

Issue 978



The

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

Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

January 12, 2023

www.islandmoon.com

Full Color Version available online!

Weekly FREE



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



By Dale Rankin
The Winter Texans have rolled in from OTB and they brought the Chamber of Commerce Weather with them. Gas prices are down, temperatures are up, and all in all it's a good time to be hanging out Around The Island this week.

Balli Park

Our mention in the last issue that camping at Padre Balli Park is limited to a maximum of three days elicited several questions from Winter Texans returning for the season asking why there was a change in policy. The short answer is that there was a dispute between the private owners who donated the land for the park decades ago and county officials. It began with an agreement to dedicate some of the land to permanent wetlands in order to develop land around Lake Padre but spilled over to include the rules for overnight stay at Balli Park and the Nueces County Coastal Parks Department got caught in the crossfire. The question over the wetlands has been resolved, we think, but the offshoot is the return of a policy included in the original deed restrictions which limits overnight stay to three nights. There was discussion of extending that to two weeks but as of this writing the three day rule is in effect. This effectively leaves the Padre end of The Island without a public park for hookups for recreational vehicles, except for Padre Island National Seashore. There are plans to build an RV park at the site of the riding stables but so far those plans have been bogged down in permitting. If there are any changes in the policy at Balli Park we will report them here, but for now it's three days and time to move on.

Relief for city property tax
At-Large City Councilman Mike Pusley told the Corpus Christi City Council on Tuesday that he is going to propose that property owners across the city be given a reduction in the appraised tax value of the homes as part of an effort aimed at property tax relief. The relief would come in the form of a reduction in the appraised value of 10% to 20% - the exact numbers will be available when the item goes on the city council agenda in the next few weeks - for the purpose of taxation with an added reduction for homesteaded property belonging to owners over 65 years of age. The state legislature passed a similar measure that increased the deduction for school taxes in their last session and what Pusley is proposing is a similar deduction for city property owners. He said Tuesday the increased reduction would cost the city \$10 million in tax revenue per year but with a current operating surplus of \$40 million the city could absorb the reduction.

The barge that won't go away...
City officials from the Beach Maintenance Department said this week the work barge that has been rusting into the bottom on the South Packery Jetty for the past few months is going to be there through May. The first plan was to repair the barge enough to pump it full of air and float it away but that plan was scrapped after divers determined that a gash down the barge's starboard side was too wide to repair. City officials said the removal of the barge is expected to cost \$1 million and the earliest it could be gone is in April but the end of May is a more likely timeline.

Around cont. on A5

A Turtle for The Island Tower!



Image of Kemp's Ridley turtle to be put back on Island water tower

The Corpus Christi City Council this week approved a twelve-month agreement with a contractor to replace the image of a Kemp's ridley turtle on the water tower on the south end of Padre Island which was painted over when the tower was painted in 2022.

The contract with Viking Painting, LLC of La Vista Nebraska is for \$212,500 and includes painting logos on three other tanks around the city. According to the language in the contract approved the final design of the image has not yet been determined.

Changes Coming to Commodores Park

City survey will seek public input

By Dale Rankin
City officials told the Island Strategic Action Committee this week that within the next two weeks they expect to issue a survey to seek public input on what kind of improvements to build in Commodores Park. Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Kevin Johnson said the 12.9 acres located adjacent to the recently completed Beach Maintenance Building and the #15 Fire Station on Commodores Drive will be converted into a Community Park with an assortment of possible amenities from walking trails, to tennis and pickleball courts depending on the feedback from citizens who respond to the survey.

Park cont. on A3



Commodores Park highlighted in yellow

Island Rain Below Normal for 2022

By Tom Cullinan

Due to a six-week stretch of drought in July and August, total rainfall on Padre Island and Mustang Island for 2022 was a bit below Corpus Christi's normal of 31.74 inches of precipitation. However, last year's 28.59 inches (the average of six locations reporting from the island) was far below the record 2021 rains that totaled 53 inches.

The highest single-day precipitation fell on our sandbar on November 2. More than four inches of the wet stuff was measured at a

couple of Padre Island locations, though these soakings were quite localized.

Our heavier rains — one inch or more in a 24-hour period — were recorded only seven times last year. The first of these didn't happen until August 15th.

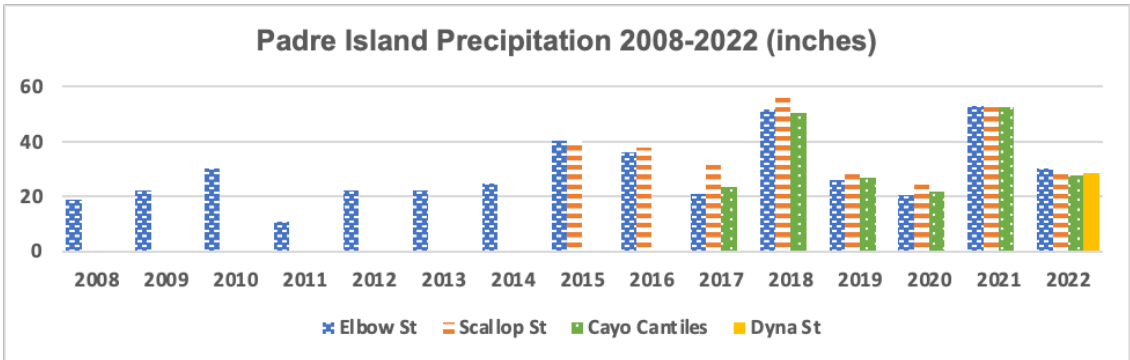
Volunteer Weather Reporters

All Padre Island locations that regularly appear in the Island Moon Rain Report are only a few miles apart. Notably, these rain measurements on a single day have varied by as much as one inch.

The Island Moon Rain Report uses data from the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS), a nonprofit organization that was founded at Colorado State University in 1998. It relies on 10,000 volunteers in all 50 states who buy precision rain gauges, record daily precipitation amounts at their registered locations, and then report them online.

There are currently 40 active CoCoRaHS weather observers

Rain cont. on A3



A little Island history

A Look at South Texas in 1863 through the eyes of an officer in the English Army on his way to the Battle of Gettysburg

Bagdad on the Rio Grande

When the Civil War broke out in the United States there was great interest in the conflict among officers in the English Army. While most Englishmen were opposed to slavery they found the customs and traditions of the old South to be much like those of the English, this affinity combined with a strategic interest in a divided United States meant that English sympathy settled with the Southern cause. Confederate commander Robert E. Lee was also renowned in England both for his gentlemanly air and his style of maneuver warfare



bagdad mexico map

History cont. on A7

Water Exchange Bridge



The retaining wall on the south-bound lane of the Water Exchange Bridge under construction on SPID was put in place this week. The bulkheads and canal to all for water passage under the bridge is complete and installation of the last of the retaining walls is set to begin next week, according to the job supervisor Mike Franklin. The bridge is on schedule for completion and the water passage open by mid-2023. Current plans call for the sand berm on the canal leading to the bridge under Whitecap Boulevard to be removed when the canal under the bridge is open allowing for water to pass from Lake Padre into the main canal. The sand berm blocking water passage into the new canals under construction at the Whitecap North Padre Island site will be removed at a later date once the canals and bulkheads at the site are complete.



By the Numbers

Hotel Occupancy Tax funding

The Corpus Christi City Council this week approved \$755,000 in funding from the city's Hotel Occupancy Tax for three local entities

\$375,000 Art Museum of South Texas

\$310,000 Texas State Aquarium

\$70,000 Botanical Gardens



Business Briefs

Texas Mesquite BBQ has new owners, new hours and a new menu. There are the usual BBQ items with beef, pork and chicken plus a variety of sides. Something different are the smoked shotgun shells which are manicotti pasta stuffed with ground beef, Monterrey jack cheese and wrapped in bacon. There are also daily specials. They open at noon and are closed on Tuesdays.



Lake Padre Village is a planned community of detached townhomes at 14901 Granada Drive. The nine lots are priced at \$265K - \$330K with four of them on the waterfront. All owners and guests will have access to a pool and boat docks.

The activity around the old Country Store was just to spruce it up for drone photos to be used with sale of the building;

Litter Critter will be at the Briscoe Pavilion on Saturday, January 14th 9 am - 1 pm.

Padre Dermatology & Skin Cancer Center will be opening on March 1st at 14650 Compass Ste 1. Surgeon Dr. Ryan Rogers is double board certified specializing in skin cancer. The office has the records of his existing patients. They are accepting appointments now just call 361-867-1032.



Dr. Ryan Rogers

My Mimi's Kitchen is opening soon in the HEB plaza in the Bluff between Subway and Spec's Liquor. They will be serving breakfast and brunch.



Budget Blinds has a wide selection of drapes, motorized blinds, faux wood blinds, shades and more. They offer free in-home design consultation where they bring the showroom to you. Call 808-7400.



MacDaddy's Family Kitchen in Port A is a barbecue restaurant with a wide selection of homemade sides including brussel sprouts and roasted broccoli. They have live trivia night every Thursday at 6 pm.



Wide receiver Aaron Dilworth is a Flour Bluff and Kingsville graduate who has been signed by the XFL Orlando Guardians. He played for the Canadian football League last year. Aaron's first game will be February 18th in Houston and it will be nationally televised.

The Donut Palace owners are back from their three week vacation and the store has reopened

Brush pick up will be on the Island January 25 - 29.

Parked-It Disc Golf Emporium is a disc golf store located at 1125 Airline. There are disc golf courses throughout the area including a 9 hole at Waldron Park in the Bluff, 18 hole at Lamar Park, 9 hole at Oso Creek Park, 18 at West Guth Park, 9 at Port A Community Park and Live Oak Park in Ingleside even has a league. I had no idea this sport was that popular.



West Guth Park Disc Golf Course.

Doc's Seafood & Steaks has been closed for a few days for new flooring plus other improvements and will reopen Friday, January 13th. On Texas Tuesdays they have \$3 Craft beers with more than 20 beers to choose from. Also Tuesdays they offer \$3 off Texas liquors. Wine Down Wednesdays have half-price bottle of house and selected wines.



The Jo Koy World Tour will be at the American Bank Center on Sunday, January 29th 7:30 pm and Incubus will be there on January 31st 9 pm.

The Barefoot Mardi Gras Fat Friday Kick-off Party will be held at the Waterline Bar on January 27th 6 - 10 pm. Cajun food will be provided by Doc's and there will be a silent auction with entertainment by The Groove Band. Tickets are \$15. The parade on the beach will be on Saturday, February 18th.

The Packery Bar under the JFK Bridge is celebrating their one year anniversary on Saturday, January 14th. They will have a crawfish boil and live music.

Port A Briefs

The Port Aransas Community Theater sold out overnight for the Dreams Group "Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show" on February 11th so they added a second show on Friday February 10th. The Elvis Tribute show last weekend sold-out and was such a hit they will have it two nights next year.



Third Coast Theater in Port A will feature Richard Leigh & Larry Joe Taylor on Saturday, February 18th at 8 pm. Tickets are \$40 and they go fast.

Random Stuff

The Timbertote single log firewood comes with a handle and it includes a fire starter stick that you drop into the pre-drilled hole. The fire lasts over two hours and burns down next to nothing.



Timbertote Fire



Aerial By Marvin Orellano



Birds By Glenn Sheckells



City crews have been working to raise the lifeguards stands along Micheal J. Ellis Beach. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



Once the beach is less than 150 feet wide in front of the seawall, traffic is banned under state rules. Evelyn



Monarchs By Jim Gilmore



Elvis Vegas Mafia Band performed at the Port Aransas Community Theater

Show us your stuff!



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Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



Emergency Services District #2.

Per his request Chief Rocha of the Corpus Christi Fire Department will be providing a presentation to the board of commissioners at the boarding meeting NEXT Tuesday January 17, 2023 at 5:00 pm. The presentation will be on the desired/demanded "merger" of ESD2 by Corpus Christi Fire Department. As of this email the ESD does not see a benefit to this "merger", and see it as a significant reduction in fire and ems services to the Flour Bluff and Padre Island communities and even more serious a loss of jobs for ESD employees, community members and military veterans.

Please feel free to attend the meeting to hear the presentation. I am currently unaware if there will be a Q and A session following the presentation. but Chief Rocha will be utilizing a slide show presentation. Thanks!

Weston Beseda

Fire Chief - EMT

Nueces County ESD #2

337 Yorktown Blvd

Litter Critter Event Scheduled for Briscoe King Pavilion

Saturday January 14

The City's Litter Critter will make an appearance on Padre Island on Saturday, January 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Briscoe King Pavilion, 15820 Park Road 22. Residents planning to make drop-offs should refer to the City's Solid Waste Department website at www.cctexas.com/solid-waste/ community-cleanup-programs to find the list of items accepted for Litter Critter events. Residents should prepare to offload their items; commercial hauling is not permitted.

Future Litter Critter events will occur on the second Saturday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in service areas across the city. Please see the 2023 Litter Critter schedule below:
February 11 Flour Bluff High School 2505 Waldron Road
July 8 Briscoe King Pavilion
August 12 Flour Bluff High School 2505 Waldron Road

PADRE ISLES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, January 12, 2023

5:30 PM

Padre Island Baptist Church

14253 South Padre Island Dr.

[Streaming to PIPOA Facebook Page](#)

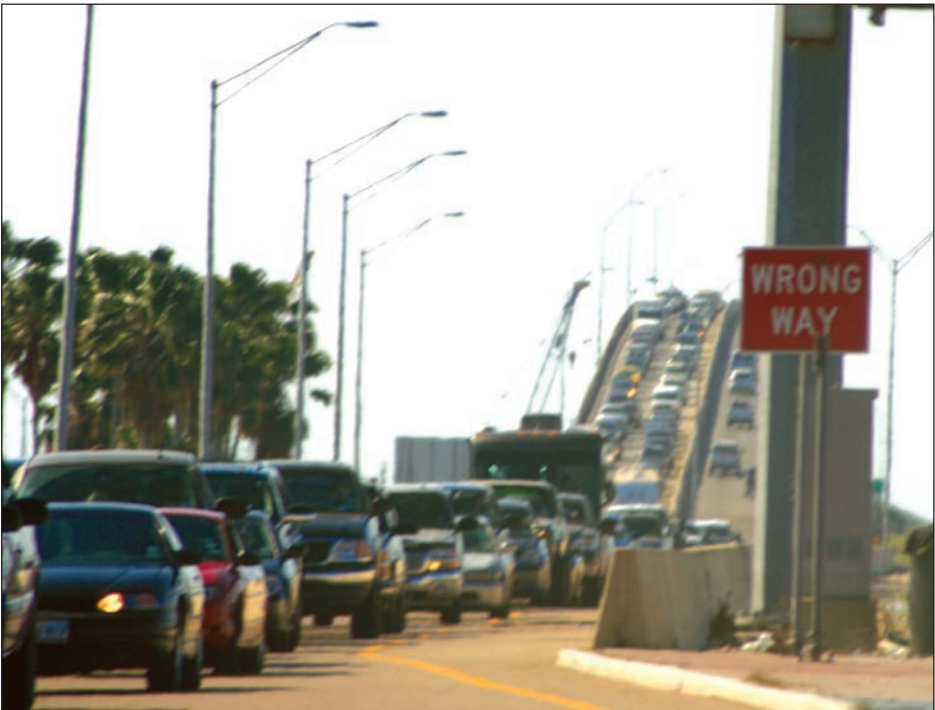
NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
 1. Legal Matters
 2. Personnel Matters
 3. Contract Matters
 4. Appeals
3. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION WITH POSSIBLE BOARD VOTES
4. ADJOURN

Ten Years ago in the Island Moon



Michael J. Ellis Beach and Seawall got their names.



