a ways to go yet, but it's getting there in terms of Going Native.



Island Moon columnist Dr. Ed Proffitt and Dr. Donna Devlin at Cannon Beach, Oregon



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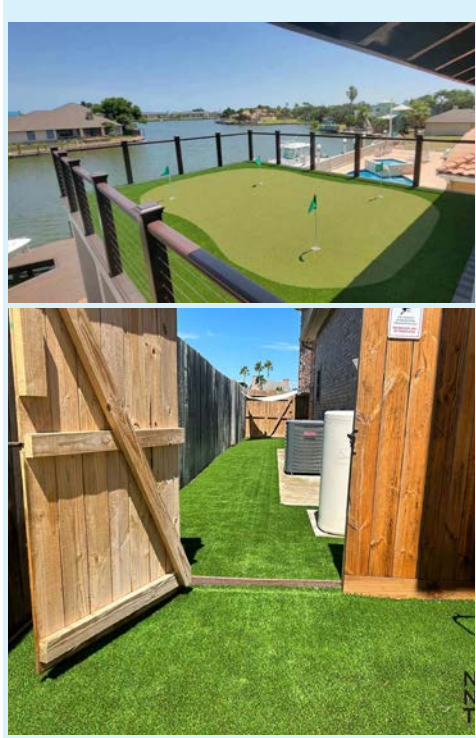
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Business Briefs

By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

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Starbucks will be opening a location on Waldron in the Bluff.

My Coastal Home End of Season Clearance sale will be December 1 - 3 at the Padre Island store only. There will be up to 75% off furniture, decor and more.

Cabana Pantry is offering a Gingerbread House Decorating kids class on Sunday, December 4th at noon for \$20. Go to their web site or stop by at their shop next to Isles Mail & More to reserve a seat at the table.



Packery channel dredging is beginning this week to make the depth 14'. The sand from it will be deposited along the seawall starting at the parking lot and going south to Whitecap. Once this part of the beach is widened to 150' the bollards will be removed. I wonder how the truck at the bottom of the channel will affect the dredging process.



Holiday Lights Nightly Shows will begin December 2nd 6 - 10 pm at the tree in Santa in the Park located in Roberts Point Park in Port A.

A Christmas Carol - The Musical will be performed at the Harbor Playhouse November 24 - December 23.

Flour Bluff Hornets football team (9-2) wins and advances to face (8-4) Liberty Hill in the Class 5A D2 Region IV semi-finals on Friday 7 pm at Heroes Stadium in San Antonio. The Panthers defeated the Hornets last year in the same round.

Southwest Airlines will start seasonal flights to Dallas Love Field June 8th - August 3rd.

CC Symphony 2023-2024 Concert series Home for the Holidays will be on Saturday, December 9th 7:30 pm at TAMU-CC Performing Arts Center.

The Holiday Home Tour and Raffle will be held Sunday, December 17th 1-4pm. Tickets are \$25 which includes admission to the holiday decorated homes of Kim Erwin, May Nardone, Kathleen Cullinan, Karen Rossi and Margie Corbett along with a chance to win a \$250 visa gift card. Each home will contain a box for the collection of personal care items for Timons Ministries. Also needed are long underwear, toiletries, socks, backpacks and men's jeans. These

may be dropped off at any of the five homes during the Holiday Home Tour or by contacting Linda Schaeffer. Items can also be taken directly to Timons. Contact Linda to purchase tickets at 720-530-3949.



"All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914," a collaboration of the Port Aransas Community Theatre and the Aransas Repertory Theatre, will be performed at the Port Aransas Community Theatre, Nov. 30 - Dec. 10, 1923.

The first Ritz Speaker Series will feature Heisman Trophy Winner, "Johnny Football" Johnny Manziel on Thursday, November 30th 7 pm. It will be held at BUS - Bar under the Sun at 702 N. Chaparral. The Ritz Speaker Series directly supports the rehabilitation of the historic 1929 Ritz Theatre.

The Enchanted Forest Christmas Tree Silent Auction for Timon's Ministries will be held at Doc's Waterline on Thursday, November 30th 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 at the door or \$25 in advance. Drink vouchers and finger food will be provided.



The Padre Island Art Gallery Black Friday event will be on November 24th. Lots of great items for gifts including mugs, jewelry and all forms of art. There are more than 25 artists participating with discounts

of 10 - 25% off. I recently purchased a glass fused piece of art called "Jamaican Lady" by Lahaina Glass Studios.



La Posada Kick-off Party is on Friday, December 1st. Silent Auction starts at 6 pm. & Live Auction to follow. Live Music by The Groove. Entry is free and the buffet is \$18. Don't forget to bring an unwrapped toy for "Toys for Tots" especially for the older kids.



