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Issue 1047



The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

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Marker 37 Pier by Debbie Nolbe



By Dale Rankin

It's been a hazy week Around The Island as smoke from slash and burn farming operations in Mexico and Central American are catching a ride on northbound wind to keep us under hazy skies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality call it *Particle Matter* but to those Islanders breathing it *smoke* seems a better description. It sometimes makes for beautiful sunrises and sunsets but doesn't help breathing much. So far though it hasn't seemed to hamper the lungs of those who like to spend their time jumping to conclusions Around The Island as that activity hasn't seemed to lax. Individuals can self-monitor the air quality for their specific zip code/city by visiting www.airnow.gov or <https://www.ctexas.com/detail/air-quality-monitoring-0>.

Car burglaries

It also didn't slow down the handle pullers who hit the area around Aquarius Park Sunday night. Islanders who left their car doors unlocked awakened Monday morning to find the interiors of the vehicles rummaged through and items missing. Think of it as a tax on carelessness on the part of those of us who were victims, us included. There are some videos of the thieves that might lead to something but we'll see.

Riley P. Dog Park news

There was big news at the Riley P. Dog Park this week as Stewart Title donated \$500 to help give Island dogs a place to hang out. The Port Aransas Art Center also got some help. Work is about to begin on adding some shade structures at the dog park and irrigation water from the Whitecap Wastewater Treatment Plant is scheduled to arrive this summer so things are looking up thereabouts. A big thank you to our friends over at Stewart Title for the help.

Garbage Mountain



Anglers who trespass to fish on the land running along the east side of Lake Padre (Padre Sound) have begun raising a monument to the garbage gods with this ever-growing pile of shoreline refuse. On the plus side it does seem to be neatly stacked in case a stray garbage scow happens along.

Around cont. on A5

County wants a Piece of the City's Action! *County considers placing item on November ballot to collect Proposition A Sales Tax*

By Dale Rankin

Six months after city voters resoundingly rejected a one-fourth cent sales tax to primarily fund expansion of downtown convention facilities Nueces County Commissioners are considering whether to put a similar county-based tax on the November, 2024 ballot.

According to city figures the tax raises about \$7 million per year and under state law its extension must be approved by voters by the end of 2024 or it will expire at the end of 2025 at which time either Nueces County or the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority can pursue collection of the tax through a similar vote.

Under the plan under consideration by county officials a county-driven initiative to collect the tax would be placed on the November ballot and if passed by voters would take effect only if the city proposal, scheduled for the same ballot, fails. If the city proposal fails and the county proposal

County cont. on A5

Historian of the Year!

Islander Dotson Lewis receives Historical Society Award



Island Moon columnist Dotson Lewis was awarded the annual Daniel E. Kilgore Award by the Corpus Christi Historical Society

this week. The award is the organization's highest award and Mr. Lewis was selected for his history columns each week in the Island



Moon and his work with local veterans groups. Dotson entered the U.S. Army in 1946 and retired after twenty years of service.

Flour Bluff team wins KEDT Challenge tournament!

The team from Flour Bluff High School won the 19th annual academic Challenge tournament on KEDT for a record fourth time. Teams from across the Coastal Bend compete in answering questions on a cross section of topics.

Team members are Brannon Chapman, Mason Evans, Tristen Corpuz, Kyle Xu, and Gloria Harris. The team coach is Beth Huckabee.



Two elected to Nueces County Appraisal District Board of Directors *Early Voting Third race headed for a runoff*

The Nueces County Appraisal District Board of Directors has two new members after balloting in Saturday, May 4, election. James Magill will take the seat in Place 1 on the policy-making board of the district with 55% of the vote in a four-way race.

Magill garnered 3144 votes over second-place finisher Tony Alcoser (21% 1195 votes) and Floyd "Andy" Anderson (17% 960 votes) with a total of 5675 votes cast in the Place I race. In Place 2 John Cudd narrowly missed a runoff with 52% of the

votes (2953 of 5635 votes cast). Second was Butch Pool (28% 1588 votes), third was Joseph Titlebaum with 19% (1094 votes). The race for Place 3 is headed for a runoff between the two top fin-

Board cont. on A3

A little Island history

City Bond spending 2012-2022 *\$1 billion in bonds...\$20 million for The Island?*

As the Corpus Christi City Council prepares a \$175 million bond package for the November, 2024 ballot which includes \$6 million for projects on Padre Island we take a look back at bond spending between the years 2012 and 2022. The bond package now under development includes two projects for Padre Island, \$1 million for improvements under the JFK Bridge, and \$5 million

for improvements to Commodores Park. A community meeting for public input on the bond package is scheduled for Monday, May 13, at the Ethyl Everly Senior Center in Flour Bluff at 6 p.m.

The following numbers are taken from records at the City of Corpus Christi compiled for the period ending June 30, 2023.

Projects currently under construction

\$59.7 million None in Council District 4

Projects under design

\$720 million North Beach Drainage Improvements (American Rescue Plan Act Funds)

\$14.9 million streets None in Council District 4 listed

2012 Bonds

\$180 million total

Streets

Bonds cont. on A3

Speedy Stop Project goes to City Council

Portion of Island "Paper Street" to be purchased

By Dale Rankin

The owner of Speedy Stop Food Stores has filed a request with the City of Corpus Christi to abandon a .57-acre portion of Sand Dollar Avenue which would connect the site of the store to State Highway 361 adjacent to the American Bank building. Site work at the future site of the Speedy Stop store was completed in 2023 and the request which will go before the city council on Tuesday is the next step in the construction process.

Sand Dollar Avenue was part of the original street design of Padre Island and was to run southward from Verdemar Drive to Lake Padre. Underground utilities are in place for the street from SH 361 to Verdemar Drive but the street was never built – one of The Island's

Speedy cont. on A5

By the numbers...

Island Moon Rain Report

Meager precipitation continues during Stage 2 Water Shortage Conditions as declared by the City of Corpus Christi. However, the skies over Padre Island couldn't care less what the City Council says.

Corpus Christi watershed reservoirs are now below 30 percent, the lowest since they were built in the 1980s. A Stage 3 announcement is likely if 20 percent capacity is reached.

Compare the scant totals listed below with the city's average rainfall for April (2.04") and year-to-date (7.00") as measured at CRP airport.

April 1 – 30

Padre Island

Cayo Cantiles	0.50"
Dyna St.	0.58"
Elbow St.	0.54"
Reales St.	0.64"
Scallop St.	0.58"
Mustang Island Boardwalk Ln.	0.13"

Jan. 1 – Apr. 30 2024 2023

<i>Padre Island</i>		
Cayo Cantiles	5.18"	6.21"
Dyna St.	5.24"	7.02"
Elbow St.	5.26"	7.34"
Reales St.	5.94"	6.97"
Scallop St.	5.77"	7.30"

Mustang Island

Boardwalk Ln.	5.63"	n/a
Source: Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow Network, Tom Cullinan		



SEASHORE MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY BEST DESIGN



Seashore Middle Academy's R2D2 entry won in the Canstruction Competition at Buc Days. The thousands of canned goods will be donated to the Food Bank at the end of the Buc Days.



Dania Whitco celebrated her 39th cough cough birthday at the Black Sheep Bistro with her partner George Reed and a dozen or so friends. Happy Birthday Dania!



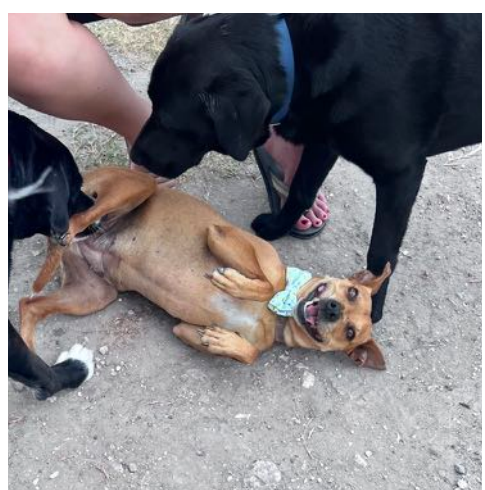
Jace Tunnel, Harte Research Institute, at our Michael J Ellis Beach!



A brown crab blends in.
Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Sarah Knutson celebrated her dog Scouts 2nd Birthday at The Riley P Dog Park. Happy Birthday Scout!



On Monday students from Flour Bluff Intermediate, Junior High, and High School headed out to the Whitecap NPI Sales Center for a morning filled with education that our students got to see firsthand! Students got to see the work that is currently being done on a major infrastructure project happening on North Padre Island. Jeff Coym, Vice President of LJA Engineering and Amber Spicak, Sales Associate for Whitecap North Padre Island showed our students all of the incredible things happening with the Commodores Drive Bridge Project. Students got an overview of the project's planning, design, and engineering while also getting to ask questions themselves! We thank Ashlar Development, LJA Engineering and Whitecap NPI for taking the time to show our students all about this great project and the opportunities it will bring to our community!

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Letters to the Editor

Dale:
Thoroughly enjoy the Moon. Questioning the predictable direction most tornadoes travel. My experience is they generally move from southwest to northeast, rather than southeast to northwest as mentioned in *Stuff I Heard on the Island* in the May 3, 2024 issue.

Thanks for a great and informative publication!

Ron Byers
Editor's note: You are correct Ron, it's possible we had the map upside down or it may just be the directionally challenged Moon Department of Directions Office. While we are on the subject the Scientific American this week issued a story reporting that Tornado Alley is moving to the east and south. It records that from the 1950s through the 1990s they struck most often in Tornado Alley, an oval area centered on northeastern Texas and south-central Oklahoma, but more recently, that focus has shifted eastward by 400 to 500 miles. In the past decade or so tornadoes have become prevalent in eastern Missouri and Arkansas, western Tennessee and Kentucky, and northern Mississippi and Alabama—a new region of concentrated storms. That said, they will still move from the southwest to the northeast...

Windstorm

Greetings from the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association. The TWIA Board of Directors met in Austin on May 7 for its second quarterly meeting of 2024. The Board received an update on reinsurance funding for the 2024 storm season and routine operational highlights. The Board directed staff to pursue the purchase of \$3.35 billion in reinsurance funding for this year's storm season at its February 20 meeting.

The Board also voted to secure a \$500 million line of credit to allow for an immediately available source of funds to pay claims in the event of a catastrophic storm impacting the Texas coast this year. If needed to pay claims, the line of credit would be repaid from the proceeds of Class 1 public securities issued after the storm as provided by TWIA's governing statute.

Board Chairman Chandra Franklin Womack announced that Mary Keller, a former Associate Commissioner at the Texas Department of Insurance, has been appointed to serve on the Board as a Non-Seacoast Territory Representative for a term to expire in 2027.

Board member Esther Grossman and the Office of Public Insurance Counsel were

appointed to the Board's Actuarial & Underwriting Committee. The Board's Legislative & External Affairs Committee will meet on May 21 to begin planning the Association's Biennial Report to the Texas Legislature. A list of committee members is available on TWIA's website.

The meeting materials and archived recording for the Board meeting are available on our Meeting Library page.

Best,

Aaron Taylor


Senior Legislative & External Affairs Specialist

Texas Windstorm Insurance Association



Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



Editor/Publisher
Dale Rankin

Co-Publisher, Business Ops
Jan Park Rankin


Classifieds
Arlene Ritley

Design and Production
Jacob Augs

Business and Feature Writers
Mary Craft
Reverend Dr. Ken Ritchie
Dr. Tom Dorrell
Joey Farah
Emily Gaines
Jay "It's probably fine" Gardner
Todd Hunter
Dotson Lewis
Ronnie Narmour
Dr. Ed Proffitt
Andy Purvis
Celeste Silling

Photographers
Miles Merwin (Emeritus)
Debbie Noble
Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Delivery
Paul Nowicki



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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To The City of Corpus Christi,

I would like to know the plans to finish trimming the palm trees, mowing, general cleaning, repair plans to leaning over utility box (south bound side of SPID as you land on the island), etc. on city owned property on the island. With the amount of tourism the island attracts, I find it shameful that it always looks as unkept as it does. There is minimal work to be done and kept up that would make a significant difference in the appearance of our island. I saw for the first time, a couple of weeks ago, palm trees being trimmed on the north bound side of SPID as you approach the JFK leaving the island. Then the work just stopped. It needs to be done on all over city property on the island on a regular basis. Whitecap is simply disgraceful and a huge embarrassment!! The city makes millions from tourism, STR, new development, TAXES, etc. on our island, and spends a tremendous sum of

money marketing to bring more tourism to our island. Essentially, we are a well known "cash cow" for the city. This island should look like an area that the city is proud of. Instead, it is run down and unkept. We need attention to these matters on an ongoing basis. It is embarrassing. If there is a doubt of what I am speaking about, take a drive over the bridge! Then do the same approaching Galveston and South Padre Island and then compare us. It's disgraceful. I would like a response please. And I would like to know what the plans are going forward. We have tremendous value to the cities coffers, we need to look like we are proud of what we have.

