

Senior Moments A4

Three Chords and the Truth B16

Backwater Adventures A7

The Island's Black Hole A2

Mystery Islander B11

Issue 991



**The Island Moon**

*The voice of The Island since 1996*

**April 14, 2023**

[www.islandmoon.com](http://www.islandmoon.com)

*Full Color Version Available Online!*

27° 37' 0.5952" N | 97° 13' 21.4068" W

**Weekly FREE**



Photo by Kristen Collins



By Dale Rankin

The news out of Austin this week is that Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham announced that William Barret Travis has been selected as the 2023 Top Texan Tournament Winner eeking out a close win over second place finisher Selena so we got that going for us. Other than that there is a lot going on Around The Island this week so let's get to it.

*Oh buoy!*



There were several new arrivals this week on our little sandbar the first being a new painting of a turtle on the Island water tower. Also arriving was this NOAA buoy that washed up on the beach near the 287 Mile Marker. A NOAA official contacted the Moon office for an exact location so we can assume it will be gone soon if not already.

*Ukrainian visitors*



This couple arrived in Port Aransas this week after fleeing the Ukraine and finding their way to The Island via Los Angeles. Welcome to The Island!

*Up in the sky!*

Also arriving was the newest addition to the Island Air Force in the form of this helicopter to help with surveying at the new Whitecap North Padre Island site. More additions to the Air Force are expected on the weekend of May 6-7 when the Blue Angles will take to local skies.



*Zahn Road*

Also announced this week is the pending arrival of new restrooms near the beach along Zahn Road where city officials said they

*Around cont. on A5*

## New Bridge for Commodores Drive!

*Design plans 90% complete*



By Dale Rankin  
Plans for a new water exchange bridge on Commodores Drive are 90 percent complete and have been submitted to the City of

Corpus Christi for review. The Island Moon this week obtained a copy of the plans though an open records request.

The bridge design is part of a larger plan to extend the canal which currently dead-ends on the

*Bridge cont. on A5*

## A New Turtle for the Island!



Crews began repainting the Turtles on the Water Tower this week.



Thumbs up from the Painter!

*By the numbers...*

## Texas State Budget

Texas State Comptroller Glenn Hegar this week announced new numbers for the Biennial state budget. Texas state government works on a two year budget cycle to coincide with the meeting of the Texas Legislature which is now in session.

**\$188.2 billion** in revenue available for general-purpose spending during the 2024-25 biennium

**26.3 percent** increase from 2022-2023

**\$32.7 billion** budget surplus in current state biennial budget

## Two new members appointed to Island Strategic Action Committee

By Dale Rankin

Two new members were appointed to the 14-member Island Strategic Action Committee by the Corpus Christi City Council this week.

The two vacancies were created when At-Large members Dan Brown and Tommy Kurtz resigned and the spots were filled by two Island residents, former Padre Isles Property Owners Association President Marvin Jones and former ISAC Ex-Officio member Terry Palmer. A total of nine applicants applied for the two open positions.

Palmer has been an Island resident since 2009 and is a Research Scientist concentrating in Marine Science at Texas A&M Corpus Christi and former member of the Watershore and Beach Advisory Committee where he termed out in December, 2022.

Jones is a practicing attorney and a graduate of South Methodist School of Law. He was President of PIPOA where he did not seek reelection. His application lists a Top Secret Clearance for U.S. Secret Service.

ISAC was formed by City Ordinance in February, 2010 to advise the Corpus Christi City Council on development and implementation of the Mus-

*ISAC cont. on A5*

## Easter Sunrise



More than 275 people attended the Easter Sunrise Service on Whitecap Beach last Sunday. It was held by Island Presbyterian Church and Island in the Son UMC. We thank Bob Orr for the photographs.



### A little Island history

## Island Water Exchange Bridge

*Two months from completion Nineteen years in the making*

By Dale Rankin

With the Park Road 22 Water Exchange Bridge two months from completion but it has taken nineteen years to get to this point. Here is a look back at why it has taken so long to happen and how we got here.

When the Corpus Christi City Council was putting together a \$950 million bond package for the 2004 election there was not a single item on it for Padre Island in spite of the fact that Island property tax payers would shoulder more than \$100 million of the cost. This was in the time before



The Bridge is on schedule as of this week! Photo Augs the Island United Political Action Committee (IUPAC) existed and the oft quoted attitude at city hall was, "The Island takes care of itself." Island votes split among candidates and those elected could

ignore the needs of Padre Island without fear of political consequences.

The District 4 Councilman at the

*History cont. on A8*



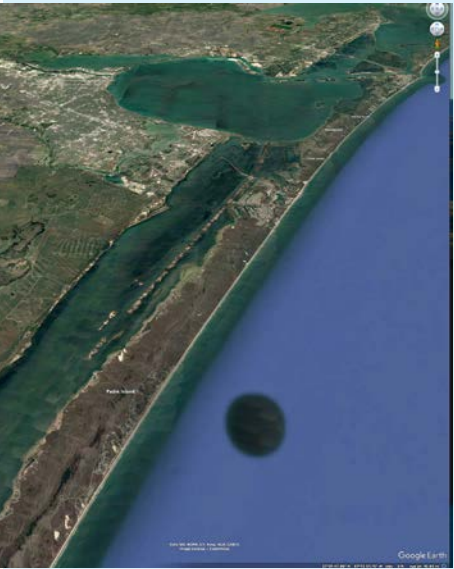


# Did Ya' Hear?

By Mary Craft  
mkay512@aol.com

## Business Briefs

**According to Google Earth**, we don't have a Triangle like Bermuda does but we do have a large mysterious Padre Circle. It is not that far offshore and is before the Padre Island National Seashore begins.



**CC Health Department restaurant ratings** for the Island's 44 food dining and take-out locations had only one scoring below 90 which was 86. Excellent is 90 - 100 and Good is 80 - 90. There were ten that had a perfect score of 100 - Brooklyn Pie, Celcita's, Clem's Marina, Donut Palace, Magnolia Gelato, Marker 37, NY Pizza, Snoopy's Pearl Oyster Bar, Starbucks and Whataburger.

**The SandFest in Port A** is the weekend of 4-14 - 4/16 and it is \$30/person any age for all three days up from last year \$20 and it started out free. Cory Morrow playing Sunday 6 - 7:30 pm makes it worth the price plus the sand sculptures are crazy good. You could wait until Sunday after 4 or Monday and see what sculptures are still intact for free.

**Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association** is selling raffle tickets to win an 18" Port A Skiff with 60 HP Evinrude and trailer at Farley Boat Works for \$100/ticket. There will only 1,000 tickets sold and they can be purchased at the SandFest or email at ashley@farleyboatworks.org.



**Good & Crisp Chicken** has been closed this week. The sign on the door says that only the drive-thru is open due to staff shortage but lately that has been closed too. Its health department rating is 91 so it is not due to that.

**The Island water tower** has been painted and former Councilman Greg Smith made the turtle on it happen. It looks kind of like a hybrid of a land turtle and sea turtle to me and I have never seen a blue turtle. It also had Padre Island on the tower before and now it has CCW which stands for Corpus Christi Water. It wasn't going to have a turtle painted in on it all so I guess it's better than just having the letters.

**Padre Island Farmers Market** will be at the Island Presbyterian Church on Thursday, April 20th 4 - 8 pm.

**The Legends Fishing Tournament** is this weekend April 13 - 15 at Marker 37 with weigh-in 3 - 4 pm on Friday and Saturday. **Three family garage sale** at 2218 Sussex Drive in the Bluff this Friday and Saturday April 14th and 15th 8 am - 4 pm. There will be collectibles, furniture, oak wall shelving and much more.

**Save Our Shores Junk Removal** is Veteran Owned & Operated Furniture and can do construction debris removal, light demolition, bulk item pickups, hot tub removal, fence removal and more. Call Tommy Hearn or Nate Epling at 361-941-3041

**Comedian Rob Schneider** "I have issues" Tour will be at the Selena Auditorium on Friday, September 8th. Tickets go on sale Friday, April 14th and you can get presale tickets on Thursday at 10 am.



**Country singer Tracy Lawrence** will be at the American Bank Center after the rodeo on Saturday, May 13th 7 pm, The available seats are \$20 - \$50. There are still better seats available for \$60+ but they are single seats.

**Coastal Financial** is the newest business on the Island. It is owned by Keith Clark who was with Edward Jones since 2017. He is now an independent financial advisor and can spend more time on individual accounts with the personal attention they deserve. Those who were his clients can transfer from Edward Jones with no cost or risks and portfolios remain the same. His office manager Meredith has joined him. Visit Keith at his new office in the KM Realty building at 14933 SPID or call 949-3330.



**Seashore Summer Camp** is for kinder - 4th grade and is weekdays 7:30 am - 5:55 pm. Bi-weekly there is a different theme like Chef Theme they go to Padre Pizzeria to make pizzas, Disney Theme, etc.. Once a week they take the Seashore bus to the pool in Port A. The cost is \$650/month plus \$100 registration fee. There are about ten or so openings left. Call 949-1530 for more info or go to their web site.

**The Seashore Early Academy** is for children 3 - 5 years of age. There is consistently a waiting list and it usually takes 6 months to a year to get in. So if you have an infant you may want to sign up now.

**The Michael J. Ellis Seawall** restrooms and showers have been closed 2 - 3 weeks due to water and electrical issues. They have set up four porta potties. That's just weird to me. I mean how does that happen. There are these nice restrooms with sinks and then there are not.

**The helicopter** that arrived this week at the Whitecap development will be used for land surveying. It is a common practice for large projects especially in windy situations where drones are not conducive

**Wings over South Texas** will feature the Blue Angels flying over Corpus Christi Bay at noon Saturday, May 6th and Sunday the 7th.

**Ace Hardware Find of the Week** is the Prism kites that came in last week. It includes everything you need and folds up into a bag. They come in different sizes and there is an accessory available that can add a 20' colorful striped tube tail. Stop at Ace on the way to the beach and pick yourself up one.



Random Stuff

**Stevia** is the best sugar substitute because it is herbal rather than artificial.

**My favorite Country song lyric** right now is from a Parker McCollum song about trying to get over the woman that left him by drinking. "I tell myself to quit but I don't listen to drunks."

Self Serving Stuff (New Heading)

**I bought beautiful glass tiles** for my half bath that were handmade in Canada. I thought I was buying 15 3"x6" tiles to go around my sink but I bought 15 square feet. If you knew me you would understand. Anyway, I did not want to ship the heavy packages back so I thought, well, I will put them on a wall of the bath. I waited and waited until too late to return because I decided the bath was too small to do that. So, I am selling them for less than half the price Home Depot is which is \$20/sq.ft They are the Bodesi Vesper color tiles. I have about 13 square feet for \$8/sq.ft.



Island Timeline

**The Seashore Learning Center** opened in 1996 with 64 students. The school campus was a former ice cream shop and convenience store. There were three classrooms, kinder/1st, 2nd /3rd and 3rd/4th The Marlin building, which was the old Dairy Queen building, which was the old Dairy Queen built in the 60s. housed the 2nd - 4th grade classrooms. The Dolphin building housed kindergarten and 1st grade and was originally a 7/11 convenience store built in 1976. The Marlin building got destroyed by Harvey and is the now Porpoise building where the SLC office is. The Dolphin building now has the art, music and tech classes. The Seashore Middle Academy for grades 5 - 8 was built in 2007. There are currently 267 students in K - 4th and 180 5th - 8th. Along the way there has been a gym built for SLC, coral reef for the cafeteria, Starfish building for kinder, Swordfish building for 1st and 2nd grade and a building across Encantada for 3rd and 4th grade. And young Island families keep on coming.



7/11 in 1976 and the Dolphin Bldg today

# Creating A Destination Community Like No Other



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WhitecapLivingNPI.com



# Letters to the Editor

⌵ AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



## Texas Voters Support Homestead Exemption Over Appraisal Caps

The Texas Association of Property Tax Professionals this week released the results of a statewide survey conducted by Texas' preeminent political pollster Mike Baselice.

The statewide survey of 800 Texas voters found strong support for the Texas Senate plan to provide significant property tax relief by increasing homestead exemptions as opposed to the Texas House scheme to lower appraisal caps.

In summarizing the survey results, Mike Baselice said, "More than four out of five likely voters in Texas support SJR 3 – a measure to increase the Texas homestead exemption to \$70,000, and to increase the exemption for seniors and disabled homeowners to \$100,000. Specifically, voters support SJR 3 by a 70-point margin – 82% in favor to 12% opposed.

"At a smaller 42-point margin, voters support reducing the cap on appraisal increases to 5% in HJR 1 (67% in favor to 25% opposed)."

### PIPOA Board Opening

This past Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, Tommy Kurtz resigned from the Board. Mr. Kurtz has been commuting to New Orleans for several months and has decided to move back to New Orleans when school ends this semester. I and the entire Board wish to thank Mr. Kurtz for his service to the Board and this community.

