

Issue 986



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Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

March 10, 2023


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Travel Solito
f.d.



By Dale Rankin

Spring Break 2023 came in with more of a whimper than a bang this week as the beaches were busy but not packed during the first week of the annual pilgrimage. That was not the case from the top of the JFK Bridge to the light at the Aquarius/SPID intersection however, as police records show eight wrecks there. The onset of Spring Break was like the firing of an Everybody Go OTB cannon for the Winter Texans as the parking lots along the Michael J. Ellis Seawall emptied out at check-out time on Friday as Winter Texan Rates were displaced by Spring Break Rates.

Funding for Bob Hall Pier

The plan for funding the rebuilding of Bob Hall Pier got a little murkier this week as County Commissioners were informed that in order to use funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) to fund rebuilding of pier it must be “operational” by 2026. That comes on the heels of a move last week to send the designers of the pier back to the drawing board by the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board after it was determined that the first draft of a design for the new pier would cost more than the \$22.4 million in funding that is currently available. The cost of demolishing the old pier was \$2.3 million which came out of the initial \$28.3 million available, which includes \$1 million in discretionary funds each from the County Judge and Precinct 4 County Commissioner. That \$2 million is part of the ARPA funds which currently have \$9 million remaining. The issue described by county staff this week is that in order to use the ARPA funding to bridge the current undetermined funding gap the U.S. Treasury Department requires that the rebuilding of the pier be complete by 2026. If it is not complete by that date the county would have to find other funding sources. Designers and engineers working on the project have told the County Parks Board they expect the new design of the pier, which is only now beginning anew, will take one year to eighteen months to complete and another eighteen months for construction throwing the 2026 deadline for the new pier to be open in doubt. To be eligible for the ARPA funds, federal money related to the Covid epidemic, the county must show a \$10 million “revenue loss” which the county has done making it eligible for \$10 million in federal funds. However, a final decision on how the ARPA funds will be spent must be submitted to the Treasury Department by April 2024. If the county officials determine by that deadline that the new pier will not be open by the end of 2026 the county would have to find other revenue sources currently unknown. The design of the new pier as presented to the board last week includes 25,000 square feet of space on a 20-foot wide pier 18.5 feet above the water supported by two rows of steel pilings each twenty-four inches in diameter place 16 feet apart with a D-shaped deck at the seaward end of the 1240 foot pier. That is downsized from the initial plan for the pier which was 30% complete in June 2022 when county officials nixed it in order to add the second row of pilings. County Commissions on Wednesday voted to eliminate funds for a second floor on the restaurant structure. Under the new plan the first floor of the old restaurant structure, the only part of the pier still standing, would be increased by 2500 square feet from current 5000 square feet at a cost of \$2 million, however, county staff told County Commissioners ARPA would not be eligible for rebuilding of the restaurant. As Precinct 4 County Commissioner Brent Chesney said Wednesday, it’s all “clear as mud.” That’s all for now, say hello if you see us Around The Island.

Barging Out!

The damaged construction barge that has been stuck to the South Packery Jetty was hauled up on the beach this week for demolition. The barge was part of the work to repair damage to the Packery Jetties when it escaped its moorings in the channel last September and ended up on the outside of the south jetty. It was scheduled to be removed last week but equipment malfunctions pushed its departure back several days. A portion of the beach closed during the removal process including the south jetty is expected to be open in the next few days, according to city officials.

Barge cont. on A3



Progress under the JFK Bridge?

Meeting of governmental agencies held to move improvements forward

By Jay Gardner

The area under the JFK Causeway is the gateway to the Island, and frankly, it’s an eyesore. The issue is that it is a multi-jurisdictional red-tape nightmare of various overlapping agencies.

An on-site meeting was held this week with Corpus Christi city officials, a representative from State Representative Todd Hunters office, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) under the JFK Causeway to discuss the dilapidated conditions under the bridge and

JFK cont. on A7



Bombing Ranges in World War II

By Bobbie Kimbrell

In reference to a story in the Island Moon, “Island Residents Receive notice to watch out for Unexploded Bombs” 2/9/23.

My dad Acie “Ace” Kimbrell who later on became the owner and operator of the Red Dot Bait Stand when it was located on the Intracoastal Canal beside the JFK Causeway, worked on the construction of the Naval Air Station as a concrete foreman but did all kinds of concrete structures on the NAS which included the underground fuel tanks, the jetties, seawall, and seaplane ramps.

About one month before the NAS was completed and the concrete work already finished my dad and a crew from Brown & Bellows Construction Company (later known as Brown & Root) went to work on Padre Island building the bombing targets. Dad knew how to survey so he surveyed the locations and then helped construct the bombing targets. He said there were swarms of mosquitoes so thick they looked like clouds. They all wore long sleeve khaki shirts and tied rags around their necks and work gloves that helped a lot. There was a bombing target in the Laguna Madre about one-half mile

Bombs cont. on A3



Oyster rings are an inovative way of combining shoreline preservation and oyster production.

passing laws to protect natural reefs and help the spread of private oyster beds. By 1895 when the new laws were passed oyster production was 76,699 barrels to 123,709 barrels in 1902 valued at \$123,000. The Texas oyster industry was on its way.

In 1999, a high-water mark for the industry, fishermen harvested 6.13

Oysters cont. on A5

A little Island history

Oysters on The Island

By Dale Rankin

Based on the shells found at some Karankawan campsites on The Island it is likely they discovered the joys of oyster eating before Europeans arrived. But that said it didn’t take long after Texas statehood for the oyster industry to develop. The Texas Almanac tells us that in 1880 the only oyster shippers in the state were located in Galveston Bay and they were small operations. But the advent of the San Antonio & Aransas Pass railway into Corpus Christi and another at Rockport. The 24th Texas Legislature began


Future of Emergency Management District #2 still Undecided

*One new board member appointed
Election of board members under consideration in Austin*

By Dale Rankin

Three months after the City of Corpus Christi made its initial offer to absorb Nueces County Emergency Service District #2 (ESD #2) into the city’s fire department the district’s future is still undecided. Discussions between city and ESD #2 officials continue but no written offer has come from the Corpus Christi City Council. Nueces County Commissioners on Wednesday appointed one new member to the five member ESD #2 board, leaving control of the district’s future in the hands of previous board members who so far have resisted moves to combine with city operations. The vote came at the recommendation of Precinct 4 County Commissioner Brent Chesney whose precinct encompasses the services area of ESD #2. Three of the five seats on the ESD #2 board were up for appointment with a total of

ESD Cont. on page A5



IslandBlast!
Fire in the sky on the Fourth of July

Fire in the Sky on the 4th of July!

