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Issue 1034



**The Island Moon**

*The voice of The Island since 1996*

**February 9, 2024**

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Pilings remaining of the Don Patricio Causeway - Photo by Augs



By Dale Rankin

It was another busy week Around The Island as work on the Commodores Water Exchange Bridge got underway as well as the work to connect Island canals. There was also the announcement of a new facility at Marker 37 which is reported in this issue and includes some much-needed meeting space. Take a look at the photo in the upper right-hand corner of this page. The low water in the Laguna Madre recently left the pilings of the old Don Patricio Causeway exposed. The Don Patricio was the first connection for cars from Flour Bluff to Padre Island and opened in 1927 and destroyed by a hurricane in 1933, the piling are all that is left to remind us it was there.

### Island Strategic Action Committee

A big part of this week's news Around The Island came from the monthly meeting of the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) which approved the wording for a city ordinance that will address the problem of flooding in Island homes after the raising of Base Flood Elevation on new homes in 2021. The elevation of new homes was raised from the previous nine feet to eleven feet after the release of new flood maps from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and in dozens of cases caused flooding in the yards of adjoining houses built at the old, lower elevation. The new rules will require a slope of no more than six inches on the sixty inches of setback between the house and the property line. The plan was developed by a sub-committee chaired by ISAC member Bob Corbett and will now go to the Corpus Christi City Council for a vote. If approved there, it will be included in changes to the city's Unified Development Code (UDC) later this year. That code was last updated in 2011. City staff said Tuesday along with the changes in wording in the UDC there will be a review of the process used for enforcement by city inspectors. Currently, a drainage plan stamped by a licensed engineer is required in order to receive a city Building Permit but follow-up inspections have been lax leading to the problem the new ordinance is designed to address. Questions were raised by Island homeowners whose yards are already experiencing flooding due to new construction about how that will be addressed. Under current rules the only means to address the problem is through lawsuits. A revision of the enforcement process going forward and mitigation options for existing homes will be discussed when the ordinance goes before the city council.

### Packery Channel boat ramps

There was also some good news

*Around cont. on A3*

## Busy Week for Island Construction Commodores Drive detour



The detour on Commodores Drive is now in place rerouting traffic through the Whitecap North Padre Island site to allow for work to begin on the bridge that will end the canal that currently dead ends there can be extended onto the site. When the complete the \$9 million bridge will allow for fourteen feet of boat passage and water flow through the Commodores canal to the Don Patricio Bridge and into the existing Island canal system.

## Canal Connection Begins

Work on the caps on the bulkheads on the west side of the Don Patricio Bridge are underway this week.

On the south end of the Whitecap North Padre Island site the concrete bulkhead separating the old and new canals was demolished and the construction of new bulkheads to connect the two canal systems was begun. The connection of the two canals as well as the canal leading to the Don Patricio Bridge and to Lake Padre on the east is expected to be complete by the end of February. The agreement between the parties that cleared the way for the work is available on the PIPOA website.



## Living Shorelines in Whitecap NPI



If you have driven along Dasmariñas Drive lately you have seen the rocks that line the new canal there. The rocks are part of what designers call a living shoreline and once the canals there are opened to saltwater the rocks will be covered by saltwater and are designed to attract wildlife. Snook anyone?

### A little Island history

## The King Ranch, New Horses, and Into Bandit Country

*Editor's note: This is the third installment of a local history series based on a book by Texas Ranger George Durham. The book called Taming the Nueces Strip is a telling of the story of the troop of Texas Rangers formed in 1875 to remove bandits and raiding Indians who had been riding up from the border and terrorizing towns as far east as Goliad and including Corpus Christi. Durham died in 1940 on a house built for him on the King Ranch but fortunately left behind a big trunk full of yellowed papers that told his story.*



Lookout tower on King Ranch The land between the Nueces and Rio Grande rivers at the time was claimed by both the United States and Mexico in spite of the fact that Mexico had – at least according to the United States – ceded the

land to the U.S. in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo at the end of the U.S./Mexican War in 1848.

Border lord Juan Cortina operated a cattle operation near the Village of Las Cuevas on the Mexican side of the river in the Rio Grande Valley where he bought cattle without asking questions. Many lawless characters found their way to Texas in that era and rustling cattle in the Nueces Strip were a way to make quick and easy money.

*History cont. on page A5*

### New building at Marker 37

Parking facility will include a rooftop restaurant, meeting space, and concert venue



By Dale Rankin

A new four-story parking garage with a rooftop bar, concert venue, vendor spaces, and pickleball courts on the Marker 37 property is in the final permitting stage, according to Marker 37 owner Mitchel Kalogridis. The \$6 million facility will be located south of Marker 37 on property which is currently used for surface parking. The building will include 50,000 square-feet of total space including a 5000 square-foot restaurant, bar and meeting space on the top floor. That space will be glass walled allowing for a panoramic view of The Island, Kalogridis said this week. “You will be able to see the Gulf of Mexico and the Laguna Madre as well as downtown Corpus Christi,” he said. The rooftop facilities will also include a large screen for viewing movies and a stage for live music events. The outdoor area will be covered with artificial turf. It will also include pickleball courts and a splash pad, Kalogridis said. He is also the owner of Snoopy's Pier, Scoopy's Veranda, and The Pearl. He said the agreement with the Texas General Land Office, which owns the land, to move forward with construction of the building and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in place and should be finalized this month. No firm date for the beginning of construction has been set but Kalogridis said it will be soon after completion of the permitting process.

Barefoot Mardi Gras King and Queen's Ball was held this week.

The Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade kicks off this Saturday at 11



Queen Kaylynn Paxson and King David DC Ratcliff!



The 2024 King & Queen Charity Ball Sponsored by The Elect Michael McCauley Campaign has come to a glorious close and the coveted crown, cape, and staff have been handed over to a new era of barefoot royalty. All hail Queen Kaylynn Paxson and King David DC Ratcliff!

The Karis Krewe led, promoted, and represented us with wisdom and humor, and it is time to say our grateful thank you and goodbye to King Alex and Queen Beth. We know that our new nobility will continue the important tradition. Congratulations to our new King and Queen!

We'll see you all on the beach at the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade Sponsored by Physicians Premier ER coming up Saturday at 11!

Photos by Debbie Nobel



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# Letters to the Editor

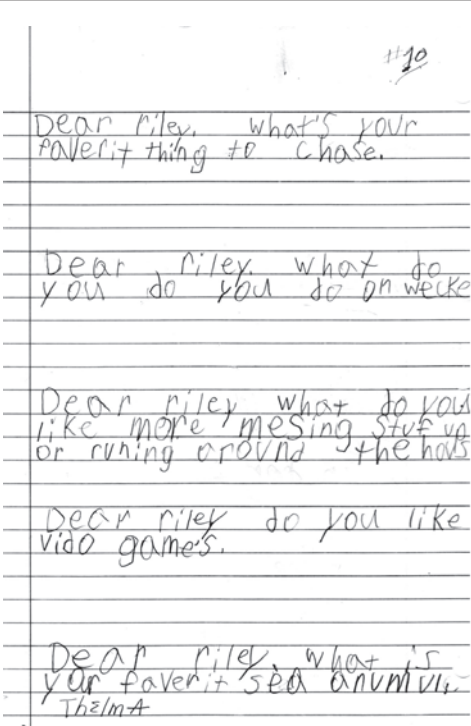


Letters to Riley P. Dog  
Dear Thelma,

I never made it to third grade so you are ahead of me. I don't like chasing much of anything but my tail. I caught it once and boy did that hurt. I'm more of a hole digger. It's my favorite sport and I find it challenging and relaxing at the same time. Once I dug a hole so deep that my humans had to throw two ropes around me to get me out. I am confused about the rules when it comes to hole digging Thelma. It seems like it's okay to dig holes that aren't very deep or that don't go under fences. But sometimes when I dig a hole right in the middle of the yard I still get in trouble so I don't get it. I dig holes to bury bones but I can't remember where I put them so I never dig any up. Hole digging is confusing.

On the weekends I like to eat the ice out of my humans' ice chest but boy do they get mad when they come back and the only thing left in their ice chest is warm stuff. My human calls it Rodeo Cool and I try to make sure I'm under the car when he finds it. I don't do tricks Thelma. My humans do tricks for me. Like pick up the droppings I leave behind and put them in plastic bags. I never do for them. I'm not crazy no sir.

When it comes to deciding between messing stuff up or running around the house I don't have to chose because I can do both at the same time. And if I wag my tail I can knock everything right off the coffee table and if I move fast I can eat anything that was on



there before my humans can get it. Do you have any treats Thelma? Can you send me some? Put "These are not treats for Riley P. Dog" on the envelope. I can't eat them until I go see my vet for my weigh in this week. My humans think I'm losing weight but they don't know how many French fries I scored from the tourists in Port Aransas last weekend. Boy are they going to be surprised.

I can't play video games Thelma, I'm a dog. I don't have any thumbs and I don't have any sea adventures either. Every time I drink seawater I throw up. It's more confusing than hole digging. I have to stop now Thelma my nose is getting sore from hitting the space bar.



**Packery Dredging**  
Good morning. We live in Lake Padre. They recently dredged Packery. We are not sure why they left this large section un-dredged. This bar used to extend all the way across the entrance. Now that they left this large section it will quickly extend all the way across the entrance. With the strong incoming tides that occur in this area, the left over sand bar will serve as a collection point for all sand traveling with the incoming tide. It's such a common theme in this area for people to cut corners. We are all just curious why the job wasn't fully completed. Although a small piece it will cause us large headaches soon.

Thanks, Shayne Leach

*Editor's note: Thank you for writing Shayne that's a very good question. The Packery Channel dredging project was paid for with public funds through the Island's Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 and an additional \$1.5 million was added to the project in order to include the area of Packery Channel immediately outside the opening to Lake Padre where sand had built up. The lake bottom inside the opening is private property and therefore not eligible for public funding but from the looks of this photo it appears the bar is on public property. From the looks of these photos it looks like the bar you are talking about is indeed in Packery Channel. Your letter came in at deadline this week and did not allow time to get a good answer. We will find out this week and include it next time.*



Newly crowned Barefoot Mardi Gras Queen Kaylynn Paxson attended the Tuesday night bingo game at HardKnocks this week. She is pictured here with bingo caller Brent Rourk.

Around cont. from A1

regarding the boat ramps on the north side of Packery Channel near Zahn Road. When those ramps were built more than a decade ago the acute slope made it difficult to launch a boat longer than twenty-one feet. To address the problem the sand in front of the ramps was removed during the recently completed dredging of Packery Channel as a temporary fix but a long-term solution will be a redesign of the ramps. It was also announced that construction will begin this week on a fish cleaning station adjacent to the ramps paid for with a \$10,000 donation from the Saltwater-fisheries Enhancement Association (SEA) and will include a water line.

## Mobility Plan

The latest revision of the Island Mobility Plan was also outlined Tuesday and a second public hearing is scheduled for the next few weeks. The plan outlines a comprehensive, interconnected grid of walking, biking, and cart paths from the Laguna Madre to the Gulf of Mexico. New on Tuesday was the inclusion of a pathway adjacent to the JFK Bridge that will allow for cart and pedestrian passage to the area along the Laguna Madre where Doc's Seafood & Steaks, Snoopy's Pier, and Marker 37 are located. A federal grant of \$11.7 million is currently in place to construct paths along the SPID corridor which is owned by Texas Department of Transportation which under the plan would be connected to the paths along the JFK Bridge. The plans for the Whitecap NPI site and the development around Lake Padre include connectivity through the Don Patricio Bridge. We will have news on the scheduling of the public hearing when it becomes available.

## Scatter shots...

You probably won't see him hereabouts this weekend with the Super Bowl and all, but word out of Port Aransas is that Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes has bought a home in Palmilla Beach. Mahomes went to high school in Whitehouse in East Texas so he likely came to The Coast as a young man and he has also been seen Around The Island a few times in recent years. What's next, Taylor Swift landing her jet at Mustang Beach Airport?! We're going to need a longer runway... The Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade kicks off at 11 a.m. on Saturday along Whitecap Beach, get there early if you want a parking place. We'll see you there and in the meantime say hello if you see us Around The Island.

## Kawanis Tuesday Night Bingo at Hardknocks!

The Event runs each Tuesday through March 5th  
The public is invited!  
Photos by Debbie Noble



## Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



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## New Boat Coming to Buccaneer Cruises in North Padre Island!

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## Senior Moments

## Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

United States Immigration  
Part 2

## New Restrictions at Start of WWI

*Dotson's Note: As I wrote last week, since we are hearing so much about immigration recently, and attitudes and laws around U.S. immigration have vacillated between welcoming and restrictive since the country's beginning, I thought it would be interesting to go back in time and review, and or learn what got us where we are today. My thanks to Haldeen Brady, Bill Morgan, Ellis Island Foundation, LBJ Presential Library, Pew Research Center and the Library of Congress for the facts contained in this report and thanks to my friends Haldeen Brady and Bill Morgan for the photos.*

**1917:** Xenophobia reaches new highs on the eve of American involvement in World War I. The Immigration Act of 1917 establishes a literacy requirement for immigrants entering the country and halts immigration from most Asian countries.

