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Issue 1019

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The Island Moon

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October 27, 2023

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Wildflowers by Steve Coons



By Dale Rankin

The Chamber of Commerce Weather has arrived even after a dire prediction by the Weather Wonks that the humidity would be so high it would bring Air You Can Wear which fortunately didn't materialize since we saw very few curly headed people Around The Island under the Waning Gibbous Moon. A cool front is scheduled for next week so we got that going for us.

Season of the Square Fish

It's been a busy season for Square Fish as there have been more than a few reports of Islanders finding bundles of contraband washed up hereabouts. Padre Island National Seashore reports that Border Patrol agents recovered two bundles of cocaine down island while out on patrol and Corpus Christi Police records show a similar discovery recently. Just the latest reminder that we live in a smuggling lane here on our little sandbar.

Slappin' skeeters...



If you are reading this on Thursday or Friday keep an eye out for Vector Control as city crews are scheduled to spray Flour Bluff on Thursday and The Island on Friday. Vector Control sounds rather ominous and Darth Vaderish for a fellow driving around in a truck with smoke coming out the back (that doesn't come from the tailpipe) and with Halloween coming up it put us in mind of Riley P. Dog back in the foggy past when he was disguised as Vector Control and seemed curious but mostly unconcerned about the cloud emerging from his posterior end. He won the Back Porch Bar dog costume that year and there were few mosquito bites reported.

Nightmare on Jackfish

Halloween has arrived early for some Island drivers in the form of tickets for going the wrong way on Jackfish Avenue which is one-way during construction. According to the recipients the fines increase for going the wrong way "with construction crews present." As it turns out the wheels of justice assume that if it is a work zone then workers are present around the clock and the burden of proof is on the scofflaw to prove they were not there, so if you plan on driving the wrong way on Jackfish at least keep your dashcam on to preserve the evidence.

The businesses along the SPID Access Road where traffic has been reduced to southbound only are anxiously waiting for the work to

Around cont. on A3

Island Short-Term Rental Cases set for Court November 2

By Dale Rankin

Home builder Mike Mostaghassi who has been operating Short-Term Rental houses on Padre Island since January in violation of city ordinances is scheduled for a bench trial in municipal court on November 2. As of mid-week no time for the proceedings was listed on the court docket. Mostaghassi said he will go to court to challenge the ban on leas-

ing houses for overnight stay in Island residential neighborhoods. Mostaghassi said he has been offering three houses on Padre Island in neighborhoods zoned RS-6 which includes most Island residential areas, as overnight stay destinations for several months and has been fined by the City of Corpus Christi and now he plans to go to court to have the city ban on Short-Term Rentals (STR) overturned.

A total of 72 citations are listed on city records against Mostaghassi and were scheduled to go to court on October 19, however, that date was moved to November 2. City records show that city inspectors have issued Mr. Mostaghassi citations for either operating the STR in residential Island neighborhoods or advertising them, which

STRs cont. on A5

Flamingos in Port A!



It's been said that it is truly an ill wind that doesn't blow somebody some good and that is the case with Hurricane Idalia that swept across Florida in late August and blew this pair of flamingos into the Port Aransas Nature Preserve. Like many of us who came down for a few days and never left the birds seem to like it and are sticking around.

Photo by Paula Baker



Flamingos spotted at Robert's Point By Christopher Saenz-Olvera

A Chance to Vote for Lower Taxes

State Proposition 4 offers lower Property Taxes if approved

By Dale Rankin

It isn't often that voters in Texas get a chance to go to the polls and vote to lower their Property Taxes but that opportunity is in front of voters in the November 7 election with Early Voting already underway. The question posed by long-time Islander Ralph Coker goes right to the point.

Dale, our property tax went down 37% this year. That's too good to

be true. What's the catch?

Ralph Coker

We know it sounds like Crazy Talk Ralph but there are actually two things driving down the size of the Property Tax checks we write this year. But as we often say hereabouts the Large Print doth giveth while the small print doth taketh away...

First, the Corpus Christi City

Council in its August 29 meeting – coincidentally or maybe not a day before the Full Moon – voted to take two actions that effectively cut city Property Taxes by 10% by raising the reduction in appraised property value for city tax calculations from the previous 10% to

Taxes cont. on A5

A little Island history

The Dredging of Packery Channel

By Dale Rankin

With a dredging project about to begin in Packery Channel we take a look back at how the channel was originally dredged and at later dredging projects that have helped to keep sand on the Michael J. Ellis Beach. It all began on April 7, 2001 when 37,033 voters in Corpus Christi went to the polls and approved the Storm Damage Reduction and Environmental Restoration Project which we now call Packery Channel.

The plan was to reopen the recurring natural pass to the Gulf of Mexico to spur growth along the Michael J. Ellis Seawall where

History cont. on page A8



Packery Channel on 6-14-05

By the numbers...

Island Early Voting turnout second highest in the County

After two days of Early Voting in the November 7 election 226 voters had cast ballots at the Island polling location at Island Presbyterian Church, making it the second highest turnout in the county. A total of 1845 votes had been cast when the polls closed Tuesday night with Early Voting continuing through November 3. As of Tuesday the next highest turnout was at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center with 369, followed by the Island location, third was Nueces County Courthouse where 211 votes were cast, 151 votes had been cast at the Ethel Eyerly Senior Center in Flour Bluff.

By the numbers

In the last two similar Joint Constitutional Elections in 2021 and 2022 here is how the two precincts on The Island voted in comparison to countywide votes. Keep in mind that these are countywide numbers and while all of Nueces County will vote in the Constitutional Amendments on the current ballot only those in the City of Corpus Christi will vote on Proposition A.

2023 Joint Constitutional Election/Proposition A City Election (First two days of Early Voting. Note: The numbers for the state constitutional election and the city election are not listed separately. **211,500** total registered voters countywide

Voting cont. on A3

By the numbers

Padre Island Real Estate Activity September 1 – September 15

Interior Lot Homes Sold

15722 Escapade Street
16121 Jessamine Street
15705 Cuttysark Street
13930 Sea Horse Avenue
15718 Dyna Street
51 Interior Lot Homes Listed
From \$318,800.00 to \$870,000.00

Waterfront Homes Sold

15345 Isabella Court
16029 Cuttysark Street
13910 Isla Colon
48 Waterfront Homes Listed From \$479,900.00 to \$2,495,000.00

Real Estate cont. on A5

2023 Taste of the Island



Guajillo's



Surfside wins second place at Taste of the Island



Merida's wins First Place. Photo By Debbie Nobel



Hardknocks and crew represent at Taste of the Island



Island Italian



Vida Cana Rum

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Letters to the Editor

Texas Fatals

Driving on busy roads in our state’s oil and gas production areas can be both challeng- ing and dangerous. Energy exploration and production across Texas requires many large trucks and heavy tankers, and drivers should take extra care to safely share the road with these vehicles.

In 2022, more than 78,000 traffic crashes occurred in the state’s five main energy sectors—the Permian Basin, Eagle Ford Shale, Barnett Shale, Anadarko Basin and the Haynesville/Bossier Shale—resulting in 1,072 fatalities last year. These traffic deaths accounted for nearly 25% of the state’s total traffic fatalities last year.

Failure to control speed and driver inatten- tion are ranked as the top two contributing factors in crashes in the five main energy regions.

With all of this in mind, TxDOT is launch- ing its new statewide “Be Safe. Drive Smart” campaign this week and urging motorists to stay alert and drive at a safe speed in our state’s oil and gas producing areas. TxDOT is also investing heavily to improve mobility and safety on roadways impacted by traffic in the state’s five energy producing regions. Over the next 10 years, TxDOT is planning to invest a historic level of \$19.2 billion in rural areas through the 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP). This shows TxDOT’s commitment to building and maintaining a safe and efficient transportation system in all parts of the state.

Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

Best,
Jeff Salzgeber
Sherry Matthews Group, for TxDOT

Manned and Unmanned Aircraft to Share Air Space at Corpus Christi International Airport

Manned and unmanned aircraft will be able to share air space at Corpus Christi International Airport under the terms of an agreement signed this week by the City of Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University, and Corpus Christi Lone Star Unmanned Aircraft System Center of Excellence and Innovation (LSUASC) and the Corpus Christi International Airport (CCIA).

The agreement enables simultaneous oper- ations of manned and unmanned aircraft at the airport and within its airspace.

“We are the first airport of our size to have unmanned and manned aircraft flying side by side,” said Kevin Smith, Director of Avi- ation at CCIA. “We are thrilled to welcome the Lone Star UAS program to our campus, and we look forward to the work that we’ll do together.”

The LSUASC is one of seven Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) test sites in the United States and was established in the Fall of 2013 as a research center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.



November 11, 2023

In America, Veterans Day is the day in which we reflect and honor the sacrifice, service, and dedication of the men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. November 11 is a time to appreciate and honor all who served in the military—whether serving here at home or overseas.

This day serves as a reminder of the true meaning of the phrase, service before self. To commit to service in the military is to pledge oneself to a cause greater than an individual. To serve is to set aside one’s per- sonal motivations for the betterment of all.

Veterans Day originates from Armistice Day, World War I, Nov. 11, 1918. From those who fought to create our great nation, to those who are currently deployed, we owe a permanent debt of gratitude.

The Lone Star State is home to more veter- ans than any other state. The Texas Veterans Commission is here to ensure veterans receive the benefits they have earned and connect with services and resources they may need.

May we always remember veterans’ self- lessness, commitment to duty, and service to all Americans. Showing appreciation can be as simple as saying thank you for your service.

Laura Koerner
Texas Veterans Commission
Chairwoman and U.S. Navy Veteran

Voting cont. from A1

1845 votes cast countywide in first two days of voting
12% of votes cast on first day of Early Voting were from The Island
226 Island votes cast in first two days of voting
151 Flour Bluff votes cast in first two days of voting

2022 Joint Constitutional Election
211,202 registered voters in Nueces Coun- ty
9801(4.64%) total countywide voters cast ballots
1280 Countywide votes cast in first two days of Early Voting/Mail In
110 Island votes cast in first two days of voting
69 Flour Bluff votes cast in first two days of voting

8550 registered Island voters
906 (10.5%) Island votes cast
2021 Joint Constitutional Election
207,477 registered voters in Nueces County
11,687 (5.63%) voted countywide
906 Countywide vote in first day of Early Voting/Mail In
109 Island votes cast in first day of voting
81 Flour Bluff votes cast in first day of voting
8467 registered Island voters
1027 (12.2%) Island votes cast
6% of countywide votes cast on first day of Early Voting were from The Island



Elephants and donkeys seldom agree

Football,

Hearing the recent howls over Michigan football and calls to cancel a winning coach, I’m reminded of a quote from the Bobfa- ther. *I don’t expect to win enough games to be put on NCAA probation. I just want to win enough to warrant an investigation.*

How ironic that today, Husker fans have been down so low that many are celebrating a rather ugly win to reach a 4-3 record. Like me, many have bowl-game sugar plums dancing in our heads. It feels good to have a diversion that temporarily sets aside the troubles of the world. TGIF

Tom Cullinan (Harry Husker, 1970)

I just read the October 20 issue.