Watch out for our kiddos this week they are off all week.

Hope you all make more wonderful Thanksgiving memories with family and friends!



Brothers Braxton and Beckham share outstanding leadership values as SLC Classroom Leaders.



Congratulations, 4th graders Sloane and Ashelynn! We are grateful for your constant positive leadership and caring for others!



Congratulations, Lyla and Lily! Thank you for your leadership.



Congratulations Kennedy for showing leadership and excellent character!



Jonathan is off to a great start by leading the way in Kinder!



Marina leads with empathy and compassion. Thank you for character that counts!



Thank you for your leadership, Scarlett! You model the way.



Thank you Nicholas for leading the way!



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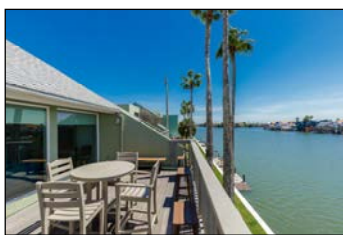
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13809 Laffite \$369,900 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage. Granite countertops, appliances nicely updated. Rock front, some turf in back. **Charlie 361-443-2499**



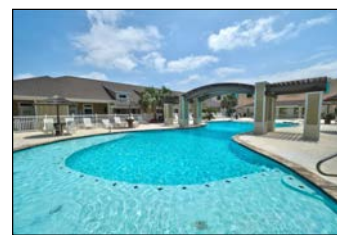
15406 Cuttysark St. Canal lot—100+ feet of bulkhead—9258 sq. ft. Quick access to the main channel & water exchange bridge. **\$299,900 Dorothy Ernst 361-563-8486**



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14911 Village Beach Dr. 2/2 gorgeous poolside townhome just a quick walk to the beach! 1041 sq. ft. & fully furnished. **\$450,000. Call Kim Mogford at 361-434-8522.**



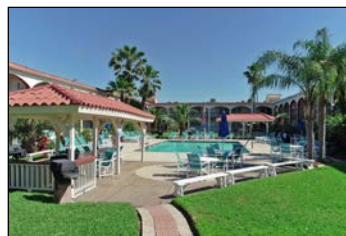
14010 Eaglesnest Bay 3/2.5/2 + bonus/flex room at 2,142 sq.ft. Open plan, new roof & HVAC in 2017. All new hurricane windows, 3M water treatment system. Large backyard w/room for a pool. **Randy Corpuz 361-765-9914.**



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.**



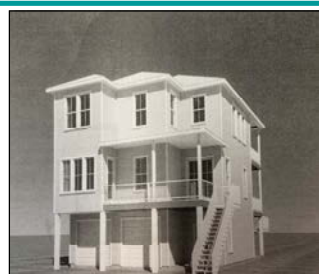
13965 Lanyard 4/3/2 2,502 sq.ft., stainless appliances, quartz & tile throughout plus lots of extras. **\$585,000. Call Randy Corpuz 361-765-9914 or Charlie Knoll 361-443-2499.**



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From the Island Moon archives

Island Thanksgiving over the Years



This was taken in 1970. They built model homes on Emerald Street so they could make a sales pitch film to show potential buyers many from other countries. There was originally going to be a bridge at Aquarius.



The Island in 1976



Coastways flooded parking lot 2010



Port A pumpkin patch photos from 2013 by Jamie Barr

The annual Sand Pumpkin Patch in Port A was educational and fun for all. A total of 67 kids and 81 adults participated.

The Parks and Recreation Department activity is held for children and adults to have fun together making a different kind of Halloween pumpkin carving. Expert sand sculptors, Mark Landrum, Mark Lamden and Elaine Morris sculpted a beautiful sculpture, and with volunteers, created vines of “pumpkins”. Attendees could carve a pumpkin from scratch or just carve a face on a pumpkin.

Elaine and her husband James spearhead the event with Community Program Coordinator Pam Greene and the help of the City of Port Aransas Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments.

Donations, canned and dry goods were accepted for the Helping Hands Food Bank. \$200 and a shopping cart full of groceries were collected and given to the pantry.


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Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

Thanksgiving. Henry J.M. Nouwen once suggested that the purest, simplest holiday may be Thanksgiving. Christmas is distorted by our culture that promotes consumer madness and ritual idealism. Next week we will not receive sales pitches on gratitude but about the best deals available on Black Friday. Afterall, we are told, excessive consumption can make it a season to remember. No wonder we cynically begin to think the holidays are too shallow.

It has been suggested that you can divide the world into two groups, those who say thank you and those who do not. That might be simplistic. Yet, in our narcissistic culture, it’s closer to truth than not.

Gratitude knows the value of what we have received, rather than being focused on what we still lack. Giving thanks springs from perception and articulation. It is the ability to recognize blessing and giving expression, no matter how inadequate it may seem at the time.