**May 1924:** The Immigration Act of 1924 limits the number of immigrants allowed into the United States yearly through nationality quotas. Under the new quota system, the United States issues immigration visas to 2 percent of the total number of people of each nationality in the United States at the 1890 census. The law favors immigration from Northern and Western European countries. Just three countries, Great Britain, Ireland and Germany account for 70 percent of all available visas. Immigration from Southern, Central and Eastern Europe was limited. The Act completely excludes immigrants from Asia, aside from the Philippines, at the time an American colony.



Slavic Women

During the late 19th and early 20th century, large groups of people from northern and western Europe immigrated to the United States, like the Slavic woman pictured above. An Ellis Island Chief Registry Clerk, Augustus Sherman, captured his unique viewpoint of the influx by bringing his camera to work and taking photos of the wide array of immigrants entering from 1905 to 1914. Although Ellis Island had been open since 1892, the immigration station reached its peak at the turn of the century. From 1900-1915 more than 15 million immigrants arrived in the United States, with an increasing number coming from non-English speaking countries, like this Romanian musician.

Foreigners from southern and eastern Europe, including Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Greece, came over to escape political and economic oppression.

The U.S. Border Patrol is established to crack down on illegal immigrants crossing the Mexican and Canadian borders into the United States. Many of these early border crossers were Chinese and other Asian immigrants, who had been barred from entering legally.

## Mexicans Fill Labor Shortages During WWII



## Mexican Agricultural Workers-WWII

**1942:** Labor shortages during World War II prompt the United States and Mexico to form the Bracero Program, which allows Mexican agricultural workers to enter the United States temporarily. The program lasts until 1964.

**1948:** The United States passes the nation's first refugee and resettlement law to deal with the influx of Europeans seeking permanent residence in the United States after World War II.

**1952:** The McCarran-Walter Act formally ends the exclusion of Asian immigrants to the United States.

**1956-1957:** The United States admits roughly 38,000 immigrants from Hungary after a failed uprising against the Soviet Union. They were among the first Cold War refugees. The United States would admit over 3 million refugees during the Cold War.

**1960-1962:** Roughly 14,000 unaccompanied children flee Fidel Castro's Cuba and come to the United States as part of a secret, anti-Communism program called Operation Peter Pan.



Cuban Refugees

## Quota System Ends

**1965:** The Immigration and Nationality Act overhauls the American immigration system. The Act ends the national origin quotas enacted in the 1920s which favored some racial and ethnic groups over others. The quota system is replaced with a seven-category preference system emphasizing family reunification and skilled immigrants. Upon signing the new bill, President Lyndon B. Johnson, called the old immigration system "un-American," and said the new bill would correct a "cruel and enduring wrong in the conduct of the American Nation."

Over the next five years, immigration from war-torn regions of Asia, including Vietnam and Cambodia, would more than quadruple. Family reunification became a driving force in U.S. immigration.

**April-October 1980:** During the Mariel boatlift, roughly 125,000 Cuban refugees make a dangerous sea crossing in overcrowded boats to arrive on the Florida shore seeking political asylum.

## Amnesty to Undocumented Immigrants

**1986:** President Ronald Reagan signs into law the Simpson-Mazzoli Act, which grants amnesty to more than 3 million immigrants living illegally in the United States.

**2001:** U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) propose the first Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which would provide a pathway to legal status for Dreamers, undocumented immigrants brought to the United States illegally by their parents as children. The bill—and subsequent iterations of it—don't pass.

## US Immigration Since 1965

**2012:** President Barack Obama signs Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) which temporarily shields some Dreamers from deportation, but doesn't provide a path to citizenship.

**2017:** President Donald Trump issues two executive orders aimed at curtailing travel and immigration from six majority Muslim countries (Chad, Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia) as well as North Korea and Venezuela. Both of these so-called Muslim travel bans are challenged in state and federal courts.

**2018:** In April 2018, the travel restrictions on Chad are lifted. In June 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court uphold a third version of the travel ban on the remaining seven countries.

## Facts Missed in the Foregoing

In 1950, after the start of the Korean War, the Internal Security Act barred admission of communists, who might engage in activities «which would be prejudicial to the public interest, or would endanger the welfare or safety of the United States.» Significant Korean immigration began in 1965 and totaled 848,000 by 2004. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 affirmed the national origins quota system of 1924 and limited total annual immigration to one sixth of one percent of the population of the continental United States in 1920, or 175,455. It exempted the spouses and children of U.S. citizens and people born in the Western Hemisphere from the quota. In 1953, the Refugee Relief Act extended refugee status to non-Europeans.



*Dotson's Other Note: Around 50,000 United States servicemen married Japanese wives at the end of World War 2 and during the occupation period. 75% of the marriages involved White American soldiers and Japanese brides. Marriages to Asian women initially faced legal obstacles due to pre-existing laws against interracial marriage. However, the determination of American servicemen to marry Japanese women resulted in widespread defiance of the law.<sup>[10]</sup> The positive reception of Japanese war brides generated sympathy from the general public about the difficulties faced by interracial couples, and promoted increased tolerance for interracial couples.<sup>[9]</sup> In 1947, the War Brides Act was amended to give citizenship to the children of American servicemen regardless of race or ethnicity.<sup>[42]</sup> Ultimately the effort to normalize interracial marriages to Japanese women lead to the passage of the McGarran-Walter act, which repealed the Immigration Act of 1924, thereby loosening restrictions on immigration and citizenship requirements for non-Northwestern European immigrants.*

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



## Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

There has been a lot of Stuff to Hear on The Island this week...

## Short-Term follow-up

In this space last week I wrote about the need to take proactive action in case the Texas Legislature votes to strip the authority of cities across the state to regulate/forbid Short-Term Rentals (STR). I covered the first Texas test case on the subject in the city of Boerne north of San Antonio and how it applies to us here on The Island. But there are two other cases making their way through the court system that could also impact us. One of the complaints filed is based on some rather twisted legal reasoning and the other doesn't appear to fit the fact set here on The Island.

## Austin

The first case is in Austin where owners of (STRs) are required to obtain an operating license annually. The law applies to all properties, including rooms and guest houses that are rented for fewer than 30 consecutive days. The rule was adopted in 2016 and was clearly designed to limit the number of short-term rental properties in the city and the fight was on. It led to a court ruling last year that favored the owners of the STR property finding "the imposition of a homestead requirement for individuals who owned a Type 2 property prior to the 2016 revision of the STR ordinance is unconstitutional retroactive."

In the couple's proposed order, it states the City's ordinance discriminates against non-residents like them in violation of the dormant Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution. It also asked for the judge to rule the City's ordinance as unconstitutional. It is based on Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 in the U.S. Constitution which reads:

*[The Congress shall have Power . . . ] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes; . . .*

"He gave the property owners a win on two basis: One, the discrimination against interstate commerce, which is a US. Constitutional violation, and two a win under what's called retroactivity, which is you can't change the law after someone has relied on a given right," said Patrick Sutton, the attorney representing the plaintiffs.

That ruling, even if upheld on appeal, would not seem to have any direct impact on the City of Corpus Christi STR ordinance because 1) there is no homestead requirement and 2) language in the Unified Development Code prohibited leasing short-term in residential neighborhoods prior to the passage of the city's STR ordinance prohibiting them in areas zoned RS-6 – 6000 square-foot residential lots throughout Corpus Christi. The UDC allowed bed and breakfast operations –the subject of the Austin case - where the property owner resided and remained on site during short-term rental but the operator had to obtain a bed and breakfast license through the city council and as far as I am aware none were ever issued in Island residential neighborhoods. The Austin ordinance that was successfully challenged was not aimed at all STR properties; only those where the owner resided, which is why it required that the property be homesteaded to be rented short-term.

If bed and breakfast operations had been legalized through the application process prior to the passage of the Corpus Christi STR ordinance on June 28, 2022 and the city later required that the property be homesteaded the Austin case would apply since it would be removing a right previous-

ly granted to the owner, a concept which has consistently been shot down by Texas courts as was the case in the Austin ruling. With no bed and breakfast operations in RS-6 zoning on Padre Island- the only part of town where STR are outlawed – that ruling would appear to have no relevance for us.

Whether the ruling regarding the Commerce Clause could apply to the local ordinance is a twisted little piece of constitutional logic I won't even attempt to unpack, but because STR were never legal in Corpus Christi means that our ordinance does not remove any right previously granted it would seem not to. But that direct point has yet to be litigated.

## Dallas

There was also a recent court ruling in Dallas against that city's ordinance to prohibit STR which is still being litigated.

An organization called the Dallas Short-Term Rental Alliance and four short-term rental operators filed the lawsuit against the city in late 2023 saying that new regulations against short-term rentals "violate the state constitution and other state laws against government overreach." The lawsuit states "Texas law provides for private property and the freedom to contract."

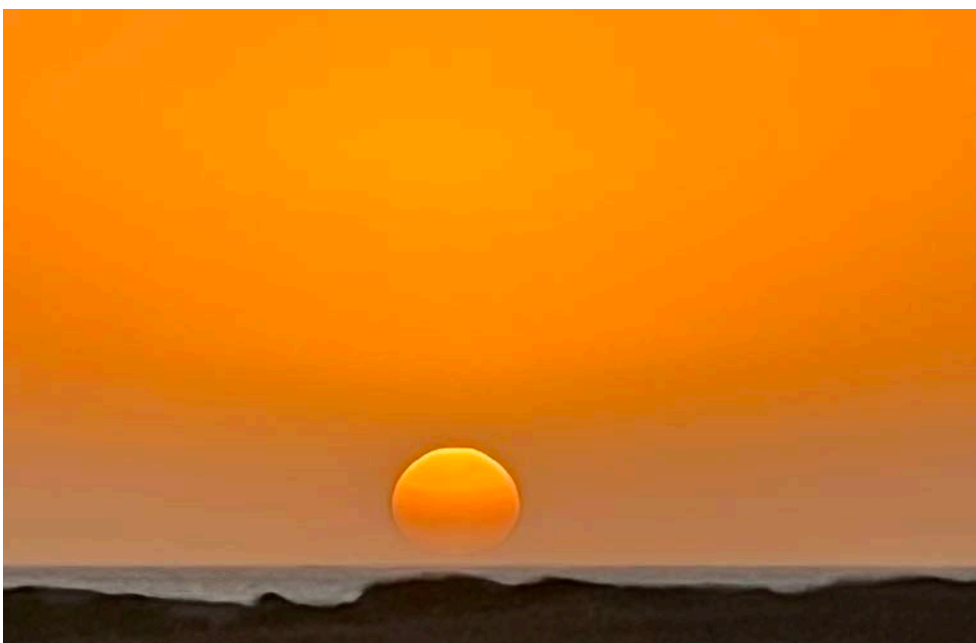
The organization asked for an injunction to stop the city from enforcing "these unlawful and unfair laws," according to the lawsuit.

In late 2023 a judge issued a temporary injunction stopping the enforcement of the Dallas STR ordinance and the case is still being litigated. The case came from a vote in June by the Dallas City Council in mid-2023 to approve new rules that restrict where short-term rentals can operate in the city and required property owners to apply to register their homes to rent. The rules effectively ban most short-term rentals from most parts of the city by making them illegal to operate in single-family neighborhoods. This mirrors our local ordinance with one crucial exception – prior to the June vote there was no ordinance making STR illegal in Dallas. That means homeowners were being denied a property right through a new zoning ordinance that previously had been present; that process is referred to as Down Zoning and as the City of Port Aransas has found out is virtually impossible to do. Again, because STR were never legal on Padre Island no previous right is being taken away.

## The good news

Sometimes the best things happen by accident – or by the Random Walk Theory if you prefer – and it appears that is the case here. Because the UDC was in place prior to the passage of the STR ordinance in Corpus Christi and because it outlawed STR no property rights are being retroactively removed. Whether that was a happy accident or a Random Walk doesn't seem relevant, we simply dodged a bullet. The Corpus Christi City Council has done its job on this issue, they acted after the passage of the Austin, San Antonio, and Port Aransas STR ordinances and so had the advantage of avoiding mistakes made in those cities. Based on these court challenges it appears we are safe unless the Texas Legislature strips our city of the power to regulate STR properties. If that happens the deed covenants in the bylaws of Island subdivisions will be the hill we die on.

As stated in last week's column that language needs work before it ends up in court.



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



# Ten Years ago in the Island Moon



The Archimedes screw that was used to move water in the Schlitterbahn Waterpark was on site and waiting to be installed.



These El Constante Winter Texans met at the Boathouse Bar & Grill every Friday and invited others to join them.



Plastic bags were making nests in Island trees



A pirate ship was sighted on The Island.



A turtle release at Padre Island National Seashore drew more than one thousand people



A greenhouse was built at the water park where plants for landscaping were grown. The foggy lense is due to the high humidity..

## History cont. from A1

Located in the heart of the strip was, and is, the legendary King Ranch. The story of the ranch is the story of the Nueces Strip since it was the only mark of civilization between Corpus Christi and Brownsville during the latter part of the 1800's.

In the last issue we told how the troop of Texas Rangers headed by Captain L.H. McNelly had passed through the hamlet of Banquette and moved on to the King Ranch. They were met at the ranch by Richard King himself.

By Dale Rankin

**June 1875.** Captain Richard King had begun as a riverboat captain working along the mouth of the Rio Grande River. During a trip to Corpus Christi in the 1850's he passed through the region south of Corpus Christi known then as the Wild Horse Desert. After one hundred miles of hard riding he came upon Santa Gertrudis Creek and realized that if the creek could support the abundant wildlife found there it could support cattle. He started buying land. He and his partner Gideon "Legs" Lewis bought 15,500 acres then known as the Rincon de Santa Gertrudis and the King ranch was born. During the Civil War King's ranch was known as the "Backdoor of the Confederacy" because the tiny Mexican town of Bagdad was the only port where Confederate cotton could be exported by going around the Union blockade with the use of Mexican flagged ships. But to get there it had to go across the King Ranch – at a price.

