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Issue 1028



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The voice of The Island since 1996

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Happy New Year by Steve Coons



By Dale Rankin

As 2023 enters the history books we take stock at the changes of 2023 with much to be thankful for Around The Island, not the least of which is the completion of the Don Patricio Exchange which after two decades of planning will bring the circulation of water from the Gulf of Mexico to Island canals in 2024. As 2023 comes to a close an agreement to connect the canal under the new bridge to the existing canals on its west side is moving forward and once that process is complete work is set to begin on a new water exchange bridge under Commodores Drive in 2024. The year 2024 will be a transformative one as work on two major Island projects continues around Lake Padre and at the Whitecap North Padre Island site.

New life for an old building...

New Year's Eve 2024 will see the opening of the new Merida's restaurant in the building commonly referred to by Islanders as the old German Bakery. In 2023 the final nail in the coffin of the old Mikel May's Beachside Bar & Grill on Bob Hall Pier was placed as Nueces County Commissioners voted to rebuild the pier without a home for the business, But Islander May 'Merida' Mendoza who also owned Mikel May's is set to open Merida's restaurant in the distinctive thirty-four hundred square foot building built in 1988 on SPID just north of Whitecap Boulevard which features the unique hexagonal gazebo style roof. Reservations are being taken for a New Year's Eve grand opening and Mendoza completely remodeled the interior and exterior including eleven boat slips on the canal. As 2024 opens the new restaurant will be the sole business accessible by water on the west side of SPID until new retail space is constructed at the Whitecap North Padre Island site. The business will be first of many coming to The Island where Islanders can arrive by boat.



The new interior of Merida's

Around cont. on A3

2023 A Year of Progress

Completion of the Don Patricio Water Exchange Bridge



The Don Patricio Bridge with Packery Channel in the distance.

Photo by Augs

The big story of 2023 was the completion of the new Don Patricio water exchange bridge on SPID. The project was twenty years in the making and was dedicated in December, 2023. The bridge was named after the pioneer Island rancher and State Senator Patrick Dunn whose descendants were on hand for the ribbon cutting. The new \$20 million bridge is the centerpiece of Island development with its connecting waterway between Lake Padre, the Whitecap North Padre Island development, Lake Padre, Packery Channel, and the Gulf of Mexico. Cart and pedestrian paths will also connect

Bridge cont. on A2

Packery Dredging

\$3.5 million project underway as 2023 ends

Work to dredge Packery Channel to fourteen feet is underway as 2023 comes to a close. The \$3,531,549 contract was awarded to Callan Marine Ltd., of Galveston with funds for the dredging project coming from Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 2. The project will move approximately 270,000 cubic yards of sand from the channel which will be used to widen the beach from a point south of Whitecap Boulevard northward to approximately halfway up the Michael J. Ellis Seawall. It is the fourth major dredging of the channel since the original dredge in 2004-2005 and is expected to take about seven months.



The Whitecap development has made huge strides this year. Here is Whitecap Blvd looking North on 1-13-2023 and 12-23-2023

Endangered Sea Turtle Found Stranded in Wales Returned to Texas for Release

"Tally" the Kemp's ridley sea turtle embarking on aerial transatlantic journey thanks to international partners, volunteers

In September, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and partners released a rehabilitated Kemp's ridley sea turtle named "Tally" from Galveston into the Gulf of Mexico for a second chance at life. Tally was found stranded and near death on the distant shores of Talacre in Northern Wales in 2021. After washing up on the shoreline on the north coast of Wales in November 2021, Tally was spotted by a dog walker and reported as "presumed dead" to the local British Divers' Marine Life Rescue. The responding biologist from the



Tally

Anglesey Sea Zoo, Gem Simmons, soon realized Tally was still alive, and along with the director of the



Tally being weighed

zoo, Frankie Hobro, provided months of intensive care until the turtle was healthy again.

By the numbers...

Taxpayers got a break in 2023

Property Tax Cuts at state and city level

Property Tax payers got a break in 2023 as state lawmakers and the Corpus Christi City Council provided some tax relief.

Lawmakers in Austin agreed on a tax bill that allocates \$12.6 billion to reduce the school property tax rate by 10.7 cents per \$100 valuation for homeowners and business properties. It also includes an increase to the state's homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000 at an estimated cost of \$5.3 billion, and some extra relief for seniors and property owners with disabilities, averaging an extra \$170 per year. School property taxes make up about one half of the total property tax burden for Island homeowners.

Taxes cont. on A3

A Solution to the Flooding of Island Homes

ISAC subcommittee suggests a way to prevent flooding of adjacent homes due to changes in elevation regulations



Current solution to the problem.

A sub-committee of the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) in 2023 issued a plan that would prevent the flooding Island homes due to changes in federal regulations two years ago. When the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a new flood map for Padre Island in 2021 it raised the elevation for new homes from the previous level of nine feet above Base Flood Elevation (BFI) to ten feet and an additional foot was added to that to lower flood insurance rates across Padre Island. BFI is defined under FEMA

Flooding cont. on A5

Some Islanders we lost in 2023

Island obituary

World War II Ace George Kirk Passes away at 101

“1943 was a good year. We were 22-years old. The Navy gave us their fastest planes and I married Ginny. It was the best summer of my life.”



The Island lost World War II ace and hero of the Greatest Generation in 2023 when long time Islander George Kirk passed away after a heart attack.

He was a Naval Flying Ace with seven combat victories, awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses and two Navy Air Medals. He was awarded his wings at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi in June 1943 and joined fighter wing VF-8 in September. Born April 27, 1921 in Moline, Illinois, Kirk was attending the University of Iowa when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941 and joined the US Navy in early 1942. He earned his wings at Corpus Christi's Naval Air Station at the outset of 1943 and was assigned to Fighting Squadron Eight (VF-8) near Norfolk, Virginia. During pre-deployment training, he married Virginia (Ginny) Christofferson, a partnership that would last over 60-years.



George in 2021

Ensign Kirk and his VF-8 squadron sailed to war at the end of 1943. George and his squadron participated in key engagements in the northwest Pacific islands including the *Great Marianas Turkey Shoot*. Promoted to Lieutenant in mid-1944, George became a fighter pilot “ace,” credited with seven aerial combat victories.

“We were twenty-two years old,” George said. “The Navy let us fly their fastest planes. We were near the beach and I married Ginny. It was the best summer of my life.”

A life well lived.



*Under the Don Patricio Causeway at Night
Photo by Dale Rankin*

Bridge cont. from A1

it to the entire Island by land routes. The fact that the new bridge was completed on budget and on time may be as big a story as the building of the bridge itself.



City Officials unveiled the new signage this December



Workers put the last of the retaining wall for the bridge in this August

Island loses a legend

Longtime Islander Joe Farah Passes Away in 2023



Joe in a dive suit.

How did you end up here Farah?

Pioneer in the deep water diving industry and longtime Island business owner

Island icon Joe Farah passed away in 2023 after 30 years of business at Farah's Water-hole on The Island. Joe took an interesting road to get to Padre Island that started in Hollywood where he grew up and where he was an extra in the movie *Spartacus*, played ball in Bob Hope's yard before becoming a legend in the commercial diving industry in Louisiana where he was a pioneer in deep saturation diving.

Joe received his Marine Biology degree from San Fernando State College in 1966 and took to the sea as a diver.

“At that time you could make \$200 month without a degree, \$400 with a Bachelor's and \$500 with a Master's,” Joe said. “But commercial divers were making \$300 a day.” At age 24 he set out for Morgan City, Louisiana where he became a commercial diver for Transcontinental Pipeline.

“I developed all the gas and decompression diving tables using the partial pressure laws, gas laws and physics that I learned in college and high school. They used to think 150 feet was deep until I got there” Joe explained.

He made 200-300 foot dives routinely and held the record for 350 feet. In the decompression chamber he would go down over 1000 feet and stay on board with three other crew members for 120 days. It would take four days to ascend because of the saturation point they would have to go up only one foot an hour.

Joe's diving tables were used to determine the decompression stops on the ascent. Joe was the first to use “Live boating” in the field. He would walk the pipeline to inspect it and the boat would not be anchored but mobile, following him along on the surface. He was also the first to do “live boat construction” where he would take two pipelines and flange them together. He was also instrumental in Bringing OSHA safety regulations for commercial divers. He did all this during his almost thirty year career during which time he became, and still is, a legend amongst divers.

In 1992, Joe decided it was time to “drag up” (retire) from diving. He thought about how to make a living in the Bluff and decided to take his father's advice and “Open a bar where there were none.” He looked at lots on the Island because there were not any bars there. Island realtor Mary Spolans helped him find the right site and Island architect James Mazoch helped him refine his design.

Joe and Toni married in 1969 and lived in their home on Azores in the Bluff that was built by a developer in 1964. Son Joey is a popular Laguna Bay fishing guide and son Michael is a partner at Morgan Stanley in Rockport. Joe had stories of being swallowed by a giant fish and breaking a window at Bob Hope's house along with a long list of Island history and legends. Joe's passing leaves a hole in Island living that can never be filled.



In 2007 Joe decided to cut down the collection of bras that had been hanging from the ceiling for the seventeen anniversary of Farah's Water Hole and turn them into a piñata. What he didn't see coming was the force they would create when they came flying out and sent Joe sprawling.



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Letters to the Editor



Dotson....repeat...
Upon reading this week’s Moon I felt like I was experiencing deja vu.
Was I having a senior moment and thought I had just read the two articles written by Dotson Lewis B4 . No, I had read them last week!!
How could this be that they were the same articles! Maybe Dotson was running out of material to write about but if you know him he hasn’t even scratched the surface. Although you can disagree with some of his picks such as his choice of Unitas as the best quarterback of all time.

Maybe it’s time for someone to write his story. That I’m sure will cover several weeks’ editions.

The Dutchman

Thank you, Coastal Bend!
The Salvation Army of Corpus Christi “wrapped up” their Angel Tree Campaign on December 20th after distributing gifts to a total of 1,031 children and teens. “Our community of donors, partners and volunteers is what keeps The Salvation Army Angel Tree program alive year after year,” said Major Nathanael Doria of The Salvation Army of Corpus Christi. “Your kindness ensured every child will have a gift to open on Christmas morning, and parents don’t have to decide between paying bills or buying toys.”
The Salvation Army works with community partners and donors to ensure that every child in the Angel Tree program receives gifts to open on Christmas morning. The work of The Salvation Army is never finished. If you are still wanting to participate in the work that we do throughout the year—a great way to start is by donating to a Red Kettle. The funds raised in each Red Kettle stay in the Coastal Bend to fund our family shelter, food pantry, rent/utility assistance, and more.
Abbie Cieslik
Community Relations and Development Coordinator

Taxes cont. from A1

The highlights of the state bill are

- Over \$12 billion will be spent on reducing the school property tax rate for all homeowners and business properties.
- Every homeowner who homesteads their home (about 5.7 million homeowners) will get a \$100,000 homestead exemption.
- Non-homesteaded properties, valued at \$5 million and under, including residential and commercial properties, will receive a 20% circuit breaker on appraised values as a three-year pilot project.
- The legislation will also include savings on the franchise tax for small businesses and create newly elected positions on local appraisal boards.

