



Three Chords and the Truth B16

Business Briefs A2

JFK Bridge A5

Senior Moments A5

Going Native A7

Issue 976



The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

December 29, 2022 Weekly

www.islandmoon.com

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



Photo by Erin Anderson



By Dale Rankin

It was a bad week to be an outdoor plant on our little sandbar as December blasted its way into the history books with a blizzard that had us all looking for our only pair of long pants.

The good news is that by week's end the impact the cold water had on the local turtle population was not nearly as bad as the 2021 storm and by Tuesday all the fishing areas along The Coast were back open and anglers were out on the water in force taking advantage of the Chamber of Commerce Weather.

There is a new phenomenon here—abouts we'll call Island Generator Envy for lack of a better term that generates a churning in the stomach of Islanders without home generators when we hear the buzz of the generators as they kick on at houses across the canal while our own power is still on. This is not a good sign and it sends the non-generated population in search of the nearest flashlight in anticipation of being plunged into impending darkness and it is at that moment we pledge an undying effort to call the generator guy the next morning and get our own power source before the next Island blackout. It seems somehow odd that residents of a barrier island live more in dread of blackouts in wintertime than summertime. With that said a note to the men folks; if you buy a generator get one that will run the air conditioner in your house or the next time there is a power outage in the summer months you are going to hear about your lack of planning from your significant other. We're just saying...

A little night music...

On Thursday night we had a little Island excitement as the strong wind downed power lines along Commodores Drive causing two brushfires that were contained along the Aquarius extension and ultimately didn't threaten any homes but had some homeowners fretting over whether to pack up the family heirlooms or the Yeti ice chest. For the record let it be known that the new Beach Maintenance Building adjacent to the #15 Fire Station has survived its first encounter with an Island brush fire unscathed. The first frantic reports had the origin of the fire as "a house that exploded" but in the end no houses or structures were involved but it was a reminder that forty-mile per hour winds and dry grass don't bode well for combustible Island possibilities.

A Sticker situation...

For years many Islanders have sported the round, blue window stickers reading Padre Islander to denote their place of residence. Many folks thought the stickers would help them get back onto The Island after a big storm the fact is about all they really did was allow PIPOA members to park at Island boat ramps — with a second sticker on the boat trailer. That policy has changed and we include the details of the new rules in this issue.

The fact is — and we all know one — some Island residents have... ahem... purchased more than one sticker and handed them over to non-Islanders who want to park at Island lots for a run on the water down to Bird Island and beyond. Well, that loophole is about to close.

New stickers are being issued and unless your OTB buddy has a vehicle exactly like yours and with the same license plate and serial number he's going to have to park on the street. Oh the humanity! The Wild West Days are over folks. That's all for now get out there and enjoy the weather while it lasts and say hello if you see us Around The Island.

2022 Year in Review

A year of change for Padre Island

2022 was a year that saw dramatic changes to The Island so as the year winds down in this issue we take a look back. From the beginning of

construction at the Whitecap North Padre Island site, to Bob Hall Pier, to Lake Padre, the ongoing Water Exchange Bridge project to the push late

in the year to bring a second causeway across the Laguna Madre 2022 was a year that will literally change the landscape in 2023 and beyond.

Story of the Year

Whitecap North Padre Island Work Begins



By Dale Rankin

The biggest story of 2022 on The Island was the beginning of development at the 242-acre site of the old Schlitterbahn Waterpark. Construction on the \$755 million project began in June with the excavation of what will eventually be 12,000 linear feet of canals, a four-star hotel, and 638 residential lots mostly for Short-Term Rental units.

Officials from Diamond Beech Holdings, owners of the property, and developer Ashlar Development told the Corpus Christi City Council in 2022 that the project called, Whitecap North Padre Island, will be rolled out in four phases beginning with Phase I which will see the building of residential property in the northwest section of the site, running from Dasmariñas, along

Aquarius Drive to Commodores Drive. The plans show that section of the development will be private homes along with \$18 million worth of new bulkheads approved by the city's Developmental Services Department in March. In total the project contains 25,000 feet of shoreline, most with bulkheads,

Whitecap cont. on A3

The Barge at South Packery Jetty



This is what is left of the barge at south packery channel as of 12-27-2022 Photo: Augs Services

Water Exchange Bridge



When 2022 began crews were putting the finishing touches on the northbound side of the new Water Exchange Bridge on SPID. As the year ends they are doing the same on the southbound side of the bridge which is on schedule for opening in mid-2023.

A little Island history

By Dale Rankin

Work crews this year began removal of the sea gate that connects Packery Channel to Lake Padre. For most of its life it has been a rusty and concrete canvas for taggers, it has been a hangout for late night partiers, sometimes a hazard for boaters, and the subject of much curiosity and speculation. But the sea gate between Packery Channel and Lake Padre is soon to be a relic of the Island's past, at least in its current configuration. Thirty years ago when Westinghouse Financial owned more than 1000 acres on Padre Island they decided

to try to slow down any surge tide from an incoming hurricane by building a concrete structure at the entrance to Lake Padre that would hold four iron gates to be dropped into vertical slots on each side of the channel. The gates would be stored immediately adjacent to the concrete structure and as a hurricane approached a contractor would use a crane to raise them then drop them into the slot to avert the power of moving water. The gates were not solid metal, they contained slots for the water to flow through since the goal was not to keep the water out,

which no gate solid or slotted could do, but rather to slow the rushing water as it entered or exited Lake Padre. Keep in mind this was fifteen years before Packery Channel was cut open to the Gulf of Mexico and the water body immediately in front of the gate was known commonly known as the Ski Basin.

The lines and tackle for the deployment of the gates was stored in the cart house at the old Padre Isles Country Club which is where it stayed until it was removed during

Sea Gate cont. on A4



In early 2022 crews began demolition work on the sea gate opening between Lake Padre and Packery Channel to widen the entrance to about 75 feet.



Work on almost all of the bulkheads around the Lake Padre development are in place as 2022 winds down.



The four iron gates on the west side of the channel entrance are now gone. They were never closed.

A new causeway to The Island...Part III

The Process

How long will it take and what is next?

Part III: This is the third part of a series exploring the building of a second causeway to Padre Island.

By Dale Rankin

The beginning of a plan for a second causeway to Padre Island was the subject of the Regional Parkway Planning & Environmental Linkage Study released by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on April 12, 2017 and under the timeline outlined in that plan the earliest planning and funding for a new causeway would be 2035.

But with a projected population growth of 21% in the Coastal Bend by 2050, according to the Texas State Data Center, the need for additional routes around the City of Corpus Christi which would connect to a second causeway to Padre Island will mean that waiting

Causeway cont. on A4

By the Numbers

Bob Hall Pier rebuild



Bob Hall Pier in March. By Doc McGregor II

67% of Nueces County Park budget is self-generated

\$30 million cost of new pier

\$5 million from Texas General Land Office grant to pay for beach flyover

19 feet flyover clearance above beach (connects to Briscoe King Pavillion)

\$2 million for expanding first floor or adding second floor to restaurant area

2052 square-feet of first floor expansion for \$2 million

5250 square-feet of second floor expansion for \$2 million

8% of restaurant sales paid to Nueces County Park Board

\$4 million estimated additional cost of using two columns of support pilings versus one column

September 7 County Commissioners scheduled to vote



This is the structure at Bob Hall Pier as 2022 ends.



Did Ya' Hear?

By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

Business Briefs

Texas Sealife Center is looking for much needed donations with all the rescued turtles they are caring for. Any amount is appreciated. Donation information can be found on their Facebook page.



The Riley P. Dog Park board meeting will be held at the Angry Marlin on Tuesday, January 3rd 6 pm. All are welcome.

Island Animal Clinic in Port A treats your pets like family. They are full service with radiology, surgical procedures, pharmacy, and more. They take appointments Monday - Friday and the number is 749-4134. They are located at 319 Beach Street next to the Gaff which is a great pooch friendly place to go after your visit. Moon dog Lizzy has been going there for years and they have provided excellent care even in an emergency situation.



Douden Park has the newest shaded play-ground and also has a new basketball court. It is located at the end of Tesoro.

The 4.59 acre tract of land next to American Bank at 14614 SPID has received a site fill grade permit estimated at \$1 million. The property is owned by Speedy Stop and the permit was applied for by T&T Construction. This is not part of the Lake Padre development.

French the Beachcomber's Oyster Bar was the first one on the Island and was located in the strip center Frenchy built in 1983 which is where the Pelican Plaza is now located. Snoopy's Pearl Oyster Bar is currently closed for modifications mostly regarding keeping it warm. Owner Mitchell is currently in Normandy where he has visited eight oyster farms. He said he has a great source for oysters from there now and that it had the best oyster he has ever eaten.



Frenchy with some of his souvenirs in 1984



Oyster farm in Normandy

The Oso Bay Preserve is a great place to connect with Mother Nature with hiking trails, wildlife viewing overlooks and a learning center. There is a large playground area with a large double slide and they offer classes for all ages.



Island Tire does vehicle inspections needed to renew your vehicle registration sticker. You can have it done Monday - Friday 8 am - 4 pm and the cost is \$7 and you will need to show your insurance card. You can get your sticker online or at HEB.

The Wyndham Hotel on the seawall is serving breakfast items off the menu 7 - 10 am Monday - Thursday and a buffet on weekends. Menu items include strawberry stuffed French toast, peanut butter and banana crepes, cinnamon raisin crepes and biscuits & gravy. They plan on serving lunch and dinner in a couple of months.

Hardknocks is hosting a New Year's Eve Party at 8:30 pm with a surf & turf special and free champagne toasts. Music will be provided by the Jerry DeLeon full band and dancing is encouraged.

The Scarlet Lady Dolphin Adventures in Port A will have a two hour New Year's Eve cruise to view the fireworks while you sip champagne for \$48. They have a full bar and offer 1 1/2 hour dolphin tours for \$38.

Kevin's Home Improvements installs generators for your home or business and does free estimates. He has Island references available. He installed one at Moon long time advertiser Reds home and he was very happy. Call 462-6627.

Penn Thomas, CPA has been serving Islanders for years. He has received all 5 star reviews on Google but you can just ask your neighbors about his tax knowledge, expertise and friendly, helpful manner. That time of year is coming upon us and it's nice to know you don't need to leave the Island. His office is located at 14633 SPID next to the PI Art Gallery.



The Commodore Park plan will be discussed at the next ISAC meeting on Tuesday, January 10th 5:30 pm at the Padre Island Baptist Church. After roll call and minutes are read there will be time set aside for public comment. You have up to three minutes to express what you would like to see at the park. ISAC will take these recommendation for consideration to the City to present to the Parks & Rec Master Park Plan. I personally would like to see the addition of a skate park and tennis courts.

Random Stuff

A church key can opener makes it easy to open any jar. Just use the pointy end to pry up the lid until you hear the suction break. Sometimes you need to pry it on both sides. The name of the opener came from the original cast iron bottle openers that resembled the keys used for churches in Europe.



Venmo transactions are automatically public unless you change default to private in the Venmo settings. That way all your transactions will be private. If you just want to hide a particular transaction you can make it private by changing the bottom right corner from public to private.



Barefoot Mardi Gras February 2022. Get ready for 2023!



The original eighteen students of Port Aransas High School class of 2022 that started together and finished together. Photo By Robin Krennek



The sargassum started to arrive in April. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Regular turtle releases moved from Padre Island National Seashore to the seawall. By Mary Craft



The new year in Port Aransas opened with a plane crash January



These little beauties washed up on our shores all year

Moon Monkeys

Mike Ellis, Founder



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About the Island Moon

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

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

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

The Island Moon Newspaper

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Where to Find The Island Moon

PortNorth

AransasPadre

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Kody's

Coffee Waves

Moby Dicks

IGA

Treasure Island

San Juan's Restaurant

Wash Tub

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My Coastal Home

Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Dear Padre Isles Owners,

The Board of Directors recently approved an update to the Boat Ramp Parking Permit Sticker Policy, which I have attached for you to review. In this update, there are some very important changes for the upcoming 2023 calendar year. The POA will be replacing the two-sticker system, with a one-sticker system, starting in 2023. The new sticker will be \$20.00 per sticker. The one sticker will be an inside, front windshield sticker that will replace the round blue Padre Islander sticker on the back window and the annual trailer sticker. For owners who have multiple watercraft, which means multiple trailers, this will be good news, as the new windshield sticker will be valid for the vehicle and the trailer the vehicle towing. Don't worry, the old Padre Islander stickers will still be available; however, as a novelty. The new inside windshield sticker will be an annual sticker, just like the trailer stickers were, and will be color coded by year, as well as serial numbered. Each windshield sticker will be vehicle specific, so when a purchase of a parking sticker is made, the vehicle information (Make, Model, Color, and License Plate Number) will be required to make the purchase and the sticker must be placed in the specific vehicle it was purchase for / registered to. Sorry, but non-owners will not be eligible for stickers. Only the owner(s) of record (listed on a deed) will be eligible for parking permit stickers. The POA will no longer sell stickers intended for extended family members or friends.