PIPOA Bylaws require the Board to appoint two new Board members for the remaining terms ending March 2025. Any PIPOA member wishing to be considered for the open Board positions should submit a resume to the Executive Director, Gary Klepperich, between Monday, April 10th, 2023 at 8:00 AM, and Friday, April 21st at 5:00 PM. Candidate resumes may also be mailed or dropped to the PIPOA office: 14015 Fortuna Bay Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78418.


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

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

Thank you,  
Drew Diggins  
Board President  
Padre Isles Property Owners Association

# Hello Island Dog Lovers.

The Riley P Dog Park is now a reality, and some of you are already enjoying the benefits for you and your four- legged best friend. The park is located at the west end of Whitecap between the Yacht Club and Water Treatment Plant. Look for the cell tower and small building as a landmark. The dog park is toward the back of the property after you drive through the front gate. There is still more work to be done to improve and enhance the park. We are a 501c3 non- profit organization, so we rely entirely on private donations from Island residents as well as donations from corporate and business owners. In coming weeks we will be adding a double gate system at the entrance to the park and plan on dividing the area to segregate small and larger dogs. We also rely on volunteer Friends of the Riley P Dog Park to provide ongoing maintenance, and their help is greatly appreciated.



As more funds are raised, we plan to add features that will make this facility something we can be proud of. We welcome input from all residents as an important part of the process. Stay tuned for future updates.

Barkingly Yours.  
Jed Blaich.  
Treasurer  
Riley P Dog Park.

# Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



**Business and Features Writer**  
Mary Craft  
Advertising  
Jan Park Rankin  
Classifieds  
Arlene Ritley  
Production Manager  
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Emily Gaines  
Jay Gardner  
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Dotson Lewis  
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**Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)**  
Riley P. Dog

**Publisher**  
Dale Rankin

**About the Island Moon**  
The Island Moon is published every Thursday, Dale Rankin, Editor / Publisher.

Total circulation is 10,000 copies. Free distribution of 6,000 copies in over 50 Padre Island businesses and condos, as well as 600 copies distributed in Flour Bluff, 1,400 copies on Mustang Island and Port Aransas businesses.

News articles, photos, display ads, classified ads, payments, etc. may be left at the Moon Office.

**The Island Moon Newspaper**  
14646 Compass, Suite 3  
Corpus Christi, TX 78418  
361-949-7700  
[editor@islandmoon.com](mailto:editor@islandmoon.com)

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## Island Moon Rain Report

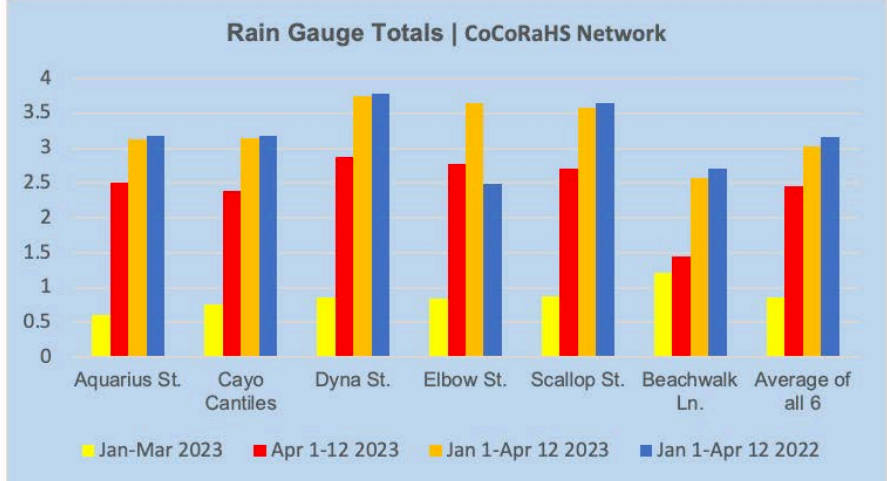
By Tom Cullinan

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


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

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

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



| Location         | Jan-Mar 2023 | Apr 1-12 2023 | Jan 1-Apr 12 2023 | Jan 1-Apr 12 2022 |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Aquarius St.     | 0.6          | 2.5           | 3.2               | 3.2               |
| Cayo Cantiles    | 0.8          | 2.4           | 3.2               | 3.2               |
| Dyna St.         | 0.8          | 2.8           | 3.8               | 3.8               |
| Elbow St.        | 0.8          | 2.8           | 3.6               | 2.5               |
| Scallop St.      | 0.8          | 2.7           | 3.6               | 3.6               |
| Beachwalk Ln.    | 1.2          | 1.4           | 2.6               | 2.7               |
| Average of all 6 | 0.9          | 2.4           | 3.0               | 3.1               |



Padre Island Dog Park  
@Rileypdogpark



## Island Boat Tours

Cruises aboard the Island's new 35-foot tour boat now available!

Call 361 252-1510 for reservations or go to [Padreboattours.com](http://Padreboattours.com)


Prices start at \$35  
Individual and group rates available

## Where to Find The Island Moon


| Port  | North  |
|---|--|
| <b>Aransas</b><br>Pioneer RV<br>Stripes on 1A<br>Kody's<br>Coffee Waves<br>Moby Dicks<br>IGA<br>Treasure Island<br>San Juan's Restaurant<br>Wash Tub<br>Shorty's Place<br>Gratitude<br>The Gaff<br>Red's Riviera<br>Sounds Good BBQ<br>Spanky's Liquor<br>Beach Lodge<br>Ellis Memorial Library<br>Bernie's Beach House | <b>Padre</b><br>All Stripes Stores<br>Black Sheep/ Barrel<br>CVS<br>Dollar General<br>Doc's Restaurant<br>Snoopy's Pier<br>Isle Mail N More<br>Island Italian<br>Brooklyn Pie Co.<br>Ace Hardware<br>Texas Star (Shell)<br>Spanky's Scuttlebutt's Restaurant<br>Subway<br>Island Tire<br>Padre Pizzeria<br>And all Moon retail advertisers |

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My Coastal Home

## Ten Years ago in the Island Moon



Susan Powell retired from the Back Porch. Seen here with Joe Farah.



Thieves stole the metal plates off the sign at the entrance to The Island



Della Mae at the porch



## Senior Moments



## Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

## 20th Air Force

*Dotson's Note: When Sergeant John Dellinger watched the 3d Marine Division—his assigned B-29 aircraft, not the military ground force—take-off for Mission No. 330 on the afternoon of August 14, 1945, he was unaware it would be the last Allied combat run of the Second World War. The next day, the Japanese government agreed to a cessation of hostilities. For the 20th Air Force veteran and many of his teammates back in Guam, however, Dellinger recalled not knowing “that the war was over until all our aircraft ... returned from Japan. And that’s how I found it out.” John Dellinger turned 100 on July 31, 2020. He still recalled much of his time in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II, often with genuine joy in his voice. Thanks to Dr. Jeremery Prichard, John Dillinger, and Jerry Plemons for the facts contained in this report, and to Tommy Thompson for the photos.*



### WW II Veteran Reflects on Maintaining B-29s On Guam

#### “Always Liked Airplanes”

John Samuel Dellinger traces his fascination with airplanes to his youth. He wasn’t especially interested in flying them, however. He wanted to tinker with them.

He attempted to enlist in the Army Air Corps upon graduating high school—a few years before the attacks on Pearl Harbor brought the U.S. into the war. He demurred when informed that the service was only accepting “foot soldiers.”

He would soon find himself in an olive-drab uniform after all, drafted into the Army in 1942. Despite performing well on sections of the entrance exams that tested one’s knowledge on mechanics, Dellinger received assignment to a non-aviation unit in Florida after completing Army basic training.

Dellinger speculates that someone took a fresh look at his testing records because, not long afterward, the Army transitioned Dellinger to Amarillo Army Air Field in Texas. He began training as an AT-6 aircraft mechanic before converting to the B-29 Superfortress. In October 1943, then-Private First Class Dellinger graduated the Army Air Forces’ Airplane Mechanics course.

#### “Walked into the Twentieth Air Force”

Dellinger crisscrossed the country for advanced B-29 instruction at Chanute Field, Illinois, and the Boeing Aircraft facility in Seattle, Washington. When he reached Great Bend, Kansas, “That is when I walked into 20th Air Force,” he gleefully reminisces. “And I was a happy camper.”

His time in Kansas—and in the Caribbean, when the harsh Midwestern winter of 1944 disrupted training—was consuming. He repaired B-29 engines after returning from lengthy training flights as aircrews prepared for extended trips across the Pacific. The challenging workload and environment notwithstanding, Dellinger always felt rewarded when his B-29 once more took to the skies. “I loved doing that, put[ting] that aircraft right back in the air again.”

#### Guam-1945



His stateside training complete, Dellinger received assignment to the 30th Bombardment Squadron, a subordinate unit to the 19th Bombardment Group. He and his fellow Airmen traveled to Guam, where they remained for the duration of the war.

Guam was not a particularly hospitable environment. The island’s makeshift runway was still under construction upon Dellinger’s arrival, creating a rather unpleasant landing in February 1945. In addition to recurring typhoons and limited clean water, Dellinger

recalled, “We had to put our tents back in the jungle, a mile away from the aircraft because, you see, Japan was bombing us, too.”

Dellinger was ultimately responsible for the engines on two B-29 aircraft while stationed at Guam. His unit lost the first bomber, Tail Number 42-63573, to combat damage in May 1945. They received a new B-29 a few weeks later, christening this latter one the *3d Marine Division*, in honor of the ground forces that helped secure Iwo Jima for the Allies in March 1945. They later named Major General Graves B. Erskine, commander of the 3d Marine Division, “Honorary Plane Commander” at a ceremony held on the island.

Three quarters of a century later, Dellinger is most proud that neither aircraft he maintained were lost due to mechanical failures. He also “really, really liked working with the aircraft, and I liked working with the personnel. I sure did.” He likewise credits the Army soldiers and Marines stationed on Guam who provided him protection while performing his aircraft repair responsibilities.

#### “I Owe a Lot To The Military”

Dellinger returned to North Carolina after his military discharge in late 1945. He resumed his pre-war employment as a mechanic on assorted machinery, but with more knowledge and awareness after three years as an aircraft mechanic in the AAF. “Very thankful for what the military taught me. I’ve got to thank the military for helping me afterwards.”

Seventy-eight years after the fighting ended, 20th Air Force is ever thankful for Sergeant Dellinger’s wartime contributions and service to his nation.

#### A Partial Update On the 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force



**Sept. 1, 1991** - Twentieth Air Force reactivated as a component of the Strategic Air Command and was located at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. Operationally responsible for all land-based Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, Twentieth Air Force’s rebirth came at a time when America’s nuclear forces entered a decade of unprecedented force reductions and changes, specifically with the end of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union. These global changes reshaped the basic fabric of the US’s nuclear deterrent forces. Over the course of the decade, the ICBM force structure was reduced from six to three missile wings. The number of alert ICBMs also shrunk from 1,000 to 550. For the men and women of America’s ICBM Team, it proved to be a period of sustained, dramatic change, one that posed significant leadership challenges for Airmen at all levels of command.

**June 1, 1992** - Strategic Air Command inactivated and the majority of SAC’s assets, including Twentieth Air Force, transferred to the newly created Air Combat Command. The new U.S. Strategic Command assumed combatant command of Twentieth Air Force’s ICBMs.

**Jul. 1, 1993** - Twentieth Air Force transferred to Air Force Space Command and moved from Vandenberg AFB to F. E. Warren AFB, Wyo., on 1 October 1993.

**2004-2008** - Deactivation of both the 400th Missile Squadron at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo. and the 564th Missile Squadron at Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

**Dec. 1, 2009** - Air Force Global Strike Command assumed control of Twentieth Air Force and the Air Force’s Minuteman III ICBM mission.

**Oct. 1, 2015** - The 377th Air Base Wing at Kirtland AFB, N.M. transferred to Twentieth Air Force.

*Dotson's Other Note: The information above on the 20th was current as of October 2021. We have a friend in the force, so I am planning to see if he can furnish us Moon Monkeys with an update. I will keep you posted. Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at [dlew-is1@stx.rr.com](mailto:dlew-is1@stx.rr.com). FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans’ activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 – 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397...It’s your two hours, please let us hear from you.*



By Dale Rankin

## Stuff I Heard on the Island

July will mark three years since Hurricane Hanna tore the T-head off the end of Bob Hall Pier. As we sit here today the Pier is gone and the plan to rebuild it is as empty as the water it left behind.

Two separate boards with a combined twelve decision makers and three engineering/design firms hired by the county are now engaged in coming up with a design plan that so far has yet to decide where to locate the entrance to the new pier, whether it will be located over the beach or over the dune line due to concerns over flood insurance and a pending permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The bifurcated decision-making process is split between the seven-member Nueces County Coastal Parks Board which as a free-standing state agency holds sway over the final design of the pier, and the five-member Nueces County Commissioners who hold the purse strings but also have shown a tendency to arbitrarily mettle in the design process.