The legislation, finalized by voters in November, also includes an increase to the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000; and savings on the franchise tax for small businesses. It also includes a so-called “circuit breaker” program for residential and commercial properties valued at \$5 million and under.

Elected Appraisal District Board

The bill also calls for three county citizens to be elected county-wide to each eight-member County Appraisal District Board of Directors in non-partisan positions. In addition, the CAD board of directors will now select Appraisal Review Board (ARB) members, in each county of 75,000 population or greater.

Around cont. from A1

PIPOA elections

The ballots for seats on the seven-member board of the Padre Isles Property Owners Association will be arriving in mailboxes soon. We include a list of candidates for the open seats in this edition and resumes of the candidates can be found on the PIPOA website. As we do each year from now at least through the end of January we offer weekly space in the Island Moon for the candidates to write articles detailing their plans and goals for the organization as voters cast their ballot. Please email submissions here at editor@islandmoon.com.

Looking ahead

The Election Season for 2024 has already begun Around The Island for city, county, and state races and the Island vote will be pivotal in many of the local races. There are now more than 8000 registered voters on Padre Island and our vote can be pivotal in local races so we encourage Islanders to register and vote early and vote often. In the meantime welcome to 2024 Everybody and say hello if you see us Around The Island.

www.islandmoon.com

Show us your stuff!

Send photos and letters to editor@IslandMoon.com



City Tax Cut

Homeowners with homestead exemptions got a 10% decrease in the appraised value for property tax calculations for the City of Corpus Christi in the 2024-2025 tax year after a move by the Corpus Christi City Council this year.

Homeowners across the city will see their appraised value reduced from the previous 10% reduction to 20% in the 2024-2025 year by reducing the appraised value of homes across the city.

Homeowners over 65 years of age will see an additional reduction in their appraised value for city property taxes from the current \$50,000 to \$62,500, also in the 2024-2025 tax year, after the change in 2023. Tuesdays vote.

At-Large City Councilman Mike Pusley, sponsored the cut in appraised value for city property taxes with a second from At-Large Councilman Michael Hunter, and the measure was passed unanimously by the council.

Since 1987 the value placed on homesteads in the City of Corpus Christi owned by residents over 65 years of age has been reduced by \$50,000 from the appraised value from the Nueces County Appraisal District. Under the new rules that amount will increase to \$62,500 in 2024. The cuts in appraised value will result in the loss of about \$10 million in the 2024-2025 tax year, according to the city staff.

The reduction in appraised value only applies to city property tax. To calculate the value of a homestead for city property a tax under the new system begin with the appraised value of the home from the Nueces County Appraisal District, subtract 20%, then if the homeowner is over 65 years of age subtract another \$62,500. Divide that number by (\$)100 and multiply by the city tax rate which for the 2023-2024 tax year is \$0.599774 per \$100 valuation; the tax rate for the 2024-2025 tax year will be set in September, 2024.

Bob Hall Pier



The only thing new at Bob Hall Pier in 2023 was this painting of the pier in its early days by Wade Koniakowsky. As the year winds down the building that housed Mikel Mays Beachside Bar & Grill is gone-with plans for the new pier expected to be eighty percent complete in the first quarter of 2024.

Good Morning,

I am delighted to announce that Scott Cross has given us permission for the 8th year to install the Bollard Buddies on the bollards from the Horace Caldwell Pier towards the Jetty.

Our Buddies have multiplied from 82 the first year to 400 last year. We have formed a Bollard Brigade to help look after them, keep them clean and looking good. There are 30 plus volunteers who look have accepted the challenge to keep a close eye on them to be sure there are no problems. We have a couple of volunteers who inspect them each day to be sure the NEW buddies that appear are properly tagged and secured to the bollard.

We welcome anyone who wants to volunteer. We invite the whole community to help with the instillation. We also are happy to have new volunteers join our Bollard Brigade. The Brigade duties include brushing an assigned group of 20 buddies a couple of times a week and reporting any damage so they can be repaired. Our goal is to have them look good and be ready for all the photographers.

We encourage folks to make their own creation and add it to the ever growing collection. The only request is make sure it won’t endanger wildlife or children, and don’t place it on a bollard with a reflector or that has a red or blue painted top.

The buddies have a Facebook page: [yarnbombinginporta](https://www.facebook.com/yarnbombinginporta). There is an additional unemployed bollard buddy album with over 300 photos of their adventures.

I am planning to do the instillation December 27th beginning at 1:00PM, weather permitting. The project goes pretty quickly and it’s usually finished within the hour.

If you have any questions, please contact me Diana Vondra 515 505 1066 or email at vondra922@gmail.com.

Smiles
Diana Vondra

By the numbers... 79 Crashes at Aquarius-SPID intersection since traffic light installed...



Traffic light at Aquarius being installed in 2016

As of January, 2023, there had been a total of 79 crashes at the intersection of Aquarius Street and South Padre Island Drive (Park Road 22) since the installation of the traffic light there in early 2017, according to statistics from the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization. The numbers from the MPO show four of the accidents resulted in serious injury, six were hit and run, 35 occurred in the intersection, and 44 occurred on the roadways entering the intersection.

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Senior Moments

Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Christmas Lights



Dotson's Note: Christmas lights (also known as fairy lights, festive lights or string lights) are lights often used for decoration in celebration of Christmas, often on display throughout the Christmas season including Advent and Christmastide. The custom goes back to when Christmas trees were decorated with candles, which symbolized Christ being the light of the world. The Christmas trees were brought by Christians into their homes in early modern Germany. Thanks to a couple of my friends whose names I will not disclose and Wikipedia for the facts contained in this report and for the photos.



Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree-London England

Christmas trees displayed publicly and illuminated with electric lights became popular in the early 20th century. By the mid-20th century, it became customary to display strings of electric lights along streets and on buildings; Christmas decorations detached from the Christmas tree itself. In the United States and Canada, it became popular to outline private homes with such Christmas lights in tract housing starting in the 1960s. By the late 20th century, the custom had also been adopted in other nations, including outside the Western world, notably in Japan and Hong Kong. It has since spread throughout Christendom.

In many countries, Christmas lights, as well as other Christmas decorations, are traditionally erected on or around the first day of Advent. In the Western Christian world, the two traditional days when Christmas lights are removed are Twelfth Night and Candlemas, the latter of which ends the Christmas-Epiphany season in some denominations. Taking down Christmas decorations before Twelfth Night, as well as leaving the decorations up beyond Candlemas is historically considered to be inauspicious.



The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree in New York City

The Christmas tree was first recorded to be used by the Lutheran Christians in the 16th century, with records indicating that a Christmas tree was placed in the Cathedral of Strasbourg in 1539, under the leadership of the Protestant Reformer, Martin Bucer. In homes, “German Lutherans brought the decorated Christmas tree with them; the Moravians put lighted candles on those trees.» These candles symbolized Jesus as the Light of the World.

The Christmas tree was adopted in upper-class homes in 18th-century Germany, where it was occasionally decorated with candles, which at the time was a comparatively expensive light source. Candles for the tree were glued with melted wax to a tree branch or attached by pins. Around 1890, candleholders were first used for Christmas candles. Between 1902 and 1914, small lanterns and glass balls to hold the candles started to be used. Early electric Christmas lights were introduced with electrification, beginning in the 1880s.

The illuminated Christmas tree became established in the UK during Queen Victoria's reign, and through emigration spread to North America and Australia. In her journal for Christmas Eve 1832, the 13-year-old princess wrote, «After dinner... we then went into the drawing-room near the dining-room. There were two large round tables on which were placed two trees hung with lights and sugar ornaments. All the presents being placed round the trees». Until the availability of inexpensive electrical power

in the early 20th century, miniature candles were commonly (and in some cultures still are) used.

The first known electrically illuminated Christmas tree in the United States was the creation of Edward H. Johnson, an associate of inventor Thomas Edison. While he was vice president of the Edison Electric Light Company, a predecessor of today's Con Edison electric utility, he had Christmas tree light bulbs especially made for him. He proudly displayed his Christmas tree, which was hand-wired with 80 red, white and blue electric incandescent light bulbs the size of walnuts, on December 22, 1882, at his home on Fifth Avenue in New York City.

Local newspapers ignored the story, seeing it as a publicity stunt. However, it was published by a Detroit newspaper reporter, and Johnson has become widely regarded as the Father of Electric Christmas Tree Lights. By 1900, businesses started stringing up Christmas lights behind their windows. Christmas lights were too expensive for the average person; as such, electric Christmas lights did not become the majority replacement for candles until 1930.

In 1895, US President Grover Cleveland sponsored the first electrically lit Christmas tree in the White House. It featured over a hundred multicolored lights. The first commercially produced Christmas tree lamps were manufactured in strings of multiples of eight sockets by the General Electric Co. of Harrison, New Jersey. Each socket accepted a miniature two-candle carbon-filament lamp.

The first recorded uses of Christmas lights on outdoor trees occurred in San Diego in 1904; Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1909; and New York City in 1912. McAdenville, North Carolina, claims to have been the first in 1956. The Library of Congress credits the town for inventing «the tradition of decorating evergreen trees with Christmas lights dates back to 1956 when the McAdenville Men's Club conceived of the idea of decorating a few trees around the McAdenville Community Center.»



Candles On the Tree

However, the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree has had «lights» since 1931, but did not have real electric lights until 1956. Furthermore, Philadelphia's Christmas Light Show and Disney's Christmas Tree also began in 1956.

In Canada, archival photos taken in 1956 around suburban Toronto capture several instances of outdoor evergreens illuminated with Christmas lights. Though General Electric sponsored community lighting competitions during the 1920s, it would take until the mid-1950s for the use of such lights to be adopted by average households.

*The best lights I have seen are at the corner of Whitecap & Isabella on The Island.

Dotson's Other Note: Christmas lights found use in places other than Christmas trees. By 1919, city electrician John Malpiede began decorating the new Civic Center Park in Denver, Colorado, eventually expanding the display to the park's Greek Amphitheater and later to the adjacent new Denver City and County Building - City Hall upon its completion in 1932. Soon, strings of lights adorned mantles and doorways inside homes, and ran along the rafters, roof lines, and porch railings of homes and businesses. In recent times, many city skyscrapers are decorated with long mostly-vertical strings of a common theme, and are activated simultaneously in Grand Illumination ceremonies. I will stop here because I believe most of you Moon Monkeys have had enough for one day. FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Thursdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 – 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397. It's your two hours; please let us hear from you.