Dale Rankin wrote in “Around the Island” that school vouchers would generate addi- tional money for schools. School vouch- ers won’t go to school districts. Instead, they will go to parents who wish to take their child out of public school and go to a private or parochial school, thus taking enrollment away from the public school, and therefore, taking money away. Vouchers of \$8000 won’t go anywhere near paying annual tuition at most private or parochi- al schools. Vouchers will award families \$8000 to use for private education. Please verify....

Thank you.
Penny Pillack, Retired public school teacher and principal

Editor’s note: You are correct Penny, as stated last week the vouchers would allow parents to use them to send kids to charter schools like Seashore Charter Schools. The amount of the voucher for each student would be \$8000 which is an increase over the current \$6500 per student provided by state funds.

Proposition A

Thanks to the Nueces County Republi- can Party for opposing Proposition A. If approved, it would be a \$1 Billion waste of tax revenue. The present con- vention center lost \$14.5 Million of tax revenue in 2021-2022. It has probably lost \$50 Million plus over the last 20 years. The VCC director and board are out of control and wasting \$ Millions of HOT and PPID funding each year. The VCC does not represent the interests of the hotels, which are the source of their funding. After defeating Proposition A, I hope your party will help us clean up the VCC and city council.

Ralph Coker

Around cont. from A1
be done as their business has been down for the past few months but the new concrete roadway there promises to be a good addition to The Island so patience is a virtue, or so they say...

Halloween at Whitecap NPI

Whitecap North Padre Island announced this week its sales office at 14353 Commodores Drive, corner of Commodores and Compass Street, will be open for trick or treaters stating at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31. The public is invited.

2023 is flying by folks and the La Posada Lighted Boat Parade will be here before we know it. It’s been a good year here on our little sandbar. That’s all for now, let’s hope for more treats than tricks and say hello if you see us Around The Island.

Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



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San Juan’s Restaurant	Island Italian
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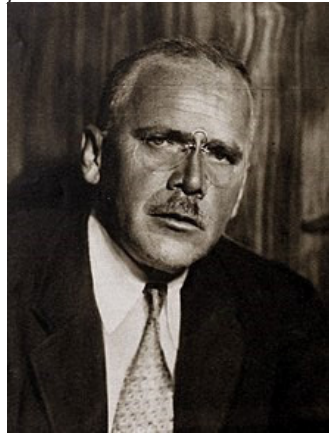
Senior Moments

Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

H. V. Kaltenborn-The Best of The Best

Dotson's Note: Hans von Kaltenborn generally known as H. V. Kaltenborn, was an American radio commentator. He was heard regularly on the radio for over 30 years, beginning with CBS in 1928. He was known for his highly precise diction, his ability to ad-lib, and his depth of knowledge of world affairs. Kaltenborn was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and grew up in Merrill, Wisconsin. He began his career as a newspaper reporter, but moved to radio when it began to establish itself as a bona fide source of news. Thanks to Dotson G. Lewis Sr. and the Merrill Advocate for the facts contained in this report and to the Merrill Advocate for the photos.



HV Kaltenborn

When he was 19, he ran away from home and joined the 4th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment to fight in the Spanish-American War. The war ended two months after his enlistment before the regiment could go overseas, however. Kaltenborn wrote articles from his training camp for the Wisconsin newspaper the *Merrill Advocate*, becoming editor of the paper following his demobilization.

He left the *Advocate* to spend time in Europe; returning to take a job with the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. At 24, he went to college, enrolling as a special student at Harvard University. When he finished, he returned to the *Eagle*, traveling during summers to distant locales.

Anti-German sentiment during World War I motivated Kaltenborn to change his byline from Hans von Kaltenborn to H. V. Kaltenborn. He was no relation to General Hans von Kaltenborn-Stachau, a former Prussian Minister of War.

Called the “Dean” of radio commentators by Edward R. Murrow and others, Kaltenborn addressed the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce while speaking from an experimental station in Newark, N.J. on April 21, 1921 where the group had assembled there to see the new invention of radio. A year later on April 4, 1922, he made the first of what later became a regular series of radio talks on current events. Kaltenborn called them the “first spoken editorials ever heard by a radio audience.”

Kaltenborn was one of the first news readers to provide analysis and insight into current news stories. His vast knowledge of foreign affairs and international politics amply equipped him for covering crises in Europe and the Far East in the 1930s. His vivid reporting of the Spanish Civil War and the Czech crisis of 1938 helped establish the credibility of radio news in the public mind and helped to overcome the nation’s isolationist sensibilities. As authors Christopher H. Sterling and John M. Kittross wrote, Kaltenborn reported on the Spanish Civil War “while hiding in a haystack between the two armies. Listeners in America could hear bullets hitting the hay above him while he spoke.”



Radio historian James F. Widner described Kaltenborn’s skill as a news analyst:

“Kaltenborn was known as a commentator who never read from a script. His ‘talks’ were extemporaneous[ly] created from notes he had previously written. His analysis was welcomed into homes especially during the war and the time leading up to America’s entry into it. He had an international reputation and was able to speak intelligently about events because he had interviewed many of those involved.” From the contacts he developed in his travels and his ability to speak fluent German and French, Kaltenborn seemed chosen for the role he developed at CBS. One of his most famous periods was during the Munich

crisis in 1938. Much of what listeners heard was Kaltenborn speaking without script even after sometimes having been up for most of a night covering the breaking news. Some claimed that when Kaltenborn was awakened during the Munich vigil, one merely had to utter Munich and Kaltenborn could talk for hours on the subject.

Kaltenborn joined NBC in 1940. On election night in 1948, he and Bob Trout, a former CBS colleague, were at the NBC news desk to broadcast the returns of the White House race between President Harry S. Truman and challenger Thomas E. Dewey. Throughout the evening, the returns were too close to call. As the evening progressed, Kaltenborn could see a swing in Dewey’s favor. It was enough for him to project Dewey the winner, although the returns were still close. What Kaltenborn did not foresee was another swing in the votes going to Truman. As evening turned to early morning, Kaltenborn retracted his original projection and announced Truman as the winner.

On his newscast, Kaltenborn described how Truman did an impersonation of the journalist describing how he (Truman) was losing the election. Kaltenborn later stated, “We can all be human with Truman. Beware of that man in power who has no sense of humor”.

Another incident of embarrassment came when Dizzy Dean was Kaltenborn’s guest on the program. Exasperated by Dean mispronouncing his name, Kaltenborn decided to throw the pitcher a curve and asked him what he would do about Russia, Dean didn’t miss a beat. He said, “I’d take some bats and balls and gloves and sneak them behind the Iron Curtain and teach them Rooshin kids how to play baseball. Why if Joe Stallion knowed how much money there was in concessions, he’d get out of politics and into an honest business”. Though Kaltenborn left full-time broadcasting in 1953, he provided analyses during NBC’s television coverage of the Republican and Democratic conventions in 1956. Those live newscasts were anchored by Chet Huntley and David Brinkley in their first on-air pairing. Kaltenborn was in his mid-seventies when the television age arrived, and some see his time in TV as a disappointment. Forever the radio newsman, Kaltenborn would report everything, including the movements of the subject he was describing, despite the fact that millions of people were watching it.



Kaltenborn was also a regular panelist on the NBC television series *Who Said That?*, in which a panel of celebrities attempt to determine the speaker of a quotation from recent news reports.

Dotson's Other Note: Kaltenborn (July 9, 1878 – June 14, 1965), had very specific views about radio's role in presenting the news. Later in life he wrote on the subject in many of his books. He was one of four journalists who portrayed themselves in the 1951 film The Day the Earth Stood Still. Kaltenborn also appears as himself in the 1939 Frank Capra film Mr. Smith Goes to Washington. In 1944 Kaltenborn received the Alfred I. DuPont Award. The National Radio Hall of Fame inducted him in 2011. Do any of you older Moon Monkeys remember him?

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

Taxes cont. from A1

20% thus reducing the amount of city Property Tax owed.

In addition homeowners over 65 years of age also got an additional reduction in their appraised value for city Property Taxes from the previous \$50,000 to \$62,500 with both changes reflected in the change in City Property Tax owed in the tax notices going

out now. That’s the **Large Print...**

now for the **small print...**

The cuts described above would/will cut \$9 million off of the total amount of Property Tax revenue collected by the city in Fiscal Year 2024-2025, but not to fear the city will not go broke! The council approved a budget for the new fiscal year that is just under a seven percent increase in the No New Tax number...that is to say the city’s tax levy is up almost 7% in spite of the cuts in appraised value. The reason for the lower numbers in the tax notices on The Island is that the median home price for the entire city of Corpus Christi is \$307,000 while the median price of an Island home as of September, 2023 is \$414,900 so the 20 percent reduction in appraised value is more pronounced for Island taxpayers, not to mention our higher percentage of homeowners over 65 year of age. So while the city council raised the amount of the Property Tax levy citywide some of the burden which has continuously shifted to Island homeowners over the decades – including a 27.5% increase in 2022 alone – found its way OTB.

Proposition 4 - a good reason to vote...

The second reason for lower tax bills is to be found on the Texas Constitutional Amendment ballot now being voted on in Early Voting for the November 7 election. There are several items on the ballot that have little or nothing to do with The Island and in most of the constitutional amendment elections that appear on the ballot every two years after each session of the Texas Legislature pass by a healthy margin. But there is an item on this ballot that we Islanders very much need to make sure passes. Proposition 4 reads as follows:

Proposition 4 – HJR 2 “*The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts.*”

What it means: Because Texas has no state income tax (and we are not advocating for one) our state has some of the highest property taxes in the nation and across the state and on The Island as well about half of those Property Taxes are paid to school districts (in our case Flour Bluff ISD but not Seashore Charter Schools). To provide some tax relief in this past session the Texas Legislature approved a \$12.7 billion package that would send \$7.1 billion in state money to school districts so they can lower their

property tax rates. The amendment now on the ballot would also raise the state’s school district homestead exemption — or the slice of a home’s value that can’t be taxed to pay for public schools — from \$40,000 to \$100,000 meaning homeowners can reduce the amount of appraised value for tax purposes by \$60,000 thus accounting for the second part – along with the city appraisal reduction – of the lower tax bill you now hold in your hand.

Further, the amendment would authorize the state legislature to limit the annual appraisal increase on non-homestead real property; exclude appropriations made to increase state education funding from the state appropriations limit. All good news for Island taxpayers.

That’s the Large Print...now for the small print...

The taxes-owed number reflected in the notices now arriving in mail boxes has the reductions in school taxes (which will be replaced by state funds) and the increases in the appraisal number for tax purposes already baked in. Taxing entities are assuming that taxpayers/voters will vote their interest and approve the reductions included in the Proposition 4 now before voters and reduced the taxes-owned number in the current tax notices accordingly. Once again due to the increase of 20% and up in appraised value on The Island that we see every year these reductions will benefit Island homeowners more than some other areas – unless...