Respectfully,
Leslie Tansey
Island resident & taxpayer

Board cont. from A1

ishers who neither made the required 51% majority to avoid a runoff. There were four candidates in the race with Ed Bennett narrowly missing a majority with 46% (2563 votes of 5539 total), he will face Shirley "Mayday" Madej who finished second with 21% (1162 votes).

The election was the first time voters were able to directly elect three members of that board which will be reduced from the current fourteen members to nine members in July under a new state law passed in Austin in the last session of the legislature. Under new rules appointees to the Appraisal Review Board, (ARB) which hears appeals from property owners, must have the approval of two of the three new members of the Board of Directors who are elected. Nueces County Tax Assessor/Collector Kevin Kieschnick, who is elected by county voters, will also become a voting member of the board. The remainder of the board is chosen by tax entities in the county.

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Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis



The Tokyo War Crimes Trials

Part 2

Dotson's Note: The chief prosecutor, Joseph B. Keenan, issued a press statement along with the indictment: "War and treaty-breakers should be stripped of the glamour of national heroes and exposed as what they really are, plain, ordinary murderers." Any possible evidence that would incriminate Emperor Hirohito and his family was excluded from the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, as the United States believed it needed him to maintain order in Japan and achieve their postwar objectives. Thanks to members of the 804th Army Unit US Sugamo Prison for the facts and photos contained in this report.



The prosecution began opening statements on May 3, 1946, and took 192 days to present its case, finishing on January 24, 1947. It submitted its evidence in fifteen phases.

The Tribunal embraced the best evidence rule once the Prosecution had rested. The best evidence rule dictates that the "best" or most authentic evidence must be produced (for example, a map instead of a description of the map; an original instead of a copy; and a witness instead of a description of what the witness may have said). Justice Pal, one of two justices to vote for acquittal on all counts, observed, "in a proceeding where we had to allow the prosecution to bring in any amount of hearsay evidence, it was somewhat misplaced caution to introduce this best evidence rule particularly when it operated practically against the defense only".

To prove their case, the prosecution team relied on the doctrine of command responsibility. This doctrine was that it did not require proof of criminal orders. The prosecution had to prove three things: that war crimes were systematic or widespread; the accused knew that troops were committing atrocities; and the accused had power or authority to stop the crimes.

Part of Article 13 of the Charter provided that evidence against the accused could include any document "without proof of its issuance or signature" as well as diaries, letters, press reports, and sworn or unsworn out-of-court statements relating to the charges. Article 13 of the Charter read, in part: "The tribunal shall not be bound by technical rules of evidence, and shall admit any evidence which it deems to have probative value."

The prosecution argued that a 1927 document known as the Tanaka Memorial showed that a «common plan or conspiracy» to commit «crimes against peace» bound the accused together. Thus, the prosecution argued that the conspiracy had begun in 1927 and continued to the end of the war in 1945. The Tanaka Memorial is now considered by most historians to have been an anti-Japanese forgery; however, it was not regarded as such at the time.

Wartime press releases of the Allies were admitted as evidence by the prosecution, while those sought to be entered by the defense were excluded. The recollection of a conversation with a long-dead man was admitted. Letters allegedly written by Japanese citizens were admitted with no proof of authenticity and no opportunity for cross examination by the defense.

The defendants were represented by over a hundred attorneys, three-quarters of them Japanese and one-quarter American, plus a support staff. The defense opened its case on January 27, 1947, and finished its presentation 225 days later on September 9, 1947.

The defense argued that the trial could never be free from substantial doubt as to its "legality, fairness and impartiality".

The defense challenged the indictment,

arguing that crimes against peace, and more specifically, the undefined concepts of conspiracy and aggressive war, had yet to be established as crimes in international law; in effect, the IMTFE was contradicting accepted legal procedure by trying the defendants retroactively for violating laws which had not existed when the alleged crimes had been committed. The defense insisted that there was no basis in international law for holding individuals responsible for acts of state, as the Tokyo Trial proposed to do. The defense attacked the notion of negative criminality, by which the defendants were to be tried for failing to prevent breaches of law and war crimes by others, as likewise having no basis in international law.

The defense argued that Allied Powers' violations of international law should be examined.



Former Foreign Minister Shigenori Tōgō maintained that Japan had had no choice but to enter the war for self-defense purposes. He asserted that «[because of the Hull Note] we felt at the time that Japan was being driven either to war or suicide".

After the defense had finished its presentation on September 9, 1947, the IMT spent fifteen months reaching judgment and drafting its 1,781-page opinion. The reading of the judgment and the sentences lasted from December 4 to 12, 1948. Five of the eleven justices released separate opinions outside the court.

In his concurring opinion Justice William Webb of Australia took issue with Emperor Hirohito's legal status, writing, «The suggestion that the Emperor was bound to act on advice is contrary to the evidence.» While refraining from personal indictment of Hirohito, Webb indicated that Hirohito bore responsibility as a constitutional monarch who accepted «ministerial and other advice for war» and that «no ruler can commit the crime of launching aggressive war and then validly claim to be excused for doing so because his life would otherwise have been in danger ... It will remain that the men who advised the commission of a crime, if it be one, are in no worse position than the man who directs the crime be committed.»



Dotson's Other Note: Justice Delfin Jaranilla of the Philippines disagreed with the penalties imposed by the tribunal as being «too lenient, not exemplary and deterrent, and not commensurate with the gravity of the offense or offenses committed.» Justice Henri Bernard of France argued that the tribunal's course of action was flawed due to Hirohito's absence and the lack of sufficient deliberation by the judges. He concluded that Japan's declaration of war «had a principal author who escaped all prosecution and of whom in any case the present Defendants could only be considered as accomplices» and that a «verdict reached by a Tribunal after a defective procedure cannot be a valid one.»

Remember the weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Thursdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 – 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397. It's your two hours; please let us hear from you.



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

Along about 2002 there was a meeting with twenty-two people sitting around a table. In fact, there were probably a lot of meetings in 2002 that involved twenty-two people sitting around a table but this one was specifically about how to spend \$1.5 million in funds to improve the area under the JFK Bridge.

One of the people sitting at the table was my business partner Robert who as it turned out was the only person present who was not being paid from public funds. The employers of those assembled were an alphabet soup of state, federal, and local agencies who as Robert put it got paid whether the deal was done or not. A sheet of paper kept going around and around the table until Robert realized the reason it kept circulating was because the plan was \$17,000 short and as the only private citizen there he was the anticipated donor.

Robert and I were classmates in graduate school in Austin and we had recently signed a long-term lease on property owned by the Texas General Land Office which is now the location of Packery Bar & Grill. The parking lot was a muddy mess and flooded every time there was a high tide. The local group Saltwater-fisheries Enhancement Association (SEA) had donated \$600,000 to the cause and design work was getting moving. The result is what is seen at that location just east of the JFK Bridge along Packery Channel today. New boat ramps were built along with a bulkhead to keep out the high tide and a portion of the parking lot was paved. You may have noticed that while the north and south ends of the parking lot are paved the middle, the part in front of Packery Bar & Grill, is not because the money ran out. The result is that portion of the lot that is front of the only private donor to the project is the only part not paved two decades since that meeting.

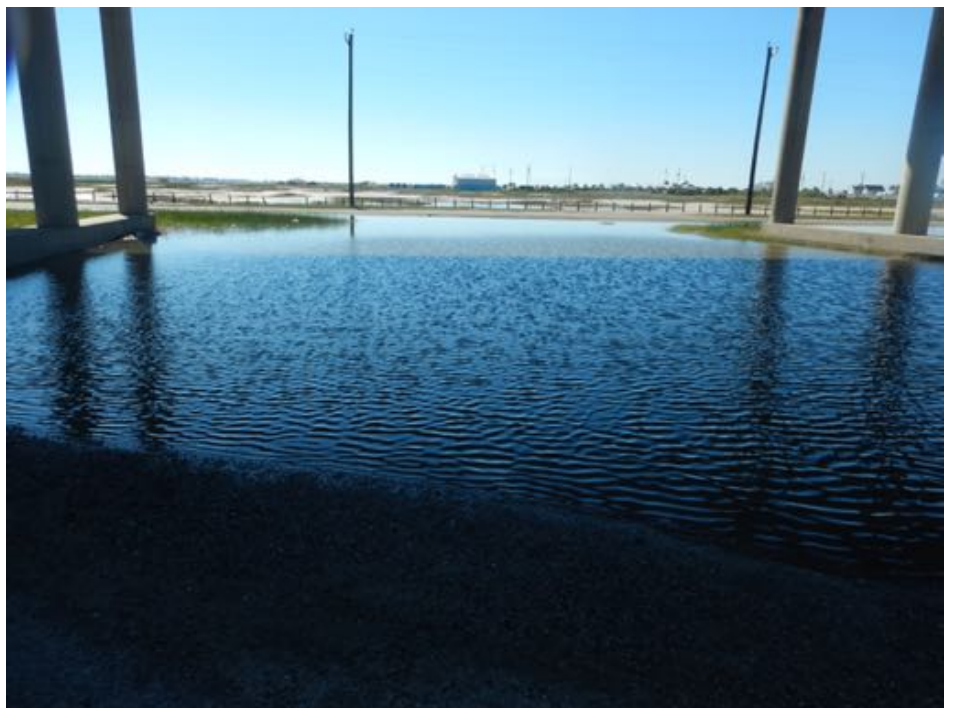
Why no progress?

Since that time there has been \$1.8 million in city bond money approved to pay for improvements around and under the JFK Bridge and as we sit there today the place is usually packed with trucks and boat trailers and drivers with muddy feet from walking from their trucks through what have come to be known as the Twin Lakes of Muddle and Puddle. So why the lack of action for twenty years? The answer came from city planners at the Island Strategic Action Committee this week as the bond initiative for the \$175 million in bonds going to the ballot this November takes shape and includes \$1 million for improvements there. This follows on the heels of the \$1.8 million included in the 2018 bonds which as it turns out was for design work. The problem, as outlined this week, is that the overlapping jurisdictions of those same organizations represented around that table way back in 2002 have created a perfect storm of confusion when it comes to progress.

Who owns the land?

Okay, here we go. If you dig deep enough the land is technically owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but that doesn't matter. It is under a long-term (permanent) lease to the Texas General Land Office which leases it to raise money for the Texas Permanent School Fund but that is where the fun starts. The land is inside the jurisdiction of the Texas Department of Transportation which extends hundreds of feet from the center line of the highway and officials there, according to city planners, take a dim view of parking cars under a bridge. The Corps of Engineers has to sign off on any work there and due to in-house issues has been slow to issue permits for several years, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife has its say as does the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and others who I forget.

All of that ball of bureaucratic was rolled downhill and landed on the desk of the city staff who is under a lease agreement signed in 1998 – before Al Gore invented the internet – to do improvements. But there is more...



Each time there has been a move to do work there over the decades the city has understandably asked the question whether they can spend city money on land they don't own? Keep in mind there has been no hesitation on the city's part to collect the sales tax from the seven businesses operating on state land there but spending, well, that's different. This raises the obvious questions of why improvements there would be included on what will now be the third city bond package and if the city couldn't spend money there why did it sign a lease agreement for improvements? The city staffers who signed that deal are long gone...

Some movement...

According to city planners this week, TxDot not only does not like cars under the bridge they don't like lights attached to the bridge's pilings nor do they like utility poles to hang the lights on. Hiring people to stand under the bridge to hold the lights all night was ruled out due to cost. The good news, according to reports this week, is that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has ruled that the mud holes under the bridge are not jurisdictional wetlands and TxDot officials have agreed to some improvements after a year of work by city staff.

You may also notice that the exit ramps to the JFK Bridge on The Island side consist of chicanes that would make Dale Earnhardt's heart skip a beat and there are no signs informing those entering The Island what business they will find there. It would seem a simple enough problem to address but once again jurisdictional issues come into play. According to city staff the exit ramps are property of TxDot and therefore the city cannot unilaterally do work on them, that has to come through TxDot and the same goes for the signs. Maybe that's why there is no Buc-ee's there, they always have a sign right?