Still time to donate

Organizers of the Island 4th of July Island Blast fireworks show continue to raise money for the show which costs approximately \$24,400 and is funded entirely through donations from the public. The event is a 501c3 organization and all funds go to putting on the show. Anyone wishing to donate can do so by mailing or dropping off their donations to the Padre Island Property Owners Association office at 14015 Fortuna Bay Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78418-6327dr or by using the event’s GoFundMe account at <https://www.gofundme.com/2023islandblast> or Google [GoFundMe2023islandblast](https://www.gofundme.com/2023islandblast)



Did Ya' Hear?
By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

Business Briefs

Padre Boat Tours will soon be offering boat tours of Padre Island which will be the first such venture here. Business owners Dale Rankin, David Perry and owner and boat captain Robert Pruski will be offering scheduled boat tours, as well as, rental for private parties. The 19 passenger boat will be docked at a slip next to the Packery Bar under the JFK bridge. They hope to be the first boat to go through the Water Exchange Bridge (we need to come up with a more colorful name for that) with local dignitaries. Call 361-252-1510 for reservations or go to Padreboattours.com

My Mimi's Kitchen is now open in the Bluff near Spec's liquors in HEB Plus Center. They serve home-style breakfast and lunch. Their desserts are homemade and the pies change according to the season. The breakfast items include skillet meals like the Southwestern with fried potatoes, suited onions, bell peppers, diced jalapeños, ground sausage, eggs and pepper jack cheese. I love that they have grits as a side dish. They are open 5:30 am - 2 pm on weekdays and 5:30 am - 3 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.



Padre Island Farmers Market will be at the Island Presbyterian Church on Thursday, March 16th 4 - 8 pm.

Magnolia Grace Gelato y Mas near Scuttlebutts serves 40 flavors of gelato/sorbet including 15 dairy-free and 4 sugar-free all freshly made. The most popular are the cheesecake that is often paired with strawberry or other fruit gelato and forest berries that is made with three different berries. Coffee lovers tend to go with the tiramisu and one of their fun flavors is popcorn. The pink grapefruit sorbet is surprisingly popular with the kids. They serve four panini sandwiches including prosciutto & pear and smoked salmon & onion. The paninis are served with zucchini and tomato slices or you can substitute chips. They also serve crepes and waffles (I'm going to try the peanut butter and banana waffle.) Hours are 2 pm - 10 weekdays and 2 pm - 11 pm on weekends.



Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck will be in front of the Flour Bluff High every Wednesday in March 7:30 am - 10 am.



Island Moon Radio is on 94.7 FM on Thursdays 7 - 9 am. On Thursday, March 16th Dale Rankin will be on the air with Mary Craft plus guest Marker 37 and Snoopy's owner Mitchell Kalogridis will join in at 8 am.

Hardknocks will have all-you-can-eat crawfish for \$40 on Tuesday, March 14th and if it is a hit they may do it every Tuesday. For St. Patrick's Day the Dreaming in Color full band will be there and green beer plus Irish Car Bomb specials.

The Pelican Lounge will feature The Diamond's Edge Band on St. Patrick's Day Friday, March 17th. There will be green beer flowing and drink specials.

Bluff's & Boots is a country dance event that will be held at The Landing at Bluff's Landing on Friday, March 24th 6 - 10 pm. Admission is \$10 and includes a bar drink.

Big Shell Bikes has had a location in Port A for more than ten years and is expanding soon to Padre Island. They offer bike rentals with delivery options, mobile bike repair and bike sales. They are currently looking for a location to put their unmanned kiosk and set up bikes that you scan and ride. If you have a spot preferably near the seawall/Whitecap Beach area give Heather a call at 445-7001.



The Padre Island Cigar Company owner Stan was at a cigar convention in Las Vegas recently and is filling up the store with new items. One of them is the Cafeina Ice which are coffee and mint cigars. It is located at the Clock Tower strip center near Whitecap.



Seashore Charter Schools is having an open house to show what makes them so special. There will be a tour of both the elementary and middle school campuses. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. RSVP Amber 949-1222 ext. 1. Also they are having open enrollment until March 31st.

The Port Aransas Community Theater will feature the Kiss tribute band Rock and Roll Over on Saturday, March 11th 7 - 10 pm. The performance will include the iconic fire and smoke backdrops. The Kiss band member rated them on of the top four tribute bands. Tickets start at \$25.

The Czech Heritage Society of South Texas is hosting Country & Czech Music Festival on Saturday, March 11th noon - 6 pm. The Majek Orchestra and The Red Ravens will provide the music. Enjoy polka music and fruit filled kolaches. Admission is \$12 with kids 12 and under free. It will be held at the Moravian Hall at 5601 Kostoryz. Call Sam Morris at 215-9163 for more info.

Random Stuff

My favorite restaurant side dish on the Island is the sautéed spinach at Hardknocks.



Photo by: Anesha Tackett

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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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Pioneer RV	All Stripes Stores
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Kody’s	CVS
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My Coastal Home

Letters to the Editor

I AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.



FBISD

If the Flour Bluff ISD board wishes to communicate seriously and effectively with taxpayers, it might be a good idea to explain her words “recently adopted three disaster pennies.” That phrase in her letter printed in the March 3 Island Moon (p. 12) holds no meaning whatsoever to me and likely others. My eyes glazed over exactly halfway into her first sentence.

Tom Cullinan

Read the article about the new Facebook, boat coming to our giant (unfortunately) little sandbar...and I don’t possess the requisite skills to navigate the Facebook to offer up a few suggestions for naming this boat, so I’m hoping a lowly email might suffice...as a manipulator of wordplay, this is fun for me!!

I came up with these:

1. Weekend Condition
2. Knotty by Nature
3. The Tides of March
4. The Packery Princess

Joe

Hello Padre Isles POA Owners!

The Padre Isles POA Staff would like to remind everyone that the 2023 boat ramp parking permit stickers are available for purchase for \$20.00 per permit sticker at the POA office, located at 14015 Fortuna Bay Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78418. The transition period from the old stickers to the new front windshield sticker will end March 31, 2023. Beginning April 1, 2023, the previous 2022 boat trailer sticker will no long be valid. If you are not able to visit us during our normal office hours of 8am to 5pm, Monday-Friday, boat ramp parking permit stickers can be purchased by filling out the registration form and sending it in to the POA office, with proof of vehicle ownership by the property owner of record and with your payment of \$20.00 per sticker. The registration form is available for download and print from the community website: www.padreislespoa.net.

Should there be any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Gary Klepperich, CMCA, AMS, PCAM
Executive Director
Padre Isles Property Owners Association
(361) 949-7025

Barge Cont. from page 1



Removal of the barge has drawn a crowd this week

Bombs cont. from page 1

north of the northern-most point of rocks in the middle of the lagoon that was made of creosote pilings with timbers attached to the top and another one to Baffin Bay, but I don’t know if dad surveyed those sites or not because a pile driver barge was used to set the pilings.

Those bombing sites were also used for machinegun practice and if pelicans were roosting on the targets when the targets were used strafed feathers went flying everywhere, as attested to by commercial fishermen who steered clear of that area but closed enough to see.

All of the commercial fishermen had motor boats they lived on and could fish any amount of time they wanted to but could only come and go from Flour Bluff on certain days because of the machinegun range located just south of Pita Island on the King Ranch shoreline.