Every time sight and word are combined, giving thanks reveals a second blessing. Gratitude draws us out of ourselves into something larger, bigger, grander than we could ever imagine. Gratitude is part and parcel to healing and wholeness, hope and peace. Gratitude moves our focus from self to other, so that love and compassion can take root.

The world is full of challenge. It’s a noisy world of incendiary ideologies and agendas. The cacophony of caustic rhetoric and propaganda is deafening. Some might suggest we are amid full-blown insanity, where inhumaneness, greed, evil, disease, and death rule unchecked.

Thanksgiving gives us the opportunity to step away from the edge of despair and apathy. Life without gratitude is a life devoid of love and passion, hope and life. Anxiety and fear, chaos and uncertainty surround. Gratitude doesn’t change the circumstances of the world or our relationships. But, it does help us see the situation through faith and hope.

This week, we Christians might find

ourselves singing the classic song, Now Thank We All Our God. Yes, it is one of those old church songs. It was written during the Thirty Years War in Germany in the early 1600’s by a Lutheran pastor in Eilenburg. Eilenburg was a walled city and had become a haven for refugees. Soon the city became too crowded, food was in short supply, famine and plague followed. The city became a giant morgue. Sounds very contemporary.

In one year alone the pastor did a thousand funerals, including his wife’s. As the war dragged on the suffering continued. Yet, even in the darkest days of agony he wrote the song. He was waist deep in destruction and death. However, he was able to lift his sights to a higher plane. He kept his mind on God’s love in a world filled with hate and death.

Gratitude is not the denial of real pain and loss. It is not even the exercise of making a list of things for which we think we should be grateful. Gratitude cannot be manufactured. Gratitude bears little resemblance to the forced optimism underlying the admonition to, “count your blessings.” Pithy idioms rarely are effective beyond the surface of our souls.

Gratitude is a gift. It is the recognition that love and mercy have not abandoned us to our destructive ways. There will be plenty of time for the excesses of holiday. But first, be at peace in gratitude. Be raised above the chaos to the higher plane of hope and love.

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

Choose kindness, compassion, and love; do justice and make peace; welcome the stranger.

pastor@islandpresby.com

A little Island history

Shipwreck Uncovered by Hurricane Still Lies Buried in the Sand South of Bob Hall Pier

By Dale Rankin

The story comes to us via a man named Joe Hagan who lived with an aunt and uncle on the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station from 1949-50. Hagan writes, “My uncle Ray Cummins, had a model A Ford with the old rumble seat. I have wonderful memories of those times. We used to travel down the Island about an hour to his favorite place where we always tied a rope to a post that stuck up out of the sand. The other end was tied to the car and we had a good canvas tarp for a shade. Little did we know that post was a mast from an ancient shipwreck! A few years have past and I heard of someone who was excavating a spot on the Island!”

That someone was in fact our Islander Frenchy and friends. When Hurricane Beulah blew across The Island in 1967, Frenchy, along with fellow travelers Richard Clements and Ed Page discovered the wreck that was connected to the “post” which Cummins used as a tent stake. The wreck was three miles south of Bob Hall Pier.

According to what Page told a reporter later, “The hull construction indicates the ship is a Spanish Nao, approximately seventy-five feet in length with cannon ports, two decks and double planking.”

The Nao

In Spanish the ship type was known as Nao or carrack. To the Portuguese it was a Nau, to the French a caraque or nef.

In any language the ship type was a three- or four-masted sailing ship developed in the 15th century by the Portuguese for use in the Atlantic Ocean but became widely used by all of Europe’s maritime powers. It was distinguished by its high rounded stern with large aftcastle, forecastle and bowsprit at the stem. It was first used by the Portuguese, and later by the Spanish, to explore and map the world. It was usually square-rigged on the foremast and mainmast and lateen-rigged on the mizzenmast. The ships were ocean-going vessels large enough to be stable in heavy seas, and roomy enough to carry provisions for long voyages. They were the ships in which the Portuguese and the Spanish explored the world in the 15th and 16th centuries. The design was the forerunner of the great ships of the age of sail and one of the most influential ship designs in history; the basic design remained unchanged throughout the Age of Sail.

The dig

Over the next couple of days the three men worked at the site and recovered human bones, musket balls, about twenty five pounds of oxidized silver, enough beeswax to fill a five gallon bucket, a Roman coin dating back almost two thousand years and plenty of river rock that undoubtedly was used as ballast and packed around cargo to keep it from shifting during transit. This was two years before the passage of the Texas Antiquities Act and soon offers started coming in from museums around the country to buy the hull of the ship. “The top

offer was \$20,000” Page told the reporter.