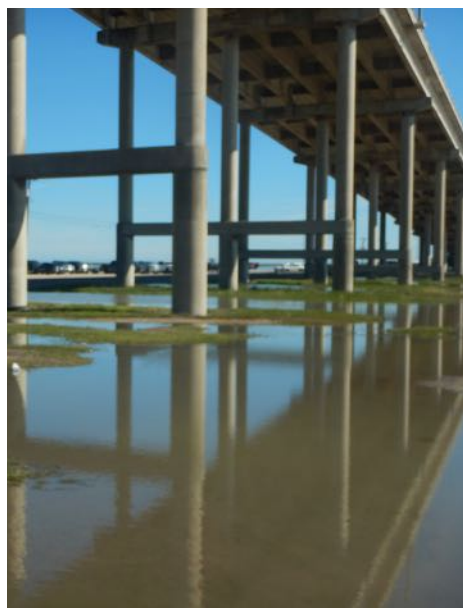
Muddle and Puddle

So as we sit here today twenty-two years after that meeting around that table there is still no lighting under the bridge, anglers are still slogging through the Twin Lakes of Muddle and Puddle, the parking lot remains mostly unpaved, the exit ramp is a NA-SCAR nightmare, a fish cleaning station is needed, and the access roads are more holy than the book of Revelations.

There are no villains here this is just a case of bureaucratic inertia that the city staff (God bless them) are doing their best to sort out. In the past two decades we have all watched as the businesses under the bridge have prospered to the point that parking is an issue even as the those businesses pay their taxes year after year.

With water rationing upon us it may be time to think about selling the water rights and the mineral rights to the Twin Lakes of Muddle and Puddle but then we would have to wade through the alphabet soup to determine who would get the money!

Maybe we could just lease them to the Texas State Aquarium.



County cont. from A1

passes the tax would accrue to the county.

“The city is not very happy with us,” County Judge Connie Scott said Wednesday, referring to a recent meeting with city officials on the topic.

“I don’t want to sound insulting,” Precinct 4 County Commissioner Brent Chesney said. “But if the city keeps putting things on the ballot that don’t pass we would be foolish not to do something.”

Chesney said the county proposal would include spending on items across the county that would be used to offset spending from other sources such as property taxes. The ballot item, known as Proposition A, which was rejected by voters by a two-to-one ratio, also included spending on some types of parks and streets, as well as attract new destination flights. However, the plan also included public funding for a new convention center hotel which would have paid for about 60% of the investment in the hotel which would have been run by a private operator.

The City of Corpus Christi is currently holding public hearings across the city to determine what to include in the ballot item for the second round of voting in November, 2024. City numbers show that taxpayers are currently funding operational cost overruns at the American Bank Center complex at a cost of \$14.5 million per year. One of the objections to the previous plans rejected by voters was that the sales tax did

not include an expiration date and would have allowed future city councils to allocate up to \$1.5 billion in funds from the tax without further input from voters.

The tax takes the form of two separate one-eighth cent sales tax revenue streams known as Type A funds and Type B funds.

The Type A Fund (Corpus Christi Business & Job Development Corporation) is a business and job generator that was voted on and approved by Corpus Christi voters in 2002 to encourage economic development and job growth. An estimated \$6 million in revenue is collected in the fund each year which is allocated by a city-appointed board.

The purpose of Type B Incentive Fund is to provide 50% for economic development, specifically the promotion and development of new and expanded business enterprise and to provide up to \$500,000 annually on affordable housing, and balance of proceeds to be used for the construction, maintenance and repair of arterial and collector streets and roads. The fund is administered by the Type B Board appointed by the City Council.

County officials did not take a formal vote at their Wednesday meeting on whether to move forward with a competing ballot item in November instead opting for discussion in Executive Session. A decision on whether to include the item on the November ballot must be made by August.

Around cont. from A1

Water line news



In water line news Around The Island this week crews working on the Commodores Bridge located a missing twelve-inch water line Tuesday morning with a piece of machinery leaving a large section of The Island with low water pressure for a few hours. On the plus side work to install the bulkheads on the project is well underway and the project is well on its way toward making the completion deadline by the end of 2025 and completing the open water loop through Island canals.

Beachfront bar



The Island may be about to get a new – maybe the only – beachfront bar as this sign went up this week along the Michael J. Ellis Seawall announcing an application for a mixed beverage permit. We contacted the owner but he is keeping things under wraps for the moment. The bar is the creation of the long-time owners of the property.



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Seawall plans



District 4 City Councilman Dan Suckley visited the Michael J. Ellis Seawall this week as work on a long-term plan for its maintenance which is underway. Fifteen million dollars in funds from the Island’s Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 have been set aside for work on the structure which was rebuilt after Hurricane Allen destroyed it in 1980.

The Beach to Bay Relay Marathon takes to Island beaches and roadways on Saturday, May 18, so plan accordingly. Hurricane Season 2024 is just around the corner but you still have time to get your generator in place, and we’re just six weeks away from the Fourth of July Island Blast Fireworks show. Watch out for manatees and say hello if you see us Around The Island.



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Shrimp Season Closes soon

The Gulf of Mexico commercial shrimp season for both Texas and federal waters will close 30 minutes after sunset on Wednesday, May 15, until a still-to-be determined date in July.

While the statutory opening date for the gulf season is July 15, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries Division will be sampling shrimp populations this summer to determine the optimum opening date. The Texas shrimp fishery is closed annually to allow brown shrimp to reach a larger and more valuable size prior to harvest. TPWD’s Coastal Fisheries Division Director, Robin Riechers, said that “the goal of this closure is twofold. Allowing shrimp to migrate into gulf waters gives them time to mature and grow before commercial fishermen begin the summer season

in July. This also helps ensure Texas’ shrimp stocks are sustainable not just for the season, but for many years to come.” The May 15 closing date is based on samples collected by biologists using trawl, bag seine, and information gathered from the shrimping industry. Data collected includes bag seine catch rates of brown shrimp, mean lengths of shrimp in April 2024, percent of samples containing shrimp, and periods of maximum nocturnal ebb tidal flow. The Texas closure applies to gulf waters from the coastline out to nine nautical miles. The National Marine Fisheries Service has announced that federal waters out to 200 nautical miles will also be closed to shrimping to conform to the Texas closure.



Speedy cont. from A1

many Paper Streets so named because they exist only on paper.

Documents filed with the city state that the request is not for the sale of city-owned property but rather the request for is for the city to “abandon an easement. Per city ordinance. The applicant pays the City to abandon the right-of way easement, thus not legally required for competitive bid. A city right-of-way shall be only abandoned if the right-of-way is not currently utilized or no longer needed for public use.”

Under the proposed agreement Speedy Stop owner Donny Shellenbarger would pay the city \$380,000 for the 25,000 square-foot parcel which is currently unused and the city will retain a 50-foot Utility Easement. The easement could be used to allow for access to the store site on SPID from the State Highway 361. The city documents state the “petitioner is interested in purchasing the land that includes the unimproved right of-way to build a private street to facilitate his shipments to his business.” The original design of Sand Dollar Avenue that called for the street to run south from the Speedy Stop location is no longer possible due to the sale of adjacent land.

The Speedy Stop chain includes twenty-six locations with the nearest current location in Rockport. The stores typical include multiple gas pumps and a expanded version of a convenience store and a car wash.

The city staff recommends approval of the sale according to city documents. The item is scheduled for a vote by the council at is May 14 meeting, no timeline for construction of the project is listed.



Soil sampling on the Speedy Stop site.



Carlos Beach Bomber Fishing just sent me this awesome Jack picture that he landed using the HDX and a Breakaway Pulley rig. Courtesy Break Away Tackle USA.



Everything good in life happens on the run...

American Oystercatchers dine almost solely on saltwater bivalve mollusks, including many species of clams and several oysters and mussels, and to a lesser degree limpets, jellyfish, starfish, sea urchins, marine worms, and crustaceans such as lady crabs and speckled crabs. Oystercatchers walk slowly through oyster reefs until they see one that is slightly open; they quickly jab the bill inside the shell to snip the strong adductor muscle that closes the two halves of the shell. - allaboutbirds.org



By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks

After 3 grueling hours of being holed up in a Papisito's in DFW, I finally started to clue in that the gate I was expecting to fly out of, C14, was not filling up with happy people chatting about flying to Key West. In fact, that particular terminal looked more like a ghost town. I hadn't updated my airline app, and figured I'd better go look at the board. Sure enough, they'd conveniently moved the flight clear across the airport to the D terminal. If you haven't been to DFW lately, it's about the size of Robstown. I literally had to run and was one of the last people down the chute on to the plane. Why do I always wait till the last minute?

But it all worked out, and Jeff and I are down here in Stock Island, right next to Key West. We even ran into Islanders Robert and Kelly Ann Pruski, as they were delivering a boat to Lauderdale. Evidently one of us brought the wind with, because it hasn't let up in like five long days. To be sure, there are lots of conch fritters, lobster sandwiches, bathing in miscellaneous pools, and the expected late night hijinks. But the plans to jump on dales boat and head out to the Bahamas has quickly evaporated. I'm not sure how long I'm going to be out here (still don't have a return ticket, lol) but we're starting to get antsy.

About the only fishing that's predictable is for tarpon at night under the lights of the Boca Chica channel, which I'm happy to do every chance I get. They are readily taking our lures, and I mean they are taking our lures. We've had to restock terminal gear several times and up our game on leaders. I'm hoping that we will be able to get one to stay buttoned and get a frame for the archives.

We are right off the south run way of Naval Station Key West, and there are lots of fighters doing training. They are going right over our heads, and I mean right over our heads. I don't think I've been this close to some of these jets like ever. And then we are off the north runway of the Key West airport, so it's pretty busy around here.

There are iguanas and chickens roaming all over the place, but they mainly congregate in the Public parking lots, and nothing messes with them. The locals completely ignore them, but don't get caught feeding them. You will get chastised. Is that a bad thing to feed chickens eggs?

As with any place, talking to the locals has gotten us some very handy information. Where the best conch fritters are at, what time to hit which restaurants, and where the drink specials are. Texans stick out like sore thumbs, and we have run into many down here. The Florida- Texas connection is still strong.

Well folks, I'm going to cut this one a little short this week. It's pretty steamy and my keyboard acts funny when you get it in the pool, which is where I spend most afternoons. Jeff and Kay just showed up from a supply run, and I'm getting hungry. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and we'll see you next week On the Rocks.



Red Mangroves



Jay at the southernmost point in Key West.

Going Native Yaupon part deux

By Ed Proffitt

I wrote about yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*, holly family or Aquifoliaceae) in this column in November of 2021. Today, I'm hopping on Mr. Peabody's WayBack machine to revisit this cool native tree species, with a bit of a modified focus. First, a review of this species' growth characteristics and ecological benefits. This species is a small tree that in theory can grow to about 8 m tall but on the Island is unlikely to get anywhere near that size. The one by the saline pond near our house is about 2.5 m tall and has been about that size since we moved here in 2016.

This is an evergreen with small, alternately arranged, leaves with shallow "teeth". Flowers are small and sexes are separate. If you have a female tree you'll be rewarded with lustrous red berries in the Fall and Winter, that may persist on the tree until the following Spring. Yaupon grows well in full sun or full shade, persists on a variety of soil types ranging from clay to well-drained sand. It will grow in prairies or coastal forests or at the edges of salt marshes. Notably, it can tolerate drought just fine once established, and thus the need for watering is minimal. It also survived the 2021 hard freeze just fine with no noticeable damage except reduced reproduction that year. The growth form is highly branched, which means it's ideal as a hedge plant and can be easily shaped by pruning. In some habitats the plant becomes a dominant and makes thickets so dense that fire and other methods are used to reduce cover and allow other plant species to come in. That hasn't happened on the Island and is unlikely too, in my humble opinion. One thing to keep in mind when planting this species is that it's very flammable. You don't want to plant it too close to your house.

Many bird species (ranging from cedar waxwings to sapsuckers, to sparrows and flickers) use it for nesting or consume the berries. Locally, we have observed the Crested Cara Cara mating in the yaupon near our house twice, in separate years! Apparently, it's a good hang out spot as well and nesting site and food source!