It was a circular structure with embankments all around high enough to stop the bullets that didn’t hit the target which was a steel buggy mounted on a rail below the embankment. The circle was about 100 or 150 yards in diameter with the machinegun mounted on a turret and you shot at the target as it circled around the track. The machine gun was in the center of the circle, the same type of machineguns that were used for anti-aircraft. At night you could see the tracer bullets going over the embankment at times. The commercial fishermen were encouraged to catch all the fish they could because all meat was rationed for the war effort.

Paper Boy

Dear Editor

I have been attending Dotson’s “writing your story” class. One morning at breakfast we discovered we both had “carried” the Kansas City Star newspaper. He received his papers on the Kansas City Southern railroad straight down from Kansas city to Rogers, Arkansas. On the other hand, the Star was delivered by truck to my home town about 90 miles northeast of KC. We were both Paper Boys, him in the forties me in the late fifties. This inspired me to write a Paper Boy story. He suggested I send my story to you to see if it is worthy of publication in the Moon.

By Jeff Peyton
Caravel Drive

The term Paper Boy might mean different things to different generations. For much of the nineteenth and twentieth century, this was a boy who stood on the street in large metropolitan areas and sold big city newspapers. These papers sold daily editions including the famous “EXTRA” additions depicted in early movies. However, in the smaller towns and cities it meant a person who performed the task of delivering newspapers to subscribers on a specific route by bicycle or walking.

Paper Boy was my first paying job description. I “carried” the Trenton Republican Times, a small town local paper. It was published daily except Sundays and traditional holidays. The office of the publisher, including the printing press, was smack in the middle of downtown on Main Street. One could actually walk in during office hours, throw a nickel in a box and pick up a daily paper of six to eight pages.

The only qualifications, I recall for a Paper Boy (or Girl), were you had to be eleven years old and able to walk three to five miles with a “paper bag” or “paper sack” carrying maybe twenty pounds or so of papers. The “paper bag” a Paper Boy utilized was made of canvas. This was about 24 inches long, 15 inches wide and 15 inches deep with a flap, in some cases, to cover the top and a strap. The strap was three to ten inches wide offset from center and long enough to go over the shoulder with the bag resting on your hip. As a side note, the stronger taller kids could pop the strap against the sidewalk and make a loud pop like a large bullwhip. Something I never mastered.

Paper Boys start out as “subs” as I did with my first paper route. A “sub” is an important role for the publisher and the paper boy. It’s important to have subs trained on each route to call on in the event the regular Paper Boy is not available. It’s just as important to the regular Paper Boy to have a sub or subs familiar with his route so he could take time off. Many Paper boys are involved with scouting, summer camps, family vacations or need someone to cover for an illness.

My training consisted of a demonstration of how to carry the paper bag and fold without tearing. The first day I walked along side while chatting about mean dogs or grouchy customers. The second day, I helped with the folding and threw a few. Progressing to the fifth day when I had to work whole route without direction unless I made a mis-

With the work finished at the NAS dad went to work in Rockport helping build crash boats for the Navy. That work ended in 1943 because enough boats had already been built. Landing boats were built in Louisiana and other U.S. ports that were used for the invasions in Europe and the Pacific islands. That work also stopped in 1943. Dad was offered a job of building a submarine base in the Bahamas but turned it down because of having to be away from home all that time and ended up commercial fishing in the Laguna Madre then later running the baitstand. In 1944 the Navy shot off a catapult airplane at the NAS. I don’t remember if they shot off more than one plane but I do remember it was so loud it scared the heck out of everybody in Flour Bluff who thought NAS was getting bombed.

Most of the workers who built the NAS were carpenters, followed by a handful of just about every profession there is. Carpenters drew \$1 per hour, carpenters helpers drew .75 cents per hour and all foremen drew \$1.10 per hour.

Quite a few airplanes crashed making dive bombing runs and others crashed because of engine failure and pilot error. Some of the planes crashed in the Laguna Madre and on Padre Island and some on the King Ranch. After the war was over the machinegun range was shut down and copper bullets were salvaged and sold to the scrapyard on Agnes Street.

take. Once familiar with the route I would load folded papers in my bicycle basket and a lighter weight paper sack over my shoulder finishing my route in half the time. I worked as a sub for about eight months, covering most Wednesdays (regular paper boy was in scouting) and several weeks for camps, vacation and illness.

Many of my classes in Junior High School were mixed grades with older boys that delivered the St. Joseph News-Press or the Kansas City Star. I learned those paper routes paid more and garnered nice tips at the holidays. I was confident I was ready to step up to a full time higher paying route with a larger paper.

A friend carried the St. Joseph News-Press and I asked him if I could sub for him. He talked with the distributor and I was in. There were basic differences from my first experience. The bundles of papers were trucked from 70 miles west and delivered to the local contract distributor. The distributor in turn had drops at different locations in town close to the several routes. Some routes had two drops along the way on heavier days.

The News-Press had subscription options of Monday through Saturday, Monday through Sunday and Sunday only. This made the route more difficult to learn and easier to make mistakes. The daily News-Press had twelve to sixteen pages. Those additional pages made it too big to four fold. Two fold tuck or roll with rubber band were the practical choices. A down side of delivering the News-Press was collecting monthly from the subscribers.

The Kansas Star had an opening and I jumped at the chance for a paper route with them. This was a much larger paper with news from the second largest city in the state about 90 miles away. That also was delivered by truck to a small shed attached to the side of a building downtown. The daily editions were about 20 pages, but a couple of days a week, double that.

My Sunday route had almost half again as many papers as the daily Star because the locals wanted a Sunday paper with regional news and Sunday comics. They were difficult to roll and band sometimes needing a rubber band at each end. My Sunday route had two drops added because of the bulk and weight of the Sunday paper.

The Sunday Des Moines Register was also delivered via the Rock Island Railroad’s Kansas City Rocket to the depot around 5:00 am along with the mail sacks. That paper boy drove a panel truck and delivers to all the hotels, restaurant and grocery stores open on Sunday.

I contacted a cousin still living in my home town and inquired about the state of newspapers there. She stated there are no daily newspaper deliveries nor even the availability of a Sunday paper available except by mail. The hometown newspaper is now a weekly and is mailed to subscribers.

As a footnote, the Caller Times has recently shut down their press impacting other area papers utilizing their press. The Paper Boy, is part of a bygone era. I fear the printed word on newsprint soon will be!



Trouble with the machine used to pull the barge off the South Packery Jetty caused delays in the removal of the barge

Senior Moments



Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Reestablish The U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group-Taiwan



Dotson's Note: The United States has a habit of firing resources at a military problem first and asking questions about effective implementation later, as recently demonstrated in Iraq and Afghanistan, but that does not have to be the case with Taiwan. U.S. officials are starting to get more serious about supporting Taiwan's ability to defend itself. They debate competing policy stances on defending Taiwan (ambiguity versus clarity) but largely agree that "bolstering Taiwan's self-defenses is an urgent task and an essential feature of deterrence," as recently stated by the Pentagon's top official for Asia. Experienced U.S. officials are raising the alarm that China may attempt forceful unification continues to erode. Thanks to Two of my friends who were assigned to the Taiwan Miliary Advisory Group in the 1950's, Jake Yeager and William Gerichten, for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan for the photos.