It was Clements who originally discovered the wreck. He said he spotted one of the wooden pegs sticking out of the sand after the storm and tried to yank it up but couldn’t. In curiosity he began digging. When he figured out that he was onto something he pitched a tent over the spot to hide his find and either he or one of the other three treasure hunters remained at the site around the clock, armed with a shotgun to keep an eye on things. The three men also “posted claims” at five other sites uncovered by the storm but the site south of Bob Hall looked to hold the best prospects. Soon the site attracted hundreds of curious spectators and enevitably some of them began their own digs.

“We just ignore them” Clements said at the time. “We let them dig until they get tired. That’s the way to fix that. Some of them have pretty big mouths too.”

Texas State Archaeologist Curtis Tunnell went to the site during the dig but was unable to determine the age of the vessel though he did feel it was not a Spanish galleon and dated it somewhere in the mid 1800s. Page and French disagreed because the lead sheeting fastened with bronze nails on the ship’s hull indicated to them the ship was not early American or English as it was the custom for shipwrights in both those countries to use copper nails to fasten lead sheeting.

Soon the three men finished their digging and the sand once again claimed its secret and with the passage of the Antiquities Law no further digging has been done at the site.

For this story we contacted the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History who said they know of the site but have no further information. We also contacted the Texas Historical Commission with similar luck.

The fact is that there are thousands of shipwrecks along the Gulf Coast of Texas but the museums and governmental agencies who know where they are located are less than forthcoming with that information because they don’t want the sites disturbed.

The site in question here is located in Kleberg County where metal detectors are currently permitted, but if the move to expand Padre Island by 3800 acres to the north of the current boundary is successful will soon be part of the park where metal detectors are forbidden. The fact is that the site has been worked over for decades by people who work the beach with metal detectors and they have been over the area many times without success – whether they knew it was there or not. As far as we know it’s still down there, but digging for it is against the law.

That’s what we know Altan and thanks for writing.

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Send photos and letters to editor@IslandMoon.com

You're Invited!

To The Padre Island Poker Run

Saturday 25th, 2023 1-4 pm

Free Local Event!

This month's theme:
"Christmas" Join us for poker, prizes, and entertainment.
Event and donations will benefit the CASA of the Coastal Bend
(CASA supports local foster kids)
 Consider donating: Gift cards for toys, clothes, shoes, coats, school supplies, backpacks and hygiene needs.

The caravan and sign up starts at the Black Sheep Bistro/Barrel at 1pm, continues to Island Italian, moves to the Boat House and then finishes at The Angry Marlin Tiki Bar. Last draw and prizes at 4pm.
For more information about this event or details about the next monthly themed poker event go to Facebook @AngryMarlinRestaurant

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Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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Mind-Numbing Frustration

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Brain-Buster

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Island from the air Thanksgiving 2010 by Jason Towns

Island Crossword

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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60					61			62	63					
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

Across

1. Cottontails' tails
6. Sandra's "Speed" costar
11. Locks not sold in hardware stores
14. Ancient Greek colony
15. From early Peru
16. Plastic __ Band
17. Legendary Mississippi bluesman
19. Eerie sighting
20. Somewhat sapphire
21. Obsess over
23. "Zip__-Doo-Dah"
24. WWII spy gp.
27. Bowler's place
28. 1987 Patrick Swayze film
33. Roll-on lawn
36. Type of arrangement
37. Supermodel Heidi
38. Pile up
40. Virtuoso
41. Lateral remark
42. Potters' need
43. Washington of "Glory"
45. Bard's time
46. Medium for much religious artwork
49. NYSE intros
50. Profit ending
51. Benevolent order
55. Italian cornmeal dish
58. Far East plum
60. Lawyers' org.
61. Scammer's fortune, e.g.
64. Get-up-and-go
65. Go fishing
66. Window sticker
67. Airport waiter's concern: Abbr.
68. Show how
69. Chosen

Down

1. "The Lion King" protagonist
2. Had the ability
3. Excessive
4. Fixed (up)
5. Puts into words
6. Sportage automaker
7. "The Lord of the Rings" being
8. Didn't just pass
9. Tusked Arctic swimmer
10. Like many a narrator
11. "You can trust me!"
12. Dope
13. Hired thug
18. Fingerprint feature
22. Is missing
25. Put in a hold
26. Vaccine deliverer
29. Hypotheticals
30. Blow away
31. Like a skinny-dipper
32. Some agts.
33. Fifth Avenue retailer
34. Exclude
35. Exile living in India since 1960
39. Take potshots
41. Capp and Capone
43. Earmark
44. Jumping the gun
47. Milk choice
48. "Aliens," for one
52. "All My Children" Emmy winner, finally
53. Jeweler's unit
54. Memorial marker
55. Work on the road
56. Final bio
57. Pond organism
59. Shoppe adjective
62. Special attention, briefly
63. Half a chuckle