In June of 2022 the design of the pier was 30 percent complete when the designers presented a plan to move to 80% design to the Parks Board with the goal of starting construction as soon as the Corps permit was approved. That plan was shelved in the midst of an election year when objections to the plan calling for a single row of support pilings were raised due to the fear that one row of pilings would not create a satisfactory wave for surfers.

The design of the new pier as presented to the board last June included 25,000 square feet of space on a 20-foot wide pier 18.5 feet above the water supported by two rows of steel pilings each twenty-four inches in diameter place 16 feet apart with a D-shaped deck at the seaward end of the 1240 foot pier. The previous pier was 15 feet wide. Under that plan the first floor of the old restaurant structure, the only part of the pier still standing, would be increased by 2500 square feet from current 5000 square feet at a cost of \$2 million but a plan previously approved by the board was not included in the new design due to an estimated cost of \$900,000 to increase the support pilings to hold the added weight of a second floor. No design was ever begun for the second floor of the structure and the existing building was designed with a 25-year life span when it was completed in 2010.

#### Three years and counting

Now with the three-year anniversary of Hurricane Hanna approaching the funds available for rebuilding the pier have dropped from the initial \$28.3 million to \$22.4 million with \$2.3 million for demolition of the old structure. The only remaining structure from the old pier – the building that housed Mikel Mays Beachside Bar & Grill - may or may not be torn down due to the expenditure of half of its designed lifespan even as the dispute over whether to put a second story on top of it continues, the cost of the pier has increased by \$1.5 million in the past year, the cost estimates for the reconstruction are now over a year old and likely too low, and in spite of two boards and three design firms engaged there are currently no exigent design plans to rebuild it. Two months ago when one of the pier’s three designers presented a proposal for 30 percent design of the pier to the Parks Board another of the designers pointed to the drawing and said, “You can’t build that pier for \$22.4 million” and that is where things stand today.

A harbinger of things to come arrived when an item regarding using \$2 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) to pay for the new pier came before the Nueces County Commissioners Court a month ago with the caveat that the pier had to be open for business by the end of 2026 and the commissioners were unwilling to take the plunge fearing that the \$2 million in ARPA funds would have to be covered by the county due to the pier not being finished by that time. They punted.

Instead \$1 million of the \$2 million in ARPA funds that had been committed to paying for the second story of the restaurant building was transferred to the building of the pier by Precinct 4 County Commissioner Brent Chesney while an additional \$1 million under the control of Nueces County Judge Connie Scott was placed in abeyance where it remains today. The question of whether that ARPA money can be used for the second story appears to still be open with indications pointing toward the affirmative – but again it is one of the pending questions regarding the pier design and funding.

Two issues have arisen of late which have stalled the process; the first being whether a new restaurant is one story or two, if it is built/rebuilt over water can find flood insurance, the second being complications with permitting due to beach erosion and a rising Mean High Tide Line. Under the vicissitudes of state and federal regulations the Mean High Tide Line is the line of demarcation between federal and state regulatory authority since a new structure built over water falls under the rules of the Corps of Engineers and a new structure built over dry land falls under the purview of the Texas General Land Office. Since the building of the old pier the waterline moved toward the dunes complicating things. Also hanging fire is \$3.1 million in funding – at last count – from the GLO to build an entrance structure that would launch from the parking lot at Briscoe King Pavilion and span the beach at a height of 19 feet and land as the entrance to the pier.

#### Who’s on First?

So as I understand the process the next step is to come up with a design that can be built for \$22.4 million but there is currently about \$4 million that was set aside for contingency and another \$11 million in uncommitted ARPA funds. The next step is to update the cost estimates for the various elements of the pier that are now outdated in order to figure out what can be built with the money available – whatever number that turns out to be. Assuming the Corps of Engineers Permit will come through in the next few months the ideal would be for a plan to be ready to go bids by that time but don’t hold your breath.

In the meantime there are still fundamental questions remaining: How much will the new pier cost? How much money is actually committed to the project? Where will the entrance be located? How wide will the new pier be? Where will the restaurant be located? Will the restaurant have an expanded first floor or a second floor and in either case how will it be paid for? Up to this point the designs have been presented to the Parks Board then go to the Commissioners for funding and so far we are nearing the three year mark with no plan and no stated plan to make a plan.

Other than that things seem to be going just fine.

## Pop Up Market at IPC



Photos by Debbie Noble



ISAC cont. from A1

Mustang-Padre Island Area Development Plan. Members serve terms of three years with term limits to two terms. Slots are allotted for certain qualifications which are requested by not required. Those categories are:

- Padre Isles Property Owners Association, residential property owner who owns property and resides on Mustang or Padre Island; commercial property owner who owns property and operates a business on Mustang or Padre Island
- Developer of property on Mustang or Padre Island
- Member of the Padre Island Business Association
- Architect or professional engineer, who does work on projects on Mustang or Padre Island
- Realtor, who primarily represents buyers or sellers of property on Mustang or Padre Island
- Construction contractor, who primarily works on projects on Mustang or Padre Island

- Representative of an environmental group
- Person who resides on Mustang Island or who is an employee of a Mustang Island property owner
- At-Large representatives who are residents of the City.

Not less than twelve (12) members must reside or own property on Mustang or Padre Island. One of the at-large representatives may, but is not required to, reside on Mustang or Padre Island. Designated organizations may appoint an Ex-Officio, non-voting member. They are: City Planning Commission, Watershore and Beach Advisory Committee, Park and Recreation Advisory Committee, Nueces County, Nueces County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4, and Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau. ISAC meeting, unless otherwise designated, are held at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Island Baptist Church and are open to the public.

## ISAC Board

|                      |                      |         |           |           |                     |                        |                                 |  |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Daniel R. Brown III  | District 4           | 1       | 3/17/2020 | 3/23/2024 | City Council        | Resigned               | At-Large                        | Outgoing   |
| Tommy J. Kurtz       | District 4           | 1       | 3/17/2020 | 3/23/2024 | City Council        | Resigned               | At-Large                        | Outgoing   |
| Jay N. Gardner       | District 4           | 2       | 3/20/2018 | 3/23/2024 | City Council        | Chair                  | Active                          | Environmental Group                                    |
| Michael S. Pittman   | District 4           | Partial | 9/14/2021 | 3/23/2024 | City Council        | Active                 | Mustang Island Rep.             |  |
| Dotson Lewis Jr.     | District 4           | 1       | 3/30/2021 | 3/23/2024 | City Council        | Vice Chair             | Active                          | Residential Property Owner                             |
| Robert B. Pruski Jr. | District 4           | 1       | 3/30/2021 | 3/23/2024 | City Council        | Active                 | Construction Contractor         |  |
| Craig Thompson       | District 2           | Partial | 4/12/2022 | 3/23/2024 | City Council        | Active                 | Professional Engineer           |  |
| William M. Uhlarik   | District 4           | 1       | 3/30/2021 | 3/23/2024 | City Council        | Active                 | Realtor                         |  |
| Roy D. Coons         | District 4           | 1       | 3/30/2021 | 3/23/2025 | City Council        | Active                 | At-Large                        |  |
| Robert J. Corbett    | District 4           | 1       | 4/12/2022 | 3/23/2025 | City Council        | Active                 | Padre Isles Prop. Owners Assoc. |  |
| Charles F. Duffley   | Other / Non Resident | 2       | 3/26/2019 | 3/23/2025 | City Council        | Active                 | Developer                       |  |
| Eric L. Evans        | District 4           | 1       | 9/14/2021 | 3/23/2025 | City Council        | Active                 | Commercial Property Owner       |  |
| Meagan E. Furey      | District 4           | 1       | 4/12/2022 | 3/23/2025 | City Council        | Active                 | Padre Island Business Assoc.    |  |
| Melanie Salinas      | District 4           | 1       | 3/30/2021 | 3/23/2025 | City Council        | Active                 | At-Large                        |  |
| Brett Oetting        | District 2           | 1       | N/A       | N/A       | CVB                 | Ex-Officio, Non-voting | Active                          | CVB  |
| R. Bryan Gulley      | District 4           | N/A     | N/A       | N/A       | Nueces County       | Ex-Officio, Non-voting | Active                          | Nueces County  |
| Vacant               | N/A                  | N/A     | N/A       |           | Planning Commission | Ex-Officio, Non-voting | Active                          | Planning Commission                                    |
| Meredith Darden      | District 2           | 1       | N/A       | N/A       | WBAC                | Ex-Officio, Non-voting | Active                          | Watershore and Beach Adv. Comm.                        |
| Twila Stevens        | District 4           | 1       | N/A       | N/A       | PRAC                | Ex-Officio, Non-voting | Active                          | Parks and Rec Adv. Comm.                               |
| Vacant               | 1                    | N/A     | N/A       |           | Nueces County       | Ex-Officio, Non-voting | Active                          | Nueces County Water Control and Prevention District #4 |



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## Tax Reinvestment Zone #2

### Income Statement

Editor's note: Funds from TIRZ #2 are used to maintain Packery Channel – including dredging – and for funding the Park Road 22 Water Exchange Bridge among other items. TIRZ #2 was established in 2002 and in 2022 was extended through 2042. When it was extended the boundaries were expanded to include Commodores Park on the north and Balli Park on the south.

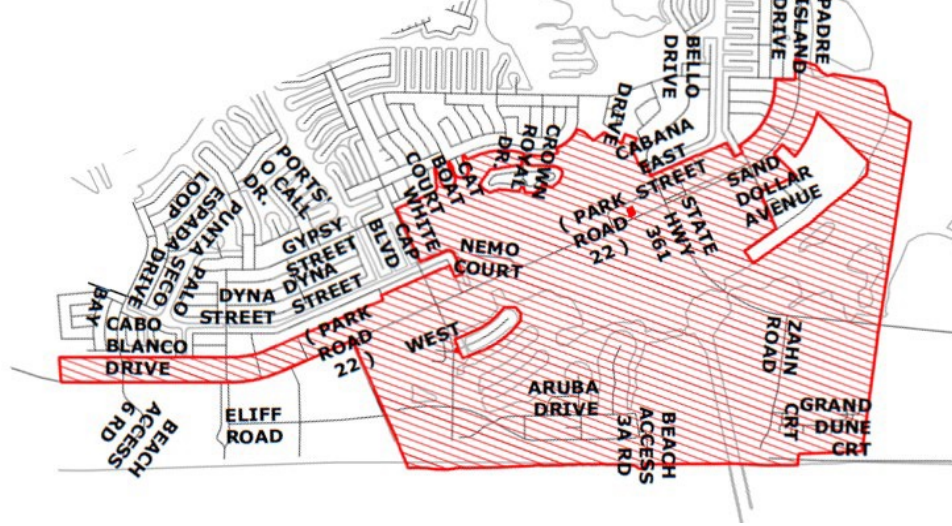
The funds come from new construction inside the boundaries of the zone since its inception in 2002. It is administered by the Island Reinvestment #2 Board of Directors which includes all members of the Corpus Christi City Council as well as representatives from each of the taxing entities who participate including the Nueces County Commissioners court.

January 1, 2022- December 31, 2022

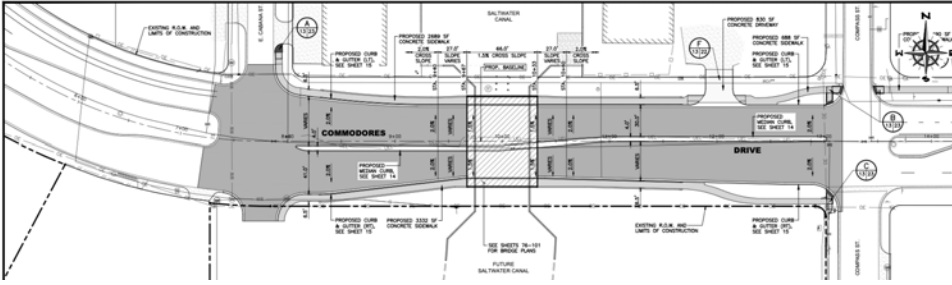
\$11,157,420 Fund Balance

\$3,076,411 Revenue

\$1,647,383 Expenditures



The boundaries of TIRZ #2



Drawing for the new Commodores bridge

### Bridge cont. from A1

north side of the street under the new bridge and onto the Whitecap North Padre Island site now under construction. Extension of the canal would connect it to the water flow under the Park Road 22 Water Exchange Bridge now under construction improving water conditions and allowing for connected boat passage throughout the Island canal system.

The bridge, estimated to cost about \$1.5 million, would be paid for with funds from the Island's Tax Increment Refinance Zone #2 (TIRZ #2). Funds for TIRZ #2 are generated from taxes on new development inside the zone's boundaries since 2002. (See graphic). Unlike the Water Exchange Bridge which consists of three arches the Commodores bridge would be of a standard design from the Texas Department of Transportation significantly cutting costs and construction time.