In the 1970s, the United States used triangular diplomacy to gain leverage over the Soviet Union by opening relations with China and eventually switching diplomatic recognition from Taipei, which Washington had previously recognized as the seat of the legitimate Chinese state and government, to Beijing. Prior to this switch in 1979, the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group-Taiwan was the central hub for planning, coordinating, and executing defense cooperation initiatives. It served as the eyes, ears, and voice of the U.S. military to the Taiwanese armed forces. It possessed the requisite staff and planning horsepower to facilitate the large-scale military arms transfers, training, and advising that contributed to decades of Taiwanese military superiority over China, which has since evaporated.

U.S.-Taiwanese defense initiatives are ramping up, to levels unseen since 1979, due to legitimate concerns about Chinese designs on the island. However, the thick military organizational connective tissue that existed prior to 1979 is no longer in place to facilitate this cooperation. Without a military organization focused on the island, the U.S. personnel, funding, and materiel poured into supporting Taiwan may be inefficiently applied and generate limited return on investment, defined in terms of deterrence and lethality in conflict. To help to deter Chinese aggression, the United States should establish a 21st century version of this often forgotten advisory group to provide the staff capacity, synchronization, and interagency integration required to facilitate increasingly robust U.S.-Taiwanese military collaboration, bolster Taiwan's defenses, and strengthen its will to fight. Despite inevitable Chinese government counterpressure, reestablishing this organization would probably not trigger military conflict and would be consistent with the U.S. commitment to the One China policy, guided by the Taiwan Relations Act, the three Joint Communiques, and the Six Assurances.

The Original Organization

The original U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group-Formosa (this last word was later changed to "Taiwan") operated from 1951 to 1979 and was instrumental in professionalizing and modernizing Taiwan's military. During the Cold War, the United States established military assistance advisory groups in South Korea, Japan, South Vietnam, Europe, and the Middle East to strengthen allies threatened by communism. The group in Taiwan was a reincarnation of the similarly named organization that operated in China from 1947 to 1949, until the Republic of China was defeated by the Communists and withdrew to Taiwan. From 1951 to 1955, this group was responsible for all U.S.-Taiwanese defense matters. In 1955, upon

ratification of the Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty, the U.S. Taiwan Defense Command was established and absorbed many personnel, resources, and responsibilities that had previously been aligned to the advisory group.

The original advisory group was established in 1951 to facilitate large-scale arms transfers and provide military aggression and assistance to deter Chinese aggression. The impetus for establishing the organization was a U.S. military aid package worth \$300 million, equivalent to over \$3 billion today, that would have overwhelmed the small U.S. military staff in Taiwan at the time. In 1950, after North Korea invaded South Korea, the United States shifted its policy to support Taiwan and sent a small team to the island to prepare a comprehensive report on Taiwan's military that was the basis for the aid package. Once established, the advisory group was led by a major general and initially manned with 116 U.S. servicemembers, but later grew to over 2,000 personnel. The group established a comprehensive American-type military school system for Taiwan's officer corps, helped the country to implement conscription, trained and advised the military, and oversaw military aid.

The U.S. advisory group deeply understood the Taiwan military, shaped its defense concepts, and built complementary U.S. war plans. Lessons from previous U.S. security cooperation efforts, including recent failures in Iraq and Afghanistan, suggest that Washington's willingness to influence higher-order issues of mission, organizational structure, and leadership is critical.

The original advisory group had offices in the same building as the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense and U.S. staff sections were directly attached to their Taiwanese counterparts. It embedded advisers in all major Taiwanese training units and at the regimental level and above. All of the group's initiatives were informed by the in-depth understanding of Taiwan's military that was gained through this integration.



The group also influenced Taiwan's defense concepts. It translated hundreds of U.S. military training manuals into Chinese, which shaped Taiwan's warfighting approach. In the early 1950s, U.S. advisors developed *Taiwan to adjust its defense concept from static to mobile defense. The United States later helped Taiwan to shift from a defensive approach to an offensive posture, to hasten an end to the Korean War by implicitly threatening a second front in China's southeastern underbelly.

*A few of us assigned to the 8044th Army Unit in Japan, were TDY'd there for a short time.

Dotson's Other Note: Prior to the establishment of the Taiwan Defense Command, the advisory group developed U.S. war plans that complemented Taiwan's own. It also planned U.S. support to the island's wartime logistical requirements. As part of the U.S. strategy to leverage Taiwan to help to end the Korean War, the organization planned to help to deploy 25,000 Taiwanese military personnel to the Korean front by the end of 1954. A reestablished advisory group could similarly improve Taiwan's defenses today while creating regional security benefits for the United States and its interests. I believe we had better act, before it is too late. What do you Moon Monkeys think? Comments are welcome to the Editor of The Island Moon or to me at Mobile: 530-748-8475 or at dlewis1@stxrr.com. FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The weekly Veterans Round Table meetings are on Tuesdays 9-11AM. All veterans, their families and anyone interested in veterans' activities, are invited. The meeting location is at Del Mar College, Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples. (Across from Ray High School). Also, the Veterans Radio Round Table is on the air on KEYS AM 1440 & 98.7 FM, 8 – 10 a.m., Saturdays. Please listen and call in or text. The listener/text line is: 361-882-5397....It's your two hours, please let us hear from you.



By Dale Rankin

Stuff I Heard on the Island

Water flow through the new canals at the Whitecap North Padre Island development and under the Water Exchange Bridge now under construction has been an ongoing concern for those who live along the channel and boaters curious about what the new configuration will mean for water currents in the canal. A few weeks ago I tackled the question in this space but this week we will revisit it with some information repeated and some new.

The canal under the Water Exchange Bridge is complete and could be opened now, however, the contract calls for it to be open by the end of June and as of this writing that is the schedule. The canal lining under the bridge is reinforced with a concrete bottom and I watched several months ago as trucks ran the concrete and the canal will be eight feet deep with fourteen feet of boat clearance from the waterline to the bottom of the bridge. The canal structure is solidly made. The question is what will happen to the water as it approaches the new canal through Lake Padre and as it enters the canals now under construction at the Whitecap site.

Lake Padre

The first thing to know about Lake Padre is that it is privately owned, including the bottom, so any dredging there will not involve public money. The plans call for the City of Corpus Christi to maintain Packery Channel at a depth of 8.5 feet from the mouth of the Packery Jetties to the seagate where the water enters Lake Padre and a dredging project is currently anticipated in 2023. The width of the seagate was recently expanded from the previous 50 feet to allow for easier water passage into the lake. The estimates on the speed of the water through that area and into the Island canal system come to us through a study done in August, 2021 by LJA Engineering called the Whitecap Preserve Hydrodynamic Modeling Report done for Diamond Beach Holdings which is the developer of the Whitecap project. The study was headed by Dr. Christopher Reed of Reed & Reed, LLC. Dr. Reed had previously prepared the Coastal Model System sued for the analysis of the Packery Channel construction for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The study says a hydrodynamic modeling analysis was conducted to estimate the impacts of flows at the Whitecap site and adjacent canals. The study looked at the water flow in both Phase I and Phase II of development at the Whitecap site with the current configuration of the widened seagate and is based on bathymetric data completed in 2018 for Corpus Christi Bay which included data for the Laguna Madre and Packery Channel.