Yaupon is the only native plant in North America with caffeine. Many groups of Native Americans used yaupon in various rituals and for medicinal purposes, and also made a social beverage from the leaves. Concoctions were used to treat many ailments including nervous tremors and eye maladies. It was also used to treat for nightmares in which the patient reportedly saw ghosts and talked about them in their sleep. Early explorers and amateur ethnologists Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca in Texas (1528 – 1536) and Andres de San Miguelin in Georgia (1595) reported emetic effects (vomiting) after drinking the concoction. However, more recently authors suggest that this only happens if very large amounts are consumed, which could happen even with water. Others speculate that the Native Americans may have mixed other plants in with the yaupon to increase the effect. The unfortunate part is that this gave early botanists the idea for the species name vomitoria! I read that in even more recent years a group of yaupon enthusiasts (read, tea drinkers or commercial producers) peti-



A rooted yaupon cutting in our garden

tioned botanists to change the species name, but to no avail. Those taxonomic botanists are a wild and crazy bunch -- but they like their naming traditions. Modern chemical analyses have found no emetic inducing compounds as per a USDA (National Resource Conservation Service subgroup) plant materials guide sheet.

Now, on to details of yaupon tea! I found a very nice source on line in the April 2022 issue of Texas Monthly (<https://www.texasmonthly.com/food/yaupon-tea-steeped-history/>) discussing everything from the blooming yaupon tea industry in Texas and other states to how to roast-dry the leaves and make tea. So, I solicited my 'local tea expert', my spouse Donna, and we picked leaves from nearby and roasted them at 350° F for 20 minutes as per the article. Ours roasted just fine although there was a caveat in the article about keeping an eye out to make sure they didn't catch fire. We read that yaupon tea also mixed well with mint and honey or other sweeteners. Someone also mentioned a mix with gin but we didn't try that. Roasted leaves were crushed, placed in a wire infuser, and boiling water added.

My "take" is that the tea tastes more or less like other herbals I've had, although Donna-the-Tea-Whisperer opined that it needed to steep longer. I'm a coffee guy who occasionally takes tea, so what do I know. Anyway, when both mint and agave were added, I found it to be quite a nice drink. I'll try it again, maybe with the gin. I'll also report that the caffeine didn't keep me awake that night, nor did I dream of or speak too ghosts.

For your native tea garden, yaupon can be rooted from cuttings (Donna found that it rooted better in sand than potting soil), or seedlings / root sprouts can be transplanted. You can grow from seed too, but you'll have to stratify in the refrigerator and scarify (one report suggested concentrated sulfuric acid) those cute little seeds. Otherwise, the seeds may take years to sprout. My suggestion is it's much easier to root cuttings or transplant seedlings in order to promote Going Native with this species.



Brown yaupon leaves post roasting



Ed with yaupon tea



Cara caras mating in yaupon

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Business Briefs

By Mary “Scoop” Craft
mkay512@aol.com

Black Sheep Bistro serves BBQ every Wednesday. The smoked choices include brisket, turkey, jalapeño sausage, pork loin and salmon. The sides are potato salad, Cole slaw, Mac & cheese, baked beans with bacon and Brussel sprouts with bacon, onion and tomato.



Douden Park gardens has five fenced areas with 20 raised gardens beds with each bed 10’x15’ that are assigned by a first come, first served basis. There is a one-time \$50 fee paid at the Padre Island Property Owners Association office next to Billish Park. It is yours as long as you maintain it and have at least one growing season every two years. If you are interested in one of these gardens contact Ken Tiller the volunteer garden coordinator at 210-665-1217.



Padre Island Art Gallery is a great place to find a gift for Mother’s Day. There are unique art pieces of charcuterie board, coffee mugs, serving bowls.They also have gift cards.



Riley P. Dog Park will be getting shade structures installed June 3 - 6 by Geofill Construction. One side will be closed at a time so the park will still be accessible.

Corpus Christi Hooks will be giving away 2,000 short sleeve hoodies at the Friday night May 10th game courtesy of Flint Hills. There will also be fireworks that night.



South Texas Botanical Gardens is free for moms this weekend they just need to say “Show me the flowers” on Saturday and Sunday 9 am - 6 pm.



Merida’s Tapas & Cantina has karaoke on.Fridays 7 - 11 pm and Sundays 5 - 9 pm. EJ Redfeather will be providing the music on Saturday, May 11th 6 - 9 pm. There is a 10% off lunch coupon on page 2 of the Moon this issue. Mother’s Day Brunch Buffet will be 11 am - 3 pm. Call 470-9050 for reservations.



The 2024 Bond Package currently drafted has \$10 million slated for the Oso Golf Center making it look like that new two story clubhouse is not that far off.

Island Art Market will be held at Billish Park on Saturday, May 11th 10 am - 3 pm.

Tay by the Bay Dance Party celebrating the Eras Tour will be held at Roberts Point Park in Port A on Friday, May 10th 6 - 9 pm. There will be Taylor Swift themed prizes with games and contests. Enjoy refresh-

ments, a friendship bracelet and temporary tattoo station. It is presented by Port A Parks & Recreation and is free. This evening will be all about celebrating the “Eras” of T. Swift with

Padre Island Enrichment Club is a women’s club that has been on the Island for over 30 years. It has great events and gives you an opportunity to meet your neighbors. They have a monthly luncheon at Hardknocks and this month it is on Friday, May 10th and includes a silent auction. The activities you can join in on include bunco, book club, outings, etc.. Dues are \$30/year and you can get more info on their Face-book page.



The 46th Annual Beach to Bay Relay Marathon will be on Saturday, May 18th. There will be six race legs with three of those on the Island. The first starts at 7 am and is Zahn Road from the beach to Hwy361, the second from there to the bottom of the bridge and the third from there to Waldron. Registration for a six person relay team is \$275 and ends May 7th. Two person and one runner is \$100 and registration ends May 17th. Approximately 16,000 runners compete so I would save your errands for another day.



This redwing blackbird caught my attention in my backyard over the weekend. I’m not sure if it’s a leucistic or piebald, definitely a looker ! Padre Island

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Skipper Tales

Did You Ever?

By Bob Skipper

Did you ever walk along the beach,
And watch the tide roll in to land?
Did you ever watch the restless surf,
Relentlessly scour the sand?

Did you ever stop to watch the clouds,
In all their timeless motion?
Did you ever notice the rolling waves,
Out on the endless ocean?

Did you ever watch the grandeur,
Of a bright sunrise at sea?
Did you ever know this beautiful scene,
Was created for all to see?

Did you ever think of times gone by,
And wonder at its passing?
Did you ever stop and appreciate,
The wonders you’ve been missing?

Did you ever watch a sunset,
The wondrous beauty all around?
And thank God, your creator,
For his great majesty, so profound?



Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



By Dotson Lewis

Bill Walton Basketball Player Part 1



Dotson's Note: William Theodore Walton III is an American television sportscaster and former professional basketball player. He played college basketball for coach John Wooden and the UCLA Bruins, winning three consecutive national college player of the year awards (1972–1974), while leading UCLA to NCAA championships in 1972 and 1973 and an 88-game winning streak. After being selected as the first overall pick in the 1974 NBA draft, he led the Portland Trail Blazers to an NBA championship in 1977, earning the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Award that season. He won another NBA title in 1986 as a member of the Boston Celtics. Walton was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1993. He was named to the NBA's 50th and 75th anniversary teams. Thanks to Bill Morgan and Wikipedia for the facts and photos contained in this report.

Bill Walton's early career in the National Basketball Association (NBA) was very successful, winning the 1978 NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP) and an NBA championship with the Portland Trail Blazers, for which he was also named Finals MVP. However, his professional career began to be significantly hampered by multiple foot injuries requiring numerous surgeries. Walton sat out the 1978–79 season and was then signed by the San Diego Clippers (now Los Angeles Clippers), for whom he played four injury-plagued seasons. His career was rehabilitated during two seasons with the Boston Celtics at the end of his career. Playing as a backup center behind Robert Parish, Walton earned the NBA Sixth Man of the Year Award in the 1985–86 season, winning his second championship that same season.

After retiring from the NBA, Walton overcame stuttering and embarked on a second career as a sportscaster, working both as a studio analyst and color commentator with stints for several networks and teams. He earned an Emmy Award in 1991. Walton is a noted fan of the Grateful Dead, as a self-described "Deadhead", and often mentions them in his broadcasts. He has hosted several podcasts and satellite radio programs featuring the music of the Grateful Dead.

Walton was born and raised in La Mesa, California, the son of Gloria Anne (née Hickey) and William Theodore «Ted» Walton. He was raised with siblings Bruce, Cathy and Andy. The Waltons' La Mesa home was a hillside home on Colorado Avenue, just below Lake Murray.



Walton's father Ted was a music teacher and social worker and his mother Gloria, a librarian. His parents had interests in art, literature, politics, and music. Walton took music lessons, and although his parents were not sports-oriented, Walton followed in the footsteps of his older brother Bruce, who had gravitated toward sports. When the Walton children were in junior high and high school, their father formed an informal family band: Bruce played trombone, Bill played baritone horn, Andy played the saxo-

phone, and Cathy played drums (or flute or tuba). "Bill and I couldn't quit fast enough", Bruce said.

Walton first played organized basketball under Frank "Rocky" Graciano, who coached at Walton's Catholic elementary school. Coach Graciano "made it [basketball] fun and really emphasized the joy of playing the team game", said Walton. "I was a skinny, scrawny guy. I stuttered horrendously, couldn't speak at all. I was a very shy, reserved player and a very shy, reserved person. I found a safe place in life in basketball."

Walton played high school basketball at Helix High School in La Mesa alongside his brother Bruce, who was one year older at 6 ft 6 in (1.98 m) and 250 pounds (113 kg). Bruce was a star football player as well. If Bill Walton was getting physical treatment in a basketball game, Bruce returned the treatment.

"When those opposing teams would try to get physical with me, Bruce would do whatever it took to protect me", Walton recalled. "He went on to play for the Dallas Cowboys. Bruce and I are the only brother combination in history to ever play in the Super Bowl and to win the NBA championship."

"When they would begin to rough up Bill, I would look at coach and he would give me a nod", recalled Bruce. "Yes", said Gloria Walton, "then when the referee wasn't looking, Bruce would give the player an elbow and let him know that the skinny guy was his kid brother."

Walton's struggle with injury and pain began while at Helix High School, where he broke an ankle, a leg, several bones in his feet, and underwent knee surgery.

Before his sophomore season, Walton underwent surgery to repair torn cartilage on his left knee. Because of his recovery from the knee surgery, Walton played most of his sophomore year on the junior varsity team. Coach Gordon Nash promoted him to the varsity team the end of the season. But, he played in only six games and did not start any of them.

Between his sophomore and junior years of high school (age 15–16), Walton grew from 6 ft 1 in to 6 ft 7 in. Coach Nash played Bill and Bruce Walton together in the paint. Bill was taller, but frail as he had not filled out his growing frame. Bill was unable to play a complete game without resting. "He would simply get too tired", recalled Nash. "When that happened, he'd tell me and I'd take him out."



While Walton was in high school in 1967, the NBA expansion San Diego Rockets came to town. The Rockets had no set practice facility and would often play pick-up games at Helix High School. Rocket players learned that to get into the Helix gym they could call the teenage Walton, who had his own gym key. Walton recalled Elvin Hayes calling and telling his mother, «Tell Billy, Big E is calling and we need him to open the gym tonight. I said, «Mom, that's Big E! Give me the phone!» I was never so embarrassed in my life. Elvin and I are still close friends. All of those guys all [sic] still my friends to this very day."

Dotson's Other Note: "We had the best gym in San Diego and all the Rockets players wanted to go there", Walton reflected. "They had some great teams with Elvin Hayes and Calvin Murphy and future head coaches and broadcasters such as Pat Riley, Rick Adelman, Rudy Tomjanovich, Jim Barnett, and Stu Lantz. All these guys treated me, little Billy, like I was part of the team. They couldn't have been nicer, and I became their friend."

TO BE CONTINUED



By Andy Purvis

Heavily Armed

It was January, 1989, Super Bowl week back in the States, when I approached my tee shot. Although I was not a good golfer by any means, I considered this spot of ground a little piece of heaven. Not only was I about to play a round of golf in beautiful Hawaii, but my partner was a man I had watched and followed during my early years of growing up. He was 53 years of age, bald, wore black-rimmed glasses and was missing his two front teeth. On his face and forehead, he wore the scars of fifteen seasons of smash-mouth football. His hands were huge and appeared rough and broken from the hand-to-hand combat in the trenches. He walked proudly but gently, as if every step hurt. His head seemed as big as Goliath, while his shoulders were broad enough to serve breakfast on. He just looked like a middle-linebacker should look. It had been said by his peers that he was ferocious and that he indeed enjoyed hitting other people, on his team or yours. He could snap a ball carrier in half like a dry bag of spaghetti. This large, happy-go-lucky guy changed when he stepped on the football field. His demeanor became as dark as the inside of a football. His arms, from the elbows down, were hardened by rolls of white trainer's tape and his legs were strong like a fence post. There was even a story floating around about his being able to remove the lug nuts from the wheel of a car with his teeth. I was sure the story was not true, or at least I hoped it wasn't; I still had seventeen holes left to play with this guy. After my tee shot, my partner addressed his ball. As I properly stood quietly behind him, I closed my eyes for a second and whispered under my breath, "I'm playing golf with # 66, Ray Nitschke of the Green Bay Packers." Nitschke, Johnny Unitas and Dick Butkus had been my favorites to watch early on. There was one thing they all three had in common-toughness. At 6' 3", 225 pounds, Ray Nitschke entered every game heavily armed, a grown man among mere boys.