If through apathy or some unforeseen Act of Political Nature state Proposition 4 is voted down then...you will get a second notice demanding more money since the reductions would be taken off the books.

But there is more...

There is one more thing included in the current state ballot that is not reflected in the tax numbers but equally important. Included in the ballot language is a plank that would allow voters to elect three members to their local appraisal district’s board of directors, which are currently appointed, in counties with 75,000 or more population. Anyone who has ever appealed their tax appraisal should appreciate that. Note the elected members would be on the Appraisal District Board of Directors, not the Appraisal Revue Board, but at least it gives voters a chance to be heard.

Further the amendment also includes other tax reforms, including a temporary limit on appraisals for commercial, mineral and residential properties that don’t receive a homestead exemption that are worth less than \$5 million. (Read: rental property). If voters approve the idea, appraisal districts could not raise the taxable value of those properties by more than 20% each year for the next three years. The limit would expire in 2026 unless lawmakers and voters decide to extend it. The amendment would also expand the pool of businesses that don’t have to pay the state’s franchise tax.

So all of that taken together is why your tax bill is down 37% - unless of course the state amendment fails at the polls...if ever there was a time for Islanders to vote this is it. Keep in mind all these changes are unrelated to the City of Corpus Christi Proposition A regarding city Sales Tax. Early Voting continues through Friday, November 3rd and Election Day is Tuesday, November 7. Vote early and vote often or give up your right to complain about rising taxes.

Thanks for writing Ralph, we hope that helps.




THANK YOU FOR STICKING WITH US THROUGH THE LONG HOT SUMMER! AS A THANK YOU WE’LL HAVE HALF OFF EVERYTHING THIS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, OCT. 27TH AND 28TH.

We have new A/C’s a huge TV wall and free popcorn too. We promise not to let you down again so come on in and check out the new changes at our re-grand opening this weekend. Travis Klaus, Owner, The Slip

15037 SPID

Walking the Texas Coast

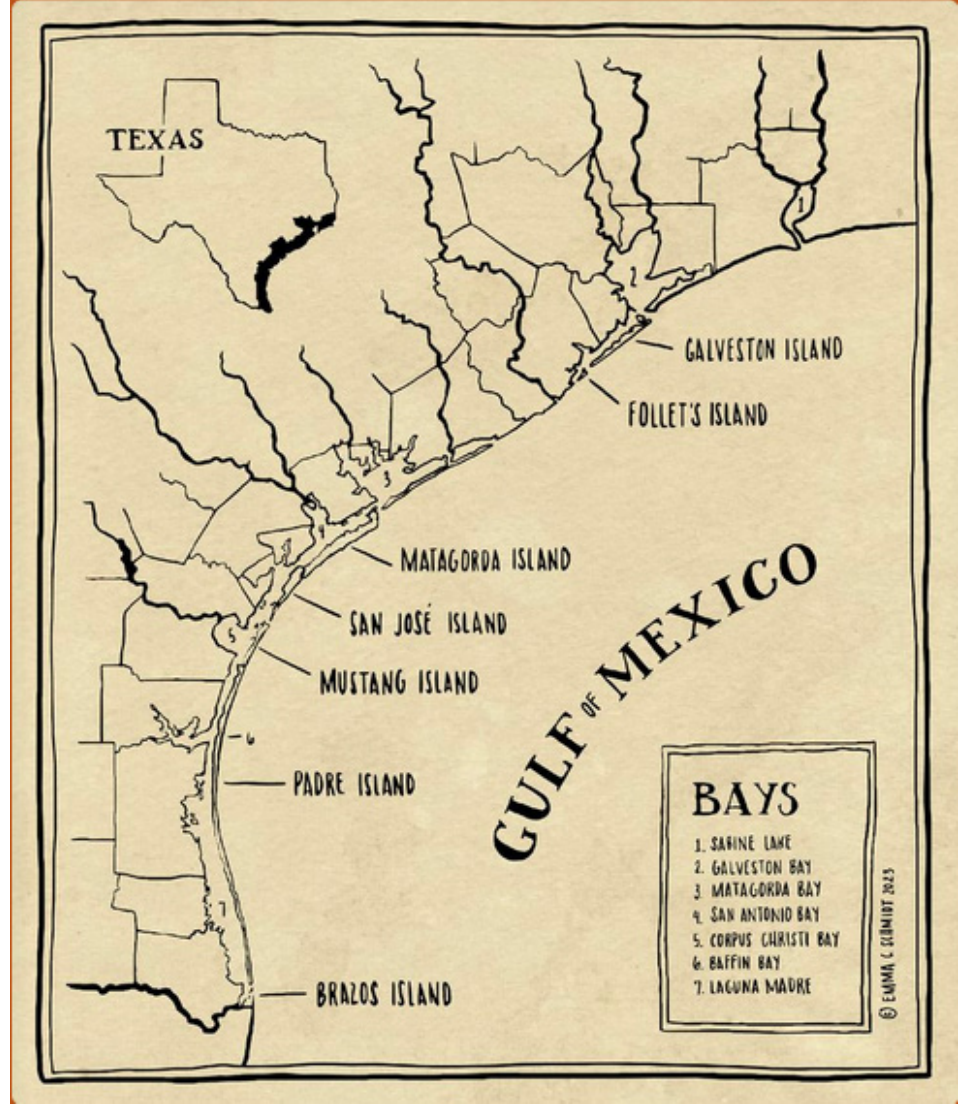


Jay and Chrissy Kleberg passed through Padre Island last week on a 370 mile walk along the Texas Coast from the Sabine River to the Rio Grande in twenty days. Along the way they interviewed residents and scientists including Jace Tunnel from the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. They walked the length of San Jose Island this week, paddled their kayak across Packery Channel, and headed south through Padre Island National Seashore on their way to the state’s southern border.

“We grew up in Texas and have traveled and worked in conservation all over the state and western hemisphere. So much growth and so much of our natural assets

are on our coast,” Chrissy said. “Jay took on a new position at the Gulf of Mexico Trust, and we thought that a tour of the coast would help better understand the changes of occurring, the communities, and the issues. The more we researched it, we realized that no one had hiked the entire length of Texas’ seven barrier islands. When we mentioned it to our filmmaking friends, they suggested that we document our journey and the team at Austin PBS offered to be our broadcast distribution partner.”

Their trek will be chronicled in a film called *Chasing the Tide* which will air on Public Television in August, 2024 across the state.



STRs cont. from A1

is also a violation of city ordinance, since January, 16, 2023. The amount any fines levied in the cases will be at the discretion of a Municipal Court Judge but based on standard fines for the alleged offenses could total just over \$30,000.

Each citation by city code compliance officers carries a fine of \$500, which according to listings for the three houses being leased as STR is about the same as the daily fee

for leasing one of the houses. The Corpus Christi City Council passed an ordinance in 2021 banning leasing a house in a neighborhood zoned for strictly residential use for less than thirty days on Padre Island. The ban does not apply to any other area of the city, it also allows STR in areas zoned multi-family. The ban applies primarily to homes on the west side of SPID with most areas on the east (Gulf of Mexico) side of SPID allowed to rent as STR.

Real Estate cont. from A1

- Interior Condominiums/Townhomes/Duplexes Sold**
14721 Whitecap Blvd. #227
14810 Whitecap Blvd.
15034 Aruba Drive #208
15209 South Padre Island Drive #406
15641 Palmira Drive Unit B

14904 Village Beach
14902 Pirates Cove
86 Interior Condominiums/Townhomes/
Duplexes Listed From \$154,900.00 to \$699,900.00
Waterfront Condominium/Townhome/Duplex Sold
14858 Granada Drive Unit H
14318 Cruiser Unit A
- Waterfront Lot Sold**
15639 Cruiser Street
32 Waterfront Lots Listed From \$104,000.00 to \$3,000,000.00
Interior Lot Sold
15717 Dyna Street
19 Interior Lots Listed From \$29,900.00 to \$228,000.00
Commercial Lots
13 Commercial Lots Listed From \$110,000.00-\$2,550,000.00

How much does it cost to operate the American Bank Center?

With expansion and repair to the American Bank Center complex on the ballot this election cycle we take a look at the cost of operating the current facilities there. These numbers were compiled from city records.

Fiscal Year	Paid out of HOT tax	Paid out of Arena 1/8
	ABC Convention Capital Improvements	Arena Capital
2023/2024	\$1,210,000.00	
\$3,780,000.00		
2022/2023	\$1,407,371.00	
\$1,419,658.00		
2021/2022	\$837,322.00	
\$2,992,408.00		
2020/2021	\$514,812.00	
\$3,571,172.00		
2019/2020	\$1,131,899.00	
\$5,659,586.00		
2018/2019	\$2,428,273.00	
\$4,163,091.00		
Total	\$7,529,677.00	\$17,805,915.00

Fiscal Year	Convention Center Operating	Arena Debt
2023/2024	\$3,400,000.00	
\$3,523,536.00		
2022/2023	\$1,000,000.00	
\$3,451,260.00		
2021/2022	\$3,000,000.00	
\$3,533,700.00		
2020/2021	\$2,499,996.00	
\$3,443,760.00		
2019/2020	\$2,416,666.00	
\$3,442,000.00		
2018/2019	\$2,899,956.00	
\$3,439,000.00		
Total	\$15,216,618.00	\$20,833,256.00

Fiscal Year	Convention Center Debt Service	Arena Maintenance
2023/2024		
\$400,000.00		
2022/2023	\$2,097,312.00	
\$400,000.00		
2021/2022	\$2,138,088.00	
-		
2020/2021	\$2,342,460.00	
-		
2019/2020	\$2,343,576.00	
-		
2018/2019	\$2,351,322.00	
\$77,864.00		
Total	\$11,272,758.00	\$477,864.00

Fiscal Year	Hot tax ABC Group Incentive
2023/2024	\$575,000.00
2022/2023	\$575,000.00
2021/2022	\$575,000.00
2020/2021	\$228,442.00
2019/2020	\$33,878.00
2018/2019	\$188,953.00
Total	\$2,176,273.00

Fiscal Year	Convention Center Maintenance
2023/2024	\$500,000.00
2022/2023	\$250,000.00
2021/2022	-
2020/2021	\$202,911.00
2019/2020	\$210,598.00
2018/2019	\$193,248.00
Total	\$856,757.00

New lanes open on Don Patricio Bridge

The two southbound lanes on the Don Patricio Bridge opened this week as work continues on the northbound side. Three lanes will remain open while work on the guardrails continues with the lanes on the northbound side alternating as needed for construction work. Work on the bridge is on schedule for completion by the end of 2023.