The study finds that the wider aperture after the removal of the seagate entering Lake Padre means more water will flow into the lake and under the Water Exchange Bridge but the wider opening will have the opposite effect on flow in Packery Channel once the new canal under the bridge is open and will decrease flow speeds in the channel. It was this finding that lead in part to the hardening of the water passage in the canal under the new bridge.

The water speed will vary depending on tides and wind so the following are average/normal speeds measured in feet of flow per second (fps). When water enters Packery Channel it will "generally" be 2 fps to 2.5 fps and remain at that speed as it enters the seagate into Lake Padre. That water speed is sufficient to carry sand in the water column as the water moves through the channel and into the lake. Once the water reaches the Water Exchange Bridge it will flow at 1.5 to 2 fps with the speed holding at 2 fps as the water enters the narrow passage under the bridge; again, water moving at 2 fps will carry sand. Since the study was primarily concerned with water flow under the bridge it does not include great detail on flow through Lake Padre. But reading between the lines if the water enters the seagate at 2-2.5 fps and also flows under the bridge at that speed any sand it carries will continue under the bridge, what is unknown until

the bridge canal opens is what happens to sand entering Lake Padre if/when the water flow drops below 2 fps at which time the sand drops from the water column. Again, it will be up the private owner of the lake to keep it dredged to the desired depth for deeper-draft ocean-going boats. The study finds that at peak flow the water will move under the narrower passage under bridge at 4.3 fps, considerable faster than when it enters the lake.

Once the canal under the bridge is opened in June the developers of the Whitecap North Padre Island project also plan to open the canals at the new development at the same time. If you look to the west as you drive over the new bridge you will see a gap in the bulkheads where the canal makes a southward turn, which is where the entrance to the Whitecap canals will be located. Eventually the canal along Commodores Drive will be extended under the roadway allowing for water passage.

Under the bridge

Once the water passes under the new bridge, which has a clearance for boats of 14 feet above the waterline, the water flow will be southbound until more outlets are cut through during later phases of the Whitecap project but initially, according to the study, the water moving through the canal toward Whitecap Boulevard will move at about 1.5 fps meaning that sand will fall from the water column, the study does not address that subject directly. Once the Whitecap project is complete it will have water flow under Commodores Drive though a new canal which runs directly downwind from the prevailing southeasterly wind and also under Aquarius Street through water exchange culverts. There will also be culverts under many of the new streets in the Whitecap boundaries so when the project is complete it will facilitate flow of Gulf water through the system. Keep in mind that as part of the agreement with the city the developers of the project are also obliged to build a bridge over Encantada Avenue to replace the 30-inch culverts there now (which are partially full of sand). Once all of that is done the flow of water all through the existing Island canal system will increase considerably – hence the name of the bridge.

Potential problems

One of the first matters for observation once the canal under the bridge opens is the deteriorated condition of the bulkheads along the old canal between the bridge and Whitecap. The sand berm that currently separates the canal west of the bridge (dug only a few years ago) and the existing older canal that runs under Whitecap will be removed when the canal under the bridge is opened. This will expose the bulkheads there to water flow that currently does not exist. If you look at the canal behind the blue building that was the old German Bakery you will see what happens when old bulkheads fail; they slide into the canal at the bottom.

I walked the canals along the 6.7 acres of land that is borders the canal just north of Whitecap and belongs to the Flour Bluff school district this week and, while I am certainly no expert, those bulkheads do not look like they are ready to stand up to any increased flow of water and will need to be upgraded which based on current costs will be in the \$2 million to \$3 million range – unless they are allowed to fail in which case all bets are off.

Conclusion

So what is likely to happen? Two things. First the canal under the bridge will be opened in June along with those in the boundaries of the Whitecap development, then sometime this year a dredge project will be done in Packery Channel from the mouth of the jetties to the seagate to get the channel back to 8.5 feet. Once both of those are done we will have a definitive answer on water flow. How that will affect the depth of water in Lake Padre is at this point conjecture, but as stated above it will be the private owner to contend with whatever comes.



Transparency at the Texas Capitol: A bipartisan effort



By Kelley Shannon
Executive Director
Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas

To witness bipartisanship at the Texas Capitol, look to the lawmakers who are working to improve open government laws.

Legislators from both political parties are igniting interest in transparency and creating the opportunity for all lawmakers to protect the people's right to know. They're carrying on our state's legacy of openness. When the reform-minded 1973 Legislature enacted the Texas Public Information Act, known then as the Open Records Act, it established one of the nation's strongest transparency laws. This year marks its 50th anniversary. Court rulings and other actions have weakened the law, but as we celebrate open government during Sunshine Month throughout March let's rally around the bills Texas legislators have filed this session to fortify the landmark act:

Contracting transparency

Access to government contracts allows taxpayers to see how their money is spent. A bipartisan proposal would enhance a law passed in 2019, ensuring the release of "super public" information, including the overall contract price and description of items and services. Senate Bill 680 by Sen. Nathan Johnson, D-Dallas, and House Bill 2492 by Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Southlake, are the bills addressing contracting transparency.

Public records business days

A definition of "business day" in the Public Information Act is needed to provide consistency for everyone seeking public records. Currently, governments declare on their own which days they are open or closed for handling TPIA requests. Sometimes they don't respond to requests. Proposals to correct this are contained in Senate Bill 618 by Johnson; House Bill 2135 by Rep. Terry Canales, D-Edinburg; and Senate Bills 43 and 44 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo.

Dates of birth

Birthdates in criminal justice documents, such as police reports and incarceration

records, and in candidates' applications for public office allow the public to accurately identify a person. Correctly identifying someone charged with a crime protects the reputation of those who have the same name but aren't facing charges. A date of birth also helps with thorough vetting of political candidates. Senate Bill 46 by Zaffirini and House Bill 2309 by Rep. Todd Hunter, R-Corpus Christi, allow access to birthdates in these records.

Public records and attorneys' fees

If a records requestor runs into roadblocks and must sue to obtain public documents, the ability to recover legal fees levels the playing field between that individual and the government, especially if a government hands over records at the last minute after months of costly litigation. This legislation is House Bill 2874 by Rep. John Smithee, R-Amarillo.