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

In the sixteen years since I took over publication of the Island Moon I can't remember a more eventful year on our Island than 2023.

The pace of change has picked up since 2018 when ownership of huge chunks of Island land changed hands after the demise of the old Schlitterbahn waterpark and the new owners have undertaken the two near billion-dollar projects that 2023 saw moving forward. As we look back through the clearness of history a few years down the road I believe 2023 will be seen as a pivotal year on The Island as the new Don Patricio Bridge became a reality and will lead to the connection of Island canals making our Island much more accessible by boat for both residents and visitors moving us in the direction of a resort destination that has been on the drawing board for thirty years.

2024

As things now stand by the end of 2024 work will be well underway or complete on a dry stack boat storage facility next to the Don Patricio Bridge and an accompanying marina as well as a new colony of model homes at the Whitecap North Padre Island site. As 2023 comes to a close the infrastructure at the site is being installed and work on the bulkheads is nearing completion.

Early 2024 plans call for a detour of Commodores Drive to be cut through the Whitecap NPI site to allow for the start of construction of a water exchange bridge that will connect the dead-end canal north of Commodores Drive to the Whitecap NPI site. That waterway will complete the circuit of canals that will be a gamechanger that will move us toward being the Venice of the Texas Coast.

Island Mobility Plan

2024 should also see the completion of the Island Mobility Plan that has been moving through the Island Strategic Action Committee with the help of the staff at the City of Corpus Christi. The plan was stalled for years without the connectivity provided by the Don Patricio Bridge but now the task is

Bicycle Infrastructure



Roadway Infrastructure



Potential Golf Cart/NEV



Pedestrian Infrastructure



Shorty's busts a move!

Port Aransas' Oldest and Friendliest bar moved from its home of five decades to its new location at the corner of Alister Street and Beach Street in 2023 where it is now open.



A little Island history

North Beach in 1941 *It was what Padre Island is today*

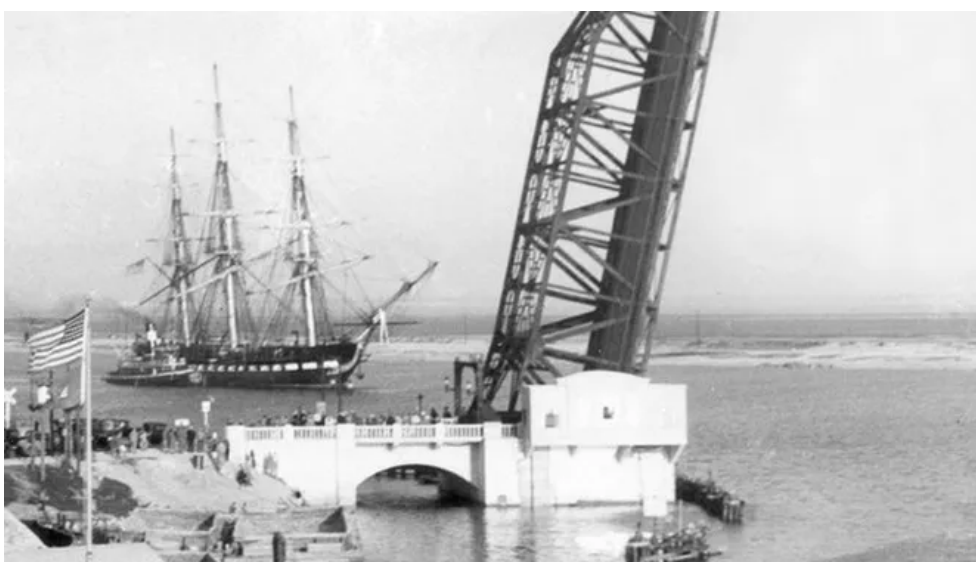
By Bobbie Kimbrell

Editor's note: Bobbie Kimbrell moved to Flour Bluff in 1941 where he was a commercial fisherman until he retired. He lives there today.

In 1941 North Beach was alive with activity. It was the amusement center and playground of the city. There was a saltwater swimming pool next to the Ferris wheel and amusement park and that is where most people swam in Corpus Christi Bay. The seawall was not yet finished and what fishing party boats there were based on the south end of North Beach near the Bascule Draw Bridge leading into the port. They were tied up to the jetty that now houses the Lexington aircraft carrier. There were a few shrimp boats but not many, mostly hand operated and they kept only white shrimp that sold for about 30 cents per pound. There was a theatre and three or four large dance halls that filled up on Saturday night. There were some curio shops near the bridge and some bars that sold beer nearby. Nelson fish market was located near the bridge near the causeway to Portland and a bunch of fishing shacks were on the north-west side of North Beach abutting Nueces Bay. The mosquitos were thick and big as horse flies. About nightfall they rose in swarms, especially during the rainy season. There was a steady stream of Japanese ships in and out of the port hauling oil and scrap iron back to Japan. Other ships hauled a lot of cotton and grain to other nations of the world which provided a lot of work for everybody at the port. A lot of fisherman fished from the jetties catching mostly hard head catfish and a few Sheepshead. A lot of

trout were caught in the winter months near the end of the jetties by the ship channel. In 1941 North Beach was what Padre Island is today, a thriving tourist oriented paradise. The Eden of Texas and still growing for what holds for the future.

North Beach was also a deadly place to be in the event of a hurricane. Back in those days you never knew if a hurricane was coming unless it was reported by a ship in the Gulf of Mexico. The 1919 hurricane drowned nearly everybody on North Beach just a few feet above sea level. I have often wondered why back in those days and even today why the mayor and the city council did not promote and urge fill dirt to be hauled into North Beach on all of the vacant or city owned land. There was an elementary school located about the middle of North Beach and the high school was above the Bluff on Tancahua Street. It was called Northside, one block from Carancahua Street. After the Naval Air Station was finished in 1942 North Beach was alive with sailors with their bell bottom trousers and coats of Navy blue. They, the sailors, brought new life into North Beach as the teenie boppers swooned over them. A few years later a hurricane hit North Bach again and wiped out all of the amusement center and a lot of the property which pretty much ended the heydays of that era. All new buildings were put on stilts and or elevated by fill. Forgot to mention, the teenies were also called Bobby Sockers. What the future holds for North Beach is yet to be determined, hopefully it will not be funded with tax money.



The USS Constitution, Old Ironsides, approaches the Bascule Bridge in February 1932.

\$4 million for Briscoe King Pavilion



The Board of Directors of the Island Tax Increment Redevelopment Zone #2 approved \$4 million in funds for a revitalization of Briscoe King Pavilion in 2023 and the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board approved the first draft of a plan. The design may change as the project moves along but the drawings released this week call for an entirely new building to be constructed adjacent to the existing Briscoe

King Pavilion and most importantly for Island the new building includes a meeting space that would accommodate 300 people with tables and additional people with the tables removed. The plans also call for an air-conditioned catering kitchen in the existing building, a bride room for weddings, and would repurpose the remainder of the existing building.

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Flooding cont. from A1

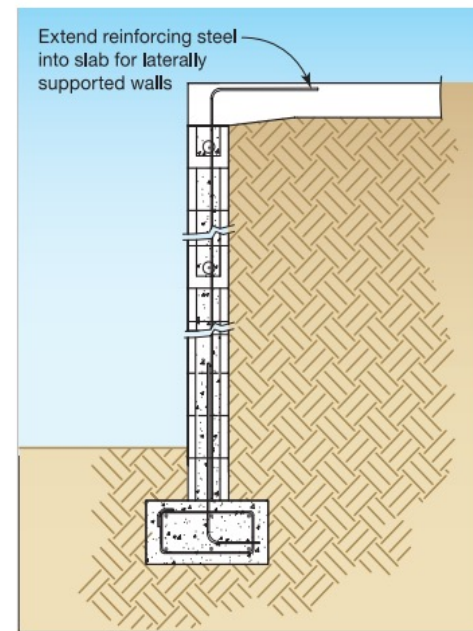
regulations as the elevation of surface water resulting from a flood that has a 1% chance of equaling or exceeding that level in any given year.

This caused flooding in dozens of existing Island homes which had never experience flooding as the elevation of lots in new neighboring houses was raised to meet the new requirements sending rainwater onto the adjacent lots. Currently the city Unified Development Code calls for any new homes to provide an engineer-stamped plan for a drainage to prevent water from running onto adjacent lots before receiving a building permit. The city rules call for runoff from Island lots to sheet drain either to the street for dry lots, or into the adjoining canal for canal lots.

The report presented to the ISAC board at its November meeting by members of the subcommittee, ISAC board members Bob Corbett (Chairman), Marvin Jones, Roy Coons, and Mike Pittman, recommends a change to the city Unified Development Code that would change the way lots under new homes handle drainage.

Under building methods adopted after implementation of the new FEMA flood

map the common practice was to simply use sand to raise the elevation of the entire lot. With a setback distance of five feet between houses this left an angle of descent between the new, higher, lot and older lot of 30 to 40 degrees which was the root cause of the flooding. The new rules are expected to be put in place by the end of 2024.



Permit filed for five-story development at Whitecap-Park Road 22 Corner Residential, retail, office space, two restaurants, roof-top pool



By Dale Rankin

In August, 2023, Axys Capital Credit Fund which owns the land on the southwest corner of the intersection of Whitecap Boulevard and Park Road 22 filed an application for a permit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for an 11.5 acre project at the site that consists of a five-story development, including one, two, three, and four-bedroom units with ground floor retail and office components, and a rooftop pool, restaurant, bar, amenity desk, commercial pad sites. In total, the project includes 245 residential units, 27,802-square-foot of commercial space, 15,645-square-feet of office space, 2,635-square-feet of storage, two restaurant pad sites totaling

11,148-square-foot, parking facilities for 690 vehicles, and various other common areas and amenities.

The plan would fill approximately 8.8 acres of wetlands at the site which according to the submission would be mitigated with 21.4 acres of land owned by Nueces County but located in Kleberg County. The proposed site was turned into man-made wetlands after the area was excavated for fill sand to repair damage to 1100 feet of bulkheads along Cruiser Street caused by Hurricane Allen in 1980.

As 2023 comes to a close no word on when the plan might be put into effect have been announced.



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Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



By Dotson Lewis

Franco Harris Football Blocker & Running Back

Dotson's Note: Franco Harris was born in Fort Dix, New Jersey. His father, Cad Harris, a Black soldier, served in World War II and was stationed in Italy during the war. His mother, Gina Parenti Harris, was a native Italian and became a «war bride», who moved with her husband when he returned to the United States after the end of the war. Thanks to Bill Morgan for the facts and photos contained in this report.