The new bridge is part of the Padre Island Mobility Plan which includes the entirety of Padre Island with pedestrian and cart connectivity as well as connected boat passage through the Island Mobility Plan now under

development by the city. The filings state that the submittal is to initiate construction plan review and receive feedback from City Staff so comments can be incorporated into the final design plans. The Commodores Bridge project has been identified as a TIRZ 2 funded project by the TIRZ 2 Board and City Council. The intent is for the developer of the Whitecap project, Ashlar Development, to prepare plans and engage a construction contractor to build the bridge. The design calls for a bridge with minimum water clearance of 14 feet, the same as the Water Exchange Bridge, with pedestrian paths, which bridges a 66 foot-wide waterway. Utilities, including a 16-inche water line, would run along the underside of the bridge.

Traffic would be reduced to two lanes on Commodores Drive while construction is underway which is estimated to take about a year and a half. The 102-page plan is to be circulated to city departments for review. No timeline for construction of the new bridge is listed.

### Around. from A1

will also build a break room for beach lifeguards. No time for that arrival was announced.

#### Spring arrivals

Texas Parks and Wildlife this week encouraged Islanders to steer clear of the rookeries of water birds as they fly through the nesting season. The once ubiquitous spoil islands along the Intracoastal Waterway were once upon a time home to large flocks of nesting birds, but alas, Hurricane Harvey did away with most of those. But TPW encourages us all to leave newborn wildlife alone if we encounter it on land or sea.

#### SandFest 2023

SandFest 2023 arrives this weekend in Port Aransas and if the weather holds it will be a doozy. Get there early and plan to sit in traffic for a while. You can sneak up on the festivities by using Anchor Street or go late

Sunday when the crowds have gone OTB.

#### Out there in the water!

We wind up this week with a mystery. When the NOAA official called The Island this week about the runaway buoy we asked about the large black spot that appears on Google Earth less than a mile offshore from Smugglers Road at the entrance to Padre Island National Seashore. For a look see Business Briefs in this issue. It turns out there are several such spots on Google Earth along the Texas Coast placed there for reasons unknown. It's a mystery wrapped in an enigma and dropped in the Gulf. Or maybe it's a black hole that swallowed the new plans for Bob Hall Pier. Who knows?

If we see any aliens we will let you know, in the meantime say hello if you see us Around The Island.

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# Sports

## Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



## Jody Conradt-Basketball Coach

By Dotson Lewis

*Dotson's Note: Addie Jo "Jody" Conradt (born May 13, 1941) is a retired women's basketball coach. She was the head coach for the women's team at University of Texas at Austin (UT). Her coaching career spanned 38 years, with the last 31 years at UT from 1976 to 2007. She also served concurrently as the UT women's athletic director from 1992 to 2001. During her tenure at UT, she achieved several notable personal and team milestones in collegiate basketball. At retirement, she had tallied 900 career victories, second place in all time victories for an NCAA Division I basketball coach. Conradt was inducted in the inaugural class at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999. Thanks to Jody Conradt, Bob Miller, and Bill Morgan for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan and Bob Miller for the photos.*

### Best Women's Basketball Coach Ever



Addie Jo Conradt was born in Goldthwaite, Texas to Ann and Charles Conradt. Both her parents were athletic, with her mother playing competitively on a local softball team, and her father playing semi-pro baseball. She was a standout basketball player at Goldthwaite High School, where she averaged 40 points per game. Many people growing up in Goldthwaite stayed there, according to Conradt, but she got a sense that one could have larger ambitions when a Goldthwaite native, Marie Reynolds, joined the All American Red Heads Team, a barnstorming basketball team which played throughout the United States and around the world. After high school, Conradt played collegiate basketball at Baylor University, earning a degree in physical education in 1963. She finished her collegiate basketball career averaging 20 points per game. After graduation, she taught and coached at Waco Midway High School and earned her master's degree from Baylor in 1969.

#### **College Coaching**

Prior to Conradt's career at UT, she served as women's basketball head coach at Sam Houston State University from 1969 to 1973, where her teams had a record of 74-23. She then coached at the University of Texas at Arlington from 1973 to 1976, where her teams had a record of 43-39. In 1975, in response to Title IX, the University of Texas created a separate women's athletic department.

In 1976, they hired Donna Lopiano to become the first women's athletic director. The following year, Lopiano hired Conradt as coach of the women's basketball team. Conradt had attracted national attention while at the University of Texas at Arlington. After two losing seasons, they went 23-11 in the 1975-76 seasons, upsetting powerful opponents. Texas planned to bring the women's program to national prominence, and they felt Conradt was the right coach for the job. Teams coached by Conradt were using tactics not seen in many other places, such as full court pressure, double low posts and a transition game. In Conradt's first season, the team went 36-10. The team was ranked in the AP top ten in the nation all but one year in the 1980s, including a string of four years, from 1984 to 1988, where they earned the number one in the nation ranking. The success translated into fan support, the team was averaging 7,500 fans per game by the end of the 1980s, including such state and national leaders as future governor Ann Richards and US Congresswoman Barbara Jordan. In the 1985 NCAA tournament, the Lady Longhorns lost a heartbreaking game to Western Kentucky 92-90. Watching the game was highly recruited Clarissa Davis, who had not yet decided where to go to school. She resolved to go to Texas, and help them. The following year, Texas would win the national championship with the first undefeated women's season, with a record of 34-0. Although Davis wasn't a starter on the team, she ended up earning the tour-

namment's most valuable player award. In 38 seasons Conradt's head coaching record was 900-306. Her record of 900 career victories is second only to that of Pat Summitt. During her tenure at UT, her record was 783-245. Between January 1978, and January 1990, Conradt's Lady Longhorns did not lose a Southwest Conference game, a streak of 183 consecutive conference victories. From 1986 to 1991, Texas was the women's basketball attendance leader, including an NCAA record average of 8,481 for one season.



Over her career, Conradt has coached:

- 28 players who went on to play professionally
- four US Olympians
- three players who earned a combined 13 national player of the year honors
- eight Kodak All-Americans

Conradt was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1998 and into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999. She is only the second woman inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame. Conradt was succeeded as UT women's basketball head coach by Gail Goestenkors, the former women's basketball head coach at Duke University. In 2008, Conradt was honored, along with Dick Vitale, by the Atlanta Tipoff Club, with the Naismith Award, an honor presented annually that "pays tribute to the individuals who have made a significant impact on women's and men's college basketball".

After retiring from coaching, Conradt continued to work for the University of Texas as special assistant to the women's athletic director.



*Dotson's Other Note: In 2012 the University of Texas at Austin honored Jody Conradt with a 7-foot bronze statue inside the Longhorns basketball arena. The statue was dedicated in a private ceremony. Former Tennessee coach Pat Summitt attended the dedication, which included a video message from former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in recognition of the 40th anniversary Title IX, the federal law that bans sex discrimination in educational programs, including sports. Conradt is just the second female to have a statue dedicated on the Texas campus, joining civil rights champion and former U.S. Representative Barbara Jordan. The Texas president Bill Powers called Conradt a "truly historic" figure. "Of all the blockbuster statistics that paint the picture of Conradt's storied career, the only number you really need to remember is 99. That's the percentage of her players who graduated," Powers said. "Her career is a reminder that when you make sure your players are students first, everything else falls into place." The statue will be on permanent display in the Frank Erwin Center at all games and activities taking place in the center.*



By Andy Purvis

## Jackie Robinson Day



Jackie Robinson

"Jackie be nimble, Jackie be quick, Jackie made the turnstiles click."

By Wendell Smith

I've never seen anyone get so much joy out of running. He was fiery, competitive, yet happy to be playing baseball. He had what people called a quick start, two steps out of the batter's box and he was running full speed. I've never seen anyone run like Jackie Robinson. Pigeon toed, both arms moving side to side, palms open and fingers extended as if he were grabbing air to pull himself along, his whole body ran. After Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League baseball on April 15, 1947, nine of the next eleven Most

Valuable Player Awards were won by African-Americans. That's what we are missing in today's game. The "Golden Years" of baseball were the 1940's, 1950's, and 1960's. On Saturday, all 30 Major League clubs will honor Robinson by wearing his #42.

Branch Rickey made Jackie Robinson promise not to retaliate against the onslaught of criticism that was sure to come his way. The following is an example. In 1947, the Brooklyn Dodgers were playing the St. Louis Cardinals. Future Hall-of-Framer, Enos Slaughter, hit a grounder to "Pee Wee" Reese at shortstop. Jackie was playing first base. Even though Slaughter was called out, he stepped on Jackie's foot as he crossed first base and drew blood. Jackie said nothing as the two of them just stared at each other. In 1949, Jackie had been moved to second base. Slaughter and the Cardinals were in town, again and Enos hit a line drive off the left field fence at Ebbets Field. As the throw came in from the outfield, Slaughter slid into second base. Jackie was waiting on him with the ball in his glove and promptly hit Enos in the mouth with the tag and knocked out three of his teeth. Jackie then looked down at Slaughter and said, "I don't forget anything." Enos Slaughter later said, "I respected that son of a gun for the rest of my life."

Andy Purvis

[www.purvisbooks.com](http://www.purvisbooks.com)

SportsradioCC 1230 AM

## How Is Your Plumbing Old Man?

By Dr. Tom

This week we will talk about plumbing issues in guys over fifty. It is something that most men will encounter at some point in their life. In general, urinary issues like bladder infections and kidney infections are much more common in women than men especially when we are younger. This is thought to be due to the shorter urethra in women and issues with post coital urinary tract infections etc. Men typically have lower issues with this and only start having issues when the prostate begins to enlarge with age.

Prostate is a gland in men that the urethra passes through on the way out. The prostate will enlarge over time due to the effects of testosterone. This in turn can cause compression of the urethra and thus narrowing. This narrowing will cause outlet obstruction of the bladder and then we will have stagnant urine that sometimes never leaves the bladder. This condition increases the incidence of infection due to bacteria that have time to multiply and become symptomatic.

What are the symptoms of prostate enlargement which is termed benign prostatic hypertrophy or bph for short? Typically it starts with decrease urine flow and trouble stopping or dribbling. This progresses to increase frequency and what we call nocturia (getting up at night to urinate) of 2 to several times. It can be escalated if you take otc meds with decongestant in them as these act like an antidiuretic. If this is left alone sooner or later you will encounter a sudden escalation of symptoms with burning on urination, sometimes fevers

and escalating back pain as the infection migrates up the ureters to the kidneys. Once it gets to the kidneys things can get ugly with systemic toxicity high fevers and sometimes sepsis.

How do I prevent these nasty issues associated with bph? Medicines that open up the prostatic urethra are useful, these medicines include Flomax, Cialis, Hytrin and Cardura. Medicines that open up the prostate have to be taken daily or the same issues return. Now there are other meds that shrink the prostate itself and these include Proscar and Avodart they cause long term improvement and can be taken with the medicines that open up the prostate so that you get initial relief and ongoing shrinkage of the problem.

There are numerous surgical procedures that can help alleviate symptoms as well including TURP which is transurethral prostate resection, there is the Urolift and some other high tech gizmos that urologists can use based on your unique situation and there of course can be side effects and complications to both meds and surgery. Keep an eye on your symptoms if you notice burning, fever, increasing symptoms or blood in your urine be sure to see your doc before things get ugly. You need to have an annual PSA to help screen for prostate cancer which can sometimes mimic these conditions. Getting in with a urologist if you start getting infections more than 1 or 2 is a good idea because it probably won't stop. Hope you have a great week. See you on the water! Doc Tom [www.lagunafloutfitters.com](http://www.lagunafloutfitters.com)



*A special way to transport fire wood and enough to make it through our winters.*

Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



# The Island Outdoors



By Jay Gardner

## On the Rocks

I’m glad I got my hummingbird feeders up a couple weeks ago because I walked out to some vicious aerial dogfights the other morning on my way out the door. I didn’t have time to get out the bino’s and go through the combatants, but they looked mostly like black chinned and ruby throated hummers. The kiskadee’s and golden fronted woodpeckers have found my mulberry tree, and they are tearing it up. Won’t be long for a solid migration/fallout.

Birds colliding with windows are a major issue at this time of year, and I get lots of texts of “what is this bird, it just ran into my window.” This applies mostly to the smaller songbirds and especially warblers and hummers when they get into their fights. Unfortunately, this is a major cause of mortality, of up to 100 million or so birds a year. If this occurs, and you feel the need to get involved, you can gently place them in a shoebox or some small box for a few minutes. Handle them as very little as possible. Don’t try to feed them crackers or water, as most of these little birds don’t eat Saltines or even drink water. The most important thing is to give them a quiet, dark, safe environment to collect themselves. If they don’t fly away after five minutes, then you may have to look up a wildlife rehabilitator.

If the shoebox trick doesn’t work, the Texas Sea Life Center is able to take birds on the Island at all hours. They are open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and on Sundays till 2 p.m. I talked to Crystal over there the other day, and she let me know that they have pet carriers out in front of the building that you can drop birds off whenever, and they will tend to them. The carriers provide a safe place from predators, plus the cool dark place that might allow a migrant to come back around. This will also go for when fledgling time comes around here in the next month when you find a baby bird and can’t get it back in the nest where it belongs. Handy information for those that I haven’t bored to tears yet and you’ve moved over to Joey’s column

already.