Police Blotter November 13-18th

JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection

Crimes against Person

13500 block SPID 8 a.m. November 16

Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon

Disturbances

11600 block SPID 9 a.m. November 15 Public

Intoxication

13500 block SPID 8 a.m. November 16

Suspicious Person

13500 block SPID 1 p.m. November 16

Traffic

15 Traffic Stops

13500 block SPID 10 p.m. November 14 DWI

SPID/Marina Park Blvd. 8 a.m. November 16

Crash

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Property

15800 block Cuttysark 11 a.m. November 13

Theft of Services

Disturbances

13800 block Mizzen 7 p.m. November 17

14700 block SPID 9 p.m. November 15

Evading Arrest with Vehicle

Commodores/SPID 9 p.m. November 15 Pursue
Suspect

14200 block Sea Pines Dr. 2 a.m. November 18

Evading Arrest with Vehicle

Suspicious Person

13500 block Queen Johanna 6 p.m. November

13

16000 block Treebine 1 a.m. November 17

Traffic

107 Traffic Stops

SPID/Marina Park Blvd. 8 a.m. November 16

Crash

Whitecap/SPID 7 a.m. November 15 Crash

15800 block El Socorro Loop 6 p.m. November

18 Crash

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to City Limits

Disturbances

15200 block Windward Dr. 6 p.m. November 15

Traffic

35 Traffic Stops

Moon Classifieds #1023

Here's how to place a Classified Ad

To place an ad you can call me at 361-834-1382 or Email your ads to: moonclassad@twc.com

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The Island Newspaper since 1996

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

An application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage with a Food & Beverage Certificate by MKT LLC dba Captain's Diner, to be located at 15541 S Padre Island Dr, Corpus Christi, TX 78418. Owner of said LLC is Minas Talarantas.

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverages Commission for a (NE) Private Club Permit by Howard Schauer dba Jessie Little Post No. 8932 Veterans of Foreign Wars to be located at 702 Jester Street, Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas. Officer of said corporation is Howard Schauer: his title is President.

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The La Posada organization collected toys for Toys for Tots at The Slip lounge this week.

Crossword Solution

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M	U	D	D	Y	W	A	T	E	R	S		U	F	O
B	L	U	I	S	H			D	W	E	L	L	O	N
A	D	E	E		O	S	S		H	E	A	D		
				D	I	R	T	Y	D	A	N	C	I	N
S	O	D			F	L	O	R	A	L		K	L	U
A	M	A	S	S		W	I	Z		A	S	I	D	E
K	I	L	N		D	E	N	Z	E	L		E	E	N
S	T	A	I	N	E	D	G	L	A	S	S			
			I	P	O	S			E	E	R		E	L
P	O	L	E	N	T	A				L	O	Q	U	A
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Home for the Holidays

Editor’s note: Our friend and long-time Islander Mindy Niles passed away this year. In spite of a life-long battle with heart disease Mindy never lost her optimism, love of life, and most of all her sense of humor. Mindy was a great friend of Mike Ellis and his Island Moon and she left us this story of a Thanksgiving long ago which we are proud to publish here in her memory. We miss our friend.

By Mindy J. Niles

Thanksgiving. Ok, ok, ok, I suppose I should begin to categorize all that I am thankful for which, I might mention, is no slight undertaking. Having exactly nine days to complete the task I better get started.

Not wishing to bore the Reader anymore than usual I am not going to list either alphabetically or chronologically all the blessings bestowed on me in the past year or worse, in my life. Instead, a single momentous memory.

While pondering a subject suitable to write about, something that might include at the least an insinuation of Thanksgiving, a vivid memory popped into my cavernous cranium that just won’t let go.

Green, dark, and gelatinous

It was green, slick, and gelatinous, like moss on a Kansas farm pond in August. That would have been an excellent alternative locale; however I found this less than delightful vision on the dining table. On Thanksgiving, at a friend’s grandparents home. Folks kind enough, generous enough to include me in their celebration of the season. I guess it was a celebration.

Gross. That was the only word to describe it, and at the time, that was the expletive of choice of the “in crowd”. I wasn’t even sure what it was, but I was soon to discover it was dressing (stuffing) AND it was supposed to look like that.

At first thinking that someone made a major faux pas`, it didn’t cross my mind that I would be forced to mind my manners and EAT some of it.

It did come to pass, and what appeared to be awful sludge from the bottom of some old witch’s cauldron found its way onto my plate. (I should turn Fear Factor onto that stuff, it would rank right up there with live slugs or blood worms.)

Worse, I had thought it so “cool” to go somewhere besides my own family’s home for the feast. Nobody got out of that command performance, and I don’t know how I pulled it off that time. Never asked again.

