

Issue 981



The

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

Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

February 2, 2023

www.islandmoon.com

Full Color Version Available Online!

Weekly FREE



Photo by Dale Rankin



By Dale Rankin

Padre Balli took a back seat in the divinity department this week as he was replaced by Saint Jerome – the Patron Saint of Anger. The traffic jams along SPID of late while crews work on power lines would have Job using words not found in the bible. The work began several weeks ago with little explanation from AEP until this week when the statement included in this issue was released. One of the consequences of the work along SPID is that Aquarius Street between Commodores Drive and Whitecap Boulevard has become a thoroughfare and goes bumper to bumper when SPID is closed. Businesses along SPID have reported reduced business due to the traffic snarls and the official word from AEP is that the delays are kept to fifteen minute intervals each but the clocks in Island dashboard beg to disagree. The statement from AEP says the work will continue through the end of February but gives little in the way of details regarding the exact nature of the work. Serenity now! Serenity now!

The return of Willie!



The big news up Port A way this week is the theft of several of the yarn Bollard Buddies which were taken from the bollards surrounding Horace Caldwell Pier including this one of Willie Nelson. While boosting Bollard Buddies isn't bad enough tampering with Anything Willie is a Third Degree Felony in Texas carrying a sentence of up to Life of listening to nothing but the Carpenters or the Sex Pistols – a devil's choice if ever there was one! The good news is that the return of Willie and his buddies by mid-week took the Death Penalty off the table so the manhunt for the yarn thieves has been called off. All that is left now is the shame.

Up Dallas way two emperor tamarin monkeys were taken from the Dallas Zoo in what police say is the latest in a string of odd incidents at the zoo. It was unclear at press time if the theft of Willie and the theft of the monkeys are related...

Gambling or skill?

The Texas Attorney General's Office this week issued a notice that they have been asked to review a question dear to the heart of many Permanent Texans and Winter Texans alike. Under case number RQ-0499-KP the AG must determine "Whether an amusement machine is a gambling device under section 47.01 of the Penal Code where the amount awarded from play is determined entirely by skill." It is a burning question of the week and we will let you know when a decision is

Around cont. on A8

King Snake Eel washes up on Mustang Island Beach

A massive King Snake Eel washed up on Mustang Island in late January. Jace Tunnell, director of the Mission-Aransas Reserve at UTMSI in Port Aransas, found the eel while conducting beach surveys looking for stranded sea turtles. The eel measured over 5 feet in length. These eels can be found offshore, and fisherman have been known to catch these around oil platforms. There are several eels in the Gulf of Mexico that reach this size, including the American Eel, the Conger, Morays, and the Snake Eels. This is a rare find to have an eel this size wash up on our beach. You just never know what you are going to find while beach combing on the island.



Jace Tunnell with the eel

Bob Hall Pier Construction Delayed until 2024

Corps of Engineers Permit must be resubmitted to allow two rows of pilings
Existing restaurant building may be torn down



Bob Hall Pier during demolition in mid-2022

By Dale Rankin

When the June 2022 meeting of the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board convened the design for the new Bob Hall Pier was 30% complete and the last hurdle to moving forward with final design and construction of the pier was to decide whether to add a second story to the existing restaurant structure or to expand the first floor. Now, seven months later the permit for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must be refiled which will delay the project up to a year, the design for the new pier must be completely restarted, and the decision before the Parks Board is whether to tear down the only remaining struc-

Bob cont. on A4

Pickleball Island Padre Island needs courts!





Pickleball players on Padre Island this week braved the cold to set up a temporary court on the basketball court in Aquarius Park. Shown here are pickleball players David Eckenrode, Debbie Fitch, Terri Wood, and Lori Nicholas.

The only permanent pickleball court on Padre Island currently is on private property in front of the Kokomo

Pickleball cont. on A2

AEP Texas Transmission Line Upgrades Underway at North Padre Island

Intermittent Road Closures Expected through February

Editor's note: AEP has had trucks working on Padre Island for the past several weeks. This week they issued the following statement:

AEP Texas has begun work on a major electricity transmission line along State Highway 361 and Park Road 22 at North Padre Island. The activities require crews to temporarily close area roads for 15-minute increments to upgrade the transmission electrical lines. At the conclu-

sion of each intermittent closure, the roadway will be opened to clear traffic. Work will be conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All work is dependent upon the weather.

AEP Texas has stated this project is the result of aged utility. The existing transmission line is in poor condition due to corrosion and must be replaced with a larger and more efficient load service line. This work ensures safe and reliable power for

area customers.

The project scope includes 3.8 miles of high voltage transmission lines being replaced and work zones as high as 125 feet in the air. Due to these factors, work must be completed during the day. Work is underway on the west side of Park Road 22 at the intersection of Park Road 22 and State Highway 361, traveling south

AEP cont. on A4

A little Island history

Isle of Plunder

The Island makes the Saturday Evening Post

Editor's note. The following story appeared in the Saturday Evening Post on January 3, 1948. We thank Islander Brud Jones for sending it our way. This is part 1.



Sometimes ancient coins are uncovered by wind, but jewels have been found by digging holes.

By Lewis Nordyke

A desolate sandbar off the Texas Gulf coast has lured treasure hunters for 400 years. Despite the rattlesnakes and savage hurricanes they come still, seeking fortunes in flotsam and dreaming about the lost galleon of Cortez.

Padre Island, which lies off the Gulf coast of Texas almost within sight of bright lights and traffic jams, is one of the most untamable spots in this country. What the storms don't blow away, the shifting sands cover up. Man has been bucking the island for some 400 years. But today it is uninhabited, and its chief attractions are things which have been lost at sea,

and which have somehow turned up on Padre.

With possibly a few exceptions, Padre is the world's richest territory for beachcombers. Because of the crescent arc of the coastal bend and the currents that swish near shore, anything adrift in the Gulf of Mexico or the Caribbean is likely to turn up eventually on Padre. World War II, with dozens of ship sinkings, made the beach a bonanza. Often, after choppy seas, it is littered with commercial valuables like heavy timbers and drums of gasoline. Offshore, in the Gulf, and under the sands of the island, are storied hulls and precious

History cont. on A4

Taste of Island Tap Water may change in the Next Two Weeks

"Earthy or musty"



Facility Fire in Illinois

By Dale Rankin

A warehouse fire in Illinois may change the taste of drinking water in Corpus Christi in the next two weeks.

A manufacturing facility in LaSalle, Illinois which is the only maker of potassium permanganate and sodium permanganate in the Western Hemisphere recently caught fire cutting off the city's supply of the chemical which and is used in local drinking water to control "taste, color, biological growth and to remove manganese." The city staff told members of the Corpus Christi City Council on Tuesday that while the chemical is not a disinfectant it does affect how the water coming out of local taps tastes to some people. The staff said

Water cont. on A6

By the Numbers

Island Moon Rain Report

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Padre: Aquarius St. | |
| 2023 year to date | 0.17" |
| 2022 year to date | 2.08" |
| Padre: Cayo Cantiles | |
| 2023 year to date | 0.33" |
| 2022 year to date | 1.85" |
| Padre: Dyna St. | |
| 2023 year to date | 0.40" |
| 2022 year to date | 2.45" |
| Padre: Elbow St. | |
| 2023 year to date | 0.33" |
| 2022 year to date | 2.47" |
| Padre: Scallop St. | |
| 2023 year to date | 0.30" |
| 2022 year to date | 1.81" |
| Mustang: Beachwalk Ln. | |
| 2023 year to date | 0.62" |
| 2022 year to date | 2.45" |
| Flower Bluff: Piper Dr. | |
| 2023 year to date | 0.37" |
| 2022 year to date | 2.56" |
| Average of these 7 stations | |
| 2023 year to date | 0.36" |
| 2022 year to date | 2.24" |
| Corpus Christi normal 1.39" | |
| Source: CoCoRaHS Network | |



By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

Business Briefs (some not so brief)

Islander Amanda McCall is currently in her last semester of the two year dental hygiene school at a local college and is seeking patients to fulfill her requirements. You can get a free dental cleaning and x-rays. You can help her out and brighten your smile by calling 512-994-8283.



The Flour Bluff Girls Basketball team is currently ranked 15th in the state with a 27-4 record.

Good n Crisp Chicken on the Island has reopened. The hours are 10 am - 10 pm daily.

Island Tire now does oil changes, alignments and rotations by appointment only. Vehicle inspections are \$7 and still can be done as a walk-in. Call 949-4949.

Padre Island Mobile Detail will come to you to detail your vehicle. Call or text Islander Greg at 462-0877.

Moon's Padre Run Shuttle Service with two buses is for sale. Owner Paul Haynes has moved to Nevada to head a project there. If interested call 361-947-7444.



Laguna ISR (Infant Swim Resources) instructor Merritt Ruble grew up in Port A and lives in Flour Bluff where she gives lessons. Her classes run April - November and are for ages 6 months - 6 years old and they complete the class in about six weeks. She is currently booking for months April, May and June. Contact Merritt at 793-0844 or email merritt@infantswim.com.



The repaving of Jackfish Street is now out for bid so that should be happening soon.

The Soup'er Bowl Contest will be held at the Pelican Lounge on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12th. Bring your soup in a crockpot at 2:30 pm to set up for the contest that starts at 3 pm. All are invited to sample the soups and choose the three you like best. Prizes will go to the top three favorites.

The Packery Flats Winter Cleanup will be on Saturday, February 4th 9 am - noon. The cleanup area will include tidal flats and marsh habitats along two miles of Highway 361 from the Packery Channel. To volunteer you need to register yourself, your family or small group at the link on their page. You will get a t-shirt and other swag made possible by a grant from CITGO Caring for our Coast.

The next ISAC Meeting is February 7th at 5:30 at the Padre Island Baptist Church

Coastal Bend Quilt & Needlework Guild presents their 17th Biennial Quilt Show Friday and Saturday, February 3-4 10 am - 5 pm at the RMB Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall in Robstown. There will be over 200 quilts, vendors, auctions and more. Admission is \$10.



Padre Island Cigar Company has a humidor with about 40 different types of cigars. Owner Stan Sweeney says he will soon be adding another humidor to double the amount of cigars available. He will also carry any cigar you request. The store is located in the Clock Tower strip center back building at 15217 SPID. Call Stan at 589-4320 for more info,



Shorty's in Port A has been moved to the corner of Beach Street and Alister. They hope to open at the new location by April.

The Donut Palace's last day at its present location is Monday, February 20th. The remodel cost of their new location with added driveway and drive thru window will be almost \$150,000. They are moving to the white building across the street from CVS. When I asked the owner how he feels about the Dunkin' Donuts coming to the Island he answered "I'm not worried about that, their donuts are frozen."

Dr. Ryan Rogers is opening his Padre Dermatology & Skin Cancer Center on the Island March 1st. His family moved back here last week and they are busy moving into their new home. He wants to thank the Island for the warm welcome he has received as his schedule is filling up fast for the month of March. The office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4 pm and Friday 8:15 - noon and it is located at 14650 Compass Suite 1. Call 867-1032 or visit www.padrederm.com for an appointment or more info.

A Celebration of Life for Joe Farah will be held at Marker 37 on Saturday, February 11th 3 pm. It is open to the public and all that have shared great memories over the last 30 years at Farah's Water Hole. There will be a massive slide show, live music and a send off on the Sunset Pier. Guests may bring flowers to cast off into the water. Joe's family from California will be there and a mic will be on hand to tell Joe stories. Joe was laid to rest this week in a beautiful ceremony with family and close friends.

Speedy Stop groundwork has begun next to American Bank on Park Road 22. It is like a smaller version of Bucee's.

Padre Island Market Nights Sip & Shop will be held at the Coastal Event Center near Isle Mail & More on Thursday, February 9th 4 - 8 pm.

Random stuff

CLR Brilliant Bath foam cleaner works great on grout. I thought I would need to hire someone to clean my bathroom until I discovered this product. You just spray and leave it on for 20 minutes then brush the grout. You do not need to scrub aggressively, the foam does most of the work.



Island Timeline

2007 La Palatera opened and served fruit, ice cream, sandwiches and smoothies. Padre Island Burger Company opened in their location in 2008. Before La Palatera it was Island Sports a beachwear shop with a big pink octopus on the roof that opened in the mid 90s.



La Palatera is quickly becoming an Island favorite for fresh fruit, ice cream, sandwiches and great coffee.



Island Girl of the Week! What more could you ask for than a beautiful Island girl with the smile of an angel and a holiday fruit tray from La Palatera. Paige Dearman is our Island Girl of the Week. and reminds you that La Palatera offers an assortment of fruit trays for your holiday parties and she'll be glad to make you one with about an hour's notice.



Say it ain't so Joe- An Island landmark, our giant pink octopus was chopped to bits and carried off to an unknown fate yesterday.