Franco Harris graduated from Rancocas Valley Regional High School in Mount Holly Township, New Jersey, in 1968. He then attended Penn State University, where he played on the Nittany Lions football team. Although he was primarily a blocker for the running back during his first year at Penn State, he amassed a career total of 2,002 yards rushing with 24 touchdowns and averaged over 5 yards per carry, while also catching 28 passes for 352 yards and another touchdown. He led the team in scoring in 1970.

Harris's statistics during his final three seasons at Penn State: 1969: 115 carries for 643 yards and 10 touchdowns, 12 catches for 189 yards; 1970: 142 carries for 675 yards and 8 touchdowns, 6 catches for 66 yards 1971: 123 carries for 684 yards and 6 touchdowns; 10 catches for 97 yards and 1 touchdown.

He was selected 13th overall in the first round of the 1972 NFL Draft by the Pittsburgh Steelers despite assistant personnel director Bill Nunn and head coach Chuck Noll preferring Robert Newhouse. In his first season with the Steelers (1972), Harris was named the NFL Rookie of the Year by *The Sporting News* and NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year by the Associated Press. In that season he gained 1,055 yards on 188 carries, with a 5.6 yards per carry average. He also rushed for 10 touchdowns and caught one touchdown pass. He was popular with Pittsburgh's large Italian-American population: his fans, including "Brigadier General" Frank Sinatra, dubbed themselves "Franco's Italian Army" and wore army helmets with his number on them.



During his rookie season, Harris was a key player in one of professional football's most famous plays, dubbed the "Immaculate Reception" by Pittsburgh sportscaster Myron Cope. In the first round of the playoffs, the Oakland Raiders were leading the Steelers 7–6 with 22 seconds to play when a Terry Bradshaw pass was deflected away from intended receiver John "Frenchy" Fuqua as defender Jack Tatum arrived to tackle him. Harris snatched the ball just before it hit the ground and ran it into the endzone, resulting in the Steelers' first playoff win.

Harris was chosen for nine consecutive Pro Bowls (1972–1980), and was All-Pro in 1977. Harris rushed for more than 1,000 yards in eight seasons, breaking a record set by Jim Brown. The running back tandem of Harris and Rocky Bleier combined with a strong defense to win four Super Bowls following the 1974, 1975, 1978, and 1979 seasons. On January 12, 1975, he was the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl IX; in that game he rushed for 158 yards and a touchdown on 34 carries for a 16–6 win over the Minnesota Vikings. Harris was the first African American as well as the first Italian-American to be named Super Bowl MVP. Harris was a major contributor for the Steelers in all of their first four Super Bowl wins. His Super Bowl career totals of 101 carries for 354 yards are records and his four career rushing touchdowns are tied for

the second-most in Super Bowl history.

Harris claimed that he extended his career and thus his contribution to the team's objectives (including four Super Bowl victories) by avoiding unnecessary contact.



Harris in Super Bowl XIV

With the retirement of O. J. Simpson after the 1979 season, Harris became the career rushing leader among active players. Following the 1983 season, Harris and Walter Payton were both closing in on Jim Brown's NFL rushing record, and Harris asked the Rooney family for a pay raise. Believing that Harris was on the downside of his career, they refused and Harris threatened to hold out. The Steelers released him during training camp in 1984 and he then signed with the Seattle Seahawks during the 1984 season. He played just eight games with the team, gaining only 170 yards before retiring (192 yards short of Jim Brown's record).

In his 13 professional seasons, Harris gained 12,120 yards (then 3rd all-time) on 2,949 carries, a 4.1 yards per carry average, and scored 91 rushing touchdowns (then also 3rd). He caught 307 passes for 2,287 yards, a 7.4 yards per reception average, and nine receiving touchdowns. Harris's 12,120 career rushing yards rank him 12th all-time in the NFL, while his 91 career rushing touchdowns rank him 10th all-time tied with Jerome Bettis.



Franco Harris-October 2022

Dotson's Other Note: Harris died in his sleep at his home in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, on December 20, 2022, at age 72, three days before the 50th anniversary of the "Immaculate Reception". Harris's death was considered sudden, as he had been active on social media just days before his death and had spoken to visitors at the Heinz History Center the day before his death including a live interview with KD-KA-TV from the Heinz History Center. He was set to attend a ceremony at halftime during a Steelers game against the Las Vegas Raiders on December 24, 2022, to retire his jersey number. Hours before his death, Harris recorded an interview with Steelers defensive end Cameron Heyward for his podcast in what would be his last public interview, during which he ironically commented about how he was «feeling good» and happy to have made it to the 50th anniversary of the «Immaculate Reception». His cause of death was later ruled as natural causes. Immediately after his death, many gave public tributes. Terry Bradshaw, who had found out about Harris's death from his wife after seeing a text message from Mel Blount, had just seen Harris two weeks prior, filming material related to the Immaculate Reception's anniversary and was in a "state of shock".



By Andy Purvis

Gridiron Nicknames

As Super Bowl LVIII gets closer everyday, I can't help but think of all the nicknames of some of the greatest football players of all-time. Nicknames are considered a right of passage in the NFL. You must earn your nickname. Even if they are funny, they are said with respect. Nicknames place players at a higher level of affection. Sometimes if you achieve greatness, your nickname may last forever. The good teams and most extraordinary players all have nicknames. Here are a few of the nicknames I read about in the newspapers as a young boy, before football was televised: Bears' linebacker, Clyde "Bulldog" Turner was tough against the run. Chicago's Harold "Red" Grange was known as "The Galloping Ghost" and received his nickname because no one could catch him. Chicago Bears' fullback, "Bronko" Nagurski was a man among boys. Washington's quarterback was called "Slingin'" Sammy Baugh because of his ability to throw accurate passes downfield. Rams' Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch had an unusual running style, and Lions' cornerback, Dick "Night Train" Lane, received his nickname because of his fear of flying. Lane rode a night train to all away games, as the rest of his team flew.

The stories that are attached to the nicknames are also fun and worth telling. Here are a few you may have never heard of. Cincinnati Bengals' quarterback, Kenny Anderson, was called "Candlelight" said wide receiver, Chris Collinsworth, "Because when he received one blow, he was out." Rams quarterback, Pat Haden, was called "Rhodes" by his teammates as in Rhodes Scholar, because he knew the answer to everything. Pittsburgh Steelers' running back, Rocky Bleier, was referred to as "Prune Juice" because he was slow and steady. Green Bay running back Paul Hornung was called "The Golden Boy" by the press but was known as "Goat Shoulders" to his teammates, because of his build. One of Hornung's teammates, Ray Nitschski, was called "The Judge" because he sat on the bench so long at the beginning of his career that he said he felt like a judge. Wes Welker received his nickname "Slot Machine" for his ability to line up in the slot and catch passes. My pal linebacker, Shane Nelson, of the Buffalo Bills was called "Dr. No" as in no hole, no gain. Robstown's very own Gene Upshaw was nicknamed "Highway 63" by his teammates. Upshaw wore the #63 and had no problems creating a lane for the Raiders' running backs. Rams' tackle, Merlin Olsen, was called "Muley" by his teammates because he was raised on a farm and was stubborn. The media referred to Rams' David Jones as "The Deacon," but he was also called "Swamp Boy," by his teammates. The grace and running style of Lance Alworth earned him the title of "Bambi."

What Houston Oilers' fan can forget wide receiver Billy "White Shoes" Johnson and of course, Oakland's Dave "The Ghost" Casper. Chicago Bears' "Iron Mike" Ditka, Cowboys' "Bullet Bob" Hayes, and Baltimore Colts' Lenny "Spats" Moore are some of my all-time favorites. I also loved Denver defensive end, Rich "Tombstone" Jackson.

Gayle Sayers played at the University of Kansas and became known as the "Kansas Comet" for his speed. Eugene "Mercury" Morris terrified defenses from the Miami Dolphins' backfield for many years, while Cowboys' Daryl "Moose" Johnston led the way for "Touchdown" Tony Dorsett. Another Chicago Bear running back that wowed everyone was known as "Sweetness." Walter Payton would earn this nickname because of his slick running style and flamboyant personality. The 49er's Joe "The Jet" Perry was well known, as was Alan "The Horse" Ameche of the Colts.

Houston Oiler's Earl Campbell would carry the name of his hometown in his nickname as he was referred to as "The Tyler Rose." The Miami's backfield duo of Larry Csonka and Jim Kiick were known as "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid." "The Diesel," known as John Riggins of the Washington Redskins, was fun to watch. The "A-Train," Mike Alstott of the Tampa Bay Bucs, was as hard to bring down as a freight train. L.A. Ram's linebacker, Jack "Hacksaw" Reynolds, got his nickname by cutting a 1953 Chevy in half with a hacksaw after a loss. Ted "Mad Stork" Hendricks received his nickname because of his unusual height, 6'7", as a linebacker for the Steelers, and the king of linebackers may very well have been New York Giant's "L.T.," otherwise named Lawrence Taylor. Cowboys Cliff Harris was called "Captain Crash" because he ran into everyone on his team or theirs and Charlie Waters nicknamed Dallas cornerback Aaron Mitchell, "A.M. P.M." "If he hit you in the morning, you didn't wake up until the afternoon," said Waters. Oakland's defensive back, Jack Tatum, carried the moniker of "The Assassin" because of his brutality while tacking a ball carrier. Defensive tackle, Randy White, played for the Dallas Cowboys and became known as the "Manster," (Half Man, Half Monster). "Mean Joe" Greene may have the most recognized nickname, thanks to a Coke commercial. William "Refrigerator" Perry not only played tackle for the Chicago Bears, but also ran a few touchdowns in near the goal line. Cowboys offensive tackle, Flozell "The Hotel" Adams was 6'7" and weighed 340 pounds, or about the same amount as a small hotel. Baltimore Colts' tackle, Art Donovan, was simply called "Fatso" because of his large frame, and the nickname for his teammate, "Big Daddy" Gene Lipscomb, speaks for itself. Linebacker "Chuck" Bednarik of the Eagles was called "Concrete Charlie" because of his hard hits. Don't forget Alex Karras who was nicknamed the "Mad Duck" because of his short legs. Deion "Prime Time" Sanders of the Cowboys had the ability to come up with a big play when needed. Making big plays from the wide receiver position was what he did best and Michael Irvin of the Dallas Cowboys would be referred to as the "Playmaker."

"Broadway Joe" was none other than Joe Namath, who quarterbacked the New York Jets to the AFC's first Super Bowl win. "Joe Cool" described S.F. 49ers Quarterback, Joe Montana, who had no problem staying cool under pressure. Ken "The Snake" Stabler was a fine quarterback and hard to sack for the Oakland Raiders and "Captain Comeback" was given to Dallas quarterback, Roger Staubach for his ability to make good things happen at the end of the game. Some of the more recent nicknames that have retired include "TB12" for quarterback Tom Brady of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Of course Pittsburgh quarterback, Ben Roethlisberger, was called simply "Big Ben." And last but not least, we had "Gronk," a shorter version of his real name, Rob Gronkowski.