Due to the fact that we are so close to the end of this year / beginning of the next year, this new policy will take time to transition to. As a result, the transition time will be through March 31, 2023. What does that mean? It means that any owner, who has the Padre Islander vehicle sticker on the back window and the 2022 trailer sticker on the trailer, you will not be towed, while the transition is happening. Also, due to the transition to this new system, we will be removing the option to pay for stickers from the annual CAM Fee statements. The ability to purchase the parking permit stickers remotely will be available once the purchase/registration form is available.

Should there be any questions, please feel free to contact the POA office at: (361) 949-7025, or email: padreislespoa@pipoa.net.

Thank you,

Gary Klepperich, CMCA, AMS, PCAM
Executive Director
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14015 Fortuna Bay Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78418
(361) 949-7025

www.padreislespoa.net

December 23, 2022

Mr. Gary Klepperich

Executive Director

PIPOA

Sir,

In reading the most recent message from the PIPOA President in the Island Moon, I understand that Mr. Jones and Ms. Graves will not be candidates for reelection. I thank them for their service on this Board.

I understand that at this time there is only 1 candidate that has applied to fill two open seats. Mr. Jones has indicated that the Board will be considering other options.

Should the Board decide to place any additional names on the ballot, I am certain that the Membership will expect this Board to follow long standing practice and reopen the application process to all Members. If so, then I wish to place my name on the Ballot for Membership consideration.

Should the Board decide to add any names to the ballot, please let me know soonest and I will immediately follow-up with any required paperwork.

For now, please consider this my official application.

James J. McFadden

Member

15606 Three Fathoms Bank Drive

Good Morning,

I am delighted to announce that Scott Cross has given us permission for the seventh year to install the Bollard Buddies on the bollards from the Horace Caldwell Pier toward the south jetty.

This year is going to be a bit different. The buddies have grown from their beginning of 82 to over 300 and last year I knew I needed help caring for them so the BOLLARD BRIGADE was started. This year I was diagnosed with breast cancer and after a successful surgery I am currently taking chemo treatments. I am not going to be able to do my twice daily walks to check on the buddies, repair the damaged ones and welcome the new ones. Once again, I asked for BOLLARD BRIGADE volunteers. The response is wonderful as we have both local and winter Texan volunteers. There are enough volunteers to care for 340 buddies and two nurses to repair any minor damages. A friend has, for the second year, volunteered to walk the entire line of buddies each morning to check for new ones and make sure every buddy is where it belongs. We have a coordinator who will assist me with making sure any problems or issues are addressed ASAP. We also have a small group of substitute volunteers when needed. I am overjoyed with the outpouring of support this project has received. The Bollard Buddies have become a very special part of our Port A community.

Bollard buddies have been sent from many parts of the USA and this year they have expanded their horizons to include Canada. Some of our new ones include Bat Man, a caterpillar, Pig in a blanket, Ninja Turtle, snowman, cactus, and Queen Elizabeth just to name a few. We encourage folks to make their own creation and add it to the ever growing collection. The only request is make sure it won't endanger wildlife or children, don't place it on a bollard with a reflector or that it has a red or blue painted top.

The buddies have a Facebook page: [yarn-bominginporta](https://www.facebook.com/yarn-bominginporta). There is an additional unemployed bollard buddy album with over 300 photos of the new ones and their adventures. They have been featured in The South Jetty, The Island Moon, had a front-page feature in the Caller Times, and been covered by KIII TV. I am planning to do the installation on December 26th beginning at 1:00pm, weather permitting. The project goes pretty quickly and it's usually finished within the hour. If you have any questions, please contact me Diana Vondra 515-505-0166 or email at: yon-dra922@gmail.com.

Smiles

Diana



Willie Nelson made an appearance at the bollards of Port A.
Photo by Ronnie Narmour

Whitecap cont. from A1

with a park and green space as the centerpiece some of which will have a natural shoreline to allow for kayak launching. Steve Yetts Co-Owner Ashler Development told the council in May the company has five communities under construction at other locations now and a long term relationship with International Bank of Commerce which is affiliated with Diamond Beach Holdings. Yetts said his firm has contracted New York based Colliers Global Hotel Services to determine an operator for the hotel, which will be "a minimum Four Star facility," and there are currently several hotel operating companies interested. The hotel site is near the northeast corner of the site, near the corner of Commodores Drive. The developers stressed in 2022 that the waterways, parks, public spaces, and pedestrian and cart paths will be open to the public. An Island Mobility Study is currently underway by the Island Strategic Action Committee and the private owners of the land on both sides of the Water Exchange Bridge on SPID to connect the private developments on both sides to the

bridge, providing a multi-modal means to traverse from city streets west of SPID, through the Lake Padre development, and to the beach at the Michael J. Ellis Seawall. "It will be the Venice of the Gulf Coast," District 4 City Councilman Greg Smith said Tuesday. "This will be a twenty-first century design. People have been saying for years why has The Island not taken off? This might be the thing that does it." A key aspect of the plan is the construction of a bridge over the now dead end canal at Commodores Drive which would allow water flow and fourteen feet of clearance for boat passage through the newly developed area. Also under discussion is the use of a mix of public and private funds for improvements at the 19-acre Commodores Park adjacent to the #15 Corpus Christi Fire Station, as well as replacing the water-exchange culverts that currently run under Encantada Drive with a bridge which would have a similar amount of boat clearance; fourteen feet which is the same as the Water Exchange Bridge.

By the numbers...

Island Traffic

Island traffic has been in the news this week as a traffic study is underway to determine what, if any, the new Whitecap development at the old Schlitterbahn waterpark site may have on traffic numbers and flow.

In anticipation of traffic changes due to the opening of the Schlitterbahn waterpark a traffic study was conducted in the years 2013-2016. The data was gathered traffic counters are various locations around The Island in 2015-2016. The Schlitterbahn park opened in April 2016.

The study was done by Maldonado-Burkett Intelligent Transportation Systems, LLP's who were retained by the City of Corpus Christi to "develop and provide a Padre Island Mobility and Access Management Study. The City of Corpus Christi, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation in their public purpose of planning transportation improvements initiated this study." It is entitled *Padre Island Mobility and Management Study* and here are some of the findings.

2015/2016 numbers

JFK Causeway

33,245 vehicles per day arrive on Padre Island over the JFK Causeway

40,408 Vehicles per day in July (peak)

26,183 Vehicles per day December (lowest)

4% increase in traffic each year

Commodores/SPID/SH 361 intersection

28,870 vehicles per day enter the Commodores/SPID/SH 361 intersection southbound on SPID 9634 (31%) of those vehicles per day turn toward Port Aransas at the intersection at peak 20,388 (60%) of those vehicles per day continue southbound on SPID at the intersection at peak 9% (172-155) Vehicles per hour turn right (west) onto Commodores Drive from SPID at peak

SH 361 to SPID

73% of vehicles that arrive at the intersection from SH 361 turn (right) northbound onto SPID

21% Turn southbound on SPID

6% Continue west onto Commodores

From Commodores onto SPID/SH 361

69% of vehicles coming from Commodores turn north on SPID

12% go straight through onto SH 361

19% turn south on SPID

257-185 Vehicles per hour turn northbound from Commodores onto SPID

State Highway 361

9634 Vehicles (average) per day travel from Mustang Island State Park to Port Aransas

20,388 Vehicles (average) per day cross Packery Channel traveling northbound

9927 Vehicles (average) per day enter Port Aransas on SH 361

Port Aransas ferry

6226 Vehicles per day cross (average)

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Causeway from A1

twelve years to begin planning and funding is no longer an option. By the time a new route to Padre Island could be finished and construction begin, traffic on the corridor along South Padre Island Drive between Flour Bluff and the Crosstown Expressway will exceed the designed capacity for that roadway and relieving that pressure was the goal of the 2017 study.

It was the need to accelerate the timeline for the new causeway that brought about the establishment of the Causeway Advisory Group (CAG) in November, 2022, with the goal of moving the initial funding for the project through the session of the Texas Legislature which begins in January, 2023.

The goal of the CAG for the 2023 legislative session is to move an additional \$8 million in funding for an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) up on the list of projects for the next ten years compiled by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot). That will be the focus of the CAG members, State Representative Todd Hunter, and officials from the Corpus Christi MPO once the session in Austin begins. The state legislature will be in control of an estimated \$30 billion budget surplus and Hunters told the CAG in December that the next step is for the local officials to visit lawmakers during and soon after the process of appointing legislative committees in complete in late January.

“We need to get on their radar,” Hunter said. “We need to get TxDot to put us on the ten-year plan,” that is the first step.”

If that can be accomplished the next step will be the \$8 million in funding for the EIS which would mean determining the exact route the new causeway would take across the Laguna Madre to identify and address the impact of endangered and threatened species, critical habitat, and the ecological mapping systems of vegetation types along all potential routes. Once the funding is in place completion of the EIS would take about three years according to

MPO Transportation Planning Director Robert MacDonald. One of the tenets of the rules for state approval of the EIS for the Laguna Madre portion of the route of the Regional Parkway is that the EIS must cover the entire route, not just the portion across the Laguna Madre.

Finding the route

As the process enters the next planning phase the first step is to determine the exact route for crossing the Laguna Madre and the first step in that process is the EIS to identify and address the impact of endangered and threatened species, critical habitat, and the ecological mapping systems of vegetation types along all potential routes.

“Texas is one of the few states where state authorities – in this case Texas Department of Transportation – can approve a route once the EIS is done,” MacDonald said. “However, the U.S. Department of Transportation reserves the right to veto the state decision. The state will not approve only the environmental plan for the potion across the Laguna Madre. The entire route must be done all at the same time.”

The cost of the EIS for the portion of the Regional Expressway crossing the Laguna Madre is expected to be about \$3 million, however, funding for that must be tied to the study for the entire route from San Patricio County to Flour Bluff and that is where the \$8 million figure for the EIS comes from.

The five most likely routes for the Laguna Madre crossing are shown in the graphic included here. The departure point from the Flour Bluff side would connect to an extension of Rodd Field Road and according to the 2017 study and most likely cross the Laureles Ranch which was purchased by the King Ranch in 1868; a prospect that MPO officials said recently the ranch owners were agreeable to in 2017 when the study was done.

The landing spot

The terminus for the new causeway on the Padre Island side would be across either private land or the 3680-acre tract owned by Nueces County in Kleberg County. The tract of land adjacent to the Kleberg County Line on the south is privately-owned by the Jones family who have owned it for generations and based on previous conversations with MPO officials would not be a workable solution.

South of the Jones property line is a one-thousand foot easement which is also privately owned but was ruled out as a possible route in the 2017 study.

Between that easement and the northern border of Padre Island National Seashore is the 3680-acre tract purchased by Nueces County in 2016 with the help of \$1.2 million from the Ed Rachel Foundation and operated by the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board. While that is the most likely route to be chosen it comes with some deed restrictions which date back to previous owners since the land was purchased with a federal grant which restricts any exit or entry ramps on the island side. The exact nature of those restrictions and the impact on the environment of the crossing of the new roadway would be the subject of the EIS and would have great impact on the final route between the Laguna Madre and Park Road 22 where it would connect at its eastern terminus.

Nueces County officials have said that there were some preliminary discussions with the MPO for the 2017 study there were not specific on the route and the environmental impact of any of the prospective routes. Again, those discussions would be part of the EIS process and would also involve Kleberg County officials.

The next steps...