On December 29, 1936, Raymond Ernest "Ray" Nitschke was chiseled from stone, in a tough neighborhood known as Elmwood Park, Illinois. By the age of 13, Ray had lost both his mother and father and would be reared by an older brother. Ray used sports to vent his pent-up anger while playing quarterback for Proviso East High School. Not only did they win the league title, but Ray was also selected to the Illinois High School All-State team. By 1954, Ray had turned down a contract to play professional baseball with the St. Louis Browns and instead signed a scholarship to play college football with the University of Illinois. He would find a home at fullback and linebacker, positions where his brute strength and speed benefited the team the most. Even though Ray scored four touchdowns against Iowa State, he was considered by NFL scouts to be a born linebacker.

On December 2, 1957, the 1958 NFL Draft got underway. Green Bay chose three players that would become the heart of future Packer teams. Fullback Jim Taylor of LSU was chosen in the second round with the fifteenth pick, linebacker Ray Nitschke was chosen in the third round with the thirty-sixth pick, and right guard Jerry Kramer of Idaho was chosen in the fourth round with the thirty-ninth pick. At the age of twenty, Nitschke was now a professional football player. Although Ray started eight games as a rookie, the Packers would finish their 1958 season with one win, one tie and the worst record in the league; but help was on the way.

Thirty days after the 1958 season ended, one of the best NFL coaches "ever," arrived in Green Bay; his name was Vince Lombardi. In a short three years (1960), Lombardi would lead the Packers to a title game against the Philadelphia Eagles. With



Ray Nitschke

Lombardi at the helm and talented players like Bart Starr, Paul Hornung, Forest Gregg, Jim Ringo, Willie Wood, Willie Davis, Max McGee, Henry Jordan, Herb Adderley and Ray Nitschke, the Green Bay Packers would win five NFL titles and the first two Super Bowls in the 1960's.

Lew Carpenter, a friend of mine and a teammate of Ray's, loves telling stories about the glory days of the Lombardi Packers. Lew played on the 1961 and 1962 NFL Championship teams with the Packers and proudly wears the 1961 Championship ring and 1962 Championship watch. "Ray had two personalities," said Lew. "Off the field, he could be kind, gentle and gracious, but on the football field he was frightening." Lew claimed that Ray's wife held a calming influence over him at home. Lew also told the story about a metal observation tower that fell on Nitschke one day during practice. As players gathered around, Lombardi came running over and yells, "What happened here?" When told that the tower had fallen on Nitschke, Lombardi said, "He'll be fine. Get back to work!" Lew went on to say that the fallen tower had driven a metal spike into Nitschke's helmet, but didn't injure him. "That helmet with the hole in it," said Lew, "is on display at the Packers Hall of Fame in Green Bay." Nitschke went on to earn MVP honors in the 1962 NFL Championship Game and was awarded a brand new 1963 Chevrolet Corvette.

Nitschke retired in 1972, at the age of 36. He had earned first or second team All-NFL honors seven times in eight years, from 1962-1969. He was a complete player with twenty-five interceptions for 385 return yards and two touchdowns. He is the only linebacker to be named to the NFL's 50th and 75th Anniversary Teams. Ray became a member of the NFL Hall of Fame in 1978 and had his #66 retired by the Packers in 1983.

Ray Nitschke continued to live in Green Bay and you could find his address and number in the phone book. He appeared on TV, in a couple of movies, and was ranked #18 on the 1999 *Sporting News* list of the 100 Greatest Football Players of all time. There was also a funny line mentioned in the ABC movie, Brian's Song. Actor James Caan played Chicago Bear running back and cancer victim, Brian Piccolo. In the movie, when the Doctor asked Piccolo if he was allergic to anything, Piccolo responded, "Just Nitschke."

On March 8, 1998, one of my childhood heroes left the big playing field for the last time. Ray had been visiting family and friends in Venice, Florida, and suffered a heart attack. He was 61.

Every year, the day before the Hall of Fame inductions, there is a luncheon for all the members and new inductees. Ray Nitschke always attended and made it a point to speak to the new fellows about the honor and the responsibility that was being bestowed on them. This luncheon is now named after him.

As for our golf game, sure he won; he didn't know how to lose. We had a blast and I will carry those memories forever. Rest well, Ray, and save me a tee time.



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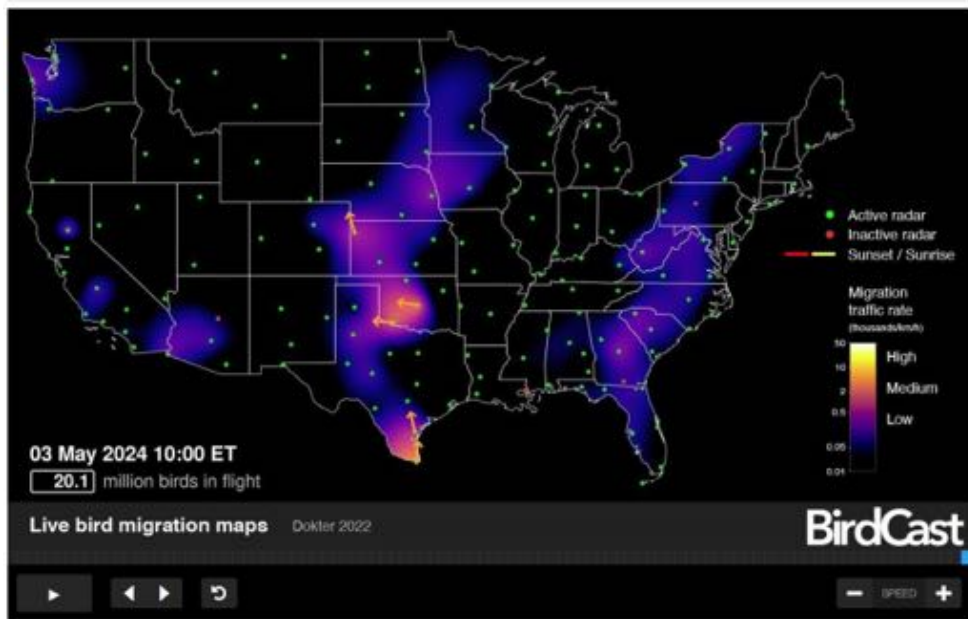
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Island Outdoors

Nature Notes

South Wind Migrants

By Martin Hagne



A BirdCast migration map forecasting the millions of birds migrating over North America.

During late March through early May, birders flock to the Texas coast in hopes of seeing the many neotropical migrant birds heading back north to their summer breeding grounds. Some of these birds nest here or very near us, while others travel on a far as northern Canada. It's a long, hard and dangerous trip, with many hazards, many of which were created by us humans.

But there are, of course, natural threats to small songbirds, some only weighing a nickel's-worth! It's rather amazing that such a small and very lightweight bird can make such an arduous trip, leaving the Yucatan in Mexico, crossing the huge Gulf of Mexico and heading straight for the upper Texas and Louisiana coast. The long flight might take 18 hours of more over a very hostile open ocean.

If a strong thunderstorm with pelting rain and hard winds--especially northern winds—is encountered in the Gulf, it could mean doom for such a small bird. A late "Norther," pushing south across the coast or nearshore can also be disastrous. As sad as it sounds, once a songbird hits the water, there is no recovery. And as everything in nature is truly tied together, there is even species of shark that has the same migration timing as birds, feasting upon downed birds in the open waters. Similarly, a recent university study found that Tiger shark mothers bring their young nearshore to let them feed better and that includes many downed songbirds.

This spring, migration started very much the same. A few early birds in March, along with a few birders out looking. There is normally a small push of migrants in late March, then a slower lull until mid-April. But mid-April came and we weren't seeing many birds. Even in the main migration push that spans the last two weeks of April into the first week of May, only small

numbers of birds showed up, in what some birders would call a "slow migration."

But was it really a slow migration? It is true that since the 1970's we have lost a 30% mass of birds overall, a huge loss that continues. Therefore, we won't see as we once would. But that doesn't mean birds aren't migrating. In fact, each night, millions, and on some nights hundreds of millions of migrants fly right over us! BirdCast, which uses radar to track live bird migration, is showing 20.1 million birds in the air moving north in North America as I write this article here in the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory!

So, what gives? Why are so few migrants being seen along the so very important coastal habitats this year? It's a very simple fact: strong southerly winds for almost two months straight. Birds can somehow "sense" wind directions, and can actually find the layers of most advantageous wind patterns in the atmosphere.

Once in flight, they can rise or ascend into layers of wind speed and direction that are best for them. A southerly wind carries them along, a tail wind so to speak, pushing them North. This is a huge advantage to a migrating bird, helping it save energy stores that were built up over time before migration. It can fly faster and longer, and is mostly able to bypass the coastal stopover sites they would use most years.

How far they push inland depends on their remaining energy stores and weather patterns inland. That's a great thing for a bird, but not for watching them. I'm rooting for the birds, so let them fly! We will see them sometime! And now that migration is waning, birds are reaching or already have reached their breeding destinations, singing to hold territories and attracting mates, just like it should be!



This year Miley turned 13 and raised \$600 for the TRMA Artist Relief Foundation for her 4th Annual Birthday Bash. Kelly McGuire and Jonas Lorence Band played Saturday night at Hardknocks and we all danced the night away. Bobbie socks and Hulu hoops was in the house with lots of door prizes.



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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah's Fishing Adventures

The Final Countdown!

We are in the final days of our school year and everyone that is in lock down is bouncing off the walls! When the doors bust open we will all see and feel the summer season explode! Fishing is right there at well, the winds will finally calm down and the heat will max out! Boats will tear at the waters, lines at the bait shops every morning, and a panic will cover all boat ramps. Set yourself on cruise control and relax, here are some fun and easy ways to enjoy the first outings of summer with your family that will build lifetime memories.

Fishing without a boat

Grab some snorkels and masks and get in the water! We love quiet shorelines in the bay, shallow and clear. Even the area along the JFK Causeway, behind the island on Mustang island, bird island, the Port A and PACKERY jetty's. Fins are optional and not needed in shallow water with no current. A broom stick or anything to poke around is fun, we use pole slings to spear flounder, black drum, mangrove snapper and even crabs!

Cast and Catch

Learn how to cast net and catch bait! There are so many creatures out there to find and learn from. A sein net is even better if you have a few people. The holes are smaller and catch sea horses, pipe fish, and every shrimp, crab, and baitfish out there. Don't kill things for no reason but it's defiantly fun to play with them!

Little Anglers

Take your smallest kids to the marina



The new Trout limits are working! Lots of nice trout over 20" like this one caught and released. We will see the best trophy trout fishery in the country in a few years. This one was from the Kennedy Shoreline in Baffin Bay on a DOWN SOUTH KEY LIME PIE!

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Tricia Dabney with one of the giant redfish she landed in the UPPER LAGUNA MADRE this week on soft plastics drifting the FLOUR BLUFF SHORELINE. Down South Lures Purple Reign.

and catch their first fish! Even if it's a few hard heads they don't care! My first saltwater fish was a hard head in Sabine Lake with my dad when he was a diver, the first fish I caught here in Corpus Christi was a catfish, still remember them both to this day. They are good to eat I've eaten them a few times.

The point is that there is a great excitement in our young for the start of summer. Feed their minds and get them out of the house and off of the games with real adventures. The students will be ready to run and our beloved teachers will be ready to enjoy their silence and sleep in!

MARKER 37 MARKNA REPORT
LIVE SHRIMP AND CROAKER ARE
AVAILABLE IN GOOD NUMBERS!

Most fishermen have been drifting with shrimp and popping corks along the west shoreline of the Laguna Madre and going south to the land cut. Anchoring down along the rocks in Baffin Bay has been good for trout and small drum as well. Port A guides are using frozen Shad and croakers in the sand pockets on the inside of the large islands in Corpus Christi bay.

Got to run the moon monkeys are yelling to hit send! Follow all of our fishing on Facebook at JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING.