Large glass windows and sliding glass doors tend to do birds the worst, as they can only see the reflection of what’s behind them. There are stickers you can put on the glass to break it up to help them see. Or you can just do like I do and leave your windows dirty. Ha! Don’t forget to keep Fluffy the Cat inside during the peak of migration, especially on the Island. Check out the live migration maps on BirdCast.

### TIRZ #2

The TIRZ #2 meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. down at city council. chambers. They will be discussing the various rates of participation for the future projects. There currently is around \$8 million in the bank, but there is a lot more that is already moved into the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) over the last budget cycle. It seems about the time the CIP gets nailed down, then city staff starts working on the next budget cycle. We presented our wish list projects from the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) at the last meeting, and we’ll see which ones get on the next budget for the city, with a draft due out in the next month. Anyhoo, besides our ISAC wish list, there have also been several “asks” from the TIRZ #2, and the big-ticket items are from the Whitecap Preserve and Lake Padre folks, being \$11 million and \$20 million, respectively. These are game changing amounts of money, and hopefully the city will renew the TIRZ #2with the highest level of commitment that they can muster. Thanks to our new District 4 Rep Dan Suckley for making the TIRZ #2 renewal one of his biggest priorities. Well folks, get those feeders out. I need to find a good source of oranges for the next fall out, as we should start to see some orioles and other fun stuff around. Drop me a line at [tarponchaser@mail.com](mailto:tarponchaser@mail.com) and I’ll see you next week On the Rocks.

## Backwater Adventures



By Joey Farah  
Farah’s Fishing Adventures



*Uncle Bruce came in town to fish with his brother and Nephue Jay and showed us how to wiggle a worm, to land this nice trout in a DOA 3” Cal Shad. 1/4 ounce jig heads let’s us make long casts and maintain contact with the bait in high winds. Farah*

### Spring Tide Strategies

Every spring we have a few Bull Tides that sweep life in and throughout the back bays and estuaries. Mid April is a prime time for some of our best fishing, but high tides can make it difficult for anglers to find concentrations of gamefish as they get spread out with the abundance of water. This is due to the higher tides filling all of the ultra shallow water flats and scattering baitfish. Our top end predators use areas like shorelines, spoil islands, grass lines, and areas that have significant structure to herd bait up against and strike. With more water spreading things out and deeper water over shallow water structure, gamefish are having a hard time just like fishermen.

### Drift Fishing

Riding the winds over the vast shallow flats is a great way to cover water, find scattered gamefish, and learn lots of water quickly. The bottom sweeps by like a movie before your eyes in the clear shallow water. Sand pockets open up a view of life below the surface. Baitfish, crabs, shells, and vegetation capture your imagination as we follow our lures with our eyes and watch them disappear when trout bolt out of their grassy hides and strike our baits. Making deliberate casts past sand pockets and letting the lures play the role of an injured baitfish seeking refuge. I usually employ various soft plastics to match the main food sources present. Small paddle tail baits like the DOA 3” Cal Shad, the longer and erratic darting DOA 5.5” Jerk Bait, and the DOWN SOUTH LURES Super Model paddle tail that is a great small mullet character. The size of your jig head is ultimately the deciding factor of your speed and presentation. I use 1/16, 1/8, 1/4 on the boat with a quality OWNER SHORT SHANKED, or DOA SHORT SHANKED JIG HEADS. The lighter ones will allow a soft entry that sounds more like a real baitfish landing from escaping an attack,

often I’ll catch fish as soon as it hits the water. Lighter heads will allow your bait to dance and glide down through the water column, and I can even flutter and skip them on the surface like a fleeing bait. Your line can get whipped up in the wind easily and that’s when a heavier choice can offer some advantage. Longer casts as well and a consistent point of control between the angler and the lure will be felt with a heavier jig head. The 1/4 ounce jig head will keep your bait down and close to the bottom, often in the strike zone, and in the face of gamefish hunting the bottom like redfish!

Drifting shorelines and spoil islands are great places to find action during high tides. Drift with your motor down so that you can cast right up until you rest the boat on the bottom. With the motor down one can easily get together start the motor raise it up and idle out. Take your time and go slow only to move down 50-100yds and make another drift. Powering around blasting out of shallow water will alert fish to your presence. The spoil islands along the ICW are in the highway of baitfish and shrimp travel right now. Look for trout off of the drop off and redfish up in the shallows. Making drifts around these sunken islands can make for some great fishing right now.

With the push of water the ICW Canal is a solid place to find all the action you need. I’ve been working the edges of the “ditch” with my MINNKOTA I-PILOT AND MY HUMMINBIRD Solix side scan. Finding schools of trout and redfish easily along the edges then Spot Locking in position. The advancement in technology is intense with this HUMMINBIRD Side Scan. I can actually tell the difference in species. I’ve been having a client on the front of the boat work topwater plugs along the shallow edge and the rest of us stepping soft plastics off of the drop off. All species of fish have been aggressive and filling our days with solid hookups.

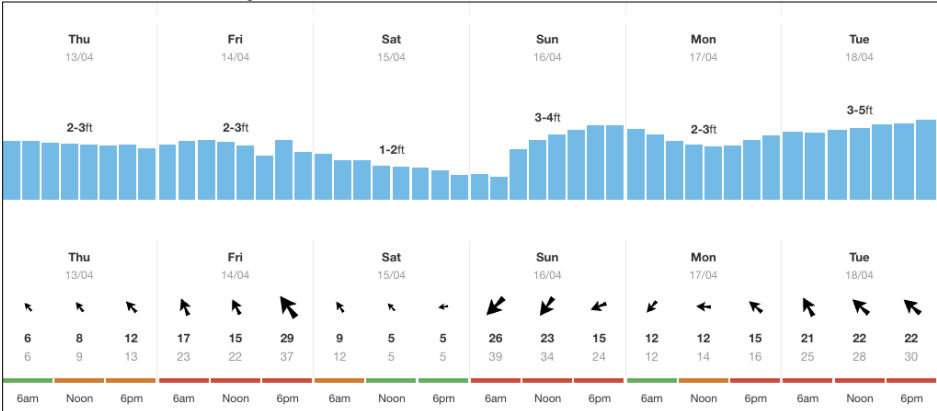
### MARKER 37 MARINA REPORT

LIVE BAIT FLAGS HAVE BEEN IN THE AIR! Lots of live shrimp, brown hoppers! This is a local species of shrimp that live longer, have better color, with more iodine in their bodies have more natural smell than white shrimp freshly drug up from other bays. Many guides have been anchoring up with dead Shad and sardines for redfish, throwing them to sandbars and islands.

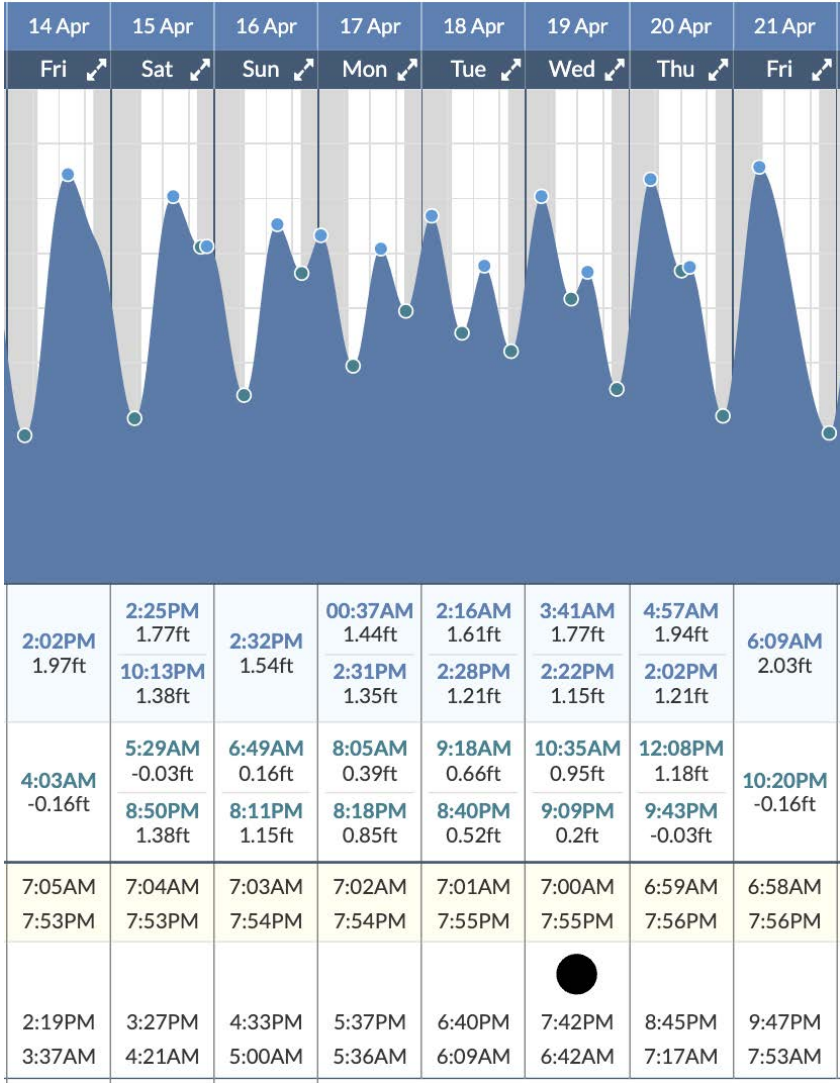
I WILL BE GIVING A TWO HOUR FISHING SEMINAR AT THE FIRST ANNUAL TEXAS OYSTER ROUNDUP!! This is an event celebrating the LOVE of the oyster in food, environmental super player, and the NEW TEXAS OYSTER FARMING. This event will be downtown on APRIL 22nd, at the WATER STREET OYSTER BAR AND SUSHI COMPLEX. There will be shucking contests, incredible food, venders, multiple seminars, and entertainment. Check out the sight on the internet.

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## Nature Notes

### Sing Your Heart Out!

By Adam Trujillo



*Northern Mockingbird*

When you walk outside here in Texas, there is a very good chance that you will see at least one bird flying around. And even more than likely, you will hear them singing or calling too. The bird calls or songs that we hear every day are often taken for granted, but each of these chirps has its own natural history.

To start, the sounds a bird makes comes from a tiny organ located at the top of the windpipe called the syrinx. Some birds can use this organ to make two sounds at once, which is why some bird songs can sound two-note. Who knew that birds could duet themselves?

It is important to know the difference between a bird song and a bird call. A bird song is, generally, longer and more complex than a call is. Singing can be used to attract a mate, while calling can be used to alert others to the presence of danger, for instance. And because the song is more complex, sometimes these birds need to learn how to do it.

Some species of passerines (song-birds), like the flycatchers for example, acquire their songs innately. They are born with the ability to sing their songs and don't have to hear them to learn. Other passerines need to hear their parents or neighbors sing their song to learn it. When one of these songbirds is born, there is a period of time shortly after hatching called the "sensitive period" during which it must listen to its parents and absorb the sounds that they make.

After that comes a period of practicing. It will take what it has learned and try to sing, this singing being incomplete and sounding more like babbling. After a little while of practicing, it crystalizes its final song which it will use for the rest of its life. The important stage of this process is actually the critical learning period. If a bird doesn't hear the song that it's supposed to learn, then its song will always sound wrong.

Birds like the white-crowned sparrow are close-ended learners, meaning that they follow this process as a juvenile and their song is cemented as an adult. But there are also open-ended learners, who can adjust their songs over their adult lifetime. An open-ended learner can expand its repertoire throughout its life. A good example of this is the Northern Mockingbird, which will continuously hear songs of other species, learn them, and mimic them. Another cool example of an open-ended learner is the Mynah birds. These birds can not only mimic other species, but have the ability to mimic sounds like a car alarm or a horn.

This field of research is still emerging and we are learning more and more about birdsong. Bird songs are more intricate than you might think, so when you hear that European Starling (open-ended learner) or White-crowned Sparrow (close-ended learner) sing, think about what it had to go through to sing those beautiful songs.

## Earth Day

*Saturday, April 22*

*Hosted by the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation*

Earth Day 2023, Saturday, April 22, will be celebrated with a festival sponsored by the Coast Bend Bays Foundation at Heritage Park downtown.

Highlights for this year's festival include The Raptor Project "Birds of Prey" presentations, Gladys Porter Zoo animal presentations, Valero plant giveaway, Fishing's Future Catch & Release fishpond, Youth Odyssey climbing rock wall, PORTable Learning Lab, Electric Vehicles, free emissions testing, animal adoptions, Texas Park & Wildlife's Coastal Expo touch tanks and Game Thief Trailer, and much more! Additionally, more than 60 different environmental and community related exhibitors will be onsite with interactive activities, nature crafts, and giveaways.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is free to the public.