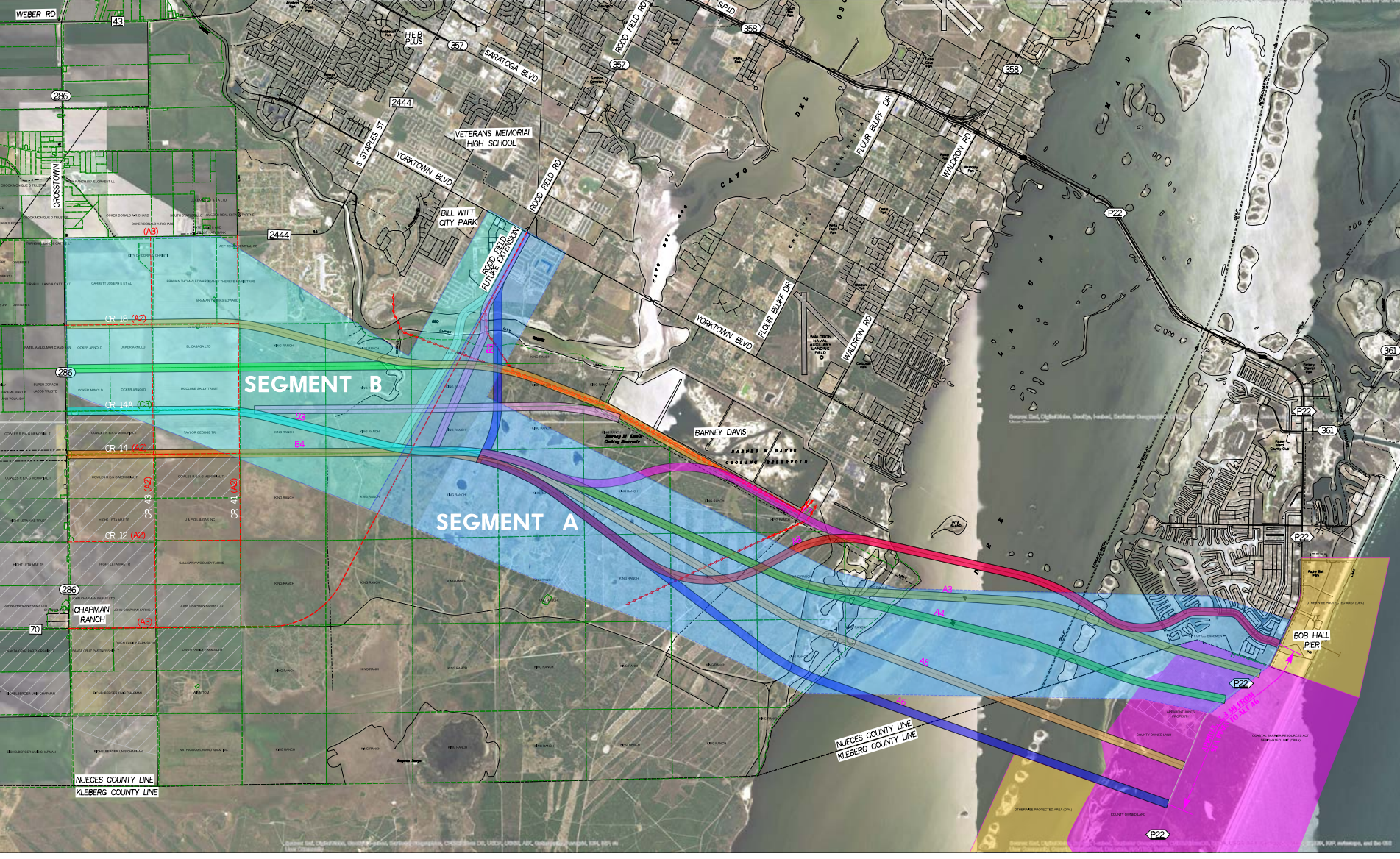
The next step in the process to move the project forward is already underway in the form of the CAG whose members are expected to

meeting with state officials in Austin during the legislative session which ends in May. Hunter told the group in December he will set up meetings with TxDot officials and the first meeting was held on The Island in late January with the goal of securing funding for the EIS. Hunter’s seniority as the tenth ranking member of the state house will come into play as part of the process, in fact without it the effort would likely not have become possible in this legislative session. But if that can be accomplished the project would move back to the local level where the MPO would spearhead the effort for the EIS, which would include public meetings.

At the completion of the EIS the design phase of the project would begin which MacDonald said would take about five years and would need additional funding which would only become available through the inclusion of the project on TxDot’s ten year plan, the second goal for the CAG during the 2023 session. The amount of funding needed for the design phase has not yet been determined.

If all those hurdles can be overcome – a big “if” at this stage – and if funding for construction was made available through TxDot as the project moves through the process it would clear the way for the beginning of construction of the new causeway sometime in the early 2030s; more than ten years ahead of the timeline beginning in 2035.

The total cost of the Regional Parkway was estimated at \$800 million with the portion crossing the Laguna Madre accounting for \$300 million of that total. That portion of the project is still on the distant horizon, but will only be possible if the effort to secure the funds for the EIS is successful in the next six months in Austin.



The five possible routes

Sea Gate from A1

the construction of the Schlitterbahn waterpark. It was never deployed and the sea gate was never closed from the day it was built and for the last several decades any attempt to lift the gates into place would likely have resulted in them turning to powder after thirty years in the harsh Island climate. In that time the engineering behind the design of the Sea gate was called into question by subsequent generations of designers until the consensus became that not only was the structure considered useless it could be potentially dangerous to anyone trying to lift iron sails swinging from a cable in the winds of an approaching hurricane. In 1994 when Asset Development Corporation bought out Westinghouse they consulted the Conrad Blucher Institute to decide whether to restore it to use-

able condition or remove it and were informed that it would be of little help in a storm and it was left to rust and decay. The advice from the Blucher Institute was that the best defense for Island bulkheads in the face of rising storm water was to submerge the bulkheads as fast as possible to protect them from flying, windborne debris. According to current plans the current sea gate structure now being torn down which is less than fifty feet wide, will be expanded to more than 100 feet which will not only allow for easier boat passage but the wider opening will slow the speed of incoming current (the Venturi effect) and the structure that has stood guard at the entrance to Lake Padre will be no more.

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Senior Moments



Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

George Washington Reorganizes the Continental Union-January 1, 1776

Dotson's Note: The enlistments of the old army having expired with the old year, the many soldiers who refused to continue in service were called to their parade grounds on January 1st, 1776 and were dismissed. On this and the next day most of them left camp, William Heath said "going home by hundreds and by thousands". To ease the transition from the old army to the new one, George Washington instructed men who had enlisted for the coming year to join their new regiments during the last three days of 1775. Changing armies in sight of a powerful enemy was, Washington knew, a delicate and dangerous business under any circumstances. Thanks to William Heath, John Hancock, Nathanael Greene and Samuel Ward, for the facts contained in this report, and to Dotson G. Lewis Sr., for the photos



Long orders are daily issuing from Headquarters to put the new Army under the best Regulation," Col. Jedediah Huntington wrote to his father Jabez Huntington on 5 January. "I hope & doubt not that better Order & Discipline will be seen in the new Army than was in the old." During the first week of January Washington used the general orders principally as a medium of instruction for the officers and men of the new army much as he had done for the old army during the previous summer.

Orderly books were kept by aides-de-camp and brigade majors as well as by the adjutants of the regiments and companies. As the general orders passed from Washington's headquarters through the divisions, brigades, and regiments down to the companies, commanders at these intervening levels often added their own orders or omitted general orders that did not apply to their units. Orders pertaining only to GW's headquarters or to the divisions, brigades, and regiments usually do not appear in company orderly books. Because orders apparently were transcribed as they were read aloud, the copyists frequently garbled words, particularly names of persons, and sometimes paraphrased sections, leaving an accumulation of errors after two or three transcriptions. As a general rule the higher the unit for which an orderly book was kept, the completer and more accurate the text of the general orders in it is likely to be.



Flag Raised by George Washington January 1st 1776

TO BE CONTINUED

Dotson's Other Note: Apparently, few of the original orderly books kept for GW's headquarters in any part have survived. The only one that has been identified for the Siege of Boston is a fourteen-page document in the writing of GW's aide-de-camp Thomas Mifflin, which includes the general orders for 4-6 July 1775. The American Antiquarian Society has copies of the general orders for 3-8 July 1775 in Joseph Reed's writing which were sent to William Henshaw while he was acting as Continental adjutant general. The best available copies of the general orders for most of the war are the Varick transcripts of the original headquarters orderly books which were made between 1781 and 1783 by several copyists including assistant adjutant generals John Stagg and John Singer Dexter. Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at dlewis1@stx.rr.com. FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The new Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11AM and will resume on January 10, 2023. 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

When I wrote my second Year in Review column for the Island Moon in December 2009 I went back to the first one I had written in December 2008 and realized all I had to do was change the dates because nothing of mention had changed in the ensuing year.

As I sit down to take a look at 2022 as it winds down that certainly is not the case as The Island has seen more change in 2022 than any single year since the 1970s. When 2022 dawned we had never heard of the Whitecap North Padre Island project. The site of the former Schlitterbahn waterpark was an empty field but as 2022 closes it is now about to be home to 12,000 linear feet of new canals, a four-star hotel, more than 600 new residential dwellings, and a nature preserve.

The work around Lake Padre continues at a rapid pace and is expected to go vertical by the end of 2023 when water will be flowing under the Water Exchange Bridge, and developers are kicking the tires on two new Island developments on the same scale as the Whitecap and Lake Padre projects. Prospective builders were on site this week at the seventy-acre site north of the Michael J. Ellis site seawall adjacent to the South Packery Jetty, and there are whispers of the City of Corpus Christi finding a use for the sixty acres located between the North Packery Jetty and Zahn Road. There is also an ongoing plan that is likely to start in 2023 to bring a new hotel to the seawall, the first new construction there since 1983.

There are those who lament the changes - and I have to admit I sometimes fall into that category - but change is after all the only constant in the world and you either embrace it or get run over by it - which in my experience is generally speaking not much fun.

Silent change...

Those are the obvious and observable changes in 2022 but there are three silent ones that I think will be the generational changes here on Padre Island.

The first is the extension of the Island's Tax Increment Refinance Zone #2 through the year 2042. While there are many complicating aspects of the Island TIRZ #2 it comes down to this; the property tax generated from new construction after 2003 from the sea gate at Packery Channel, through Lake Padre south to Balli Park, and west to the Whitecap project through 2042 will be captured for funding improvements in that area. When the numbers for the extension of the TIRZ #2 were finalized at city hall just last week they estimated the \$5 million annually currently generated by the TIRZ #2 now will increase to \$14 million by 2042.

That money will pay for, among other things, the Island Mobility Plan that will eventually link The Island from the JFK Bridge, and eventually the sea underneath it, to the entire Island from Sea Pines to the Gulf Beach and the Laguga Madre and everything in between with golf cart and pedestrian paths. As things now stand TIRZ #2 funds will be used to build tennis (and pickleball) courts at Commodores Park along with amenities there that may include a community center, a soccer field and maybe even a softball field, and a walking trail that when combined with the public access trails at the Whitecap site will provide three miles of walking trails on the west side of SPID with pedestrian bridges over the nature preserve at the Whitecap site. Those will be connected through the cart and pedestrian paths under the new Water Exchange Bridge and through to the beaches via Whitecap Boulevard.

All of that will come to pass because of decisions quietly taken during 2022 to extend the TIRZ #2.

Public Improvement District

While the Island TIRZ #2 is the second of its kind in our city the Public Improvement District founded this year for the Whitecap project

is the first of its kind. The idea is to extend public lending ability to the private developers of the Whitecap project who will be able to use it to borrow through bonds to build the canals and bulkheads you see going in there now and pass the cost on to their eventual buyers. It gives them essentially a line of public credit - at no cost to the public - up to \$13 million through bonds and it was the ability of city officials - thank you councilman Greg Smith and City Manager Peter Zanon - to negotiate with the private owners and come up with a plan that works for everyone and that plan includes three major items that for Islanders will be able to take advantage of for generations that otherwise would likely have been restricted for public use. Another decision taken in 2022 as a result of the PID is that the walking and cart trails on the Whitecap site - because public borrowing was involved - will be open to the public in perpetuity so instead of Island residents encountering gates when they enter the Whitecap site they will find public trails that lead to most anywhere on The Island and will turn it into a contiguous pedestrian-friendly Island resort.

Also as a result of the PID a water exchange bridge will be built on Commodores Drive - near the #15 fire station - to extend the current dead-end canal there onto the Whitecap property. The design of the bridge will not yet be proven but as things now stand it will allow for the same fourteen-feet of boat clearance as that at the Water Exchange Bridge now under construction. This leads to another feature negotiated as part of the PID which is a similar bridge - not even at the Whitecap site - for the canal that will allow for boats to pass under Encantada Avenue creating not only water flow but boat passage in three places from the Laguna Madre to the Water Exchange Bridge, Lake Padre, Packery Channel, and the Gulf of Mexico. Everything will connect by water and by paths in a way that could not have happened without the bargaining power generated for city officials by the PID in 2022.

Short-Term Rentals

The other major change that took place in 2022 was the passage of a Short-Term Rental ordinance preventing renting of homes for less than thirty days in areas of The Island zoned RS-6. Had this vote gone against us it would have made many of the good things that were done in 2022 irrelevant. Without rehashing the details suffice to say that while the ordinance did not outlaw STR in areas they were already, legally operating it drew the line in our neighborhoods. The key thing to remember with STR - as Port Aransas has found out - is that once they are allowed you can't reverse course and rule them out. Once an area has STR it will have then until the earth cools and the effect that has on property taxes and the people who pay them can drive permanent residents out - once again ask Port Aransas.

2023?

So what will the Year in Review column here say in December, 2023? There are still some unknowns particularly around the Lake Padre project because the developer has yet to release plans. There are plans we have published here from a decade ago that match the building going on now but there may be some changes yet. We know much more about what is going in at the Whitecap site due to plans submitted for the PID application but both the owners at the Whitecap site and the Lake Padre site will likely go to city hall in 2023 for development deals, zoning, and any tax breaks they may ask for and when that happens detailed plans will follow. Who knows what any major announcements may come in 2023 but by the end of the year some if not most of the new building we see around us now will be ready to go to the market as people begin buying lots on both sides of SPID. I think that by the end of 2023 and going forward like it or not our Island is changing right before our eyes.

And when we look back a decade from now I think 2022 will be the year we say it all started.

JFK Bridge 2022-2023



The beginning of 2023 finds the JFK Bridge in about the same condition as the beginning of 2022, down to one lane of traffic in each direction with an expected opening for spring break.