I blasted three big redfish in a row one morning this week on a DOA SWIM BAIT IN GLOW/GOLD. The redfish have been in 4' flats along the edges of channels where shrimp are migrating at night.

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Photos by Debbie Noble



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Debbie Wall with John and Millie Stokes



Denise Hawkins the ultimate fundraiser.



Evelyn Pless Schubert and her friend Gordon



Frank and his son Ryan who is a Seashore graduate



Lorena Godsey, Desire Rodriguez and Lorena Portillo did in fact Whoop it Up.



Frank Delarosa gets the crowd in a buying mood as the auctioneer for Whoop it up.



Emily and Catherine Clark took the Moon to Los Angeles with them on a Mother's Day vacay.



Billy Snipes took the Moon traveling to Key West.



Steve and Judy Chaney took the Moon to Mowata, LA, this week. For those who are unfamiliar Mowata is just below Eunice, LA.



Patrick Hussey and Kelly Robb with the Moon in Walden, Vermont.



Steve Cater got this shot of a green heron.

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Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

Mother’s Day. I learned very early as a pastor how complicated a holiday it can be. One mother described Mother’s Day as a saccharine invention, a national fairy tale in a nation that does almost nothing to support mothers. Many people who attend church on Mother’s Day want a feel-good message that includes mother and is good. No pressure!

There are many people who struggle on Mother’s Day. It’s not a good day for those who mourn a mother now gone, especially in the first year following their death. It’s not a good day for those mothers who have struggled or still struggle to nurture a child. Nor is it a good day for those children who longed for nurturing but did not receive it from their mothers.

It’s not a good day for those mothers and children who are estranged. It’s not a good day for those women who desperately wanted to be mothers but couldn’t be, or for those still desperately trying to be a mother. It’s not a good day for those women who don’t want to be mothers but are vilified for that choice. It’s not a good day for those women who had a child die.

Those who struggle on Mother’s Day are our neighbors and friends. As we celebrate motherhood in all its forms, we must also mourn with those who mourn. We must be present with all those beset by disappointment, heartache, and distance. We need to see those who are invisible on Mother’s Day. We must comfort those who are pained and encourage those who are discouraged. We need to walk with those walking the hard path of infertility as they are poked and prodded amidst their tears. We need to acknowledge the experience of those who experienced abuse or neglect. Check on your neighbors, not everybody is doing well on Mother’s Day.

Mother’s Day is a good day for celebrating the gift of motherhood. It is a good day to celebrate with those who gave birth this year to their first child. It is good to celebrate those moms who are in the trenches of life with little ones and have all the bodily

and food stains to document each day. It is a good day to celebrate the moms who play referee, life-coach, nurse, accountant, chef, housekeeper, pet whisperer, personal shopper, teacher, drivers ed specialist, chief potty trainer, relationship consultant, dating expert, counselor, organizational specialist, chauffeur, rule enforcement officer, laundry expert, meteorologist, janitor, and the many other roles performed by moms. Moms are the ultimate multitaskers, often doing the above while working outside the home.

Truly, motherhood is not for the faint of heart. We have real heroes in our midst!

Mother’s Day is also a good day for celebrating and remembering those who were mother-like figures in our lives, the mentor moms, spiritual moms, and the neighborhood gathering place moms. It is a day to honor foster moms, and the selfless care they offer children in need.

Mother’s Day can be complicated because life is complicated. Happy Mother’s Day to my mother, my wife, and our daughter-in-law, all three accomplished and awesome mothers! And to those for whom it is not a good day, we see you.

And so, Sunday is a day for more than saccharine, feel good, greeting card messages from a pulpit. It is a day to hear God’s love, mercy, healing, and grace extended to all.

A bunch of humans gather each Sunday to worship in community at Island Presbyterian Church, giving thanks for grace, love, healing, and hope, working for peace, justice, and reconciliation. There is always room at the table for you! Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m., 14030 Fortune Bay Drive, or on our Facebook page, or at Whitecap Beach for a beach worship service at 8 a.m. Bring a chair and well-behaved pets are always welcome.

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

pastor@islandpresby.com

Mangroves, expanding with the warming climate, are re-shaping the Texas coast

The tropical shrubs have been spreading north and growing more abundantly as climate change makes temperatures warmer. Scientists are unravelling what that means for coastal habitats.



Editor’s note: The following story featuring Island Moon columnist ran in the Texas Tribune this week as part of the Pulitzer Center’s nationwide Connected Coastlines reporting initiative.

By Emily Foxhall
PORT ARANSAS — Dead mangroves cover Harbor Island near this coastal city, creating a bleak landscape that contrasts with the calm, blue water that laps at the shore. The intense 2021 winter freeze killed these plants, which can tolerate some cold but not for that long. A few leafy, green saplings now sprout among them. Black mangroves like these were expanding along the Texas coast for years before the freeze. The shrubs are native to the state, but, as climate change pushed temperatures generally higher, scientists saw them growing in greater numbers and spreading farther north than their typical range. Biologists who study mangroves say little can be done about the plant’s expansion. Instead, they are analyzing what changes the mangroves bring as they spread to new areas — good and bad.

In some cases, mangroves have shaded out salt marsh plants that some fish, shrimp, whooping cranes and other species rely on. And even though the freeze killed off many mangroves along the Texas coast, researchers expect them to return and keep growing in fits and starts as periodic freezes punctuate the generally warmer weather. The way mangroves are re-making the Texas coastline is one more example of how human-caused climate change is already altering our environment. Like other animals and plants, mangroves can now live farther north because temperatures are warming. Anna Armitage, a professor at Texas A&M University at Galveston and a leading Texas mangrove researcher, said scientists have been evaluating how mangroves affect different species and the environment along the coast.

“Mangroves do some things better, and marshes do some things better,” she said. “But they’re not the same.”
Why mangroves can be good: They could help protect against sea level rise because their stick-like roots help build up the soil height and their falling leaves decompose into soil. One study determined that they were better than salt marsh succulent plants at protecting against erosion. They offer habitat for migratory songbirds.
Why mangroves can be bad: They displace the marsh habitat that acts as a nursery for some fish and shrimp and where endangered whooping cranes spend winters. And when mangroves die during a freeze, they form a skeleton forest, as one scientist described it, leaving the shoreline vulnerable to the erosion they once helped prevent.

Mangroves expanded in Texas before the 2021 freeze

The white, shallow-water boat hummed where Victoria Congdon had navigated it to Harbor Island on a short, speedy trip from the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve office. Congdon, the reserve’s research coordinator, was showing a reporter places where mangroves were plentiful and places where they had more slowly crept in. Congdon wore Chacos and toe rings on her feet. She grew up Lockhart and wanted to be a marine biologist as a kid. Today, she’s passionate about plants because — although they lack the charisma and likability of, say, a turtle — they play important roles for entire ecosystems.
The mangroves here used to provide habitat and protect the shoreline, which made losing them a negative thing. But she said scientists could learn from that loss — and from their potential recovery. Black mangroves have been in Texas forever, said Alejandro Fierro-Cabo, an associate professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, who specializes in restoration ecology. They don’t stretch as continuously along the Texas coastline as they do farther south in Tamaulipas, Mexico, but grow in patches.

Victoria Congdon, a marine scientist with Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve, navigates a boat through the entrance to the Lighthouse Lakes area off Port Aransas. Fierro-Cabo said it’s possible that the Texas coast may begin to look more like Mexico’s mangrove-covered shore as temperatures continue to warm. Last year, the state’s average temperature was the hottest ever recorded: 68.1 degrees. And last winter was the mildest ever recorded based on the coldest minimum temperature on average, according to research by Texas State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon.

By 2036, Nielsen-Gammon’s latest study predicts, the average annual surface temperature in Texas will be 3 degrees warmer than the 1950-1999 average. The plant transition can clearly be seen in the middle portion of the Texas coast. Katie Swanson, who is the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve’s stewardship coordinator and acting manager, has been monitoring the transition of a study site on Mud Island from a mix of marsh and mangrove to mangrove-dominated. She said they were seeing a lot of that pattern on the mid-Texas coast.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is using aerial images to determine how coastal habitat has changed. Comparing images from 2015 to 2018 around Aransas Bay with images from 2004, the agency found a net increase of 632 acres of mangrove, said Jacob Harris, a coastal ecologist on the agency’s habitat assessment team. Walking down a slope on the back side of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi campus, marine ecology professor Ed Proffitt pointed out the healthy, bushy mangroves near the edge of Oso Bay — one of the locations where he and students study mangroves. Marsh plants stretched out around and behind the mangroves. Before the 2021 freeze, the researchers documented how plentiful and big the shrubs grew; some rose higher than graduate student Max Portmann, who is 6’7”. After the freeze, they thought many of the mangroves they studied were dead. But some sprouted up again from their old roots, reaching skyward. The scientists estimated about 40% of those they studied on campus survived. Here the mangroves’ numerous, small leaves extended from long skinny branches. The leaves are a darker shade of green than the lime-colored marsh plants. Three years after the winter storm, some of the mangroves reached waist-high or higher. Wearing sandals, a wide-brimmed hat and a peach-colored Columbia fishing shirt, Proffitt, who has researched mangroves for 30 years, explained how he expects the mangroves to continue to fill in the shoreline by Oso Bay so long as there isn’t another big freeze.

“They’re coming back in some places faster than others, but they’ll probably come back in all these places,” Proffitt said. “It’s just going to take a while. The question becomes: Are they going to come back before there’s erosion and subsidence that will convert it all to something else like open water?”
Portmann sees the mangrove’s expansion as just one piece of a changing coastline: “With climate change, the marsh isn’t going to stay the same way it is regardless,” he said, as the duo walked back to the parking lot.
And some animals here like the mangroves. When Texas Parks and Wildlife researchers used nets to collect species in the bays along the central coast, they found that spotted seatrout and brown and white shrimp preferred marsh. Red drum and blue crabs preferred the mangroves. “It’s not something that we can necessarily control — or should we be even controlling?” said Harris, the TPWD ecologist, adding, “There’s a lot of mixed emotions with it because mangroves do provide very useful habitat. ... But is it a good thing that some salt marsh is being converted into mangroves?”



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		6	3	4				
2			1	6		3		
	9	8	5			4		
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Knuckle-Cracker

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Mind-Numbing Frustration

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Brain-Buster

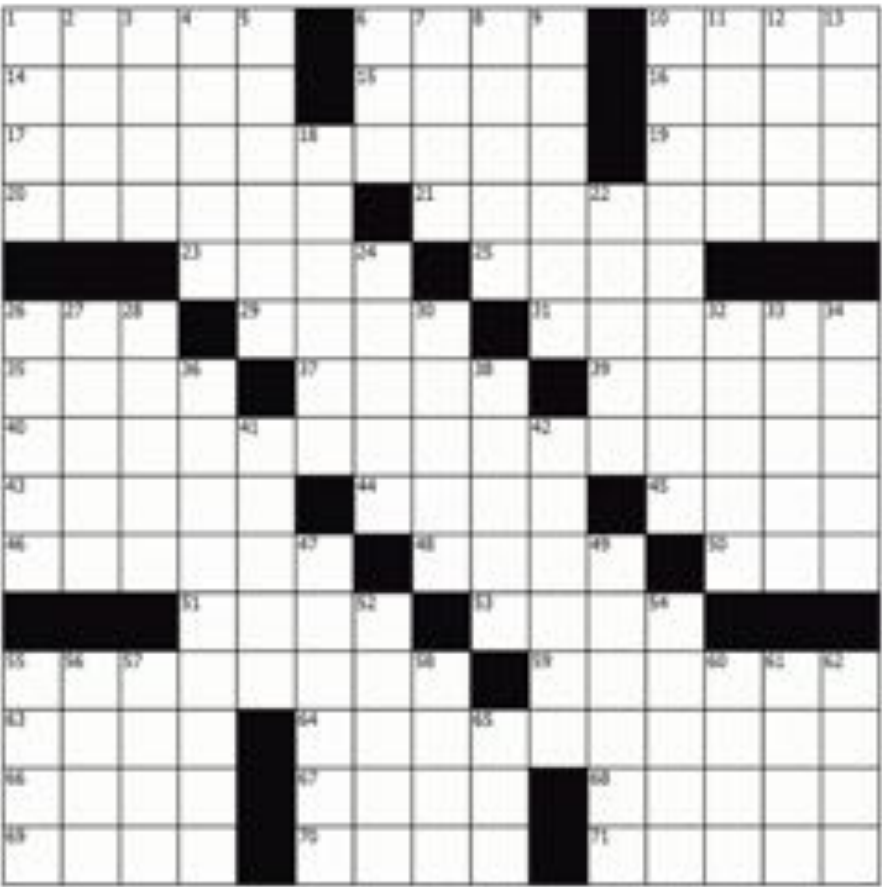
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Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