## History Cont from A6

time came up with a plan. The company that owned the majority of the land on both sides of SPID from Commodores to Whitecap had a permit with the U.S. Corps of Engineers that required them to have water flowing under Park Road 22 by the end of the year 2020 and the plan was to place culverts under the roadway at an estimated cost of \$900,000 paid by the developer. The new plan was to include \$1.2 million on the bond package to upgrade the culverts to a water exchange bridge by combining the \$1.2 million with the private developer's \$900,000 to pay for culverts providing \$2.1 million for the estimated cost of the bridge. There were many complications. For one the developer didn't have to put the culverts in place until 2020 and there was no agreement to combine the funds prior to the vote. Further, there were no design plans for the bridge and cost estimate was at best a back of the envelope guess. Thirteen years went by during which not only was the IUPAC come into being but the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) had been established in 2010 under the 2004 Island Development Plan as an advisory group to the city council and its members began pushing for the bridge project to move forward.

### *Find the money*

In 2016 all the pieces were in place except funding. The city had identified \$7.5 million in money left from old bond elections that had already been completed (the \$1.2 million from the 2004 bond package had grown to \$1.5 million by transferring money from other similar bond projects), and ISAC voted to recommend the commitment of up to \$4 million in funds from the Island Tax Re-Investment Zone (TRZ) which was established in 2002 as part of the Packery Channel project to capture property tax on new construction inside the zone after that date. The fund was designed to maintain the Packery Jetties and to dredge the channel as needed, which was thought to be each year and required a \$4 million reserve fund for that purpose. As it turned out the channel has only had three dredge projects after the original construction. The TRZ boundaries include the area from Zahn Road to Whitecap and along SPID from Whitecap to Commodores, including the Schlitterbahn Waterpark. The amount of money the fund generates has varied from \$2 million to as much as \$6 million before the economic crunch in 2008. For the latest TIRZ #2 fund balances see the graphic in this issue). It has funded several projects including the pavilion along Zahn Road which is now under construction.

### *Out to bids*

By early 2017 a final design on the proposed bridge was in place and it was unique to The Island. The design, which was ultimately used, was paid for by the private developers and done by Urban Engineering and called for three arches each forty feet wide spanning two cart and pedestrian paths bordering a forty-foot wide waterway with fourteen feet of clearance from the waterline to the bridge. Using arches rather than the standard Texas Department of Transportation design with I-beams was a nod to the fact that the bridge would be the centerpiece connecting what was then \$500 million in development on the Lake Padre side to the then Schlitterbahn Waterpark on the west side through a 3200-foot long channel with retail, commercial, and residential space along the banks. The connection the bridge would provide would have the effect of turning Padre Island into one contiguous resort community and the canal would be the Island's signature icon with the bridge as the centerpiece. That plan is now coming to fruition with the completion of the bridge.

Parts of the project were already in place. In 2015 the canal connecting the bridge site

to Lake Padre on the east side of the roadway was finished and bulkheads constructed in anticipation of the building of the bridge. A portion of the canal on the west side had been dug when the Schlitterbahn park was built to use the sand there as fill for the project but was not bulkheaded. But the entire canal was not in existence and the cost of finishing it was put at \$3 million and on the political side the city council under the direction of then Mayor Nelda Martinez was understandingly not going to build a "bridge to nowhere" and things were stalled. It was a chicken and egg problem. It was discovered that the \$3 million set aside in the park's private construction budget for the canal and bulkheads had gone into the park itself and there was no money for the canal. By 2017 that hurdle had been cleared enough that it looked like the project would finally catch fire.

### *2017*

Things were looking up in early 2017 when the project went out to bids and when they were opened in April of that year it looked like all the pieces were in place. The price came in at \$12.5 million, which was about \$1 million more than the funds available but a reachable number and it looked like construction was just around the corner. The only holdup was a signed commitment by the property owners on the west side of the road that they would in fact build the canal, which they said they were in favor of doing and which would create between \$15 and \$18 million in added property value along its banks by creating new waterfront property. They just had to find \$3 million. Then disaster struck.

As the bid remained open through June of 2018 with construction pending on the bridge and ongoing discussion for canal construction the Schlitterbahn Waterpark and the land between it, SPID, and Whitecap were the subject of bankruptcy proceedings. Everything came to a halt as the future ownership of the 70 acres west of SPID where the canal would go hung in the balance. As that process stretched on through 2018 the window on the bid package closed and once again in June 2018 the project went idle, albeit with \$11.5 million in funding still available and the design in place.

When the new landowners came in, Axys Capital and International Bank of Commerce, they recognized the financial sense of the bridge project and to move it along in April 2019 the owners and the Corpus Christi City Council approved a Developer Agreement that would create a Gordian Knot of interlocking responsibilities that would protect the private owners from building a canal without a bridge, and the city from building a bridge to nowhere. That agreement remains in place (see the sequence of events in the story on this page).

### *As things now stand*

That is where things stood until two weeks ago when the bids on a second round of bidding were opened with local Hass Anderson Construction, Ltd. coming in as the low bidder for the second time, this time at \$13.9 million leaving a \$2.4 million gap between the money required and the money available.

That is where things stand as of the first week of November of 2019. For the first time since 2004 the city and the adjacent landowners both have all the pieces in place with the project's future hanging on finding \$2.4 million in funding. If that gap can be bridged in the next few months the first of the tenets of the Developers Agreement can be put in motion and the construction of the Park Road 22 Water Exchange Bridge and the canal joining it to the Island's existing canal system can begin simultaneously. If not the Park Road 22 Water Exchange Bridge will likely go down in the annals of Island history not as the Bridge to Nowhere but rather A Bridge Too Far.

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Luisa Buttler, Henry Buttler (age 2), Jesse Buttler, Julieta Martucci, Giovanni Martucci (age 11), Richard Martucci, Benjamin Martucci (age 10), Mario Martucci, Josephine Buttler (age 2).

Julieta and Richard are the permanent Island residents, and grandparents to Henry, Josephine, Benjamin, and Giovanni. The Martucci's (Julieta and Richard) and Buttlers (Luisa/Jesse/Benjamin/Henry/Josephine) are all parishioners of St. Andrew's.



Tony Tagliaferro and Wendy Miller Powers took the Island Moon to Las Vegas.



Winter Texan, Dick and Cindy Stoltzman, took the Moon back to the land of ice and snow in Brainerd Minnesota on April 3rd.



Kiddos at the Gaff's Easter Egg Hunt last Sunday.



Patrick, Coltin and Charlotte meeting the Easter Bunny at Billish park.



Photos by Kristen Collins



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**1542 Yorktown Blvd** This home sits on just under 10 acres of land. The main house has 3 bedroom with 3 full baths. Approximately 2572 sq. ft. of living area. **\$1,100,000**. Call **Terry Cox 361-549-7703**.



**15016 Beach Walk Loop** - This 3/2.5 fully furnished unit is within two blocks of the beach. Offering comfortable furnishings, stainless steel appliances and well-equipped kitchen. **\$424,900** Call **Charlie Knoll 361-443-2499**.



**350 Peerman Place** - Prestigious Lamar Park home w/4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2 car side wrap garage. 15,695 sf ft corner lot. **\$650,000**. Call **Carrie Downs-Kelley 361-949-5200**.



**14802 Whitecap Blvd #3-101** - This 2 bed, 1 bath fully furnished unit is within walking distance to the beach! Equipped with granite countertops & stainless steel appliances. **\$400,000** Call **Randy Corpuz 361-765-9914**.



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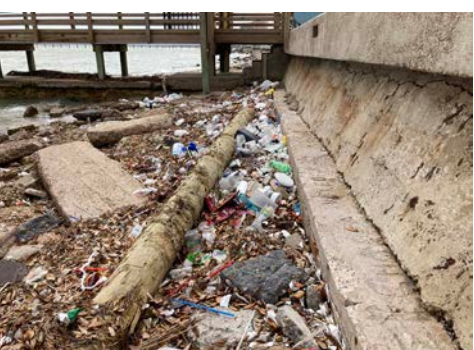
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# Skip the Plastic

Skip the Plastic's Cleanup Heroes for the month of April are students in the Bahr Marine Ecology Lab and the Islander Green Team at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. On a recent Saturday, they met to clean up the shoreline near one of the many storm drain outfalls that empty into Corpus Christi Bay. In a couple hours, the 15 volunteers removed an impressive pile of trash from the sand and rocks. Styrofoam cups and pieces made up 45 pounds of the 273 pound total, and plastic bottles counted for another 80 pounds.



Before

After



Proposal on the beach!  
Photo Mary Craft

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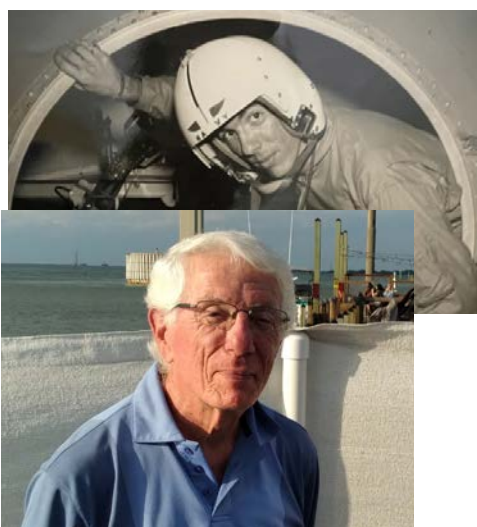
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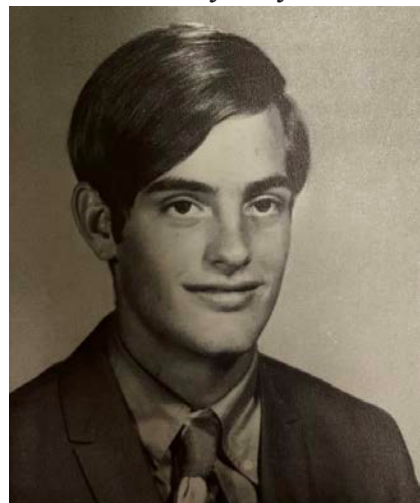
**WATERLINE DAILY HOURS**  
M-F 4PM-10PM  
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## Last Week's Mystery Islander! Nick Colosi



Our Mystery Person of the Week last issue was Islander Nick Colosi. The desert photo is Nick walking away from going on patrol with a Marine Corps tank company. During Desert Shield/Storm he was deployed to Saudi Arabia as Regimental Surgeon with the 24th Regiment, 4th Division Marines, responsible for coordinating the medical care of approximately 5,000 Marines. The other photos are of Nick emerging from the hatch of a Gemini space capsule and him sitting in the framework of the space craft's pilot's seat in the world's largest human centrifuge. He was active Navy on loan to NASA to help design the instrumentation of the Gemini. The centrifuge was used to create the gravitational forces of rocket launch and re-entry on the visual field lose to the crew to determine where to place critical

## This Week's Mystery Islander!



instruments which were needed at specific G Forces during flight. Researchers rode the centrifuge to understand what the astronauts experienced. "I lost consciousness at 5 G's," Nick said. "This was shown in TOP GUN during Maverick's 10-G flight and when the pilot lost consciousness as he descended after the bombing run."

When Nick practiced in St. Louis many years ago, he served as Senior Medical Officer in the region to liaison with the Flight Surgeon of the Blue Angels with the Washington University Medical Center where he was faculty and staff to provide potential emergency medical care. Nick was a Commander, Medical Corps, USN, and retired as Captain after 34 years Navy with 24 of those years with the Marines.

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# Texas Senate Passes Bills aimed at Improving Teacher Pay

By Richard Lee

SENATE APPROVES TEACHER PAY RAISES, EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

The Senate on Thursday approved a bill that would grant a \$2,000 across-the-board pay raise for all Texas teachers, with even more going toward teachers in smaller districts and those that perform exceptionally in the classroom. SB 9, dubbed “the Teachers’ Bill of Rights” by author and Conroe Senator Brandon Creighton, also includes a number of provisions designed to ease the increasing burdens faced by teachers in Texas. An interim legislative study found that not only does Texas have a dire shortage of qualified classroom teachers, but that three-fourths of current teachers have considered leaving the profession at one point. Creighton said this bill is designed to reverse that trend by offering unprecedented levels of support to the state’s educators. “It is specifically designed for the hearts and minds of our Texas teachers and how we can make sure that they not only feel lifted up and valued, but they feel inspired and renewed again to stay in the profession,” he said.