These are just a few of the many nicknames. There are literally hundreds more. Who are your favorites? You can send your favorites to Dennis & Andy's Q & A Session Facebook page or email me at purvis.andy@mygrande.net.

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By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks

Ho Ho Ho! Merry belated Christmas. Last year at this time we were dealing with Winter Storm Elliott that dropped temps below freezing for a couple days and was reminiscent of Winter Storm Yuri. I lost a washing machine on my porch and my plumeria had to come inside and live in the kitchen for a few days. If you couldn't move your plumeria inside, they took another step back down into the ground. Lets hope that we can make it through this season without another freeze. One of these days I'd like to put the plumeria in the ground.

I hope y'all had a great 2023, we made forward progress on a lot of projects this past year on the Island. Soon enough, water will be flowing under the Don Patricio bridge, and we will have some real connectivity. The studies that were accomplished are now finally public knowledge, and things are beginning in earnest to get the flows going. I visited with Diver Dave the other day regarding the culverts under Encantada, and he let me know that there are two 28" culverts running parallel under the road for 106'. The issue is that on the north side, there is a "plug" of sand that is preventing the pipes from fully flowing. He's had a proposal into the PIPOA to clean them again, and although the water is the coldest of the year, it's probably a good time.

The beach has been yielding some good beach combing finds lately with the changing of the north and south longshore currents. Tess Clark has been posting a lot of good stuff she's been finding south of the Structure Formerly Known as Bob Hall, and Jace is finding some good stuff up north. Mom and dad are down for the week, and I'll try to get them out for a bit. Curtis says that driving is pretty tough if you head down south down the Seashore due to the high tides. Make sure to top off your gas tank and be prepared to slog off the beach on the high road in 4wd. Get out there while the crowds are down.

Well folks, it's a sportsman world right now. The ducks are flying, deer are chasing each other around in the middle of the day, and fishing is pretty good if you can find a window (like this coming Saturday). Hope Santa Claus was good to you with lots of great toys. Have a Happy New Year, be safe on the roads please, and send me your pics at tarponchaser@mail.com Thanks to Dale and Jan for putting together the best paper in the Coastal Bend and thanks to all my fellow Moon Monkey writers. I'll see you next year On the Rocks.

TPWD Seeks Input on Proposed Changes to Spotted Seatrout Bag, Size Limits



The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is seeks public input on proposed rules which, if passed, would change bag and size limits for spotted seatrout on the Texas coast. The proposed rules would reduce the spotted seatrout bag limit to three fish and restrict the allowable size to 15-20 inches, with one fish over 25 inches allowed daily.

The rule responds to public scoping and survey efforts by the department which found that many anglers wanted to see more restrictive measures to improve the fishery. TPWD encourages the public to provide comment on the proposed regulation changes at one of several public hearings hosted on the coast, virtually or over the phone. The proposals will then be considered for final action by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission during the January 2024 Commission Meeting.

Opportunities to provide comments for or against these proposals include:

Public hearings- TPWD Coastal Fisheries staff will host several public hearings on the coast to receive input from anglers and constituents concerning the proposed regulation changes

- Jan. 9, 6-8 p.m. at the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Natural Re-

sources Building, 6300 Ocean Dr., Corpus Christi.

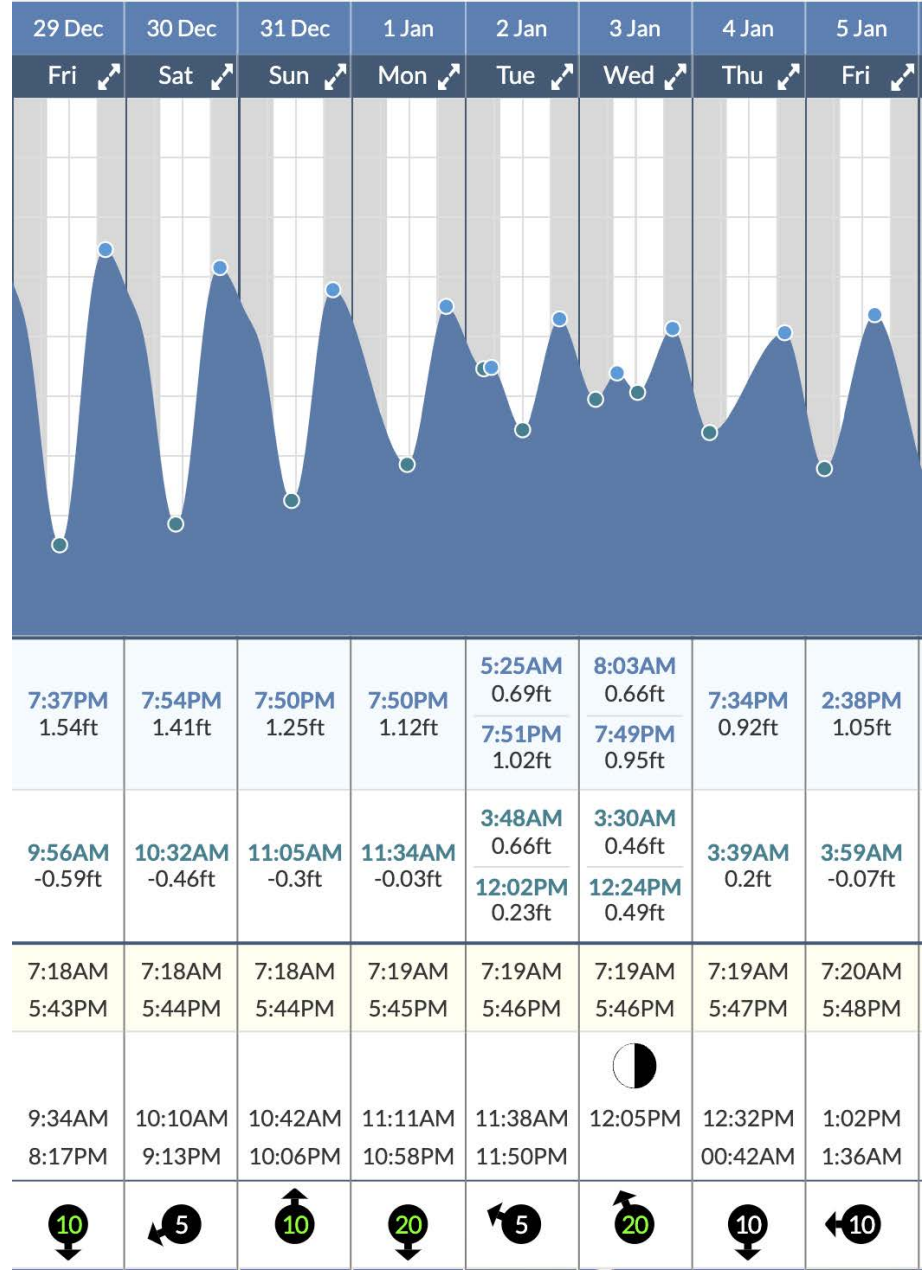
- Jan. 9, 6-8 p.m. at the Greater Chamber of Harlingen, 311 E. Tyler Ave., Harlingen.
- Jan. 9, 6-8 p.m. at the Bauer Exhibit Building, 305 Henry Barber Way, Port Lavaca.
- Jan. 9, 6-8 p.m. at the Saltwater Pavilion at Rockport Beach Park, 210 Seabreeze Dr., Rockport.
- Jan. 10, 6-8 p.m. at the Bob Bowers Civic Center, 3401 Cultural Center Dr., Port Arthur.
- Jan. 11, 6-8 p.m. at the Nessler Civic Center Captain's Room, 2010 5th Ave N., Texas City.

Online- Provide official public comments on the changes until Jan. 23 on the TPWD public comment page.

Phone or email- The Coastal Fisheries Division at 512-389-8575 or cfish@tpwd.texas.gov.

Zoom webinar- TPWD Coastal Fisheries staff will present proposed fishing regulation changes and answer questions from 6-8 p.m. Jan. 10 in an online webinar. TPWD will also post the webinar on TPWD's YouTube channel and Facebook page.

Tides of the Week





By Joey Farah
Farah's Fishing Adventures




We are smashing trout limits on soft plastics every day! This was two back to back sow trout our good luck charm brought to hand this week along the King Ranch Shoreline.

We are sending out and welcoming in 2023&2024 with some excellent fishing! Gamefish numbers are steady in our area. The Laguna Madre and Baffin Bay are blessed to be an ecosystem that has both a resident population of fish as well as being a system that gets influx from the other areas of the Texas Coast. This is why we bounced back so quickly after the big freeze a few years back, trout came in from the upper coast. This is great news for us but in other parts of Texas there is a great absence of gamefish. Looking ahead into 2024 there will be some new trout regulation changes. There are pretty solid accounts of the new rules being 3 trout total between 15-20" with one trout over 25" a day to count towards the limit. This is all a result of the massive strain on the trout populations with the freeze and fishing pressure. It's a lot of politics that come down to a balance between harvest and Mother Nature.

We have been experiencing some great 50-100 fish days with east limits of a lot trout. Our bigger fish are coming on our days when we have only three anglers and are able to fish shallow water. With four or five rods casting and lures hitting the water larger mature fish hear the cast as we near them. We are quickly approaching the coldest time of year. This is also a time when the bay waters flip in temperatures and the deeper water will not always be the warmest. Cold water will work its way down to the deep pockets and in these sunny days the shallows warm up in the sun. Bait and gamefish will move towards the edges of shallow flats and find the spots where warm water flows off into the transition zones. Anglers should look for soft muddy bottoms when it's cold and sandy pot holes in 4' of water when it's warm.

finding good catches of drum and redfish with some trout to mix. If you really want to boost your fishing this year make it easy to go, come slide your boat into a lift at MARKER 37 Marina! All you have to do is roll up and climb in the boat and lower it into the water. The marina has everything from gas to bait and everything in between. You can forget about trailering likes at the ramp and traffic. Live shrimp is hard to come by this time of year but just take a look over the rail as you go over the bridge and you should be able to see that white shrimp flag flying when we have bait.

Happy New Year everyone and thank you for all of the years of love and suport. I love having local Island Anglers on my boat ever to learn about their beautiful back yard. With live among the best fishing of the entire Texas Coast, all within a short walk in any direction on the Island. Follow all of our catches on FACEBOOK AT JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING. 361-442-8145



Kent with one of his nice slot trout caught on this Purple Reign DOWN SOUTH LURES.