1. One with a SAG card
6. Burrito alternative
10. Witches
14. A- or B
15. Soon, to Shakespeare
16. Creme-filled cookie
17. Kaput
19. "Exodus" author Uris
20. Prepare for action
21. Water, facetiously
23. Tennis divisions
25. Inspired with love, old-style
26. Prime rib au ____
29. Actor Neeson
31. Skirt folds
35.
37. Captain's staff
39. Black ball in a pool hall
40. Kaput
43. Swiss mathematician
44. Dunce
45. ____ qua non: essential
46. Asparagus units
48. Dogpatch creator
50. Prefix with conservative
51. ____ land: unreality
53. Par
55. S. Carolina college
59. Navy builder
63. Volcanic flow
64. Kaput
66. Leave out
67. ____ Tree State: Maine
68. CBS or NBC
69. Take from the text
70. Carson's Carnac, for one
71. Modeler's wood



Down

1. Wide-eyed
2. Rock band
Mötley ____
3. Affected "Bye"
4. Roll-on targets
5. Do a pit job
6. Paving material
7. "____ partridge in..."
8. Sorority members
9. Cloverleaf component
10. Dairy cattle
11. General vicinity
12. Sci. of earth and rocks
13. Volume unit
18. Study of light
22. Distance runner
24. Poet Teasdale et al.
26. Green gems
27. Run out of
28. Like old bread
30. First-aid provider
32. Another time
33. Yours, once
34. Fifth-cen. pope called "the Great"
36. Mr. Right
38. Female
41. Hung tapestry
42. Compete against
47. Single-masted ships
49. Modular home
52. Musical with the song "Tomorrow"
54. The Governor's spouse
55. Blockhead
56. Hobbling
57. Diabolical
58. Eclectic magazine
60. Compete in a lumberjack contest
61. Cannes summers
62. Cornell who founded Cornell
65. Part of HMS

Police Blotter April 30-May 5

JFK Causeway to SPID/ Aquarius Intersection

Crimes against Property

13300 block SPID 3 a May 1 Criminal Trespass

Suspicious Person

10800 block SPID 4 am May 3
13500 block SPID 9 pm May 2

Traffic

15 Traffic Stops
13500 block SPID 7 pm May 4 Crash
13600 block SPID 10 pm May 1 Crash
13500 block SPID 5 am April 30 Crash

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Property

14300 block Ridley Way 3 pm May 3 Burglary of a Vehicle
13300 block SPID 3 am May 1 Criminal Trespass
15400 block Dyna St. 9 am May 4 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
15400 block Dyna St. 10 pm May 3 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
14300 block Ridley Way 3 pm May 3 Burglary of a Vehicle
16500 block SPID 2 pm May 4 Trespassing (two counts)
16500 block SPID 2 pm May 1 Trespass Violation

Disturbances

14100 block Cabana East 2 pm May 3 Noise Ordinance Violation
14100 block Cabana East 2 pm May 3 Noise Ordinance Violation
Punta Bonaire Dr.-Punta Bonaire Dr. 11 pm May 3

Fortuna Bay Dr. – Gypsy St. 8 pm May 1 Public Intoxication

15500 block Finistere 3 pm May 1

Suspicious Person

14200 block SPID 2 am May 6
SH 361/Commodores 5 pm May 5 DWI (two counts)
14500 block SPID Midnight May
14800 block SPID 2 am May 2
Crown Royal Dr.- Dasmarinas Dr. 5 pm May 1
Cobo de Bara Circle-Carlos Fifth Ct. 5 pm April 30
11800 block SH 361 11 am May 3
14200 block SPID Midnight April 29
14200 block SPID 2 am May 6
14500 block SPID Midnight May 3
14800 block SPID 2 am May 2
Crown Royal/Dasmarinas Dr. 5 pm May 1
Whitecap Blvd.-Gypsy St. 4 pm May 1
Cobo de Bara Circle-Carlos Fifth Ct. 5 pm April 30
15200 block Cruiser 10 am April 29

Traffic

199 Traffic Stops
14500 block SPID 5 pm May 4 Crash
13600 block SPID 10 pm May 1 Crash
SPID/SH 361 5 pm May 1 Crash
SH 361/SPID 11 am May 1 Crash
SH 361/Commodores Dr. 5 pm May 5 DWI (two counts)
14500 block SPID 5 pm May 4 Crash
SPID/SH 361 5 pm May 1 Crash
SH 361-SPID 11 am May 1 Crash
14100 block Palo Seco 6 am April 30 Crash

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico – north to the City Limits

Crimes against Person

14700 block Whitecap Dr. 4 pm May 5 Assault
6800 block SH 361 11 am April 29 Assault by Contact

Disturbances


15200 block Leeward Dr. 11 pm May 5
15800 block SPID Midnight May 4 Noise Ordinance Violation
15800 block SPID 11 pm May 3 Noise Ordinance Violation (three calls)
15400 block Gulf Beach Rd. 5 pm May 1 Public Intoxication (two counts)/Possession of Dangerous Drugs/Possession of Drug Paraphernalia/Possession of Controlled Substance/Suspicious Person
6600 block Seacomber 9 am May 3 Trespassing Violation
6800 block SH 361 11 am April 29

Suspicious Person

11800 block SH 361 11 am May 3
11200 block SH 361 8 am May 30
100 block Zahn Road Midnight April 29

Traffic

47 Traffic Stops
11400 block Gulf Beach 1 am May 5 Crash



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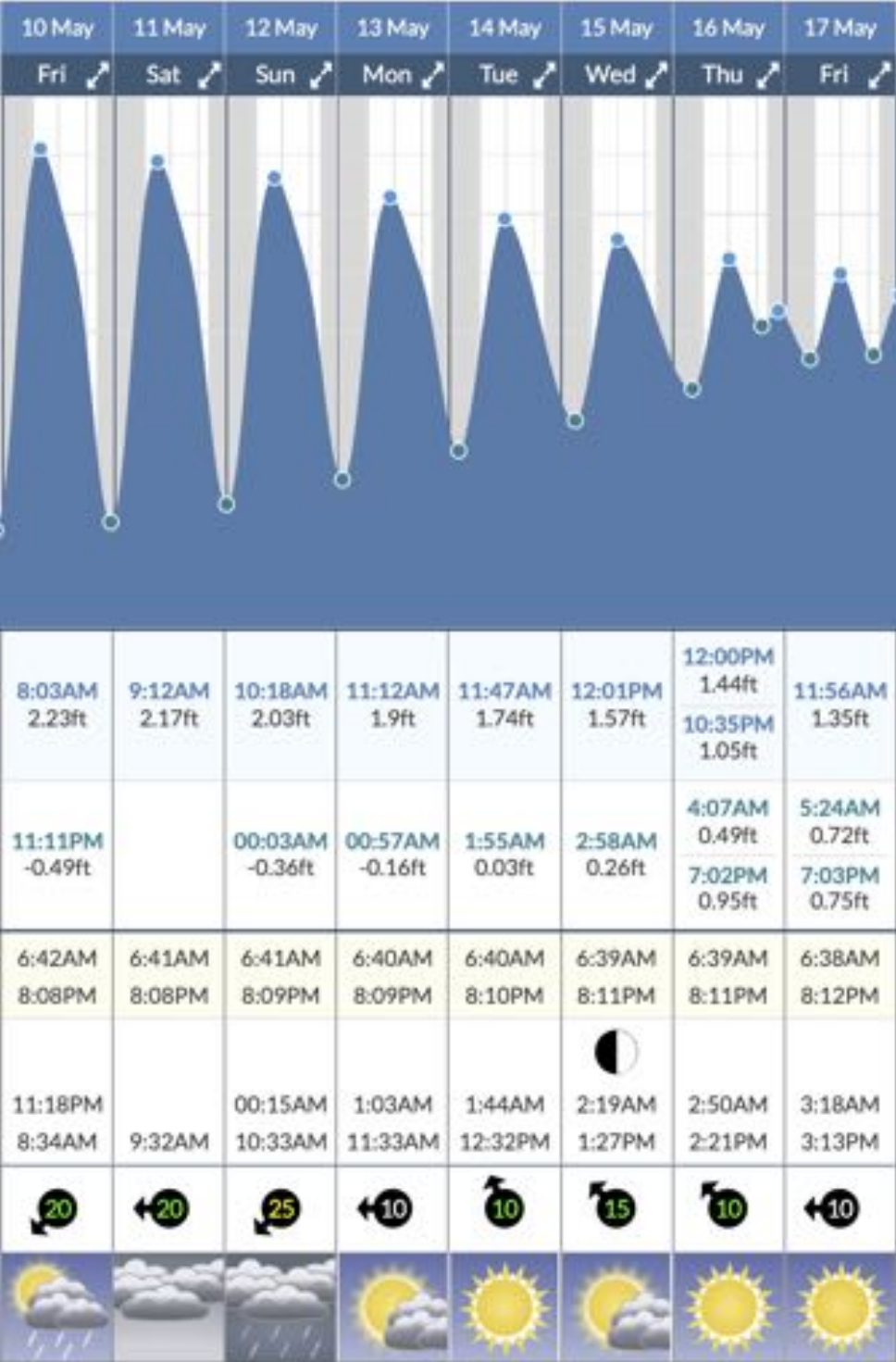
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Tides of the Week



Sand Turtles Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Crossword Solution

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

Community Input Sessions Planned for Proposed Bond 2024 Program and Type A Sales Tax Reauthorization (Proposition A)

Monday, May 13

The City of Corpus Christi invites residents from all five Council Districts to participate in community input sessions with city officials regarding the Proposed Bond 2024 Program and Type A Sales Tax Reauthorization. These sessions are part of the City’s commitment to community engagement, ensuring that residents’ voices are integrated into the future development plans of Corpus Christi.

The Proposed Bond 2024 Program is a comprehensive initiative to enhance the quality of life for all Corpus Christi residents. The program outlines significant investments across critical areas of the City’s infrastructure: streets, parks, public safety facilities, and public facilities.

The Proposed Type A Sales Tax Reauthorization plans to reallocate existing sales taxes to improve city-owned buildings and assets in the Sports, Entertainment, and Arts (SEA) District. It also could include maintenance and improvements to the downtown seawall flood control structures. Residents are encouraged to attend the sessions in any district to share their thoughts, concerns, and priorities regarding the proposed improvements.

The hearing in Council District 4 is 6 pm – 7:30 pm, at the Ethel Eyerly Senio Center, 654 Graham Road, Flour Bluff.

Lights Out Initiative Asks for Action During Spring Migration

Spring is the peak time for bird migration through Texas, and the bright lights of cities and towns can confuse birds as they fly to their northern breeding grounds. Texans are encouraged to help our winged friends on their journey by turning “Lights Out” at night across the state from March 1- June 15, with peak migration occurring April 22 through May 12.

“With Texas hosting three out of the top 10 cities that pose the greatest light pollution risk to migrating birds, ‘Lights Out Texas’ is a meaningful way for people to support safe passage for the birds that migrate through our night skies,” said Tania Homayoun, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department non-game ornithologist. “Taking action can be as easy as flipping a switch, closing curtains or blinds, or committing to dark-skies-friendly lighting in the places we live, work and play. It’s fantastic to see so many homeowners, businesses and volunteers getting involved with this conservation effort.”

In 2017, after discovering the bodies of more than 400 birds that had slammed into a Galveston skyscraper, the American National Insurance Company and Houston Audubon launched the first “Lights Out” initiative in Texas. A nationwide program, supported by BirdCast migration forecast, began around the same time. City lights attract and disorient birds, causing collisions and deaths, and both groups sought to reduce bird mortalities associated with light pollution.

Two decades of research from Chicago, the country’s deadliest city for migrating birds (followed closely by Houston and Dallas), show that darkening the windows resulted in 11 times fewer bird collisions during spring migration and six times fewer collisions during fall migration. These results are significant to Texas because one of every three birds migrating through the United States in the spring or fall — nearly 2 billion in total — pass through the state. How can Texans help?