The Don Patricio Causeway looking North. Aerial by Jacob Augs

Sports

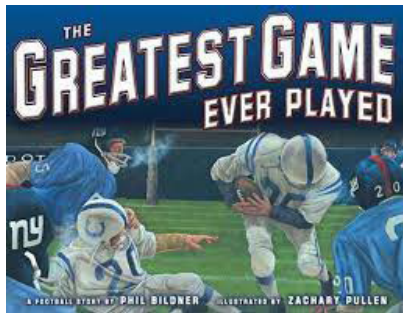
Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



By Dotson Lewis

The Greatest Game Ever Played

Dotson's Note: The 1958 NFL Championship Game was the 26th NFL championship game, played on December 28 at Yankee Stadium in New York City. It was the first NFL playoff game to be decided in sudden death overtime. The final score was Baltimore Colts 23, New York Giants 17, and the game has since become widely known as "the Greatest Game Ever Played". Its legendary status in the pantheon of historic NFL games was again confirmed by a nationwide poll of 66 media members in 2019, who voted it the best game in the league's first 100 years. Thanks to Bill Morgan for the facts and photos contained in this report.



It marked the beginning of the NFL's popularity surge and eventual rise to the top of the United States sports market. A major reason was that the game was televised across the nation by NBC. Baltimore receiver Raymond Berry recorded 12 receptions for 178 yards and a touchdown. His 12 receptions set a championship record that stood for 55 years until it was broken by Denver Broncos wide receiver Demaryius Thomas in Super Bowl XLVIII.

Both teams finished the 1958 season with a 9-3 record. For the Giants, it was their fifth consecutive winning season, a stretch that included an NFL Championship in 1956. In contrast, 1958 was only the second winning season in Colts' history since the team's founding in 1953.

Baltimore started off the season winning their first six games before losing to New York, 24-21, in week 7 of the regular season. However, Colts starting quarterback Johnny Unitas was injured at the time and did not play in the game. Three weeks later, Unitas returned to lead the Colts to a critical come-from-behind win against Hall of Fame (and ex-Colt) quarterback Y. A. Tittle and his San Francisco 49ers. Trailing 27-7 at halftime, Baltimore stormed back with four unanswered touchdowns to win, 35-27, clinching the Western Conference championship. This allowed them to rest their starters for the final two games of the regular season, both on the road in California.



New York started the season 2-2, then won seven of their last eight games, including a critical 19-17 win over the defending champion Detroit Lions on December 7. In that game, New York fell behind late when the offense lost a fumble that was returned for a touchdown. Later on however, the Giants stopped Detroit punter Yale Lary on a fake punt attempt and drove for the go-ahead score. They then secured the win by blocking a Lions field goal attempt as time expired in the game. In the final game of the regular season, the Giants defeated the Cleveland Browns with Pat Summerall's game-winning 49-yard field goal on the final play (the longest field goal made in the entire season among all NFL kickers). The win enabled them to tie the Browns for the conference title, and though the Giants

had won both games against Cleveland in the regular season, the rules of the time required a tiebreaker playoff game on December 21. At Yankee Stadium in 20 °F (-7 °C) weather, the Giants defeated the Browns for a third time in a shutout, building a 10-0 lead at the half, which was the final score.

After clinching their conference title on November 30, the Colts rested key players in the final two games, road losses in California. While Cleveland and New York played the Eastern tiebreaker game, Baltimore had the week off and entered the championship game as 3½ point favorites to gain their first league title.

The two teams combined for six turnovers in the first half (three on each side), with the Colts converting two fumbles by the Giants into touchdown drives to take a 14-3 lead at the half. After averting a three-score deficit thanks to a goal-line stand in the third quarter, the Giants rallied on consecutive touchdown drives to take a 17-14 lead early in the fourth quarter.

In the last two minutes of the game, Johnny Unitas led the Colts on a drive which concluded on a 20-yard field goal (the Colts' first in three attempts) with only seven seconds left on the clock to tie the game at 17-17.

Overtime



Johnny Unitas

Don Maynard received the opening kickoff for the Giants and muffed the catch, but recovered it on the Giants 20-yard line. Even in his autobiography *You Can't Catch Sunshine*, Maynard stated that he was not only disappointed in the botched attempt, but also at the commentators for saying he fumbled the ball due to their lack of knowledge of football and its terminology by not knowing the difference between a fumble and muffing the ball.

After a *three-and-out series*, which included a controversial third-down run by Frank Gifford that was marked just inches short of a first down. The Giants punted. On their ensuing drive, Baltimore drove 80 yards in 13 plays (all called by QB Johnny Unitas) on a tired NY defense. Ameche made several critical plays on the drive, catching an 8-yard pass on 3rd and 8 from the Colts 33, and later rushing 22 yards to the Giants 20-yard line. Berry also made a big impact, catching two passes for 33 yards, including a 12-yard reception on the New York 8. Following a 1-yard run by Ameche and a 6-yard catch by the tight end Jim Mutscheller, Ameche scored on a third-down 1-yard touchdown run with 6:45 left to win the game, 23-17.

Dotson's Other Note: During overtime, when the Colts were on the eight-yard line of the Giants, someone ran out onto the field of Yankee Stadium, causing the game to be delayed; rumors have stated that it was an NBC employee who was ordered to create a distraction because the national television feed had gone dead. The difficulty was the result of an unplugged TV signal cable, and the delay in the game bought NBC enough time to fix the problem before the next play. By the way, years later I got to know many of the participants in this game including Ron Gibbs who was the Referee and Don Manard.

Football Heart



By Andy Purvis



Tom Campbell and me

He's all Texan, one hundred percent pure beef, no fillers. His unmistakable canyon-deep, southwestern drawl permeates the room just like his old ball coach, Darrell Royal. His words come with lots of "you knows" included and his favorite colors are burnt orange and white. You get the feeling you're talking to Will Rogers. I could spend days listening to him talk, telling stories of UT football during a time when being a Longhorn meant being on top of the world of college football. And not to be mistaken, he can talk with the best of them. He was born into a tough, no-nonsense family, a football family. Heck, he even called his own father "Iron Mike." He was a scraper; the kind of player whose uniform was dirty by the end of the National Anthem. You get the feeling that when he was growing up; he had to scrimmage to get something to eat. I spent an afternoon having lunch with him and several close friends. His eyes widened, his voice got lower and his hands began to move, when asked about playing football at the University of Texas. His stories are gifts, and you could tell he had repeated them many times. When I use the word "legend" to describe him, he laughs. His name is Tom Campbell and he owns a football heart. Tom and his twin brother, Mike, walked on as freshmen. As a kid he had always been told that he was too light, too short, and not fast enough or mean enough; yet, not only did he make the team, and eventually start, but his name will always be linked to Texas Football, as well as to Cotton Bowl history. Tom just loved the game and was willing to do whatever it took to get better. That's a football heart. "Initially, I was just happy I made the team," said Campbell. Standing 5' 11" tall and never weighing more than 183 pounds, even with rocks in his pockets, Tom was listed as a linebacker-defensive back and was given the #84.

It seemed that Tom Campbell had a knack for stealing footballs out of mid-air. Campbell made a name for himself in both the 1969 and 1970 Cotton Bowls. As a junior, he helped a (9-1-1) Texas team destroy a fine Tennessee team, 36-13, in the 1969 game. Campbell was named the game's Outstanding Defensive Player after recording two tackles, two interceptions and breaking up four passes. Texas would finish that year ranked third in the nation. In 1969, Tom Campbell was chosen the

Southwest Conference (SWC) Defensive Back of the Year.

Tom outdid himself in the 1970 Cotton Bowl by intercepting the last pass of the game, thrown by Joe Theismann, the quarterback of Notre Dame. Campbell's interception with 38 seconds to play helped preserve the Longhorns' victory, 21-17; and although bowl games, at that time, had little to no impact on the crowning of a national champion, the win helped seal the National Championship for an undefeated (11-0) Texas team. Tom also posted six tackles during that game.

Interestingly, the 1970 Cotton Bowl came on the heels of the #1 Texas Longhorns versus #2 Arkansas Razorbacks game which was played in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on December 6, 1969. The world of college football celebrated its 100th year, in 1969. This game would become known as the "Game of the Century." Again, Tom Campbell made a game-saving interception to secure a 15-14, come-from-behind win, for the Longhorns. This victory gave Texas the SWC title and the National Championship.

Tom Campbell finished his career with 13 interceptions. The 1969, Texas versus Arkansas football game became the first televised college-football championship game. It was also the last championship game to be played with only white players. U.S. President Richard Nixon became the first sitting President to attend a college football championship game. Tom was inducted into the Longhorn Hall of Honor, in 2006. On April, 19, 2012, at Cowboy Stadium in Arlington, Texas, Tom Campbell was also inducted into the Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame.

Campbell now lives in Austin and is in business for himself. He has recently been a consultant on a new movie entitled *My All American*. This is the story of a teammate, Freddie Steinmark, who played with bone cancer and then had his leg amputated six days after the Arkansas game. Steinmark died two years later, on June 6, 1971. "This is really a story about football and life," said Campbell. "Forty-seven years later, the game is still alive. It just doesn't go away." Check it out.

Andy Purvis

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Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner



I was driving down Flour Bluff Drive the other day, and there’s a pasture just past Glenoak that has a small wetland in it. Standing on the south side of the pond were the season’s first Sandhill cranes that I’ve seen, and they were staring north and making quite a racket. There was a bull standing on the north end of the pond, in between a couple of his cows, with his shoulders buckled up. It was a standoff, and I wanted to stop and watch, but had to keep going. I’m wondering if Sandhills have to deal with cattle up in Alberta in their nesting/summer range, or if it’s only when they get down here every year. I mean, that’s not as cool as two flamingos at the Port Aransas birding center, but still noteworthy.

The tide that shall not be named...



Kimmy Sue and Piper Sue with a nice Pompano at an undisclosed location.

We tried our luck down the Seashore this past weekend to around the 6-mile marker (MM) for those pesky pompano, and it was slow-slow. I did notice that the water was very clear, and that there was no mullet running the first gut? Conditions were pretty close to perfect, and we didn’t get anything more than a few hardheads and whiting. I did notice that my nose was running, and I had an itchy throat, which leads me to believe the red menace (tide) was making a slight appearance. Thankfully the weather changed and if there was an impending bloom, it got nipped. You can keep an eye on the potential of a bloom at <https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/science-areas/habs/hab-forecasts/gulf-of-mexico/texas-satellite-imagery/>

The weather was beautiful down the beach and the driving was a 10 out of 10. It felt to get south on the sand again, and we had gotten up before the crack and headed south in the dark. I don’t see too many sunrises on the beach, but this one was fabulous.

There were lots of shells and I actually found a live sand dollar on the beach, which is interesting. I paused to take a photo of Kimmie Sue with the obligatory holding the sunrise.

Island Mobility Plan

Due to the magic of deadlines, there was a public meeting/workshop regarding the Island Mobility Plan this past Wednesday at the Seashore Middle School academy. I was able to get my hands on an advance copy of the technical memo, but they are still in the early stages of pulling the actual plan together. The technical memo just included cross sections and plans of what is supposed to be built and the standards of today. We’re all familiar with what was Supposed to be built, but what we need is an analysis of actual on-the-ground trends and a plan on how to retrofit our already-built streets and plan for increased golf cart and multi-modal traffic. But you loyal readers already know that.