MARKER 37 MARINA REPORT

WEATHER CONTINUES TO BE GREAT!! Crowds are down and the fishing is good with lots of trout action along the King Ranch Shoreline in 3-4' of water. The Boat Hole area on the North side of the JFK Causeway is great for redfish on live shrimp and popping corks drift fishing around the small islands. Fisherman using dead and live shrimp along the ICW Canal have been



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Nature Notes

Symbiotic Relationships of Birds

By: Ashley Van Wieren



Common Nighthawk

When we think of different species interacting in nature, we might tend to think of predators and prey. But there are many other connections in our ecosystems that go beyond that. As organisms evolve in close proximity to each other over time, they can form close relationships that benefit one or more parties; this is called symbiosis. There are three major types of symbiotic relationships. These types are mutualism (where both species benefit), commensalism (where one species benefits and the other is neither positively or negatively affected) and parasitism (where one species benefits at the expense of its host). Animals, plants, fungi, bacteria, and viruses can all have symbiotic relationships with each other. Let's explore the ways that birds exhibit each of the three basic types of symbiotic relationships. What does a crocodile that's not afraid of the dentist, and a bird that's not afraid of a crocodile have in common? A mutualistic relationship! In possibly one of the most daring displays of symbiosis, the Egyptian Plover can be spotted in the mouth of a Nile Crocodile, pecking at its teeth. The secret to this stunt is that the Egyptian plover picks out meat that has been stuck in the carnivorous crocodile's teeth. This provides food for the plover, and a much-needed dental cleaning for the crocodile. After all, who would turn down a free trip to the dentist? This mutualistic behavior benefits both species. Commensalism can be found in neotropical forests in Central and South America as army ants storm the forest floor. Nearby small invertebrates flee the approaching

swarm. This gives several species of ant-bird, an ant-following specialist, a chance to swoop in and catch the prey being flushed out. Some ant-following flocks rely only somewhat on the ants, doing some hunting on their own, while others rely completely on the insects. The relationship between army ants and ant-following birds is an example of commensalism. This is because the birds benefit with a range of tasty forest meals, whereas the army ants are neither harmed nor benefited. What is the first thing that comes to mind when we think of parasitism? Perhaps external parasites like fleas or ticks, or maybe an internal parasite like roundworms? It may come as a surprise that birds can be parasites too. Brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) and Common cuckoo birds (*Cuculus canorus*) are brood parasites. A brood parasite is a bird that lays its eggs in the nests of other bird species. The other bird species, called a host, then raises these eggs and chicks. The brown-headed cowbirds and common cuckoos benefit from this relationship by saving time and energy that would normally be spent on child rearing. The host bird is negatively affected by having its time and energy spent raising another chick rather than being able to dedicate its full care to its own offspring. Birds such as the Egyptian plover, antbirds, and brown-headed cowbirds show us that interspecies relationships can be beneficial or harmful and much more complicated than you might expect!

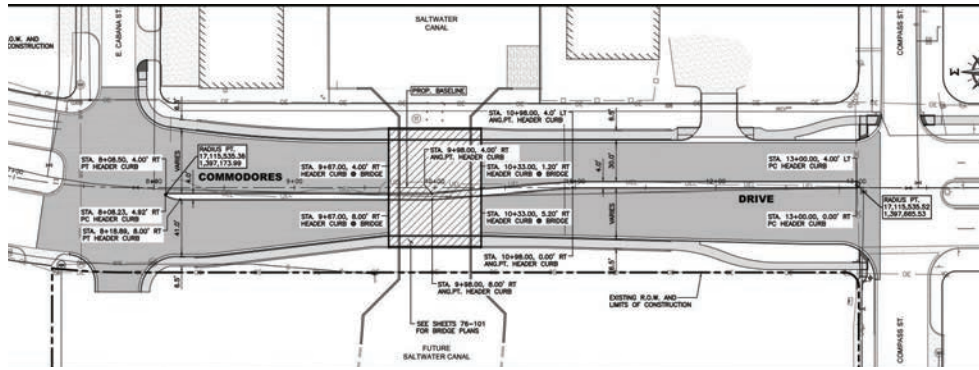


Eastern Phoebe nest with Brown headed Cowbird eggs



A badger made an appearance on PINS this year.

New Bridge for Commodores Drive



Plans for a new water exchange bridge on Commodores Drive were approved in 2023. The bridge design is part of a larger plan to extend the canal which currently dead-ends on the 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 new Don Patri-cio water exchange bridge. The bridge, estimated to cost about \$9 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. 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.

Paving of "Paper Streets" could begin in 2024

Streets that exist only on paper were to be the retail district

After years of inactivity regarding the paving of what have come to be known as the Paper Street on Padre Island 2024 may be the year they finally get paved.

When City of Corpus Christi officials approved funding from the Island Tax Increment Refinance Zone #2 (TIRZ #2) in mid-2023 buried in the paperwork was a mention of paving long-designed but never finished streets running parallel to SPID between Verdemar Drive south, to State Highway 361 near the Packery Channel Bridge which would provide access to more than 40 undeveloped lots there were intended to be the Island downtown retail district. Due to a wrinkle in the city process for funding new streets those streets have never been built in spite of underground utilities already being in place. Under the city plan new streets are paid for by private developers and eligible for reimbursement from the City Development Fund, however, since the lots along the so-called Paper Streets are each owned separately there is no single, large property owner will to step forward with the original funded needed to build them.

The original design of Island streets what is now called Sand Dollar Street was to run from Verdemar Drive south to State Highway 361 taking some traffic pressure off of the SPID main corridor. Along the way, behind Scuttlebutt's Seafood Bar & and the Pelican Lounge, the Island's original designers planned an area for retail and commercial space. Construction on the utilities for the three streets originally designed to run through the area Sand Dollar Street, Ocotal Drive, Tortugas Avenue, was halted with but not before sewer and water lines, including some fire hydrants, were built with a four-inch gas line installed in March, 2023 and are still in place today awaiting the streets and adjoining development they were designed to serve.

The planned routes for the streets are visible as four-wheel drivers use them as shortcuts, and even the curb cuts where the streets were expected to enter State Highway 361 and Whitecap are in place - exits waiting for streets. The original developers of Padre Island had not finished the three streets before the area was annexed by the City of Corpus Christi which for almost forty years has ignored them. But with the recent addition of an exit from the Lake Padre development onto State Highway 361 and a new, platted street set to connect the Speedy Stop now under construction next to American Bank to the highway as well the need to pave the streets has taken on a new urgency. The new roadways south of SH 361 mean traffic in the area along SH 361 between SPID and

Packery Channel will increase dramatically and the need for the connection between the highway and Verdemar Drive and which under the vote taken by the board of TIRZ #2 on Tuesday can be funded through that funding. Texas Department of Transportation has set aside \$1.5 million for a redesign of the intersection but no design contract has been issued.

Problem dates to Island development. The problem began as a solution to previous problem; a lack of park space in the city. Developers in Corpus Christi in the 1960s and 1970s could either pay a Development Fee to the city, or set aside land dedicated for parks. Island developers chose to set aside large chunks of parkland in lieu of paying the fee. The developers also had the option of increasing the amount of dedicated Island park land or building sidewalks and chose that option that was cheaper at the time of dedicating 49 acres of parkland and accounting for the lack of sidewalks along most Island streets. Building sidewalks across private property now would require the use of eminent domain and would be prohibitively expensive.

In other areas of the city funds from the Development Fee are placed in a non-interest bearing account and used to pay for new streets. As the owners of lots along the new streets developed their property and hooked into the utilities they paid an initiation fee which was used to re-pay the money in the fund from the Development Fee. When the last dollar was gone from the development fund it corresponded with the development of the last vacant lot on the new street. It was a pay-forward system which worked in most areas of the city but without Island developers paying the fee for the past three decades there has been no funding source to establish the account to build the original streets; no funds, no construction of the Paper Streets. There is currently no money in the city Development Fund and city officials are searching for a new system to fund new infrastructure.

35 years of inattention. There has been an ongoing debate at City Hall, still unresolved, about whether street bonds can be used to build already-platted but unconstructed streets. New streets are routinely built from the planning stages on with street bonds, but, on at least on Padre Island, no bonds have ever been used for Paper Streets. The Aquarius Extension, built with bonds from 2004, was considered an extension of the existing Aquarius Street rather than a new thoroughfare. But for almost forty years that has not happened and a handful of Island streets remain ruts in the sand, Paper Streets and nothing more, but after Tuesday vote on the use of TIRZ #2 funds that may finally change.



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Business Briefs

By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

Merida’s Tapas & Cantina will open with a party on New Year’s Eve. The four course dinner will be prepared by award winning Chef Gail Huesmann and includes one drink. The 5 piece Colao Band from San Antonio will provide the music 9 pm - 2 am. There will be an early bird seating at 6 pm and main seating at 8 pm.



Merida's Colao Band



Seafood Paella

Hardknocks Sports Grill invites everyone to come to their New Year’s Eve party with special guest the Chainlinks providing music 8 pm to midnight. There will be an open dance floor. Seating is limited so call 589-4398 to reserve your table for four. The cost is \$100 which includes a free appetizer of your choice and a bottle of champagne. Free Breakfast Taco Bar at 11 pm. Bar seats are \$15/person.

A Noon Year’s Eve Celebration will be held on Sunday, December 31st at Roberts Point Park in Port A. Music, snacks and games will be provided and you are welcome to bring an adult beverage. This is a free event.

The Pearl New Year’s Eve dinner package for two is a four course meal. For starter choose shrimp cocktail or half dozen oysters, salad with fermented honey & poppy seed dressing, surf & turf with 10 ounce filet mignon and Maine lobster tail, potato and asparagus sides and for dessert strawberry cheese-cake trifle Chantilly cream. Robert McCoy will provide the music 5 - 9 pm.



Chef Rob from The Pearl



Captain’s Table Diner is delayed due to no power. AEP said that the current transformer is too old and needs to be replaced. So without power work that needs to be done like the plumbing and electrical cannot get accomplished. So that is why you have not seen workers on the property but looks like you will soon. Owner Minos said that once he has power the work should go fast. Minos has made a final decision on the

name. His grandfather who supported his family with fishing in a small coastal town in Greece had the nickname Captain. Minos has an old photograph of Captain wearing his favorite hat and his silhouette will be on the menu and restaurant decor. The restaurant is the blue building at 15541 SPID.

James Jensen, CPA has joined the Penn Thomas CPA firm that has offices on the Island and at 711 N. Carancahuae, Suite 1818. James has taxation experience that ranges from the smallest mom-and-pop businesses to publicly traded companies. He is passionate about helping small business owners grow their business. James’ wife Lauren recently opened her optometric practice on the Island. You can spot them walking their three dogs in the neighborhood or on the beach. To schedule an appointment call 361-884-6346.



Party Plunge Pools start at \$15,999 for a size 12’x6’ 3’2” deep and go up to \$21,999 for a 20’x10’ 4’7” deep. They are a woven fiberglass shell with three feet of concrete deck, pump, filter, timer, two jets, skimmer and color changing LED lights. Some of the

options offered are heater, handrails and decking. Full installation is included in the price. Call 361-739-7046 or visit their website.