## The Yankees left but the bandits stayed

Now just over twenty years after the war the enemy was a constant stream of bandits rustling King Ranch cattle and horses. The Rangers' job was to find the bandits and kill them. Bringing them in to face courtroom justice was a pipedream in that time and recent attempts at doing it by Ranger Captain Neal Coldwell had proven that. Coldwell's tactics had worked well against marauding Indians on the northwest Texas frontier but not against border bandits. He had been recalled and Capt. McNelly sent in. To fight the raiders McNelly adopted their tactics. This was a fight to the death.

## Captain Richard King

The Richard King who met the Rangers at the ranch that day in the early summer of 1875 was 51 years old. He weighed no more than 135 pounds and stood five and a half feet tall with brown hair and beard. The town of Santa Gertrudis was home to about one hundred people who worked on the ranch and consisted of cattle pens built of sawed lumber which he had traded a boat load of steers for during the California Gold Rush when Brownsville was a popular starting point for prospectors heading west. The pens held a mix of cattle and included thousands of head of Longhorns that roamed the Nueces Strip in the years after the Civil War. They were branded with the now iconic Running W Brand of the King Ranch whose shape looked like a rattlesnake making its way across the prairie.

The house at Santa Gertrudis was more like a fort than a house. Inside the main room eighty stands of Henry repeating rifles were kept – these were the first practical lever action repeating rifles ever made and fired a .44 caliber rimfire cartridge. They made their reputation in the Battle of Altoona Pass in the Civil War after which a Confederate officer said of them "It's a rifle that you could load on Sunday and shoot all week long." They were the state of the art in personal weaponry at the time and the fact that the King Ranch kept such a large number of them was testament to the troubled times and area they lived in.

Two men stood lookout day and night on the seventy-foot tall lookout tower and scanned the plains for intruders. The bandit raiders knew this but came on anyway as these were desperate times in the Nueces Strip.

## Meeting the Captain

The first words Captain King spoke to the Rangers were, "How in the world did you get here on those nags?" The King Ranch was and is home to some of the best horses in the world and that is why the Rangers had come. The Rangers were shown to the grub shanty only according to Durham it wasn't a shanty at all. It included four long tables with seating for one hundred people. The next morning the Rangers were lead to a pen where they were to pick out a horse and drop their lariat around his neck. Durham was a farm boy who had never seen a lariat before he came to Texas and Captain King himself picked out a sorrel gelding and personally gave it to Durham along with a new saddle and scabbard for his .50 caliber Sharps Rifle.

"Wherever Captain McNelly sends you that horse will take you," Captain King told him. "He's a good solid animal. Plenty of stay, and enough speed."

Captain McNelly was eyeing a big bay horse named Segal. "You want him?" King asked. "That's a five hundred dollar horse



## Running W Brand of the King Ranch

Captain," McNelly said. "I couldn't ask you for him and Texas would never pay you for him."

"I'd rather give him to you than have those bandits come and take him," King said. "Most of those rascals are mounted on my stock and I at least want to do as good by you."

They now had good mounts and saddles, good pistols, and a leader who knew how to hunt and kill bandits. They were ready to go looking for them but where?

## Riding into bandit country

They set out south at a brisk canter in single file five paces apart with a patrol out front and flank riders in the brush to guard against ambush. They were in bandit country and had traveled just over half a day when they smelled smoke. They found the charred remains of what had been buildings on Rancho la Parra which had been torched within the last twenty four hours.

Suddenly Sergeant Armstrong galloped back from the lead patrol and made a circle with his right arm twice and then let his hand fall to the south. He had sighted someone. The troop moved out of single file and into the half moon shaped line that was their battle formation when fighting on horseback in open country. They all checked their pistols as a group of men rode up. It was a one-hundred man posse out of Corpus Christi chasing bandits that had recently raided the town. McNelly was not fond of civilian posses as they tended to get in the way. They had chased the raiders across the river but were not able to catch or engage them.

"Tell these men to return to their homes," McNelly said.

"They won't do that," the posse leader Martin Culver said.

"You have ten minutes and if you don't lay down your arms my men will move on you and lay them down for you. After ten minutes you'll be in violation of the Law of Texas and that makes you outlaws and we've been sent to kill them," McNelly said.

There were one hundred men in the posse and only forty Rangers – but they were after all Rangers. One of the posse rode up to McNelly and handed him his pistol butt first.

"You may keep it but only use it to defend your home," McNelly told him. The remainder of the posse followed suit.

## McNelly takes over the Nueces Strip

McNelly had taken over the Nueces Strip. There were those later who said he was bluffing that day but not one Ranger in the troop ever believed it. McNelly didn't bluff. When he gave an order he was ready to enforce it. The Nueces Strip was full of men with whom parlaying was deadly. It was a straightforward time. State your business and then be ready to back it up with firepower.

As the Rangers moved south they stayed in their battle-ready formation. The bandits weren't far away. That night they made a cold camp - no fires - in a mott of trees known as Mota Tablo located nine miles above the present city of Raymondville. They put out double guards in three shifts all night. The men slept on their saddles behind their horses.

## The Law of the Strip

"We're now in outlaw country," the Captain told them. "You'll be ordered out in the scouting patrols in twos and threes. There are only two kinds of people for us – outlaws and law-abiding. Treat these law-abiding folks with all respect regardless of color or size. Don't enter a house unless a man invites you in. Don't take a roasting ear or melon unless he tells you to. If his dog barks at you, get away from him. Don't shoot it. As for the other type of men; place them under arrest and bring them into camp. Until further orders all prisoners will be put under the old Spanish law – la ley de fuga – which means the prisoner is killed on the spot if rescue is attempted."

Such were the rules of engagement for Texas Rangers in the Nueces Strip in 1875.

Next time: A wildman named Casoose and going into battle with the bandits.



# Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon

## Sugar Ray Robinson-Boxer

### Part 1



By Dotson Lewis

*Dotson's Note: Walker Smith Jr., better known as Sugar Ray Robinson, was an American professional boxer who competed from 1940 to 1965. He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1990. He is often regarded as the greatest boxer of all time, pound-for-pound. Sugar Ray was a dominant amateur, but his exact amateur record is not known. It is usually listed as 85–0 with 69 knockouts, 40 in the first round. However it has been reported he lost to Billy Graham and Patsy Pesca as a teenager under his given name, Walker Smith Jr. Thanks to Bill Morgan, Joseph C. Nichols and Lou Jenkins for the facts contained in this report and to Lou Jenkins for the photos.*

Sugar Ray turned professional in 1940 at the age of 19 and by 1951 had a professional record of 129–1–2 with 85 knockouts. From 1943 to 1951 Robinson went on a 91-fight unbeaten streak, the sixth-longest in professional boxing history behind Pedro Carrasco with 93, Jimmy Wilde with 95, Buck Smith with 102, Packey McFarland with 104, and Young Griffo with 107. Robinson held the world welterweight title from 1946 to 1951, and won the world middleweight title in the latter year. He retired in 1952, only to come back two-and-a-half years later and regain the middleweight title in 1955.



**Sugar Ray Robinson**

He then became the first boxer in history to win a divisional world championship five times (a feat he accomplished by defeating Carmen Basilio in 1958 to regain the middleweight championship). Robinson was named «fighter of the year» twice: first for his performances in 1942, then nine years and over 90 fights later, for his efforts in 1951. Historian Bert Sugar ranked Robinson as the greatest fighter of all time and in 2002, Robinson was also ranked number one on *The Ring* magazine's list of «80 Best Fighters of the Last 80 Years». As of July 2023, BoxRec ranked Robinson as the greatest boxer, pound-for-pound, of all time. He was named the best boxer of all time, pound for pound, by the International Boxing Research Organization (IBRO) in both of its all-time ratings, in 2006 and 2019.

Renowned for his classy and flamboyant lifestyle outside the ring, Robinson is credited with being the originator of the modern sports “entourage”. After his boxing career ended, Robinson attempted a career as an entertainer, but it was not successful. He struggled financially until his death in 1989. In 2006, he was featured on a commemorative stamp by the United States Postal Service.<sup>1</sup>

Robinson made his professional debut on October 4, 1940, winning by a second-round stoppage over Joe Echevarria. Robinson fought five more times in 1940, winning all, four by knockout. In 1941, he defeated world champion Sammy Angott, future champion Marty Servo, and former champion Fritz Zivic. The Robinson-Angott fight was held above the lightweight limit, since Angott did not want to risk losing his lightweight title. The Zivic bout, held at the Madison Square Garden, drew a crowd of 20,551, one of the largest in the arena to that date. Robinson won the first five rounds, according to Joseph C. Nichols

of *The New York Times*, before Zivic came back to land several punches to Robinson's head in the sixth and seventh. Robinson controlled the next two, and had Zivic hurt in the ninth. After a close tenth round, Robinson was announced as the winner on all three scorecards.

Robinson knocked out Zivic in the tenth round in a January 1942 rematch, only the second time Zivic had been counted out in more than 150 fights. Robinson knocked him down in the ninth and tenth rounds before the referee stopped the fight. Zivic and his corner protested the stoppage; James P. Dawson of *The New York Times* stated «[T]hey were criticizing a humane act. The battle had been a slaughter, for want of a more delicate word.” Robinson then won four consecutive bouts by knockout, before defeating Servo in a controversial split decision in their May rematch.



After winning three more fights, Robinson faced Jake LaMotta, who would become one of his more prominent rivals, for the first time in October. He defeated LaMotta by a unanimous decision, although he failed to get Jake down. Robinson weighed 145 lb., (66 kg) compared to 157.5 for LaMotta, but he was able to control the fight from the outside for the entire bout, and actually landed the harder punches during the fight. Robinson then won four more fights, including two against Izzy Jannazzo, from October 19 to December 14. For his performances, Robinson was named “Fighter of the Year”. He finished 1942 with a total of 14 wins and no losses.

Robinson built a record of 40–0 before losing for the first time to LaMotta in a 10-round re-match. LaMotta, who had a 16 lb., (7.3 kg) weight advantage over Robinson, knocked Robinson out of the ring in the eighth round, and won the fight by decision. The fight took place in Robinson's former home town of Detroit, and attracted a record crowd. After being controlled by Robinson in the early rounds LaMotta came back to take control in the later. After winning the third LaMotta fight less than three weeks later, Robinson then defeated his childhood idol, former champion Henry Armstrong, whom he only fought because the older man was in need of money. Robinson later stated that he carried the aged former champion.



**Joe Louis**

*Dotson's Other Note: On February 27, 1943, Robinson was inducted into the United States Army, where he was again referred to as Walker Smith. Robinson had a 15-month military career. He served with Joe Louis, and the pair went on tours with the Special Services division where they performed exhibition bouts in front of U.S. Army troops. Robinson got into trouble several times while in the military. He argued with superiors who he felt were discriminatory against him, and refused to fight exhibitions when he was told African American soldiers were not allowed to watch them.*

**To Be Continued**



By Andy Purvis

## For the Love of the Game

No one ever loved playing the game of baseball more than this guy. Every fiber of his being screamed excitement. He was emotional, intense, full of life, and funny to the point of upsetting other players. Others labeled him a show-off, a smart-aleck and too over-the-top, but they didn't really know him. He was pure Dominican passion and unafraid to show his love for the game. He understood that baseball belonged to the fans. I am reminded of the wonderful SNL actor Garrett Morris, who played the part of Chico Escula, a Central America baseball player. No matter what question Chico was asked by reporters, his answer was always the same, “Beisbol has been bery bery good to me.” Baseball had indeed been good to this guy and, in return, he had been good for the game. He was a pitcher, the center of attention, and he cherished it. He wasn't dominant like Marichal and he didn't throw like Valenzuela; in fact, he only had one great year. But, he was playing a little boy's game in a grown man's body, and he loved it. On the mound, he talked to himself, fidgeted with anticipation, and was known for screaming into his glove when excited. For thirteen years in the Major Leagues, you just knew he was giving you everything he had, every time he took the mound. Players like him were the very reason we watched baseball. He called it “Lima Tine,” and we understood.

Jose Desiderio Rodriguez Lima was born on September 30, 1972. His home was located in Santiago, Dominican Republic. In his part of the world baseball is everything, the pastime, just like the game used to be here in the States fifty years ago. For the most part, these countries are poor and every boy plays baseball and dreams of becoming the next Roberto Clemente, Luis Taint, Jose Cruz, or Vladimir Guerrero. There are many cases where they are even willing to lie about their age to get off of those islands. A spot on any Minor League roster would provide them with more money than their family could earn in years, and most of their pay would be sent home.