Teachers in smaller districts would qualify for a \$6,000 bump in pay, in order to bring them more in line with their urban colleagues. While the average starting pay for a Texas teacher is near \$60,000 annually, in rural areas, Creighton said, many begin around \$30,000 a year. The bill would also expand the state’s teacher merit pay program. Since implementation in 2019, Creighton said that the program has benefited more than seven thousand Texas teachers, adding between four and seventeen thousand dollars to their base salaries. In all, the bill contains \$3.3 billion in additional teacher compensation. Teachers with young children could also take advantage of existing pre-k programs at campuses where they teach; Creighton said that many teachers don’t currently qualify for these programs, which are aimed at children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Aside from compensation, the bill seeks to improve teacher support through mentorship programs. It would establish a residency program, where college students learning to be educators can actually work alongside veteran teachers in the classroom

to gain valuable experience and be paid to do so. It also expands the mentorship program for new teachers, pairing master teachers with younger educators with only one or two years of experience. Teachers would also be empowered to remove a disruptive or abusive student from the classroom and would have to sign off on any plan to return the student to class.

*Senate Bill 8 would make it easier for kids to switch schools*

Next, the Senate considered SB 8, also by Creighton, which would make it easier for parents to move their children into different schools, including private schools. Creighton titled this measure the “Parental Bill of Rights”, emphasizing that it would put power in the hands of parents to direct their children’s education. “Senate Bill 8 is a game-changer for educational freedom in Texas,” he said. Parents could move students to a school in another district - subject to capacity - if they feel it would benefit their child. It would also allow parents with children in public schools to apply to receive up to \$8,000 in state funds to place in an education savings account (ESA) to pay for private school tuition, tutoring, or other educational related expenses. Creighton said that smaller school districts can feel the loss of even a single student much more keenly than large urban districts, so the bill would provide districts with fewer than 20,000 students a \$10,000 grant for five years for each departing student. Funding for ESAs would come out of general state revenue rather than dedicated public school funds and would cover up to 62,500 ESAs. Applicants would also be prioritized based on the quality of the school the student is leaving, with two-thirds of the slots open to students currently attending schools ranked C, D, or F on the state’s A-F campus quality scale. The bill was amended to open ten percent of the slots to low-income families whose children currently attend private school and have a combined income of less than twice of the federal poverty level.

The bill also gives parents more latitude to review instructional materials, streamlines grievance processes, requires parental consent for changes to health or wellness policies for their children, and bans curriculum related to human sexuality or gender identity.

# Stunz named Executive Director of Harte Research Institute

Dr. Greg Stunz has been named the Senior Executive Director of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) by Dr. Kelly Miller, President and CEO of TAMU-CC. Stunz has served as HRI’s Interim Senior Executive Director since November 2022.

Stunz first joined HRI in September 2007 as one of the founding chairs. In addition to his role as Senior Executive Director, Stunz is HRI’s Chair for Fisheries and Ocean Health, Director of the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation at HRI, and a Texas A&M University System Regents Professor. Stunz is the fourth Senior Executive Director of HRI since its inception in 2000. Previous directors included Dr. David Yoskowitz, Dr. Larry McKinney, and Dr. Robert Furgason.

Stunz came to TAMU-CC in 2002 as a marine biology professor after holding positions in academia and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). With his experience in both research and management, he recognizes the value of science-driven solutions to address real-world problems. Additionally, Stunz brings an understanding that people are a key part of the equation, and managing for both a healthy environment and economy is vital for the Gulf of Mexico.

Stunz has conducted extensive field research. Whether getting “hands-on” with sharks, examining how artificial reefs enhance the marine environment, or gathering data to develop sound sportfishing regulations.



By Pastor Kris Bair

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

**Meme of the Week:** the story of the student who asked his teacher to explain how to use “flying commas.”

It took her a while to figure out he was referring to apostrophes.

I taught students how to use flying commas for 29 years. When I finally realized I was beating my head against a wall, I quit teaching and took up preaching, where the wall is at least padded.

I don’t know why the young mind is resistant to logic, but it is. When “its” means “it is,” use the flying comma.

When “its” does NOT mean “it is,” do NOT use the flying comma! Let the flying comma fly away!

How simple is that?

I now see the flying comma introduced into the word “yours,” and I am barely able to withhold my scream. There is no such animal as “your’s”!

Evidently there’s this idea that adding that apostrophe covers all bets, ensuring correctness. If in doubt, put the mark in, especially if IT’S--flying comma correctly used--an advertisement.

Some inept writers probably think that flying commas, with the important-sounding foreign name (*apostrophe* is Greek, after all), perfume the rest of the phrase or sentence with a certain “cachet” (not to be confused, as it often is, with “cache,” which is not at any time pronounced with an “a” sound at the end).

If you’re going for “cachet,” avoid ones that stink of putting on airs, only to reveal one’s own lack of attention during years of schooling.

And if you cannot remember the rule, at least recognize that there IS a rule, a rule that could be Googled.

You Google everything else. You tell your elders snidely to Google stuff. You can always ask Alexa to Google it for you.

She’d probably rather do that, than produce the 18 fart noises she’s programmed to do.

I have hope for that student. His label shows insight and creativity. And he cared enough to ask about the rules!

We used a punctuation game for an ice breaker when our chapter of Sigma Tau Delta (the International

# Punctuation Bowl

English Honor Society—justifiable cachet) held its first meeting of the year on our campus.

Everyone there got a Post-It note upon which they put their favorite punctuation mark before hanging it on their backs.

Yes, English majors are inordinately fond of punctuation marks.

Then everyone went around the room and collected the names of those folks with punctuation marks other than their own choice, as well as their justifications for giving their mark favored position.

Despite the absence of alcohol, it turned out to be a lot of fun.

I don’t recall anyone choosing to call their mark a “flying comma,” but I do know someone who chose to support “Excitement Points.”

Yes, that was me, the teacher whose SS (Serendipitous Son) came to her and told her all about learning to use “excitement points” that day in second grade.

I was proud.

One of the comments for the opening meme came from someone who noted the use of the “gutter ball” at the end of sentences—you wouldn’t want to knock those Word Pins apart, you know.

Bowling with punctuation. It’s a thing!

Just think about all the rules for using, or not using, commas that DON’T fly, and how they make splits of those Word Pins!

It makes me feel like using multiple Excitement Points when I consider it!

We’ve enjoyed some excitement at Island Presbyterian Church this month—Palm Sunday followed by Easter joy.

The excitement continues during Eastertide--join us at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary at Gypsy and Fortuna Bay, or via Livestream and Zoom, accessible from our Facebook page or website.

And soon we’ll punctuate our worship by offering it at the beach at Whitecap, beginning May 7—bring a chair, your morning beverage, and controlled pets on leashes.

And don’t forget we’re Spring Flinging at the church on May 6, from 11-2, where you’ll find food, fun and crafts. Check it out!



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## Sudoku

*Sudoku answers are not available.  
Play at your own risk!  
Going Easy On You...*

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

### Knuckle-Cracker

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

### Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

### Brain-Buster

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

## Island Fire Calls

### April 4-

Fire Station#15:

Fire Station #15

14202 Commodores D

Alarm system activation, no fire – unintentional- 2

Arcing, shorted electrical equipment- 1

Assist Invalid- 1

Dispatched & cancelled en route- 3

Good intent call, Other- 2

Rescue, EMS incident, Medical Assist - 13

No Incident found on arrival at dispatch address- 1

Outside rubbish fire, Other- 1

Person in distress, Other- 1

Fire Station#16:

Fire Station #16

8185 State Highway 361

Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator- 1

## Moon Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

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

#### Across

1. Break a certain commandment  
6. Mess maker  
10. David, for one  
14. Verdi forte  
15. Poi party  
16. Atlas datum  
17. Like Mozart's flute  
18. Entomologist's specimens, perhaps  
19. "The Alienist" author  
20. Vader's psychedelic weapon?  
23. Bass attachment  
24. New issue on the NYSE  
25. Temporary, as a position  
29. Annapolis initials  
31. Escape clause  
34. Word with brain or blind  
35. Partner of aid  
36. Hybrid fruit  
37. Where votes for best films are counted?  
40. Fit to \_\_\_\_  
41. Noted international marketplace  
42. Oliver Mellors, to Lady Chatterley  
43. "Why, certainly!"  
44. Tang anagram  
45. Cutting beams  
46. Sailor slangily  
47. Place to hang your hat  
48. Kermit making a significant change?  
57. Reverse, on a PC  
58. James of "The Godfather"  
59. Greek salad morsel  
60. Bullet point  
61. Firing chamber  
62. Like beasts of burden  
63. Region  
64. Do in, as a dragon  
65. Put forth

#### Down

1. Search thoroughly  
2. Gem for some Libras  
3. Lyra star  
4. Colonizer of Greenland  
5. Supplement, as a bill  
6. "Hast thou \_\_\_\_ the Jabberwock?"  
7. Air chamber  
8. Invective  
9. Raid, perhaps  
10. Chocolate source  
11. Certain Middle Easterner  
12. Insignificant  
13. Henry VIII's last wife  
21. Cabin component  
22. Curative waters  
25. In check  
26. Bucket of bolts  
27. Western bulrushes  
28. Avalon, for one  
29. Lusitania sinker  
30. Like the Beatles' Sadie  
31. Pointed architectural arch  
32. Worrier's health risk  
33. La Scala features  
35. Self-titled 1975 pop album  
36. Tabloid subjects  
38. Two "Lincolns"  
39. Attachment to government buildings  
44. Understood  
45. Poet's pasture  
46. Folklore dwarf  
47. Small amount of change  
48. Quickie exam  
49. "Do \_\_\_\_ others . . ."  
50. Middle Eastern gulf  
51. Correspondence  
52. Land for the looney?  
53. Linen fiber source  
54. Aptly named astronaut  
55. "Your turn," in radiospeak  
56. Chap

## Police Blotter April 3 - April 9

### JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection

#### Disturbance

12000 block SPID 10 a.m. April 9 Boat or Fire Rescue  
15300 block SPID Midnight April 7

#### Suspicious Person

Packery Point/Marina Park Blvd. 3 a.m. April 9  
13500 block SPID 3 p.m. April 5

#### Traffic

36 Traffic Stops  
13300 block SPID 4 p.m. April 9 DWI

### SPID West to Laguna Madre

#### Crimes against Person

14100 block Cabana East 8 p.m. April 9 Assault  
15100 block Aquarius 3 a.m. April 8 Evading Arrest with a Vehicle  
15400 block Fortuna 8 p.m. April 8 Assault with Injury

#### Crimes against Property

14600 block SPID 8 p.m. April 9 Theft of Services  
13900 block Blackbeard 3 a.m. April 8 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle  
13800 block Jolly Roger 2 a.m. April 8 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle  
13900 block Flintlock 7 p.m. April 7 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle  
13600 block Port Royal 8 a.m. April 4 Theft of Services  
14300 block Blue Fish 10 p.m. April 3 Theft \$100-\$750  
15600 block Gypsy 3 p.m. April 8 Theft \$750-\$2500  
13900 block Blackbeard 3 a.m. April 8 Theft from a Motor Vehicle  
14000 block Ports O Call 4 p.m. April 6 Theft of Services  
15600 block Cruiser 1 p.m. April 6 Theft of Services

#### Disturbance

15000 block Aquarius 10 p.m. April 9 Noise Ordinance

#### Violation

14500 block Compass 11 p.m. April 6 Noise Ordinance Violation  
14500 block Whitecap 10 a.m. April 3 Warrant  
14000 block La Blanquilla 5 a.m. April 7 Fireworks  
15300 block SPID Midnight April 7  
Commodores/SPID 7 p.m. April 7 Crash  
13700 block Primavera 9 a.m. April 5 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle (two counts)  
Nemo Court/SPID 4 p.m. April 4 Crash

#### Suspicious Person

Jackfish/Indigo 8 p.m. April 8  
14300 block Commodores 10 p.m. April 6  
14600 block SPID 10 a.m. April 4

#### Traffic

176 Traffic Stops  
Commodores/SPID 8 p.m. April 8 Crash  
14500 block SPID 1 p.m. April 8 Hit and Run

### SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to city limits

#### Crimes against Person

14800 block Granada 7 p.m. April 8 Assault/Shots Fired  
Granada/Leeward 7 p.m. April 8 Shots Fired  
14800 block Granada 7 p.m. April 8 Assault

#### Disturbance

15200 block Windward 9 p.m. April 9 Public Intoxication  
15200 block Windward 9 p.m. April 9  
11400 block Gulf Beach 4 p.m. April 9  
14500 block Whitecap 10 a.m. April 3 Warrant

#### Traffic

86 Traffic Stops  
15500 block Windward 10 p.m. April 9 Hit and Run  
14900 block Leeward 1 p.m. April 9 Parking Violation  
State Highway 361/Zahn Road 6 p.m. April 9 DWI



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 The Sunset 7 AA Meetings are held on Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7 PM at :  
**The Presbyterian Church On the Island**  
**14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.**  
 In addition Sunday AA Meetings are held at 8 AM at  
**The Pavillon on the Boardwalk Near Padre Bali**

## Crossword Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | O | V | E | T |   | S | L | O | B |   | C | A | M | P |
| O | P | E | R | A |   | L | U | A | U |   | A | R | E | A |
| M | A | G | I | C |   | A | N | T | S |   | C | A | R | R |
| B | L | A | C | K | L | I | G | H | T | S | A | B | E | R |
|   |   |   |   |   | O | O | N |   |   | I | P | O |   |   |
| A | C | T | I | N | G |   | U | S | N | A |   | O | U | T |
| T | R | U | S | T |   | A | B | E | T |   | U | G | L | I |
| B | A | L | L | O | T | B | O | X | O | F | F | I | C | E |
| A | T | E | E |   | E | B | A | Y |   | L | O | V | E | R |
| Y | E | S |   | G | N | A | T |   | L | A | S | E | R | S |
|   |   |   | G | O | B |   |   | P | E | G |   |   |   |   |
| Q | U | A | N | T | U | M | L | E | A | P | F | R | O | G |
| U | N | D | O |   | C | A | A | N |   | O | L | I | V | E |
| I | T | E | M |   | K | I | L | N |   | L | A | D | E | N |
| Z | O | N | E |   | S | L | A | Y |   | E | X | E | R | T |

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- \*OFFICE WITH ATTACHED 10X15 STORAGE
- \*DRIVE UP OVERHEAD DOOR
- \*ADDITIONAL STORAGE AVAILABLE
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# Nueces County Appraisal District holds Workshops

**Flour Bluff, Padre Island, Port Aransas**  
**Flour Bluff High School Cafeteria**  
**Saturday, May 6**

Chief Appraiser Ramiro “Ronnie” Canales and the Nueces County Appraisal District (NCAD) will hold a mobile office workshop for 2023 on Saturday May 6th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Flour Bluff High School Cafeteria in Corpus Christi, Texas. This event is open to all residents and property owners in Nueces County and is aimed at providing a chance to settle value disputes without the need to travel. Employees and key staff from the district including appraisers from the Residential, Commercial, Market Analyst, Personal Property, and Exemptions departments will be on site to hold informal hearings regarding their property values as well as answer general questions. All attendees are encouraged to bring their 2023 Notice of Appraised Value along with any pertinent information such as

photographs, contractor estimates, sales information, etc. regarding their property concerns.