A Nite at the Races was an Island favorite fundraiser for years and now that we have a Padre Island Rotary Club again it is back. It was originally held at Padre Isles Country Club and later Schlitterbahn where the Whitecap Development is now located. You watch actual horse races that you bet on with funny money for a chance to win prizes. There will be contests for best female derby hat and best male derby attire. It will be held on Thursday, April 11th 6 - 10 pm at Hardknocks. Attendance is limited to 200 so it’s never too early to get tickets. General admission is \$50, VIP reserved tables are \$50 for four and \$100 for eight. The cost is \$200 to sponsor a race. Visit their Facebook page to purchase.

Random Stuff

Oreo announced they are adding two permanent additions. The Peanut Butter Cakesters that are soft chocolate flavored snack cakes and Gluten-Free Golden hit the stores on January 3rd.



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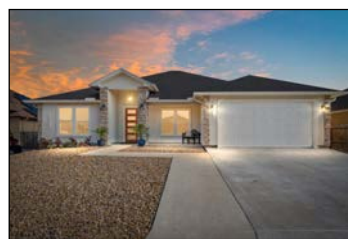
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15022 Aruba Dr. 5/3 Rare island find! An attached half-plex, fully furnished, sleeps 16. Shares an inground concrete heated pool. **\$599,900** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



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



14911 Village Beach Dr. 2/2 gorgeous poolside townhome just a quick walk to the beach! 1041 sq. ft. & fully furnished. **\$430,000**. Call **Kim Mogford** at 361-434-8522.



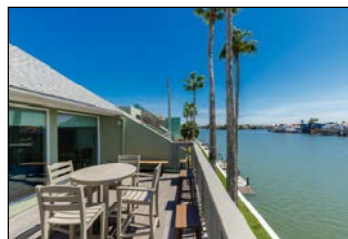
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15005 Windward Dr. #214 Fully furnished 2 bed, 1 bath, 955 sq ft Surfside Condo walking distance from the beach/seawall. **\$237,000** Call **Madeline Casey** at 361-443-0687.



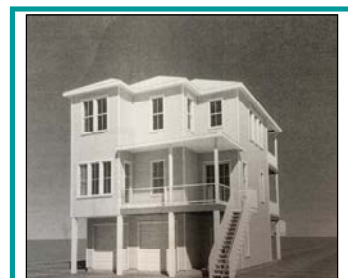
13965 Lanyard 4/3/2 2,502 sq.ft., stainless appliances, quartz & tile throughout plus lots of extras. **\$585,000**. Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914 or **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499.



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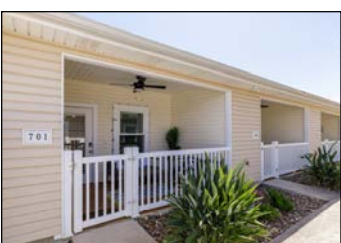
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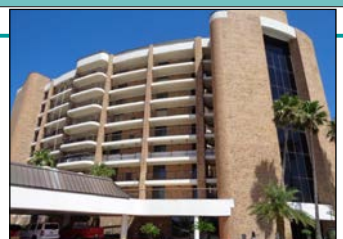
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These Islanders are celebrating their fiftieth anniversary this week. This is their engagement picture from 1973. Can you guess who they are?



Evelyn Pless Schberth took the Island Moon to Key West for the Holidays



Rich and Penny Burns took the Moon to Middlebury, Vermont for the holidays



Mermaid found on San Jose' Island April 2023. Photo by Jace Tunnell



Joe Farah landing a nice Redfish.



The future of the restaurant structure at Bob Hall Pier is now foggy

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Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

The English rock band The Who has a classic ode to the cultural revolution of the late sixties and early seventies, *Won't Get Fooled Again*. Yet, the song ends with the cynical observation, "meet the new boss, same as the old boss." The song recognizes that as much as we talk about change, sometimes nothing seems any different.

For some this will be a painfully agonizing reality in 2024, especially those confronted with health issues. For others, maybe it will be a source of comfort, as chaos gives way to routine.

We certainly experience great change in our lives. Some of it wanted, some not wanted. Yet, the status quo can have a powerful hold over us. This is true even if the status quo is not what we want or what we need, in our lives and relationships, in our community and nation.

Something like 40% of us will make one or more resolutions as we move from the old year to the new year. The most common are the usual suspects: lose weight, pay off debt, save money, get a better job, get in shape, eat right, drink less alcohol, quit smoking. Younger adults are the most likely group to make resolutions. Of course, a lot of people who make resolutions will break them. Yet, the ones who explicitly make resolutions are ten times more likely to attain their goals than people who don't explicitly make resolutions.

There is something about a new year that is refreshing and hopeful. It's the idea of starting over, a fresh start, another chance. As humans, we are drawn to the cycles of promise and renewal. We need the promise of a better day; it's a source of hope. Hope is vital to our well-being. We can move into the new year with wisdom from the past which allows us to live with deeper understanding and greater humanity.

Moving into a new year is one of those times we think we might be able to get ahead of the curve – to get on top of the wave. We think we can be more purposeful,

prepared, organized, etc. We like to think we can become more proactive rather than reactive.

At the brink of a new year, I think of the exchange between Alice and Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Alice asked, "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," answered Cat. "I don't much care where," said Alice. Then Cat said, "Then it doesn't matter which way you go." "So long as I get somewhere," interjected Alice. "Oh, you're sure to do that," said Cat, "if you only walk long enough."

Here on the dawn of a new year, Cat can help us catch a wave of purpose. There are life events that will force themselves upon that will require wisdom and hope, patience and perseverance. Events that we will have little to no control over.

But there will be other opportunities in the coming year. Losing weight, eating better, exercising, and such, have their place. Go for it! This year, perhaps we should also resolve to love without fear, love without narrowness, love without limit. Our hearts would grow with the very real possibilities of forgiveness and mercy, healing and reconciliation, peace and justice in our families and relationships, in our communities and nation, in our lives and in the world. This would be good change, a new status quo.

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

Choose kindness, compassion, and love; do justice and make peace; welcome the stranger.
pastor@islandpresby.com



Flamingos in Port A!

When Hurricane Idalia that swept across Florida in late August it blew this pair of flamingoes into the Port Aransas Nature Preserve. Like many of us who came down for a few days and never left the birds seem to like it and are sticking around.
Photo by Paula Baker

Candidates for Padre Isles Property Owners Association Board of Directors

Candidates for the Padre Isles Property Owners Association received eight Candidate application resumes for the 2024 Board election, to be held at the March 23, 2024 Annual Meeting. Three of seven Board of Directors seats are up for election. The seats are currently held by Drew Diggins, Ray Singleton and David Rossi, respectively.

The candidates for the upcoming 2024 Board elections are:

Charles Cantu, Jr.

Chul Kim McGuire

Drew Diggins

George Reed

Kevin Tansey

Michael Gdfula

Ray Singleton


Thomas Gottemoller

The 2024 Board Candidates' resumes may be viewed on the Community Website: www.padreislespoa.net.



Interesting watercraft washing up on our beaches this year.
Lower Photo by Nick Meyer

We are excited to announce the joining of James Jensen, CPA to the Penn Thoms CPA firm.



JAMES JENSEN

is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA). His taxation experience ranges from the smallest mom-and-pop businesses to publicly traded companies. James received his Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Memphis in 2016 and was licensed as a CPA in 2017. James also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Baylor University with a double major in Biology and History and a minor in Chemistry. Since entering public accounting in 2014, James quickly advanced and in 2020 was named Income Partner at a Top 25 CPA firm. James left that firm in 2021 to pursue his dream of starting his own public accounting firm. James is passionate about helping other small business owners to not only be compliant with Federal and State taxation regulations, but also to understand their financial position and help grow successful businesses.

When not practicing accounting, James and his wife, Lauren, spend time with family and friends on the South Texas coast. They moved to Corpus Christi, TX in 2018 to live out their dream of living on the beach. James is an avid fisherman and enjoys kayak fishing for Redfish and Speckled Trout. The Jensens have three dogs, Madison, Odin, and Iris. They can often be found walking the neighborhood on Padre Island. The Jensens attend Padre Island Baptist Church and enjoy learning and teaching others in the Word of our savior Jesus Christ.

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8			4					2	1
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Knuckle-Cracker

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Mind-Numbing Frustration

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Brain-Buster

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			4	3			8	
					2	9		5
							4	1

Island Crossword

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				
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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		

Across

1. Father's concern?
5. Socked item?
10. Downhill aids
14. Unoriginal reply
15. LEM word
16. Astronomer Sagan
17. Shrewd investment
20. Haw companion
21. Bridge table seat
22. Way to go
23. Rate of progress
24. Speak with spotty knowledge
26. Warship assemblage
29. Loses leaves or hair
30. Mean partner
31. Word with tag or booth
32. Public transport
35. Value appraisal
39. Engage in espionage
40. Creeping plants
41. Citrus hybrid
42. Haughty gaze
43. Fragrant resin
45. Stays on
48. Mammoth tooth
49. Certain graduate exams
50. It may stop a runaway
51. "That's yucky!"
54. Like a sound investment
58. Slight advantage
59. Indian princess (Var.)
60. First gardener
61. Bassoon accessory
62. Fed the kitty
63. Word with ghost or boom

Down

1. Engage, as gears
2. Topmost spot
3. Empty pretense
4. Scale sound
5. Llama kin
6. Betty or Barton, e.g.
7. Wrinkle one's brow
8. Lancelot du ____
9. Poetic before
10. Moves hastily
11. Out of commission
12. Fit to be tied
13. More cunning
18. Promising clue
19. Wall Street type
23. Twinge of distress
24. Chases away
25. Mouth-watering reading material
26. Priestly vestments
27. Harvest grain
28. It comes before happy returns
29. Less vocal
31. Is a busybody
32. Computer software glitches
33. Pacific Ten sch.
34. Milk label word, perhaps
36. Polish off
37. Type of rack
38. Kind of mail
42. Like margarita glasses
43. Held up?
44. Stat equivalent
45. Crew member
46. Wear away
47. Homer Simpson's wife
48. Scores in sixty
50. Got going
51. Useful word processing feature
52. Emulate a beaver
53. Song of praise
55. Historical period
56. It may move you
57. Make "all gone"



A work barge that ran aground on the Packery Jetty was removed in 2023

Police Blotter December 11-18th

JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection

Suspicious Person

- 11000 block SPID 9 p.m. December 20
11800 block SPID 5 p.m. December 20
13500 block SPID 7 p.m. December 22
13500 block SPID 1 p.m. December 20

Traffic

- 47 Traffic Stops
SPID/SH 361 6 p.m. December 20 Crash

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Person

- 14200 block SPID 5 p.m. December 23 Physical Altercation

Crimes against Property

- 15300 block SPID 11 p.m. December 20 Trespassing

Disturbances

- 13500 block Carlos Fifth 3 p.m. December 25
13500 block King Phillip 2 a.m. December 24
14300 block SPID 9 a.m. December 23
Whitecap Blvd./SPID 8 p.m. December 20 Public Intoxication
14700 block Compass 9 a.m. December 19
14100 block Vincent 6 a.m. December 24
15900 block Cabo Blanco 1 a.m. December 20 Noise Ordinance Violation

Suspicious Person

- Cruiser St./Whitecap Blvd. 3 p.m. December 20
15200 block Cruiser St. 2 p.m. December 20
14500 block Whitecap Blvd. 2 p.m. December 20
Eaglesnest Bay Dr./Cuttysark St. 9 p.m.