Some things never change.



Packery Channel was being dredged and the sand used to widen the beach.

Park cont. from A1

Johnson said plans could include a community center but the focus in the beginning will be improvements that can be done more quickly than a community center which could take several years of planning. "The direction we have had from the city council is they want something that can be done in the near future," Johnson said. "A community center would be a ways out." He said he expects to have a contract within a week with an outside firm that specializes in public surveys to write a series of questions which will be circulated o the public to determine what Island residents do and do not want at the park.

A group of Islanders who attended the Tuesday meeting of the ISAC emphasized their desire for pickleball courts and tennis courts. Padre Island is currently without public tennis courts since the demolition of the courts at the Padre Isles County Club and the only pickleball court on The Island is privately owned. Johnson said he expects the public survey to take 45-60 days to complete after which design for park improvements could begin. He said the survey will include community outreach through town hall meetings and an online survey. We will print the web portal for public input on the project once it becomes available, most likely in next week's edition. Voters approved \$1.5 million in bonds for improvements at the park in 2022. That money was originally earmarked for the design of a community center, but after input from outgoing District 4 City Councilman Greg Smith and incoming District 4 Councilman Dan Suckley city staff said they will redirect the money for other park improvements. The boundaries of the Island Tax Increment Refinancing Zone #2 were expanded in December to include the park making money from it available for improvements there. No timeline was given for the beginning of construction.

Rain cont. from A1

sprinkled across Nueces County, but just five who still report from Padre Island. The sole Mustang Island weather observer is located at Cinnamon Shore.

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Corpus Christi has compiled rain totals dating to February 1887. Measured now at the city's airport, the annual average is 31.76" using all 136 years. According to the NWS, the lowest annual rainfall was a scant 5.38" in 1917 which is the only yearly total under 12".

Corpus Christi NWS Rain Totals

	2022	Normal
January	1.44"	1.39"
February	0.27"	1.29"
March	0.36"	2.28"
April	1.36"	2.04"
May	3.08"	3.38"
June	3.53"	3.56"
July	0.69"	2.54"
August	0.63"	2.35"
September	10.41"	5.42"
October	2.31"	3.13"
November	3.60"	2.03"
December	0.32"	1.93"
Total	27.00"	31.74"

Rain Less Likely Than Dew

Some may not realize that dewfall is measurable precipitation. Gauges on the island will often catch overnight dew ranging from a trace to as much as 0.02 inches. My gauge held dew 92 times last year, in contrast to actual rain that fell on 62 days in 2022. So regarding precipitation, this past year we got rained upon 17 percent of the days and merely dampened with dew 25 percent of the days.

Island Moon Rain Report: 2022 Reporting Stations

Padre: Dyna St 28.65"	Padre: Scal-lon St 28.36"	Padre: Aquarius St 26.29"	Mustang: Beachwalk Lane 30.19"	Padre: Elbow St 30.21"	Padre: Cayo Cantiles 27.80"
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Office Security/Spillage Control (Emeritus)

Riley P. Dog

Publisher

Dale Rankin

About the Island Moon

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

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

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

The Island Moon Newspaper

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Where to Find The Island Moon

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NorthPadre

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Black Sheep/ Barrel

Kody's

CVS

Coffee Waves

Dollar General

Moby Dicks

Doc's Restaurant

IGA

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Wash Tub

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Gratitude

Ace Hardware

The Gaff

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H.E.B.

WB Liquor

Island IGA

Ethyl Everly Senior Center

Island Fitness

My Coastal Home

Texas Legislature 2023

Texas lawmakers will have \$188.2 billion available for the next budget after record-breaking revenue growth

As the Texas Legislature convenes in Austin this month it will have far more money than legislators have ever had at their disposal, with an increase in available funds that dwarfs any previous jumps between cycles. It's also more money than lawmakers can constitutionally spend

Texas is projected to have \$188.2 billion available in general revenue for funding the business of the state over the 2024-25 biennium — an unprecedented 26% increase from what lawmakers had during the last budget cycle, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said Monday in his biennial revenue estimate to state lawmakers and leaders.

It's far more money than legislators have ever had at their disposal, with an increase in available funds that dwarfs any previous jumps between cycles, thanks largely to a tax-collection windfall that left the state flush with cash, Hegar said. It's also more than the Texas Constitution and state law will legally allow them to spend, barring any special legislative action to bypass those spending limits.

The estimate came one day before the Texas Legislature convened on Tuesday. It includes an anticipated \$165.9 billion in new revenue, the vast majority of which comes from sales and energy taxes collected by the state and can only be spent in the next cycle. It also includes a historic \$32.7 billion in state dollars expected to be left over in Texas coffers from the 2022-23 biennium, thanks to "vigorous economic growth," gas prices, inflation and other factors in the past 18 months, he said. All but \$10 billion, which is reserved for highway funds and the state's rainy day fund, is available for general spending, Hegar said.

That pot of money can be spent before August to supplement anything the lawmakers need for the current budget. Unless legislators choose to dip into the Economic Stabilization Fund, the official name for the state's so-called rainy day fund, that fund is expected to have an all-time high balance of \$27.1 billion by the end of the 2024-25 biennium, Hegar said Monday. The rainy day fund is separate from the \$32.7B left over in the state treasury from the last cycle and is not included in Monday's overall funds-available estimate.

State revenue from all sources is expected to reach \$342.3 billion for the 2024-25 biennium — including \$108 billion in federal income and about \$68 billion from other revenues, such as fees, both of which are dedicated for general purposes and thus not available for general-purpose spending on things like law enforcement or property tax relief.

The current two-year budget period, which ends in August, totalled \$265 billion in state and federal funds, including an initial \$119 billion in general revenue — a number that is expected to top \$150 billion before the cycle ends. Monday's budget estimate reflects a robust economic rebound as the state worked to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic but accounts for an expected mild recession this year — albeit a "relatively shallow and short" one for Texas — and a resulting slowdown in consumer spending, employment and personal income levels, said Hegar, a Republican entering his third term as comptroller. It is also indicative of a painful period, economically, for Texas taxpayers, Hegar said.

State revenue depends largely on sales taxes — about 53% of the total is expected to come from sales tax in the next budget cycle. But it also includes sizable revenues from oil and gas severance taxes, as well as motor vehicle fuel and sales taxes and franchise taxes collected on alcohol.

Subject to change

The revenue estimate is the primary responsibility of the state comptroller and projects for legislative budget writers how much money Texas will collect from its residents and businesses during the next biennium. The [comptroller](#) is the state's chief tax collector, revenue estimator and check writer. Hegar's most high-profile time is during the legislative session, when he keeps lawmakers apprised of how much money is available to them as they decide how to fund the operations of the state in the new biennium. Because the Texas Legislature meets every two years, lawmakers craft a two-year budget.

Passing a balanced budget — one that spends no more than what is expected to be available — is the only thing the Texas Legislature is constitutionally required to do during its regular 140-day session. Lawmakers are expected to pass the budget before the session ends in late May.

Monday's estimate for the next budget cycle could be updated later in the session, as lawmakers get closer to wrapping up budget negotiations and the comptroller's team of economic forecasters and researchers gathers the most current economic information. The projection figure is also subject to change throughout the biennium as economic conditions shift — as they did during the last two years. When actual collected revenue is higher than what the budget anticipated, the state can wind up with more money than it had planned to spend, as it has now.

Spending the cash

Part of the state's comfortable economic position heading into the session is due to the balance that will be left in state coffers at the end of this current budget cycle, what Hegar estimated Monday at \$32.7 billion. That number won't be finalized until after the receipts are all in later this year and legislators determine during the session whether to spend any of the carryover balance before the end of August.

In addition to the "vigorous economic growth" that ballooned the state's revenue since the end of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, Hegar said, spikes in energy prices and the highest rate of general price inflation in 40 years also caused state tax collections to surpass what was expected when lawmakers approved the last budget. That ending balance also reflects \$3.8 billion in savings due to federal pandemic dollars replacing state taxpayers' dollars, as well as savings by the state on school funding due to skyrocketing property taxes that reduced the state's obligation to schools by about \$4.3 billion, he said.

State law and the Texas Constitution already create roadblocks for lawmakers who may be tempted to spend all of the state's available revenue this cycle, even if it's for pressing state issues like property tax relief, schools or state workforce, or one-time investments like water infrastructure and broadband. Those [spending limits](#) have been set at a 12.3% increase over spending in the current biennium, allowing lawmakers up to about \$12.5 billion more in general revenue to spend for the next two years, according to [current](#) budget numbers. That dollar figure could go up if lawmakers pass a supplemental budget bill this session that increases spending over the next two years, but it is still well under the amount expected to be available to lawmakers. Anything beyond the limits would require a politically risky vote to bust the spending cap, or another budgeting strategy to work around those limits.

Port of Corpus Christi Encouraged by DOE to Submit Full Application for Hydrogen Hub Proposal

– The US Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstration this week encouraged the Port of Corpus Christi Authority (Port of Corpus Christi) to submit a full application for its Horizons Clean Hydrogen Hub (HCH2) through the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Program.

The Port of Corpus Christi, as a landlord port authority and the owner of the most improved, most efficient ship channel on the U.S. Gulf Coast, is the prime applicant for the HCH2 and is the common denominator to each of the roughly two dozen discrete clean hydrogen production projects in the proposed hub. Hydrogen, which can be produced using either renewable electricity or natural gas feedstocks, has long been recognized as a flexible energy carrier with a wide range of applications. Existing operations around the Port of Corpus Christi already use hydrogen as part of the refining process, and a number of other industries may transition to hydrogen as a low carbon alternative to natural gas to power their operations. HCH2 projects will use — and

add to — the 110 miles of existing hydrogen pipelines to move hydrogen through the region. When it is to be exported from the Hub by rail or ship, hydrogen likely will be reacted into ammonia, which is a larger, more stable molecule that can either be used directly as an energy source or processed to yield free hydrogen.

HCH2 will connect large-scale clean hydrogen production in the West South-Central U.S. with in-region, extra-regional, and international end users by way of common carrier, connective infrastructure that will de-risk and accelerate multiple projects. HCH2 includes three waves of deployment — all under development now with staggered maturation — to supply existing and developing demand. The project developers in the HCH2 are a combination of cornerstones of the energy marketplace, including longstanding Port customers as well as well-capitalized start-ups vetted by the Port.

Port Corpus Christi is the largest port in the United States in total revenue tonnage.



The 88th Texas Legislative Session Begins January 9, 2023

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of once again serving the people of House District 32. I am proud to be a voice for the Coastal Bend and look forward to continuing that role during the 88th Texas Legislative Session.

The 88th Texas Legislative Session begins Tuesday, January 10th. The Texas House of Representatives swearing-in ceremony will be held on the House floor at noon on January 10th. All are welcome to attend these opening day festivities. If you are unable to join us, I would like to invite you to come to Austin sometime during the 88th session and visit our Capitol office. We want you to be a part of your Texas Legislature and the decisions that are made and the impact that it may have on your daily lives. Our office is located on the first floor of the Texas Capitol building, at the room number 1W.5.

Over the past year and a half, I have been proud to help organize a number of summits and conferences in and around the Coastal Bend. These meetings provided an important opportunity to look at key issues facing the State of Texas. These meetings covered key issues such as the Mental Health, Human Trafficking, Property Taxes, and Windstorm Insurance Rates. Hearing from individuals about these important subjects and from members of our community is a very important part of the overall legislative process. The information gathered from these meetings will be helpful in addressing the issues during the upcoming 2023 legislative session.

If you would like to follow the Texas House and learn more information on news, committees or other aspects of the legislative body, you can access its website at <http://www.house.texas.gov>. The site features live streaming from the House floor, committee hearings as well as access to a number of other resources. You can also follow the Texas Senate at <https://senate.texas.gov/>. The Texas Governor's official website can be found at <https://gov.texas.gov/>.

Since the 88th Texas Legislative session is beginning, I want to hear your ideas and suggestions. Your ideas and information are important forms of feedback and I hope that you will not hesitate to contact my office.

If you have questions regarding any of the information mentioned in this week's article, please do not hesitate to call my Capitol or District Office. Please always feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or issues regarding a Texas state agency, or if you would like to contact my office regarding constituent services. As always, my offices are available at any time to assist with questions, concerns or comments (Capitol Office, 512-463-0672; District Office, 361-949-4603).

- State Representative Todd Hunter, District 32

Rep. Hunter currently represents Aransas County and part of Nueces County. He can be contacted at todd.hunter@house.texas.gov or at 512-463-0672.



Tricolored Heron By John Najvar

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Senior Moments

Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

The Miracle on The Hudson -
The Full Story

Dotson's Note: Sunday, January 15th, 2023 will be the 14th anniversary of the incident occurrence. January 15th, 2009, was the day that a US Airways Airbus A320 aircraft landed on the Hudson River. This was a crash landing, but thanks to the pilots' skills and response, all 150 passengers and five crew members survived. This report follows the events that day and what has happened since. Thanks to Justin Haward and Tom Hanks for the facts contained in this report and thanks to Bill Morgan for the photos.

US Airways 1549



US Airways 1549 (or to use its callsign, Cactus 1549) was scheduled from La Guardia, New York City to Charlotte, North Carolina on the afternoon of January 15th, 2009. The flight was operated by an Airbus A320-214 (registration N106US), powered by two General Electric CFM56 engines. This aircraft was delivered new to US Airways in August 1999. In charge of the flight was Captain Chesley Sullenberger, affectionately known as Sully, with first officer Jeffrey Skiles.

Simple Flying

Both these men had vast amounts of flying experience. Chelsey Sullenberger is a former military pilot with total flying hours of almost 20,000 at the time of the accident, including 4,756 hours on the A320. Jeffrey Skiles had only 37 hours on the A320 as a newly transferred pilot to the type but over 20,000 flying hours in total.



Above, the A320 that was involved in the incident

What Happened After Take-Off?