Jose Lima became a starting pitcher for the Detroit Tigers on April 20, 1994. He had just turned 21 years old. He would later be traded to the Houston Astros, at the beginning of the 1997 season. It was here that his star began to shine. From 1997 to 2001, Jose would post a 46-42 win-loss record while making the 1999 National League All-Star team. He would win 21 of his 35 starts and lose only 10 games, with a 3.58 ERA: and he helped the Astros win the National League Central Division. “He had a good fastball, a good changeup and a good breaking ball,” said Mariano Duncan of the Dodgers. Astro teammate Lance Berkman was quoted as saying, “He was a great teammate. He had a lot of energy and he had such a good run for those three or four years. He was entertaining on and off the field; just a great guy to have around.” Craig Biggio added, “He wanted everybody to be successful. He wanted to win and do his job. He was very genuine. The baseball family lost a good guy.” As fate would have it, Jose Lima and the Astros moved into their new park at the beginning of the 2000 season, Minute Maid Park. Jose made his feelings known about the short fence in left field called the Crawford Boxes. The pitcher-friendly Astrodome had suited Jose well, but he could not mentally make the transition to this new hitter's park in downtown Houston, Texas. The results speak for themselves as Jose lost 16 games and gave up a league-leading 48 home runs that year, only two short of the Major

League record of 50 by Bert Blyleven.

Jose would be traded back to the Tigers the following year. The next stop for Lima was 2003 in Kansas City, where he would stay a year before moving on to the Los Angeles Dodgers for the 2004 season. On October 9, 2004, Jose pitched a five-hit shutout for the Dodgers, against the Cardinals, in the National League Division Series. A sold-out crowd of 55,000 fans at Chavez Ravine stood and chanted his name, “Li-ma,” “Li-ma,” as the Dodgers won their first postseason game since Game Five of the 1988 World Series. “It was amazing,” said infielder Alex Cora. It would be the only win for LA in that Series. Even though he had posted a 13-5 record with a 4.07 ERA, and sang the National Anthem and “God Bless America” during Dodger home games, Lima would continue to be passed around like a bag of peanuts as he pitched again for Kansas City in 2005, and finally in New York with the Mets, in 2006. His thirteen year totals were not impressive. He started 348 games while winning 89 and losing 102, and he posted a 5.26 ERA, with 980 strikeouts. Still, he was a fan favorite.

His antics on the mound were comical. He could sing; dance and he never learned the meaning of the word “shy.” He would stand for hours after a game and sign autographs until everybody had one. I met Jose in 2001 during the Lone Star Series against the Texas Rangers. The Astros had lost a tough game at home and the locker room was somewhat subdued. I was there to interview new Astros shortstop Adam Everett. All of a sudden, Jose entered the locker room and this wild Dominican best poured out of the sound system. Lima started dancing and singing as Biggio, Bagwell and others threw socks and assorted pieces of equipment at him. Still he danced, and the mood of the team began to change. Lima's antics reminded them that the secret of baseball lies in the fact that you play every day. If you lose today, you get to play again tomorrow. Indeed the Astros would win the next day and all was right in their world. By watching him, you got the feeling that Jose was really a singer and dancer who became a right-handed pitcher just for fun.

On Friday night, May 21, 2010, Jose attended a Dodgers game with his son Jose Jr. He received a standing ovation from the crowd. He had just announced the opening of his own Dominican Baseball School in Los Angeles. The press release spoke about Lima's desire to not only develop children's skills on the baseball diamond, but to also teach every player how to appreciate, understand, and love the game just as much as he did.

Someone once said that we should live every day as if it were to be our last, because one day it will be. Jose Lima did just that. On Sunday, May 23, 2010, it was reported that Jose Lima had suddenly died of a massive heart attack in his California home. He was only 37 and left a wife and five kids. His wife Dorca Astacio, reported that he had complained of excessive gas earlier that night, but there had been no prior history of cardiac problems. His passing was noted by a moment of silence in Kansas City, Houston, and Los Angeles. Jose Lima may have left us, but for those of us who got to see him take the mound, Lima Time will never be forgotten. He was one of the good guys in baseball, a free spirit. Something the Astros desperately need now as they enter American League play.

Andy Purvis



*Brown Pelicans do not have teeth, but they have a hook at the beak's tip and its edges are sharp and could give you a small “paper” cut. By Riekie Roncinske*



# Island Outdoors



By Jay Gardner

## On the Rocks

One thing that was mentioned the other day at the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) was that Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has a plan to construct a Bicycle Tourism Network route (“bicycle track”) from the JFK Bridge all the way south to Padre Island National Seashore. We’ve heard rumors about that for years, and several superintendents ago, the Seashore was looking at constructing a lane for bicycles from PR 22 into the Park. That segment remains to be seen, however there has been renewed interest locally to construct a bicycle track on PR 22 from Whitecap. There is an interactive map that can be found at [Bicycle Tourism Trails Study \(txdot.gov\)](#) along with several study components. There are not relatively many miles of this planned for Texas, but evidently, we are on the radar for a track from JFK to the Seashore boundary.

Speaking of multi-modal plans, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) also has a current study going on regarding “micro-mobility” in the downtown area which is sort of on the same page as us out here on the Island with the Island Mobility Plan, with a couple exceptions. True, they are trying to retrofit their streets to allow other modes of transportation to have safe passage from point A to point B, just as we are as well, but it’s a different situation. They are talking about scooters and bicycles on mainly commuter roads. We’re trying to do the same on the Island, but with 18-wheelers going 55 mph and maybe-not-sharing the same roads, it’s hazardous at best.

The real difference between the projects, and especially with the bike track down to the Park is the presence of wetlands. In fact, that’s one of the main issues with expanding State Highway 361 to Port A. We live here on the coast, and we are surrounded by wetlands. These wetlands, in many instances, come right up to the edge of the road. These have been considered jurisdictional by the US. Army Corps of Engineers, and mitigation is required. As we in-fill development and infrastructure (roads), we’re literally running out of room. It is yet another sticky wicket, but there are alternatives that could be employed. More on that in coming issues.

### Lifeguards needed...

We also got another update on the lifeguard pay-raise situation. Despite Watershore and Beach Advisory Committee (WBAC), Parks and Rec Advisory Committee (PRAC), and the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) recommendations and resolution starting eight months ago to increase pay rates to match other local rates (i.e. Port Aransas), staff was unable to get the rates increased in time to advertise for this upcoming season. While they are continuing to work on this issue internally, the posted rates are the same as last year. And no surprise, they’re not getting as many applications as they would like to get fully staffed. Not sure what the hold up is, but hopefully folks can feel safe at the beach. Spring is around the corner, with the “3 months at 30 mph winds” which makes for red flag days and lots of hazardous rip currents.

### Beach sand needed...

We got an update that WBAC is looking at alternative sources of material for beach renourishment in front of the seawall. You long time loyal readers will remember that I wrote about this back in 2017 when I was co-chairing WBAC and was the liaison to ISAC. Deidre Williams from Conrad Blucher has been telling everyone that Packery Channel is working “too well,” and that it won’t accumulate enough dredge to maintain the minimum width to remove the bollards in front of the seawall. Other entities up the coast have already permitted offshore borrow areas, and we need to get on the ball with that. Especially since permitting will likely take somewhere around five years, which is about the cycle of dredging needed to maintain clearance.

There’s a lot I’m involved in but not covering folks, but you’re seeing it occur before your eyes when driving around The Island. The city may have an open house regarding the Mobility Plan before the next ISAC, as well as another community meeting regarding the Commodores Park Master Plan. Keep it here to the Island Moon for updates on those meetings, and please put them on your calendar and make it a point to show up. Drop me a line at [tarponchaser@mail.com](mailto:tarponchaser@mail.com) and I’ll see you on KRIS-TV, err, next week On the Rocks.



## Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah  
Farah’s Fishing Adventures



I brought all 9.4pounds of this trout to hand last week in Baffin for a quick picture and then let her go. I caught the fish in 2ft of water with a DOA 5.5 JERK BAIT IN GLOW.



This 26” trout came from the PACKERY Channel on a slack tide. I used a DOA BLOOD SHAD 5.5 Jerk bait. Farah



Sheep head like this monster will be schooling up around the jetties and passes to the gulf starting now through the end of March.

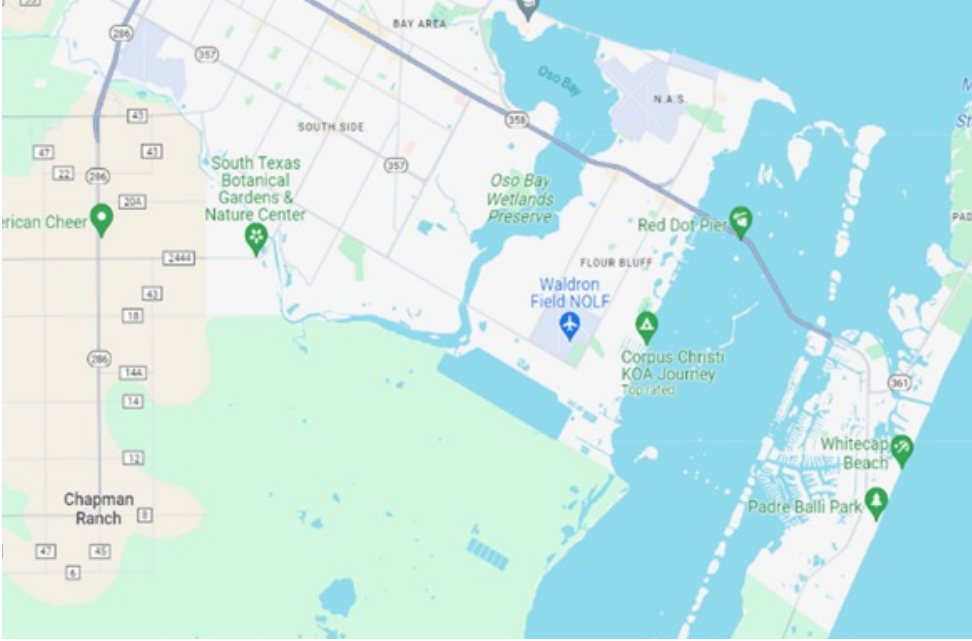


The Michael J. Ellis Seawall

## Tides of the Week

9 Feb	10 Feb	11 Feb	12 Feb	13 Feb	14 Feb	15 Feb	16 Feb
Fri ↗	Sat ↗	Sun ↗	Mon ↗	Tue ↗	Wed ↗	Thu ↗	Fri ↗
5:23PM 1.48ft	5:34PM 1.28ft	1:51AM 1.15ft 5:37PM 1.05ft	3:32AM 1.12ft 5:36PM 0.85ft	5:10AM 1.12ft 5:31PM 0.75ft	6:59AM 1.12ft 5:17PM 0.79ft	9:14AM 1.21ft	11:55AM 1.38ft
8:12AM -1.08ft	9:06AM -0.89ft 10:27PM 1.05ft	10:02AM -0.62ft 10:33PM 0.72ft	10:59AM -0.23ft 11:04PM 0.36ft	12:03PM 0.2ft 11:48PM 0.03ft	1:29PM 0.62ft	00:41AM -0.26ft	1:42AM -0.49ft
7:10AM 6:15PM	7:09AM 6:16PM	7:09AM 6:17PM	7:08AM 6:17PM	7:07AM 6:18PM	7:07AM 6:19PM	7:06AM 6:20PM	7:05AM 6:20PM
6:10PM 7:12AM	7:21PM 7:55AM	8:30PM 8:33AM	9:36PM 9:08AM	10:41PM 9:43AM	11:46PM 10:18AM	10:55AM	00:50AM 11:35AM
10	15	5	20	10	10	15	15

## RRC Steps In to Plug Wells Along the Texas Coast



Coastal Bend area where wells are located

The Railroad Commission’s well plugging program will begin plugging hard to reach orphaned wells located along the Coastal Bend of Texas in Baffin Bay, Humble Channel and Pita Island, according to a statement issued this week.

The RRC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the General Land Office (GLO) in which GLO will provide \$3 million to help plug 10 wells. The RRC will utilize marsh buggies and any other specialized equipment needed to reach and plug the wells.

In the past several years, the Commission has plugged a well for the GLO in the

Bolivar Peninsula; helped the National Park Service by removing hazardous casing from previously plugged wells at the Big Thicket National Preserved in East Texas; and plugged wells at Padre Island National Seashore, in 2021.

“This year marks the 40-year anniversary of the RRC’s nationally recognized State Managed Plugging Program,” said RRC Executive Director Wei Wang. “We have plugged more than 45,000 wells during that time.”

The agency has plugged more wells than the annual legislative goals for seven straight years.

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Nature Notes

Amazing Migrations

By Rebecca Bracken



Arctic Terns have one of the longest migration routes on the planet.

Photo credit: Andreas Weith

If you had an upcoming trip to Brazil, you could hop on a plane and arrive there in less than a day. That’s pretty amazing given how far you have to travel. But what if you were a bird? You would have to fly that distance and use a bunch of energy doing it. Do you think you’d make it? Thousands of birds do just that! While some travel “short” distances, from the northern US states down to Texas, others travel the expanse of the earth. Take the Arctic Tern for example. This bird is the migration champion. After nesting in Arctic Circle, the tern will fly more than 22,000 miles south to the Antarctic Circle in search of warmer temperatures and food. This is one of the longest migration routes found anywhere on the planet. Birds are not the only animals to migrate. There are many species of mammals, fish, insects, amphibians, and reptiles that also follow yearly migration routes. In Africa, herds of wildebeest, zebras, and gazelles travel around the Serengeti searching for fresh grass and water. In the Americas, monarch butterflies migrate from portions of Canada and the northern US to Mexico because they cannot survive the freezing winter temperatures. And across the globe, whales migrate to follow seasonal food supplies and in search of warm waters to raise their calves.