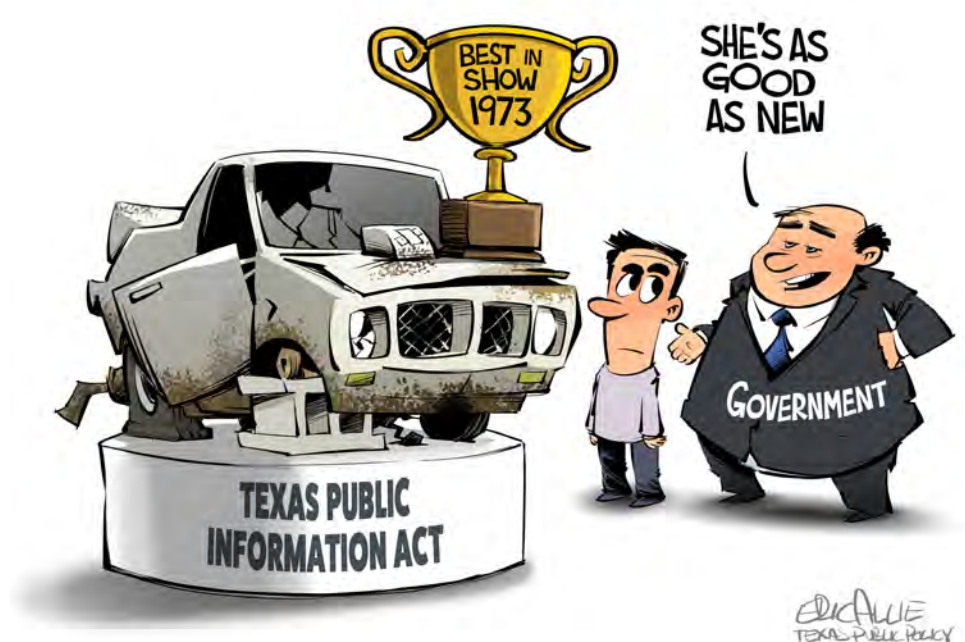
Searchable-sortable records

While some governments provide data in searchable-sortable spreadsheet form, often making it easier to analyze, others do not. Senate Bill 965 by Johnson, Senate Bill 45 by Zaffirini and House Bill 2493 by Capriglione would codify the ability to obtain searchable-sortable records if such a format is available.

These measures are supported by the Texas Sunshine Coalition, made up of more than 15 diverse organizations united around the principle that access to information is essential in advocating for public policy and participating in our democracy. Additional proposed transparency measures deal with public meetings, police accountability and other timely subjects. For example, when someone dies in police custody, the public needs to know what happened. Some law enforcement agencies use a loophole in the Public Information Act to withhold records. Rep. Joe Moody, D-El Paso, filed House Bill 30 to remedy the problem.

Addressing public notices, Senate Bill 943 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, and House Bill 2178 by Hunter would require government notices that by law must be published in a newspaper to also be posted at no extra cost on the newspaper's website and on a Texas Press Association statewide public notice website. This posting through a neutral third party provides an easy, reliable source for viewing public notices. Transparency advocates will be speaking out until the legislative session ends May 29 to urge passage of these proposals that shine light on government enable us to hold it accountable.

Simply put, open government is good government. For more information go to www.foift.org.





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Oysters cont. from A1

million pounds of oysters, not including shells, in Galveston Bay, about 95 percent of the 6.4 million pounds harvested in Texas that year. But since Ike hit in 2008, the bay's production has never topped more than 3.5 million pounds in a year. In 2016 fishermen harvested just 709,408 pounds out of the bay. While overall Texas still had a strong harvest in 2016, providing 3.1 million pounds of oysters to enthusiasts, that's a far cry from the 1990s and early aughts.

Flash forward to the present day where the Gulf Coast region—composed of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida—is the leader of America's \$217.2 million dollar industry, producing 44 percent of all oysters consumed in the country each year, with the bulk of that production coming from Texas and Louisiana. The Texas oyster industry itself has a \$50 million impact on the state economy annually. But wetter weather conditions along the Texas Coast in recent years has hit the industry hard.

First, the Memorial Day Flood of 2015, Tax Day Flood of 2016 and late-May Floods of 2016 forming two consecutive years of historic flooding were major setbacks for public oyster reefs and the oyster fishery in Texas. In fact, in June of 2016 Galveston County declared a state of disaster for the oyster industry. And all that was all before Hurricane Harvey, the largest flooding event in United States history which dumped huge amounts of freshwater in the Galveston Bay watershed. While short pulses of freshwater can be beneficial to oyster reefs prolonged exposure to waters less than 5 parts per thousand salinity will surely result in death. From Galveston Bay to San Antonio bay and small systems in between the heavy rain fall took its toll on the oyster industry.

Prior to Hurricane Harvey, the State of Texas took action to offer public oyster reefs additional protections, some through legislation and others through fisheries management action by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Commission. Here is some of what they did.

House Bill 51 (HB51)

HB51 was passed during the 85th Legislative Regular Session in 2017 and signed into law by Governor Abbott. The original

ESD Cont. from A1

seven applicants, including three existing members, however commissioners left the current board members in the other two open seats pending a ruling by the Nueces County Attorney's Office on whether the board can unilaterally call for an election by voters on the future of EMD #2. Chesney said Wednesday he recommended the appointment of a new member in place of board member Tammy Bolton because she is employed by fellow board member Gary Graham. The appointment of only one new member, Kaylynn Paxson, signals a continuation of the previous board position with previous board members remaining in control; board members have not yet issued a statement regarding their position or their plan. A verbal office made in late 2022 by now retired CCFD Fire Chief Robert Rocha in December, 2022 was rejected in the form of a letter to the city from ESD #2 Chief Dale Scott. City and county sources said this week that talks between city and ESD #2 officials have centered around moving the district's brush fighting equipment and boats to CCFD fire stations on Padre and Mustang islands. A 2020 audit of ESD #2 showed property tax income of \$1,079,348 and \$48,948 in operating revenue. A request by the ESD #2 for a tax hike was turned down by voters in 2021 by a margin of more than two-to-one. District 4 City Councilman Dan Suckley has directed the city staff to draft a plan outlining the specifics of how the city takeover would work. The December offer was to hire the members of ESD #2 and roll its operations into the Corpus Christi Fire Department when Rocha appeared before the Island Strategic Action Committee meeting and outlined a plan that would effectively end the operations of the Flour Bluff based fifty-year old ESD #2 which pre-dates annexation of Flour Bluff by the City of Corpus Christi and make them part of the city operation. Rocha said if the five-member ESD #2 board accepts the offer it would end the cur-

version of HB51 established a commercial oyster license buyback program, allowing willing commercial oystermen to sell their licenses back to the state of Texas, and required commercial oyster fishermen to have a vessel monitoring system on their boats. It also took steps to increase the minimum size of oysters harvested established commercial oyster license buyback program.