The pre-flight and initial take-off run was normal. Early in the climb, aircraft hit a flock of birds (Canada geese), so significantly it obscured the pilots' windscreen view. This was at a height of just under 3,000 feet and a distance of around 4.5 miles from the airport. Almost immediately, both engines shut down, but the aircraft continued climbing for another 19 seconds, then entered a glide descent as the pilots responded. Captain Sullenberger took control of the aircraft and started the APU (Skiles had flown the take-off), while Skiles attempted to restart the engines. Sullenberger made a mayday call 22 seconds after the strike, calmly reporting:
"This is Cactus 1539, hit birds. We've lost thrust on both engines. We're turning back towards LaGuardia."



Sullenberger initially requested to return to La Guardia. The pilots soon realized this was not possible and requested landing options at Teterboro airport, New Jersey. They were cleared for an approach to runway 1, but quickly responded that they also could not make that, and would end up in the Hudson.

You can get a much better idea of what happened to the flight and how the pilots responded by listening to the Air Traffic Control recording (or watching the movie 'Sully'). The radio audio was released following the investigation and demonstrates the professionalism of the controllers and aircrew.



Shrimp Boat by Marvin Orellano

Landing On The Hudson

After passing over the George Washington Bridge at just 900 feet, the aircraft ditched in the Hudson at 3:31 pm. The flight had lasted around five minutes.



Passengers were evacuated onto the wings and the emergency slides. The evacuation was hampered by water entering the fuselage (caused by an open door at the rear of the cabin, as well as fuselage damage from landing). But it was greatly assisted by the aircraft equipment. By chance, the aircraft was



There were several boats close to the ditching side which headed straight out to assist. Two NY Waterway ferries were the first to arrive and immediately started taking passengers onboard. Others, including the Coast Guard, were close behind, and emergency services assembled on the shore. All passengers were removed from the plane and water by 3:55 pm (24 minutes after the ditching).

The Crash Aftermath and Investigation

Following the crash there was a full National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation. This looked at all piloting and technical aspects of the incident and ditching and made several recommendations for improvements. Ultimately it was determined that the probable cause was "the ingestion of large birds into each engine, which resulted in an almost total loss of thrust in both engines."

Ultimately several factors came together to make the ditching appropriate or "miraculous," as well as fast and successful by the pilots, good weather and clear visibility on the day, an aircraft equipped for a water landing, fast reactions from the cabin crew, and the landing close to boats able to respond, all contributed.

Dotson's Other Note: Some of the most significant investigations and conclusions from a pilotant point of view included: 1) There were extensive flight simulator re-enactments of the flight. These focused on the possibility of returning to La Guardia or diverting to Teterboro. An important issue here was pilot reaction and consideration time. Simulations with an immediate turn to an airport were partly successful, but not so when a reaction delay was added. The investigation concluded that Sullenberger's decision was correct. 2) Starting the APU early proved vital in the later stages of the ditching, as it maintained power for all systems. Sullenberger did this immediately, whereas it was a later task in the checklists for dual engine failure. 3) Selecting 'flaps 2' instead of 'flaps 3' was also discussed and tested. This reduced drag and allowed for a better nose attitude on hitting the water. Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at dlewisl@stx.rr.com. FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, on the KEYS 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



Way back in 2004 I was driving under the JFK Bridge when I saw Coastway Bait & Tackle. It was a dilapidated building that had been vacant for a decade but I saw possibilities so I pursued and eventually got a lease that led to the opening of the Packery Channel Bar & Grill that has become an Island favorite. But what I didn't see coming was the possibility that nearly two decades on the area which is a popular destination for anglers launching boats and diners looking for dinner would still be mostly unopened and include two semi-permanent lakes known only somewhat facetiously as the Twin Lakes of Muddle and Puddle named after the puddles they are and the muddling through method of planning that has made them possible.

The plan

In December 2010 a plan was approved by a combination of governmental entities with jurisdiction at the site that would replace the dilapidated but functioning boat ramps, pave the parking lot, and build bulkheads to keep the parking lot from flooding. From our side the partnership contributed \$27,000 to get the project unstuck and work began. Then a few months later a call came telling us that due to a lack of funds only a portion of the parking lot would be paved and it didn't include the part in front of Packery Bar & Grill that you see still unpaved all these years later.

The site is an alphabet soup of overlapping governmental jurisdictions from the Texas General Land Office, Texas Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the City of Corpus Christi. The offshoot was that the City of Corpus Christi signed a lease which is still current which requires it to improve and maintain the area. This all came back to mind this week when an official with the city's engineering department told the Island Strategic Action Committee that the \$1.3 million in bond money approved by voters in 2018 for bond improvements to the area will be "moved elsewhere."

The other plan...

This announcement came as a surprise to the ISAC members who were part of a subcommittee formed in 2017 in anticipation of the upcoming bond election to come up with a list of improvements which included some very common sense items such as lighting, pavement with striping for parking, and if there was money left over paint for the bare concrete pilings to spruce things up. Those improvements were included in the project list which was presented to and approved by voters.



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On The Island

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The plan included parking for up to ninety vehicles pulling boat trailers under the JFK Bridge and some simple landscaping required under city code. The total bond package was \$1.8 million but since that time \$500,000 of the money has been spent on design which is to say...it is gone. But for the simple things that are needed there the \$1.3 million remaining is plenty to get things started...except it is now going to be "moved elsewhere."

So what happened?

The obvious question is what happened? How can such a simple thing go so awry? All I know are the explanations for inaction that have been presented at ISAC meeting over the past four years. Prior to this week's announcement that the money is to be "moved elsewhere" came the statement six months ago that city money could not be spent there because the land is a right of way of TxDot. While it is true that it is a TxDot right of way it is also true that the City of Corpus Christi has a signed and valid agreement with the Texas General Land Office to build and maintain improvements there and, as was pointed out by ISAC members, the city is currently spending \$18 million to build the Water Exchange Bridge on a TxDot right of way two miles down the road. Unlike the Twin Lakes of Muddle and Puddle this explanation didn't hold water and things were quiet until this week's announcement that the money is going to be "moved elsewhere" meaning that in spite of the signed agreement to maintain the area for the foreseeable future plans call for doing nothing to improve an area that is one of the most used by the public on The Island.

While most of the eighty acres of land surrounding the bridge consists of wetlands which prevents development the waterfront area from Billings Baitstand all the way around to Marker 37 is home to seven businesses which all pay city property and sales tax and there is not even a sign announcing their presence at the base of the bridge. In fact the water line to Snoopy's Pier was paid for with private money until a new line was put in four years ago by the city – who I would point out spent city money in the TxDot right of way. As then Snoopy's owner Ernie Buttler pointed out when he had to pay for the first line to get water to the fire prevention system required by the city, Snoopy's had been paying tax at the site since 1980 and along with the water line Ernie had to pay for the road leading from the bridge to Snoopy's Pier. Other than that Mrs. Lincoln how was the play!?

So here we are two decades after the city signed an agreement to improve and maintain the area and five years after the bonds were approved and a plan drawn up to do that still looking at mud holes, an unpaved parking lot, boat ramps in dire need of repair, but not at signage because there isn't any, and the money set aside to pay for all that is being "moved elsewhere."

So the plan is for the muddling and puddling to continue.

Around from A1

Water for the dogs!

There was good news from city parks officials this week with the announcement that the city is going to provide free water to the Riley P. Dog Park at the end of Whitecap Boulevard. The park is now open and a group of volunteers have stepped in to help but water for irrigation has been the major obstacle to improving the ground cover there. An agreement is expected by city officials this week that will bring a waterline and "water we can drink" to the park. It was a good water to be an Island Dog. That's all for now, get out there and enjoy the weather and say hello if you see us Around The Island.

The Island Outdoors



On the Rocks

By Jay Gardner

I would like to thank everyone that came out to provide public comment at the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) meeting the other day. That is exactly the purpose of the ISAC committee, to take popular (and also not popular) feedback down to city hall and directly to the council regarding Island matters. I would also like to thank city staff for attending, and Peter Zanoni for encouraging staff to participate in the process. The ISAC committee is made up of a great bunch of folks, and you all should rest assured that even though we may not be getting the city to get projects done as fast as we'd like, they are hearing us.

We passed the "second causeway resolution" by unanimous vote as well. That safety topic is something that we have been talking about for quite some time, and it is included in the Area Development Plan. I included the term "...second causeway or means on and off the Island..." in the resolution in the event that technology invents a transporter by the time we get the environmental permitting completed for the project. I jest a little, but who knows, maybe Elon Musk will build us a tunnel instead of a bridge. I wonder what the studies will yield as far as alternatives?

For example, look at the George Wallace Tunnel over in Mobile Bay, Alabama. This half mile tunnel was constructed starting back in 1969 and was officially opened in 1973. It reaches a depth of 40 feet below the existing ship channel, and it actually a part of I-10. The technology isn't anything new, and the tunnel is working just fine and will continue to be used. There is also another tunnel just to the north of it, the Bankhead tunnel. I could envision a tunnel from Mustang Island into Flour Bluff. Nothing crazy.

What has been crazy is the sea fog lately. Fog is obviously formed when warmer air flows over colder waters (basically, most of the winter here). This same sea fog is basically salt water and permeates everything outside, caus-

ing everything to rust. We were at the cabin this weekend (thanks Augs for the help!), and it was spooky in the mornings, as we couldn't even see the end of the pier. The reason it was spooky was that we could hear boats running out in the ICWW at speeds that we knew good and well that they couldn't see anything. There was an incident down in Port Mansfield where two guides were involved in a T-bone situation. Thankfully no one was seriously injured, but it's avoidable. Someone is going to get killed, y'all be careful out there driving by video game (GPS alone).

One of the interesting things that the city staff updated us on (no, Bond 2018 – JFK Causeway Improvements wasn't one) was that they are planning on building some restrooms on Zahn Road in the vicinity of the entrance to the Lively Beach subdivision. We didn't get to see what the amenities are going to be, just mainly the footprint. I'm assuming there will be parking, and I'm hoping that there will be showers. If whoever they hire to design it has any idea what they're doing, they will use the drain water from the showers to flow off the area into a planter or some sort of vegetation. We are here at the edge of the Wild Horse Desert, and that drain water could sustain a nice planter which could in turn irrigate some bushes for screening of the bathrooms. But, since it's a good idea, it probably won't happen and someone will plant oleanders instead of esperanza. I can dream.

Well folks, it's been a wild ride on the Island lately. Things picked back up from the break and hit full throttle. Over the next few weeks, we will be discussing and prioritizing our projects for the TIRZ #2 Committee that will meet sometime in February. This is the time where we get things in the hopper and down the road. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and we'll see you here next week on The Rocks!



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah's Fishing Adventures

Every year I hear everyone's take on how good a year it's been, good or bad for trophy trout, and how Mother Nature is ahead or behind her normal changes. In reality Ol Mother Nature is usually right on time. Every year fluctuates by the moon phases, highs will occur on both the full and new moon. Seasonal movements of gamefish and bait tend to ignite around those moon events. Years when we have no cold snaps are the exception as there is a lack of a period that the bay hits a START OVER button. This year we are right on time and set in the blocks for a great and timely fishing season.

Every winter cold temperatures push deeper and deeper, until we have a cold event that chills the water from top to bottom. Suddenly the layers of temperature in the bays flip, with warmer water in the shallows, warmed by the sun. This is when groups of mature predatory gamefish group up together and manipulate their body temperature by size. You can find schools of fish moving from mid depths to shallow soft bottoms as the weather and temperatures flux. Warming sun in the shallows heats up the water, a south east wind May move the water off of the shallow flat over a drop off into 3-4ft of water. You will find fish patrolling that change in depth and catching the flow of warm water. As a trophy trout hunter timing when those big trout will move up from their deeper zones and hunt and chase bait in knee to waist deep flats is a game that can result in the largest trophy trout of your career. Wade fishing is of course the most popular type of fishing now, but as popular as it is we have conditioned fish to be wary of parked boats and storm troopers stomping the bottom. Drift fishing out of a shallow water boat can help you maintain good form, stealth, and position of areas that big fish are feeding.

We will be getting more and more sunny days and surely a few cold snaps in between. We have seen black drum really group up in their winter zones. Areas of bare bottom offer up hiding areas for shrimp and crabs to burry up in the soft bottoms. The number one winter food source for drum is small clams that are

located in the open water areas. Live shrimp rigged on the bottom will entice a drag peeling fight. Giant bull drum will start to enter the bay in February for their spawn. March will be the high point for the drum spawn, then we will see it dwindle down as we go into April.

The big drum run and the flush of migratory trout is timed perfectly with the influx of baitfish of all kinds entering the back bays as they all feel the flow of warm water come from the shallows. Bait of all kinds will be flowing in during late February and on. Drift fishing with soft plastics will put lots of action into your hands and fish on the table. Learning to be confident leaving the dock without bait is what I teach every day.

I had explained to my guests the mid-morning lunar feeding time and just as we approached the magic time the sun rose over our backs and sand pockets reflected to us the locations of staging trout. Casts past each one, then dropping the bait into the deeper pocket triggered a silver flash each time. Numbers ran and as we got hotter and hotter the big fish began to feed. 25" trout exploded on our baits as they splashed down on the surface. We were releasing big fish as fast as we could just to get out for another cast. Everyone was focused and intent on a trophy of a lifetime. Behind me I heard water break, and a giant head was breaking water as I turned and watch Garrett bend his rod double. This fish was something special and after heart stopping jumps and runs the 31" trout came to hand. She and all the other players in the symphony were there all on time. Year to year I say don't wait for the best time, because it is now. Let's find your day in the water to get you tuned in and ready to follow and figure out the pieces of the puzzle.

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Capt Joey Farah on Facebook and Instagram
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Packery Flats WINTER Clean Up!

It's time for the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program Packery Flats WINTER Cleanup! We will team up with Coastal Bend Bays Foundation Adopt-A-Beach Clean Up on February 4th and expand the cleanup area to include tidal flats and marsh habitats along two miles of Highway 361, from the Packery Channel bridge to the Kates Hole Access Parking Lot.

Registration will be required. On the day of the cleanup, you will drive through to pick up a bag of clean up supplies and instructions on

where to go clean, and where to leave your trash. The drive through pick up location will be located at the main Packery Flats Parking Lot, about 1 mile north of Zahn Rd. on Hwy 361. Each clean up bag will contain swag for everyone registered, as well as litter bags and gloves.