Here in the Houston area, we are fortunate to be in a prime place to experience bird migration. Right now, hundreds of shorebirds that nest in the Midwest and Great Plains are spending their days feeding along our beaches. We also routinely see hummingbirds at our Gulf Coast Bird Observatory office in Lake Jackson. One hummingbird species, the Rufous Hummingbird, has the longest migration of any hummingbird species. They take a one-way trip of 3,000 miles between their breeding grounds in Alaska to their winter range in Mexico. Some Rufous Hummingbirds have deviated from this typical pattern and now spend the winter in the southeastern U.S. Many spend the winter on the Texas coast and this species has become a regular and expected winter resident. We usually have one that spends the winter here at GCBO. Pretty soon, our wintering birds will migrate back up north for the summer, and we’ll get to experience spring migration. It’s one of our favorite times of the year. If you haven’t checked out Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary during spring migration, plan a day this spring to join us during Spring Fling. Stop by to learn about the amazing migratory habitats of North America’s birds, both big and small!

TPW Commission Approves Statewide Changes to Spotted Seatrout Regulations, Adopts Creation of Oyster Advisory Committee Name Image and Likeness program

The Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Commission approved proposed rule changes to bag and size limits for spotted seatrout during its Jan. 25 meeting.

- Spotted seatrout bag and size limits approved by the commission include:
- Three fish daily bag limit per angler
  - A minimum size of 15 inches and a maximum size limit of 20 inches
  - One oversized trout greater than 30 inches allowed as part of daily bag limit

These rules will go into effect as soon as possible, with notice on the actual dates to be provided when that timeframe is known.

Additionally, commissioners granted permission to publish a proposal to create a tag system allowing for the take of oversized

trout (greater than 30 inches), including one bonus tag per year, for an associated fee. The commission will pursue future public input and consider adoption of the proposed tag system in March.

The changes to bag and size limits follow emergency and temporary regulations enacted after Texas’ 2021 winter freeze and are based on multiple scoping efforts, including surveys and input from recreational anglers and guides. Biologists expect the new regulations to increase the population numbers of spotted seatrout since more mature fish will be left in the water.

The TPW Commission also adopted the creation of an Oyster Advisory Committee to advise on matters pertaining to oysters. The committee will determine and execute appropriate strategies to maximize the long-term health of oyster resources and the additional habitat and ecosystem services they provide.



Speckled Trout painting by Jacob Augs

Going Native

Plant and Pollinator Evolution



Viola arvensis. Courtesy of NC State U website

By Ed Proffitt

With apologies to humans, depending upon if you ask a botanist or an entomologist, you’ll likely be told that we’re either in the Age of Flowering Plants or the Age of Insects based on the huge numbers of species in these groups. In large measure this is a phenomenon of coevolution among the two groups. Plants attract more insects with increasingly showy flowers and greater nectar rewards; and, insects very effectively move pollen from one individual plant to another often providing greater genetic diversity and plant vigor.

As reported in The Guardian and CNN and probably elsewhere this relationship may be breaking down. Between 1989 and 2016 the total weight of insects caught in traps has declined 75% in Europe. In the last few weeks French researchers have reported in the New Phytologist botanical journal reductions in flower size and nectar content of field pansies (*Viola arvensis*, Family *Violaceae*) compared to individual plants sampled in the same fields 20 to 30 years ago. The study used a method they term “resurrection ecology” that involved germinating seeds collected years ago and stored in botanical collections and comparing the flowers to those of pansies in growing in the field now. If you’re familiar with the concept of a “shrinking violet”, well now we have “shrinking pansies” at least in terms of flower form and function. The study’s authors found no change in leaf size, for example, only flowers.

Their interpretation is that field pansies are “evolving away” from their reliance on insects as pollinators, an idea

supported by other work that indicates an increase in self-pollination in the species. This could be occurring because plants have to allocate energy to both growth and reproduction. If there is less benefit to attracting insects because they are in decline, then it makes little sense to keep allocating considerable energy to producing larger flowers and more nectar per flower. Plants, of course, don’t “make sense” and “decide” what to do, but in an evolutionary framework, individual plants that allocate less to those decreasingly important aspects of flowers may do better than those plants that still produce larger, showy, and nectar-rich flowers. Over generations, those “wasting energy” on flower size and content would decline in relative abundance. This would lead to the observed evolution in pansy plant traits noted in the study.

Now, you may be saying that you don’t care about field pansies in France. That’s fine, although that won’t get you invited to parties at my house. But, researchers are using these plants as “canaries in the coal mine” to inform us about what could be happening with at least some plant populations around the world. Indeed, the results suggest that we all should actively work on plant and insect conservation in order to promote diverse, functioning ecosystems. For us, that adds even more importance to the idea of increasing our use of plants native to Padre Island as there certainly are coevolutionary relationships with our insect (and other) pollinators. So, keep Going Native and help conserve our natural plant-pollinator relationships.

Padre Island National Seashore Seeking Volunteers for Sea Turtle Nesting Season



Kelly Taylor  
Chief of Interpretation and Education  
Public Information Officer  
361-949-8173 ext. 427 (office)

The Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery (STSR) at Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS) is seeking volunteers to assist park biologists during the Kemp’s ridley nesting season. The Kemp’s ridley is the smallest and most critically endangered species of sea turtle in the world. Efforts to conserve and protect the species in both the United States and Mexico have been underway since the 1970’s, led in part by PAIS. PAIS is the primary nesting beach for Kemp’s ridley turtles in the United States. From April to mid-July, biologists conduct daytime patrols to find, document, and protect nesting sea turtles and their eggs. When a nest is detected, the eggs are relocated and

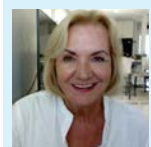
placed in an outdoor enclosure or incubation facility for protected incubation. Once the eggs hatch, the hatchlings are safely released into the Gulf of Mexico. Volunteers are crucial to our success at every step of this process.

Volunteers are currently being recruited to perform the following responsibilities:  
Drive UTV patrol vehicles on the beach  
Conduct walking patrols on the beach  
Transport eggs on the beach and highway  
Perform radio dispatching

All volunteers are required to register for and attend one 8-hour virtual training class delivered via Microsoft Teams. Training are being offered in February and March 2024. To register for training sessions, visit [Calendar - Padre Island National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#) Volunteers interested in driving government vehicles and UTVs are required to possess a valid driver’s license. Volunteers driving UTVs are required to attend one virtual UTV Classroom Session webinar delivered via Microsoft Teams and one in-person Beach Driving Practical Session held at PAIS at a future date that has yet to be determined.

For more information about volunteering, contact Martha Villalba-Guerra, STSR Volunteer Coordinator, by email at [pais\\_seaturtlevolunteer@nps.gov](mailto:pais_seaturtlevolunteer@nps.gov) or by phone at (361) 949-8173 ext. 9264.





## Business Briefs

By Mary Craft  
mkay512@aol.com

**Drive & Dive Eats** will be opening in the old Sonic and will serve fresh fried seafood, a variety of gourmet hotdogs like Baja style and fresh homemade never frozen burgers with homemade fries. It will have a full liquor bar with specialty cocktails, frozen drinks and they say their old fashioned will be the best around. There will be a small bar inside and the outside front patio will be enclosed with a bar. They will be open for lunch and dinner daily and may stay open to serve food on weekends until 3 am. All the permitting has been done and they are hoping to open by spring break. The final decision on the name may incorporate "Calypso" in it.

**The Winter Country & Czech Music Fest** will be at the Moravian Hall at 5601 Kostoryz on Saturday, February 17th noon - 6 pm. The Majek Orchestra and The Red Ravens will provide the entertainment. There will be food, drinks and kolaches for purchase. Admission is \$15 and kids 12 and under are free.

**Brooklyn Pie** specials for your Super Bowl Party are five large cheese pies \$55, five large specialty pies \$75, 50 wings \$50 and two large one topping pies \$22.



**La Mirage Resort Condos** is inviting Winter Texans for a tour and open house fun with free food and door prizes on Friday, February 9th 10 am - noon. There will be the same event at Sandpiper Condos on Wednesday, February 14th.

**The Marker 37 Marina fishing pier** has reopened and hours are 5:30am-4:30pm daily. The charge is \$5/person and \$2/pole. They also have onsite fish cleaning and they can cook your catch at The Pearl next door. No outside food or drinks are allowed.

**Creed: Are You Ready? Tour** with 3 Doors Down and Mammoth WVH will be at the American Bank Center on November 14th.

**Island Joe's Coffee parking lot** is now being worked on so it should be available soon.

**Port Aransas Community Theater** presents "The Play that goes Wrong" Thursday - Saturday until February 23rd. It's a hybrid of Monty Python and Sherlock Holmes that's guaranteed to make you laugh. Tickets are \$22.

**Hobby Day Arts & Crafts Fair** will be held at

the Port Aransas Civic Center on Saturday, February 10th 11 am - 4 pm. There will be 40 booths of homemade crafts and the one I went to had so many unique items.

**American Muscle Personal Training** is offering a sweetheart of a deal right now with three weeks for \$100 which is 40% off. They offer a training studio for all ages and fitness levels for small groups or individually. They are located at 14941 SPID next to Coldwell Banker. For more info call 226-7890.



**The 2024 Port Aransas Citywide Garage Sale** will be held at 48 homes on Saturday, February 10th 8 am - 4 pm. Maps will be posted at the Keep Port Aransas Facebook page or can be picked up at City Hall, Parks & Recreation or the Welcome Center.

**Love is in the Air Craft Fair** will be at Ethel Eyerly Community Center in the Bluff on Saturday, February 10th 9 am - 1 pm. It is located at 654 Graham Road.

**Skydive South Texas** is offering \$50 off for couples making the jump on Saturday, February 10th.

### Valentine's Day Island restaurant options:

**Black Sheep Bistro** for starter glass of house wine and soup or salad. Appetizer choices smoked brisket and pork nachos, smoked steelhead, little devils or spicy mini pork tacos. Entree choices shrimp and scallops Alfredo pasta, 6 oz beef tenderloin with a crab and lobster cake atop mashed potatoes and sautéed vegetables, apple bourbon glazed pork chop or poblano chicken breast with garlic mashed potatoes and vegetables. Dessert choices are tiramisu, bread pudding with caramel or bread pudding with peanut butter and chocolate. The cost is \$120/ per couple.

**Merida's Tapas & Cantina** will be serving a four course dinner for \$75/person. For starter choose tartar de Atur or truffle mushroom arancini. Next creamy onion, potato, leek soup and side salad. Entrees are garlic parsley crusted halibut, Jamon y quest stuffed chicken breast or filet mignon. Dessert is chocolate tres leches or cream puff trio. Stevie Start will provide the romantic croons. The first seating will be at 5 pm.

**The Angry Marlin** appetizer choices are lobster & shrimp quesadilla, spinach & artichoke dip or calamari. Entree choices are 12 oz prime rib, NY strip or pork Osso Bucco with garlic mashed

potatoes and green beans. Blackened redfish with cajun cream sauce, sesame crusted tuna with lemon beurre blanc sauce or panko crusted flounder served with rice and green beans. Dessert choices are vanilla creme brûlée, peach cobbler, gluten free brownie bottom pie or bread pudding with caramel. It's \$100/couple.

**The Pearl** will start the meal with a colossal shrimp cocktail and beets and goat cheese salad. Entrees include scallops with wild mushroom risotto, chicken piccata with fresh veggies and a creamy lemon caper butter or surf & turf with an 8 ounce filet and 10 ounce lobster tail. Desserts are strawberry cobbler or chocolate pot de creme with banana ice cream. Robert McCoy and Eric Graham will be providing the music.

**Hardknocks Sports Grill** will be serving the Big Papa with four Alaskan snow crab clusters, 16 jumbo shrimp, corn and potatoes with two draft beers. It will be sold for \$55 and is normally \$76.



**Guajillo's** will feature "Bacalao a la Vizcaina" which is a Basque region of Spain style codfish stew and a bottle of Belle Glow pinot noir wine for \$60/couple. This dinner is served for special occasions in Spanish speaking countries.

**Island Time** will feature the surf and turf tenderloin and lobster and a couple of sushi specials with strawberries, going with the the Valentine's theme.

**Island Italian**, which is normally closed on Wednesdays, will be open on Valentine's Day 5 - 9:30 pm. One of the Island favorites Ruben Limas will provide the love songs. They are not accepting reservations, walk-ins only.

**Costa Sur** will be doing a surf & turf with steak and lobster.

**The Boathouse Bar & Grill** dinner for two is redfish over rice with shrimp cream sauce or NY sirloin with mash potatoes, two salads and a bottle of house wine.

**Doc's Seafood & Steaks** starters are clam chowder or spinach strawberry salad. Special entrees are red snapper piccata, parmesan crusted flounder with shrimp sauce, seafood tomato basil linguine with jumbo Gulf shrimp and scallops, NY strip with sautéed scallops and chicken marsala. Dessert is chocolate tres leches cheesecake.

**Packery Bar & Grill** will be serving a 14 oz ribeye with loaded baked potato and fried or blackened local fresh bay shrimp or drum for \$35 starting at 6pm. The Migas Trio will provide the music. They serve this ribeye with potato every Monday for \$17.99. On Saturdays starting around noon enjoy oysters on the half shell for \$20/dozen and oyster Rockefeller for \$24/dozen. The Rockefellers are made with vermouth and fresh spinach. Last week, their first oyster day, they sold 360 oysters so get there early before they are gone.