The maintenance work on the bridge is the first major overhaul since the current bridge was built in 1973 and is due to be finished in early March.

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One lucky beachgoer found a crisp one hundred dollar bill in a bottle washed up on the beach this year

The Island Outdoors

On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

If you weren't around the Island last weekend, Winter Storm Elliott roared through and drove our temperatures below what is normal for this time of year, and then some. We're just not built for freezing down here. Reminiscent of Winter Storm Uri back in February of 2021, it was a struggle to keep pipes from freezing and more tender plants were lost. I guess global warming comes in different flavors than just hot summers.

There was a cold stunning event for turtles and fish, but I don't have any numbers at this writing. I was out on the water Monday morning, and there were a lot of boats in the JFK Causeway area, and people picking up turtles at Marker 37. We hit a couple of places fishing, and it was slow-slow. I'm thinking many fish were stunned, and I did see a few small fish both floating and laying dead on the bottom. There were some incidental reports of stunned reds and drum around the dogleg at Packery. We will know later in the week the amount of death that occurred as the temperatures warm and the things either recover or start floating to the surface.

Dr. Tissot's predictions were right on the numbers as far as the air and water temperatures. I didn't see any barges running during the requested closure and didn't hear of any reports on social media. I did see some barges headed south on Monday around noon after the closure was lifted, but then also heard of strandings after the barges started running. We know that time is money for the barge transport companies, and I've written before that we may need to coordinate with them more if these winter freezes become more regular. I know winter is a necessary cycle, but it's starting to wear on the resource.

While I hauled my plumeria inside and fought with pipes that were dripping and still froze, the real loss was my new washing machine.

I just happened to be home and heard water spraying everywhere, and my machine started of its own volition. The saying, "they just don't make them like they used to" holds true today, as the fill components are now all plastic, and broke and sprayed all over the internals. The machine was acting possessed, and I had to unplug it. Lesson to the wise; I had purchased an extended five-year warranty, but when I got online and entered my info, my claim was denied as the machine is still under the manufacturer's warranty for the first year. I had to go through them, and after an hour entering data to automated systems and chatting online with virtual assistants, maybe I made headway, and someone will come look at it. What a pain in the rumpus. Thankfully the weather is breaking as I type this and getting back to closer to normal. I'm looking forward to getting down the beach at least for a day, and hopefully down to the cabin for a bit. We were robbed of our Thanksgiving break with a couple of early cold fronts, and we're due some good weather. The duck hunters have been enjoying the cold though, based on the numbers of shotgun blasts I've been hearing recently.

This gripping edition will officially wind down 2022. I hope it was a good year for you loyal readers. I had some ups and downs, with good results on some projects, forward progress at ISAC, and the reauthorization of the TIRZ #2. I'll try to forget the truck troubles, coming down with the covids, and "enjoying" a bout of the shingles. I look forward to continuing the work that has been initiated and is ongoing and getting some projects either back on track or in the hopper. Y'all be safe and have a Happy New Years. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and I'll see you next year On the Rocks.

Port of Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project Receives \$157.3 million in Federal Funding for Final Phase

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, approved by Congress in December 2022, includes project closeout funding of \$157.3 million for the Port of Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project (CIP) for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This funding will advance the last phase of the CIP, a national critical infrastructure project that will render the Corpus Christi Ship Channel the most improved in the entire U.S. Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida. The Port of Corpus Christi is the nation's largest U.S. energy export gateway and third largest seaport in total waterway tonnage.

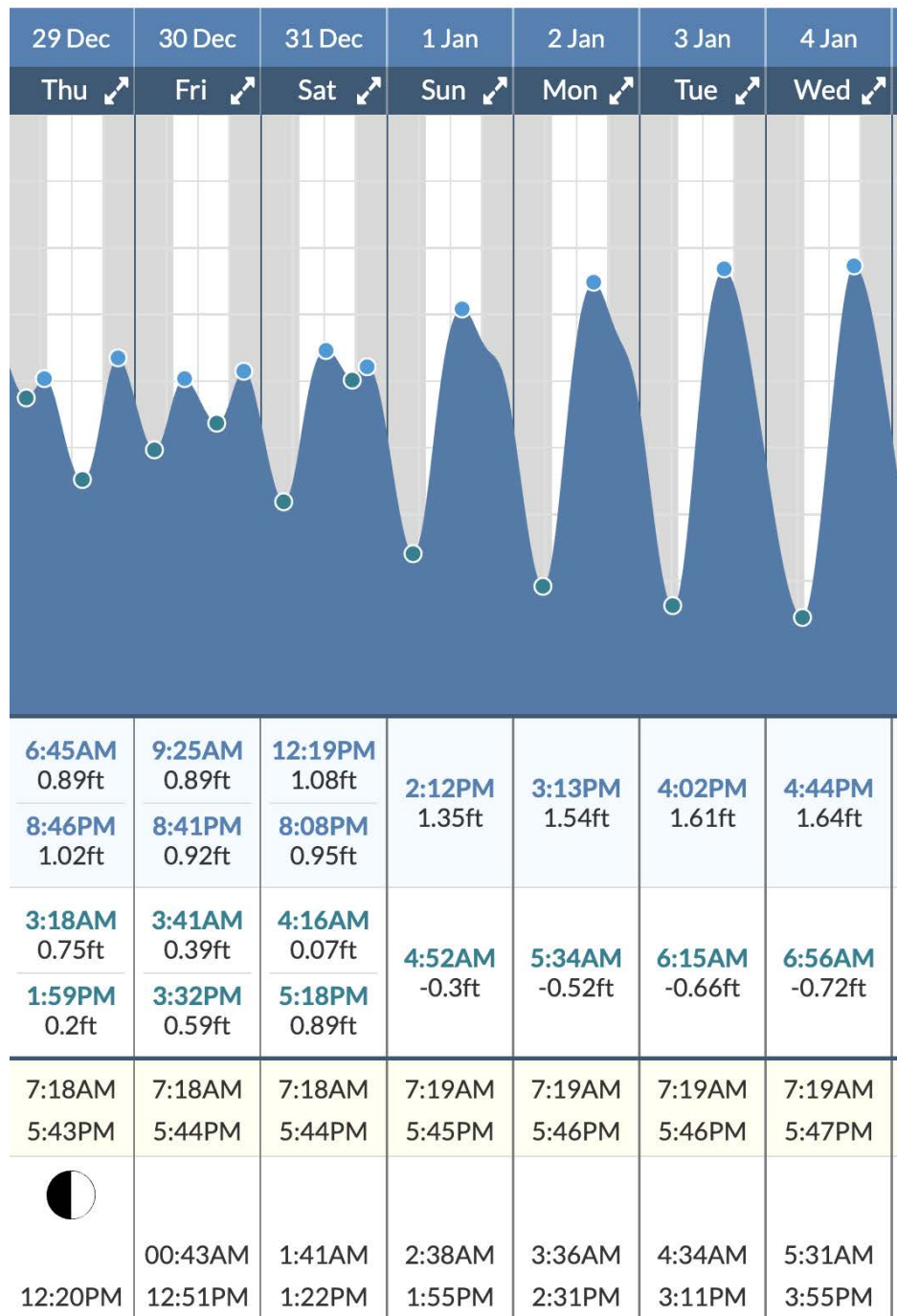
The CIP will increase the depth of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel from -47 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) to -54 feet MLLW, while also widening it to 530 feet. An additional 400 feet of barge shelves will also be constructed, allowing for two-way traffic of both vessels and barges in tandem. The \$157.3

million in USACE coastal navigation construction funds in the federal appropriations package is the largest single-year federal budgetary allocation for the CIP when compared to prior years' budgets.

The Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project is a four-phase undertaking. Phase 1 is complete, while Phases 2 and 3 are under construction. Texas-based dredging companies Callan Marine, Ltd. and Great Lakes Dredge & Dock, LLC are conducting dredging operations for Phases 2 and 3, respectively. With this final appropriation, Phase 4 will begin in 2023, with the entire project estimated for completion in 2024.

The Port Corpus Christi is the largest port in the United States in total revenue tonnage and includes a 36-mile, soon to be 54-foot (MLLW) deep channel,

Tides of the Week



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah's Fishing Adventures



Trout will be warming up all week and moving up into the shallows again. This nice fish struck a DOWN SOUTH LURES Purple Reign.



This nice redfish came from the edge of PACKERY Channel on a soft plastic lure. DOWN SOUTH LURES.



Chris Richter caught and released 28 inch trout before big cold front. Photo by Bud Weber



Dr. Donna Shaver is shown here at the holdingwarming facility at PINS. Photo by Holly Ahern



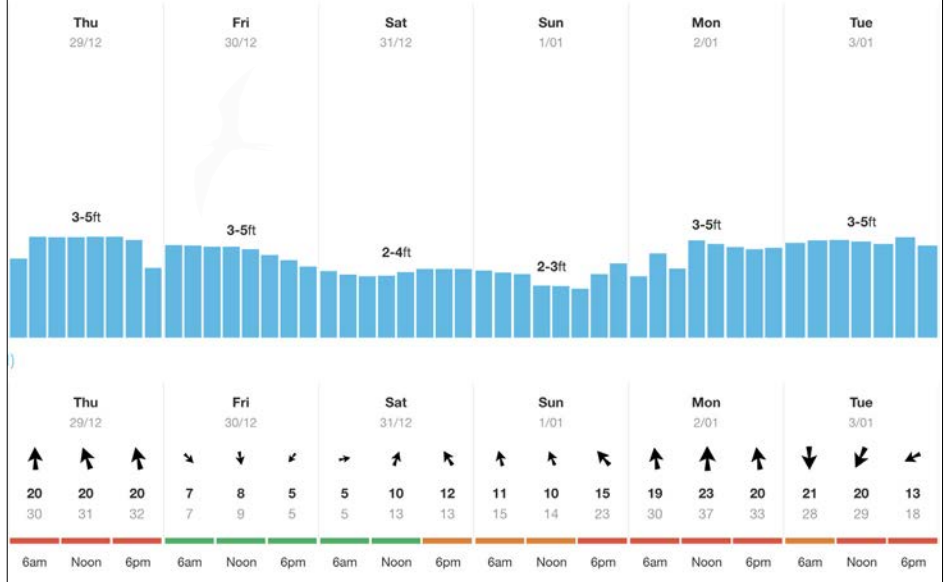
National Park Service sea turtle biologist Hilary Frandsen rescued this cold stunned turtle. Photo by volunteer Holly Ahern

TPWD to Open Oyster Harvest Area in Matagorda Bay

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is opening TX-20 in Matagorda Bay to commercial and recreational oyster harvest on Tuesday, December 20. Based on samples recently collected by TPWD, the area meets criteria for reopening. These criteria include parameters for oysters reaching certain thresholds based on the abundance of legal-sized oysters (3 inches or greater) and the percentage of small oysters (2-2.9 inches).

All areas currently closed to harvest will continue to be monitored by TPWD and will reopen when criteria thresholds are met

Packery Channel Surf Forecast





The Broccoli Balls Effect

By Pastor Kris Bair

There are some things without which it would NOT seem like Christmas. And I know you're thinking, "Tree. Wreath. Decorations. Lights . . . camera, action!"

But as we grow older, the list sort of changes—at least for some of us who aren't hard-headed enough to firmly grip the bit between our teeth and attempt to do it all. On Thanksgiving weekend.

Of course.

The fruitcake tradition was the first to go, immediately after I found a really good recipe (this took decades). One that didn't create an expensive, exotic brick that no one would eat.

Sadly, say "Fruitcake" and no one will eat it, even if it's soft, moist, and beautifully fruity. Not to mention laced with apricot brandy.

The fruitcake has bit the dust, but the brandy not so much, it being an excellent restorative for overworked cooks.

I still have hangable stockings, but there's no one for whom to hang them. So I don't.

Both the GP (Great Provider) and I are getting pretty shaky, so the outdoor lights didn't go up this year. But I miss them suppose I'll get the DD (Daring Daughter) to do it for us next year.

The problem with that is that she hates Christmas and will complain heartily about participating in any way. She's also not the best on ladders (but we're not going to mention it).

She complains, but she enjoys presents as much as anyone, particularly crafting canny ones for all and sundry.

For example, when the new printer she had purchased for me didn't arrive, I found wrapped under that year's tree an enlarged photo of it, matted and framed beautifully for my office, where it hangs proudly over the printer itself. Which did appear after New Year's.

I take my art where I can find it.

So it was a minimalist Christmas at our house this year—no buoyant grandboys to liven things up. Just us older folks looking to share gifts and eat well and be pleased to survive another year.

Does this sound sad? Do you feel sorry for us?

Not to worry. This Christmas we had Super Dog (SD), the Rowlfie replacement (although Rowlf can never be replaced really).

SD is medium-sized, but small enough to be a lapdog, a position he adopts with abandon.

EXCEPT when he's excited about something he smells. Then he's a batch of greased-lightning-fur.