Funding for this event was made possible by a grant from the CITGO Caring For Our Coast initiative. For more information visit <https://www.cbbep.org/national-estuaries-week/>

Tides of the Week

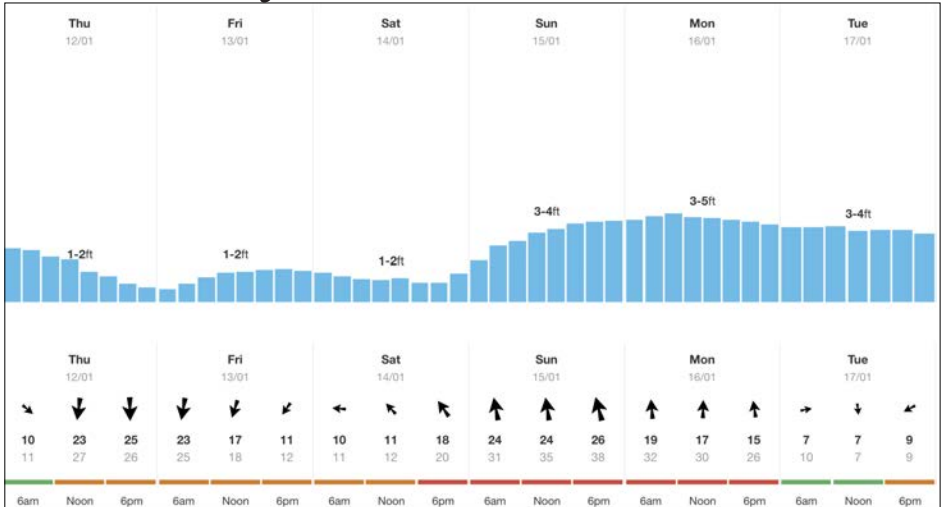
12 Jan	13 Jan	14 Jan	15 Jan	16 Jan	17 Jan	18 Jan
Thu ↗	Fri ↗	Sat ↗	Sun ↗	Mon ↗	Tue ↗	Wed ↗
7:23PM 1.02ft	6:14AM 0.59ft 7:25PM 0.92ft	8:38AM 0.66ft 7:18PM 0.85ft	11:37AM 0.85ft 6:14PM 0.89ft	1:53PM 1.18ft	2:35PM 1.44ft	3:22PM 1.67ft
11:21AM -0.03ft	2:45AM 0.52ft 11:53AM 0.23ft	2:38AM 0.26ft 12:26PM 0.52ft	2:58AM -0.03ft 12:54PM 0.85ft	3:33AM -0.33ft	4:19AM -0.62ft	5:11AM -0.89ft
7:20AM 5:53PM	7:20AM 5:54PM	7:20AM 5:55PM	7:20AM 5:56PM	7:20AM 5:56PM	7:20AM 5:57PM	7:20AM 5:58PM
10:58AM 11:03PM	11:27AM 11:57PM	11:56AM 	12:28PM 00:53AM	1:04PM 1:53AM	1:45PM 2:57AM	2:36PM 4:05AM



Red is 25 inches 6.8lbs and Sheepshead is 17 inches 4.7 lbs. Mom and Daughter from Mahomet II. Cheryl Mahaffey and Jennifer Lugo.



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Nature Notes

Sedge Wren

by Taylor Bennett



Sedge Wren observed during San Bernard Christmas Bird Count at Nannie Stringfellow WMA in Brazoria, TX. Picture by Taylor Bennett

Here at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, each year from December 14 through January 5th, staff members participate in several Christmas Bird Counts throughout the state of Texas. The counts are a way to determine wintering population numbers of various species within a specific area. They are conducted nationwide and have grown to include several other countries as well. The data collected from these counts help biologists and wildlife managers determine what conservation efforts are needed to protect the habitats of wintering and residential bird species.

This year I participated in the San Bernard CBC, Freeport CBC, and Brazoria CBC. It was during the San Bernard CBC that our education intern, Adam Trujillo, and I encountered a rather elusive species, the Sedge Wren.

Sedge Wrens are only observed in Texas during their winter. They are considered one of the most nomadic terrestrial birds in North America. They have a widespread breeding range and are constantly moving which makes them difficult to study and therefore less is known about them. Their population numbers are also difficult to determine due to their nomadic behavior.

Sedge Wrens are smaller than Carolina Wrens. They are round with a brown and black body that is streaked with a little bit of white and have a buffy white belly. They have a pied bill with the upper part being black and the lower part being pinkish yellow. They have small pink legs and a short stubby barred tail which is often held upright. They are very similar to the Marsh Wrens, but differs in appearance, song, and habitat. The head of the Sedge Wren is more streaked, lacks a bold

white eye stripe, has a shorter bill, and is paler than Marsh Wren.

They also have a different song and call. The Sedge Wren male sings 3-4 sharp notes, ending with a trill. Both the male and female call harsh notes described as being like two pebbles tapping together. Marsh Wrens sound more musical and garbled. Sedge Wrens used to be classified as Short-billed Marsh Wrens, but that was changed to Sedge Wren due to the habitat it prefers. Sedge Wrens prefer dense patches of sedges and grasses in wet meadows, hayfields, and marshes. Sedges are solid grasses with triangular stems that grow in wet environments.

Sedge Wrens are ground foragers and most of their diet consists of insects. Their small bill allows them to quickly snatch up food. They feed on ants, beetles, moths, crickets, grasshoppers, spiders and small amounts of seed as well.

The Sedge Wren is currently listed as Least Concern, meaning that it is still plentiful in the wild. Like most migratory songbirds, they are known to migrate at night, which makes them prone to tower and building strikes because of the lights disorienting them. One way that people can help Sedge Wrens and other migratory species prevent this is by participating in Lights Out Texas which is a statewide effort to turn out non-essential lights from 11pm to 6am during peak fall migration time which occurs from August to November.

On behalf of Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, thank you for reading and we wish you and your family a happy new year.

History cont. from A1

which was a subject of interest to English military men.

So in early 1863 Sir Arthur James Lyon Fremantle, then a Lieutenant Colonel a member of Her Majesty’s Coldstream Guard set out for a look at the Civil War from the Southern side. Due to a Union blockade the only entrance to the South at the time was through the port of Bagdad, Mexico across the river from Brownsville. Ships under the British flag were allowed to dock in Mexico and Fremantle arrived on the Royal Navy frigate HMS Immortalite in April 1863. The Bagdad he found was a city of nearly ten thousand people, mostly dock workers, adventurers, fugitives, and sailors. It was the chief cotton port for the Confederacy and was invaded four times during the Civil War years both by American armies and the various factions then battling for control of Mexico.

Crossed the bar in style

Of his entry in Bagdad he wrote: 1st April.--Anchored at 8.30 P. M., three miles from the mouth of the Rio Grande, or Rio Bravo del Norte, which is, I believe, its more correct name, in the midst of about seventy merchant vessels.

2d April.--The Texan and I left the Immortalité, in her cutter, at 10 A. M., and crossed the bar in fine style. The cutter was steered by Mr. Johnston, the master, and having a fair wind, we passed in like a flash of lightning, and landed at the miserable village of Bagdad, on the Mexican bank of the Rio Grande.

The bar was luckily in capital order--3½ feet of water, and smooth. It is often impassable for ten or twelve days together: the depth of water varying from 2 to 5 feet. It is very dangerous, from the heavy surf and under-current; sharks also abound. Boats are frequently capsized in crossing it, and the Orlando lost a man on it about a month ago.

Seventy vessels are constantly at anchor outside the bar; their cotton cargoes being brought to them, with very great delays by two small steamers from Bagdad. These steamers draw only 3 feet of water, and realize an enormous profit. Bagdad consists of a few miserable wooden shanties, which have sprung into existence since the war began. For an immense distance endless bales of cotton are to be seen. We met a skipper who had just run his schooner, laden with on the docks cotton, from Galveston The cotton had cost 6 cents a pound in Galveston, and was worth 36 at Baghdad where it would be loaded onto English ships for transport to the textile mills in England.

Soon enough he crossed to Brownsville where he met a group of Texas cavalrymen, “dressed in "flannel shirts, very ancient trousers, jack-boots with enormous spurs, and black felt hats, ornamented with the 'lone star of Texas.'" He liked Texas but described it as "the most lawless State in the Confederacy," where everyone carried six-shooters, and due to the scarcity of population, lynching remained "almost a necessity."

These cavalrymen had recently made a raid into Mexico and captured some "renagadoes " which they brought back to Texas where they left one man, named Montgomery, on the road to Brownsville. A short while later, Fremantle, traveling down the same road himself, found the unfortunate Montgomery. His arms were bound together and a rope still encircled the neck of his half-buried corpse. "Dogs or wolves had probably scraped the earth from the body, and there was no flesh on the bones," wrote Fremantle. "I obtained this, my first experience of Lynch law, within three hours of landing in America."

North to the Coastal Bend

In late April Fremantle left Brownville on a stagecoach bound for San Antonio which traveled up the Cotton Road which hugged the coast and crossed the King Ranch and was the at the time the main source of revenue for the South. (A story for another day). The road would have taken him to a point at the back of Oso Bay where it split into two directions, one heading east the other north to San Antonio. He made the journey through the Coastal Bend on a stagecoach with 17 Confederate soldiers, half of whom had to ride on the roof. Due to



Fremantle

the top-heaviness of the vehicle, Fremantle considered it a miracle that they had avoided a "capsize." He wrote that he dared not stick his head out the window for fear of getting a boot in the face—or, even worse, receiving a dousing from the constant shower of tobacco juice. He noted that even Texas women enjoyed tobacco, except they preferred snuff-dipping to chewing – a custom that continues today. He was surprised to discover that the women put the snuff in their mouths instead of taking it up the nose, Continental-fashion.

Somewhere along the way Fremantle fell in with a mule skinner named Sergeant who it was said never opened his mouth without cursing and liked to cool himself by taking off his pants. He found the assistant mule driver even more astonishing since his helper was none other than a Texas judge and former member of the Texas Legislature.

While crossing the Texas desert the Englishman recorded his impression of the taste of polecat. After arriving in San Antonio he headed east for Galveston and on his way met Sam Houston who he found vain, egotistical, as well as bitter and uncouth in his mannerisms. He eventually made his way through Louisiana and Tennessee and to the Confederate capitol at Richmond where he met with Confederate Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin who gave Fremantle an earful about a story in the London Times by the man recognized as the world’s first War Correspondent, William Howard, detailing Benjamin’s gambling habits before introducing him to President Jefferson Davis with whom he spent an hour. The Confederate leaders were anxious to impress on Fremantle the need for English intervention in the war on the side of the Confederates, a move the rebel leaders were convinced would mean an immediate end to the war as it would end the Union blockade of ports which had forced Fremantle to enter the South through Mexico.

Watching history from a tree

Fremantle arrived at Gettysburg on June 27 just as the battle was about to commence. He met Lee as well as all of the high ranking Confederate officers, some of whom were Texans and told them of his observations through Texas on his way east. He climbed a tree on three consecutive days to observe the battle that marked the high water mark of the Confederacy and ended with a Union victory and at the end of the fight he provided a hip flask to Confederate Commander James Longstreet as the general lamented the day’s disaster. A week later he set out for New York with a warning from Confederate officers he would be shot by the Yankees as a spy. “He made his way across the lawless areas of Texas,” Longstreet replied, “He can handle the Yankees.” In New York City he checked into the Fifth Avenue Hotel where he found himself smack in the middle of draft riots. Upon his return to England he wrote a book called Three Months in the Southern States which predicted with unerring certainty a Confederate victory in the Civil War about the time Lee was surrendering at Appomattox. But his diary of his travels through the south of Texas provides a unique look at the place and time. It is available on Amazon and makes for an interesting read. Dale Rankin



Deadly Deadlines

By Pastor Kris Bair

I don’t know about you, Mick Jagger, but time is not on my side.

No, it’s not!

Bottom line: I don’t have that much “time” left, having “done time” for seven decades now!

Because of that, my personal time has become more valuable, and the older I get, the less hurry I tolerate.

It’s not that I mind deadlines—I just have to insist they get on my calendar in a timely manner!

And then not lose my calendar or forget to look at it. Duh.

My life used to be timed like those three-minute drills in typing class: dinner in 30, while running baths, folding clothes, listening to the news, managing to bandage scrapes and wipe tears in between.

And grading papers after tucking the kids in bed. After which I slept the sleep of the dead!

Speaking of typing drills, if you thought they were fun, you should’ve had Mr. Walmer for high school English.

In addition to regular writing assignments (essay writing, term papers, essay tests), we wrote book reports every nine weeks (two every nine weeks for seniors).

After reading a book from HIS book list (you know, stuff like Moby Dick), we had two days to write the reports in class—one for a rough draft, and next day the final.

It was the typing drill multiplied by 34 (50-minute classes, you know).

You learned quickly to have that book read WAY ahead of time, and to think about what you might write BEFORE you sat down at the desk.

It was a good lesson in working under pressure and I loved and benefited from the challenge.

But now I resent that pressure—mightily, partly because I can’t multitask like I once did. And Covid did a number on that one.

Some folks talk about Covid fog? Mine was pea soup. I found if I didn’t deeply focus on just one thing at a time (like brushing my teeth), I couldn’t get anything done—for weeks after I tested negative!

Yeah. So I spent a lot of time in bed, and don’t remember what I read!

(Oh, my--you know it’s bad when you start writing doggerel!)

I’ve found, pea soup or not, I need more time to process and get away to not think about any project I might be doing.

Oddly enough, that practice is a fertile one, albeit costly in terms of time.

I work for 20-30 minutes on something, and when I feel like it’s not going well, I quit.

Yep, I’ve learned to be a quitter, though not a Pontius Pilate—I wash my hands a lot, but I come back later and finish.

I went back to college in my 30’s, desperate to graduate quickly. We couldn’t afford for me to waste any time.

I managed by taking three classes one summer and 18 hours in the fall.

Those of you who know about college hours understand that what I did was asking for trouble, especially given that the DD (Dubious Daughter) was only about three years old at the time.

I wrote 29 papers that semester (an English major, I had to take Advanced Comp), and learned the hard way that I needed to write those term papers early and throw them in a corner to marinate.

Several weeks before end-of-semester deadline, having not worried about whether I would finish them all on time, I could re-read and re-write as necessary.

It works with term papers, and it works with yard work, and it works with laundry, too.

As they say in the Hispanic tradition, “Mañana!” It’ll wait for tomorrow.

And if tomorrow doesn’t come, it won’t matter anyway!

My young brain is not going to “come runnin’ back to me.” But that doesn’t mean I can’t enjoy doing some things well and on my own time, if not promptly.

Including making deadline for these columns!

If you’re needing some break time between or in the midst of projects, we’d love to share some with you at Island Presbyterian Church, corner of Fortuna Bay and Gypsy. Winter worship, nursery provided, is at 10 a.m.

This Sunday we’ll be marinating in the Baptism of the Lord!

And don’t forget, we’ll be back on the beach for Easter, and then for regular worship May-October.