- Turn off all nonessential lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. each night during the program.
- Avoid using landscape lighting to illuminate trees or gardens where birds may be resting.
- For essential lights (security and safety lighting), use the following dark skies-friendly lighting practices:
 - o Aim lights downward.
 - o Use lighting shields to direct light downward and avoid light shining into the sky or trees.
 - o Use motion detectors and sensors so lights come on only when you need them.
 - o Close blinds at night to reduce the amount of light from windows.
 - o Find examples of darkskies-friendly lighting from the International Dark Sky Association and additional guidance and language from the McDonald Observatory’s dark skies resources and recommended lighting practices.
- If you own or manage a building:
 - o Consider adjusting custodial schedules to end by 11 p.m.
 - o Ask custodial staff to ensure that lights are off after they finish their work.
- Address problem windows experiencing collisions. American Bird Conservancy offers information about affordable, effective bird-friendly window solutions that reduce collisions.



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National Spill Control School joins Conrad Blucher Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The National Spill Control School (NSCS) has joined the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science (CBI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi as its newest research unit.

Now in its 50th year, NSCS is nationally recognized for its oil spill research and was named as a consulting, training, and research resource for the National Response Team in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. NSCS offers specialized hands-on OSHA mandated training for professionals and workers in the Oil Spill, HAZMAT, and Emergency Management industries as well as others in exploration, production, and transportation who deal with spill prevention, planning, and response.

“The work NSCS does as an all-hazards school coalesces with what we do at the institute in terms of mapping, analysis, and data collection,” said Dr. Richard Smith, CBI Executive Director. “This is a great opportunity for both the institute and the school, and I’m excited that it’s happening.”

The partnership will enhance collective capabilities and expand the realm of innovative solutions tha In addition to increased collaborations and synergistic research, plans also include expanded course offerings with online delivery and innovative in-person offerings using virtual reality (VR) technology. t can be offered to the community.

“Combining our expertise allows the school to perform spatial analysis, surveying, and evaluation of an oil spill or hazardous material release at a deeper, more scientific level,” said Dr. Keith Muhlestein, NSCS Director. “The alliance fosters a natural synergy in research and development, and we’re honored to join the Conrad Blucher team.”

“Pooling Blucher’s rich history and expertise in measurement science with the school’s history and expertise in hazard preparedness and response, we enhance our collective capabilities,” Smith said. “By combining the two, we can work together to lead both industry and the science.”

City to Hold Community Input Sessions and Open House for Impact Fees

Topics include Roadways, Water, Wastewater, and Storm Water

Thursday, May 23, at Ethel Eyerly Senior Center

The City of Corpus Christi Development Services Department will hold a series of community input sessions to discuss impact fees for roadways, water, wastewater, and storm water as part of the Master Plan and Impact Fee Project. Impact fees are upfront costs due when a new commercial development is built. In the past the funds from a new project were kept in abeyance to reimburse infrastructure for new, unrelated projects. That system has failed to keep up with the expense of new projects as growth across the city has accelerated. A new system is being developed which will be discussed at these meetings. The sessions will be held in each Council district. The community is invited to attend any of the open houses to give feedback on the impact fees. City staff and experts will be available to answer questions. Council Members may attend each input session. All sessions are from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The meetings will take place on the following dates

- **District 1:** Thursday, June 13 at Owen Hopkins Library - 3202 McKinzie Road
- **District 2:** Thursday, May 16, at Lindale Senior Center - 3135 Swantner Drive
- **District 3:** Thursday, June 06 at Corpus Christi Water Building - Choke Canyon Room, 2726 Holly Road
- **District 4:** Thursday, May 23, at Ethel Eyerly Senior Center - 654 Graham Road
- **District 5:** Thursday, May 02 at Dr. Clotilde P. Garcia Library - 5930 Brockhampton Street

“By participating in community input sessions, residents play a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of our city,” said Mayor Paulette Guajardo. “Their insight is integral to the decision-making process as we continue to be inclusive of the community.” The City Council adopted the Master Plans and their associated Capital Improvement Projects in January, and impact fees are scheduled to go before the Council in July for consideration or adoption. Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please call 361-826-3124 in advance for assistance or to request reasonable accommodation.

Current members of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association Board of Directors

Steve Brown, POA President
Jeffery Rackley, Vice President
Ton Gottemoller, Treasurer
Bill Davenport, Secretary (Via proxy to Tom)
Drew Diggins
George Reed
Dan Herrington

We have one open position on the ACC due to my resignation. We have open positions for our Compliance group. I am preparing job descriptions for these positions so I’m not ready to advertise them yet.

Rick McGinley, Executive Director

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Happy Heavenly Mother's Day Mom.
This Sunday is *Mother's Day* yall. Call your Mom and tell her you love her. I miss my Mom, **Mary Lou** every day. She lived a good long life. She was born in Alabama and raised in Florida by my Grandmother **Mama Doris**, who was a single mom still in her early teens with two small children left to raise in the Deep South when times were more than hard. My Grandfather **Cary** was a crooked citrus broker from Orlando and the story goes that he shot a bootlegger in his kitchen and ran out on his family. So **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY** to you Mary Lou in heaven and also to my lovely **Mermaid Gal** who has two grown children... and to all you mothers out there. It's your day and by golly, y'all deserve it.



Linda Morgan hosted the soft opening of the Busted Bicycle at Treasure Island in Port Aransas last weekend.

The good folks over at *Treasure Island* have been hard at work this off season putting a new beautiful bar out on the patio where their live music is performed. They also purchased the house next door to *Treasure Island* where **Irish Mike** and his bride **J.J.** used to live. It was initially purchased last year by **Steve** and **Leslie Smith** and they remodeled it into the *Busted Bicycle* bar before *Treasure Island* proprietors **Tommy Saad** and **Linda Morgan** who've bought it recently and have put their most excellent brand on it. If you've ever been to *Treasure Island* you know all of the beautiful touches and elegant dressings that adorn the club. Just walk into the ladies room and you see what I mean. The same thing just happened at the *Busted Bicycle*. It's very nice! Make that **VERY VERY NICE!** It's a small house with lots of rooms for private gatherings. They offer a full bar with craft cocktails, a variety of designer martinis and an extensive wine and champagne selection. Linda describes it as "an old coastal bungalow that has been transformed into a series of small intimate areas, all with a different look and feel." Or as she puts it, it's very *Instagramable* which I learned means it's the perfect place to take selfies and pics so people can post them on *Instagram*. In short, this bar is elegant and inviting and the warm feeling you get hits you the minute you walk in. It's the perfect place for your next date night or gathering with friends and there's no other place like it in Port A. You really do need to check it out.

Scattered shots...
As we settle into May we only have a few short weeks until the unofficial start to our summer tourist season when *Memorial Day* hits on the 27th... then its *Katy bar the door*. *Shorty's* had **Triptonite** last Saturday and they showed why they were voted *Best Band* in the *Bend Magazine's* reader's poll. They even had a substitute musician, **DJ Serg**, who did some "scratching" with vinyl records on a turn table. I can pretty much guarantee that was a first for *Shorty's*, but it actually worked well. *Bron's* had the great country crooners **Tumble**

Dry Low on Friday and bluesman **John Cortez** on Saturday. I was pleasantly surprised to see my old friend, **Louis "Rockstar" Mesa** playing bass with Cortez. You may remember Louis from his years with the pride of Aransas Pass, **Ray T and the City Crew**. *Treasure Island* had **Carson Miller** on Friday and the ever changing **Jam Band** on Saturday... I'm starting to think the "Jam Band" is a loose interpretation since the band members seems to change every week.



The country band Tumble Dry Low played Bron's last Friday and will play Treasure Island this Friday.



The Palacios Brothers will play Bron's on Saturday.

This will be the last weekend of *Buc Days* and the rodeo. **Aaron Watson** will play the *American Bank Center* on Friday the 10th and **Josh Turner** is there on Saturday. As for Port A our Cajun buddies **Boudreaux and Pousson** will play *Shorty's* on Friday and **Funk Rock Stereo** will be there on Saturday. The award winning psychedelic jam band, **Triptonite** will play *Bron's* on Friday and the great Latin tinged rockers, **The Palacios Brothers** will be there on Saturday for the first time this year. Our favorite pirate bar, *The Gaff* will have **Tyler Johnson** on Friday and will host their bi-monthly **BELT SANDER RACES** this Saturday at 4:00 with **Coach Jim Dugan** providing the tunes. And speaking of the *Gaff*, **Brad Ethridge** hosts an open mic every Wednesday and **Robert McCoy** and **Luis Villarreal** will be there on Thursday the 16th. And over at *Treasure Island* this weekend the country crooners **Tumble Dry Low** will play on Friday and **Back Pew Revival** will be there on Saturday. I want to also mention that the folks in Rockport with the *Songwriters Association* are gearing up with some great shows in the *Tent at Charlotte Plummers*. They will have **Two Tons of Steel** there this Friday. The association's president, **Craig Griffin** tells me they have enlisted some heavy weights in the music biz: Grammy winning producer **John Macy**, **Sandy Jumper** and Austinite **Joe Ables** (*Saxon Pub* and *Texas Heritage Songwriter Hall of Fame*) and **Dalis Allen** who ran the *Kerrville Folk Festival* for 20+ years, to act as board members in an advisory capacity. They will have their *3rd Annual Rockport Songwriter's Festival* in November with such talents as **Terry Allen**, **Verlon Thompson**, **Shawn Camp** and **Larry Joe Taylor**. I want to also mention that the great *Third Coast Theater* in Port A will have **Django Walker** there this Saturday. Django is the son of the great **Jerry Jeff Walker** and grew up with such Texas legends as **Willie Nelson**, **Townes Van Zandt** and **Guy Clark**. He first made a name for himself penning songs for **Pat Green**, **Jimmy Buffett**, **Josh Abbott** and **Kevin Fowler** among others. I knew his mom and dad many years ago in Austin when Django was just a little boy. I'm definitely going to this show!

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Triptonite played Shorty's last Saturday and will play Bron's this Friday..

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Django Walker will play the Third Coast Theater this Saturday.



Boudreaux and Pousson will play Shorty's on Friday.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Friday, May 10

Aaron Watson @ Rodeo- American Bank Center

Boudreaux & Pousson @ Shorty's

Triptonite @ Bron's

Tumble Dry Low @ Treasure Island

Tyler Johnson @ Gaff

Rich Lockhart @ Packery Bar

Jules Taylor @ Boathouse

Robin Blue @ Pearl Oyster Bar

Comics & Queens

Drag & Comedy

Revue @ House of Rock

Raul Ayala, Eclipse @ Rockit's

OTB, Matt Hole @ Buc Days

Two Tons of Steel @ Tent at Charlotte

Plummers Rockport

Michael Burtts Band @ Pelican Lounge

Groove @ La Playa

Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

John Cortez @ Little Woodrows CC

Friday, May 11

BELT SANDER RACES 4:00 @ Gaff

Josh Turner @ Rodeo- American Bank Center

Jim Dugan @ Gaff

Palacios Bros @ Bron's Backyard

Funk Rock Stereo @ Shorty's

Back Pew Revival @ Treasure Island

Django Walker @ Third Coast Theater

Tay by the Bay @ Roberts Point Park

Janie Balderas @ Packery Bar

OTB @ Sugar Shack

Jules Taylor @ Joe's Crab Shack

Shoreline Diamond's Edge @ House of Rock

Groove @ Rockits

Dreams: Fleetwood Mac Tribute @ Gravity Check Saloon

Independent Thieves @ Cassidy's Pub

Raul Ayala @ Pelican Lounge

49 Winchester @ Brewster Downtown

Michael Burtts @ Annex

Billy Snipes @ Seguin Power Plant

TRIPTONITE

PALACIOS BROS

CHRIS BOSS

CRUISE CONTROL

THE GROOVE

MAY 10

MAY 11

MAY 17

MAY 18

MAY 24

Treasure Island

TUMBLE DRY LOW

BACK PEW REVIVAL

NATIONAL NOBODYZ

MARIO FLORES

JONMIKAEL MREZ

MAY 10

MAY 11

MAY 17

MAY 18

MAY 24

SHORTY'S

SELFIE EVERY THURSDAY

BOUDREAUX & POUSSON

FUNK ROCK STEREO

JIM DUGAN, TY DIETZ

CBDB'S

IDENTITY CRISIS

MAY 10

MAY 11

MAY 12

MAY 17

MAY 18

101 Beach Street

Port Aransas, Texas

THE GAFF

OPEN MIC EVERY WEDNESDAY

TYLER JORDAN

JIM DUGAN

BRAD ETHRIDGE

ROBERT MCCOY & LUIS

BILLY SNIPES

MAY 10

MAY 11

MAY 12

MAY 16

MAY 17

THE GAFF

BELT SANDER RACES EVERY 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY

COLD BEER

THE GAFF

OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM

LIVE MUSIC

HOT PIZZA