Pickleball Cont. from A1



Yacht Club but Island pickleball players are pushing the City of Corpus Christi to include pickleball courts in the new design of Commodores Park. City officials are expected to present a draft plan to gather public input for the new park at the next meeting of the Island Strategic Action Committee on Tuesday, February 7, 5:30 p.m. at the Island Baptist Church. A public survey will begin in the next few weeks which will give pickleball players and others a chance to weigh in on what to build on the new 12-acre park next to the #15 Fire

Station on Commodores Drive.

For the uninitiated pickleball began in 1965 and is now the fastest growing sport in the United States. It is played on a court 44 feet long and 20 feet wide with a solid paddle and a plastic Whiffle Ball. There are several versions of how the sport got its name but the one we like the best is that it was named after a dog named Pickles who liked to chase the ball around the court.

Skip the Plastic

Skip the Plastic's Cleanup Heroes for the month of February are the students in the Bahr Marine Ecology Lab at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. After picking up trash each month that washes up on the TAMU-CC campus beach, the students sort, weigh and count it, keeping records of everything. The data they collect allows them to get a better understanding of the predominant types of trash items, their sources and possible solutions. While Dr. Keisha Bahr's lab focuses on coral reefs, she knows that land activities can affect reefs like the Flower Garden Banks off Texas' coast. Dr. Bahr explains, "If we are better land stewards, then we are better protectors of those coral reefs. That means reducing as many land-based impacts, including plastic pollution, as possible."



Shorty's Has Moved!

Port Aransas' Oldest and Friendliest bar moved from its home of over five decades this week to its new location at the corner of Alister Street and Beach Street. Owner Edwin Meyer said plans call for the new Shorty's to be open with food and live music by summer 2023.



Photos by Ronnie Narmour Aerials by Steve Coons

Moon Monkeys

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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



To the Bollard Buddy thief

This letter is really to the persons who know the people who took 14 Bollard Buddies from the bollards on the beach in Port Aransas Saturday January 28th. I am assuming the people who took the buddies do not know how to knit or crochet. Therefore they have no idea of the amount of work and time that went into the creation of each of these unique one of a kind works of art. I would like someone who knows who did this to explain to them how much pain they have caused to the people who worked so hard to make something to make people smile. The whole idea behind this project is to bring smiles to the folks who visit our beach. You have taken that away from the folks who created them and the folks who will never see them because you decided to remove them.

My worst fear is not that you removed them but that you will discard them or destroy them. PLEASE don't do that. I am assuming you don't want to get caught putting them back but you can leave them on the porch of the Port Aransas Art Center, Gratitude's, or at Trinity By the Sea Church. They will make sure we get them back and we will replace them.

Please do the right thing and return them.

Diana Vondra
yarnbombinginporta

They got Elvis and Batman...

Many of you know of Diana Vondra and her team of yarn bombing ladies who create and maintain the bombed beach bollards that are on display annually for 2 months in Port Aransas. There is much effort that goes into this annual project that is put on for the enjoyment of Islanders, Winter Texans, and other beach visitors. Now, however, Diana and her team need your help. Late Saturday night or early Sunday morning fourteen of the yarn bollard buddies were stolen despite a note on each one asking that they not be taken. Each one also was put on it's bollard with loads of staples from a staple gun and also secured with zip ties.

Missing are Elvis, Batman, Canadian Mountie, Lone Star Armadillo, Buc-ee Beaver, Harry Potter Minion and Bob Marley. We are still working to identify the remaining missing from last night's thievery. Know that earlier in the month Raphael Ninja Turtle and Double Cheeseburger also were stolen. This is so so wrong and we want them all back. We ask that Islanders please be on the lookout for our missing bollard buddies and help get them back to us. We very much appreciate everyone's help with this.

Sincerely,

Candy Tidmore

Editor's note: We got this notice mid-afternoon on Tuesday.

I want to share the news that the bollard buddies have been returned! I don't know anything more of how it happened or where they've been but I got a picture from Diana of them all in a pile. She is checking them over for damage and intends to reinstall them tomorrow. It's a great day!

Candy

Dear Padre Isles POA Owners,

The new 2023 Boat Ramp Parking Permit Stickers have arrived and are now available for purchase at the POA Office. For your convenience, a copy of the permit sticker purchase form has been attached to this email. The new Boat Ramp Parking Sticker Policy requires that permit stickers may only be purchased for vehicles specifically registered to the Owner(s) of record (persons listed on the deed). Purchases of the parking permit sticker may be made, in person, at the POA Office or may be made remotely with the attached form; however, the requirement of proof of ownership will remain the same. It is recommended that the proof of insurance card, kept in the vehicle, should be used as the verification of vehicle ownership. The purchase price for each parking permit sticker is \$20 per sticker and each sticker must be permanently affixed to the passenger side of the front windshield of the specific vehicle the permit sticker has been registered to. Should there be any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Gary Klepperich, CMCA, AMS, PCAM
Executive Director
Padre Isles Property Owners Association

From the Island Moon Facebook page theislandmoonnewspaper

Joe Farah

Rusty Wright

I was 19 when I first met Joe Farah. He taught me a lot, some things about work, some things about life. Sometimes I wish I had paid better attention. I do know I loved him like a brother. Hope he lets me know when he needs help making another bomb. Rest easy my friend, Toni and the boys got this. See you soon.

Randy Cudd

Your article makes Arab sound bigger than life....and he was.
I worked for and with him for 15 year and he was my friend for 40.
It's a great article but it only scratches the surface of of an incredible man. THANK YOU

Tanya Willis Swails

Wow great read ... my grandma owned The Barrel House back in the day and now Joe's grand daughter and my daughter are the best of friends! He is gonna be missed !!!

Reese Hunt III

Great story, Thank you. RIP Mr. Farah. You made the island fun.

Lucky Roncinske

Thanks for the reflection back...he was quite a guy

Susan Balbin

What a wonderful story! They don't make "em like that much anymore. Rest in peace, neighbor.

Dave Endres

Joe was a helluva guy..always enjoyed having a beer and talking with him..RIP Joe.

Debbie Wyatt

What a legendary life...deepest sympathies to his family and friends

Robin Marcoux

Joe Farah was a kind, generous man who was always pleasant and good to me. RIP sir and thank you for all you have done for our Island and believing in me. You will be missed dearly
Shannon Bumstead-MacDonald
A true legend! RIP my sweet friend!! You were always so kind to everyone who met you, knew you and loved you!! You will be extremely missed!

Karlle Radebach Miller

Such an amazing life what. Privilege to know him but how proud you must be! Of your dad and his legacy

Kellie Garza

I will forever miss "uncle Joe". I loved him! One of the most interesting men I've met and it was an honor. Rest easy, "uncle joe", until we meet again.

Andrea Holland

I remember this guy. He used to bring his crew for a brunch meeting a tip \$100 cash every time. He was a legend. RIP

SueAnne Baker

I sure did love Joe - I think everyone did. I was one of his Farrah's bartenders in the 90's, such a great (and really fun) boss he was. I'm so happy that I was able to visit with him last time I was on the island. RIP Joe, you were one of the greats

Scott Schwartz

We lost a great man but I'm honored for the time I got to spend with him over the years
.... RIP my friend

Julie Anderson Trogden

Rest in peace Joe! You and Farahs will be missed. Great read, thank you Mary!

Irfan Kardas

Rest in peace Joe. Prayers for the family and all the friends...

Great job **Mary**

TK Kendall

Wow what a life! Amazing story he left

Marian Strealy Spradlin

What an amazing and full life he lived!

Tony Keith

What an awesome recollection of a legendary life. Wow!

Jeff Franklin

The Island Moon Newspaper I never heard his backstory before, thanks.

Rusty Wright

I was 19 when I first met Joe Farah. He taught me a lot, some things about work, some things about life. Sometimes I wish I had paid better attention. I do know I loved him like a brother. Hope he lets me know when he needs help making another bomb. Rest easy my friend, Toni and the boys got this. See you soon.

Stuff I heard on The Island

George N. Jalinos

What an amazing man and an amazing story. I am friends with his brother Mike and his family. All very accomplished. May he rest in peace

Linda Sue Carver-Cash

Loved that place my husband was one that had gotten barred but never found out why.

William Demers

What an Amazing Man.... such a loss

Roman Arellano

Great Article Dale!!! Condolences to Joe & his family. I remember I had my first filterless cigarette with him lol messed me up

Grant Wideman

Graduated with Joey. Bummed to learn of this. Farah's was my second home for years. Way before the men's bathroom was scary and before they served Shiner Bock. Did crazy things on the deck but never got kicked out. What great memories from my early twenties.

Sylvia Sweatt Campbell

Jim Sambol is one of the originals on the island and Jito's was a gathering place a long time ago. All part of island history! So sorry to hear about Joe.

James Froncek

Anybody remember the bras and panties tacked to the walls for free or half price drinks ???

Chris White

What a cool story and history!

Barbara Browning

My first date with my boys dad was at Farrah's in 1997.

Raina Sundown

Very well written. I enjoyed reading this thank you for sharing!



Celebration of Life for Joe Farah

Saturday February 11th at Marker 37 Marina at 3 pm.

Open to the public and all that have shared great memories over the last 30yrs at Farahs Waterhole. We will have a massive slide show with pictures over the years, live music, and a sunset send off on the Sunset pier. Guests may bring flowers to cast off into the sea. Marker 37 Marina will have some great food available in their on premise food truck, and full bars. It's going to be a great party. Joe's family from California will be there, and we will have a sound system for anyone to share their best Joe Stories!

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History Cont. from A1



The enterprising beachcomber, Lewis Rawalt, salvages a barrel of tar on Padre Island Beach. He may sell it for as much as thirty-five dollars.

cargoes. Beachcombers find coins and enough other plunder to keep them walking with lowered eyes and digging, sore-muscled, in the dunes.

Goading them on is the exciting knowledge that a man named Singer once found an \$80,000 treasure by walking the beach and gouging around the sand. Another man took a fistful of gold from a tin can, and a woman found a box of jewels. But the most attractive treasure remains undiscovered. It is a Spanish galleon laden with gold, silver and gems that Cortez captured in Mexico. Many a man combs the island for this one rich ship. There is substantial reason for believing that it is there, somewhere.

There is plenty of space for fortune seeking. Padre is the longest of the Gulf islands. It is a finger of shifting sand that curves along the coast for 117 miles between Corpus Christi and Brownsville at the mouth of the Rio Grande. The width varies from 1400 feet to four miles. Marine scientists say it is an overgrown sandbar from 15,000 to 20,000 years old.

The north end is eighteen miles southeast of Corpus Christi. There a narrow pass divides it from Mustang Island, which has several hundred inhabitants, all living as Port Aransas, a shipping and fishing village. Occasionally the pass fills with sand and joins Padre and Mustang into one island 132 miles long. Laguna Madre, a lagoon of varying depth, but generally pretty shallow, lies between Padre Island and the mainland.

The island, with the inside of its arch to the sea, is the perfect target for storms every person who has stayed on Padre has been virtually blown off, ultimately. It is no place to be in a bad storm. After a hurricane a few years ago a pilot flew over the island and counted forty-three places where Gulf waters were pouring across into the lagoon.

Padre is dotted with constantly shifting dunes that send up windy sprays of fine dust. Tasseled stems of seaside oats grow bravely out

of the sides of dunes. Here and there are motes of mesquite, and wild-chili pepper plants are sprinkled about. The peppers are violently hot. Almost anywhere there is apt to be a rusty-colored rattlesnake. Packs of scrawny coyotes roam the island.

The first white men on the island were beachcombers; they were Spanish sailors who landed more than 400 years ago to salvage cargoes of ships that been blown ashore. In later years there have been a few ranching enterprises, but they had more downs than ups. More than a century ago a Spanish padre, Nicholas Balli, founded a ranching colony on the southern end. The island, then known as Santiago, took its present name from the padre, but got little else from his venture. Much of the central portion is across the lagoon from the million-acre King Ranch. Kings owns a large acreage on Padre also, and at various times ran cattle on it. The descendants of an Irishman named Pat Dunn have been ranching from time to time on the northern parts for more than sixty years, although there isn't very much grass there.

The main attraction of the island – tales of treasure – lured me to Padre not long ago. I had heard of the Devil's Elbow, a long, sweeping bend midway of the island. Here is where the sea has been disgorging derelict cargoes for centuries; it is where an enterprising beachcomber, Louis Rawalt, found a fortune in raw rubber. I wanted to do a little beachcombing, and I looked up Rawalt.

It wasn't too easy to get to Padre. Although the island is only a short distance from some of the lushest parts of the Texas coast, it is practically inaccessible. The narrow lagoon is too shallow for much boating, and is unsafe for fording. Light planes can land on the beach and take off with safety if the beach happens to be right, but only airmen who know the tricks will try it. The wet sand may happen to be as level and firm as an oak floor, or it may be full of holes or strewn with half-buried logs and flotsam. Beachcomber Rawalt, who lives in Corpus Christi, has a stripped-down military weapons carrier – a four-wheel drive- which is the thing for island travel. It wasn't difficult to talk him into a trip. We went to Aransas Pass, which is about eighteen miles north and east of Corpus Christi and a place where the fish are supposed to bite every day. There we took a narrow causeway across Red Fish Bay to the north end of Padre.