The day we got him, he escaped our fenced-in yard, formerly safe to hold large dogs, but (as we found to our chagrin) not so for smaller ones.d

It took SD about two minutes to figure out the cat door and find the hole in the fence no one had noticed. The GP, the DD and

I scattered to the winds looking for him—he is able to flash up driveways and examine backyards like a speeding bullet.

He's at least part Australian Shepherd, which means he jumps and runs like a scared cat.

It also means he's terribly smart. It's been a challenge to adapt to living with him, but he's a people-dog and loves attention, which is a strike in our favor.

SD was thrilled by the one Christmas tradition we did NOT lose—the meal.

I began cooking several days ahead of time, knowing I'd be busy with my congregation Christmas Eve and Day, when the family needed meals.

I decided to make appetizers this year and began with Broccoli Cheese Balls (you can find a recipe by Googling it).

Loaded with three kinds of cheese, coated in Panko and fried up, they were certainly tasty.

Evidently, they smelled like Doggie Delite to the SD.

I left a platter of them cooling on the counter and went to the other end of the house for something, shutting a door behind me.

SD was at my knees trailing me, as usual, but when I shut the door, he went nuts. So I opened it, thinking he needed to go outside for a pit stop. He was off like a shot.

When I wandered later into the kitchen, I found the platter half empty, with about five broccoli balls on the floor, and the dog in the other door to the kitchen gobbling down the evidence.

He had high-tailed himself straight up the counter, managing to dislodge broccoli balls enough to drop some on the floor, and absconding without breaking anything.

I was accusing the SD bitterly when the GP popped in and commented that he had eaten half the Broccoli Balls before the dog had helped himself.

One of them was lying. I sent them both to bed.

The SD's acrobatics are comparable to Cirque du Soleil and probably, in the long run, will end up costing us as much as an annual seat at the show.

But SD presents the added bonus of dog kisses and puppy love.

And now we've discovered the secret to always bring him home—the Broccoli Balls Effect.

And that's a Merry one at Christmas or any time!

We'll have some delightful munchies following worship on New Year's Day at 10 a.m. (Island Presbyterian Church, Fortuna Bay and Gypsy), but probably no broccoli balls. The nursery will be available and we'll be sure to get you home in time for the football.

If you'd like to stay in your PJs, just join us via our Facebook Livestream or Zoom link there.

And have a Happy New Year!

Going Native

By Ed Proffitt

How Mangroves Survived the Winter Freeze



TAMUCC Marine Botany students assessing marsh and mangrove growth on Ward Island in 2019

Winter storm Elliott came and went last week leaving us all with one burning question --- how'd those mangroves come through that hard freeze? Mangroves, I'm sure you'll recall from my column back in September, are salt tolerant tropical trees that inhabit the same intertidal, low-wave-energy habitat that salt marsh plants do in much of Texas. Although a few scattered individuals of other species occur in Texas, nearly all of our mangroves are the black mangrove *Avicennia germinans* (L) L. An aside about species names and taxonomy so you can all impress your friends at New Year's parties. The L stands for Carolus Linnaeus, the Swedish botanist who in the 1700's developed the binomial system of nomenclature (two names, genus [*Avicennia*] and species [*germinans*]) that we still use today. I'm sure you're wondering why the L occurs twice (L) and L. Well, it's mostly like this. When you name a species you get to have your name associated with it. Linnaeus named so many that we just usually use an "L" and his name is understood. So, he first named *A. germinans* and so it had a L tacked on to the end. And, the other (L) you ask? Ah, an interesting point that. Another taxonomist came along and said Linnaeus was wrong and changed the name! However, later a different (apparently smarter) taxonomist took a look and decided that Linnaeus had been right and so changed it back. Thus, the L indicates that Linnaeus first named it and the (L) indicates that someone had to change it back to the correct name. I can nearly guarantee that few of your friends at parties are going to know that --- go wow them.

Now, where was I? I get hung up in the botany sometimes. Ah yes, mangroves, salt marshes, freezes --- oh my. Global warming is contributing to what we very cool ecologists call "tropicalization" or the colonization of temperate latitudes by tropical species. Sometimes this causes a change in ecosystem state or a regime shift. For example, my lab studies woody mangroves, that grow to be 1.5 to 3+ m tall here, colonizing local salt marshes dominated by herbaceous plants that are generally much smaller. Most salt marsh plants are not particularly shade tolerant, and mangrove can make quite a dense canopy that blocks most light. The upshot is that in parts of the Gulf of Mexico, mangroves (especially *Avicennia* since it's very cold tolerant for a mangrove) are beginning to replace salt marsh. I'm not going to rehash if that's good or bad, you can refer back to my September column for that discussion. On the other hand, any

"disturbance" like a hard "killing" freeze can remove or substantially reduce mangrove canopy and allow marsh plants to recover.

Long story short (or, well, a bit shorter at least) the Feb. 2021 freeze (winter storm Uri) that reached -6.4 C at our experimental plots on Ward Island killed many mangroves locally and further north. In Corpus Christi Bay area, all "survivors" experienced "top kill", or death of above ground stems and leaves and resprouted from the base. Survival was patchy around the bay. In some locations, like Ward Island, up to 38% resprouted, mainly mid-size plants as nearly all larger plants and seedlings/saplings died. In other locales around the bay there was much less (maybe 10% mangrove survival). So, since 2021 it's been a story of regrowth (first year) and reproduction (second year) to reestablish the mangrove population. This has been contrasted with salt marsh plants recovering via clonal growth and seed/seedlings to reclaim dominance in some places. Some places neither marsh nor mangrove have yet recolonized and those sites are subject to higher erosion rates! Currently, there's "woody debris" accumulating on the ground as the dead above-ground stems finally begin to break up and fall. This woody debris is likely important to use by fauna and in nutrient cycling and is another aspect of our research. No, don't worry, I'm not going to detail that!

In 2018, there was a -3.5 C freeze (winter storm Inga) locally that had minimal effects on mangroves. Before that, you had to go back to 1989 to find a "mangrove-killing freeze event." But, now, we've just had another hard freeze. We put out hobo temperature loggers and recorded about -4.7 C, colder than 2018 but not as cold as 2021. Our initial observations suggest that there's been some leaf damage, but we've not seen any widespread mangrove mortality. So, that small difference between -6.4 and -4.7 C seems important for the ecology of the intertidal wetland community. We, and our dedicated students, are assessing seedling recruitment to see if the youngest of mangroves didn't fare as well as the more mature plants. That could be important for the growth of the mangrove population.

So, that's the mangrove-freeze story. Hey....wake up! Enjoy New Years and keep Going Native.

Family flees Ukraine bombing for Island refuge in 2022

By Dale Rankin

When Russian bombing began in early 2022 in the city of Nikolaev near the Black Sea in southern Ukraine Islander Olga Verner got a call from her daughter saying she and her two children were getting out.

The bombs began falling around the 10 story apartment building where they lived at 5 a.m. on February 24 and by 1 p.m. Verner's daughter, husband, and two daughters ages 14 and 9 were driving toward the Polish border. Twenty five miles from the Polish border they had to leave their car and walk the rest of the way, then Verner's son-in-law turned and walked back alone while his wife and children crossed into Poland where sixty thousand Ukrainian refugees arrived the first day after Russian bombing began.

Two days after the bombs began falling in Nikolaev Verner boarded an airplane in San Antonio bound for Chicago where she boarded Polish airlines and flew to Warsaw where she connected with her daughter and two grandkids and brought them to her home on Padre Island. Her son-in-law remains in Ukraine where he is a member of the armed forces fighting the Russians.

"The worst part was the two days when they were traveling to the border and we couldn't talk to them," Verner said. "But fortunately she had a valid visa and passport so she was able to get out."

Her family had the documents at the ready due to regular summer visits to Padre Island. Verner communicates daily with her sister, who is living in her basement, and nieces and nephews in the Ukraine via the internet and when possible with her 90 year-old father, a retired colonel in the Russian military, and 84 year-old mother who can't make the trek across southern Ukraine to the Polish border. Before meeting her husband Lee in Jamaica and moving to Padre Island to be near the water Verner moved from Russia to southern Ukraine when she was twelve years-old and lived there when the Berlin Wall came down in 1989 and Ukraine became its own country. "No one there ever thought this would happen," Verner said this week. "But the people in Ukraine will never give up. There has never been more unity."

Verner, who taught English in Ukraine, said that while some parts of the country speak primarily Russian the people in southern Ukraine speak Ukrainian.



Olga Verner in her Island home.

"There is a Ukrainian word for bread that the Russian speakers can't pronounce," she said. "That is how we can tell the difference."

The power in Ukraine goes on and off Verner said, and getting out of the country by airplane is impossible. The only way out is to make it to Poland, Hungary, or Moldavia by foot or car, although going by car means sitting in traffic for about four days. Verner's daughter speaks little English but the good news is that a program by the United State government allows her and her children to stay in the country while they apply for citizenship.

"They will never go back to Ukraine," Verner said.

Verner said she has talked to her ex-husband who is in the Russian military once since war started.

"That is the last time I will talk to him," she said.

Olga and Lee have lived on Padre Island since 2008 and in their current home since 2016.

Her daughter and two grandkids are settling in and adjusting to their new life and planning to become longtime Islanders. She said when the war is over she will go back to Ukraine and visit her parents, but her daughter and grandchildren will never return.

"They are in shock right now with everything that has happened," Olga said. "But they will be alright, they are here."

The end of 2022 finds them safe in their Island refuge.



Old Holiday Inn to Reopen as Island Resort in 2022 then changed names

By Mary Craft

Four years after closing due to damage by Hurricane Harvey the Holiday Inn on the Michael J. Ellis Seawall reopened in 2022.

The hotel was originally opened as the Red Carpet Inn in 1977 and later the name was changed to Padre Island Beach Hotel. Later it became a Holiday Inn and later was rebranded as a Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in 1996 and shortly before Harvey was reverted back to just Holiday Inn. The newly renovated Island facility will be called Island Resort and will not be affiliated with any hotel chain. By the end of 2022 the hotel has changed names again and is now a Wyndham property.

Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



The Flying Finn Part 2

By Dotson Lewis

Dotson Note: Thank all of you Moon Monkeys for patiently waiting for PART 2 of the "Flying Finn". Thanks to Bill Morgan and Jari Salonen for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan and the IAAF Hall of Fame for the photos. Also a special thanks to Matti Nurmi, Mika Nurmi, Pekka Honkanen, City of Turku, International Olympic Committee, Turun Urheiluliitto, Suomen Urheiluliitto and The Official Site of Paavo Nurmi.



THE "NATIONAL AMATEUR"

Once suspended and branded as a professional, Nurmi was not allowed to compete abroad. The Finnish Athletic Federation never accepted Nurmi's sentence, however, and he continued to race in the home country until 1934, as a "national amateur". Paavo Nurmi's last race was a victory in 10,000 meters at Viipuri on 16 September 1934.

AFTER THE RACES

Having wound up his running career Nurmi concentrated on a new one, as a businessman and building contractor. Since the 1920s he had been building up his capital, investing wisely in the stock market. Paavo Nurmi made a considerable fortune, mainly in housing industry. In Helsinki there are 40 town houses built by his company. In the 1930s and 1940s Nurmi sometimes took leave from his business commitments to train Finnish runners.

IN SERVICE OF THE COUNTRY

Paavo Nurmi avoided publicity both in business and in private life but when needed he was ready to give service to the society and Finnish sports in particular. In the war years his fame was put in good use to rally support for the Finnish cause, especially in America. Early in 1940 Paavo Nurmi went to the United States to raise funds for his country, which was currently waging an uneven war against the Soviet Union. He was accompanied by Taisto Mäki, who had just become the first man to run 10,000 meters inside half an hour. Mäki gave exhibition races, and the proceeds went to the Finnish Relief Fund.

THE OLYMPIC GAMES AT HELSINKI-1952

The Games of the XVth Olympiad were opened at Helsinki, Finland, on 19 July 1952. The identity of the last runner of the Olympic torch relay was a well-kept secret. When the electric scoreboard of the Olympic Stadium then flashed the text: "The Olympic torch will be brought into the Stadium by Paavo Nurmi", there was first silence. Then 70,000 people began to roar. Many of those present burst into tears. After Paavo Nurmi had kindled the flame in the bowl the torch was taken to the tower of the Olympic Stadium, where another flame was lit by another Olympic hero, Hannes Kolehmainen.

THE LAST YEARS

Intelligence, introversion and strong determination to achieve any goal were the main characteristics of Paavo Nurmi's mental outlook. In his melancholy moments, more frequent in advanced age, he could even question his unparalleled achievements in sport: "Only real work, science and art have any true value." Paavo Nurmi never retired from his duties. Having recovered from coronary thrombosis in the late 1950s he worked hard until 1967 when the suffered another attack. In 1968 Nurmi set up a research foundation for coronary disease and public health and provided it with two multi-story buildings and a substantial amount of money.



Paavo Nurmi-Right

LAST RESPECTS

Paavo Nurmi died in Helsinki on 2 October 1973. Obituaries all over the world praised his achievements. Marjatta Väänänen, the Finnish Minister of Education, said in her commemoration speech: "Records will be broken, gold medals lose their luster, winners find their victors. As historical concept Paavo Nurmi will never be beaten." On 11 October 1973 Paavo Nurmi was given a state funeral. The ceremony took place in the Old Church of Helsinki. From there he was taken in a motorcade to his native Turku where he was buried in the family grave at the Old Cemetery.