Broken thermostats

I admit it was the boyfriend of the week whose family I enjoyed that year. The house was about 110 degrees inside, as they were older and their body thermostats were most likely broken. That’s what I deduced at the age of 19. Now, my house is about 100 degrees, and I know my thermostat is assuredly deteriorating just as theirs was those many years ago.

The green sludge tasted just as bad as it looked, but it slid down like an oyster on the half shell. No chewing, didn’t dare. The green I discovered was sage, which I also discovered, I don’t like.

There was ham and a small turkey, and some mashed up orange mush which I had never experienced. Sweet potatoes, but mashed, and no marshmallows on top. At my house they were having marshmallows. There were no bread plates, and no salad forks, no centerpiece and no flowers, and no real whipped cream either.

Tupperware trouble

After the family ate, the men retired to a den that was lighted by lamps, while the windows were covered with air raid curtains. They read the paper and drank coffee in the hot, close room, and spoke not a word to each other.

Women folk retired to the kitchen where they argued over which Tupperware to use for leftovers, each speaking over the other using volume for leverage. It was a tiny room with metal cabinets and a small aluminum breakfast set with a bright red top.

It was a trip, as they say.

My Mother always believed that “travel was the best education”..... better than school even, which often resulted in exciting adventures in other cities, and exposure to other cultures. This trip however, was within 30 miles of home and was one of the most educational experiences of my youth.

Blessings found

How I missed my Grandparent’s home that day, and the family that gathered round the beautiful Duncan Phyfe table set for fourteen. There would be silver candlesticks with long white tapers, flowers and linen napkins and sometimes individual salt servers. A gorgeous turkey brimming with dressing (that I recognized as such) along with Waldorf salad and too many pies to count.

How I had taken for granted the wonderful environment I had been fortunate enough to enjoy all of my life. It wasn’t the ornamentation that made the difference. (Although I must admit it added to the ambience.) I think it was in the genes.

The heredity factor. People like me. Family. Folks around our table chatted and laughed, told jokes and planned summer family trips, swapped fishing stories, pulled pranks and practical jokes, and just flat enjoyed one another’s company.

I have no doubt that some of you are thinking I must be a real spoiled brat, and some would probably agree with you. (There is no age limit to being a brat!) BUT, I will tell you that I just didn’t realize how well I had it.

The fact that my family didn’t argue, there was no fighting and that we laughed, a lot, had way more to do with the enjoyment of the day than the accoutrements. Well, and the dressing.

I was and still am so VERY thankful for the family I have been given (which now consists of as many friends as it does those genetically associated.) This year I wouldn’t care if I ate on the front porch, as long as I had the company of my friends and family. Well, at least as long as they don’t serve green sludge.

Gobble Gobble,

Mindy

Solid Waste Services Invites Residents to Participate in New Recycling Cart Trial

Innovative Recycling Cart to Combat Scattered Waste

Solid Waste Services is inviting residents to participate in a new trial to address the issue of recycling carts being blown over during high winds. This initiative employs an innovative recycling cart design that features a pinch-release lid latch. The lid will stay closed when upright or on its side, but when turned over, as during the emptying process, the gravity lock release will activate.

To test the effectiveness of these carts, the City has purchased 200 latching lid carts, which will be equally distributed among the five council districts for a 90-day trial period. Residents can participate on a first-come, first-served basis for their respective districts and will need to take a survey at the trial’s conclusion. Those who are satisfied with the cart may keep it, while those who are not can have the department swap it out with the regular carts at the end of the trial.

The purpose of this trial period is to determine the effectiveness of the new carts and

to receive feedback from residents. Solid Waste Services hopes that the new carts will meet the needs of residents and provide a cleaner and more sustainable City. To sign up for the trial, go to the city website and apply. <https://forms.gle/wka7Y-cWwfghqJ2sdA>. The enrollment process is open and will continue while supplies last.



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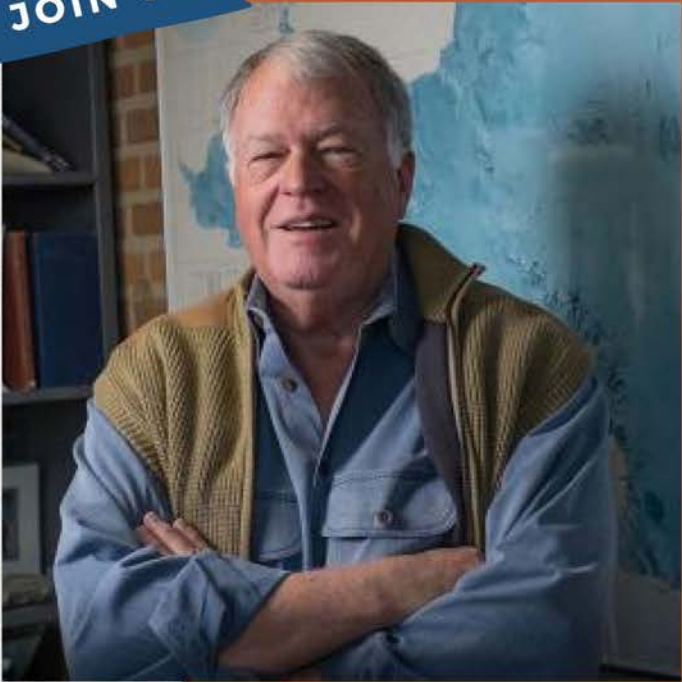
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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