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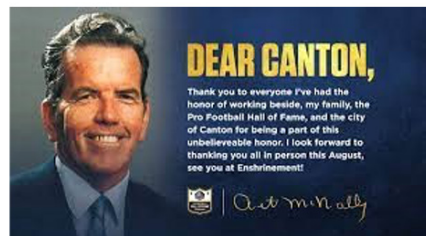


My Friend Art MacNally

By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: I hope the report that follows will give all you Moon Monkeys the full story of a man who was the very best at what he did. Thanks to Bill Morgan, Tom McNally, Brian O'Hara, Siddid Dey Purkayastha, Roger Goodell, Jim Porter and Chris English for the facts contained in this report to Bill Morgan for the photos.

Football Hall of Fame



Former National Football League referee and executive Art McNally had reached the pinnacle of his professional life, and received an honor only a select few ever attain.

The 97-year-old McNally became the first official to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He was one of eight in the 2022 HOF (Hall Of Fame) class, a list that also included former Eagles, St. Louis (now Los Angeles) Rams and Kansas City Chiefs head coach Dick Vermeil, and former players Tony Boselli, Cliff Branch, Leroy Butler, Sam Mills, Richard Seymour and Bryant Young.

McNally's son-in-law Brian O'Hara of Burlington, N.J., said the family was hoping McNally could attend the August 6th 2022, induction ceremony in Canton, Ohio. At the time, it was doubtful because of McNally's health issues that also no longer allowed him to do interviews. "If he can make it, he will be introduced by his grandson and my son, Connor," said O'Hara, the husband of McNally's oldest daughter Rita, who died in 2017.

O'Hara said McNally's surviving three children and everyone else in the family is immensely proud of their patriarch and his Hall of Fame honor. "I never thought they would put an official in," O'Hara said. Although Art was unable to attend the induction, thankfully, he was very aware of the honor he received. McNally, a World War II veteran who lived in Lower Makefield, PA, with his second wife Sharon (his first wife Rita died in 1980). He was an NFL field judge and referee from 1959 to 1967, while also working as a high school teacher.

In 1968, McNally accepted the full-time executive position of NFL Supervisor of Officials. While serving in that role, he is credited with bringing about the first formal training and evaluation program for NFL officials and re-introducing the replay system to the league. McNally retired in 1991 but came back in 1995 to serve as Assistant Supervisor of Officials, a position he held until 2007.

In 2002, then NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue created the Art McNally Award to honor league game officials who exhibit "exemplary professionalism, leadership and commitment to sportsmanship" on and off the field. "He was also key in helping to implement and enforce, at the direction of the NFL Competition Committee, rules changes that favored offenses and increasing scoring," said O'Hara, who feels that his father-in-law was probably inducted more for his work as an executive than a game official, though O'Hara added he was great at both. "He didn't want the limelight," O'Hara noted. "He always said that if no one notices the officials, then they're doing a good job and that's best. He always had a passion for football, but his religion and the fact he's a Marine are very high on his list too."

"He was always great at following the rules," O'Hara said. "When he drove, he would get it to 55, but no faster, and I think following the rules like that was part of what made him such a great official."

Art McNally Died January 1st, 2023



Art McNally, the first and only NFL official, to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, died at 97. His son, Tom McNally, informed the media that the former NFL referee died due to natural causes at a hospital near his hometown in Newtown, Pennsylvania.

The former NFL official will be best remembered for his immense contribution to modernizing American football. He brought several new changes in the officiating of the games we now see. McNally was an on-field official for almost half a century and was inducted into the Hall of Fame less than five months before his death.

McNally's legacy in the NFL will forever be etched in the history books for his work in Instant Replay and many changes in the officiation of Football games. The NFL community is deeply saddened by his demise and poured in their love and condolences for the bereaved family.

Art McNally's legacy shaped the future of the current and upcoming NFL games. He was born in Philadelphia on July 1, 1925. A Temple graduate, he was also a World War II veteran, serving in the US Marine Corps. This is where he first got his first stint in refereeing as he officiated a game amongst service personnel. At that time, he was chosen for this role, as he was deemed a man with the most integrity to do justice to this job.

Jim Porter, president of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, said: "To see Art's decades of service recognized with his enshrinement as part of the Class of 2022 was a special moment for the Hall. His legacy as a strong leader who helped usher in the advanced training of officials and the technology necessary to keep up with a faster and more complicated game will be preserved forever in Canton."

Commissioner of the NFL, Roger Goodell, has also expressed his grief for McNally's passing, saying, "*Art McNally was an extraordinary man, the epitome of integrity and class. Throughout his distinguished career, he earned the eternal respect of the entire football community. Fittingly, he was the first game official enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. But more importantly, he was a Hall of Fame person in absolutely every way.*"

McNally also promoted Johnny Grier, the first Black official, to the referee position in 1988. McNally's impact on the league and the football game can be seen forever immortalized with the officiating command center at the NFL headquarters renamed 'Art McNally Game Day Central'.

Indeed, fans and players will forever feel his impact and presence in NFL games owing to his immaculate legacy.



Art MacNally & Red Cashion

Dotson's Other Note: There you have it. My friend Art MacNally was the best football official that ever "worked" a game. I am happy I was able to speak to him the day before he was inducted into the Hall because following that he didn't take many calls as his health was failing. He was also an excellent basketball, baseball and softball official. He will be missed. Comments regarding Sports Talk are welcome, send to dlewis1@stx.rr.com or the editor of The Island Moon.



By Andy Purvis

Which Eye



Sammy Baugh

I'm looking forward to the NCAA National Championship Game tonight. If Georgia and TCU give us a game like they did against Ohio State and Michigan a couple of weeks ago, it should be exciting. The last time TCU won a National Championship was in 1938. A kid by the name of Davey O'Brien was their starting quarterback. Not only did O'Brien win the Heisman Trophy in 1938, but he also won the Maxwell Award. He was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in the first round the following year. Of course the Davey O'Brien Award is now named after him and is given to the best college quarterback in college.

Before then, a fellow named Sammy Baugh quarterbacked the Horned Frogs and was chosen a two-time All-American. These were exciting times for TCU and the city of Fort Worth, Texas. Baugh was drafted by the Washington Redskins. The following is a story about Sammy Baugh. In 1937, during quarterback Sammy Baugh's very first practice as a Washington Redskin; he was questioned by Head Coach Ray Flaherty about throwing the football. Flaherty said, "They tell me you're quite a passer," and Baugh responded, "I reckon I can throw a little." Flaherty then took him aside and explained his philosophy about putting the ball in the air. "The forward pass is only used as a desperation play, when the team is way behind in points," said Flaherty. Coaches at that time believed that when you passed, only three things could happen and two of them were bad. The good would be a completion and the two bad things would be an incomplete pass resulting in a loss of down and the other an interception by the defense. "Passing requires uncanny accuracy," said Flaherty, shaking his head side to side. Just then, as Redskin receiver Wayne Millner began to run a buttonhook pass

pattern, Flaherty said, "You must be able to hit that receiver in the eye." Sammy Baugh then raised his arm to throw and asked Flaherty, "Which Eye?" In 1937, Sammy Baugh would put the entire league on notice with his very first play from scrimmage, as he dropped back into his own end zone and connected on a 42-yard pass to Cliff Battles. In his first season, Baugh not only led the league in passing, but also led the Redskins' franchise to their very first NFL Championship.

Andy Purvis
www.purvisbooks.com

88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION OPENS WITH RECORD SURPLUS, REVENUE PROJECTIONS

Lawmakers returned to Austin on Tuesday just one day after the state's chief financial officer unveiled his most optimistic revenue estimate to date. This key number sets a limit on how much budget writers can spend on state services as outlays cannot exceed revenue. This session's is the biggest ever. State Comptroller Glen Hegar increased his July estimate upwards by billions, projecting \$32 billion left in the state treasury when the current biennium ends in September. When added to expected state income, Hegar told lawmakers that they will have more than \$188 billion in state general revenue to work with as they craft the budget for the 2024-2025 biennium. That number far exceeds last session's initial revenue estimate of \$119 billion.

Hegar said the state has bounced back from the pandemic in a big way. "What a two years it has been," he said. "The disruption of the pandemic gave way to vigorous economic growth that kept our state in a national leadership role, helped drive record revenue collections, provided an astonishing cash balance, and left us poised to fill Texas' rainy day fund to the brim for the first time since that fund was created 34 years ago." Hegar credited Texas' business-friendly economic policies and conservative budgeting philosophy. Increases in energy prices contributed greatly to revenue in the oil and gas sector, but dampened growth in other economic sectors. While the highest rates of inflation in decades stung consumers' wallets, it also increased state tax revenue by 26 percent, doubling the previous record increase of 13 percent.

While recent economic trends show inflation rates normalizing, Hegar said it was still putting downward pressure on Texas businesses and to add to that, his office is predicting a minor economic downturn for the state economy in the coming year. "We expect a mild recession," he said. "The expected downturn for Texas is relatively shallow and short, but it will not make Texans' lives easier." Additionally, the Legislature will still have to pass a supplemental budget to true up accounts from the current biennium, which could eat into the projected surplus.

The January numbers are a strong upward revision from Hegar's July 2022 estimate of \$27 billion. It was under these still-robust numbers that Lt. Governor Dan Patrick was operating when he laid out his top priorities for the upcoming session at a press conference in November. "We have an extraordinary opportunity unlike we have ever had before to chart the future of the state of Texas," he said. Number one on his list was property tax relief. He said he would like to see another increase in the amount homeowners are able to write off the top of their property tax valuation but wants to see a broader plan from legislators. "We need to do more than just the homestead exemption, whether that's a one-time dividend paid to tax payers - that's a little difficult to do constitutionally - but we need a robust property tax cut for everyone in the state." Patrick said he'd also like to see an increase in the exemption for personal property for small businesses.

Other priorities highlighted by the Lt. Governor included more money for sheriffs in rural counties, ensuring the reliability of the state power grid by increasing the number of natural gas plants in Texas, and continued funding for border security. Patrick also wants legislation to raise the cap on the state's emergency "rainy day" fund, which Hegar predicts will reach its statutory limit in just two years.

Despite the record-breaking surplus and revenue numbers, Patrick told reporters the Legislature would continue its long-time conservative philosophy on state spending. "It may not be the largest surplus ever, I think California had a larger one, but they weren't very smart. They spent all the money and then they ended up in a big hole," said Patrick. "We're going to be smart. As Governor Rick Perry used to say: 'You don't spend all of the money!'"

The Senate will reconvene Wednesday, January 11th, at 11 a.m.

Texas Drilling Permit and Completion Statistics for December 2022

The Railroad Commission of Texas issued a total of 869 original drilling permits in December 2022 compared to 842 in December 2021. The December 2022 total includes 797 permits to drill new oil or gas wells, four to re-enter plugged wellbores and 45 for re-completions of existing wellbores.

The breakdown of well types for original drilling permits in December 2022 is 161 oil, 71 gas, 598 oil or gas, 27 injection and 12 other permits. In December 2022, Commission staff processed 815 oil, 167 gas and 231 injection completions for new drills, re-entries and re-completions, compared to 605 oil, 99 gas and 211 injection completions in December 2021.

Total well completions processed for 2022 for new drills, re-entries and re-completions are 13,415 compared to 9,269 recorded in 2021.

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Sue Wisher was in Corydon, Indiana over the holidays.



Jay and Shannon Cantrell took the Island Moon to the Mayan ruins in Tulum, Mexico.

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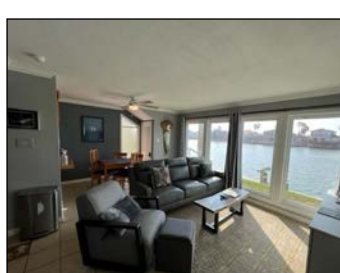


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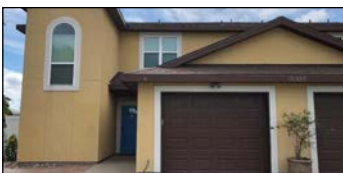
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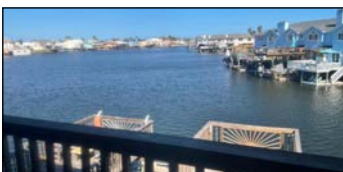
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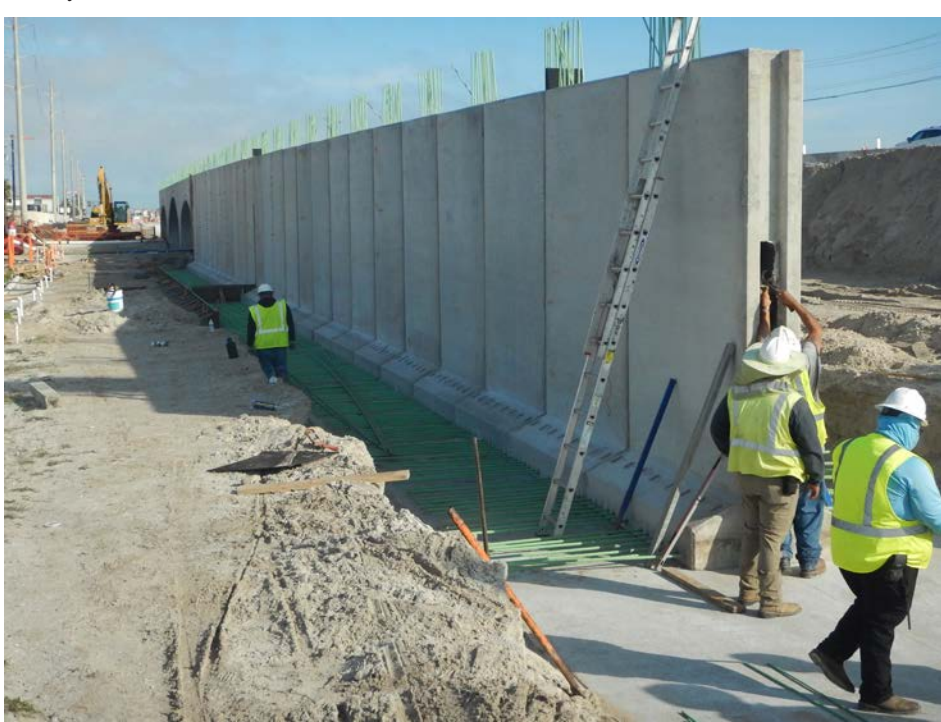