New TPWD Regulations

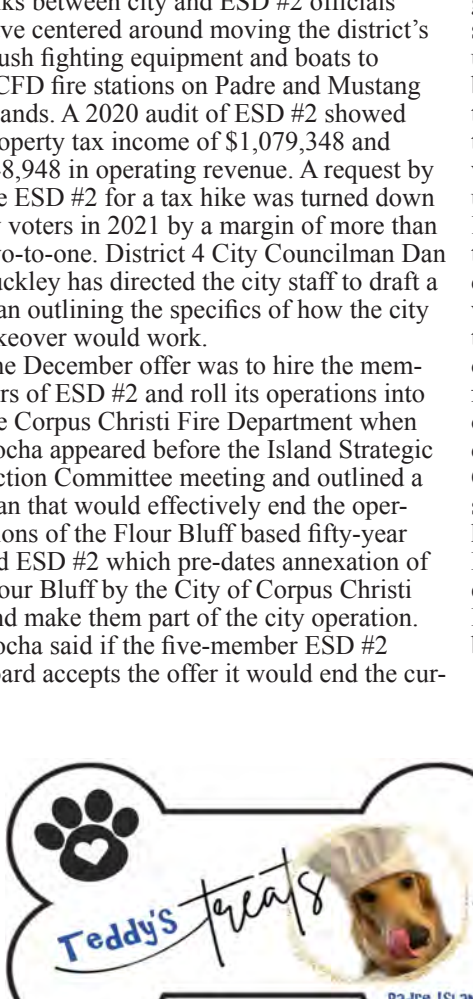
In that same year Commissioners for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) made broad sweeping changes to the management of the oyster fishery in a landmark decision with new regulations to offer needed protections for sensitive coastal areas and public oyster reefs.

But with all the stresses on the oyster population it's not surprising that the quality of the Texas oyster has waned while the price has doubled over the past 20 years. In 2000 dealers paid an estimated \$2.24 per pound for oyster meat at the dock. In 2016 they paid about \$5.50, and as of December of last year, they were paying \$6.20. Today prices are the highest the industry has seen since Texas Parks & Wildlife first started recording the annual rates back in 1972. Houston-area restaurants have increased prices accordingly: In 2004 longtime local food critic Robb Walsh wrote about enjoying Texas oysters at downtown restaurant Joyce's for \$6.95 a dozen. Today the same plate is \$14.95.

Today there are still over 500 commercial oyster-boat licenses and more than 400 oyster-boat captain licenses in Texas, numbers that are still considered too high. Controversially, Texas has also introduced a new measure requiring boats to be outfitted with vessel monitoring systems (VMS), which use GPS technology to track boats and bust any that fish on closed waters or poach from private leases. But while these systems could be key to curbing overharvesting in the future, the state currently has no funding to utilize the new tool. That's right: Texas requires the boats to have VMS, but can't afford the satellite technology needed to operate it. Instead, the state continues to rely on wardens to hand out citations, but there are only 12 patrolling the waters between Galveston and Chambers counties, and they can't be everywhere at once.

rent system of duel fire departments funded by property taxpayers in the ESD #2 district which covers Flour Bluff and Padre Island. Rocha said the equipment housed at the ESD #2 station in Flour Bluff, along with the building land, would be purchased by the City of Corpus Christi including a boat and trucks for fighting brush fires and would be reassigned to city fire stations #15 and #16 located on Padre and Mustang islands. ESD #2 currently has eleven employees which include seven line personnel which under the plan would be hired by CCFD and trained as Emergency Medical Technicians through the city's fire academy. Two clerical employees would be hired in the CCFD headquarters and the chief and assistant chief at ESD #2 would be hired to work through the transition to CCFD. He said the chief and assistant chief at ESD #2 cannot be hired for management positions at the city fire department due to the city's collective bargaining agreement. ESD #2 is chartered under state law which give it taxing authority and under current state law the City of Corpus Christi cannot unilaterally disband the organization, the buyout offer would have to be approved by the five-member ESD #2 Board of Directors. Under current state law cities in Texas with a population of 500,000 or higher can unilaterally disband ESDs within their city limits and there have been ongoing talks in the current legislative session in Austin to drop that population base to under 100,000 which would give the City of Corpus Christi the ability to unilaterally absorb ESD #2 operations. Two bills have been also been filed to make the five-member ESD board of directors across the state seats elected directly by voters rather than appointed by County Commissioners under the current system but those bills have not yet been heard by legislative committees. Property tax payers on Padre Island have expressed a desire to remove the tax for ESD #2 from tax rolls on a cost saving basis.

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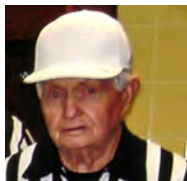
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Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



Bill Veeck: The Maverick Who Changed Baseball Part 1

By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: In 2017, on entering the friendly confines of Wrigley Field in Chicago, a first-time visitor could not help but be struck by the panorama of ivy-covered brick outfield walls, the traditional manually operated scoreboard, and an overall scale and proportion that seems perfect for baseball. This iconic configuration was the handiwork of the late baseball legend Bill Veeck Jr. His father had been president of the Cubs, and young Bill grew up working for the team during school vacations. When the senior Veeck died unexpectedly in 1933, Bill dropped out of college and was hired by Phillip Wrigley, who had taken over the club the year before. Veeck changed baseball forever, integrating the American League in 1949 and creating a variety of stunts and promotions to bring more fans to the stadium. Thanks to Bill Morgan, Dave Kindred and Paul Dickson, for the facts contained in this report and to Bill Morgan for the photos.



Veeck integrated the American League when he signed Larry Doby in 1947

Bill started as an office assistant but quickly took on more responsibility. His role became directed at putting fans in the seats and keeping them happy. During games he roamed the stadium, gathering suggestions. He could often be found sitting shirtless among the fans, with a cigarette in one hand and a beer in the other. He favored the bleachers, in part because of his belief that one's knowledge of baseball is in inverse proportion to the price of one's seat, but mainly because of his genuine affinity for the folks in the cheap seats.

Cubs management listened to him. They installed his redesigned bleachers, along with wider seats, more concession stands, and those brick walls, where they planted the ivy that has come to define the park. They built a scoreboard above the bleachers that employed a system of lights and flags to let people passing by on the elevated railroad know whether the Cubs won or lost.

Today, more than 75 years later, the scoreboard, the configuration of the bleachers, the inner dimensions of the park, and the ivy-covered walls are just as they were when Veeck finished his first big assignment as a baseball innovator. It was just the beginning. Bill Veeck spent the balance of his life challenging and bringing change to the business of baseball.

A larger than life figure, he was a chain-smoking, charismatic, photogenic redhead with a big open face. He had a deep, compelling voice that writer Dave Kindred said "came as a train in the night." Veeck loved the game—both the one on the field and the hardball played outside the lines by baseball commissioners and his fellow owners. He baited and berated the men in power. They hated him in return, and at critical junctures tried to oust him from the game, but he kept coming back. He successfully pushed for many of the major changes that took place in the game in the last two-thirds of the 20th century. The designated hitter, interleague play, a system of playoffs, free agency, and expansion of the leagues were all things that Veeck advocated and worked to achieve.

Veeck helped to introduce the designated hitter, interleague play, a system of playoffs, free agency, and expansion of the leagues.