Rawalt was a good man to go along with. He has roamed the Padre beach for twenty years. He knows the island, its feel and its sound. Not long ago he and Mrs. Rawalt were on Padre, sleeping in a tent. They had no radio and knew nothing of storm warnings that were flying fast. At midnight, Rawalt awakened his wife and said, "There a sort of pop to the surf. Think we better hike it." They loaded up and rolled out. They got off the island a few hours before a blow struck. Rawalt had read the sound correctly.

Next Week: Roaming The Island with Louis Rawalt.

The enterprising beachcomber, Louis Rawalt, salvages a barrel of tar on Padre Island Beach. He may sell it for as much as thirty-five dollars.

Isle of Plunder

By LEWIS NORDIKE

A disaster smaller off the Texas Gulf coast has lured treasure hunters for 400 years. Despite the catfish and orange hurricanes that come still, seeking fortunes in Britain and dreaming about the lost galleon of Cortez.

PADRE ISLAND, across several hundred miles of the Gulf of Mexico, is a long, narrow strip of land, about 117 miles long and from 1,400 to 4,000 feet wide. It is a finger of shifting sand that curves along the coast between Corpus Christi and Brownsville. The island is a treasure trove of history and legend. It is the site of the first Spanish settlement in Texas, the site of the first American settlement in Texas, and the site of the first oil well in Texas. It is a place of mystery and wonder, a place where the past is still alive.

The enterprising beachcomber, Louis Rawalt, salvages a barrel of tar on Padre Island Beach. He may sell it for as much as thirty-five dollars.

The enterprising beachcomber, Louis Rawalt, salvages a barrel of tar on Padre Island Beach. He may sell it for as much as thirty-five dollars.

Bob Cont. from A1

ture from the old pier, the restaurant building, before work can begin on the new design, and construction of the new pier is not expected to begin until sometime in 2024.

So what changed? At the June Parks Board meeting members of the local surfing community raised objections to the design of the pier which called for a single row of support pilings rather than the two-row design of the previous pier. Their objections concerned the effect the single row of four-by-four foot pilings would have on the creation of a surfable wave on either side of the pier. This was a new objection which had not been raised in the public scoping hearings and public input effort that had been ongoing since early 2022 and would mean a complete restarting of the design process. The Parks Board decided to table the item to give designers a chance to report back with the amount of time and money it would take to move from the single-row plan to adding a second row. The answer came from the Jacobs Engineering Group which were the consultants and designers for the new pier at the board's August meeting.

The estimate was that the addition of the second row of support pilings would increase the cost of rebuilding the pier, then placed at \$26.3 million, by \$4 million and would require a restart of the design process which was then 30% complete, the question of whether the addition of the new pilings would require a re-filing of the Corps of Engineers Permit was left open. The board voted to expand the restaurant structure to include a second story which would double the floor space from the current 5000 square feet to 10,000 square feet at a cost of \$2 million which was already in the budget but deferred to the Nueces County Commissioners Court on the question of whether to add the second row of support pilings.

Over the course of the months between the August board meeting and January 2023 the commissioners voted to add the second row of bollards and then leadership at the Commissioners Court changed leaving the new County Judge and court to move the project forward. Last week at the January meeting of the Parks Board during a review of the project, with new County Judge Connie Scott in attendance, the consultants on the project advised them that with the addition of the second row of bollards the Corps of Engineers Permit would need to be refiled and design on the project will need to be restarted which by current estimates means actual construction of the pier will not begin until at least 2024, according to Nueces County Coastal Parks Director Scott Cross this week. But the advisors on the project threw a new complication into the equation. The designed life span of the only remaining structure from the old pier, which was not damaged by Hurricane Hanna in 2020 which destroyed the

T-shaped structure at the end of the pier and resulted in the demolition of the pier, is 25 years. The structure which remains which housed Mikel May's Beachside Bar & Grill was built in 2010 meaning that its designed lifespan is now almost half over due to the expected decay of the building's support structure. The new pier will have a designed lifespan of 50 years meaning that in a little more than a decade the restaurant structure would have to be torn down while the pier itself would remain in place. The cost of extending the life of restaurant building to coincide with that of the new pier is currently estimated at \$900,000.

Questions...

So as things now stand the Nueces County Parks Board in its February meeting is set to decide whether to tear down the restaurant building and rebuild it from the ground up or to build the new pier around it. The cost of the rebuilding project is now \$28.5 million with all but \$2 million of that coming from Certificates of Obligation issued by Nueces County. If the original \$4 million estimate for adding the second row of pilings holds true then the Parks Board and ultimately the Nueces County Commissioners Court will have to decide whether to raise additional money or to save money by downsizing the new pier. The first design called for the new pier to expand in width from 15 feet to 20 feet and be 1240 feet in length with a single D-shaped platform at the seaward end. Reducing the width and length of the pier would provide the funds needed for the addition of the second row of pilings. The planned second story for the restaurant structure could also be scaled back to an expanded single story for the sake of cost. The estimated cost of rebuilding the pier exactly like the old pier is \$13 million. No matter the decision by county officials the design process of the new pier will have to begin anew. Cross said this week the new permit with the Army Corps of Engineers was filed last week and is expected to take a minimum of six months and possibly longer and during that time work can begin on the design of the new pier within the confines of its footprint spelled out in the submitted Corps permit. The design process can begin once a decision is made on the future of the existing restaurant structure.

Under the original timeline for the new pier construction work was set to begin by the fourth quarter of 2023, however, under the new timeline a new permit from the Corps of Engineers is expected by mid to late 2023 and the design of the new pier sometime in the same time frame, according to Cross. That means that beginning of construction would not begin until sometime in 2024 due to the addition of the second row of support pilings.

Bob Hall Pier October 1962

AEP Cont. from A1

approximately 1.09 miles to the intersection of Park Road 22 and Whitecap Boulevard and continuing south approximately 0.13 miles past Whitecap Boulevard.

- February 8 through February 9
- February 14 through February 18
- February 25 through February 27

Intermittent road closures are scheduled for the following dates:

Drivers can expect to see construction signage and flaggers near the worksite, where crews will be using utility trucks and other heavy equipment to position and replace the wires.

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The enterprising beachcomber, Louis Rawalt, salvages a barrel of tar on Padre Island Beach. He may sell it for as much as thirty-five dollars.

Senior Moments



Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Dien Bien Phu & the Fall of French Indochina-1954

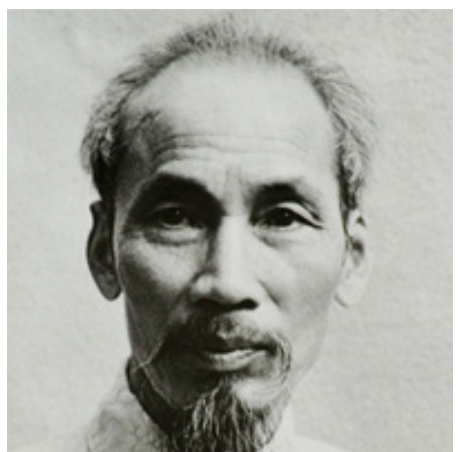
Dotson's Note: In the late 1940s, the French struggled to control its colonies in Indochina - Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Despite financial assistance from the United States, nationalist uprisings against French colonial rule began to take their toll. On May 7, 1954, the French held garrison at Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam fell after a four-month siege led by Vietnamese nationalist Ho Chi Minh. After the fall of Dien Bien Phu, the French pulled out of the region. Concerned about regional instability, the United States became increasingly committed to countering communist nationalists in Indochina. The United States would not pull out of Vietnam for another twenty years. Thanks to David Halterson, Francis Fitzgerald and Michael Herr for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan for the photos.



French Foreign Legionnaire in French Indochina

Southeast Asia, with Indochina at the center, had long been a region of interest to outside powers. Most of the region fell under European colonial control after the mid-19th century. During World War Two, Japan also sought the resources the area had to offer. After Japanese defeat, many of the countries of Southeast Asia occupied by Japan protested their return to colonial status, resulting in a surge of nationalism. American officials involved in the U.S. occupation of Japan also developed a strong interest in the region, which they viewed as a potential market for Japanese goods and a source of raw materials (like tin, oil, rubber, and rice) to supply Japanese manufacturing.

Like the other colonial powers, France attempted to reestablish its position in Indochina after 1945, but found that was difficult. Laos gained its independence in 1949, and Cambodia became independent in 1953. France promised Vietnam its autonomy by 1949, but only offered limited independence, with France continuing to oversee defense and foreign policy. To counter the influence of popular nationalist Ho Chi Minh, the French attempted to reinstate former emperor Bao Dai, but he was never as popular as Ho Chi Minh, and Vietnam's independence movement continued to grow. Bao Dai eventually abdicated a second time and lived out his life in exile in France.



Ho Chi Minh

Although Ho Chi Minh would become famous for leading the North Vietnamese forces against the United States in the 1960s, despite his communist leanings, he was not at the outset anti-American. He had been disappointed by the lack of support given native peoples struggling for independence from colonial rule at the Versailles Conference that ended World War I. In the 1940s, he made repeated requests for American aid and campaigned for independence. Following unsuccessful discussions with the French in 1946, general war broke out between Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh forces and French troops in the northern part of Vietnam. U.S. interests in the late 1940s and early 1950s did not, however, include supporting Vietnam's effort to gain independence under a nationalist with communist leanings. Active communist rebellions in Malaya and the Philippines, and the establishment of the People's

Republic of China in 1949, caused U.S. officials great concern. President Eisenhower explained the link between Vietnam's status and that of the rest of Southeast Asia through the metaphor of falling dominoes: if one country fell to communism, the rest of them would follow. The United States also required French assistance developing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and rebuilding West Germany, and, as such, supported the failing French regime in Indochina. By the time of the Korean War armistice in 1953, the United States was already irrevocably committed to defending the French against the increasingly aggressive Viet Minh forces.



In early 1954, the French Army was encamped at Dien Bien Phu, a heavily fortified base located deep in a valley and near communications links on the Laotian border. By mid-March, it was clear that the French were struggling under a Viet Minh siege and that only outside intervention in the form of fresh troops or airstrikes could save them. Though President Eisenhower was determined to prevent a communist victory in Vietnam, the U.S. Congress and officials in the Administration were equally determined not to intervene unless they could do so as a part of a larger coalition. Britain and other members of NATO declined to participate in rescuing what they thought was a lost cause. Dien Bien Phu fell in May, and the French retreated from Vietnam. In the wake of the French defeat, representatives from the United States and China, met in Geneva in mid-1954 to discuss the future of Indochina. They reached two agreements. First, the French and the Viet Minh agreed to a cease-fire and a temporary division of the country along the 17th parallel. French forces would remain in the South, and Ho Chi Minh's forces would control the North. The second agreement promised that neither the North nor the South would join alliances with outside parties, and called for general elections in 1956. Laos and Cambodia were to remain neutral. The United States did not sign the second agreement, establishing instead its own government in South Vietnam. As the French pulled out, the United States appointed Ngo Dinh Diem to lead South Vietnam. Like Bao Dai, Diem was an unpopular choice in Vietnam as he had waited out the nationalist struggle against France abroad. Diem had also collaborated with the Japanese occupation, but his Catholicism appealed to the Western powers. The United States also supported the formation of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, designed to respond if there was an armed attack on any nation in the region.

Dotson's Other Note: I thought some of you older Moon Monkeys might need a refresher, since it has been almost 69 years since France gave up on French Indo-China. This caused some of my friends to spend a year or so visiting the lovely country they called Vietnam. I was lucky not to have my boots on the ground in what some of you Moon Monkeys refer to as "Nam." Fortunately, I only spent two days in "French Indo-China," in 1954. Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at dlewisl@stx.rr.com. FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 - 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397...It's your two hours, please let us hear from you.



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

Decades ago before Al Gore invented the internet I found myself in my first job out of college as a Police Reporter for the San Antonio News. This was in the days before two of the three newspapers in town combined under the ownership of Rupert Murdoch to become the San Antonio Express/News. The Express was the morning paper of record while the News existed on afternoon rack sales with headlines like "Headless Body in Topless Bar" and "Aliens Fight Over Urine in Desert Battle," and "The Wild Pig Man of South Bexar!" My byline was featured under some of those.

My shift was from 11 p.m. until dawn and my job was to go from crime scene to crime scene, count the bullet holes, and get the spelling of the names right. San Antonio in the early 1980s was a tough town and it was not unusual to have half a dozen shootings in a night and I made every scene. The beat was so busy that for the first year I never wrote a story; I just carried around a pocket full of quarters and called in to the City Desk to avoid using the car two-way radio which was monitored by the competitors at the Express and the Hearst-owned San Antonio Light whose reporters both went home at midnight so myself and Dangerous Dan the Radio Man were out there running the streets with the police and that was it. When the police officers left the scene we were not safe in most of the neighborhoods where the shootings mostly happened.