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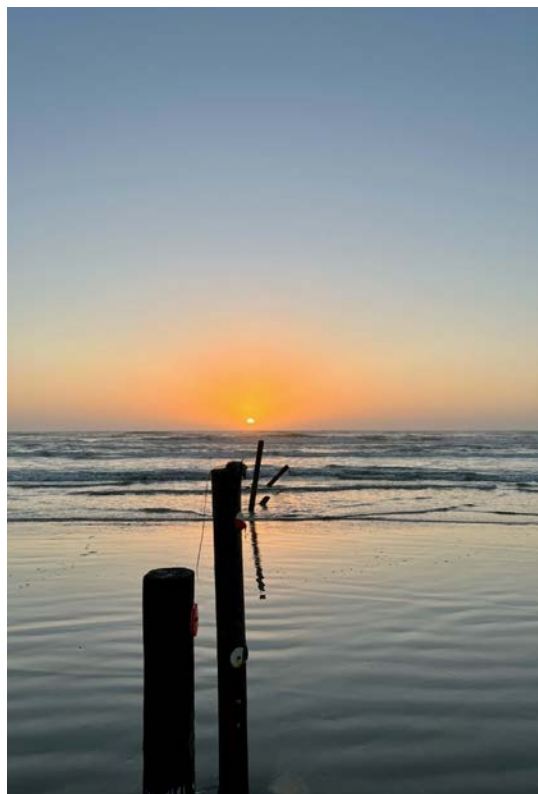
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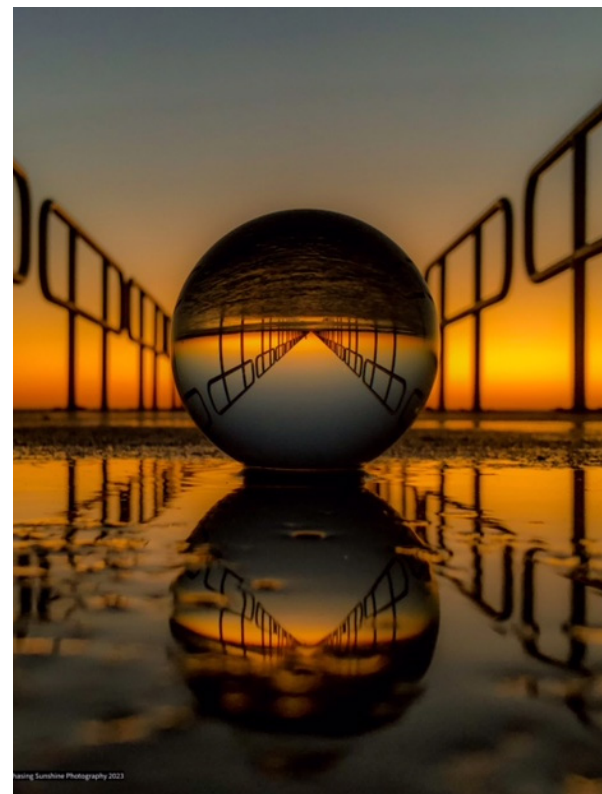
Blow sand is a constant concern for residents around the Whitecap Development Project. Photo John Hale



Work continues on the south retaining wall on the water exchange bridge



Evelyn Pless-Schuberth



By Erin Anderson



Whooping Cranes at Charlie's Pasture in Port A 1-7-23. Photo by Ronnie Narmour



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In Consideration of Delicacies

By Chris Jordan

Why are things *considered* a delicacy? If it is *considered* a delicacy, then it IS a delicacy, dammit. I never understood this subtle malignment of special foods.

Delicacy is just the noun form of the adjective *delicate*: something very fine in texture and structure; fragile. So what is a delicacy in practical terms? Well, turns-out if we're talking about food, it seems there must be at least a little ick factor. Think bird's nest soup or deep-fried scorpions. Enumerable odd foodstuffs are delicacies around the globe but let's take a look at some you could try right here in South Texas.

Oysters on the Half Shell don't seem all that exotic from where I'm sittin' here in beautiful downtown Port Aransas, but it really is if you think about it: we pluck a mollusk from the sea, crack it open, and eat its slimy little corpus while it's still alive. Yum. There are about a dozen species of eatin' oysters worldwide, only five of which are common here in The States. Even within one species, the various waters they grow in can produce different flavor profiles. Pacific oysters are giant and mild, kumamotos are tiny and salty. Oysters from the Chesapeake Bay and Crab Slough, North Carolina are likely to deliver a delicacy within a delicacy: the tiny oyster crab. If I had to eat only Gulf oysters for the rest of my life, you'd get no complaint from me. They are my favorite. But there are soooo many other oysters out there and I've been lucky enough to taste quite a few of them. I say try every oyster that is ever offered.

Roe is a bunch of eggs from a fish or shellfish. Caviar is the roe from any number of different types of sturgeon. If it didn't come from a sturgeon, it's not caviar, it's just roe. There are half a dozen types of caviar available here in the US, and probably more internationally. Beluga caviar is the most prized and — no — it doesn't come from a whale. Traditional caviar service is fun! The caviar itself is served in an itty-bitty bowl set in a bed of shaved ice with a fancy micro spoon. Accoutrements may include minced shallot or red onion, capers, creme fraiche, lemon, finely chopped hard-cooked egg (the yolk and white, separate) and mild crackers or blinis (tiny Russian pancakes). And of course, Champagne. When it comes to roe, we eat the eggs of innumerable sea-faring critters. You don't have to go any further than your favorite sushi joint for a trio of fish roe: tobiko (flying fish), masago (smelt), and ikura (salmon). We eat the eggs of too many fish to list, but also roe from squid, cuttlefish, and snails. Yours truly has even sampled crab roe. Salmon roe is one of my favorites too, but take it from me: if your ice fishing bait is jarred salmon roe labeled "not for human consumption", heed that warning.

Eggs are so ubiquitous in our diet, it's easy to forget they are the giant single reproductive cell of a chicken. That's right, one of these

delicious ova pops out of a good hen every single day. If you're counting chromosomes instead of calories, an egg is chicken lite. Yummy. I'm particularly fond of fresh duck eggs though I don't have a source for them right now. I do have a dozen fresh quail eggs in the fridge right now. I've been wanting to make bacon and eggs with them but I'm still looking for a pot-bellied pig for that endeavor. Salted duck eggs are preserved in brine or salty charcoal and otherwise fresh-ish and usually eaten hard-boiled. The blackened, gelatinous century egg is preserved in an alkaline paste where it cures for weeks or months. I've seen both at Hong Kong Market in Corpus Christi. You can get quail eggs at Asian Market in Corpus Christi. Although you'd have to travel to Houston to find it, the ultimate egg-based delicacy is *balut* which — upon cracking open — reveals a partially developed chicken fetus.

Beef tongue is something you're probably quite familiar with if you're German or Mexican. The German tradition is something akin to how corned beef is prepared: boiled with spices. Sometimes a tongue might be braised if the goal is a little more lofty. Tangy sauces are the norm including mustard, horseradish, and various wine or vinegar reductions. Traditional Mexican preparations include either boiling or pressure cooking the tongue and then finishing slices on the grill. You can get tongue right here in Port Aransas at Cancun Grill & Cantina. Ask for a *torta de lengua* and you will be served beef tongue on a French loaf with lettuce, tomato, avocado, and sour cream. I recommend adding slices of pickled jalapeño and enjoying it with a Modelo Negra and lime.

Frog legs first landed on my plate at Lando's in Ciudad Acuña when I was a kid in the 70s. These *cuissees de grenouille* were prepared in the French tradition: dusted with flour and sauteed in butter with garlic, salt, and pepper. I think they came with a filet mignon. My dad would let me play grown-up and drink beer, too. Dad got a little carried away with the adult theme on this particular occasion and tried to take me to boys town. My protests were ignored until I transubstantiated the power of the bullfrog and jumped out of our moving sedan. You can get frog legs at Paul's Seafood in Port Aransas or Flour Bluff.

Uni is often misidentified as the roe of the sea urchin. It is not. It is the reproductive organ. There are five little strips of orange spongy heaven in each urchin. It's not for everyone: it took me several tries at Origami Japanese Restaurant in Corpus Christi before I wasn't grossed-out. What's it taste like? Sex. Don't eat it with rice, don't put it on a cracker, and please don't drizzle any sauce on it — just put that creepy clump of gonad in your mouth and swish it around. You'll be in good company: birds, otters, starfish, cod and the occasional fox eat them too.

Ann Richards Play runs January 13-29

A no-holds-barred portrait of Ann Richards, the legendary late Governor of Texas opens January 13 at the Rockport Little Theatre, 99 N. Austin Street, Rockport.

The play brings the audience face to face with a complex, colorful and captivating character bigger than the state from which she hailed. Written and originally performed by Emmy Award-winner Holland Taylor, "ANN" takes a revealing look at the impassioned woman who enriched the lives of her followers, friends and family. A mother, wife, politician and American patriot who dedicated her life to helping others.

Whether you were born in Texas or "got here as fast as you could" you have no doubt heard of Ann Richards. As the fiery governor of Texas, her personal story, along with her uncanny humor and plain-spoken truisms, captured the imagination of the public -- those who knew her and many more who felt like they did.

Reserved tickets \$20, available online or at the box office. Theater opens one hour before curtain. Concessions include beer, wine and soft drinks and snacks. "ANN" opens weekends January 13-29, with shows Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and a Sunday Matinee at 3 p.m. Email: info@rockportlittletheatre.com



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PIPOA News by Marvin Jones, President



News you can Use

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

Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC)- On Tuesday, January 10, I attended the monthly ISAC meeting. I routinely attend ISAC meetings to stay informed about City policies and procedures. Wow! This meeting was attended by more people than I have ever seen before. There was a large contingent of people speaking to the committee and promoting their cause for the installation of pickleball courts on the Island. In particular, the group was interested in the proposed upgrades to Commodores Park. The group requests that the City install several pickleball courts at Commodores Park. Other groups were there to promote their particular interests, such as a tennis court, dog park, swimming pool, and community center.

Corpus Christi City Parks Assistant Director Kevin Johnson gave a presentation at the meeting. He stated that all amenities for Commodores Park would be under consideration. He went on to say that there will be community outreach in that a survey will be conducted and town halls held to learn what the community wants in the park.

In addition, there was a group of Commodores Park area residents that voiced their opposition to upgrading the park. Their concerns involve traffic, noise, crime, and neighborhood disruption.

The City has allocated One Million Dollars to study the possibilities for Commodores Park. A consultant will be hired to assist in this effort.

Dog Park- It was announced at the ISAC meeting that the City had signed a lease for the dog park property with a new group to manage and maintain the dog park at the Whitecap water treatment plant. Stay tuned. There will be more news on the dog park.

Bond Money- The ISAC committee chairman, Jay Gardner, continues to push the City to use the 2018 bond money (unspent) for its original purpose for improvements under and around the Causeway bridge. Unfortunately, this issue is a bit of a mystery in that the City does not seem to have a response to the completion of construction projects the bond money was intended for.

Recent Freeze- The recent cold snap caused a small number of dead fish in the canals. As a result, the PIPOA contracted with a vendor to scoop up as many dead fish as possible. Fortunately, the freeze caused a relatively small number of dead fish. By all accounts, the dead fish disappeared into the canals.

Towing- Last week, two vehicles and two trailers were towed from the boat ramp parking lots. The new sticker and towing policy will be taking effect in the near future. The boat ramp parking lots are for the use of members only. The new sticker program is designed to identify members of the PIPOA via verification of property ownership. Thus, prohibiting non-members from using the parking lots. The PIPOA does allow non-members to launch and recover boats at the boat ramps. However, non-members must park on the street or elsewhere. Thus, saving parking spaces for members. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Common Area Maintenance Fees (CAM Fees)- The 2023 invoices have been mailed to members. Please pay your fees promptly. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

2023 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - City Holiday Schedule

Many City of Corpus Christi offices will be closed Monday, January 16, 2023, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

Here's a list of City office closings and schedules:

Emergency and essential City services such as Police, Fire, and the Airport will remain open and maintain normal operations.

311 City Call Center will be Closed Monday, January 16, 2023

Public Health-COVID-19:

- The Corpus Christi-Nueces County Public Health District will be Closed Monday, January 16, 2023. No COVID-19 testing will be performed this week. COVID-19 testing will resume on Monday, January 23
- The COVID-19 vaccination clinic at La Palmera Mail will be Open from 10:00 am. to 8:00 p.m.

Utilities Business Office will be Closed Monday, January 16, 2023; however, customers may make utility bill payments:

Municipal Court will be Closed Monday, January 16, 2023; however, customers may make payments and request Defensive Driving:

Solid Waste Operations:

- Garbage & Recycling: There will be No collection on Monday, January 16, 2023
- The Alternate Collection Date for Monday customers will be before the holiday on Saturday, January 14, 2023
- Brush & Bulky items: No collection Monday, January 16, 2023
- J.C. Elliott Collection Center & Transfer Station: Closed Monday, January 16, 2023
- Cefe Valenzuela Landfill: Open Monday, January 16, 2022, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Animal Care Services: Closed Monday, January 16, 2023

Code Enforcement: Closed Monday, January 16, 2023

Development Services: Closed Monday, January 16, 2023

Libraries: All Public Libraries will be Closed on Monday, January 16, 2023

Parks and Recreation:

- Lozano Golf Center and Oso Golf Course:
 - o Open Monday, January 16, 2023
- H-E-B Tennis Center:
 - o Open Monday, January 16, 2023
- Al Kruse Tennis Center:
 - o Open Monday, January 16, 2023
- Collier Pool and Corpus Christi Natatorium:
 - o Open Monday, January 16, 2023
- Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve & Learning Center:
 - o Walking trails and playground Open daily, from dawn to dusk.
 - o Learning Center: Closed Monday, January 16, 2023
- Corpus Christi Gym and Ben Garza Gym:
 - o Open Monday, January 16, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for City Winter Youth Basketball League participants Only
- After Hour Kid Power Program Office:
 - o Closed Monday, January 16, 2023
- Recreation Centers:
 - o Closed Monday, January 16, 2023
- All Senior Centers:
 - o Closed Monday, January 16, 2023



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Sudoku

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

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Moon Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20				21				22		23				
			24				25			26				
27	28	29				30			31					
32					33			34			35	36	37	
38				39				40						
41							42				43			
			44			45				46				
47	48	49				50			51					
52					53			54				55	56	57
58					59		60				61			
62					63					64				
65					66						67			

- Across
1. Zoo critter
6. PTA milieu
10. French family head
14. Farewell, to 10-Across
15. Claim to property
16. Augury
17. Take blame
19. Good Hope, e.g.
20. Public house potable
21. Race part
22. More in need of a plug
24. Conical tooth
26. Casals' instrument
27. Yesterday, tomorrow
30. Dessert choice
32. Hungary was a member of it
33. Old Ford
34. Naval armament
38. Former Andorra currency
40. Excavation employee
41. Kedge
42. Cruces starter
43. River through Nubia
44. Laser alternative
46. Relinquishes
47. Put down
50. Street sign
52. London midpoints?
54. Pinch, in a way
55. Jacket named for West
58. Queen's nickname
59. Be fired
62. Fireball sound
63. European import
64. Hindu noblewoman
65. Not straight
66. Holmes' "wonderful one-hoss ____"
67. Luges, in essence