ISAC Update

Speaking of the magic of deadlines, the next Island Strategic Action Committee would have normally been scheduled for November 7th, which also happens to be Voting Day, so we moved it to the next Monday, November 13th. Yes, that is a Monday, so make sure to mark your calendars. There will be some good updates from city staff, and I’m sure some great discussions on what’s going to happen next around the Island. Well folks, I have to wind this one up short this week, there is too much going on at the office. Some really good things going on with the Whitecap Preserve planning. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and I’ll see you next week On the Rocks.



Dan found a nice pomp despite the slow fishing.

State Rules for Speckled Trout under Review



Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) may soon change the rules on how many spotted trout are caught along the state’s coast. The agency held meetings in Texas coastal cities last week, gathering comments from professional fishing guides, recreational anglers and the public at large on what spotted trout fishing regulations they would like to see.

The meetings were prompted by comments TPWD received since the agency lifted temporary sea trout regulations in late August. Those regulations, where anglers could only catch three trout per day between 17 and 23 inches, were put in place by TPWD in response to a fish kill from Texas’ 2021 winter storm. Around 160,000 spotted seatrout died, making up around half of the game fish killed during the freeze.

Most of the trout killed were in the lower Laguna Madre bay system, which surrounds Laguna Vista, Port Isabel and South Padre Island. Fishing guides attending the Port Isabel meeting told representatives that they continue to notice the freeze’s impact, noting that the trout they did see were hardly hitting the regulation limit. “I’m personally not seeing the bigger, upper slot trout that we were seeing before the freeze, the anywhere from the 17 to 23 inch, 24 inch range,” said Ernest Cisneros, a Laguna Madre area fishing guide for 27 years.

“We’re seeing a lot of little trout — a lot of 15, 16, 17 inch trout. But we’re not seeing the larger trout in good numbers the way we had them before,” he added.

Ernest Cisneros and several other

guides who attended the meeting came to a mostly uniform consensus: The fishing isn’t what it used to be, and more regulation is probably necessary. Several wanted to see the trout limit back at three per angler. Some wanted no oversize fish to be caught. Currently, Texas anglers can catch up to five trout between 15 and 25 inches, with one of those fish being oversized.

According to TPWD, spotted trout are below the 10-year average, based on the fish the agency has caught during surveys. But the effects on trout from those regulations could take some more time. Through the 1980s, three freezes killed tens of millions of fish along the Texas coast. TPWD issued similar conservation measures that helped bring back some of those trout in two to three years, though they weren’t as large.

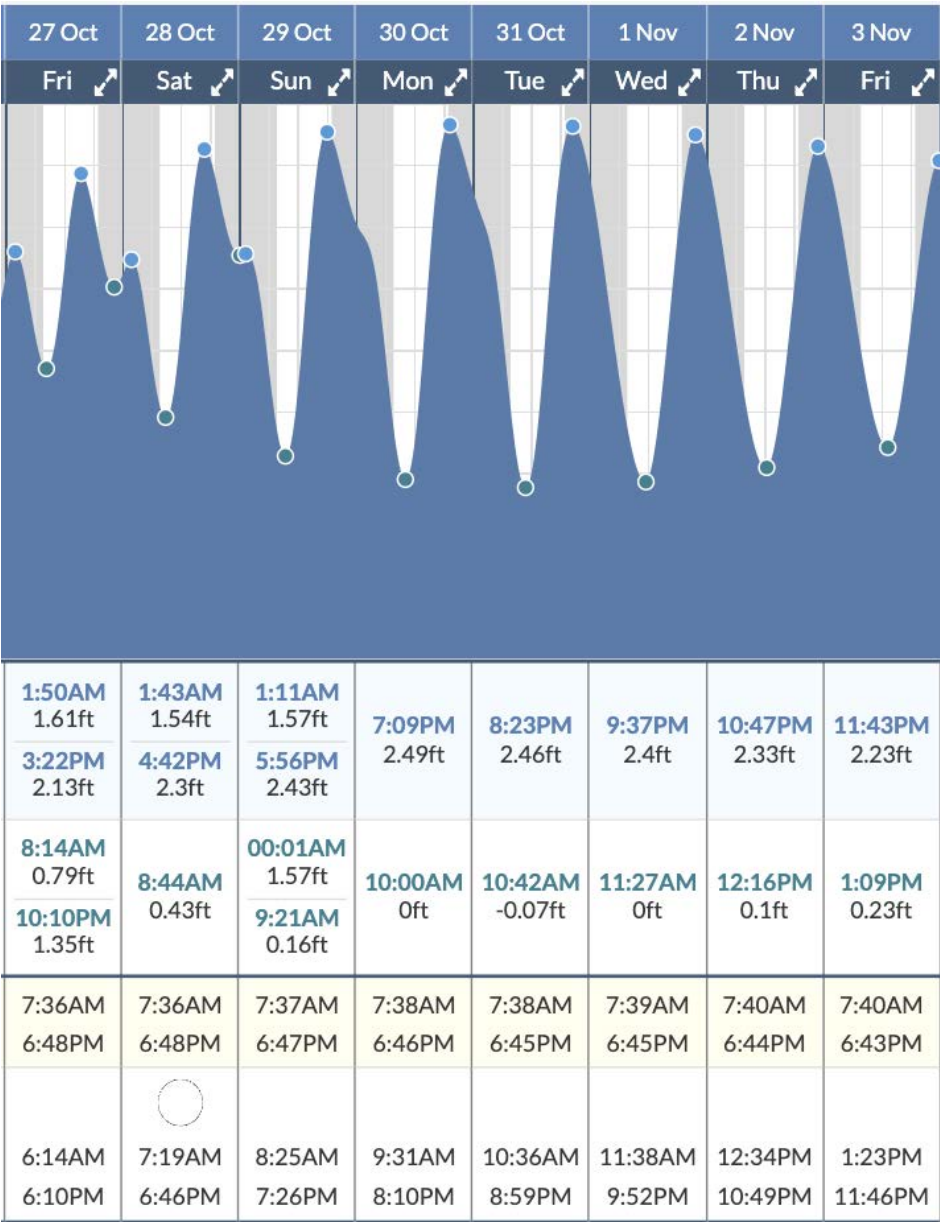
The agency’s commission issued an emergency order regulating spotted trout fishing in the lower Laguna Madre from April to September 2021. Normal regulations continued until March 2022, when TPWD issued a separate, temporary limit on spotted trout from Matagorda Bay to the lower Laguna Madre, finding that the population was still lower than normal. That order was lifted in late August.

TPWD said at least 274 people attended the six meetings the agency held along the coast. In a statement, TPWD said it will summarize its findings and present them to the commission during its next meeting. The commission will then decide whether to issue regulations on spotted trout. TPWD’s commission will meet on November 2 in Austin.



Speckled Trout Image courtesy of Texas Fish and Game

Tides of the Week



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Nature Notes

How Hurricanes Impact Birds

By Alex Coenen



Flamingo flying

Photo by Brandon Trentler under [Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic](#) license

Fall migration has begun for many bird species, which means that we will be seeing more variety of birds coming through our part of the world. These migrants face many dangers along their journey, not the least of which is bad weather. During fall migration, hurricanes may hinder the seasonal movement of birds and deter them from reaching their intended destinations. Birds may hunker down to ride out the storm, flee to a safer region, or fly ahead despite everything. Unsurprisingly, many birds die due to ending up in the eye of the storm.

Non-migratory, resident birds also suffer during a hurricane as their food supplies are ripped from vegetation and habitats destroyed. This effect may be exacerbated on species which live on small islands or have small populations. For example, the critically endangered Puerto Rican parrot was once wiped out to only 22 individuals after Hurricane Hugo hit the island in 1989 and decimated a large portion of their habitat.

If you're in tune with the Texas birding community, you may remember hearing about a group of American Flamingos spotted near Galveston on the Bolivar Peninsula after Hurricane Idalia had progressed through the Gulf of Mexico. These birds are not normally seen in the state of Texas, so they were a rare sight.

The hurricane likely disrupted these birds' normal seasonal movement, and they may have needed to rest before continuing their journey to their intended destination. When the time comes, it is possible that these displaced groups of flamingos may attempt to fly back south to their home ranges or perhaps they might join the small population that resides in Florida. Though a longshot, this would help to reestablish a breeding community of flamingos in a region where they were decimated due to hunting for their feathers.

North America is not the only place where birds can be displaced after a hurricane. In the United Kingdom, North American songbirds have been spotted after Hurricane Lee tramped throughout new England and Nova Scotia in early September. Birds migrating south along their normal migration routes were likely redirected by the hurricane and kept flying East to the nearest landmass. Birders in the UK were delighted by the arrival of rare birds, but this appearance of new birds indicates a bigger problem.

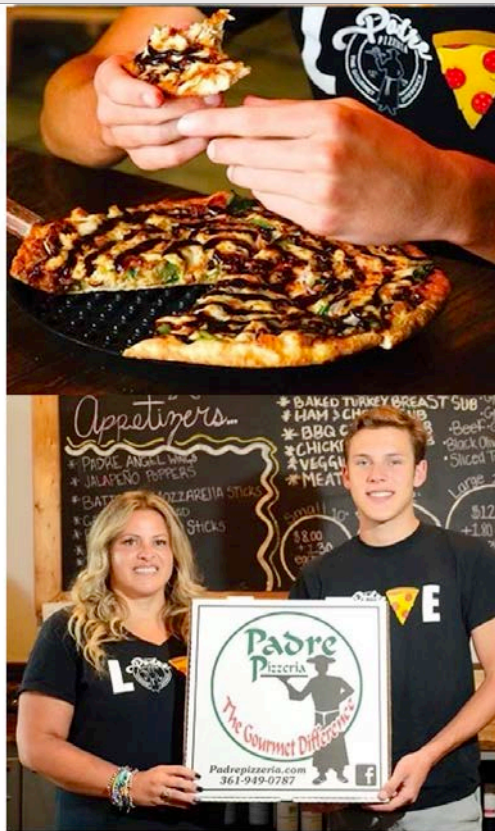
Most birds that had to face the brunt of the storm likely never made it to the UK and died in the Atlantic along the way, with the few lucky ones being reported by UK viewers. The chances of getting back to North America are slim for these lucky survivors. Some may move south to Africa in pursuit of suitable wintering habitat, but being out of their normal environment means these vagrant birds won't find the right food, may fall victim to new predators, or a whole other swath of issues. Whatever the case, the chances of survival for these small songbirds are extremely low.

According to climate models, the frequency and severity of hurricanes in the Atlantic will increase as temperatures rise. One or two hurricanes a season could displace thousands of birds, but with increasing storms means increasing stress to withstand the bombardment of multiple storms a year. This will have drastic impacts on North American bird populations, especially if these hurricanes increase in frequency during fall migration season. The best we can do it to protect essential habitat to mitigate the effects that these disastrous storms may have on bird populations.



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History cont. from A1

prior to the project the beach had been less than twenty feet in width at many places. The digging of the channel was to be funded as part of the Resources Development Act 1999 as a Federal project with Nueces County as the original local sponsor with the City of Corpus Christi assuming local sponsorship in 2000. The vote in April, 2001 set the project in motion at an estimated cost of \$30 million with \$19.5 million coming in the form of an earmark through then U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and the remainder through a local match. Maintenance of the channel after construction was to be paid for with the Island Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2.