Tell it to the Judge...

In those days reporters were not all that popular with rank and file police officers so the only information we got out of the PD was from the homicide detectives back at the station who were too overworked to have time to dislike reporters; they just wanted them out of their office and feeding them information was the quickest way to do that. On most nights the best source of information came at the 4 a.m. session of the City Magistrate's Office located on the first floor of the Bexar County Jail where those arrested since 6 p.m. the previous evening were brought before Judge Quan Lu for a reading of the charges against them and to give their plea. It was here where the cases that so far had been solely under the jurisdiction of the police department entered into the judicial system and where information on the record first became available.

Most mornings when my shift was over I headed to the Recovery Room, a watering hole that opened at 7 a.m., on the north side where shift workers at all over the city gathered at sunup to discuss the trials and tribulations of the Night People and it soon became apparent that my stories from the streets and those from the folks at the Emergency Room were generally more exciting than those from the night shift at USAA insurance right down the street even though they were moving \$200 million dollars in float every night as they chased the opening of money markets through Asia. Gunfire made for better copy than decimal points.

Over time as the stories from the Magistrate Court piled up it occurred to me that this should be a sitcom. The parade of drunks, psychopaths, regular citizens, gangbangers, paint sniffers, and run of the mill peckerwoods made for a passing nightly theatre of the human condition from every part of the city. Sure enough not long after came the sitcom Night Court which while it was a comedy pretty much exactly mirrored much of the scene I saw

every night; with exceptions. The show was a comedy and therefore didn't mention the violent side of life that in fact made up most of the cases. There is a new version of the old show now back on the air but once again only tells half the story.

The violent side...

In the first year I was there boxer Tony Ayala Jr. was brought before the judge after a violent fight on a movie in the restroom of a drive-in movie theatre. Ayala was a Golden Gloves champion who had been featured in a cover story of Sports Illustrated and was set to fight Roberto Duran. He came in with his lawyer but in spite of his best advice couldn't keep his mouth shut. He screamed threats at the judge, he screamed at the prosecutor, then he screamed at his own lawyer and the two reporters present on his way out. You wouldn't see that on Night Court. They brought Spiderman Cordova back from Florida after he had slashed himself in grease and slipped through a six-inch gap in the bars to escape from the very same building where he was then brought back to in the middle of the night to be arraigned. We had all come running out of the police press room right across the street to see a line of bed sheets tied together and running down the fifth tier that he had descended to disappear like smoke into the night only to be arrested in Florida months later for violent crimes before being put to death in 1999. During the hearing he jumped from his seat and lunged at the bailiff then tried to run for the door. He shouted down the judge and threatened violence to the point that he was literally chained to the defense table with leg irons.

They brought in local madam Teresa Brown for an unannounced hearing after she threatened to reveal the names of judges and lawyers on her trick list, including the County Court Judge where the case was eventually assigned. They brought in a guy we labeled Crazy Legs because he took the police on a ten mile chase after he hijacked a city bus full of passengers and rose to his feet to do dance a jig after officers pulled him through the driver's window by the hair. When asked if he had anything to say to the court he launched into what sounded like and speech by an Oscar Winner. "I want to thank my minister without who I would not be here today. My brothers and sisters and my lawyer..."

A good many of those hauled before the bar shuffled their way into the court in what reporters and bailiffs referred to as the Thorazine shuffle due to the drugs they were given to calm them down. They would come shuffling in wearing their jailhouse orange with carpet slippers sticking their tongues out with their heads hung down and often tugging at their hair. I never saw that on Night Court.

My favorite was an armed robber who had stuck up a Stop & Go in front of six eyewitnesses who had all identified him in a lineup. After reading the statements from the witnesses the judge asked the defendant if he had anything to say.

"It's a viscous lie spread by all six of the eyewitnesses!" he screamed. "A viscous lie your honor!" "We ask the defendant to be released on his own recognizance," his lawyer said. "Remanded without bail," the judge said. Come to think of it that one might make Night Court.

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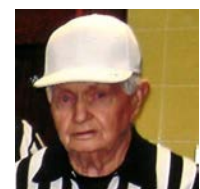
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Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



By Dotson Lewis

Determination of Glenn Cunningham

Dotson's Note: I loved to run as long back as I can remember. When I was nine or ten years old, besides a one-mile daily run, once a week I would go for a one-hour trek in the hills near my home in northwest Arkansas. I clearly remember back in elementary school reading the incredible story of determination of world-famous runner Glenn Cunningham. It inspired me to believe that anything is possible. I was determined to become a world class runner. In the spring of 1948, I almost did it. On consecutive Saturdays, I ran a mile in 4 minutes 2 & 4/5 seconds! That was close, but no cigar. Thanks to Bill Morgan, Fred Burks and Burt Dubin for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan for the photos.



Glenn Cunningham

The little country schoolhouse was heated by an old-fashioned, pot-bellied coal stove. An eight-year-old boy named Glenn Cunningham had the job of coming to school early each day so that he could use kerosene to start the fire and warm the room before his teacher and his classmates arrived. One cold morning someone mistakenly filled the kerosene container he used with gasoline, and disaster struck.

The class and teacher arrived to find the schoolhouse engulfed in flames. Terrified on realizing that Glenn was inside, they rushed in and managed to drag the unconscious little boy out of the flaming building more dead than alive. He had major burns over the lower half of his body and was taken to a nearby county hospital.

From his bed, the dreadfully burned, semi-conscious little boy faintly heard the doctor talking to his mother. The doctor told his mother that her son would surely die, which was for the best, really, for the terrible fire had devastated the lower half of his body.

But the brave boy didn't want to die. Glenn made up his mind that he would survive. And somehow, to the amazement of the physician, he did.

Yet when the danger was past, he again heard the doctor and his mother speaking quietly. The mother was told that since the fire had destroyed so much flesh in the lower part of his body, it would almost be better if he had died, since he was doomed to be a lifetime cripple with no use at all of his lower limbs. His mother refused to let the doctors amputate.

Once more this brave little boy made up his mind. He would not be a cripple. He would walk. But unfortunately, from the waist down, Glenn had no motor ability. His thin, scarred legs just dangled there, all but lifeless.

Ultimately, Glenn was released from the hospital. Every day afterward his mother and father would massage his little legs, but there was no feeling, no control, nothing. Yet his determination that he would walk was, as strong as ever.

When he wasn't in bed, he was confined to a wheelchair. One sunny day his mother wheeled him out into the yard to get some fresh air. This day, instead of sitting there, he threw himself from the chair. Glenn pulled himself across the grass, dragging his legs behind him.

He worked his way to the white picket fence bordering their lot. With great effort, he raised himself up on the fence. Then, stake by stake, he began dragging himself along the fence, resolved that he would walk. He started to do this every day until he wore a smooth path all around the yard beside the fence. There was nothing he wanted more than to develop life in those legs.

Ultimately through his daily massages, Glenn's iron persistence and his resolute determination, he did develop the ability first to stand up, then to walk haltingly with help, then to walk by himself, and then miraculously, to run.



Glenn began to run to school. He ran for the sheer joy of running and being able to run. He ran everywhere that he could. The people in his town would often see him run by on his way to who knows where and smile. Later in college Glenn made the track team where his tremendous determination paid off. He eventually received the nickname the "Kansas Flyer."

He overcame this adversity, running, and winning, races in high school, though he never ran particularly smoothly and his legs required extensive massage and lengthy warm-up throughout his career as a runner. He ran for the United States at the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, placing fourth in the 1500-metre race, and won the silver medal in the 1,500-metre race at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. He was the fastest miler in the Amateur Athletic Union in 1933, 1935, 1936, 1937, and 1938. In 1934 he set a world record that was not broken for three years, running the mile in 4:06.7. His last season of competition was 1940. Having attended the University of Kansas (B.A., 1933), University of Iowa (M.A., 1936), and New York University (Ph.D.), Cunningham taught physical education at Cornell College from 1940 to 1944 and then served in the navy for two years. In 1947 he established the Glenn Cunningham Youth Ranch, at which he helped thousands of troubled youths over a period of more than 30 years.



Dotson's Other Note: In February 1934, in New York City's famed Madison Square Garden, this young man who was not expected to survive, who would surely never walk, who could never hope to run, this determined young man, Dr. Glenn Cunningham, ran the mile in four minutes and eight seconds, the world's fastest indoor mile! Later that same year in a prestigious outdoor track meet, he shaved another second off his record to run the world's fastest mile to that time. Glenn Cunningham, bye-name The Kansas Ironman, or The Kansas Flyer, (born Aug. 4, 1909, Atlanta?, Kan., U.S., died March 10, 1988, Menifee, Ark.), was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1974.

Comments/questions and/or letters to the Editor call 530-748-8475 or Email editor@islandmoon.com



By Andy Purvis

Home of the Brave



Fly Over SB XXVII Rose Bowl

The experience of a flyover is one of the most awesome displays of military force in all of sports. The sheer speed, deafening roar and the fact it all comes from above, are enough to demand everyone's attention. At that moment we are all one, Americans. The flyover is not confined to just the Super Bowl. College Bowl games, Indy 500, U.S. Open Tennis, Major League Baseball All-Star and World-Series games, NASCAR events, and the Army-Navy Football Game are included. The flyovers are also used to celebrate or remember historical events that have occurred during time of conflict. Flyovers over London, England and Normandy, France occur every year.

I experienced my first flyover in person in 1992, during Super Bowl XXVII, at the Rose Bowl. Garth Brooks sang the National Anthem as the Blue Angel Navy jets roared overhead at the end of the anthem. Then the Cowboys promptly beat the Bills. It was exciting, exhilarating, and powerful. It made me feel patriotic, intense, and invincible. The adrenaline rush makes the hair actually stand up on your arms and neck. I have attended five different Super Bowls, several MLB All-Star Games and World Series Games, and many NASCAR events. The flyovers at each of these events were incredible. They just never got old. The flyover has become tradition, a part of the build-up of some of the greatest sporting events in this country. And to think it all happens right at the end of the singing of our National Anthem.

The singing of our anthem can vary from one performer to another, but it generally lasts about one minute and 15 seconds. On January 27, 1991, in Tampa, Florida, just seconds after Whitney Houston finished singing the last note of our anthem before Super Bowl XXV, four Air Force F-16 jet fighter and attack planes, in formation, thundered overhead at that precise moment. How do they do that? TOT, or "time on target," is just another day for our military. When you combine a specific time, with takeoff,

distance, and air speed, and a forward air-traffic controller inside the stadium for last-minute guidance, you receive and experience the flyover as the last notes "and the home of the brave" are being sung. These aircraft often come from long distances and there is a holding area provided above each event, out of sight of the stadium. This is where the man on the ground comes in. He is giving last-second instructions on the timing of the song, as the aircraft comes in sight. The pilot can now actually hear the anthem being played inside his cockpit as they approach. The Air Force B-52H Stratofortress Bomber, the Navy F/A-18 Hornet Fighter Jets, and the CH-53 Echo Super Stallion Helicopter have all been used at different sporting events. The only challenge comes from the weather.

The average cost of a flyover is estimated at 450,000 dollars. The costs of flyovers are part of our military budget. Of course that bill is footed by us, the taxpayers. Is it worth it? According to the Navy, it's more than worth their efforts. They claim that operating during a time of all-volunteer armed services, it's important to show the strength of our armed forces and that the flyovers attract many proud young men and women to the Navy or Marines. These flyovers also provide our pilots more time in the air, which in turn keeps them sharp and ready.

So, as you gathered with your friends, surrounded by food and drinks, and slipped into that large comfortable chair this past weekend for the NFL Divisional playoff between the Eagles and 49er's and the Chiefs and Bengals, make sure and remember that the flyover is a reminder that we can all sleep safely tonight at home in our beds, because our military is out there literally watching over us from above and protecting our freedoms. God Bless America! I can't wait for Super Bowl LVII.

Andy Purvis
www.purvisbooks.com

Water cont. from A1

the city Water Department currently has about two weeks of supply of the chemical in stock and once that runs out the supply will have to come from India or China and as of mid-week no alternate source had been found.

They said once the supply of permanganate runs out the water could taste "earthy or musty" with the degree of earthiness or mustiness depending on the turbidity of the water coming down Texas rivers into the local water supply and the taste buds of the water drinker.

The Corpus Christi Water Department produces about 80 million gallons of water day which is sources from surface water sources including Lake Texana via the Colorado River, and the Nueces River through Choke Canyon

Reservoir and Lake Corpus Christi. According to information presented to the city council on Tuesday those sources are currently at a combined level of 42.8% full and the city is currently under Stage 1 Water Restrictions. Proposed changes to the water conservation policy at city hall would trigger a voluntary conservation program when levels in the two largest lakes falls below 50% or when the level of Lake Texana falls below 40%. Under the new plan State 2 Water Restrictions would kick in when the combined levels of Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon fall below 30% which would restrict yard watering to once every other week.