About this time every year I take a short break from writing at the Island Moon and go to the vault for some jewel from the past. The ads and LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT box are updated but this column is one of the first things I wrote for the Moon and I did so to introduce myself. That was 14 years ago and this is my 677th Three Chords column. Happy Thanksgiving y'all! RN



Muddy Waters and Clifford Antone 1976. Photo by Watt Casey.

Austin in 1975...

Something drives me to write about a place and time from another lifetime ago, when I was growing up in the bars of Austin and was privy to a music explosion. When I was a college student at U.T. in the early 70's I was thrown to the wolves one Saturday night at the steak and lobster joint where I was a waiter at the *Montana Mining Company* and became a bartender on the spot when the real bartender quit and walked out. That was in 1975, about the time "liquor by the drink" became legal in Texas. Having earned the title as a real bartender, the next job I got was at the *Texas Chili Parlor* and my college education began to take a back seat to the bars. This was in the heyday of the *Cosmic Cowboy* invasion in Austin. Kandy Kicker, the storied KOKE-FM DJ was a good friend of mine, as was her husband the renowned outlaw journalist, **Nelson Allen**. I did some serious growing up at the *Chili Parlor* pouring "mad dog margaritas" for likes of **Guy Clark** and **Hunter S. Thompson**. **Hondo Crouch** of Luckenbach and **Rod Kennedy**, founder of the *Kerrville Folk Festival*, were frequent patrons. It wasn't uncommon to have a full bar of musicians, writers, artists and actors all either gathering material or polishing up their acts. One of the bartenders I worked with, **Eric Anderson**, told me about a new blues bar that had just opened downtown and were looking for bartenders. That's when I went to work for the late **Clifford Antone** in 1976.



Doug Sahm and Westside Horns at the Maloe Melo in Amsterdam. Photo by Ronnie Narmour

Antone's Home of the Blues...

Antone's in those days was one of only a handful of bars on Sixth Street. I ended up spending more than a decade on that street, before it became ridiculous. But back then, *Antone's* was among the few breaking ground on an area considered to be the bad part of town. We were on 6th and Brazos, directly across from the *Driskill Hotel*. On our short block between Brazos and Congress Avenue was *OK Records* on one side and *Joey's Tavern* on the other and not much more. The band **Storm** played the *One Knight* all the time with **Jimmy Vaughan** on guitar, **Denny Freeman** on keys, **Paul Ray** on vocals, **Doyle Bramhall** on drums and **Kieth Furgeson** on bass. Not too shabby! Every one of those guys spawned into other noteworthy bands such as the **Fabulous T-Birds** and **The Cobras**. Clifford would do blues legends on the weekends...**Muddy Waters**, **Pinetop Perkins**, **Gatemouth Brown**, **Buddy Guy**, **Jimmy Reed**, **Bobby Bland**, **B.B. King**, etc... and go local the rest of the time. The Cobras had a new guitarist, Jimmy Vaughan's little brother **Stevie Ray**, playing with them. Stevie was the lovable pain-in-the-rear new kid that lived around the corner from me on Jewell and always needed a ride somewhere. He did pretty well for himself.

Armadillo, Soap Creek & Castle Creek...

All of this is at a time when the *Armadillo World Headquarters* was peaking and doing shows with the likes of **Ray Charles**, **Commander Cody**, **New Riders of the Purple Sage**, **Maria Muldair**, **The Pointer Sisters**, or **Jerry Jeff Walker**, etc. **Greezy Wheels** became their house band. Elsewhere, *Soap Creek Saloon* was doing stuff like **The Meters**, **Joe Ely**, **Delbert McClinton**, **Marcia Ball** or **Doug Sahm** and *Castle Creek* would have the likes of **Townes Van Zandt**, **Lightning Hopkins**, **Ramblin' Jack Elliot** or **Mance Lipscomb**. If these names mean nothing to you, then you might as well stop reading now.



Paul Ray and the Cobras 1976. Denny Freeman, Rod Craig, Stevie Vaughan, Alex Napier and Joe Sublett.