### Random Stuff

**Pillsbury Cornbread Swirls** are amazing and, of course, even better with butter. It has more of a texture of a dinner roll. Directions say to bake in a muffin pan but mine came out great in a pie pan. If you would like more of a bread texture they came out with Grands cornbread bisquits a few months ago but not available locally yet.



**ClearClick** is a great way to get rid of those boxes of VHS tapes you have. You need a VCR, I borrowed one from a friend, but you do not need to hook it up to a TV. You can watch the video on the screen of the device, which you attach a flash drive to, and push record on the parts you want to save. You pop the flash drive in your computer and label the videos. I created a YouTube channel so I could upload any size movie there and share with my family in Chicago. You can even edit them on YouTube. You can make them public or specify certain emails.



**Nutella B-ready** is a crispy wafer with creamy Nutella inside that is a snack that the kids would love in their lunch bag as a desert treat. Throw some in your desk drawer or purse for a delicious 110 calorie, 15g carb sweet tooth snack. Interestingly, they are made in Italy where Nutella was created in 1964. I discovered it at our CVS.



Then and Now. The famous Doc McGregor Photograph circa 1930, and a recent Aerial from Jacob Augs this week.

The remaining pilings from the Don Patricio Causeway are only visible on the north side of the JFK Causeway at extremely low tides.



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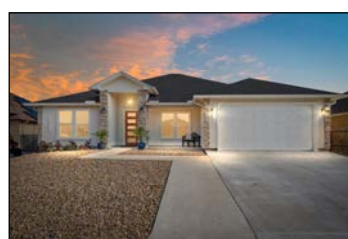
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361.949.7077 or 800.580.7077

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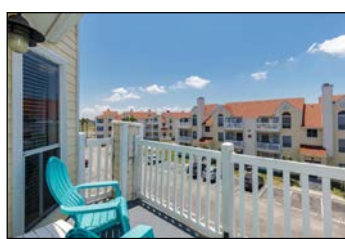
**Selling Padre Island since 1986**



**15806 Gypsy** 4/3/2 plus bonus room @ 2364 sq.ft. Water softener, whole house carbon water filter, outdoor water/gas connection, shutters, and gutters. **\$519,900**  
Randy Corpuz 361-765-9914



**13718 Sea Horse Ave** 3/2/2 plus bonus room @ 1684sqft. Open floor plan, split bedroom layout, and tile flooring throughout. The backyard boasts a covered patio and ample space for a custom pool. Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914.



**14721 Whitecap Blvd. #395** Beautiful studio condo with vaulted ceilings with an amazing view of Lake Padre and short walk to the beach. **\$183,650** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



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



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



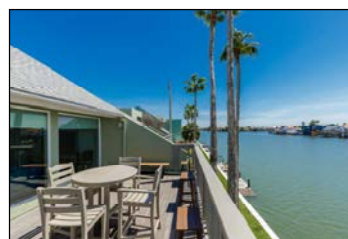
**14010 Eaglesnest Bay** 3/2.5/2 + bonus/flex room at 2,142 sq.ft. Open plan, new roof & HVAC in 2017. All new hurricane windows, 3M water treatment system. Large backyard w/room for a pool. **\$459,900**  
Randy Corpuz 361-765-9914.



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



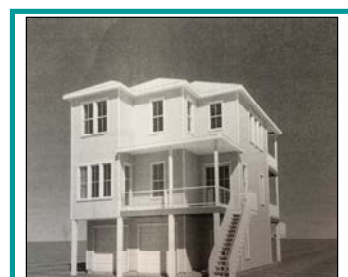
**13965 Lanyard** 4/3/2 2,502 sq.ft., stainless appliances, quartz & tile throughout plus lots of extras. **\$583,000**. Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914 or **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499.



**Puente Vista #230** Fingertip location with views for days! Fully updated second floor 2 bedroom, 2 bath with 1,151 sq. ft. \$399,900. Call **Charlie** 361-443-2499



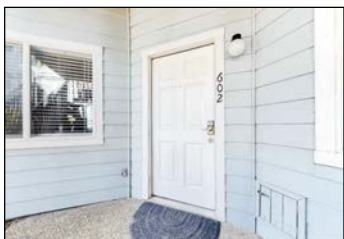
**13969 Lanyard** 4/3/2 2,540 sq.ft., stainless appliances, quartz & tile throughout plus lots of extras. **\$585,000** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914 or **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499.



**350 Royal Dunes**  
New Port Aransas Beach House in Mustang Royale built by Steve's homes.  
3200 sq. ft.  
3 story with 4 bedrooms,  
2 full & 2 half baths,  
2 living areas, 2 car garage,  
covered patio,  
3 balconies with amazing  
views, impact windows.

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Great primary or vacation home. Onsite pool, boardwalk to beach. **\$1,700,000**  
Call **Cindy Molnar** at **361-549-5557**, for more details.



**15010 Leeward #602** 1BR/1BTH @ 620sqft. First floor fully furnished unit with a 3min walk to the beach. Notables are new bathroom sink, tub, kitchen faucets, water heater, & sofa bed mattress. **\$235,000** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914



**15102 Leeward #603** 3/2/1 @ 1610sqft. Extremely well-maintained townhome with a short walk to the beach. Sleeps up to 10 guests. Selling fully furnished and turnkey ready. **\$349,900** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914



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



**4118 Claudia Dr** Selling "AS-IS" Ready for renter. Fresh paint & fridge, stove & washer/dryer. 3/1/1 1/2 blocks from Lookout restaurant. Easy to show. **\$185,000** **Tinker Boos** at **361-563-6641**.

## New Homes Available by Steve's Homes



**1910 Great Falls**  
4/3.5/3  
**\$845,000**



**Open Sundays**  
**1:00 PM — 3:00 PM**

**13841 Hawksnest Bay Dr.**  
4/3/3  
**\$585,000**



**15230 Capstan**  
4/3/2 Pool size lot  
**\$559,900**



**15886 Punta Espada**  
4/3/2 Waterfront  
**\$1,095,000**

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3/2/1 townhome  
Waterfront complex  
**\$2100/month**

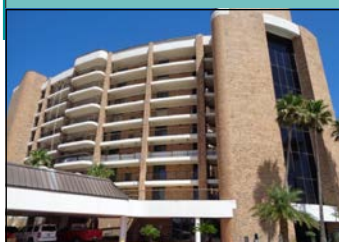
**15422 Salt Cay D**  
1/1 waterfront  
**\$1100/month**

**15325 Cruiser B**  
2/2.5/1  
**\$2300/month**

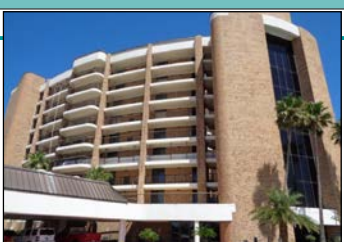
**15325 Mutiny**  
3/2.5/2 Waterfront  
**\$2600/month**

**13906 Mingo Cay #6**  
2/2  
waterfront complex  
**\$1350/month**

**13945 Lanyard**  
3/2/2  
**\$2400/month**



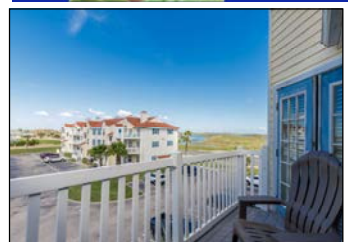
**Aransas Princess #413** Incredible views, 2+den, upgrades, floor to ceiling windows, & STR allowed. Great investment properties. **\$590,000** Call **Charlene** 361-244-2344 or **Carrie** 361-949-5200 **MLS#397083**



**Aransas Princess #412** Incredible views, 2+den, impact floor to ceiling windows, & STR allowed. Great investment properties. **\$510,000** Call **Charlene** 361-244-2344 or **Carrie** 361-949-5200 **MLS#430124**



**Aransas Princess #308** Incredible views, 2+2, impact floor to ceiling windows, & STR allowed. Great investment properties. **\$405,000** Call **Charlene** 361-244-2344 or **Carrie** 361-949-5200 **MLS#427437**



**Beach Club #380** 1/1, Beautifully furnished, great rental. Walk to the beach. Heated pool, hot tub, & gym. Water view. **\$250,000** Call **Carrie** at 361-949-5200



**Beach Club #382** 1/1, Upgraded, new flooring, paint, granite. Great investment. Walk to beach. Heated pool, water view. **\$245,000** Call **Carrie** at 361-949-5200

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Unsuccessful attempt by a coyote to get a small dog for breakfast Tuesday morning. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



This canal on the Whitecap NPI site will connect to the canal under the Commodores Drive Water Exchange bridge.

**The Czech Heritage Society of South Texas**

# Winter Country & Czech Music Fest

**February 17, 2024**




**The Majek Orchestra**      **The Red Ravens**

Admission \$15, children under 12 are free  
Food, drink & kolaches available for purchase.  
Dance from Noon to 6 p.m.  
For more info contact Sam Morris @ (361) 215-9163  
Moravian Hall - 5601 Kostoryz - Corpus Christi, Texas

## Pets of the Week!



We are looking for homes for three sweet and loving cats who were left behind by their mom, a fellow Islander who recently passed away. Willow is a white fluffy female Calico who has been spayed and is 3. (Below) JJ is a male Tabby who is neutered and is 4. (Left) Leto is a male Tabby who is neutered and is 12. (Bottom left) All three have playful and unique personalities. While we would like to keep them together, we understand that may not be possible. Call/text 361-947-3693



We just returned from a tour of Panama and took this picture in Boquete Panama. Mary and Guy Saponari



Kevin & Leslie Tansey celebrated both of their birthdays (2/4 & 2/6) in Savannah, Georgia!

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*Love Is In The Air*

# Craft Fair

At  
**Ethel Eyerly**  
Community Center

654 Graham Road  
Flour Bluff 78418

**FREE Admission**  
Saturday, February 10, 2024 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Make information 361-826-2330

**THE ANGRY MARLIN**  
RESTAURANT + coolwater BAR beer TikiBar garden

**Valentine's Menu**  
Valentines Day Menus will be served Feb: 9th through the 17th  
**\$100.00 per couple**

**1st Course** (Select one for each person)  
• Cup Soup or Side Salad to start

**2nd Course**  
**Appetizer choice** (Select one to share)  
• Lobster & Shrimp Quesadilla or  
• Spinach & Artichoke Dip or  
• Calamari

**Entree choice** (1 Entree for each person)  
• 12 oz. Prime Rib - garlic mashed potatoes, sauteed green beans  
• 12 oz New York Strip with caramelized onions, mashed potatoes and green beans  
• Pork Osso Bucco - garlic mashed potatoes, green beans  
• Sesame Crusted Tuna - lemon beurre blanc sauce, Caribbean rice, green beans  
• Blackened Redfish - cajun cream sauce, dirty rice, green beans  
• Panko Crusted Flounder- Poblano cream sauce, wild rice, green beans

**Dessert choice** (Select 1 to share)  
• Vanilla Creme Brulee  
• Peach Cobbler  
• Brownie Bottom Pie-Gluten Free  
• Bread Pudding ala Mode with caramel

Make your reservations today don't wait until the last day...  
reserve by phone, email or visit our website  
**(210) 272-9973 theangrymarlin.com**  
15605 South Padre Island Dr. Corpus Christi, TX

**blacksheep**  
• BISTRO •

**Valentine's Menu**  
Valentines Day Menus will be served Feb: 9th through the 17th  
**\$120.00 per couple**  
**Glass of House Wine** (per person)

**1st Course** (Select one for each person)  
• Cup soup or  
small Nutty Caesar Salad to start

**2nd Course**  
**Appetizer choice** (Select one to share)  
• Smoked Brisket and Pork Nachos or  
• Smoked Steelhead or  
• Little Devils or  
• Spicy Mini Pork Taco

**Entree choice** (1 Entree for each person)  
• Shrimp & Scallops Alfredo with Angel Hair Pasta  
• 6 oz Beef Tenderloin with a Crab and Lobster cake atop with mashed potatoes and sauteed vegetables  
• Apple Bourbon Glazed Pork Chops- garlic mashed potatoes, and vegetables  
• Seared Tuna Pasta- cajun cream sauce, and vegetables  
• Poblano Chicken Breast grilled or fried with mashed potatoes and vegetables- Poblano cream sauce,

**Dessert choice** (Select 1 to share)  
• Tiramisu  
• Slice of Heaven (Peanut butter and Chocolate)  
• Vanilla Creme Brulee  
• Bread Pudding Ala Mode with caramel

Make your reservations today don't wait until the last day...  
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## Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

Occasionally, the secular calendar and the Christian calendar converge in interesting and provocative ways. This is the case this year as Christians prepare to enter Lent in anticipation of Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14 – yes, Valentine’s Day! The memes on social media are hilarious! I only wish Easter Sunday was April 1 – April Fools’ Day! However, not the case this year as Easter falls on March 31 thanks to leap year.

Valentine’s Day is a day for celebrating love. St. Valentine was a priest in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. It is said that Claudius was having difficulty enlisting soldiers for the army. He thought men were reluctant to leave their wives and families. Duh! Claudius banned marriages and engagements. Valentine defied the edict and continued to perform marriages. According to tradition, he was arrested and executed on Feb 14, 269 AD.

Yet, another tradition points to the English poet Chaucer as the creator of the celebration of love and courtship on Valentine’s Day. Today, Valentine’s Day is not so much focused upon Valentine as it is on the concept of love. It has become a secular, light-hearted, celebrative day with gifts of cards, chocolates, flowers, and other types of gifts, and many times includes special meals. Love is always a good thing to celebrate!