So while the good news is we can still water our lawns, for now at least, the bad news is that in two weeks water coming out of the tap may taste "earthy or musty."



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The Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

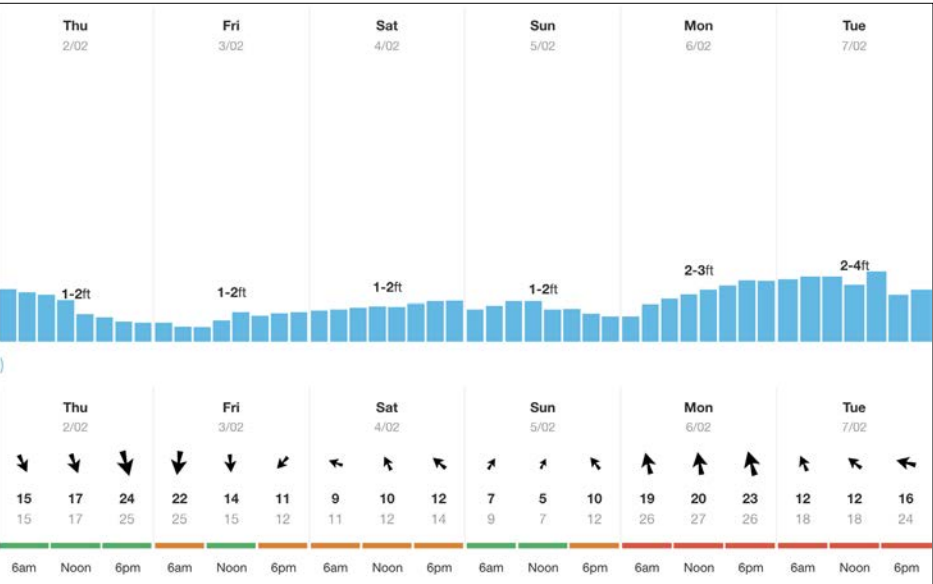
By Jay Gardner



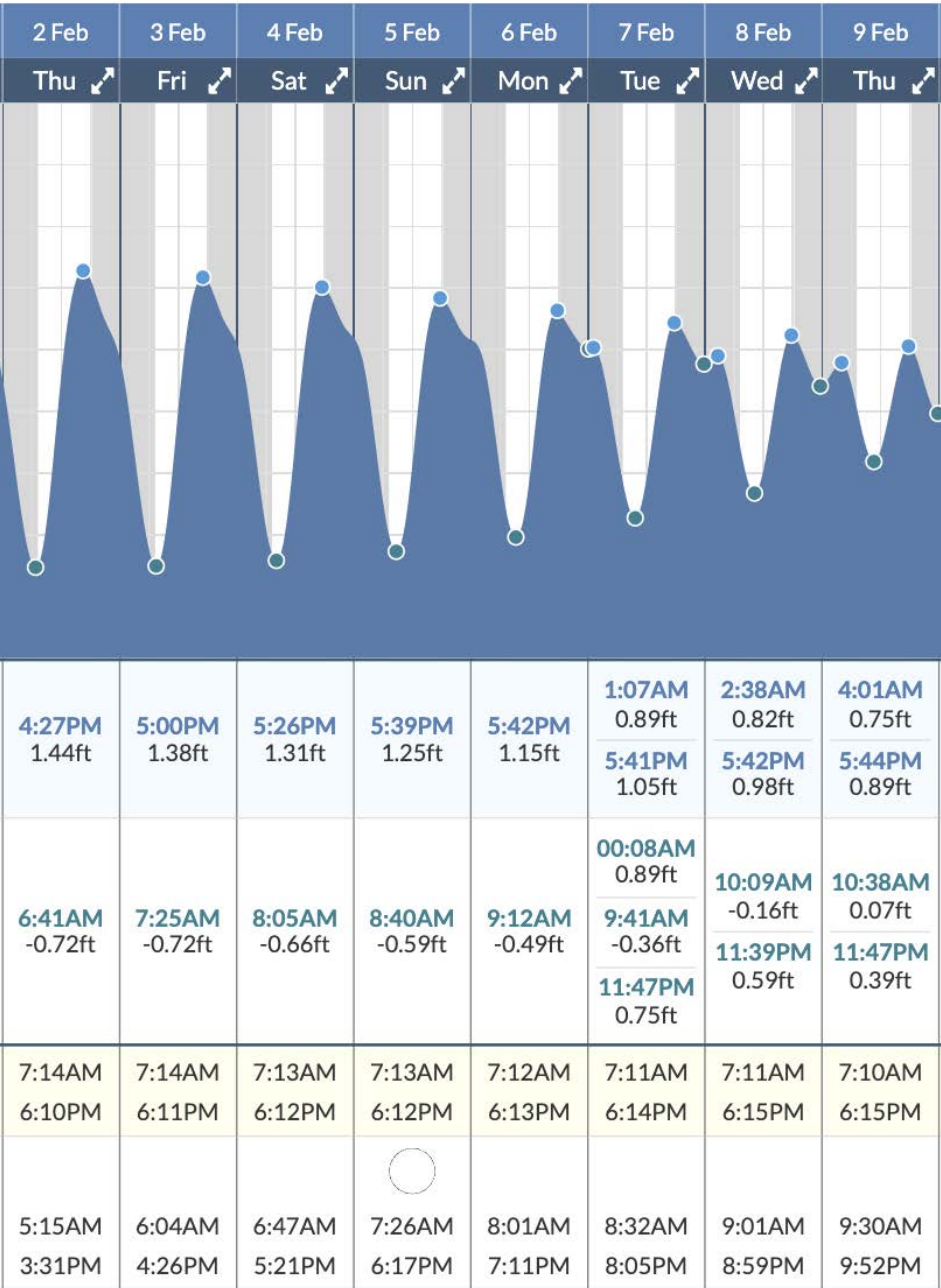
Ted Mandel and I went down to city council the other day and talked about the need for second causeway or other means off the Island during public comment. I handed the ISAC resolution directly to the council members and reminded them that a second means off the Island has been talked about for probably decades now, and that the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process will determine what the best alignment is. The NEPA process requires that an alternatives analysis be performed, and who knows, maybe the best alternative will be that Elon Musk’s Boring company will bore us a couple tunnels from Mustang Island over to SPID. The joke kinda fell flat as I think the new council is less congenial than the last one; at least for now. I also alluded to the upcoming presentation of the joint committee’s erosion response plan resolution that is headed council’s way in the next couple of weeks. There is a contingent of folks down at council for public comment that are becoming more and more vocal about the city needing to be proactive about climate change. I guess my comment about erosion response went right over their head, as no one has reached out previously or since then. They might be surprised to find out that there have been groups and city staff that have been working on erosion for decades now. I worked for TCOON studying the sea level rise back in the early 2000’s. It’s nothing new. You loyal readers know that I get on my soapbox here about sea level rise every year or so. It’s real, and we need to do something about it, but we all need to work together and come up with a plan that is executable, that’s the first step. Speaking of ISAC, we’re finally meeting next week after what seems like forever. We will be looking for some updates from the city on engineering and Bond projects and hoping that there will be an update on Bond 2018 for the projects under the JFK Causeway on the east side. We now know that the TIRZ #2 could potentially be used for that project, and we need to know if the city has the impetus to get that project done as we are refining our TIRZ

#2 project list. We’re not waiting to develop our list, however that remains a high priority on the Island and we need to know how the city prefers to fund that project, one way or the other. We will also be reviewing our short-, mid-, and long-term project lists from the Area Development Plan. Should be fun. Ha! Shelling should still be pretty good on the beach when there’s a beach to drive on. The winds have kept the tide up through forcing of the water against the beaches and into the bays. Tides are coming in Packery Channel almost a full foot above the predicted levels for this time of year (+0.8). You can go to the interactive map at <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov> and pick from any station in the U.S. What’s interesting is to go down and see the water level at the Brazos Santiago pass (South Padre) and see that it’s running up to +2.0 feet, which is pretty high for the Laguna. That is an example of forcing, showing that the north (and south) winds can have more of an effect on local water levels than the tides do. I have to print this every once in a while, for the winter Texans who want to find the best stuff on the beach. You can make the trip down the Seashore or take the ferry from Port Aransas to St. Joe’s Island, hit the closed beach at Mustang Island, or have a friend on Matagorda Island. However, if you’re looking for something a bit rarer, you can sometimes find some small sharks teeth in the shell hash at the very base of the jetties. I’d recommend either Packery or Fish Pass north jetties. Just grab a handful of hash from between the rocks and pick through it. Don’t expect to find megalodons, some will be smaller than a dime. Well folks, the Big Shell Clean Up is coming up on February 25th down at the Visitors Center on the Seashore. Entrance is free, and we’ll have some goodies for you after we get done. Go to friendsofpadre.com or find them on social media for more information. I’m looking forward to the nice weather this weekend after the thermostat was stuck on 38 degrees for what seemed like days on end. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and we’ll see you next week On the Rocks.

Packery Channel Surf Forecast



Tides of the Week



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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah’s Fishing Adventures



Join Joe’s Family and Friends in a Celebration of life at Marker 37 Marina Feb 11th!

This cold wind has swept into my body and emptied my soul. Losing someone special to us does that. When you empty out and shut the windows, and start over there is a rebirth of life. That is exactly what has happened this week in my family, and will happen in the local waters with our fishing.

Without the dead fall of Winter, there would be no spring. Grass and trees die and melt to the ground, fertilizing the earth. The stripped trees and fallen fauna open up the ground to sunlight.

In our bays this is the same, summer grasses grow towards the top of the surface in the shallows and restrict water flow. Sea grass fills the sand pockets and doesn’t allow crab and shrimp to bury in the soft bottoms. As spring develops the new grass is sweet with nutrients. Feeding the bottom of the food chain. The waters are clear from the cold kill of algae blooms of summer, and the warm rays of the sun bake the bottom. Shrimp and bait of all kinds will flow back into the back reaches of our bay system from deep water winter hide outs. There has to be a reset, and from all of my many seasons shared with the Laguna Madre’ the colder ones, gift the most fruitful springs. BUT PLEASE NO FREEZES!



Island local, John Richard caught this massively thick trout this week as we drifted the shallow flats of Baffin Bay, on a DOWN SOUTH LURES, purple reign with Capt. Joey Farah.

This week we got slammed with some cold weather that has brought water temperatures from the 70’s to the high 40’s in some areas. This sends game fish into a feeding before the water temp drops. We saw our bay waters steaming for the first few days, as the cold sank in, that steam dissipated. With that change game fish have filled their bellies and drawn down into a type of hibernation. They will be slow to warm and gain an appetite. By Sunday and Monday air temps will be in the high 60s and 70s, everything will be ready for some sun. Midday and afternoon feedings

will be strong but first light will still be the coldest part of the day. Plan your fishing on the highway lunar feeding periods in those warmer times of day. Focus on the edges of deep water, where water in the sun warmed shallows will flow off into deeper hides. Notice small swarms of bait fish and birds working these zones. The side channels along the ICW and other deep channels are a perfect example. The deep flats will have steps depth leading out of the deepest zones. Deeper water contains current and cold water, as the sun warms the flats look for game fish to occupy the depths of 3–feet first, then move to the extreme shallows to hunt minnows that try to catch the sun. We are still having our best luck on DOWN SOUTH LURES Super Models in Color X, Magic Grass, and Purple Reign. At times I will switch over to a smaller bait when looking for action but at the end of the day, a larger bait with excellent action puts bigger fish in your hand. I am using a 1/4 ounce jig head most of the time from the boat, and applying a 1/8th ounce when I want to produce a softer or slower decent from the surface. The local waters around the JFK abridge are holding lots of fish in the oilfield channels, and the deep flats around the spoil islands south of Bird Island are full of trout out deep and reds and drum up on the shallow shelves. Port A is having some great fishing along the Jetty with loads of sheephead and when the tides are up and seas are calm pompano all over the surf.

Celebration of Life Party for Joe Farah

WE WOULD LOVE TO INVITE THE ISLAND to my father’s celebration of life on February 11th starting at 3 pm at MARKER 37 MARINA. My family at Marker 37 opened their arms to all of us, we will have a gathering of memories there along with a giant slide show of FARAHS MEMORIES, live music, great food available with the Marker 37 food truck and full bars. Big open decks with games and fun. We will be saying goodbye to my father at sunset from their SUNSET PIER casting flowers into the sea as the sun sets. We will have a sound stage set up so we can all have a chance to tell our favorite JOE STORY! His family from California will be here as well and that’s where the REAL JOE stories hide! It’s going to be a blast off! There is no way that it would be possible to hold and handle a party like this at Dad’s Bar, let alone for my family to relax and take it all in. My Marker 37 Family has all the staff,

facility, and resources to allow us to have the event and enjoy it, I will forever be grateful. SEND ME YOUR JOE AND FARAHS PICTURES FOR THE SLIDE SHOW! Message me for fishing or pictures 361-442-8145 Thank all of you that shared times, memories, and life with my father and the bar over the years. It was never about the drinks, always about the souls and company we kept.