THE LEGEND

Paavo Nurmi has been honored in various ways. Several books and thousands of articles have been published about him in many countries. After the Paris Olympic Games in 1924 the Finnish Government ordered a statue of him from the most famous sculptor of the country, Wäinö Aaltonen. In 1952 two more copies of the statue were cast from the original mould: one was erected in front of the Olympic Stadium in Helsinki, the other in Nurmi's home town, Turku. In 1983 the original statue, long kept at the National Art Museum, was placed in front of the Faculty of Physical Education of the University of Jyväskylä. In 1994 one more copy was cast and sent to the park of the Museum of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland. Medals and stamps have been issued and streets and even a small planet have been named in honor of Paavo Nurmi. In 1987 the Bank of Finland issued a ten-mark note featuring Paavo Nurmi on one side and the Olympic Stadium on the other.

SON MATTI SPEAKS

Yet when it came to fame and reputation, no athlete in his day surpassed that of Nurmi, but his reclusive nature kept the world at arm's length. He granted few interviews, and fewer still to his own countrymen. It led to mystique and misinformation surrounding his name, but his son, Matti, cast significant light on one of the giants of the sport when he granted an interview in 2005. Matti said he was doing it as a mark of respect to his country prior to the 10th IAAF World Championships in Athletics held in Helsinki.

Like his father he shuns publicity, and for the same reason. He wants a life of his own, but as he prepared to visit the stadium where his father lit the 1952 Olympic flame, he agreed to speak.

To speak to others was so unusual that even when he would go running in his neighborhood, he dodged through a hedge so that the neighbors would not see him. One of the things Matti said was "They wrote that he trained, racing against the trains," he said. "That was not true. It's just part of the nonsense made up about my father."



Matti, Sylvi & Paavo

Dotson's Other Note: In 1935 Sylvi Laakaonen told members of the press that she was seeking a divorce from Paavo Nurmi. Mrs. Nurmi told reporters that he broke promises to give up the track, neglected his family to keep in training, complained that his year-old son's feet were too small for him to become a great runner. Just a reminder: Comments regarding Sports Talk are welcome, send to dlewis1@stx.rr.com or the editor of The Island Moon.



By Andy Purvis

Here's to the Big Guys

Big guys get a bad rap, guys so overweight you could feel their presence when they entered the room. There are five levels of fatness in the NFL: Big, healthy, husky, fluffy and DAMN. There was a time when there was a place for a fluffy player in football. Football broadcaster, Keith Jackson, used to call them "The Big Uglies." They didn't like practice, they didn't like meetings; they just liked playing football on Sundays. They tended to shy away from cameras, and some of them were so wide they could have worn three numbers on their jerseys. Houston Oilers' Head Coach, "Bum" Phillips, once said, "I'd rather have a good fat player than a slim poor player. Their body type makes little difference; it's what they do on the football field. Some of the players, with their Greek god-like bodies, were the biggest chickens. They looked like Tarzan, but played like Jane."

They were also unfairly labeled as big old, dumb linemen. It's true that some of these guys couldn't read a Happy Birthday card, but it was also written that some of them would sleep in their clothes at night and wake up every morning looking for a fight. They played football like trapped water buffalo, and there's a fair chance most of them howled at the moon at night. People thought they would order from a menu by pointing and grunting.

Very few players with movie-star looks played in "the pit." The pit is considered "no mans land," that area of ground between the offensive and defensive linemen. Some of these guys were so ugly; they had to buy two tickets when they went to the circus, one to get in and one to get out. They looked like extras in a Gladiator movie. These were the kind of guys who would stay at your house two hours after the party ended. Most of them had so many operations their knees looked like they had lost a knife fight with one of the little people. These were men who could turn a football field into the OK Corral in a matter of minutes. Fans thought linemen came a "dime a dozen" and were as common as head colds. Not so. Here are a few big guys who made a name and a living by placing their hand in the dirt every Sunday.

Los Angeles Rams' Hall-of-Fame defensive tackle, Merlin Olsen, was listed at 6'5", 280 pounds. Sportswriter, Jim Murray, once said, "Merlin was scary. If he went swimming in Loch Ness the monster would get out." To Olsen, words like "Draw" or "Screen Pass" were considered bad, and it was his job to remove them from his opponent's playbook and perhaps even the English language.

New York Giants' Hall-of-Fame defensive tackle, "Rosey" Grier, was known as a quiet, gentle soul. But don't believe the hype. At 6' 5" tall and 300 pounds, he would eat anything that wouldn't eat him, and his breath smelled like quarterback. This guy was "hide the women and children" scary. He eventually joined Merlin Olsen as part of the Los Angeles Rams' "Fearsome Foursome."

This guy could block out the sun. Baltimore Colts' Hall-of-Fame defensive end, Bubba Smith, stood 6'8" tall and weighed 290 pounds. He was so big; some said he was worth five electoral votes. Bubba had the temper of Captain Ahab and, as a kid; he had no problem eating several "Happy Meals," toys and all. Big Ben Davidson stood 6'8" tall and carried 280 pounds into each game. He was huge. He was so tall he had to line up two yards behind the line of scrimmage to get into a three point stance or he'd be offside's. If you saw his footprints in the sand, you'd call 911. Crowds of people would part when he walked through. Kids put their autograph books away

and stared. This Hall-of-Fame defensive end for the Oakland Raiders didn't invent spearing; it just seemed that way. "That's just the way I was taught to play football," said Ben. He was a force in the clubhouse. Half the guys loved him and the other half were afraid of him. I was always glad to see him play on television because that meant he wasn't hiding in the back seat of my car with a knife and masking tape. When asked why he played so viciously, he answered, "If you come to my side of the field you have to pay."

Oakland Raiders' and Robstown Hall-of-Fame offensive guard, Gene Upshaw, wore uniform #63. At 6'5" inches tall and weighing 280 pounds, he played in three Super Bowls and his nickname was "Highway 63." Why? Because when Upshaw pulled out leading a sweep, there was no rest stop on Highway 63, you either got out of the way or you just got run over.

Oakland Raiders' Hall-of-Fame offensive tackle, Art Shell, was a monster. At 6' 5" tall and weighing 300 plus pounds before dinner, he owned one of the fastest first steps in the game. What he lacked in speed, he made up for with quickness. Shell played mean. He was the kind of guy who would push you down a flight of stairs. Raiders' coach, John Madden, once said, "We used to estimate how much Art Shell weighed by how much sunlight shined between his legs." No one ever wanted to talk to Art Shell about another player. They wanted to talk about Art Shell.

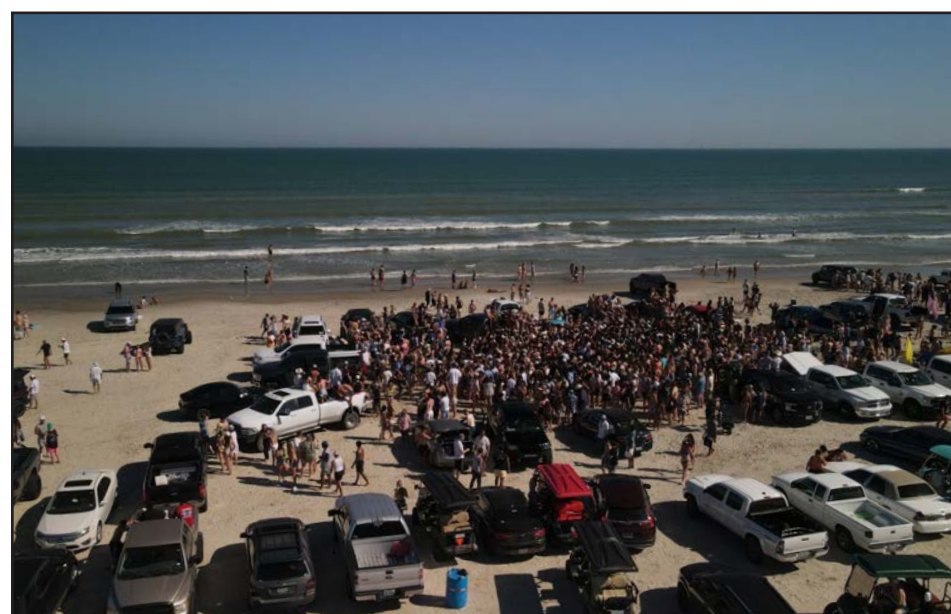
Art Donovan's body looked like a baked potato. He claims he weighed 17 pounds at birth. At 6'4" inches tall and weighing 340 pounds, he was so wide it was a \$20 cab ride around him. His nickname was "Fatso." Art Donovan once said about life, "The best way to die is to sit under a tree, eat lots of baloney and salami, and drink a case of beer and blow up." I'm positive he died laughing or eating or both.

At 6'9" inches tall, he looked out of place standing at the line of scrimmage. The Chargers had to put him on a freight scale to see what he weighed. The answer was 320 pounds. Ernie "Big Cat" Ladd played for the San Diego Chargers, Houston Oilers and Kansas City Chiefs. Ernie once went to a restaurant in Kansas City that had a sign in the window that said, "All the eggs you can eat for 99 cents." Ladd went there three days in a row, and they took the sign down. "Every meal he ate was like the Last Supper. We had to start eating our pre-game meal early, because he ate for a long time," said Kansas City Chiefs Head Coach, Hank Stram.

Buck Buchannan was a real life Paul Bunyan. This man was so mean, he scared other bad guys. Buck had the speed of a file cabinet. He stood at 6'7" inches tall and tipped the scales at 280. His size would keep him off most of the rides at Disneyland. They may have created the word double-team for guys like him. Buck was so big that when he got his shoes shined, he had to take the guy's word for it. He once pointed and said, after sacking Detroit Lions quarterback, Greg Landry, "I'll knock you on your butt, wear you down and make you look bad."

Most of you may think I wrote this article to make fun of these big guys. That is not true. They were all great people and most of them had Hall-of-Fame careers. You see, I was one of them for many years, not because of how I played the game but because of my size. A year ago, I decided to do something about it and to date I have lost 248 pounds. Now, that's funny.

Andy Purvis



Spring Break 2022 by Marvin Orellana



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These photos were taken near the JFK Causeway on Saturday as the tide was going out by Tom Howe.
A little Island Winter Wonderland.



The Beach Bum Memorial got some Christmas Cheer.
Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



The beach in winter can be a lonely place. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Island gardeners selected Mike and Roxanne David as December's Yard of the Month.

They have a large corner lot with an attractive landscape design. It is located at 13937 N. Cabana. We like their choice of plants appropriate to our area. Congratulations! Your work is appreciated.

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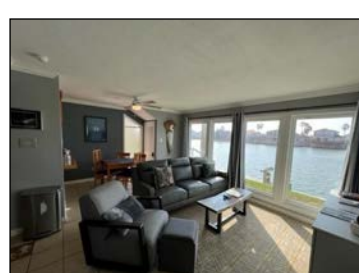
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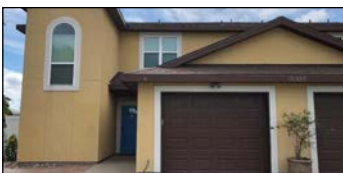
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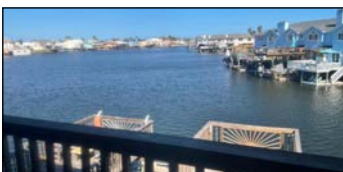
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Good day Island Moon!



Charles Cass Harris and the Harris family took the Island Moon to Park City Utah over Christmas.

The Island Moon traveled with Islanders Bill and Lori Green on a ten day cruise to the southern Caribbean Ports of Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba. Then through the heart of the Caribbean Ports of the Dominican Republic, Grand Turk and the Bahamas Half Moon Cay. We traveled from December 11 to December 21.



Jay and Renee Schroeder just did a Rhine River cruise from Amsterdam down through Germany, France and ending with a bus ride to Lucerne, Switzerland. The Schroeders said, "Keep up the great work with the Island Moon; we always enjoy the content and try to patronize the featured establishments." Photos are from: Amsterdam, Netherlands; Breisach, Germany; Transportation terminal in Lucerne, Switzerland; On top of the Jungfrauoch Mountain in Swiss Alps



Ronnie Narmour and Tracy Weatherall took the Moon traveling to the Bajito Bay Resort in Trocones, Mexico.



Boy Scout Troop 949 took the Island Moon to Garner State Park in 2022.

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An Obdurate Laudator of Delectable Liquids

By Chris Jordan

The **white button mushroom** is as ubiquitous as it is versatile. I cook with them regularly, but if that’s as far as you’ve ventured into mushroom world, you’re missing out.