Work begins

Work began in October 2003. . The jetties were spaced 300 feet apart extending 1,430 feet into the Gulf of Mexico and the channel was originally to be maintained to a depth of 14 feet, which has since been reduced to 8.5 feet. The sand from the original dredging of Packery Channel in 2004-2005 was pumped onto the beach in from of the seawall to widen the beach from about twenty feet to four hundred feet. If the beach width falls below 150 feet from the base of the seawall the beach must be closed to traffic under rules from the Texas General Land Office.

The original plan called for the channel to be opened in 2006 but Mother Nature had other ideas and in July 2005 Hurricane Emily cut the last 75 feet of sand from the channel during the second year of its construction and the channel has remained open ever since.

Dredging

In the beginning it was believed the channel would have to be dredged every three to four years and a minimum of \$4 million was to be kept in the TIRZ #2 fund for maintenance dredging for the next twenty years, however, over the years the channel proved to be a more robust system and since its opening only four dredging project have been necessary with the last being in 2012 after Hurricane Ike left sand deposits in the channel in 2008.

On July 15, 2011 the Island Moon ran a story reporting that "In the first large scale dredging since the completion of Packery Channel a project is scheduled for later this year that will move 280,000 cubic yards of sand from the bottom of Packery Channel and place it on the portion of Ellis Beach in front of the seawall from the Holiday Inn to Whitecap Boulevard." That project eventually cost \$3.1 million.

In the subsequent maintenance dredging projects the sand was also placed on the beach under the auspices of a disposal permit held by companies represented by the developer Paul Schexnailder. That disposal permit was also used by the Padre Isles Property Association for more than a decade during dredging projects in the Island canal system which is owned by the association. However, when Schexnailder's companies lost ownership of much of their island holdings in 2018 the disposal permit lapsed with responsibility of its renewal falling to the City of Corpus Christi's Beach Maintenance Department. Beach quality sand can be placed on the beach under the original Corps of Engineers Permit, however, consultants from the Conrad Blucher Institute told the Island Strategic Action Committee in 2016 there is currently not enough sand in the channel to renourish the beach and the disposal of any non-beach quality sand removed from the channel requires a disposal permit. As of this writing that permit has not been renewed.

Hurricane Harvey



The damage to the Packery Channel Jetties now under repair was caused by Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

When Hurricane Harvey blew across The Island in 2017 the outbound water driven by high winds removed the sand left behind by Hurricane Ike which had been trapped by two sand bars located just inside the mouth of the jetties and on the jetty-side of the SH 361 Bridge over the channel. Work began in 2022 on a \$13.5 million project to repair the Packery Channel jetties but work crews soon ran into an unexpected snag who reported that on many days, sometimes for a week at low tides, the work barges could not get close enough to the jetties to place rocks due to severe shoaling throughout the channel.

When crews began repair work on the Packery Channel jetty system in January, 2022 the bid from low bidder Callan Marine LTD of Galveston was based on a survey of the channel done in 2017. The assessment of the damage to the channel system by Hurricane Harvey in 2017 assumed there would be more damage to the jetties due to erosion before work began in 2022 and it was assumed that the original approved bid of \$12.3 million would need to be upgraded to cover the additional damage. In late 2021 the Corpus Christi City Council approved an additional \$2.3 million to cover that cost raising the total cost of the project to \$13.5 million due to further erosion of the jetty system. That work is now nearing completion at which time the dredging of the channel will begin.

Dredging about to get underway

Crews from contractor Callan Marine are scheduled to begin moving equipment into place in November to begin dredging Packery Channel and dredging will be continuous on a twenty-four hour basis with a plan to limit noise and lighting during the hours between 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Dredged material from the \$3,531,549 million project will be moved to Whitecap Beach and the southern portion of Michael J. Ellis Beach along the southern end of the seawall via a pipeline that will be moved to allow for widening the beach along the seawall past the 150-foot width required to allow for vehicular traffic as required by the Texas General Land Office. Rotating portions of the beach will be temporarily closed as the pipeline is moved about throughout the process but otherwise the beaches will remain open. Vehicle crossings over the pipeline will be located at each roadway along with stairs for pedestrian crossings.

Pipeline installation and dredging mobilization is scheduled to begin in November and run through January, 2024 with completion scheduled for January 2024. When complete the channel will be dredged to eight feet between the mouth of the Packery Channel Jetties to the State Highway 361 Bridge.



The site of the future Packery Channel in 2003.

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Business Briefs

Jack’s Beachside Cookshack Food Truck on Whitecap is no longer there. The food truck has been sold and it will be moved to an out of town site.

Real Life Fall Fest will be held at Billish Park on Saturday, October 28th 5 - 7 pm. There will be Bounce Houses, dunk tank, free food, games, live music, pie eating contest and much more. Everyone is welcome.

Seashore Learning Center is looking for donations of gently used designer purses for their Bingo for Bags Fundraiser on November 18th. You can drop off purses at the SLC office at the corner of SPID and Encantada.



Driving tickets in a work zone are double so if you don’t want to cough up \$500 do not drive over 45 mph on the Don Patricio Bridge and do not go the wrong way on frontage road or Jackfish. Even going the wrong way a short distance will get you a ticket as I have been told by fellow Islanders.

The Padre Island Charity Poker Run theme is “Howl-a-ween” and will have a dog costume contest on Thursday, October 26th 6 - 9 pm. The caravan starts at Black Sheep Bistro then Island Italian on to The Boathouse and finishes at the Angry Marlin Restaurant. This run benefits the Shelter-a-Mutt.

Dog-Gone Days presented by the Animal Hospital of Padre Island will be held on Friday, October 27th 4 - 7 pm. There will be a pet costume contest, free food and drinks plus giveaways.

The Padre Isles Property Owners Association (POA) office is accepting donations of candy to be distributed to homeowners on Eaglenest and Hawksnest. The “nest” streets are where the Halloween Day Island event takes place with a stream of children and adults in costumes parading down the streets. Lots of fun interaction goes on and many of the homes go all out with decorations. One homeowner said they had over 1500 kids stop by last year. This tradition has been going on for years and keeps getting bigger. The POA office can be found at Billish Park next to the boat ramp.

The Don Patricio Bridge now has the two southbound lanes open and one of the two northbound lanes we have been using is open. It should not go back to two lanes any more. Great news for those businesses on the west side of SPID. If you are going north and want to go to one of those businesses you can no longer make a u-turn at Coldwell Banker. You need to go to the Commodores light which has not yet been lengthened to accommodate the longer line of cars. I was the fourth car and had to wait for two lights.

Daylight Savings Time happens a week from Sunday on November 5th at 2am when we fall back to 1 am. We will spring forward on March 10th. The Texas State House passed legislature last year to keep it year-round but apparently because there is no Federal law it is not going any further. Very confusing.

The 60th Annual Greek Festival will be held on Friday, November 3rd - Sunday at the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church 502 S. Chaparral Street. There will be traditional dances, pastries, music, food and wine with special emphasis on the food. Hours are Friday 4:40 pm - 10:30 pm, Saturday 11:30 am - 10:30 pm and Sunday 11:30 am - 5:30 pm..Admission and parking is free.



The Flour Bluff Hornets Volleyball team are district 29-5A champs which makes them back-to-back champions. Congratulations to these great athletes!



The 5th Annual Halloween Surf Costume Contest by Texas Surf Camp will be held on Saturday, October 28th at 1 pm at Horace Caldwell Pier in Port A. There are two divisions age 12 and under/13 and up. It is a fun spectator activity.



Photo courtesy of Texas Surf Camp

The Mosquito Spraying schedule is Thursday, October 26th for Flour Bluff and Friday, October 27th for the Island.

Gabe Lozano Old Tom Turkey Shootout will be on Sunday, November 19th at 11 am. The 4 person scramble is \$80/player and includes cart, keg beer and a turkey dinner. This popular event fills up fast so start getting your team together.

The Harbor Bridge completion date is now spring of 2025 now that an agreement has been reached between TxDOT and contractors Flatiron/Dragados.

The Slip is a favorite locals bar located behind Guajillo’s Restaurant on SPID. The Island’s longtime favorite German bartender Angela is there plus returning favorite Charlene along with Josh, Italy and Dawn. Bar owner Travis has added more and larger TVs and a popcorn machine. The Happy Hour is 2 - 7 pm and there are daily drink specials like Whiskey Wednesday. The hours are 2 pm - 2 am daily except Sundays when they open at noon for football where you can watch all the games.

Random Stuff

I have written about the pumice stone cleaning the rust rings in the toilet before but I am updating with this pumice stone product Pumie with a handle that makes it even easier. It can take as little as a minute depending on the size of the ring. The stone is great at removing rust and hard water stains without damaging the porcelain. I got a two pack at Amazon for \$11.



Peace out.

Images from the Texas Sealife Center’s Turtle Trot and Sea Turtle Festival 2023
Photos Debbie Nobel



Lizzy drinking timbercraft boubon for a prize



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



14245 Ambrosia St. Cute on large corner lot, 1/2 block from boat ramp. 3/2/2 split plan. 1,356 sq. ft. Room for boat or RV under cover. **\$387,000** Call **Pam Morgan** at 361-215-8116.



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



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



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



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



15414 Salt Cay Ct. #3C Updated canal front townhome. Large 1,729 sq. ft. 2 bed, 2 1/2 bath, garage boat lift. Includes furniture **\$430,000**. Call **Pam Morgan** 361-215-8116.



15005 Windward Dr. #216 Fully furnished 2 bed, 1 bath, 955 sq ft. Cozy courtyard view and walking distance from beach access. **\$299,900** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499.



13969 Lanyard 4/3/2 2,540 sq. ft., stainless appliances, quartz & tile throughout plus lots of extras. **\$589,900** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914 or **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499.



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14921 Windward Dr. #114 Very nice 2/2 short term rental unit, fully furnished across the street from the beach. This one shouldn't last long. Call **Will Flaherty** with questions. **\$299,900**. 361-944-0995.



15396 Caravel Dr. 4/3.5/2 with an amazing East facing fingertip location! Lots of decking and easy out to Laguna Madre. **\$1,000,000** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



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Kim & Mark Bissonnette enjoyed reading *The Island Moon* during Tropical Storm Lydia in Cabo.



Lee and Greta Elledge visited Skyline Drive along the Shenandoah Mountains in Virginia



David and Laura Oles took this photo in Kamakura, Japan at the Great Buddha this past January.



Gail and Vita took the *Island Moon* to Italy



Debbie and Bill Davenport and Brenda and Flo Pena took the *Moon* along on a cruise from Galveston to Costa Mayo, Belize and Cozumel.

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Dolphins By Steve Coons



Lisa Small and Sean Hunter took the *Moon* traveling to Terlingua.



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth visiting Amelia Island in Florida for some Continuing Education courses. They really choose perfect locations.

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Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

The world is so heavy right now. Peace seems a lost cause. The horrific violent attack by Hamas upon Israel and Israel’s massive unrelenting retaliation is shocking and numbing. All the while, the brutal invasion of Ukraine continues.