Ash Wednesday, on the other hand, is a day of somber reflection and fasting. By receiving ashes in the mark of the cross, Christians acknowledge the reality of our human frailty, sinfulness, and finitude. Human feeble and impotent ways of denying death are exposed. It is a day when Christians remember, we are dust and to dust we shall return. The cross reminds us of the death of Jesus – our only hope and source of deliverance. Ash Wednesday begins the holy season of Lent, 40 days of reflection and fasting that culminate on Easter.

Many people will give up something for the 40 days of Lent as a sign that expresses a desire to have God mold and shape them in the likeness of Christ. This readies them to be allegiant to Christ’s reign. This year raises a delicate quandary, therefore, for those who will be giving up chocolate, at least for the first day of Lent!

Ash Wednesday is a crucial day for Christians. It is a reality check. It is a day to be grounded once again in the true source of life, God. We are mortal, and so death awaits us all. It is the Pimento Cheese Sandwich promise. Someday, people will gather at the grave to say goodbye to each one of us. Then they will retreat to a time of fellowship eating Pimento Cheese Sandwiches.

But Christians believe that death does not have the last word. God has the last word! Therefore, Ash Wednesday is not a day of despair. It’s actually a day to be liturgically reminded of the amazing and awesome love of God!

So, maybe it is not so odd for Ash Wednesday to fall on a day culture would have us think about love. As Christians receive ashes to their foreheads in the sign of the cross, they hope to allow God’s love to define how they live out in love their allegiance to the reign of Christ in their lives, relationships and community.

Like many churches, Island Presbyterian Church will be offering an Ash Wednesday Service at 6 p.m. on February 14. All are invited! The church will also be offering Ashes to Go from 7 am – 9 am on February 14. Ashes will be offered in the church parking lot as a reminder that need, humility, and healing are not confined to a church building. It is an opportunity to remember faith for those whose schedules make it hard to attend a worship service on Ash Wednesday.

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

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



## American Legion Post 229 The Islander Post American Legion Auxiliary

By Ken Ames

A lot of people have expressed interest in the American Legion Auxiliary and when we will be starting our own chapter. The American Legion Auxiliary’s Mission Statement: In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security. In fulfillment of our Mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:

- To support and advocate for veterans, active military and their families
- To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
- To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
- To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy
- To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government
- To increase our capacity to deliver our Mission by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities
- To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service, Not Self

After the formation of the American Legion, a number of women’s organizations wanted to become the official affiliation of the Legion. The women who served so faithfully during the trying days of the war wanted to continue to serve. It was decided that a new organization should be made up of the women most closely associated with

the men of the Legion, and that these women would serve with the Legion, in peace as they had in war. A new organization was established and in less than one year, 1,342 local units of the Women’s Auxiliary to The American Legion had been organized in more than 45 states. That number has soared to over 10,500 units today and with changes in roles of women in the military, the Auxiliary made some changes also. In 2019, the American Legion’s National Convention voted to replace the word “wife” with “spouse” in the organization’s constitution and bylaws section regarding eligibility to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary; since then, male and female spouses of U.S. veterans have been eligible.

Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the: Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of: The American Legion, men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States, or citizens of the United States that served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States, during the time periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge. Those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Anyone interested in joining The American Legion or the Auxiliary can contact us at: Facebook: American Legion Post 0229 “The Islander Post” or Email: Americanlegionpost0229@gmail.com Thank you to everyone that braved the chilly weather to attend our Salute to Service 2024. A great time was had by all and your generous support allows us to continue our mission.

## BBB Tip: Scammer or soulmate? How to avoid online romance scams

Social media and dating apps are great ways to meet new and interesting people for those looking for love, but beware – the people you meet may not be who they appear. Reports to government agencies and Better Business Bureau describe, in heartbreaking detail, the use of romance scams to steal millions of dollars from the public. In 2023, Texas residents reported a median loss of \$3,000 to romance scams to [BBB Scam Tracker](#), with total losses in the Lone Star State reaching \$1.8 million. Across the U.S., consumers reported more than \$14 million lost to these scams last year.

Romance scams are particularly devastating due to the emotional and mental toll they inflict, along with the financial losses. Those targeted often spend weeks, months, or even years talking and building a relationship with an online interest who ultimately turns out to be a fake. In most cases, the financial losses associated with a romance scam occur when the scammer claims an emergency happened and they need money to help handle it. Some common reasons used are hospital bills (for themselves or their children), mortgage payments, or travel costs to visit. However, romance scams are also frequently used to establish trust that scammers can leverage in other costly ways. Some of these include:

Directing targets to an investment or cryptocurrency opportunity and encouraging them to participate. This often leads to a “pig butchering” scam. Extorting victims by claiming previous video chats were recorded or that compromising photos will be shared with friends and family unless a payment is made. Asking for assistance with other financial hurdles that need to be handled before a ‘happily ever after’ such as inheritance or back-owed taxes, divorce lawyers, moving costs, etc. In a twist, some romance scammers position themselves as a financial benefactor and provide their target with a fraudulent payment under the direction they should use some of the money to pay someone else, who is also part of the scheme.

If money is provided once for any of these reasons, it is only a matter of time before another request comes through. Victims who lose the most money to these scams do so over time, often years, through multiple requests. Scammers frequently claim they work overseas in the oil and gas industry, military, or non-profit organizations, enabling them to go long periods with little contact. Scammers specifically choose these professions because they often provide a reasonable excuse for why it is

difficult or impossible for them to talk over the phone or video call.

BBB provides the following tips to help avoid romance scams:

**Be cautious of immediate confessions of love.** For most people, falling in love takes time and shared experiences. Even if reciprocated, quick confessions of adoration and love should be treated with caution, especially before meeting in person or participating in a digital date. Con artists are well-versed in making themselves appear to be what they are not, including using language that may seem to be genuine.

**Never wire money to online interests.** No matter how much the person claims they need the money or what will happen if they do not have it, never transfer funds to online interests through a wire service, bank transfer or gift card. Scammers know that these payment methods are fast, anonymous, and almost impossible to reverse.

**Verify the authenticity of photos.** A common tactic of scammers is to steal photos online of either people they claim to be or of locations where they claim to live. Use reverse image search to see if the photo is publicly available or of another person. Scammers are proficient in editing software and may use a standard picture of a landmark with a picture of themselves edited in. Look for the hallmarks of edited photos, such as signs of warping, an interrupted background pattern or missing shadows.

**Do research, ask questions.** Spend time researching the area they claim to live in for popular landmarks or attractions. Once you’ve compiled a list of places they are likely to know about if they live in the area, ask pointed questions about their lives and their opinions. Ask about some of their favorite places to eat, socialize or visit in the area and verify those locations exist. Ask about their employment – if they work on an oil rig, ask what company owns it or what organization they are a doctor for. You can verify some of this information online, but these questions may also expose a scammer if they struggle to answer them easily.

For more information about how to identify and avoid romance scams, visit [BBB.org/Romance](#).

If you have been a romance scam victim, report it to [BBB Scam Tracker](#) and the [FTC](#). The information you provide may prevent another person from falling victim.



**Ashes to go**

ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

**Drive through Ash Wednesday February 14 7:00 am – 9:00 am In the North Parking Lot at the Corner of Gypsy and Ports O’ Call IPC “The Beach Church”**



Terry Palmer raced in the Rocky Raccoon 100-mile ultra-marathon last weekend in Huntsville, Texas, and WON first place in just under 17 hours! The course was a mud pit and very difficult.

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## Sudoku

Sudoku answers are not available.  
Play at your own risk!

Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

## Island Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

1		2	3	4			5	6	7	8	9			10	11	12	13
14							15								16		
17						18								19			
20								21								22	
						23		24				25		26			
27		28	29							30					31	32	
33							34	35	36				37				38
39				40	41							42					
43								44								45	
	46						47					48	49	50			
54	55	56			57			58					59		60	61	62
63				64								65					
66								67						68			
69								70							71		

### Across

1. Large number  
5. Book with legends  
10. Org. asking "Where's the beef?"  
14. Geographical datum  
15. Kind of stew  
16. World Cup objective  
17. Functions perfectly  
20. Motor along  
21. Cur curber  
22. Fairy tale veggie  
23. Breaks the news  
25. \_\_\_\_ Maria liqueur  
27. Beefsteak or cherry  
30. City on the Trinity  
33. Action film weapon  
34. Addition to the staff?  
37. Mischievous pranks  
39. Where one's proboscis may be  
43. Sammy Kaye's "\_\_\_\_ Tomorrow"  
44. Comme ci, comme ca  
45. Poe story setting  
46. Pie man?  
48. Hasty drawing  
51. Prefix with carp or biology  
52. Possessive word  
54. Newt  
57. Exordium, informally  
59. \_\_\_\_ nous  
63. Waste one's breath  
66. Pt. of USMA  
67. Start of a famous Schwarzenegger quote  
68. While preceder  
69. Hardly The Fonz  
70. Carrie portrayer  
71. Developer's purchase

### Down

1. Circular and crosscut  
2. Gator's cousin  
3. Pertaining to aircraft  
4. It was divided in 1889  
5. Need medical attention  
6. Bird warble  
7. Fancies  
8. Perplexed, metaphorically  
9. Peak in the Cascades  
10. Exclamation of disgust  
11. Opera genre?  
12. Throw down the gauntlet  
13. \_\_\_\_ mater  
18. Margin mark, perhaps  
19. Word before play  
24. Word with division  
26. Settled onto a branch  
27. Makarova's garment  
28. Layer with a hole  
29. Little League equipment  
30. Some holes in the ground  
31. Put into effect, as a proposal  
32. Word with barrier or boom  
35. Approximately  
36. Castilian kinsman  
38. Name mentioned in Genesis  
40. Raise sharply  
41. Healing potion  
42. Reality unit  
47. Gregorian divisions  
49. Chicken \_\_\_\_  
50. Kovacs and Pyle  
52. Lover's keepsake, perhaps  
53. Raucous cries  
54. Esprit  
55. Come to grips with  
56. Tahoe device  
58. Bangkok native  
60. Semicircular moldings at column bases  
61. Sign of age  
62. Italian noble family  
64. Lacking a mate  
65. Chesapeake, e.g.

## Police Blotter January 29- February 4

### JFK Causeway to SPID-Aquarius intersection

**Crimes against Property**  
11600 block SPID 5 pm February 2  
Damage to Vehicle other than a Collision

**Disturbances**  
11600 block SPID 5 pm February 3 Fire  
11600 block SPID 3 am January 31  
13500 block SPID 1 pm February 1  
13400 block SPID 9 pm February 3  
Public Intoxication

**Suspicious Person**  
10800 block SPD 2 am February 3  
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia/  
Suspicious Person/Traffic Stop  
11000 block SPID 1 am February 2  
11800 block SPID 7 am January 31  
11100 block Gulf Beach 5 pm January 31

**Traffic**  
20 Traffic Stops  
11800 block SPID 10 am February 1  
Crash

### SPID West to Laguna Madre

**Crimes against Person**  
15600 Finistere 9 pm February 4 Assault  
**Crimes against Property**  
14300 block SPID Midnight February 4  
Trespassing  
14400 block Compass St. 11 am January 31  
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle  
14300 block Aquarius St. 9 pm January 30  
Criminal Mischief \$100-\$750  
14800 block Cobo De Bara 10 am February 2  
Trespassing  
13800 block Captains Row 11 am February 1  
Criminal Mischief \$750-\$2500  
Tipsty St. – Whitecap Blvd. 3 pm Theft \$750-\$2500  
15800 block Socorro Loop January 31

### Fraudulent Use of Identifying Information

**Disturbances**  
15600 block SPID 10 pm January 31  
13900 block Fortuna Bay Midnight January 31

**Suspicious Person**  
14200 block SPID 10 pm February 1  
Commodores Dr. – SPID 11 pm January 31  
Tesoro Dr.-Cobo De Bara Circle 10 pm February 1  
13700 block Eaglesnest Bay 11 a.m. February 2  
15500 block Escapade 6 am February 1

**Traffic**  
170 Traffic Stops  
Commodores Dr.-SPID 10 am February 4  
Crash  
SH 361-SPID 3 am January 31  
Crash

### SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to City Limits

**Crimes against Property**  
11400 block Gulf Beach 9 pm February 4  
Theft of Services  
11400 block Gulf Beach Road 8 pm February 4  
Theft of a Firearm from a Motor Vehicle

**Disturbances**  
100 block Zahn Road 9 pm January 30  
**Suspicious Person**  
14900 block Windward 8 am February 2  
14900 block Windward 1 am February 2  
14900 block Windward 8 am February 2  
14900 block Windward 1 am February 2

**Traffic**  
27 Traffic Stops



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Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Ronnie Johnson found this sculpture on Padre Island National Seashore this week. It contains a quote from Ma Jaya Sati Bhagavati.

## Crossword Solution

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

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# Candidates for Padre Isles Property Owners Association Board of Directors

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

The candidates for the upcoming 2024 Board elections are

Charles Cantu, Jr.

Chul Kim McGuire

Drew Diggins (Incumbent/President)

George Reed

Kevin Tansey

Michael Gdfula

Ray Singleton (Incumbent)

Thomas Gottemoller

The 2024 Board Candidates' resumes may be viewed on the Community Website: [www.padreislespoa.net](http://www.padreislespoa.net).