**EVENT DETAILS** Date: Saturday May 6th, 2023 – 8:30AM to 3:30PM Location: Flour Bluff High School Cafeteria 2505 Waldron Rd.,

**Port Aransas**  
**Saturday, April 22**

A separate workshop for Port Aransas taxpayers will be held on Saturday April 22nd, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Civic Center at City Hall in Port Aransas, Texas. This event is open to all residents and property owners in Nueces County.

**EVENT DETAILS** Date: Saturday April 22nd, 2023 – 8:30AM to 3:30PM Location: Civic Center at City Hall 710 W. Avenue A, Port Aransas, TX 78373

# Wiley Coyote

One of the Island’s original inhabitants paid a visit to Whitecap Beach this week. It was exhausting work so he took a nap in the dunes.



Islanders Sadie and her Mom Emily. Photo by Mary Craft



The Agnich family of five. Photo by Mary Craft



Newly formed American Legion Post 229 The Islander Post supported the 4th Annual Padre Island Easter Egg Hunt by donating 450 hot dogs, chips and water.



Sandfest 2013

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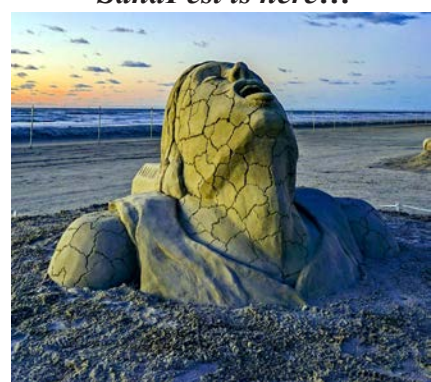
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# PIFEM

**APRIL 20TH**  
**4-8PM**  
**PADRE ISLAND FARMERS MARKET**  
**ISLAND PRES CHURCH**  
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SandFest is here. Photo by Steve Coons

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual SandFest is upon us, “What began as a small local competition in 1997 has grown into an internationally recognized three-day family event that draws renowned sand sculptors and tens of thousands of visitors from around the world. It is, in fact, the largest native-sand sculpture competition in the USA.” Beginning this Friday, there will be roughly 50K people descending upon us for three days to watch master artists create mind boggling masterpieces on a temporary medium...sand. It is astounding to witness the process. Keep an eye out for local faves (they live on SPI) **Abe Waterman** and the **Amazing Walter McDonald**... they usually win. There’s ton’s of stuff to do out there... I put their music schedule in the LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT box. They will have **Cory Morrow** and **Clay Hollis** headlining this year. Plus, there are vendors galore with arts and crafts beer, plenty of yummy festival food and even stuff and a VIP area. And don’t miss the amateur’s competition... it’s always fun. I think I saw that it costs \$30 to get in this year. Ouch! About ten years ago I did my time volunteering to book and run the music tent with **Janet Planet**. Rock then we only used local talent and it had more of a homegrown feel to it. It’s since grown into a much larger event with corporate sponsors and big money behind it. I guess you could say the same thing about Port Aransas. Well, I wouldn’t miss it. When it’s all said and done, SandFest will donate many thousands of dollars back into our community. This festival is a good, good thing for Port Aransas. I like to go to out there on Sunday when the sculptures are finished and the winners are announced. Oh and by the way, here’s a pro-tip... traffic is a nightmare and they will have the traffic on the beach going *One Way* south usually starting around Pole 9. Carpooling is advised and finding an alternate way of getting there without having a car to park. I know that’s easier said than done. Me and my **Mermaid Gal** will be taking our bikes.



Clay Hollis will play SandFest on Friday.

Earth Day Peace Sign...



In celebration of Earth Day, the Port A For Peace folks have organized another human peace sign party at Caldwell Pier on Saturday, April 22 at noon.

Mark it down! One week from this Saturday on April 22 is *Earth Day*, which in Port Aransas means we, the **Greenies** and **Peaceniks**, will gather at the pier at noon and form a *Human Peace Sign* out on the beach. We’ll wear our finest tie dye and shoot the peace sign a bunch

Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour  
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

and try not to start any wars while we’re there. This is a tradition that was born on *Earth Day 2016* by the efforts of our (then) resident hippie and children’s book writer, **Diana Aston** and carried on now largely through the efforts of **Cara Rose**... another resident hippie and founder of *Port A For Peace*. Come join us. It’s good clean fun and nobody gets hurt and nobody gets arrested... or starts any wars. We’ll need **Steve Coons** or **Augs** there with their drones. Peace yall!

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



Rex Allen McNeil will play Treasure Island on Friday

Buckle up buttercups, there’s a ton of stuff coming our way. On Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> we have **Brad Ethridge** playing the *Gaff*. I’m noticing Mr. Ethridge’s name more and more around here. He’s catching good thread it seems. Also on Thursday, **Back Pew Revival** will bring some tasty Americana to *Treasure Island*. And in town on Thursday, you can catch **Giovannie and the Hired Guns** at *Brewster Street Downtown* and **Sonny Salinas** at *Rockit’s*. On Friday, I mentioned *SandFest* weekend begins and the whole weekend is looking strong! Let’s start out with **Splendiferous** at *Bron’s Backyard*... a much sought after band. Also on Friday, the *Gaff* has **Coach Jim Dugan** in his familiar spot, real country at *Treasure Island* with **Rex Allen McNeil** with my buddy **Mike Wilson** on skins plus the mighty **Hayes Carll** plays a two nighter at the *Third Coast Theater*. I also see the new kids on the block at the *Sand Bar* have **Kevin Kurtz** and **Eli Brown** this weekend and the *Bluewater Cowboy* has **James Buffaloe** and the **Heard** and *Brewster Downtown* has the popular **Latin Talk**. On Saturday, *Bron’s Backyard* has the ever so rowdy, **Triptonite** playing 7:30- 10:30. Over at the *Gaff*, **Bonnie Lang** will be making her annual appearance. This is one you need to check out. Also **Diamond’s Edge** plays *Treasure Island* and you know those guys rock! Elsewhere on Saturday, the **Dunebillies** are at the *Tarpon Inn*, **Eli Brown** is at the *Sand Bar* and **John Elijah** is at the *Surfside Lounge*... all good stuff. On Sunday, the **CBGB’s** with **John Elijah**, **Joseph Soto** and **Jose’ Felix** will be playing *Bron’s Backyard*... that there is one fine ensemble capable of many genres, all of which rock. **Rod Stewart** look alike **Vic Vagas** will play the *Gaff* as **Chica and the Man** with the lovely and talented **Stephanie Pedraza**. I used to know Vic years ago when he was running around the Riverwalk in downtown San Antonio. His striking resemblance to Rod Stewart is uncanny. Also on Sunday, the great **Ty Dietz** will play *Kody’s* and **Cory Morrow** will be headlining *SandFest*. Life is good. And don’t forget that **Brad Ethridge** hosts an open mic at the *Gaff* every Wednesday.

On the horizon...



Triptonite will play Bron’s this Saturday.

On the near horizon watch for shows by **Zach Camey**, **Afterglow**, **The Groove**, **Brooke Graham**, **Cruise Control**, **Profiles**, **The Chanklas**, **Bottles and Bandits**, **Rich Lockhart**, **Aloha Dave**, **8-Bit Serenade**, **Dreaming in Color**, **PalmFest**, **Lane Smith**, **Ruben V**, **Max & Heather Stalling**, **Uncle Lucius**, **Larry Joe Taylor**, **Buc Days**, **Lucy Morrison**, **Chicas Rock**, **The Shrimporee**, **Wilder Blue**, **The Kerrville Folk Festival**, **Chainlinks**, **Randall King**, **Triptonite**, **Thomas Michael Riley**, **Reno Perez**, **Chris Boss** and many, many more. That ought to hold you for a while. Be safe out there and be kind to each other.

♪♪♪ And, that’s the truth ♪♪♪



Bonnie Lang will play the Gaff on Saturday.



Splendiferous will play Bron’s Backyard on Friday.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday, April 13

Brad Ethridge @ Gaff  
Back Pew Revival @ Treasure Island  
Giovannie & the Hired Guns @ Brewster Downtown  
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian  
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard’s  
Kevin Kurtz @ Red’s at Palmilla  
Jered Clark @ Virginia’s  
Michael Perez @ Brewster Southside  
Sonny Salinas @ Rockit’s  
Mikey Rivera @ Rabbit Hole  
Calallen Billy Snipes @ Cassidy’s Pub

Friday, April 14

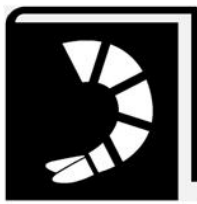
Rich Lockhart, Clay Hollis, Wilder Blue @ Texas SandFest 2023  
Jim Dugan @ Gaff  
Splendiferous @ Bron’s Backyard  
Rex Allen McNeil @ Treasure Island  
Kevin Kurtz @ Sand Bar  
Hayes Carll @ Third Coast Theater  
Buffaloe & the Heard @ Bluewater Cowboy  
Latin Talk @ Brewster Downtown  
Triptonite @ Pelican Lounge  
Scarecrow People Duo @ Brewster Southside  
Randy Rogers & Gary Allan @ Concrete Street  
Cruise Control @ Bluff’s Landing  
Trey Maresh @ Packery Bar  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard’s  
18 Hours @ Rockit’s  
Palacios Bros @ Exchange  
Jered Clark @ Virginia’s  
Eli Brown @ Nucky’s

Saturday, April 15

Ty Dietz, Jon Stork, Mark Powell @ Texas SandFest

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2023  
Triptonite @ Bron’s Backyard  
Diamond’s Edge @ Treasure Island  
Bonnie Lang @ Gaff  
Hayes Carll @ Third Coast Theater  
Dunebillies @ Roosevelts  
Eli Brown @ Sand Bar  
Buffaloe & the Heard @ Bluewater Cowboy  
John Elijah, Kevin Kurtz @ Surfside Lounge  
Afterglow @ Pelican Lounge  
Ejay Red Feather Band @ Packery Bar  
Michael Burtt’s Band @ Brewster Southside  
Lowdown Drifters @ Brewster Downtown  
The Groove @ Rockit’s  
Anialator @ House of Rock  
Brian Winfrey  
Blackbeard’s  
Joseph Martinez @ Executive Surf Club  
Rich Lockhart @ Pooks Pub AP  
CBDB’s @ Exchange  
Jered Clark @ Virginia’s  
Lisa Sullivan @ Blackbeard’s  
Ruben Limas @ KOA CC

Sunday, April 16

John Elijah, Cory Morrow, Texas String Assembly @ Texas SandFest 2023  
CBDB’s @ Bron’s Backyard  
Chica & the Man @ Gaff  
Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie’s  
Ty Dietz @ Kody’s  
Justin & Niki @ Doc’s  
Jerry Ward @ Pelican Lounge  
Jennifer Gayle  
Bradley @ Blackbeards  
Joseph Martinez @ Roosevelt’s at the Tarpon Inn  
Kevin Kurtz @ Sand Bar  
Jered Clark @ Virginia’s

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