Children, hospitals, families, schools, homes – pure inhumane terror is playing out before our eyes. As is often the case in war, civilians are bearing the brunt in this latest round of indiscriminate militarized lethal terror. Violence seldom solves much, but it certainly further entrenches mutual mistrust, hatred, and a thirst for vengeance. Such is the lost cause of peace.

We are not at peace literally or figuratively. We may be lulled into thinking that when we cross our bridge, we can isolate ourselves from the horrors of the world, concerned only with the tides and the latest community debates about zoning and taxes. But our isolated bliss is only an illusion.

In the movie *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, idealistic and naïve Jefferson Smith (Jimmy Stewart) is sent to Washington to serve in the Senate. He gets run over by political power run amok. He encounters greed and corruption, power struggles, and is even falsely accused of a scandal. Yet, he won’t give in and insists upon standing up for lost causes. The story reaches a climax when Smith is engaged in a filibuster. Back in the day, you had to stay on the Senate floor and keep talking. Exhausted, yet defiant, he said that the only causes worth fighting for are the lost causes. Because this is based on one

principle – love your neighbor.

There are lots of lost causes out there. Peace is just one of them. Jesus fought for the lost causes, not in the way armies or enemies fight. Jesus fought with love and compassion, doing justice, and seeking to care for the vulnerable and broken. Based in one principle, love your neighbor, the lost causes, especially the lost cause of peace are the only causes worth fighting for.

Humans must find a way to resolve differences in just and humane ways. We must find a way for greater understanding and respect between different nations, peoples, and faiths. We must find ways to view each other through the lens of our common humanity. We must put aside the eye for an eye approach to anger. We must find ways to do justice for the poor and dispossessed and repudiate the violence and savagery of the fanatic. The lost cause of peace is worth fighting for with humility and self-giving love.

Speaking of peace, a bunch of humans called to be peacemakers gather each Sunday to worship in community at Island Presbyterian Church. There is always room at the table for you! Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m., 14030 Fortune Bay Drive, or on our Facebook page.

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

pastor@islandpresby.com

Texas Job Count Reaches Historic Milestone

Lone Star State Surpasses 14 Million Jobs, Continues Growth Streak

Texas’ labor market achieved new record highs in September in terms of the job count, number of people employed, and number of people in the civilian labor force. Total nonfarm employment increased by 61,400 positions over the month to reach a 24th consecutive series-high level with 14,049,400 jobs and a 31st consecutive month of growth. Since September 2022, Lone Star State employment grew by 435,800 positions as Texas’ annual growth rate of 3.2 percent outpaced the nation by 1.1 percentage points.

The seasonally adjusted number of employed persons increased by 26,900 people over the month, raising Texas’ new record high to 14,515,800. The Lone Star State’s seasonally adjusted civilian labor force also reached a new record high of 15,141,300 after increasing by 29,500 people over the month. The state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held at 4.1 percent for September.

“The Texas economy continues to grow, exceeding 14 million jobs for the first time,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Bryan Daniel. “TWC supports this continuous job growth through a number of programs designed to ensure the Texas workforce continues to meet the needs of Texas employers.”

Employment in nine of eleven major industries expanded over the month. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities saw significant growth over the month with 15,200 jobs added while the Professional and Business Services industry gained 14,900 jobs in September. Another 13,800 positions were

added in Private Education and Health Services, and 8,000 jobs were tallied for Manufacturing.

“Texas has achieved growth across all major private industries by fostering a business environment that enables Texas employers, large and small, to thrive, grow and succeed,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Aaron Demerson. “TWC has a number of programs and initiatives like Texas Interns Unite! and the Skills Development Fund that help companies upskill their workforce, create new jobs and provide them with the support they need to bolster the Texas economy.”

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) maintained the lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 2.5 percent in September, followed by Amarillo at 3.2 percent, College Station-Bryan at 3.2 percent, and Lubbock at 3.3 percent. Behind them, Odessa had an unemployment rate of 3.4 percent in September while Abilene maintained a rate of 3.5 percent. Austin-Round Rock and San Angelo both matched the U.S. unemployment rate of 3.6 percent. In addition, the civilian labor force in the San Antonio-New Braunfels MSA increased by 3,800 people in September and employment increased by nearly 10,000 jobs over the month. Employment in the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land area grew by 14,300 jobs in September while the MSA’s unemployment rate was half a percentage point lower than it was in the month prior.

Texas Drilling Permit and Completion Statistics for September 2023

The Railroad Commission of Texas issued a total of 816 original drilling permits in September 2023. The total includes 709 to drill new oil or gas wells, 10 to re-enter plugged wellbores and 80 for re-completions of existing wellbores.

The breakdown of well types for total original drilling permits in September 2023 is:

180 oil, 64 gas, 519 oil and gas, 35 injection, one service, and 17 other permits.

In September 2023, Commission staff processed 778 oil, 275 gas and 338 injection completions for new drills, re-entries and re-completions.



Aerial from the Sea Turtle Festival

Constitutional Amendment on Ballot Would Dedicate Surplus Funding Towards Parkland Acquisition, Maintenance

Proposition 14 on the current election ballot would create the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund, allocating \$1 billion from state government surplus to acquire and develop new state parks across Texas. The Centennial Parks Conservation Fund would not create a new tax for Texans and, if passed, would be the largest investment in parks in our state’s history. If Prop 14 does not pass, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will continue its efforts to acquire and develop state parks by using a mix of conservation funds, stakeholder partnerships and specifically

authorized state and federal appropriations. Texas State Parks is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2023 and currently comprises 89 parks, natural areas and historic sites visited by nearly 10 million people every year. In a state where less than five percent of land is available for public enjoyment, Texas State Parks provide an opportunity to more than 30 million Texans (and growing) to spend time outside fishing, taking a stroll or sleeping under the stars. For more information on the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund, visit the [Prop 14](#) webpage on the TPWD website.

Additional Area Code for the Houston Area

North American Numbering Plan Administrator to Guide Implementation of New 621 Area Code

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) has approved the adoption of an additional area code for the greater Houston area to accommodate continued population growth. The area is expected to run out of new phone numbers starting with the current 281/346/713/832 area codes in 2025. Once telecommunications carriers have exhausted all telephone numbers with the current 281/346/713/832 area codes, new numbers will be assigned the new area code 621. This new code is expected to meet numbering needs for an additional nine years.

PUCT Commissioners voted to approve the new area code in PUCT docket 54986 and directed the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) to oversee the implementation over a nine-month timeframe. The addition of the 621 area code will not affect existing phone numbers. Additionally, since the Houston area is currently served by multiple area codes,

residents are already required to dial ten digits (area code included) to place local calls, so the addition of a fifth area code will be a seamless transition for residents. The Houston area’s first area code, 713, was created in 1947 as one of the original four numbering plan areas (NPA) assigned to Texas. In 1996, the 713 NPA was split into two, switching most Houston suburbs to the 281 area code. Rapid growth in the following two years required the PUCT to approve the elimination of the boundary between the 713 and 281 area codes and add the 832 area code, creating a three area code overlay for the combined Houston area. As a result of eliminating the boundary and creating a third overlay, Houston residents were required to start ten-digit dialing for local calls. In 2013, the PUCT approved the addition of the 346 area code.

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The Island Moon Weekly for more information

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Public School Meeting

Public Meeting

On November 13, 2023 at 6:00pm, during the Island Foundation regularly scheduled Board Meeting, we will have a Public Hearing for the purpose of giving an overview of the financial accountability rating system, known as the CHARTER FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). The purpose of FIRST is to ensure that open-enrollment charter schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and that they improve those practices. The system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to better manage their financial resources in order to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes. Seashore Charter Schools received a rating of A-Superior.

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This guy arrived on The Island this week but couldn't find the pier. Photo by Ronnie Johnson.

Crossword Solution

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



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Importance of Blood Donation

October 23, 2023

The Coastal Bend Blood Center was formed in 1969 to centralize blood donation efforts in the South Texas area, as well as for Port Aransas, Rockport-Fulton, and Corpus Christi communities. Since its formation, it has involved over 35,000 volunteers per year, which is crucial since over 150 people per day are needed to donate blood to meet the needs in South Texas. The Blood Center often places its mobile centers at different areas such as high schools, churches, and hospitals. Individuals who want to donate blood can visit the Blood Center on 209 North Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas during normal business hours. While many of the donation activities occur in Corpus Christi, Port Aransas, and Rockport-Fulton, the Coastal Bend Blood Center actually serves ten counties in South Texas, which includes over half a million residents. Bloodmobiles operate seven days a week to ensure that hospital and patient needs are met in this large geographical area. While opportunities for blood donation are available and welcome throughout the year, there is currently a critical need for type B- blood and O- blood which is known as the universal donor. O- blood can be given to people of all blood types and is critical in emergencies before the patient's blood type is known and with newborns that need blood. The general qualifications for blood donation include: be 17 years of age or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, have a pulse range between 50-100, have not donated whole blood in the last 8 weeks, have normal blood pressure, pulse and temperature, do not have a cold or sore throat, and are not taking

antibiotics for an active infection. If you have a specific question regarding your eligibility, please call 800.299.4943. I want to continue to bring awareness to the many great organizations in our Coastal Bend such as the Coastal Bend Blood Center. About 1 in 7 people need blood when entering a hospital, so we can truly benefit from these types of worthwhile organizations by doing our part to raise awareness and try and participate in blood donations. You can find more information about ways to help by donating blood as well as gain additional information about the Coastal Bend Blood Center and what it does as an organization by visiting their website at Coastal Bend Blood Center. If you have questions regarding any of the information mentioned in this week's article, please do not hesitate to call my Capitol or District Office. Please always feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or issues regarding a Texas state agency, or if you would like to contact my office regarding constituent services. As always, my offices are available at any time to assist with questions, concerns or comments (Capitol Office, 512-463-0672; District Office, 361-949-4603).