As of Tuesday according to Gary Klepperich, Executive Director of the PIPOA, "The Board has not made its determination as to what third party election service they will be engaging. Once they have made that determination, I will know what suite of voting services will be available."

## Island Moon offering space for PIPOA candidates

With the election cycle for the PIPOA Board of Directors getting underway we offer space here each week for candidates to communicate with the membership. We run them unedited. Send submissions to [editor@islandmoon.com](mailto:editor@islandmoon.com).

### PIPOA Board Candidate George Reed

I moved to the Island in November of 2005 after being appointed President of Horton Automatics, a global automatic door company located here in Corpus Christi. I worked there until I retired in August of 2008, affording me the time to fish, hunt, golf and fully enjoy Island life. My principal residence is here on Eaglesnest Bay drive (where I have lived for almost 19 years), but I also have a home in Incline Village, Nevada on the northeast shore of Lake Tahoe.

My interest in working on the POA Board is to serve the property owners of the POA. Leadership is a responsibility, not a reward. It's my goal to represent the concerns and interests of the membership and to serve the POA community. Collaboration and assuring alignment are important to achieving progress. I am committed to open communication and transparency, and I will do my best to support this.

Throughout my career I have held several leadership positions tasked with turning around failing businesses. I did not have the answers going into these situations. Enlisting the help of the management team and employees, collaborating to establish

alignment, and execution in support of goals and objectives lead to improved performance. A winning culture with a "can do" attitude was established. These same leadership principles should be applied to our POA. The people of the Island understand and appreciate the wonderful gift we have. We all want what's best. Continuous improvement should be everyone's mindset and our POA needs to support our membership with this in mind.

-George Reed



### *Skipper Tales*

Paradise  
by Bob Skipper

Lonely is the quiet shore,  
As morning begins to come.  
Breakers rushing landward,  
Racing the rising sun.

Driftwood lies there on the beach,  
Washed up by the waves.  
Seabirds, shore birds and seashells  
wait for the coming day.

A lovely woman walks the shore,  
Her azure blue eyes aglow.  
Walking quietly on the sand  
Her thoughts are hard to know.

She walks in peace here in her world,  
All beauty before her eyes.  
Savoring the sights and sounds  
Of this, her paradise.

The Island is her home now,  
Love for her life does arise.  
At home and at peace she lives now  
Here in her paradise.



## Local Environmental Celebrity to Speak at Free Coastal Issues Forum

*Coastal Bend's sea turtle mortality, washed up barnacle dolls, messages in bottles, animal rescues.*



The Coastal Bend Bays Foundations (CBBF) is thrilled to announce its FREE, open to the public monthly Coastal Issues Forum presentation featuring local environmental celebrity and beachcombing expert Jace Tunnell, director of community engagement at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at TAMUCC, crazy beach finds, correlations to our shoreline's health, and how our community can help will be discussed.

During the visually compelling presentation "Beachcombing the Beaches of the Coastal Bend" by local celebrity and beachcombing expert Jace Tunnell, director of community engagement at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at TAMUCC, crazy beach finds, correlations to our shoreline's health, and how our community can help will be discussed.

"The Harte Research Institute conducts weekly beach surveys to see what is washing up along our shorelines and how we can better educate the public about what we can do to improve the health of the Coastal Bend," says Tunnell. "Some of the odd and interesting things he has found over the years include catching an alligator, finding a prosthetic leg, illegal fishing gear, creepy dolls, money, and much more."

CBBF hosts nine Coastal Issues Forums a year, and they are designed to be an excellent free resource for the community to utilize in efforts to help educate and raise awareness about environmental challenges, programs and opportunities here in the Coastal Bend, all in an unbiased atmosphere. Questions are always encouraged. About the Presenter Jace Tunnell is the director of community engagement at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi. Jace is the founder of a citizen science project called Nurdle Patrol that tracks plastic pellet concentrations internationally to create awareness of plastics in the ocean and develop new policy based on the data. He also directs and produces a video series about items washing up along the Gulf of Mexico beaches to help promote awareness on Gulf processes and interesting creatures in the ocean. His conservation efforts include educating the public about plastic pollution, marine science, and protection of our natural resources. Jace received a master's degree in marine biology from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi in 2001.

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By Ronnie Narmour  
ronnienarmour@gmail.com  
**Bon Ton Roulette...**



**Port A Mardi Gras Parade founder Janet Planet.**

Let the good times roll! Just to state the obvious, *Mardi gras* weekend is upon us and *Fat Tuesday* falls on February 13th this year. This holiday originated as a pagan festival in ancient Egypt which was subsequently celebrated by the Greeks and then the Romans. It is also called *Carnival* in other places around the world and is celebrated in grand style from Rio de Janeiro to Trinidad, Venice, New Orleans, Galveston and Port Aransas. *Fat Tuesday* always lands precisely 47 days before *Easter* and one day before *Ash Wednesday*. *Easter's* date changes each year being that it's always the first Sunday after the full moon following Spring Equinox... therefore, the *Mardi Gras* date also changes each year so it can be any day ranging from February 3rd to March 9th making it the biggest and final celebration that arrives on *Fat Tuesday*. It's the time between the *Epiphany* or *Twelfth Night* and *Ash Wednesday*, which is the beginning of *Lint*. *Mardi gras* is typically celebrated by over indulgence, wild parties and colorful parades in the name of decadence before abstinence in many places around the globe. It's the universal time to party down, eat some mudbugs, put a little extra hot sauce in your gumbo and load up on beads... got to have lots of beads! And where do you get these beads you might ask ... at the many parades on the streets of most cities around the world. Padre Island will have their fabulous *Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade* on the beach this Saturday at 1:00 pm and Port Aransas will have our *Mardi Gras* parade on *Fat Tuesday* proper, leaving the *Gaff* at 5:00 PM. If my calculations are correct, this will be our 28th *Annual Mardi Gras Parade* here in Port Aransas founded by long time resident **Janet Planet Calvert** and PALS (Port Aransas Leisure Society), a coalition of residents who take their partying seriously. OK you've been warned... this party is NOT for the timid. Et toi!!!

**Scattered shots...**



**Boudreaux & Pousson played the Gaff to a HUGE Winter Texan gathering last weekend.**

It was another fun, fun weekend in good old Port A. We still felt a little chill in the air as we puttered around in our trusty golf cart. First on our route was to see **Joey St. Vincent** at *Shorty's*. Joey is a looper and builds his songs with a device that records various musical parts of the song in real time. So does our Cajun pals **Boudreaux and Pousson** (aka Boo and Poo) who played the *Gaff* on Friday to a huge contingency of Winter Texans. Brother they really had the party rockin'. I think Boo and Poo have found a new home in Port Aransas. They fit right in. So does **Robert McCoy** who played the *Gaff* last Saturday. Mr. McCoy has a super cool sound going with his antique "Hawaiian" lap steel guitar and veteran percussionist **Luis Villarreal** on congas. That lap steel he plays is a museum piece and its sound is beyond deep and rich and he plays it well. These guys have a unique product and I'm pretty sure they'll be playing our whole circuit soon. Also last Saturday, **SA Lights** the *Journey Tribute Band* played the grand opening of *Beach Bums*, our newest venue in Port A. The owners, **Melissa Crowley** and **Gabe Munoz** are from San Antonio and also play in the band. The place was packed and parking was at a premium, but I

did sit out front in my golf cart long enough to see what was happening in there. It appears that these guys know what they're doing. More will be revealed. Also on Saturday our new hot kid on the block, **Raul Ayala**, had *Shorty's* doing back flips. The band had to play inside and brother, the place was rocking... literally.

**Red Bird Road Trip...**



**Dallas Burrow and James Derkits put on the Red Bird Songwriter Showcase at the Gaff last Sunday.**

And on Sunday, the *Gaff* had another fun event with the *Red Bird Road Trip* from New Braunsfel. In a nutshell, this is a group of hill country singer-songwriters must have had 30 musicians taking their turn on stage... they were only allowed to perform three original songs. This group donates their income to the non-profit *Cheatham Street Music Foundation* and on this show, to our own non-profit, *Strum Bums*, who are affiliated with *Trinity by the Sea Episcopal Church*. **Father James Derkits** was on hand and played a few songs for us. This group is led by **Dallas Burrow** who has the *Red Bird Listening Room* in New Braunsfel which is also affiliated with **Ray Wylie Hubbard's** *Roots and Branches of Americana* radio show on KNBT 92.1. You might remember Dallas Burrow from back in the day when the now defunct *Tarpon Ice House* would have their annual *Tarpon Music Bash* with hill country musicians each year. Mr. Burrow is quite the player these days and seems to be the spark plug at the heart of these shows. It was mighty impressive.

**DO NOT MISS LIST**



**Robert McCoy and Luis Villarreal played the Gaff last Saturday.**

**Coming this weekend...**

On Friday we have cool blues from **Starlite and the Moonbeams** at *Shorty's* and *Rasta Cowboy Billy Snipes* will play at the *Gaff*. Plus, the **PA Rockers** will play an event at the *Port Aransas Art Center* not to mention the world famous western swing band; **Asleep at the Wheel** will play *Brewster Street Downtown*. Wow! On Saturday the *Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade* will occupy the beaches of North Padre Island. I'm sure **Rankin** has that covered. Also coming this Saturday, the *Gaff* will have the **BELT SANDER RACES** at 3:00 with **Jim Dugan** playing afterwards. Also on Saturday the great jam band **Triptonite** will be at *Shorty's* and at *Charlotte Plummer's* in Rockport my old friends from Lubbock, **Butch Hancock and Jimmy Dale Gilmore**, will be giving a lesson in West Texas cool. And in Corpus on Saturday the **Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band: Dreams** has a two nighter at the *House of Rock*. There's much more happening too... check out the LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT box!. Peace out!

🎵🎵 And, that's the truth 🎵🎵



**The Raul Ayala Band will play Shorty's on Fat Tuesday.**



*Triptonite will play Shorty's on Saturday.*



*Western swing band Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel will play Brewster this Saturday.*

# LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

**Friday.**

**February 9**

Starlite & the Moonbeams @ Shorty's  
Billy Snipes @ Gaff  
PA Rockers @ Port A  
Art Center  
Asleep at the Wheel @ Brewster  
Downtown  
Cruise Control @ Pelican Lounge  
Eli Brown @ Dos  
Sirenos  
Alley Catz @ Cassidy's  
Antone & the All Stars @ Exchange  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's  
Cruise Control @ Pelican Lounge  
Dave's Duo @ Doc's  
Waterline  
Jam Band @ RETRO  
Otis Terrell's Party-Gras Blues Revue @ Rialto AP

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**MARCH 9**  
**MARCH 10**  
**MARCH 15**  
**MARCH 16**  
**MARCH 23**  
**MARCH 29**

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**LIVE MUSIC**  
**WHISKEY BAR**  
**DANCE CLUB**

**Saturday.**

**February 10**

Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade @ Padre Island  
Citywide Garage Sale @ Port Aransas  
BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff  
Jim Dugan @ Gaff  
Triptonite @ Shorty's  
Jimmy Dale Gilmore & Butch Hancock @ Charlotte Plummer's  
Rockport  
Dreams: Fleetwood Mac Tribute @ House of Rock  
Carson Miller & Coastal Cowboys @ Retro  
Michael Burtt's @ Brewster Southside  
Flying Free @ Executive Surf Club  
Lady Cat & Mattman Band @ Exchange  
Jam Band @ Pelican Lounge  
Dreaming in Color @ Harley Davidson  
Michael Anthony Perez @ KBOBS  
Joey St. Vincent @ Eighteen 18 Bar  
Billy Snipes @ Island Italian

**SHORTY'S**  
**SELFIE EVERY THURSDAY**

STARLITE	FEB 9
TRIPTONITE	FEB 10
JIM DUGAN/TY DIETZ	FEB 4
OPEN JAM W/ RAUL	FEB 5
CBDB'S	FEB 16
MIKE O'NEIL	FEB 17

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**Sunday.**

**February 11**

Paw-Di-Gras  
Fundraiser @ Shorty's  
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz

@ Shorty's

Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's  
Dreams: Fleetwood Mac Tribute @ House of Rock  
Carson Miller & Coastal Cowboys @ Retro  
Michael Burtt's @ Pelican Lounge

**Monday.**

**February 12**

Raul Ayala @ Pelican Lounge

**Fat Tuesday.**

**February 13**

Mardi Gras Parade @ Port A  
Raul Ayala @ Shorty's  
PA Rockers @ Bernies  
Open Mic @ Salty Dolphin  
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's  
Justin & Niki @ Exchange  
Open Mic w/Rev Matt @ House of Rock  
Catfish Blues Jam @ Rialto Theater AP

**Wednesday.**

**February 14**

Brad Ethridge Open Mic @ Gaff  
Cleartones @ VFW  
Emma James @ House of Rock  
PA Rockers @ Bernie's  
Los Gezzeros @ Pelican Lounge  
Billy Snipes @ Doc's  
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian

**Thursday.**

**February 15**

Coastal Bend Music Industry Symposium @ House of Rock  
Selfie @ Shorty's  
Robert McCoy & Luis Villareal @ Gaff  
Raul Ayala @ The Nest  
Michael Burtt's @ Brewster Southside  
Jam Night @ Exchange  
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's  
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian

**Friday.**

**February 16**

CBDB's @ Shorty's  
Keep Her Wild  
Fundraiser w/ Dunebillies @ Gaff

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