Eastern peoples have been cultivating fungus for possibly as long as 1500 years. Europe was slow to catch-on and the modern era of mushroom cultivation in the West did not begin until the 1650s. We’ve been growing mushrooms (agaricus bisporus) ever since but they were all **brown buttons** until a mutant patch of white mushrooms showed up at a farm in Pennsylvania in 1925. They turned-out to be *quite* popular. White buttons now account for 90% of the mushrooms sold worldwide. I spoke with Laura Cui at Kitchen Pride Mushrooms in Goliad. She informed me that white button, brown button (aka cremini), and **portobello** are all the same species of mushroom. The white version is just a pigment variation of the brown ones, and the portobello is a brown mushroom that has been allowed to mature to a larger size. I can also tell you this from personal experience: the brown mushrooms are a little more flavorful, and the mature portobellos even more so. You can find all three at most any grocery store. Kitchen Pride mushrooms are sold at The Family Center I.G.A. right here in Port A and at Natural Grocers in Corpus Christi..

Shiitake mushrooms have been cultivated in China for a thousand years yet we know them by their Japanese name. These flat-capped guys are a step-up in flavor, delivering earthiness, a bit of smoky character, and a pungency that may remind you of garlic. If you haven’t tried cooking with them, I recommend taking the easy step of simply substituting them for button mushrooms in whatever you’re preparing. Shiitakes are available fresh at most larger grocery and specialty stores. If you get a chance to buy some foraged wild shiitakes, jump on it. The flavor will knock your socks off. Cultivated shiitakes are available at Asian food stores like Hong Kong Market in Corpus Christi. You can sometimes find dried shiitakes where the Asian foods are in your grocery store. I keep a couple packages of dried shiitake in my pantry for unanticipated mushroom needs.



Oyster mushrooms

A cluster of **oyster mushrooms** resembles a chunk of oyster bed. There are several varieties: pearl, golden, blue, and pink are named for their respective colors. The phoenix variety resembles a smaller pearl oyster mushroom; the king a jumbo pearl. You may see king oyster mushrooms sold as trumpet mushrooms. Oyster mushrooms have a delicate texture, a mild earthiness, and just a touch of ocean essence. I don’t recommend fussing over them too much. My favorite way to prepare them is to saute them in butter with just a little freshly minced garlic. You can usually find oyster mushrooms at specialty food stores like Sprouts.

Hen-of-the-wood mushrooms are often sold under their Japanese name maitake. Their unusual leafy fronds might remind you of a clump of succulent brown fern. They taste

extra mushroomy with plenty of woody, earthy character and a distant murmur of green peppercorn. I discovered my favorite way to cook them by accident. I walked away from some I was sauteing in butter with some sage. By the time I returned to tend to my fungus, a substantial *maillard reaction* had occurred. My mushrooms were slightly crispy, the butter browned, and the sage properly fried. It was delicious and I recommend you try it for yourself. Sprouts has maitake mushrooms every day of the week.

Beech mushrooms come white or brown. I want to say the brown ones are more flavorful, but I have not arrived at this conclusion through any proper method. Beech mushrooms are mild but have a little bit of crunch to them. They look like a small common mushroom but with a longer stem. This makes them easy to incorporate into a variety of dishes without chopping them. In addition to the visual appeal, they also cook quickly. I even put them in sauces. Use them anywhere you would a button mushroom and enjoy the element of shroomy cuteness they lend. Available at Asian Market in Corpus Christi.



Enoki mushrooms

Enokis are the bean poles of mushrooms: tiny, white, slender...all stem and almost no cap. For such a delicate looking thing, the enoki has a surprisingly firm texture. The taste is mild, nutty, and slightly fruity. They can be eaten raw on salads and their thin stature works well for that application. However, I have found the enoki’s true calling is for its inclusion in just about any Asian-inspired soup I might be concocting. Enoki mushrooms are always available at Asian Market.



Lion's mane mushroom

Lion’s mane looks like a mop of hair. I’ve seen them white, yellow and tannish in color. These guys are a bit of a novelty. If you come across some, I recommend slicing them in half-inch strips and cooking in a dry pan. There’s a lot of moisture in a lion’s mane and this technique helps with that, and really, I could recommend a dry-pan start to cooking any mushroom for the same reason. Mario Martinez of Mario’s Mushroom Farms is growing lion’s mane and various oyster mushrooms. You can find him at the Grow Local Farmers Market on the grounds of The Art Center of Corpus Christi every Wednesday at 5 P.M.



Coypu, Myocastor coypus at Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center P.A.
By Marvin Orellano

Full Transparency and Disclosure

PIPOA News by Marvin Jones, President



News you can Use

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

PIPOA Staff- As the end of the year approaches, this is a good time to say Thank you and compliment the PIPOA staff. Our staff works hard to provide services to our members. So again, Thank you to the PIPOA staff.

Boat Ramp Sticker Policy- The new boat ramp parking policy has caused several questions to be put forward. The policy will be placed on the PIPOA website along with an application form for the 2023 sticker. In the meantime, if you have questions, please reach out to Gary Klepperich, Executive Director, at 361-949-7025 or email gary@pipoa.net.

Towing- Over the Christmas weekend, no boats or trailers were towed. Santa knew who had been naughty and who had been

nice. Santa decided that everyone was nice. Personally, I think the cold weather kept people off the water.

Freezing weather- The recent freezing weather brought déjà vu all over again! I swear I can smell dead fish. The memory of standing knee-deep in dead fish while talking to Mayor Paulette Guajardo and Councilman Greg Smith, asking them to help with the canal cleanup by sending heavy equipment for the cleanup, will live in my brain forever. Thank you to Mother Nature for not allowing massive fish kill.

The PIPOA Office will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2023, in observance of the New Year. The PIPOA Executive Director, Office Staff, and Board of Directors wish everyone a Happy New Year!

The next PIPOA Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Padre Island Baptist Church located across from Whataburger.

Marvin Jones, PIPOA President



Flour Bluff High team won KEDT TV Challenge Team Competition

The Flour Bluff High School team won the KEDT TV Challenge Team Competition in 2022. The Challenge is a single-elimination format with five-member teams who complete three at a time answering a series of general knowledge questions.

In the final round the Flour Bluff team beat a team from Calallen High School. Question topics are language arts, science, math, social studies, fine arts, and a general category that consists of South Texas history and facts, films, television, religion, and sports. The Flour Bluff team is chosen shortly after school begins. Participants take a written test and then two or three days of tryouts. The team is selected based on general knowledge in multiple fields. Organizers say they try to pick students who can think fast and are not afraid to miss a question.



HardKnocks Sports Bar & Grill and the IGA Island Market both celebrated their first anniversary in 2022. It is hard to remember how we got by without either only two years ago.

Sudoku

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

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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



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Moon Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

1. Takes for a ride
6. Eliot's "Adam ____"
10. Director of "Marty"
14. Farewell, somewhere
15. Open-mouthed
16. Sunburn-soother
17. Quiescent one
20. Nag, nag, nag
21. Partner of Lake and Palmer
22. Famous sewer
24. Way back when
25. Pillar
29. They can be yours for the basking
31. Gibbon, for one
34. "Dolly" novelist Brookner
35. Trucker's rig
36. "My thoughts exactly!"
37. Aloof disregard
40. Bambinos
41. Seeks office
42. Recoil
43. Tennis partners?
44. When the hands form a right angle
45. Hearth bit
46. Thee, now
47. True and actual
49. Appreciates
53. Reputational blots
58. Static picture
60. Gessler's nemesis
61. You can dig it
62. It may be taken for a ride
63. Maternal sheep
64. Clairvoyant
65. Coarse wool cloth

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

Down

1. Well-publicized shindig
2. Just hanging around
3. Property encumbrance
4. Don't pass or hand off
5. Seinfeld's comic book hero
6. Turns a plane
7. Faberge art object
8. Peace emblem
9. Self-preoccupation
10. Single computer instruction to replace many
11. Word after a loss
12. Prohibited activity
13. Illuminating gas
18. Religious image
19. Endurance, so to speak
23. Harsher
25. Social class
26. Soubise base
27. Jaunty rhythms
28. Native Americans of Utah
30. Brothers who sang "Rag Mop"
31. Change, as a law
32. Pound portion
33. Word in a script
35. "Star Trek" phaser setting
36. Ugandan tyrant
38. Wins
39. Crepuscule
44. English Coward
45. Roman called "The Elder"
46. Shouts
48. Banana oil, for one
49. Sunrise direction, in Spain
50. Slumgullion, e.g.
51. Tessellation unit
52. Dealer's box
54. Cultivate
55. "Old Gray" one
56. Basilica feature
57. Lean-to
59. Grand ____ Opry

Police Blotter December 20-December 26

JFK Causeway to Aquarius

Suspicious Person

- 11800 block SPID 1 p.m. December 21
13500 block SPID Noon December 24
13500 block SPID 3 p.m. December 21

Traffic

- 18 Traffic Stops
13500 block SPID 1 p.m. December 21

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Person

- 13900 block Sea Horse 5 p.m. December 20 Shots Fired/Deadly Conduct
Schooner/Seafarer 9 p.m. December 25 Shots Fired/Deadly Conduct
15300 block Tortuga 9 a.m. December 23 Assault by Contact/Possession of Controlled Substance/ Assault on a Peace Officer
15300 block Tortuga 10 a.m. December 23 Mental Disorder

- 15700 block Finistere 10 a.m. December 21 Assault/ Interfere with Emergency Call (two counts)

Crimes against Property

- Three Fathoms Bank Dr./Cayo Gorda 11 a.m. December 22 Burglary
15300 block Padre Island 2 a.m. December 22 Theft of Services
15400 block SPID Noon December 20 Parking Violation

- 15800 block Grenadine 8 a.m. December 26 Burglary
Disturbance
14200 block Commodores 8 p.m. December 22 Brush Fire

- Aquarius/Lanyard 8 p.m. December 22 Building

- Fire
13900 block Ports O Call 2 a.m. December 21
Suspicious Person
Aquarius/Suntan Noon December 22
15700 block Cruiser 8 p.m. December 24
Traffic
102 Traffic Stops
14500 block SPID 6 p.m. December 20 Crash
14700 block Compass 3 p.m. December 20 Parking Violation
14700 block Compass 3 p.m. December 20 Parking Violation
13800 block Longboat 1 p.m. December 20 Parking Violation
13800 block Longboat 1 p.m. December 20 Parking Violation
15500 block Palmira 11 a.m. December 22 Parking Violation
15700 block Cruiser 1 p.m. December 20 Parking Violation

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico

Crimes against Person

- 14800 block Windward 7 p.m. December 22 Assault
Windward/Whitecap 9 p.m. December 21 Assault

Crimes against Property

- 15300 block SPID 2 a.m. December 22 Theft of Services
Disturbance

- 14100 block Cabana East Midnight December 26
14800 block Windward 10 a.m. December 25

Suspicious Person

- 16500 block SPID 4 a.m. December 20

Traffic

- 55 Traffic Stops

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

Costs start at \$12 for 25 words, 20 cents a word after that per issue. For a small additional charge, your ad can be centered, made larger or pictures or clip art can be added. Ads with payment can be taken to our office at: 14646 Compass St., Suite 3

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Benjamin Franklin

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14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.

In addition Sunday AA Meetings are held at 8 AM at The Pavillon on the Boardwalk Near Padre Bali



May all your wishes get fulfilled in 2023

Flour Bluff Police Substation got a \$1.5 million Upgrade

A much-needed \$1.5 million upgrade to the police substation on Waldron Road in Flour Bluff was completed in 2022 with work on improvements to the interior, new electrical fixtures, HVAC, plumbing, IT, audiovisual, security, furniture and fixtures, exterior building renovations, new roof, landscaping, irrigation, and parking.

The substation is used by 43 officers across three daily shifts in the Bravo District which includes Padre and Mustang islands and Flour Bluff. Padre Island has three dedicated officers across the three eight-hour shifts rotated throughout the day and a fourth officer assigned at peak hours. The improvements at the Flour Bluff facility were funded through 2018 city bonds.

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E	W	E	S		S	E	E	R		T	W	E	E	D



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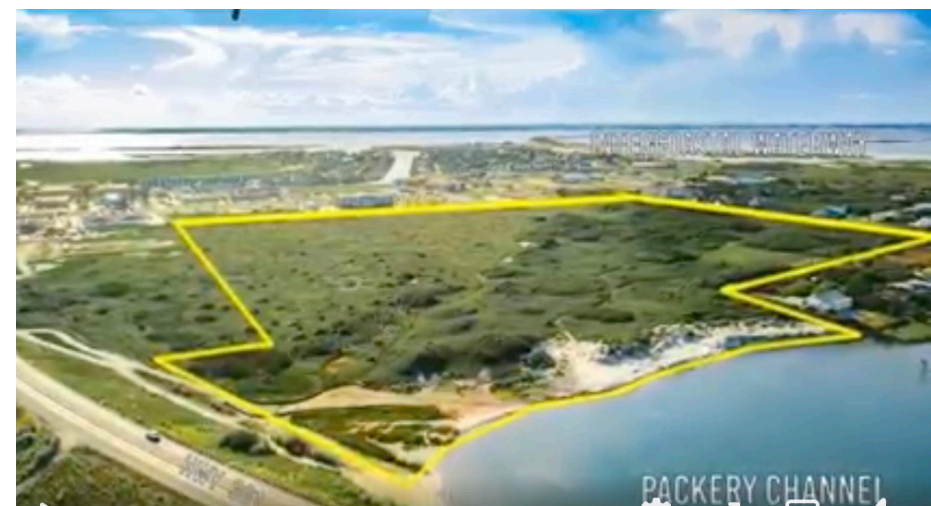
10514 S.P.I.D.