Mr. Jimmy holds another big trout we caught and released this week drifting with soft plastics. When you see warm temps on the horizon pick up that phone and call me! They will be feeding!

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Ryan T Rogers, MD



The Moon went along on the Sapphire Princess Cruise ship and while in the Gerlache Strait in Antarctica - Latitude approximately 64 Degrees South - The Moon encountered 115 mph winds in Drake Passage and survived. I would be curious to know if this is the furthest distance the Moon has been?

Robert Illgen

Editor's note: That's pretty far down there Robert. So far the Moon has been to the bottom of the Caribbean and the top of Mount Everest and almost made it onto the Space Shuttle until NASA found out. We lost a load of papers out of the truck in 120 mph winds in Harvey but that doesn't count because they didn't survive...so we're going with a yes! Thanks for taking us along!



A Giant Bird on The Island...no wait...
Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Tony and Marsha Perez celebrated their 41st anniversary at Chena Hot Springs Fairbanks, Alaska and took the Island Moon along! They had a marvelous time seeing the northern lights and soaking in the hot springs.



The beach in winter.
Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Seashore Kids at UIL A+ Meet



Emma Polderman with her trophy.



Easton Butler with his two medals.



On Saturday, January 28, 2023, Seashore Charter Schools competed in the UIL A+ Meet hosted by Gregory Portland ISD. Students competed against other Coastal Bend school districts in 20 different events for grades 2-8 including Art, Music Memory, Number Sense, Oral Reading, Ready Writing, Creative Writing, Spelling, Storytelling, and Chess Puzzles. Emma Polderman (3rd grade) placed 1st in Creative Writing and 2nd in Storytelling. Easton Butler (3rd grade) placed 2nd in Chess Puzzles. Seashore students placed in many of the other events and represented our island school very well!



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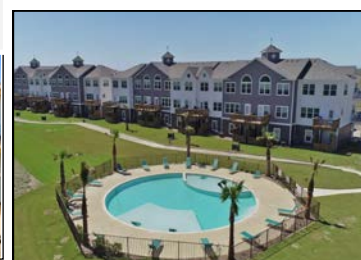
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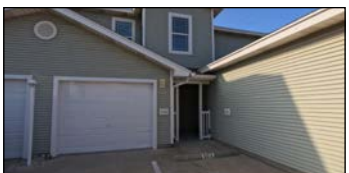
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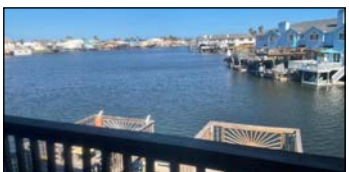
14910 Windward #503
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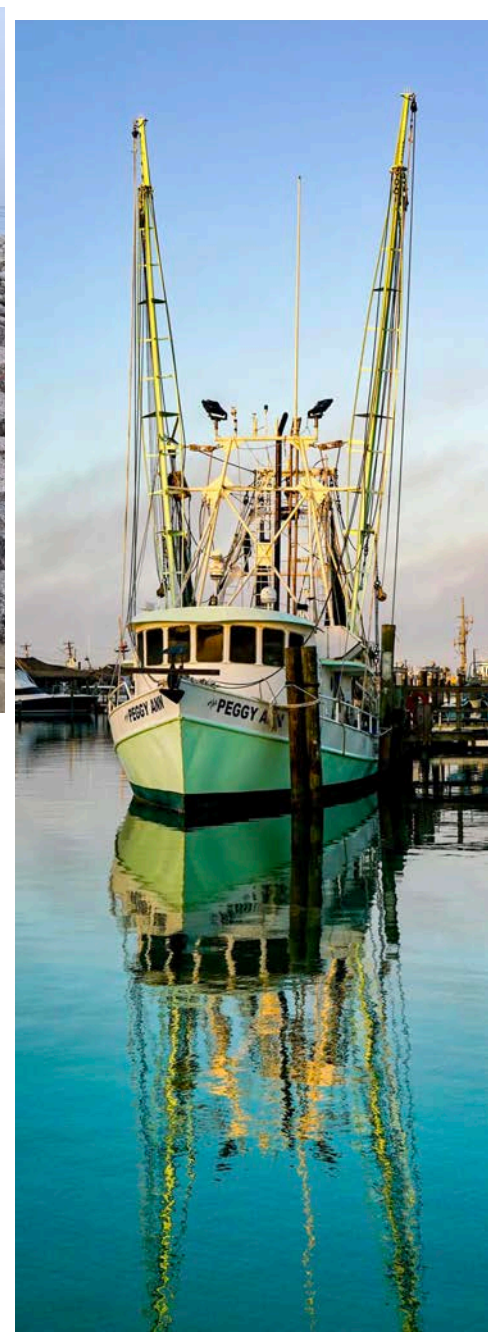
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Billy Wilson with a giant! 90 lb. Wahoo..... the fastest fish in the world.....but not fast enough....!



Back to Back Redfish! Winter Texan Dick Davis from Sioux Falls, SD caught these two 38" redfish just minutes apart in Port Aransas on a recent fishing trip. The first red came on the first cast!



Peggy Ann By Steve Coons.



The group working to establish an American Legion Post on The Island met at HardKnocks this week. Photo by Sheila Click



Jetty by Marvin Orellano

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Food Tech

By Chris Jordan



Sous Vide Beef Tenderloin

There are a couple of cooking technologies that one would be tempted to refer to as “new” but in truth have been around for more than fifty years. Both *sous vide* and *induction* cooking are becoming commonplace so it’s time to take a closer look.

Sous Vide translates verbatim from French to “under vacuum”. In practice it means placing food in a plastic bag, sucking all the air out, sealing the bag tight, and then cooking the vacuum-bagged food in a water bath. The principal benefits? The food cooks in its own juices and does not lose any moisture or flavor and the water bath may be held at a precise temperature making it virtually impossible to over- or undercook your food. Although people have certainly used this technique without any special equipment, *sous vide* is now almost exclusively executed via a vacuum sealer and an immersion circulator.

You are probably familiar with a vacuum sealer. The most common brand name is FoodSaver. These plastic boxes are about the size of a loaf of bread, use special plastic bags, and contain a vacuum pump and a heated strip to melt the bag shut. Liquid or very wet ingredients are a bit tricky but can be managed with some ingenuity. In this type of vacuum sealer, the bag and food remain outside the device. Another type most commonly used in restaurants — the chamber sealer — operates in the same way except for having a vacuum chamber in which the bagged food is placed. This makes the handling of wet and liquid foods much easier but these machines are considerably more costly.

After food is sealed in a vacuum bag, *sous vide* cooking is done in a container of water heated by an immersion circulator. Again, most of us are familiar with this gadget: it is a cylindrical device that sits partially submerged in a container of water, has a heating element, a circulation pump, and controls to precisely maintain the temperature of the water bath. The beauty of this arrangement is that once the food reaches the desired internal temperature, it never exceeds it.

Induction cooktops are a little magical. No heat is produced on or within the cooktop itself and therefore no heat is being *transferred* to your pans. An electromagnetic field causes the *pan itself* to become hot. How cool is that? You could touch the induction surface after removing a pan and not even burn yourself. Plus, without a pan on the cooktop, no heat is created so think of the safety net that provides. Are you a diehard gas stove person? Me too. But I’m here to tell you: induction cooktops get hotter even faster. There’s no flame to peak at to judge your heat levels so there’s a learning

curve in that regard and you must use pans with some ferrous content so there’s that, but I’m sold. I just prepared a dinner in a home with an induction cooktop and was impressed. I brought my best carbon steel pans and the *foie gras* survived just fine. Let’s talk about a couple of things I prepared recently using these technologies. These don’t require a formal recipe, so here are a couple of casual ones.



Foie Gras

Seared Foie Gras and Toasted Baguette
Get yourself a grade A foie gras from either Hudson Valley Farms or Bella Bella Gourmet. Let the foie come to room temperature. Separate the lobes and crosscut each lobe into ¾ inch slices. Season both sides of each slice generously with kosher salt and finely ground black pepper. Heat a large skillet, griddle, or saute pan until very hot. Don’t use non-stick pans for this, they are not ideal getting this hot. You don’t need to grease the pan, the foie will render fat immediately making it impossible for it to stick to the pan. You should see some smoke. 30 seconds a side is good, your foie will melt away if you cook it much longer. Keep in mind the inside will still be virtually uncooked. That feature is required: you cannot “cook” foie. Part of the charm is that it melts at around body temp... i.e. inside your mouth. I think you can figure out the toasted baguette slices for yourself. You could serve it with balsamic vinegar reduction and/or a salad with a vinaigrette dressing.

Sous Vide and Hard-seared Beef Tenderloin with Hollandaise, New Potatoes, and Asparagus
Portion your tenderloin according to your appetite. Season each steak all over with salt and pepper, cook *sous vide* at 130° for two hours. Remove from the vacuum bag, pat dry with a paper towel and pan-sear in smoking hot olive oil about one minute per side. For the asparagus, bring two quarts of salted water to a boil for each bunch of asparagus. Drop asparagus in the pot, cover and turn off the heat. It will be perfectly cooked after five minutes and can just sit there without harm until it gets too cold to eat. Toss the potatoes with salt, pepper, garlic powder and a little olive oil and roast them for 15 minutes at 450°. You can make the hollandaise in a traditional blender, food processor, or with an immersion blender. Place one large egg yolk, one teaspoon lemon juice, and one teaspoon cold water in your blending vessel. Heat one stick of salted butter in a small pan on your rangetop over medium heat until it starts bubbling, continue heating until the bubbling has just stopped but no longer. While the egg mixture is being blended, add the hot butter in a steady thin stream. There! You did it! You made hollandaise!

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PIPOA News by Marvin Jones, President



News you can Use

As always, let me have your thoughts. You can reach me at marvin@pipoa.net or call me at 469-231-3485. You can also call the Padre Isles Property Owners Association (PIPOA) office with any questions you have at 361-949-7025.

Board meeting- On Tuesday, January 31, 2023, the Board held its monthly Board meeting. The Board decided to create a resolution in support of a second way on and off the Island. The resolution will be given to State Representative Todd Hunter and other representatives of appropriate government agencies. Thank you to Ted Mandel for giving a presentation on this matter. Only one person signed up to run for the Board during the registration period. The Board decided not to reopen the registration period. Instead, the Board will allow the election to go forward with only one candidate on the ballot but provide write-in candidate lines on the ballot. Furthermore, nominations for an open Board seat will be accepted from the floor during the annual meeting in March. The Board voted to send a letter regarding the blowing sand coming from the Whitecap Development to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TECQ), the City of Corpus Christi, and other appropriate entities.

The Board voted to hire Adamson and Company, a CPA firm, to conduct the 2022 Audit. The Board authorized the PIPOA staff to stripe some of the boat ramp parking lots. That is, to create specific parking places. The second addition of the PIPOA bulkhead manual was approved by the Board. This manual will be made available to members living on the canal lots.

Previously, the Board had voted to create a licensing program for members on canals to build on submerged land owned by the PIPOA. The wording of the motion to create this program was reconfirmed. The PIPOA will charge one (1) dollar per square foot of the structure that is on PIPOA property. The Board heard from David Heitzman that the ACC had created a procedure and policy document for the Board to consider. This document is designed to further expand on the details of the new program. The Board did not approve this document as the Board wants more time to review it. Stay tuned. More on this later. The Board was unable to approve a budget for 2023. The primary reason for the delay is the pricing contract for one of our bulkhead repair companies was delivered 30 minutes before the Board meeting. Therefore, the Board and the Executive Director need time to analyze the cost as it relates to the budget.

Boat Ramps- There is a new boat ramp sticker policy. The new policy requires only one sticker to be placed in your vehicle. There will be no sticker for a boat trailer. The new stickers are now available at the PIPOA Office. You will be required to fill out an information form regarding your status as a PIPOA member, and information regarding the vehicle the sticker will be placed on. Last week, one (1) vehicle and two (2) trailers were towed off the boat ramps.

The next PIPOA Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Padre Island Baptist Church located across from Whataburger.

Marvin Jones, PIPOA President

Senate Opens Budget Hearings

By Richard Lee

Monday, January 30th, marked the first of many public hearings on the state budget, as lawmakers try and decide how to allot a record amount of surplus cash and projected revenue. Though the comptroller has forecast as much as \$188 billion in available funds, statutory and constitutional spending limits will keep the actual amount appropriated to pay for state services in 2024 and 2025 much lower. Both chambers have filed budgets that would spend \$130.1 billion in discretionary state revenue. Both include \$15 billion set aside for property tax relief, with the Senate earmarking \$3 billion of that amount to raise the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$70,000. Governor Greg Abbott and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick have each vowed to deliver historic property tax cuts this session.