- State Representative Todd Hunter, District 32

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

Annual Halloween Canal Crawl

Photos By Debbie Nobel



American Legion Post 229

Search for a Home

The Islander Post calls Padre Island home and that is a source of great pride for its members. So much so that our service caps have Padre Island on them as the post location instead of Corpus Christi. There is nothing wrong with Corpus... There is just something different about the vibe of the Island. When you cross over the JFK Bridge you can almost feel the tension drain away and you know that good neighbors, good friends and good times are ahead. Though we call Padre Island home the Post still doesn't have a permanent residence to call its own. Thanks to Tony Tagliaferro and everyone at Island Italian Restaurant we have a place to hold our monthly meetings until we do get our own building. Tony graciously opens the restaurant to us on a night they are normally closed, and we will be eternally grateful for their generosity. The search for a building or property for the post has been going on for a while, and as a new organization we have been running our programs on limited funds from donations that we use to purchase food for the events we hold on the Island such as the PINS Easter Egg Hunt and the PINS Blue Moon Luau, the search hasn't been exactly fruitful. We have inquired about many properties, some belong to the city or county, some belong to businesses that have properties on the island that are sitting empty, and some were on the local market and, at the moment, are not within our budget. We have done a couple of fundraisers and have received great support from everyone we meet. Even the grilling trailer we use at our events was donated to us by an island resident. We are looking to do more large type fundraisers to help in the pursuit of a property and recently received the great news that our 501(c)19 non-profit application was approved. In the coming months we are hoping to hold a raffle and on January 20th we are holding an event with live music in conjunction with a silent and live auction. We are in need of sponsors to help with the costs involved in setting up the show and for items for the silent and live auctions. These could be baskets with items from local businesses, guides offering fishing or hunting trips, businesses offering services or donations

of large items for a raffle. If you can help us with any of these areas, please reach out to our email listed at the end of this article. Once we have our own building, we will be able to set up offices for our Veteran's Service Officers, the Post Commander, Adjutant and other officers. We will have a kitchen and bar enabling us to host breakfast or dinner events and hope to have regularly scheduled events open to all. A building allows us to have areas set up for meetings and storage of our equipment that is currently being kept at various members' homes. Most importantly it will provide a place for veterans or their family members to find support that otherwise wouldn't be available on the Island. Veterans can be reluctant to open up to people that haven't served because military service is an experience that is hard to explain. There is a closeness and comorodery that never goes away, and it doesn't matter where or when you served or even which branch of the service you were in, walking into an American Legion Post gives you the knowledge that the people you are talking to can relate to your situation because they have lived it themselves. It's part of the American Legion's spirit of separating the war from the warrior and it can make all the difference. We have our permanent charter for Post 229 and are working to get enough members for an American Legion Riders Chapter. Many people have inquired about the American Legion Auxiliary and the Son's of the American Legion for family members of veterans that qualify or would have qualified for membership in the American Legion. We have to reach at least fifteen people interested in joining a program before we can move forward with it. Anyone that would like to apply for the Auxiliary or Son's should reach out via our email to ask any questions or add your name to the list. Veterans or active-duty members from any branch can find more information on our Facebook page: American Legion Post 0229 "The Islander Post" and riders can go to: American Legion Riders Post 229 "The Islander Post". Email: americanlegionpost0229@gmail.com Our next meeting will be on November 8th at the Island Italian Restaurant. Social hour starts at 6:00 pm with the meeting starting at 7:00 pm.



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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

On the local front...



The gang from Red's Riviera are getting ready for the Pink Flamingo Club Crawl on November 5th.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN EVERYBODY!!! I don't care what the thermometer says, it's autumn out there because the calendar says so. In fact, *Thanksgiving* is right around the corner and then... *Christmas* and *New Years* are only a month after that. And just to state the obvious, *Christmas* falls on a Monday and *New Year's Eve* is on Sunday this year. And it's my understanding that this winter will be wetter and colder. Which for me means I get to play chicken with crummy outside weather for the bands to play in. And at *Shorty's* that means we put the music in the corner of an already tiny space and get friendly. And as for *Halloween*, the 31st falls on Tuesday so most of the clubs are celebrating this Saturday except for *Shorty's* and *Red's* who are throwing down on *Halloween* proper. *Shorty's* has the **Groove** playing. I love *Halloween*. It's a silly holiday where otherwise mature adults can dress crazy and go incognito. What could be more fun you ask? How about a *Pink Flamingo Club Crawl*? Yup. **KK** tells me that *Red's* is sponsoring one on Sunday, November 5th. I tell you this now so you will have time to figure out your decorations. You can bet me and my **Mermaid Gal** are on top of it. There's a \$10 entry fee and the event is a fundraiser for the *Port Aransas Animal Shelter* so bring some pet food, kitty litter, flea meds or pet treats, too. The crawl goes from 1:00 to 6:00 PM so the line-up starts at 12:30 in the IGA parking lot. Raffle tickets will also be on sale. Here's the pub schedule: Red's 1-2, Salty Dog 2-3, Bernie's 3-4, Shorty's 4-5 and then back to Red's at 5:00 to see who won the prizes for best cart and team costumes. I see a new tradition in the making.

Scattered shots...



Raul Ayala with Christopher Ivory and Matt Maldanado attacked Shorty's last Friday.

Last weekend was another bonafide hoot. It appears that *Bron's* and *Shorty's* are committed to keeping the live music scene alive. In the name of symmetry, San Antonio musicians **Ruben V** and **Chris Boss** played opposite each other again last weekend, as they did the week before at *Shorty's* and *Bron's*. There is one exception being that the music goes on early at *Bron's* (7-10) and later at *Shorty's* (9-1), but that kind of works out well, too. I can honestly say, those two guys are masters of their trade and can arguably hold their own with ANY guitarist out there. Tell me I'm wrong. I'm going to put both those cats on the same show sometime next season. Just watch for the mushroom cloud. And how about the new kid on the block, **Raul Ayala**, turning heads where ever he plays. He completely smoked *Shorty's* last Friday. I also caught *Blues Runner* **Mike O'Neil** at *Bron's* for some velvety *Hammond B-3* organ sounds from **Charlie Rouzer**. That's another sweet band that you gotta catch sometime. Also the *Wooden Boat Festival* was happening over in the city park and I got to see the **Cleartones** playing. You can catch them every Wednesday at the VFW now. Plus *Shorty's* had their annual *Art Faire* going

on Sunday with **Brad Ethridge** providing the tunes. Do we live in a great place or what?



The Cleartones played the Wooden Boat Festival at Roberts Point Park last Saturday and will play the VFW every Wednesday.

DO NOT MISS LIST
Coming this weekend...



Cruise Control will play Bron's on Friday.

Here we go again! It's *Halloween* weekend so this should be good. Lots of costume parties going on. Coming this Friday the 27th we have a "Haunted Garden Party" and costume contest at the *Gaff* with the **Dunebillies** playing. Also on Friday the *Rialto Theater* in AP is having a toy drive at their "Haunted Theater"... I sure like the way the *Rialto* is coming back alive over there. Elsewhere on Friday, **Dreaming in Color** will play *Shorty's*, the big horn party band **Cruise Control** will play *Bron's Backyard*, **Buddy Cortina** will be at *Treasure Island* and **Robert McCoy** will play the new hip *VFW* where the locals party. They'll be having their annual *Pumpkin Patch* too this weekend. On Saturday, downtown Corpus will be celebrating the *Dia de Los Muertos Festival* with all kinds of ghoulish activities. Also on Saturday the *Gaff* will host another BELT SANDER RACE with **Jim Dugan** performing... go **Moon Monkey**, **Todd Dorn** and the **Sea Drifters** will play *Shorty's*, the **CBGB's** will play *Bron's* and the **Back Pew Revival** will play *Treasure Island*. On Sunday there's a big show in town at the *American Bank Center* with **Grupo Frontera**, **Brad Ethridge** will play the *Gaff*, **Rich Lockhart** will play the *VFW*, and *Shorty's* will have their usual *Sunday Funday* with **Jim Dugan** and **Ty Dietz**. And on *Halloween* proper, *Shorty's* will have the **Groove** and the *VFW* will have our own *Rasta Cowboy* **Billy Snipes**. And speaking of *Halloween* have you been following the *Gaff* bartender **Summer Miller** on Facebook? She has been donning a different *Halloween* costume every day in October... and I'm talking about really cool costumes every day. She has really gone above and beyond on this deal. I hereby dub her the *Port A Queen of Halloween*. Some people go gaga over *Christmas* (**Heidi**) and other holidays, but our sweet Summer takes the cake, hands down, for her over the top 1st through 31st *Days of Halloween* costumes. I'm telling you this gal wore a different (and super killer) costume every day in October. I applaud the effort.

On the horizon...

On the near horizon... my island daughter **Cheyenne Foss** is marrying her man **Kody** on Saturday, November 4. I love you **Shiny**. Also there's a big songwriter festival in Rockport on the 3rd through the 5th. Plus on November 5th, *Daylight Savings Time* will end and of course the *Pink Flamingo Pub Crawl*. Also watch for **Vallejo**, **Lil' Wayne**, **Max & Heather Stalling** and the *Fredericksburg Balloon Fest*. Y'all be safe out there... it could get spooky.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



The Back Pew Revival will play Treasure Island this Saturday. Photo by Pam Felder



Summer Miller is Port A's Queen of Halloween



The Groove will play Shorty's on Halloween night.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Friday.

October 27

FULL MOON

Haunted Garden Party w/ Dunebillies @ Gaff
Haunted Theater & Toy Drive @ Rialto Theater AP
Dreaming in Color @ Shorty's
Cruise Control @ Bron's Backyard
Buddy Cortina @ Treasure Island
Robert McCoy @ VFW

Billy Snipes @ Cinnamon Shore North
John Cortez @ Boathouse
Dave's Duo @ Doc's Waterline
Michael Burts @ Pelican Lounge
JonMikael Mrez @ Riley's Pub
Treaty Oak Revival @ Brewster
Downtown Jam Council @ Rockit's
Latin Sunset Band @ Pier 99
Raul Ayala @ Sugar Shack Fulton
Michael Anthony Perez @ Landry's
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Left Hand Devil, Oven @ The Exchange
Graham & Jaymart @ Cassidy's Pub
Downtown Eli Brown @ Fuzzy Catfish
Chuck Almaraz @ Blackbeard's

Saturday.

October 28

BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
Pink Pumpkin Patch @ VFW
Dia de Los Muertos Festival @ Corpus
Todd Dorn @ Shorty's
CBGB's @ Bron's Backyard
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Back Pew Revival @ Treasure Island
Billy Snipes @ Gulf Shores
Dreaming in Color @ Pelican Lounge
Elvis Lee @ Packery Bar
Groove @ South Texas Ice House
Cruise Control @ Sugar Shack Fulton
Seattle Rising

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CBDB'S OCT 28
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Treasure Island
BUDDY CORTINAS OCT 27
BACK PEW REVIVAL OCT 28
LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND

SHORTY'S
SELFIE EVERY THURSDAY
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TODD DORN OCT 28
JIM DUGAN, TY DIETZ OCT 29
THE GROOVE OCT 31
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National Nobodyz @ The Exchange
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OTB @ Bluff's Landing
Robin Blue @ KOA Flour Bluff
Raul Ayala @ Lulu's Landing
Fulton ChillBillies @ Legends Fulton
FBI Blues Band @ Dorado's

Sunday.

October 29

Grupo Frontera @ American Bank Center
Ty Dietz, Jim Dugan @ Shorty's
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Rich Lockhart @ VFW
Michael Burts @ Pelican Lounge
Catfish Blues Jam @ Rialto Theater AP
Jam Night @ The Exchange
Lady Kat & Mattman @ House of Rock
Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard's
Eli Brown @ Boathouse

Monday.

October 30

Justin & Niki @ Pelican Lounge

HALLOWEEN.

October 31

The Groove @ Shorty's
Billy Snipes @ VFW
Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Joey St. Vincent @ Mesquite Street
Southside

Wednesday.

November 1

Brad Ethridge Open Mic @ Gaff
Cleartones @ VFW
Damon Scott @ Pelican Lounge
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Billy Snipes @ Doc's

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