Forty-Four Acre site on Packery Channel Sold in 2022

Previous permitted for a marina-residential development

Forty four acres of prime property along Packery Channel previously permitted for a marina site sold in 2022 to an undisclosed buyer. The land is located on the west bank of Packery Channel adjacent to the bridge over State Highway 361 and has been the site of shoreline stabilization in recent months.

Those involved with the sale did not identify the buyer due to confidentially agreements and the sales price was not disclosed. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved a plan in 2012 for construction of a marina and residential development at the site, however, that permit has since expired. The listed asking price for the property was \$20 million.



The 44 acre site that sold in 2022.



Plan approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2012.



Change Distribution of Beach Parking Permit Sales stalled in 2022

Port Aransas sold 115,000 of 201,000 permits in 2020 but received less revenue than Corpus Christi

By Dale Rankin

The Port Aransas City Council annouched in early 2022 it wants to rework the long-standing agreement for splitting revenue from Beach Parking Permits on the 17.4 miles of maintained beaches from the Corpus Christi City Limits to the Port Aransas with a plan that would have increased their share of the sales in 2020 from \$878,162 to \$1.38 million.

Under that agreement in 2020 the City of Port Aransas sold 115,000 out of a total of 201,000 Beach Parking Stickers sold in 2020 at \$12 each for a total of \$2.4 million out of which Port Aransas received \$878,162 while the City of Corpus Christi sold 83,000 stickers and received \$1 million. Nueces County sold 1700 stickers and received \$364,950.

The discrepancy arises from a 2002 agreement between the three governmental entities which divides revenue from the stickers according to the linear feet of beach maintained by each of the three without regard to the number of stickers sold. According to documents presented to the Port Aransas City Council in its October 21 meeting the City of Corpus Christi maintains 41,929 feet (7.94 miles) of beach including the beaches owned by Nueces County, 14,720 feet (2.79 miles) while Port Aransas maintains 35,410 feet (6.71 miles).

Had the sticker revenue been divided according to sales Port Aransas' share would have increased from \$878,162 to \$1.1 million with the increase to Port Aransas coming from the \$1 million currently paid to the City of Corpus Christi in 2020. Nueces County received 16% of the total sticker revenue and under the plan approved in October by the Port Aransas City Council future revenue would be divided by the sales figures with Nueces County continuing to receive 16% of sales.

"The current revenue sharing agreement was put in place almost twenty years ago," said Port Aransas City Manager David Parsons. "The sales were pretty much equal until about ten years ago, then in the last six years our sales have increased."

Under the Interlocal agreement all three of the governmental entities would have to agree to alter the payment arrangement but if the Corpus Christi City Council votes not to do so the City of Port Aransas has the option of unilaterally removing itself from the agreement and issuing its own, separate Beach Parking Sticker. At the end of 2022 discussions have stalled and the effort to change the system for beach stickers remains unchanged.



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Beach Maintenance Building at Commodores Park

After seven years of planning crews in February began clearing the site for construction of a \$1.9 million Beach Maintenance Building at Commodores Park next to Fire Station #15.

After several attempts to locate the building elsewhere on The Island were unsuccessful the Corpus Christi City Council voted in early 2022 to locate the 1900 square-foot building at the 19-acre Commodores Park site. Assistant City Manager Neiman Young told the Island Strategic Action Committee that storing the machines used to maintain Island beaches in the open air has cost the city \$123,000 in repairs in the past three years due to deterioration and cuts the lifespan of the equipment from seven years to three years with recurring replacement costs of \$855,000.

As the year winds down the building is complete and has already survived its first near miss by an Island brush fire.



The new building includes a drive through for washing vehicles.



Beach Parking Zones



Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour

ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Hello Mexico...



The Bajito Bay Hotel in Troncones, Mexico

My **Mermaid Gal** and I took a week off and went down to old Mexico during Christmas to see our pal **Big Tim Everitt** and his tribe. You might remember Tim from his days in Port Aransas as the owner of the *Port A Beer Hut* aka: the *Swing Bar*. Well Big Tim sold his bar a couple of years ago and bugged out with his gal **Kristi Butler** and two of his sons, **Adam** and **Aston**, for Troncones, Mexico where he bought a hotel/resort, *Hotel Bajito Bay*. We've been talking about going down there for a while but this year we hauled off and did it. And brother, that was a good decision. Troncones is small village on the Pacific coast of Mexico near the cities of *Ixtapa* and *Zihuatanejo* in the state of *Guerrero*, and about 150 miles north of Acapulco. Troncones is a surfing destination and just a beautiful place to be. The temperature stays in the 80's year round and you can catch a direct flight from Houston on United for about \$750 roundtrip. And Tim's rooms at the hotel are very reasonable. We learned that Troncones is a surfing destination known universally for its big, well formed waves. Austin and Ashton are avid surfers and loved how the waves break close to shore so they didn't have to paddle out so much.

You should go...



Tim, Tracy and Kristi at the house Tim is building in Troncones.

Tim and Kristi went way out of their way to show us all the sights. We didn't know it at the time, but our timing was great as it was Tim's birthday. They took us to their favorite restaurants and bars and we were treated to a night of live music and dancing at *Roberto's* where the band played a full repertoire of 80's rock and the vocalist had a high enough range that he even covered a **Bee Gee** song. The food was off the chart everywhere we ate and the prices were ridiculously inexpensive. And the town itself was completely charming with visitors from all over the world. It was common to see people on horses and chickens in the streets. Tim has a fleet of vehicles needed to navigate the terrain, of which his 4 wheel drive Polaris Ranger was the most valuable. We went on trails I thought we'd never make it through, but those Rangers make it look easy. None of the streets have names and we had to use local landmarks to find our way around. Plus there are no local cops so all the traffic just kind of oozes around each other and the drivers are polite and allow other cars to pull in front of them with a big smile. Tim said that was no crime and no cartel. We did see a truck full of *Federales* come through town with a show of guns one day, but we saw them later and they were taking selfies and laughing it up with the locals. The local people were really super friendly to us and were more than a accommodating. The only incident I had was when we were at the big market in town and I accidentally knocked off a pan of meat on to the floor... the look that little guy with the big knife gave me still gives me chills. It sure got some laughs out of the little old ladies who saw it happen though... and I'm sure they were all thinking, "Stupid gringos." The next morning we went to a turtle release on the beach and then drove through the jungle and went to the top of a mountain. It was completely beautiful...we love that place. You should go.

It'll grow back...

We were more than ready for a new adventure and this trip to Troncones did the trick. My **Mermaid Gal** gets to travel fairly often with her job as a marine biologist but I hadn't been

farther than Corpus in a couple of years and I was ready to get the heck out of Dodge. We got home the day after Christmas only to see a very dead garden from the big freeze. Oh well... it happens. It'll grow back. Here's the contact info for Tim's place, *Hotel Bajito Bay*: phone 755-141-0269 or you can email Tim Everett at everittinvestmentsllc@gmail.com.



I accidentally knocked over a tray of this guy's meat at the market in Troncones.

DO NOT MISS LIST
Coming this weekend...



Jim Dugan will the Gaff on Saturday and Sunday.

And now back to our regularly scheduled programming. I just heard the best news ever regarding the bar and live music scene in Port Aransas and I'm not at liberty to discuss... yet. Stay tuned, more will be revealed and it's **FANTASTIC** news. But first, what's everybody doing on New Year's Eve? As best I can tell, Port A will be happening. The **Groove** will be ringing in the New Year at the *VFW*. They have a solid fan base at the V and this sounds like a good place to park it. *Island Wine* has a big eight hour show planned with music starting at 6:00 with **Kimberlee Dawn & Jacob**, then at 7:00 it's **Barbara Jenice, Michael Amos, Rickey Lee, Juan Avila and Rey Ray Galvan**. At 8:00 **Ron Baker & John Dunaway** headline the show, then **Arnie Govella Friends** will have the honors of the 9:30- 12:30 slot. And finally **Billy Snipes with Jenice & Friends** will play until 2 AM. *Red's Riviera* will have the great **Matt Hole and the Hot Rod Gang, Afterglow** will play *Treasure Island* and **Coach Dude Dugan** will play our favorite pirate bar, the *Gaff* and will have their annual calendar burning at 9PM. In town you can catch **Splendiferous** at *Rockit's*, **Another Level** at *Brewster Street* Downtown and the **CBSB's** at the *Exchange*. On Padre **Jerry Ward and the Dirty Birds** play the *Pelican* and **Billy Snipes** plays *Scuttlebutt's*. And on Sunday afternoon, *New Year's Day*, the *Gaff* will host their 16th annual *Black-Eyed Pea-Off*. That's it. This year is done. Bring on 2023!

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Afterglow featuring Michelle Garza, Lalo Garza and Joey Perez on Drums will play Treasure Island on NYE.



The Groove will play the VFW on New Year's Eve.



Matt Hole and the Hot Rod Gang will play Red's Riviera on NYE.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday,

December 29

Ron Baker & John
Dunnaway @ Island
Wine
Roger Creager, Shaker
Hymns @ Brewster
Downtown
Jerry Ward @ Pelican
David Martinez @
Brewster Southside
CBSB'a @ Executive
Surf Club
Brad Brown @
Blackbeard's
Ruben & Dylan Limas
@ Island Italian

Friday,

December 30

The Groove@ Rockit's
Robin Blue @
Scuttlebutt's
The Daze @ Pelican
Michael Burtts @
Packery Bar
Scarecrow People @
Executive Surf Club
Nobodys @ House of
Rock
The Groove @ Rockit's
The Juan Deers @ The
Exchange
Michael Perez @
Brewster Southside
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's

New Year's Eve,

December 31

Barbara Jenice, Arnold
Govella, Ron Baker,
Billy Snipes + @ Island
Wine
The Groove @ VFW
Matt Hole @ Red's
Riviera
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Afterglow @ Treasure
Island
Splendiferous @
Rockit's
Another Level @
Brewster Street
Downtown
Jerry Ward & the
Dirty Birds @ Pelican
Billy Snipes @
Scuttlebutt's
CBDB's @ Exchange
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's

Sunday,

January 1, 2023

Black Eyed Pea Off @
Gaff
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Tumble Dry Low @
Bernie's
Barbara Jenice @
Island Wine
Jennifer Gayle Bradley
@ Blackbeard's
Dam Right Duo @
House of Rock

Monday,

January 2

Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's

Tuesday,

January 3

Open Mic @ House of
Rock
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's

BRON'S BAR & GRILL
BACKYARD NOW OPEN!
PORT ARANSAS, TX
CLOSED FOR REMODLING
UNTIL MARCH
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
314 E. Ave G, Port A. | (361) 336-4723

NEW YEARS EVE
6 PM- 2AM
Kimberlee Dawn,
Barbara Jenice
Michael Amos, Rickey
Lee, Juan Avila
Ron Baker & John
Dunaway,
Arnold Govella &
Friends, Billy Snipes

Treasure Island
NEW YEARS EVE
AFTERGLOW
315 N. Alister (361) 416-1020
treasureislandporta

MOORE-MCDONALD
VFW POST 8967
BEST LITTLE POST ON THE TEXAS COAST
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
THE GROOVE
Saturday, Dec. 31
311 N. Alister • Open to the Public

The Port Aransas Cookbook
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Billy Snipes @ Doc's

Wednesday,

January 4

Open Mic @ Executive
Surf Club
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's
Billy Snipes @
Scuttlebutt's

Thursday,

January 5

Brad Brown @
Blackbeard's

Friday, January 6

Eclipse @ Cassidy's Pub
Spazmatics @ Brewster
Downtown
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's

Saturday,

January 7

Rage Against the
Machine tribute @
House of Rock
Eclipse @ Executive Surf
Club

Sunday,

January 8

Tumble Dry Low @
Bernie's
Barbara Jenice @ Island
Wine
Jennifer Gayle Bradley
@ Blackbeard's
Dam Right Duo @
House of Rock

Monday,

January 9

Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's

Tuesday,

January 10

Open Mic @ House of
Rock
Ruben Limas @
Blackbeard's

Wednesday,

January 11

PA Rockers @ Bernies

Thursday,

January 12

Koffin Kats @ House of
Rock
Brad Brown @
Blackbeard's

Friday,

January 13

Triptonite @ Pelican
Lounge
Eclipse @ Harley
Davidson CC

Saturday,

January 14

What's My Age Again?
@ House of Rock
Diamond's Edge @
Pelican

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA
Happy Hour everyday 11-6!
FULL BAR • FOOSBALL • GOLDEN TEE • DARTS • POOL
SHUFFLEBOARD • **Coldest beer in town!**
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