The budget process in the Senate works like this: members of the newly expanded Senate Finance Committee will hear from every agency in the state regarding their upcoming funding needs. These hearings are scheduled through the second week of February, and members of the public are allowed to appear and offer their input on the state's spending priorities. After these hearings, the committee will divide into work groups that will closely examine a particular portion of the Senate budget plan. Those groups will present a final budget to the full committee for adoption sometime in March. Once a final draft is completed, it will go to the full Senate for approval. In recent years this has been relatively non-controversial, with the Senate draft receiving unanimous approval from the body in the last three sessions.

The House has a similar process, and once both chambers have approved final proposals, five members of each will come together in a conference committee to hammer out any differences between the two bodies. This can sometimes lead to friction as each chamber fights for their version of the budget, but that doesn't appear likely this session as

both houses have submitted draft proposals that would spend the same amount. While the details differ, on the big issues there is common ground: both budget drafts set aside \$15 billion for property tax relief and both would spend the same amount on state health services and public education. Once the conference committee has come to an agreement, a final draft will be presented before both chambers for an up-or-down vote and then it heads to the governor for his signature.

The state budget is divided up into ten articles that contain similar services. As ever, the two largest articles are Article II, health and human services, and Article III, public education. Together they comprise more than three quarters of discretionary state spending. That means the Senate proposal will include \$59 billion for public schools and \$41 billion for state health services. Those two articles contain 77 percent of state funds allocated in the Senate budget, and when taken with federal funds and dedicated state revenue, will make up just under 72 percent of the all-funds budget.

This will be the first session in eight years that a new chair will lead the Senate's budget writing efforts, with Houston Senator Joan Huffman taking over from long-time chair and newly appointed Secretary of State Jane Nelson. Huffman has previously made her mark on fiscal legislation with major pension reform bills for the state's teacher and public employee retirement funds. “We have an obligation to the people of Texas to continue our state's incredible trajectory by making investments that will keep Texas as the best place to live, work, and raise a family,” Huffman said in a press release accompanying last week's budget filing. Public hearings begin Monday, January 30 at 10 a.m. with Article I, which comprises the budget for general government and includes the office of state comptroller and public pension funds.

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Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 6 | | 8 | 4 | | |
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| | | 3 | | 5 | 4 | | |
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| | | | | 4 | | | 6 |
| | | 4 | 3 | | 2 | | |

Brain-Buster

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

Moon Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

1. That left over

5. Gives everything away

10. Comply

14. She performed with Duke

15. Olive family member

16. Popular moisturizer ingredient

17. Slayer of Adonis

18. Like some angles

19. Phoenix squad

20. Like late-breaking news

23. Places to drill

24. Onion covering

25. A sucker holds it

28. Progenitor

31. Cigar or crown

33. Feathered stole

36. Place to practice driving

39. Christmas drinks

40. Some desserts

44. Guitar part

45. Take the silver?

46. Wily

47. Like a Poe tale

50. Spielberg soldier

52. Leia's love

53. Cardinal point

56. Sports summary

60. Quickly approaching deadline

64. Chester Arthur's middle name

66. Newscaster Couric

67. Site of Perry's victory, 1813

68. It may be read before dinner

69. Spiral-horned antelope

70. "The Lion King" character

71. Little bits of land

72. Schedule snag

73. Former news org.

Down

1. Refute

2. Avoid a big wedding

3. Terrace stone, perhaps

4. Some picture cards

5. Rainy day feeling

6. Tiny parasites

7. Reunion folks

8. It's a dyeing art

9. Affording a view

10. Kiln for drying hops

11. Social registers

12. Longest division of geological time

13. No alternative?

21. Show place

22. Numero —

26. Sabrina, Jill or Kelly

27. Long-winded

29. "Norma —"

30. Destinies

32. Genetic stuff

33. Banana cluster

34. Gig for Domingo

35. State of being in control

37. Fetched

38. Wide-spouted pitcher

41. Likable candidate of the past

42. Certain vote

43. — Boothe Luce

48. Sitting and singing site

49. Removed, as a tooth

51. Latest

54. Unoriginal

55. Comprehensive

57. About the time of

58. Prima donna's repertoire

59. Jury members

61. Difficult responsibility

62. A Sinatra

63. Lamarr of "Samson and Delilah"

64. "I — Rock" (Simon and Garfunkel hit)

65. Gift in Maui



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Police Blotter

January 23 - January 29

JFK Causeway to SPID

Aquarius intersection

Disturbance

13900 block SPID 2 p.m. January 28

Traffic

38 Traffic Stops

Aquarius/SPID south to Jackfish

11 Traffic Stops

SPID West to Laguna

Madre

Crimes against Person

14700 block SPID Noon January 29 Terroristic Threat/Display of Weapon

Crimes against Property

15200 block SPID 7 p.m. January 27 Theft of Services

15300 block SPID 10 p.m. January 26 Theft of Services

14100 block Atascadera 3 p.m. January 25 Theft of Services

14400 block Compass 5 a.m. January 24 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle

14300 block Dorsal 7 a.m. January 23 Trespassing

15600 block Gypsy 11 p.m. January 27 Burglary

13800 block Eaglesnest 2 p.m. January 24 Theft of Vehicle Parts

Disturbance

14000 block Ambrosia 2 p.m. January 28

13900 block Ports O Call 8 a.m. January 27

Suspicious Person

Commodores/SPID Noon January 28

13800 block Hawksnest 5 p.m. January 28

Gypsy/Whaler 10 p.m. January 28

Traffic

112 Traffic Stops

14800 block SPID Noon January 29 Crash

15200 block Cruiser 4 p.m. January 28 Parking Violation

14500 block SPID 8 a.m. January 23 Crash

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to city limits

Crimes against Property

15100 block Cane Harbor 2 p.m. January 24 Theft of Services

Disturbance

15200 block Windward 3 p.m. January 29

15200 block Windward 4 p.m. January 26 Building Fire

Suspicious Person

15200 block Leeward 11 p.m. January 28

15400 block Gulf Beach 8 a.m. January 24

Traffic

44 Traffic Stops

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In addition Sunday AA Meetings are held at 8 AM at

The Pavillon on the Boardwalk Near Padre Bali

Crossword Solution

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

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27th Annual “Treasures of the Texas Coast” Children’s Art Contest

All Texas students (public, private, and home-schooled) in grades K-6 are invited to participate



The Texas General Land Office kicked off the 27th Annual *Treasures of the Texas Coast* Children’s Art Contest, this week. It is part of the Adopt-A-Beach Program. All Texas students, public, private, and homeschooled, in kindergarten through sixth grade are encouraged to send in their masterpieces. Artwork should be based on the theme “Treasures of the Texas Coast” and should depict why the Texas coast is important or special to the student.

Texas Public Information Act’s 50th anniversary an excellent time to strengthen the landmark law

By Kelley Shannon
Executive Director

Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas



Kelley Shannon is executive director of the nonprofit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, which is dedicated to protecting First Amendment rights and enhancing the public’s right to know about government. For more information go to www.foift.org.

The Sunshine Coalition aims to shore up the Public Information Act so taxpayers can view “super public” information and other key provisions in government contracts; create a uniform “business days” definition requiring governments to respond to public records requests, even on days of remote work; require that governments provide certain data to requestors in searchable-sortable spreadsheets; and restore public access to dates of birth in criminal justice and political candidate records.

Another coalition pillar is to allow recovery of attorneys’ fees if a requestor must sue to get public information. A series of court decisions have made this extremely difficult by allowing governments to hand over documents at the last minute – after months of litigation – and avoid paying any of the requestor’s legal fees. Consequently, governments may be inclined to ignore or delay records requests.

Meanwhile, the FOI Foundation of Texas works every legislative session to defend the Texas Open Meetings Act, the state’s other major transparency law that was expanded during the early 1970s reform movement. Its enforcement provisions must remain available to everyday citizens. That includes civil court action, when necessary, to prevent or compel an action by a government to ensure compliance with the open meetings law. The FOI Foundation weighed in on this provision with an amicus brief in court.

In another recent legal brief, the FOI Foundation supported the Odessa American in the newspaper’s ongoing lawsuit against the city of Odessa to enforce the release of basic public information “promptly,” as called for in the Public Information Act.

Government officials who stall by seeking unnecessary attorney general rulings or ignoring requestors are not honoring the intentions of the law. All state and local government information in Texas is presumed to be available to the public, unless specific legal exceptions apply.

Many Texans believe our state is exceptional; the historic Public Information Act is one of the reasons it is special. The 2023 legislative session is an excellent time to improve this landmark law governing the people’s right to know.

Today’s lawmakers have an opportunity to continue their predecessors’ commitment to open government so that it endures for generations to come.

Fifty years ago, responding to public demand in an era of reform, Texas enacted a sweeping law ensuring the people’s right to know about their government.

The Texas Public Information Act – originally known as the Open Records Act when it passed in 1973 – was one of the strongest transparency laws in the nation. It allowed Texans to hold their state and local governments accountable by obtaining all sorts of public records.

“The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know,” states the act, born after the Sharpstown stock fraud scandal that gripped state government.

Despite those bold words, the act has been eroded by subsequent legislation, court rulings and maneuvers by some government officials to sidestep the law. In the current Texas legislative session, we, the people, must protect and strengthen the Public Information Act and maintain our state’s open government legacy.

The [Texas Sunshine Coalition](http://www.sunshinecoalition.org) is doing exactly that. Sixteen diverse organizations are working together to push for bipartisan transparency legislation. The nonprofit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas is part of the coalition and was founded on the belief that access to public records allows everyone to scrutinize and speak up about government.

Take a Cruise and Never Leave the Dock!

TPWD Unveils Virtual Reality Boater App

The latest classroom for boating education is virtual reality. In a nationwide first, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department boater education program will utilize VR headsets to introduce audiences to the joy of sailing where wind, waves and actions all impact the boat’s behavior. While immersed in a highly realistic environment, participants will learn about different types of sailboats, parts of the boat and steering basics. The virtual reality sailing course is part of the MarineVerse app, one of the online training courses offered by Nautic Ed.

The course includes a safety briefing and slipping into a life jacket. Audience members may follow along on a monitor that projects everything the participant encounters in their virtual experience. Anyone born on or after September 1, 1993, who is interested in getting behind the wheel of a motorboat with greater than 15 horsepower or a personal watercraft or sailboat more than 14 feet in length is required to successfully complete a boater education course.

BBB Tip: Exercise caution when using online payment systems or apps

The increasing popularity of payment apps, such as PayPal, Venmo and Zelle, make it simple for people to send money to one another through their phones for various reasons. For some, it provides a convenient method to split expenses among a group when planning to travel or attend an event. For others, it is a method of payment accepted by small businesses for services or products. While payment apps have been in use for over two decades, the percentage of Americans who have used one has increased by over 25% since 2016. According to Pew Research Center, 76% of Americans have used at least one of the four leading payment apps. However, the technology has also come to the attention of scammers and hackers, with nearly 1-in-10 payment app users either sending money and later realizing it was a scam (13%) or reporting their account has been hacked (11%).

Better Business Bureau’s 2021 Scam Tracker Risk Report found that out of all victims who lost money to a scam in 2021, 32% sent money through an online payment system or app with a median loss of \$200. Consumers report a wide range of scams facilitated by payment apps, including fraudulent, canceled or overpaid transactions that ultimately result in the victim losing money or not being paid for a product they sold. Nearly 50,000 fraud reports to the FTC in 2022 indicate that payment apps are a preferred method of scammers, with almost \$125 million lost.

While some payment apps have policies designed to protect consumers from fraudulent transactions, scammers identify and exploit loopholes to their benefit. For example, PayPal’s buyer protection policy helps consumers have confidence they are protected in case of a fraudulent purchase. However, many scammers convince their victims to make transactions on PayPal through a ‘friends and family’ or personal payment, which PayPal Purchase Protection does not cover. Multiple reports to BBB demonstrate how convincing scammers can be when asking buyers to use this method, even though PayPal’s policies explicitly state it should not be used when purchasing goods or services.

To help consumers confidently use payment apps and avoid scam tactics, BBB recommends:

Only send money to people you know and trust. Avoid using payment apps to purchase goods and services, especially from an online seller you do not know. If the only payment method the seller will accept is through a payment app, it may be best to walk away and find another seller.

Use multi-factor protection measures. Many payment apps give the option of enabling an additional security measure when accessing the account. These may be a time-sensitive code emailed or texted to the account holder, biometric data or push notifications. Multi-factor authentication provides an extra layer of security if your password is compromised, and BBB strongly encourages enabling these systems on any online accounts containing financial or sensitive information.