- Down
1. Stale joke reaction
2. False or golden thing
3. Stack of chips
4. Walker, on signs
5. Expenditure
6. Thomas Gray and John Milton
7. Freedom, in movements
8. Word sometimes spoken with faith
9. "Where's Daddy?" playwright
10. Loose change
11. It might arrive with a beep
12. Brush aside
13. Summertime in Argentina
18. Biddy
23. Bitter in taste
24. Social worker's file
25. Partner of Wynken
27. Spanish appetizer
28. Paired pullers
29. Tiddlywink, e.g.
31. Lea sounds
33. Carefree adventure
35. Lacking rain
36. Typographer's strike
37. Mars, to Uranus
39. Powder used in xerography
40. Having potential
42. Super Bowl great Dawson
45. "Coat of many colors" wearer
46. Poles used in highland games
47. Ghana's capital
48. Word in some temperatures
49. Close by, poetically
51. When doubled, an electric guitar sound
53. Clashers in Hollywood
55. Luxuriant locks
56. Didn't merely pass
57. Makes do with out?
60. Break in London
61. Gal of song

Police Blotter January 2 - January 9

JFK Causeway to Aquarius

Crimes against Person

13400 block SPID 11 a.m. January 8 Shooting victim

Disturbance

13300 block SPID 5 p.m. January 8 Traffic Stop/ Possession of Marijuana/No Drivers License/ Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon

13500 block SPID 9 p.m. January 2

Suspicious Person

11800 block SPID 1 p.m. January 7

13500 block SPID 11 p.m. January 4

Traffic

37 Traffic Stops

13500 block SPID 7 p.m. January 7 DWI

13300 block SPID 3 p.m. January 6 Crash

13300 block SPID 10 p.m. January 5 Crash

11600 block SPID 9 a.m. January 3 Crash

SPID/Aquarius 5 p.m. January 4 Crash

15800 block El Socorro 7 a.m. January 5 Shots Fired

Suspicious Person

14300 block SPID 2 p.m. January 8

14300 block Commodores 9 p.m. January 5

Beach Access Road 6 7 a.m. January 4

Fortuna Bay/Spyglass 5 a.m. January 3

Traffic

117 Traffic Stops

SPID/Commodores 10 p.m. January 7 DWI

SPID/SH 361 7 a.m. January 6 Crash

Commodores/SPID 6 p.m. January 5 DWI

SPID/SH 361 2 a.m. January 2 Crash

15500 block Cruiser 4 p.m. January 8 Parking Violation

15500 block Palmira Noon January 5 Parking Violation

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico and north to Port Aransas City Limits

Crimes against Property

Beach Access Road 6 7 a.m. January 4 Found Property

Disturbance

15200 block Windward 11 p.m. January 5

Suspicious Person

Beach Access Road 6 7 a.m. January 4

100 block Zahn 7 p.m. January 4

6300 block Gulf Beach 7 a.m. January 8

Traffic

71 Traffic Stops

15100 block Leeward 4 p.m. January 8 Parking Violation

14800 block Leeward 5 p.m. January 8 Parking Violation

SH 361/Mariners Dr. 2 a.m. January 7 DWI

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Property

15400 block Fortuna Bay 1 p.m. January 7 Criminal Mischief

15400 block Fortuna Bay Midnight January 3 Burglary of a Vehicle

Disturbance

13700 block Primavera 6 p.m. January 7 Shots Fired

13500 block Queen Johanna 7 p.m. January 5

15200 block Barataria 3 p.m. January 4

14300 block SPID 2 a.m. January 2 Evading Arrest/ Tampering with Evidence/Warrant/Possession of Controlled Substance

16000 block El Socorro 8 p.m. January 7 Shots Fired



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Public Notice

On January 23 at 6:00pm, during the Island Foundation regularly scheduled Board Meeting, we will have a Public Hearing for the purpose of giving an overview of the financial accountability rating system, known as the CHARTER FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). The purpose of FIRST is to ensure that open-enrollment charter schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and that they improve those practices. The system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to better manage their financial resources in order to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes. **Seashore Charter Schools received a rating of A-Superior.**

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS

The Sunset 7 AA Meetings are held on Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7 PM at :

The Presbyterian Church

On the Island

14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.

In addition Sunday AA Meetings are held at 8 AM at

The Pavillon on the Boardwalk

Near Padre Bali

Limited Spaces Available!

Catch The Light in Watercolor w/Jean Francois Arnaud

Adult(18+) Class
Dates: 1/17/23 - 1/19/23
Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Instructor: Jean Francois Arnaud
Member Price: \$ 400
Non-Member Price: \$ 415
Max Quantity: 15
Remaining: 5

3 Day Watercolor Workshop
Catch The Light in Watercolor
w/Jean Francis Arnaud
January 17,18,19
9:00am - 4:00pm

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED WORKSHOP (this is not a beginner workshop)
 Register here: <https://public.artcentercc.org/web/classdirect/474>



Jean Francois Arnaud is a member of the International Watercolor Society of France (IWS). He has had multiple exhibitions of his work throughout Europe. He has taught workshops throughout France and Italy sharing his insights and technique of watercolor painting.

Crossword Solution

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

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Island Timeline

Compiled By Mary Craft

Island Timeline

1800 Padre Balli gets land grant from Spain cattle ranch Spaniards called Island El Desert muerto “Dead Island”

1844 Padre Balli leaves

1845 Republic of Texas becomes 28h state

1847 Singer family shipwrecked on the Island

1861 Texas seceded

1969 Civil war troops occupy island - Singers move to the Bluff 1869 Texas re-admitted

1879 Dunn Ranch established

1917 Dunn house built near Packery Channel

1925 Jones family from Kansas purchase 3500 acres Island from Dunn family

Colonel Sam Robertson purchased 80 acres from the Dunn family.

1927 Don Patricio Causeway Colonel Sam Robertson started PI Development Company

1933 A hurricane destroys causeway (this was before the hurricanes were named)

1947 Manually operated barge overpass just north of CC pass. M.E. Allison from San Antonio firm handled revenue bonds for causeway.

1948 Nicholson Grocery store built and opened in Flour Bluff near causeway.

1949 Intracoastal dredged - last cattle drive across laguna

1950

June North Padre Island Causeway with swing bridge \$1 toll. First person to cross was a cotton farmer from Portland Frank Morris at 5 am. Three thousand cars passed that first day.

Nueces Beach Park Pier 300” long ended in T Head was built. Bath house, beach house, Padre Grill and Ira’s Bait Shop also in the park.

Red Dot Bait Shop Ace Kimberly where Doc’s is later moved to causeway had pier, cafe and boat rental.

Jones family forms Padre Island Development Company

Jones family PI Land & Cattle Company gave 3 park sites to county. On the beach, 140 acres on the Packery channel and 400 acres near the “ski basin”

1951

Loma Alta motel built on a 30 foot bluff on the main road El Camino de los Padres where Loma Alta Plaza is. Mr. E.O. Lehman and his wife built motel and lived there with their two children. They rented out four kitchenette units and expected to build 20 more plus tennis court and pool but never materialized. When the Desegregation Act was passed in 1964 Mr. Lehman said he did not want someone to tell him who he had to rent to so he closed the motel. He and his wife continued to live there until they passed away.

The Sea ranch Motel on main road two kitchenette units opened initially with plans for 40. Purchased by a buyer from Mexico in 1970 who changed the name to Monterrey Motel. The Patels the current owners purchased the motel in 1992 and it has 24 units.

Lebby’s Grill opened near pier. Padre Grill near pier

1952

Padre Island Museum opened at the Gulf Park administration building with treasures washed ashore, shells, Indian artifacts, driftwood, coins, a mahogany skiff and primitive canoe.

Gulf Park Pier added additional 300’ and another T Head to make pier 600’.

1953

First house built on dry lot near Packery Park (it’s near Berkshire Hathaway Realty building. 14302 Sand Dollar another built at 14241

Playa del Rey

Gulf Park Pier name changed to Bob Hall Pier.

1st Walkathan from Bob Hall Pier to Port Aransas and back 40 miles. Event was started by Causeway Public Relations Director Cash Asler to promote causeway in May to draw out of season crowd.

The Beach Club with indoor/outdoor seating opened south of pier. Land leased from Padre Island Development Company.

Fisherman’s Folly lighted pier at Humble Channel had 10 skiffs and 10 outboard motors for rent.

Miller’s Cafe north side of causeway east of intracoastal

Parker’s Bait Stand on causeway first bait stand on causeway was on right side. It had four yellow jacket boats and 20 skiffs.

Wes Harmon’s Intracoastal Bait Stand had a 400’ pier ten v-bottom wooden boats and 12 Lone Star aluminum boats.

Graham’s east side of intracoastal on causeway side 75’ pier 8 lone star 6 skiffs

Rush’s Bait Stand on north side of intracoastal on Island had 500’ pier and rented out 30 boats.

1954

PI Development Company sales office on SPID 14318 torn down 2021

Ira Van Loh Dunes Drive-in Grocery 15715 SPID built home to live in behind it. When first arrived lived at Corpus Christi Pass became commercial fishermen because of so many fish there including “Pike”

Wright’s Intracoastal Bait Stand on north causeway side

1955

Gulf Park has cabanas to rent with a sink, bench, shower and electricity \$3.50/24 hours pay at toll booth.

M.E. Allison builds waterfront home on Packery channel Four Winds Cafe at Gulf Park

1956

Total of seven homes built near Packery. Three on channel and two on dry lots Playa del Rey and one on Sand Dollar plus Dunn

ome

ounty cabanas on stilts at pier with shower, nk, bench and electricity Benny’s Cafe on auseway

957

Opal’s Cafe opens on causeway with three oat launching ramps.

he museum in the Gulf Park administration uilding closed because new park manager wanted more space.

lbert Jones owns 83% of island (parks are st) sold half died at age 83.

renchy’s Curio Shop & Lounge opens near ob Hall Pier built by Eugene French. Old ottles, coins, driftwood, treasures, shells. A waterfall made of seashells and volcanic rock. Opened in May and by August \$25,000 worth f business.

958

ight Cottages three miles south of pier estroyed by high tide and wind.

959

ohn Bean Pier built on intracoastal Open eaches Act

nnual Walkathan 40 miles started at Bob all pier and went to Port A and back added fss Padre Island and Mr. Corpus Christi ontests.

960

eeeco Oil & Gas from Miami purchased 2000 cres north end \$1126/acre purchased from PI and & Cattle Company

1.5 million marina/hotel planned on Packery resident Lee Ratner V.P. Sam Codomo

ensus 168,000 CC

2’ shrimp boat named “Tinker” hit Bob all Pier leaving 10’ gap. 15 people stranded 1 2 hours.

I Land & Cattle Company put up arricades 2 mile stretch on Beach either side f pier made of railroad ties. Claim they own each and do not want to be liable. Private eople who want to go through need to sign ability form. Gave county sites for 3 parks in 950 on beach and one 140 acre and another 00 acre and only one developed so took back ind.

adre Park, Inc pre-development Sale \$50 own \$25/month

adre Island National Seashore introduced in ongress 1961 September Hurricane Carla

hurricane Carla wiped out: ob Hall Pier 600’ first time destroyed by urricane

Also destroyed near pier: **Frenchy’s Curio and Dollar Cafe**

of 10 cabanas on pilings playground

auseway closed for 5 months

estroyed many shacks and shanties along each Road on Mustang Island to Port A was at through

962

rench the Beachcomber built at southeast orner of Hwy 361 and SPID

ob Hall Pier rebuilt 1200’ three T sections. edication October Miss Bob Hall Pier and shing contests. No causeway toll that day.

ra’s Dune’s Drive-in grocery and aquarium built where the Tradewinds enter large green building is

adre Island Park by pier with Lighthouse oncession stand, brightly colored striped anvas cabanas

eb ’62 causeway reopened

ackery Park Asphalt road to 50 acre

963

ugust French the Beachcomber fire

ovember President Kennedy signs bill to stablish PINS. Causeway name changed to FK causeway.

arry Laws a teenager who vacationed in lawaii wanted to bring surfing to Padre rented ut surf boards near pier

964

rench the Beachcomber Club rebuilt and xpanded Polynesiand style style. Sophisticate ining and dancing in the private club. Private lub servers and go-go dancers topless with asties and bikini briefs. Seafood restaurants ith seating for 100. Live music ever weekend outdoor patio more casual held up to 250 eople. The first topless wedding there 1967. here was a ringtail monkey named Chatterbo: ept out front. Aquarium with seahorses.

lew Bath House at pier on 15’ pilings with ay and night law enforcement.

965

3en Marks with the Great Western

vestment Corporation group from Corpus hristi purchased 3704 acres, 1300 submerged cres The president was Jack Modesett Jr. uestors were L.A. McNeil, Frank Zack, ul Haas, O.D. Edwards, Jack Ryan and Wm owers. New You investors were C.H. Marks nd I.H. Josclow. Bought from Leeco Oil & as who owned since 1960 not mineral rights

airy Queen Steve Odonovich owner later uilding part of Seashore Learning Center. orn down 2017 after Hurricane Harvey.

INS headquarters near toll booth.

intracoastal Cafe Earl Garbe Rainbow Bait hop

arker Bait Shop

966

awsuit by land owners determine fair marke 0,000 acres acquired for development of PIN: ere paid \$2 million.

967

IIIC start building seawall 4200’ to protect illion Dollar Inn Million Dollaar Inn built

auseway paid off - no more toll

ader & Assc engineering firm from Miami raw up master plan.

irst topless wedding at French the eachcomber Club where she performed as pless go-go dancer. Bride was given away by renchy.

eptember Hurricane Beulah

Bob Hall Pier third tier destroyed after

Hurricane Beulah becomes 800’. Destroyed concrete tables and cabanas on stilts not replaced. Padre Grill run by Gus Mergele.

Barca Pirata Curio & Restaurant near pier destroyed not replaced. It had art exhibit for Texas artists. Shop was shaped as a ship at sea Bealah cut several passes on Mustang Island

1968

Start Galleon bay subdivision bulkheads, streets, infrastructure and street lights made to look like gaslights

\$1 million in lots sold \$5.5 million in sales

Seawall completed by Heldenfels Bros and is the only private seawall 4200 feet

Causeway and bridge named JFK

Jito Snack or Pack Foods

Island House built at a cost of \$1.6 million 44 condos on original plan went to 72 due to demand. Condo cost \$20-25,000. First condos

Ladybird Johnson dedicated Padre Island National Seashore Western Isle Motel/ restaurant

Dairy Queen run by Obronovich family acros from Bob Hall entrance.

Seahorse Riding Stable on beach south of Million Dollar Inn.