Pay attention boy...

I'll never forget the night at *Antone's* circa 1976 when I was setting up the bar for a big show, I think it was **Bobby "Blue" Bland** or somebody big that I had never heard of. The other two bartenders and I were horsing around while we set up the bar when Clifford came up to us. He had a serious tone about him, "You boys need to pay attention. You think these shows happen everywhere all the time? Some day there won't be anymore Muddy Waters or Jimmy Reed shows. I just hope one of you is paying attention." Something right then and there moved me and changed me forever. So I did... pay attention. I stayed with Clifford for a long time and learned much of what I know in this business from him. I consider him my mentor.



Ronnie & James Cotton in San Antonio 1995

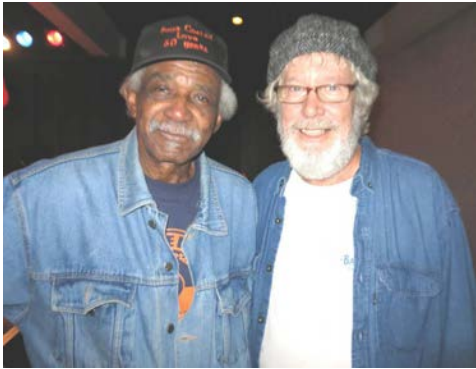
RNA Booking Agency...

As years progressed, I continued to work the bars and moved around a lot between Austin, San Antonio and Corpus. I always gravitated to live music venues and eventually moved into management positions where I often served as the talent buyer. In 1994 I opened a talent agency, *RNA Booking*, representing an ever changing *Antone's Records* roster of recording acts such as **Doug Sahm**, **Tracy Nelson**, **Lazy Lester**, **Miss Lavelle White**, **Texas Johnny Brown**, **Sue Foley** and **Gary Primich**, etc. I traveled extensively in the six years that I had my agency, promoting shows and festivals though out the U.S, Europe, Brazil, Australia and Canada. After closing my agency in 2000, I went back to managing clubs in San Antonio and Austin, always where there was live music. I now reside in Port Aransas and continue to live for music and hope you will help me with my life's quest to support it. I'll do what I can to keep you informed. And, if you can hear me up there, Clifford...I'm still paying attention.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Jimmy Rogers at Billy Blues 1993 San Antonio



One of the pioneers of Swamp Rock, Lazy Lester with Ronnie in Sao Paulo, Brazil 1998



Ronnie with Miss Lavelle & Sugar Bear in Paris, France 1994

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Wednesday.

November 22

Brad Ethridge Open Mic @ Gaff
Cleartones @ VFW
Dropped Out, Sweet Daddy, Chillkiller @ House of Rock
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Raul Ayala @ Rock Bottom
Eddie Alaniz @ Pelican Lounge
Billy Snipes @ Doc's
Michael Burtts @ Pompanos

THANKSGIVING

November 23

Selfie @ Shorty's
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Michael Burtts @ Rock Bottom
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian

Friday.

November 24

Heavy Soul @ Shorty's
Rich Lockhart @ VFW
Larry Joe Taylor @ 3rd Coast Theater
Raul Ayala @ Pelican Lounge
Eclipse @ Rockit's
Michael Burtts @ Brewster Soutside
Mike O'Neil @ Exchange
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Saturday.

November 25

CHILI COOK-OFF @ VFW
BELT SANDER RACES 3 PM @ Gaff
Jam Band @ Shorty's
Chillbillies @ VFW
Max & Heather Stalling @ 3rd Coast Theater
Back in Black- AC/DC Tribute @ Brewster Downtown
Fredericksburg Balloon Festival
Raul Ayala @ Rock Bottom
Chainlinks @ Pelican Lounge
Michael Burtts @ Doc's
Crosstown Expressway @ Exchange
Afterglow @ Sugar

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Shack
Ruben Limas @ KOA CC
Chillbillies @ La Playa by the Bay

Sunday.

November 26

Ty Dietz, Ruben Limas @ Shorty's
Catfish Blues Jam @ Rialto Theater AP
Jam Night @ The Exchange
Lady Kat & Mattman @ House of Rock
Michael Burtts @ Pier 99
Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard's
Lance Covington @ Pelican Lounge

Monday.

November 27

FULL MOON
Raul Ayala @ Pelican Lounge
Jules Taylor @ Packery Bar

Tuesday.

November 28

Billy Snipes @ VFW
Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Sonny Salinas @ Exchange
Joey St. Vincent @ Mesquite Street
Southside
Chillbillies @ Legends
Fulton

Wednesday.

November 29

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

Thursday.

November 30

Welcome Back Winter
Texans Picnic @ Roberts Point
Selfie @ Shorty's
That Mexican OT @ Brewster Downtown

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