Be cautious when accepting payment app transactions. As a business owner or individual seller, payment apps can seem to be a quick and convenient way to carry out a transaction. However, like a deposited check, it can take a few days for some payments to be verified, and other unethical buyers may cancel the transaction shortly after receiving the item. If selling an item online, it is best to wait a few days to confirm the money has been transferred before shipping.

Do not fall for an overpayment scam. Some buyers may ‘accidentally’ add an extra zero to a payment and ask for the extra money to be returned. For example, you may receive a spoofed email that a pending transaction for \$3,000 is submitted for an item listed at \$300, which the buyer demands to be returned immediately. They may threaten legal action if a refund is not provided, while in reality, the entire interaction is fabricated, and the buyer made no payment.

Link payment apps to credit cards rather than debit or bank accounts. Linking payments to and from payment apps to a credit card will allow users greater flexibility to dispute charges than drawing directly from a bank account or debit card.

For more information about how to confidently use payment apps, or to report a payment app scam, visit BBB.org.

Annual Texas Abandoned Crab Trap Removal Dates Set for 2023

Every February for the past 21 years, volunteers have offered up their time to help search for and remove abandoned crab traps. Crab traps left in the water can foul shrimpers’ nets, snag anglers’ lines and “ghost fish” which allows traps to unintentionally kill fish trapped inside as well as create unseemly views. To date, more than 40,000 abandoned crab traps have been removed from Texas coastal waters.

From February 17 - 26, Texas coastal waters will be closed to crabbing with wire mesh crab traps to facilitate the annual volunteer crab trap cleanup. Any traps left in bays — including traps tied to docks — will be assumed abandoned and considered “litter” under state law. This allows volunteers to legally remove any crab traps they find.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the coastwide effort to remove the numerous traps that have been lost or abandoned since last year’s cleanup. To facilitate these efforts, select sites will have volunteer events on Saturday, Feb. 18. (The main volunteer event for Sabine Lake is Saturday, Feb. 25, in coordination with the Louisiana Department of Fish and Wildlife.) These sites are denoted as “facilitated” in the list below. Registration with partner organizations may be required.

2023 Crab Trap Drop-Off Sites

- 📍 Aransas Bay – Local TPWD coordinator Zachary Olsen (361) 729-5429
Please visit [San Antonio Bay Partnership’s site](http://SanAntonioBayPartnership.org) for more information about volunteering throughout the mid-coast.
Goose Island State Park Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site.
- 📍 Corpus Christi Bay – Local TPWD coordinator Tom Wagner (361) 729-2328
 - South Conn Brown Harbor Public Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site.
 - Ransom Channel Public Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site.
- 📍 Upper Laguna Madre – Local TPWD coordinator Ethan Getz (361) 431-6003
 - Bluff’s Landing Marina – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site.
 - Kaufer-Hubert Memorial Boat Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site.
- 📍 Lower Laguna Madre – Local TPWD coordinator Jason Ferguson (956) 350- 4490
 - Port Mansfield Navigation District Ramp – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site.
 - Adolph Thomae County Park – Non-facilitated trap drop-off site.

At all sites, dumpsters or collection areas marked with banners will be available to receive traps for the duration of the closure. Volunteers may focus their efforts on Feb. 18 or work at their own pace anytime during the closure, but traps cannot be removed prior to February 17 or after February 26. Opportunities for land-based volunteers are limited.

To participate, volunteers may pick up free tarps, gloves and additional information at their local Texas Parks and Wildlife Department [Coastal Fisheries field stations](http://CoastalFisheriesFieldStations.org). TPWD requests that volunteers record and submit information about the number of traps they collect as well as sightings of diamondback terrapins. All other legal means of crabbing will not be affected during the closure period for wire crab traps.

For questions relating to the program, contact Holly Grand at (361) 431-6003 x822 or at crabtrap@tpwd.texas.gov.



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Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour

ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Shorty's has moved...



Ronnie and Chris Jordan at the moving of Shorty's last Sunday.
Photo by Andrea Shaw

It was an exciting time to be here on our little island last week. For one thing, they moved *Shorty's*. And by "moved *Shorty's*" I mean they literally picked up the rickety old building that's been home to Port A's favorite dive bar for the last 76 years and shuffled it four blocks down the street where they planted it right on the corner of *Beach* and *Alister*. Really! I can't make this stuff up. I could write an entire volume on *Shorty's* back story here but suffice it to say, you won't find Port A's "Oldest and Friendliest" in the flats anymore...literally. The word on the street is there is a new venue in the works over there on the same location. They're being pretty tight lipped about it but it's plenty obvious that something's brewing on that spot. The moving company had to move *Shorty's* in two separate trips. Jack of all trades, **Chris Jordan** is the general contractor on this project... he's the guy in the picture behind me on my tricycle. It was fun watching Chris in action while they moved the buildings. An absolute pro, he was totally on top of everything. The whole deal had kind of a parade like air about it. There were spectators lining the streets and **Steve Coons** had his drone in the air taking pics. I'm kind of surprised there wasn't any national attention to this story. So now comes the hard part... *Shorty's* owner **Edwin Meyers** now has the dubious task of getting everything ready for business before the summer tourist season hits. One thing's for sure though, the complexion of Port A's entertainment district was definitely affected by this move.



Shorty's has picked up and moved.

Bon ton roulet...



The Port A Mardi Gras Parade will be on Fat Tuesday Feb 21.

It's FINALLY February, the darkest month of the year. But one thing that brightens up February is that Fat Tuesday comes around on the 21st and it's time to get your *Mardi Gras* on. Most activities will be centered around the *Gaff* and the annual Port A Mardi Gras Parade will wind through town throwing beads and candy to the kids. This will be the 27th year for the parade which was the idea of one of our island's dearest treasures, **Janet Planet**, who now lives in Hawaii. It was one of the functions of PALS... the Port A Leisure Society and is a shining star that makes our island such a fun place. The *Gaff* will have the **Wayward Gypsies** on that night plus *Bron's* will also be celebrating *Fat Tuesday* with one

of **Jimmy Jam's** famous crawfish boil plus the big horn party band, *Cruise Control* will be playing their newly jazzed up stage. And on Padre, the great *Barefoot Mardi Gras* festivities will be in full form. I'm sure **Dale** and **Mary** will be all over that.

RIP Bill McLain...



RIP Bill McLain. A celebration of life will be held this Friday at Stingrays.

On the local front, the island lost a good man last week. **Bill McLain** passed away unexpectedly last week from a heart attack. Bill had a mobile golf cart repair service in Port A and was a familiar sight around town. I am so sorry to report the sad, sad news that he was to be married on February 3rd to his lady, **Carrie Chewning**. Instead of a wedding this Friday, it will be a gathering to remember Bill. This will be at *Stingrays Taphouse*, 2p.m. Donations to assist Carrie with expenses during this difficult time can be made directly to Value Bank. Rest in Peace pal. You will be missed.

Scattered shots...



The Beltsander Races drew another huge crowd last Saturday at the Gaff.

Me and my **Mermaid Gal** had a lot of fun chasing *Shorty's* around town last weekend. That consumed much of our time but we did make it over to the *Gaff* for the WORLD FAMOUS BELT SANDER RACES which, by the way, will begin starting at 2 PM on February 11th. I didn't get to race last week as my racer, the **Moon Monkey**, is broken. The poor old thing has just about had it but my pal **Rusty** is going to build me a new one. Look out *Tractor Supply*, I've got you in my sights, and that crowd at the races last week was mind blowing. **Kip** had to go out and buy more chairs. I just love what they have going on over there. You really should check out their new *Minnow Races* they have on Mondays now. If it's a wacky way to have fun, the *Gaff* is on it.

DO NOT MISS LIST

Coming this weekend...

Brad Ethridge will play the *Gaff* on Thursday and **Kevin Kurtz** will be there on Friday. Also I want to mention that a band that used to play the *Back Porch* quite often and dropped out of sight, the **Dirty River Boys** from El Paso, will play *Gruene Hall* on Friday. I sure miss seeing those guys. On Saturday the **Groove** will play the *VFW*, **Coach Dude Dugan** plays the *Gaff*, the **Free Beer Band** will play *Island Wine* and the great singer-songwriter **Keith Sykes** from Memphis, TN will play the *Third Coast Theater*. He's had his music recorded by the likes of **Rosanne Cash**, **Rodney Crowell**, the **Judds**, **John Prine**, **Jerry Jeff Walker** and **Jimmy Buffett**, to name but a few. I first met Keith through **Lighthouse Rick Richenbach** who would periodically host songwriting weekends at the lighthouse for many visiting musicians such as **Larry Joe Taylor**, **Kinky Friedman** and **Michael Hearne**, etc. If they're not sold out already, THIS is the show to catch this weekend.

On the horizon...

On the near horizon, watch for show from **Kody West**, **Lyle Lovett**, **Aaron Jacob**, **Latin Talk**, **Terri Hendrix** and **Lloyd Maines**, **Del Castillo**, **Richard and Larry Joe Taylor**, **Pirates and Poets**, **Triptonite**, **John Wolfe**, **Spazmatics**, **Kash'd Out**, **Pecos** and the **RoofTops**, **Toman Brothers**, **Chris Boss**, **Hayes Carll**, **Randy Rogers**, **Gary Allan**, **Texas SandFest**, **PalmFest**, **Rebelution**, **Iration** and **Passafire**. That ought to hold you for a spell.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Keith Sykes will play *Third Coast* on Saturday.



The Free Beer Band will play *Island Wine* on Saturday

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday

February 2

Brad Etheridge @ Gaff
Ron Baker & Jon
Dunnaway @ Island
Wine
Ruben Limas @ Island
Italian
Eric Graham @
Brewster Southside
Sonny Salinas @
Rockit's

Friday, February 3

Kevin Kurtz @ Gaff
Dirty River Boys @
Gruene Hall
Michael Burts @
Brewster Southside
Spazmatics @ Brewster
Downtown
CBDB's @ The
Exchange
Returned 2 Sender @
Rockit's
Schizoid Johnny @
Hook & Ladder AP
Art Barrera @ Packery
Bar

Saturday

February 4

The Groove @ VFW
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Free Beer Band @
Island Wine
Keith Sykes @ Third
Coast Theater
Billy Snipes @
Scuttlebutt's
Bright Light Social
Hour @ House of
Rock
Afterglow @ Cole Park
Chainlinks @ Rockit's
Scarecrow People @
Brewster Southside
Wade Bowen @
Brewster Downtown
Bushbullit @ Rock
Bottom
Ty Dietz @ Packery
Bar

Sunday

February 5

FULL MOON
Barbara Jenice @
Island Wine
Tumble Dry Low @
Bernie's
Jennifer Gayle Bradley
@ Blackbeard's
Rudolph Llanes @
Executive Surf Club

Monday

February 6

Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's

Tuesday

February 7

Open Mic @ House of
Rock
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's
Billy Snipes @ Doc's
Open Jam @ Packery
Bar

Wednesday

February 8

Riptide @ VFW
Open Jam w/ Brad
Etheridge @ Gaff
PA Rockers @ Bernie's
Schizoid Johnny @
Pelican Lounge
Billy Snipes @
Scuttlebutt's



Wednesday: 7-11
Open Mic

Thursday: 7:30
Ron Baker & Jon Dunaway

Friday: 7-11
Karaoke

Saturday: 7-10
Free Beer Band

Sunday: 3-6
Barbara Jenice

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Eli Brown @ Club 7

Thursday

February 9

Ron Baker & Jon
Dunnaway @ Island
Wine
Ruben Limas @ Island
Italian
Alley Catz @ Brewster
Southside
Kody West @ Brewster
Downtown
Sonny Salinas @ Rockit's

Friday

February 10

Lyle Lovett @ Salina
Auditorium
Dreams: Fleetwood Mac
Tribute @ PACT
Aaron Jacob @ Brewster
Southside
Latin Talk @ Brewster
Downtown
18 Hours @ Rockit's
Chainlinks @ House of
Rock
Ty Dietz @ Packery Bar

Saturday

February 11

City Wide Garage Sale
@ Port A
BELT SANDER RACES
2 PM @ Gaff
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Free Beer Band @ Island
Wine
Terri Hendrix @ Lloyd
Maines @ Third Coast
Theater
Dreams: Fleetwood Mac
Tribute @ PACT
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Afterglow @ Pelican
Lounge
Michael Burts @
Brewster Southside
80's Obsession @
Brewster Downtown
The Groove @ Rockit's
Jam Band @ Rock
Bottom
Red Tide @ Blue Marlin
Saloon N. Beach
Matt Hole @ Packery
Bar

Sunday

February 12

Lady & the Tramps @
House of Rock
Tumble Dry Low @
Bernie's

Monday

February 13

PA Rockers @ Port A
Arts Center
Unrehearsed &
Unashamed @ PACT
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's

Tuesday

February 14

Open Mic @ House of
Rock
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's
Billy Snipes @ Doc's
Shen Yun @ American
Bank Center
Open Jam @ Packery
Bar