Padre Recreation Sky-Slide at beach and Aqua skiffs at Packery Channel across from Galleon Bay entrance

1969

14houses,284condos Complete galleon subdivision \$8 million sold

First subdivision house on Goldfish - 2nd on Aquarius others on Emerald

Surfside Condos on Windward across street from Portofino Condos built at a cost of \$1 million has 44 units

As of June 1969 that year 300 guest drove or flown in. Island has 1,054 property owners

Malaquite Visitor Center completed larger than present and boardwalk. No dunes due to cattle grazing.

Unsold Property sold to Budget Industries \$6.5 million was 20% developed

1970

Marks sells to Financial Corp of America (Budget Industry) from California. PIIS becomes subsidiary.

Golf course completed (Graham) 9 holes Padre Island Country Club hires Gene Graham Civil Engineer (previously worked for Heldenfels Bros)

Gulfstream Condos built 132 units 6 story \$2.5 mil 24”pipeline put in

361 bridge made 20 ft not 13 ft cost difference paid by PIIC Thunderbird shell shop

Monterrey Motel name was Sea Ranch bought by buyer from Mexico 1970 Hurricane Celia

David Chamorro took over management hire Charles Terrell President of sales were friends in Florida.

1971

Water treatment plant

1972

Million Dollar Inn sold to Braniff

Seawall injunction by state and county had extension halted

only privately owned seawall. Developers wanted to extend to

Packery Channel state said not allowed due to Open Beaches Act.

There was a San Antonio to Padre Auto Rallye 400 miles 250 entrants finishing point PICC sponsored by PIIC

Miss Padre Isles was a 28’ Bertram power cruiser that offered sightseeing, deep sea fishing or cruising.

3000’ tow wall completed - 1200 south

stucco street signs put in Galleon Bay subdivision

PIIC accounting office where Angry Marlin i

Sales movie made of Emerald Street 20 minutes long shown abroad.

PIIC sales offices 28 in US 5 in other countries Billings Bait stand Gene Gianotti owner

Island Fairway Estates

1973

Braniff Place replaced Million Dollar Inn opens

Red Carpet with 150 rooms 6 floors built where Holiday Inn is now

High bridge completed 73’ high - no more swing bridge

Portofino built and made the 8 story building the tallest on the Island. 54 units Efficiency, 2-3 BR price range \$21-55,000 Back 9 opens at the golf course

Mariner’s Cay Frankfurt salesman sold most units to Germans

Padre Isles Country Club back 9 completed

St. Andrews Church

PIIC 235 employees Party Boat Sally D gives tours to potential buyers.

1974

Braniff closed

PIIC banner year \$24 million

Injunction settled - developers retain sea wall state gains 200 acres north and county land south

Tradewinds subdivision

Island Services - subsidy of PIIC - did Island maintenance, mowing , security and started arranging vacation trips by bus from Canada

Packery Channel bridge 20’ clearance originally going to be 13’ PIIC paid difference

1975

93 houses 500 condos

Anchor Resort built - originally named Puerto del Padre first condos on canals

Puenta Vista built 77 units Baseball players part of investment firm Ron Santo White Sox, Johnny Bench Cincinnati Reds and Glen Beckert San Diego Padres.

New Country Club manager Swiss born Renato Retteghieri 7/11 convenience store corner Hwy 361

Johnno’s opens half mile south of pier (which was address) John Nicholson (grocery store family) owner

1976

First La Posada began by Father Patricio of St Andrews Fairway villas built 47 units 1-2BR

Louis Rawalt dies

First duplex built on Island on Cruiser 7/11 is the second convenience store on Island built at corner of SPID and Encantada

Tennis Pro Shop built on the tennis complex at PI Country Club.

First duplex in Tradewinds

Water Treatment Plant

1977

Ports o’ Call completed 213 acres - lots sold with building compulsion. If you bought a lot you had so much time to build on it. No more land speculation.Wider canals prove more elevation.

Red Carpet Inn name change to Padre Island Beach Hotel Maverick Market SPID and Aquarius

Fairway Villas

Causeway median put in

C-101 Sea Sculptures at J.P. Luby Park

PIIC planted 4,000 Australian pines (many killed by freeze) natal plum, Spanish diggers, cacti and other shrubery.

1978

Tennis Davis Cup tournament sponsored by PIIC and the Tennis Assoc of Corpus Christi 17 million watched in Canada and Venezuela

Completion Barataria Bay 273 acres 1,050 lots.

Chicken In Hamburger out Restaurant where Berkshire Hathaway building - can still see drive-thru window owned by Ralph Guttman

Trice Island Surfwear Shop at the corner of Whitecap and SPID - torn down since

There was a bad oil spill

Traffic light added at Park Rd 22 & Hwy 361

1980 more than 200 homes

Million Dollar Inn buildings with hotel rooms torn down

Casa Europa

Second Maverick Market SPID & Whitecap

1979

Fairway Estates started originally planned for townhomes but no interest so built single family homes.

1980

Hurricane Allen destroyed Whitecap and Gypsy bridges isolating residents. Closed for months. Caliche roads Nemo to Whitecap and Aquarius extension to Barataria.

Seawall repair \$1.2 million paid by condo owners.

Island Surf & Sunwear at corner of Whitecap and SPID.

more than 200 homes

1981

Island annexed by the city. Island no longer self run.

Padre Island Baptist Church

Eagle Run Condos

Mexican oil spill

1982

Sea Pines subdivision begun - 46 acres Padre Gift Shop

Day & Night Boardwalk

Mariner’s Cay???

1983

Big Shell strip furniture store built and the Nautical Showcase Gift Shop.

1984

J. P. Luby Park - recreational area created at the beach with gazebo, volleyball courts near where Packery Channel is now. They tried to create a good surfing spot with breakers in the water to get surfers to move from Bob Hall Pier where fishermen complained.

Padre Islander T-Shirt Shop SPID near Hwy 361

1985 Dug Cape Summer canals - “ski alley” that never got bulkheaded

Cane Harbor Street on Lake Padre - 47 home sites created

Development of Island Fairway Estates with homes on golf course

Whataburger

PIIC built building where American Bank is and moved out of Million Dollar Inn

1986

PISS Padre Island Sailing Society started at Anchor Resort. Named changed in order to be part of the clubs nationwide and moved to PI Yacht Club.

Island Sports added to Padre Islander T-shirt Shop.

Nunnery on Playa del Rey

1987

Million Dollar Inn main building razed

Island Italian Restaurant

First Taste of the Island Celebration De Las Pesca

Marker 37 Marina

1988 Padre Island Business Association founded.

1989

More Timeline info to come soon!



Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour

ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Blues great Steve James dies...



Steve James & Ronnie at the Flats Lounge in 2009.

I got a call from an old friend of mine in San Antonio this week. **Jim Beal** (retired arts writer for the *San Antonio Express-News*) called to tell me that we had lost another good friend this week. **Steve James** died in Austin of brain cancer. He was 72. Originally from upstate New York, Steve was a blues historian, performer and a talented luthier whose main concentration was traditional and acoustic country blues and his finger picking style on guitar, mandolin, dobro and banjo was unsurpassed. I represented Steve as his booking agent in Austin in the 90's when I was the in-house agency for the *Antone's Record Label*. Steve could tell you any and every fact pertaining to old timey country blues by such artists as **Furry Lewis, Mississippi John Hurt, Muddy Waters, Lightning Hopkins, Sonny Boy Terry, Howlin' Wolf, Leadbelly and Mance Lipscomb**, etc. He also played along with various musicians including **Bo Diddley, John P. Hammond and Dave Van Ronk**. Steve James was essentially a genius and authored several music instructional manuals and history books, and penned many, many blues songs. I was first introduced to Steve through the late **Gary Primich**, a world class harmonica player that I represented during the same time period. Steve was especially popular in Europe and spent much of his time touring Scandinavia as well as mainland Europe. He was a star in France. I remember one time I had several of my artists out on tour in the same southern region of the US at the same time when I orchestrated a show in Helena, Arkansas on the border of Mississippi, at the *King Biscuit Blues Festival* with a bunch of my other *Antone's* artists such as Steve James, **Lavelle White, Gary Primich, Paul Orta, Lazy Lester and Teddy Morgan**. The *King Biscuit Fest* was named after the famous *King Biscuit Flour Hour* radio show in Helena where *King Biscuit* was manufactured and the blues was born. It was also the famous "crossroads" of the south on *Highway 61* where **Robert Johnson** supposedly sold his soul to the devil in exchange for his musical skills. I spent a lot of time with Steve James through the years and received a firsthand education from Mr. James every time he opened his mouth. Steve James was an exceptional musician and a fine human being. He was one of a kind and I'm honored to have known him. Rest in peace old friend... you was a goodern!

Scattered shots...



Coach Dude Dugan will play the Gaff on Saturday

Historically speaking, the first week of the New Year is considered the slowest week of the year in the retail and hospitality industry due to people overspending over the holidays and general burn out. My **Mermaid Gal** and I were out of town the week before Christmas and came home Christmas Day, both with a fresh dose of Mexican COVID. So by this weekend we were more than ready to get out of the house once we tested negative. And brother, there wasn't a whole lot going on around town. **Coach Dude Dugan, Free Beer Band** and the **Groove** were just about it. Tracy opted out but I jumped in the golf cart and cruised around one dead town. The moon was big and full and bright and I sat out front of the Gaff

and listened to Dugan for a bit all by myself. I never did go in. It was really nice out there.



The Free Beer Band will play Island Wine on Saturday.

DO NOT MISS LIST Coming this weekend...



The PA Rockers will start their Wednesday residency at Bernies this week.

On Thursday, **Ron Baker**, of **Charlie Pride** fame, will play *Island Wind* with **Jon Dunnaway** and blues man deluxe, **John Cortez**, will play the *Executive Surf Club*. Also on Thursday, **Eli Brown** will play at *Scuttlebutt's* and **Ruben Limas** will play *Island Italian*. On Friday **Brad Ethridge** is at the *Gaff* **Triptonite** is at the *Pelican Lounge*, **Eclipse** is at the *Harley Davidson CC*, the **Chainlinks** are at the *House of Rock*, **John Elijah and Padrinos** will play *Vernon's* and **Bushbullit** will play the *Exchange*. On Saturday, the **WORLD FAMOUS BELTSANDER RACES** will once again take center stage at the *Gaff*. **Coach Dude Dugan** will have the honors of performing before and after the race. Also on Saturday the great **Back Pew Revival** will play *Treasure Island* and the mighty, mighty **Free Beer Band** will play *Island Wine*. Also on Saturday, **Michael Burttis** will play the *Packery Bar*, **Tony Ortega** will play *Blackbeard's on the Bay* and **Downtown Eli Brown** will play *La Linea Wine*. On Sunday, **Diamond's Edge** will be back at the *Pelican*. **Tumble Dry Low** will bring their country show to *Bernie's Beach House* and the **Koffin Kats** will play the *House of Rock*. Also on Sunday, **Jennifer Gayle Bradley** will play *Blackbeard's* and **Michael Burttis** will play the *Salty Dolphin*. On Tuesday, **Ruben Limas** will play *Blackbeard's* and **Billy Snipes** will play *Doc's*. On Wednesday the over-the-top **PA Rockers** will blow the roof off of *Bernie's Road House* for the finest representation of a 60's sock hop anywhere. Also on Wednesday, the raucous rockabilly boys, **Riptide**, will play their Wednesday residency at the *Port Aransas VFW* as they do every Wednesday and **Kevin Kurtz** will clone **George Strait** at the *Pelican* and **Ruben Limas** will clone **Bob Dylan** at *Blackbeard's on the Bay*... plus it's my 70th birthday.

On the horizon...



Brad Ethridge will play the Gaff on Friday.

On the near horizon, don't forget that the *Gaff* now has **Minnow Racing** every Monday. That's right, from the folks that bring you power tool racking twice a month now bring you bait fish racing. I can't say it's as exciting as the power tools but it's interesting. I do feel a little sorry for the poor minnows that are flopping around on that "track", though. I digress. On Saturday, February 11 the great **Terri Hendrix** and **Lloyd Maines** will grace the stage at the *Third Coast Theater*. Enough said. Be safe out there!

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Triptonite will play the Pelican on Friday.



Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines will play the Third Coast Theater on February 11th.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday,

January 12

Koffin Kats @ House of Rock
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian
Sharioke @ Packery Bar

Friday,

January 13

Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Michael Burttis @ Pelican
Ty Dietz @ Packery Bar
Triptonite @ Pelican Lounge
Eclipse @ Harley Davidson CC
Davidson CC
Chainlinks @ House of Rock
John Elijah @ Vernon's
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Saturday,

January 14

BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Free Beer Band @ Island Wine
What's My Age Again? @ House of Rock
Diamond's Edge @ Pelican
Michael Burttis @ Packery Bar

Sunday,

January 15

Diamond's Edge @ Pelican
Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard's
Michael Burttis @ Salty Dolphin
Shwayze, Koffin Kats @ House of Rock
Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's

Monday,

January 16

Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Tuesday,

January 17

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

Wednesday,

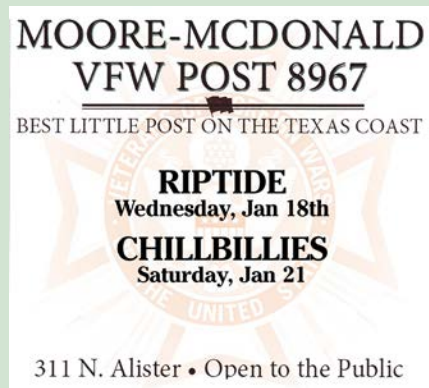
January 18

PA Rockers @ Bernies
Riptide @ VFW
Kevin Kurtz @ Pelican
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Thursday,

January 19

Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
The Daze @ VFW
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's
Ruben Limas @ Island Wine
Kevin Kurtz @ Packery Bar



Friday,

January 20

Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Cruise Control @ Pelican
Alonzo Cruz @ Packery Bar

Saturday,

January 21

ChillBillies @ VFW
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Afterglow @ Pelican
Stevie Start @ Salty Dolphin
Rockaholics @ Packery Bar

Sunday,

January 22

Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's
Jerry Ward @ Pelican
Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard's
Michael Burttis @ Salty Dolphin

Monday,

January 23

Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Tuesday,

January 24

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

Wednesday,

January 25

Riptide @ VFW
Damon Scott @ Pelican
Joe Ely @ ACL
PA Rockers @ Bernies
Billy Snipes @ Scuttlebutt's
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Thursday,

January 26

Ruben Limas @ Island Wine
John Elijah @ Packery Bar

Friday,

January 27

Randall King @ Brewster Downtown
Dreaming in Color @ Pelican
Ty Dietz @ Packery Bar
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's

Saturday,

January 28

BELT SANDER RACES @ Gaff
Mark McKinney @ Third Coast Theater
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
The Groove @ Pelican
Kevin Kurtz @ Salty Dolphin
Michael Burttis @ Packery Bar



BELT SANDER
RACES

THE GAFF

LIVE MUSIC



COLD BEER

OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM

HOT PIZZA