December 24

Traffic

- 91 Traffic Stops
SPID/SH 361 4 p.m. December 25 DWI
SPID/SH 361 6 p.m. December 20 Crash
SPID/Verdemar Dr. 6 p.m. December 19 Crash
15600 block SPID 2 p.m. December 20 Parking Violation

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to City Limits

Crimes against Person

- 15000 block Leeward 9 p.m. December 25 Assault

Crimes against Property

- 15800 block SPID 6 a.m. December 21 Reckless Damage or Destruction
15200 block Leeward 9 a.m. December 23 Burglary
15200 block Leeward Dr. Midnight December 23 Burglary of a Building
14800 block Windward Dr. 7 p.m. December 20 Burglary of a Vehicle

Disturbances

- Beach Access Road 3A/Gulf Beach 10 p.m. December 20 Public Intoxication/Disturbance

Suspicious Person

- 15200 block Windward Midnight December 24
14500 block Whitecap 2 p.m. December 20

Traffic

- 62 Traffic Stops
SH 361/Zahn Road 2 p.m. December 19 Crash

Moon Classifieds #1028

Here's how to place a Classified Ad

To place an ad you can call me at 361-834-1382 or Email your ads to: moonclassad@twc.com No texts please

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To Everyone Everywhere



May all your wishes be fulfilled in 2024



Barefoot Mardi Gras 2023 by Laurie Lyng

Crossword Solution

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



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Three Chords and the Truth
By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com
Happy New Year!!!



It was lobster for Christmas at Susan Powell's house.

We finally get to kiss 2023 bye bye and welcome in a fresh new year. I sure hope 2024 doesn't have too many surprises for us like this last year had. I just feel numb when I try to make sense of all the calamities we fought through in 2023. I'm going to pass on rehashing the negative highlights and move right along to 2024. There are some fun things on the horizon with the *Island Moon* and upcoming music in our little world. It's a little early to commit it to print just yet, but if everything goes right, we'll have some fun new events on the horizon. Trust me... more will be revealed. But as of now we have officially moved into the *Winter Texan invasion* portion of the year and that's a good thing. Soon the **PA Rockers** will be rocking *Bernie's*, the bollard buddies will be up and roaming around town and the bars will fill up with "Day Drinkers" pretty much every day as soon as they open... hey, they've earned it. I hope everyone had a nice Christmas. Me and my **Mermaid Gal** had Christmas Dinner with **Susan** and **Gentry Powell**, her brother **Scott** and friends, as we do most every year. Susan goes all out serving lobsters with all the fixings. Last Christmas we went down to Mexico to hang out with **Tim Everett** and his clan in Ixtapa Zihuatanejo. You might remember Tim who used to own the *Swing Bar* in Port A and now has a beautiful little hotel in Troncones, Mexico.

Scattered shots...



Boo and Poo played the Gaff last weekend and will play there again on New Year's Day.

There's been a personnel shake up with *Shorty's* house band, **Selfie** who have played there every Thursday since 2014. The band's founder, **Christopher Todd Jordan** has decided to take a sabbatical and devote more time to his other activities such as his catering and private chef creations and his construction company. Chris is a very talented individual and we wish him the very best. And what does this mean for *Shorty's* on Thursdays? What I'm seeing is a nice circle of musicians with **Ray Summy** calling the shots and various drummers and bass players such as **Antone Perez** and **Art Galvan** and occasionally a sub for Ray Ray with guitarists/vocalists such as **Mike O'Neil** who filled in last week. We'll miss Chris. He's been the heart and soul of **Selfie** for the last nine years and we certainly support his decision to move on. Good luck Chris and we'll see you on the flip flop. Otherwise last weekend it was the ever so talented **John Elijah** and his band the **CBDB's** at *Shorty's* plus the fun new Cajun/ zydeco band, **Boudreaux and Pousson** that played the *Gaff*. I also see where **Boo and Poo** will be playing the *Gaff's* 17th Annual *Black Eyed Pea Off* on New Year's Day. Those guys are a blast! And on last Monday, which was *Christmas Day*, I got a call from our pal **Jeff Gregory** that there were a couple of his friends from Austin that were in town and love *Shorty's* and would it be OK for them to set up a play us some reggae. Well SURE! Enter **Mary Cherry** and **Caesar** from Columbia. They played unplugged with no microphones or sound system to the small Christmas crowd at *Shorty's* and it was delightful. I'm sure we'll be seeing more of them in the future.



Mary Cherry and Caesar from Columbia played Shorty's on Christmas Day.

We have a big weekend of music headed our way. On Friday the 29th, *Shorty's* has the two love birds, **Justin and Niki** cranking out their island beat, the **Groove** will play the *Pelican Lounge*, **Bushbullit** will play at the *Exchange* and **Michael Burtts** and **Raul Ayala** will play *Rockits*. Raul will also play *Shorty's* on Saturday. BTW, Raul has a new music video out called *Pat Mac* that is really good and is circulating on Facebook. It's a rocker for sure. Also this Saturday we will have **Coach Jim Dugan** at the *Gaff*, the great 80's rock band **Diamond's Edge** will play at *Rockits*, *Wave on Wave* veteran **Pat Green** will play *Brewster Street Ice House Downtown*, the **Chainlinks** will be at the *Pelican Lounge*, the **National Nobodyz** will play the *Exchange* and the **Lucky Dogs** will play the *Executive Surf Club*. And then comes NEW YEAR'S EVE which falls on Sunday this year. Here's the lineup for NYE; *Shorty's* will have their usual Sunday performances from **Jim Dugan** and **Ty Dietz**. They had originally planned to have **Todd Dorn and the Sea Drifters** but he had to cancel at the last minute since the oil refinery where he's employed at in San Antonio called him in to work. Elsewhere on Sunday, *Treasure Island* will have young **Carson Miller** and **Steven K**, the Port Aransas *VFW* will have the classic rock band the **Groove**, **Splendiferous** will play out at the *Port Royal Resort*, **Diamond's Edge** will play the *Pelican Lounge*, the great **Raul Ayala** will play in Rockport at the *Sugar Shack*, the **Chillbillies** will play *Legends* in Fulton, our favorite jam band **Triptonite** will play their home bar the *Exchange*, the **Chainlinks** will play *Hardknocks*, rockabilly maniac **Matt Hole** and the **Hot Rod Gang** will play the *Executive Surf Club* and the *House of Rock* will have a big rock production called the *Word of Mouth Presents*.

Coming to the Third Coast Theater...



Carson Miller will play Treasure Island on NYE.

The *Third Coast Theater* in Port A has announced their Winter Season with **Mark McKinney** on January 3rd, my hero **Ray Wylie Hubbard** will be playing two nights in January, the 19th and 20th, our buddy **Keith Sykes** will play there on January 27... you don't want to miss Keith Sykes. He's a super talented songwriter that once played with **Jimmy Buffet's Coral Reefer Band** and wrote some of Jimmy's big hits (*You Got Gold*, *Under the Volcano*). Also coming to the *Third Coast* will be **Bri Bagwell** on February 3 and my old friends **Terri Hendrix** and **Lloyd Maines** on February 17.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Jim Dugan and Ty Dietz will play Shorty's on New Year's Eve.



Keith Sykes will play the 3rd Coast Theater on January 27.



Ray Wylie Hubbard will play the Third Coast Theater on Jan 19 and 20.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Friday.

December 29

Justin & Niki @ Shorty's
Billy Snipes @ Gaff
Raul Ayala. Michael Burtts @ Rockit's
The Groove @ Pelican Lounge
OTB @ Packery Bar
Eric Graham @ Cassidy's Pub
Bushbullit @ The Exchange
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Michael Anthony Perez @ Brewster South

Saturday.

December 30

Raul Ayala @ Shorty's
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Diamond's Edge @ Rockit's
Love Bombers, Oldie Hawn, Marimer Bay @ House of Rock
Pat Green @ Brewster Downtown
National Nobodyz @ The Exchange
Chainlinks @ Pelican Lounge
Lucky Dogs @ Executive Surf Club
Mike Guerra @ Blackbeard's
Billy Snipes @ Island Italian

NEW YEAR'S

EVE, December 31

Ty Dietz, Jim Dugan @ Shorty's
Carson Miller & Steven K @ Treasure Island
The Groove @ VFW
Splendiferous @ Port Royal
Diamond's Edge @ Pelican Lounge
Chillbillies @ Legend's
Raul Ayala @ Sugar Shack
Triptonite @ The Exchange
Chainlinks @ Hardknocks

BRON'S BACKYARD
PORT ARANSAS, TX
BEACH CART RENTALS

Treasure Island
CARSON MILLER & STEVEN K ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

SHORTY'S
SELFIE EVERY THURSDAY
JUSTIN & NIKI DEC 29
RAUL AYALA DEC 30
TY DIETZ, JIM DUGAN DEC 31
MATTY LEE JAN 5
FUNK ROCK STEREO JAN 6
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Word of Mouth

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Matt Hole @ Executive Surf Club
Brian Winfrey @ Blackbeard's
Billy Snipes @ Wilderness Oaks RV Park Rockport
John Cortez @ Retro CC

Monday, January 1

17th Annual Black Eyed Pea Off @ Gaff
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Gaff
Raul Ayala @ Pelican Lounge

Tuesday, January 2

Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Wednesday, January 3

Clartones @ VFW
Billy Snipes @ Doc's

Thursday, January 4

Selfie @ Shorty's
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's
Michael O'Connor @ House of Rock
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian

Friday, January 5

Matty Lee @ Shorty's
Vince King Elvis Birthday Celebration & Vegas Mafia Band @ PACT
Selfless Lovers @ House of Rock
The Daze @ Pelican Lounge
Carson Miller and the Coastal Cowboys @ BUS
Matt Hole and the Hot Rod Gang @ The Annex

Saturday, January 6

WINTER TEXAN SOCK HOP @ Port A Community Center
Funk Rock Stereo @ Shorty's
Mark McKinney @ Third Coast Theater
Vomit Spots, Drastic Action @ House of Rock

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