His role as baseball's greatest promoter

began in 1941, when he left the Cubs and bought his first team, the bankrupt and mismanaged minor league Milwaukee Brewers. He soon turned the once hapless team into a success, not only on the field but also at the box office by including all sorts of fan-pleasing extras—boogie-woogie bands, pig races, tightrope walkers—and giving away memorable prizes, such as 100 silver dollars embedded in a gigantic block of ice. Once he put on a "swing shift" ball game at 8 a.m. for night workers in war factories and served the fans breakfast cereal himself, dressed in pajamas.

Scheduling a game at that hour did not sit well with the commissioner or other owners, but it contributed to his growing reputation as the man who was going to put a new face on baseball. The national media embraced him. Sports writers tripped over each other for profiles and interviews—for which he was a most willing subject. In 1942, after his second season with the Brewers, Veeck came up with a bold plan to purchase the Philadelphia Phillies and have a full roster of African Americans from the Negro leagues, who were excluded from the Majors by an unwritten but rigidly enforced color bar. The deal fell through when National League owners made certain that another buyer would be found for the Phillies, but Veeck would become a prime mover in the integration of the game after World War II.



Veeck suffered painful injuries during the Pacific War that would eventually cost him his leg.

In 1943 at the age of 29 he enlisted in the Marine Corps and asked to be sent to a war zone. After basic training, he was shipped to Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, but he still played a role with the team by using war correspondents to get his thoughts and ideas back to Milwaukee. The fact that Veeck was conducting baseball business from a war zone was newsworthy and didn't hurt attendance. But it was in that war zone that he was seriously wounded. An antiaircraft gun he was firing recoiled, smashing his right leg, which became infected. He was shipped back to the United States for treatment. After spending 15 of the 21 months, he was in uniform in hospitals, part of his leg was amputated. Never one to wallow in self-pity, he threw a party for himself and danced the night away on his new prosthetic limb. But the ordeal wasn't over; he required a continuing series of surgeries and skin grafts.

Dotson's Other Note: Veeck handled the pain with a singular sense of humor. "Suffering is overrated. It doesn't teach you anything," was his word, and he turned his new limb into a sight gag. He would light a cigarette, pull up his pants leg, and use the ashtray he had carved into the wood. Decades later, when he took a bad fall at the Baltimore airport, somebody asked, "Can I call you a doctor?" "No," he shot back, "it's the wooden leg, get me a carpenter." His children report that he kept various shades of brown paint on hand in summer so that the tan on his wooden leg could deepen as the season progressed. Please contact me by phone, text and/or Email for questions, comments & etc.: dlewis1@stx.rr.com; Mobile: 530-748-8475, call and/or text.

TO BE CONTINUED



By Andy Purvis

"I'm Through for Keeps"

As another baseball season begins to unfold, I am reminded of a time when the greatest baseball player of all time decided to call it quits. There will never be another like him. It has been said that for most of us good things happen over time, but for some great things happen all at once.

It was Memorial Day, a Thursday, and May 30, 1935. The Baker Bowl, home of the Philadelphia Phillies, was packed with fans and the excitement of a doubleheader against the Boston Braves. There was also one other reason. A tall, overweight magician with a bat was taking his hacks in the batting cage before game time. At the age of 40, he was only hitting .183 and never seemed to look happy in a Boston Braves uniform, but batting average was not this fellow's forte. The fans came to see him hit long and high, gargantuan home runs. That's what made him different from the rest. He had started the 1935 season off with a bang by getting four hits in his first two games, including a home run. In fact, he was batting .400 after his first five games. Then it happened. He struggled with only two hits over the next month and was hitting .153 when he arrived in Pittsburgh with the team on May 25, 1935. That day would be an incredible day for the "Babe." That's right, George Herman Ruth, also called the "Sultan of Swat," would go 4-for-4 with three monster home runs and six RBI's. Just like in the movies, that would have been the day to retire; but he didn't.

Five days later, during batting practice in Philly, Ruth managed to get hold of several pitches which sailed far out into the daylight with home-run distance. He hit three balls so far out of the Baker Bowl over the right field fence; you could pick them up on your way home. Now, to be fair, the Baker Bowl was a small park by today's standards, seating only 18,800. It had been built in 1887 in an urban area which only provided 280 feet down the right-field line and 300 feet to the right centerfield fence. In order to make it more challenging, a 60 foot high wall was built. Using the same thought process as Boston's Fenway Park "Green Monster," this wall became known as the "Baker Wall." A large sign for the Lifebuoy Soap Company proclaiming "The Phillies use Lifebuoy," hung on this wall. A story told by Pittsburgh Pirates catcher Joe Garagiola, tells that one day someone placed a smaller homemade sign on the same wall that said, "But the Phillies still stink." The Phillies stopped using the Baker Bowl in 1938, but it survived another twelve years before being destroyed in 1950.

Ruth had wanted to quit baseball earlier. He was tired, hurting and wanted to manage a ball club. The Braves had only won 9 out of 32 games and Ruth's skills were fading fast. The Braves would finish with a 38-115 record, one of the worst in the history of Major League baseball. Not



Babe Ruth

only did Ruth's hitting stink, but his fielding was unacceptable. Ruth was supposed to be paid \$35,000 for the year and promised a chance to manage the club in 1936, but owner Eddie Fuchs actually wanted Ruth to invest his salary in the team and had no intentions of promoting Ruth to manager. Fuchs was broke and had misled Ruth to increase attendance.

After that glorious day in Pittsburgh, Ruth never recorded another hit. Ruth struck out three times in Cincinnati before heading to Philadelphia. In what would be his final game, Ruth trotted to left field after hitting a weak grounder to first base in the first inning, for an out. With the bases loaded with Phillies, Lou Chiozza hit a soft liner to left. Ruth tried to make a shoestring catch, but failed. The ball rolled all the way to the wall. Three runs scored for the Phillies and, at the end of the first inning, Ruth tucked his glove into his back pocket and walked to the visitor's clubhouse in centerfield. He was done. Ruth later told writer Bob Considine he had pulled a "charley horse" on the missed catch. The fans stood and applauded as he left the field. Only Ruth knew his time was over. Hal Lee replaced him in leftfield. Three days later, Ruth returned to Boston with the team. Before Ruth could meet with Fuchs to tell him "I'm through for keeps," a reporter told the Babe he had been fired. And so, it was over. A baseball god in wool was through. Ruth never got to do the one thing he really wanted, to manage a baseball team. The question everyone asked was "How can Ruth manage a team when he can't even manage himself?" Babe Ruth never played baseball again, but he will be remembered forever. Eddie Fuchs, a forgotten owner, lost control of the Braves when he was forced to sell the team to his partner, Charlie Adams, on July 31, 1935. In the world of baseball, Fuchs would never be heard from again.

Andy Purvis
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The Island Outdoors



By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks

JFK Cont. from A1

the surrounding area and what can be done to improve them.

ISAC has been trying to get the needle moved down there for quite some time, as the ISAC representative at the meeting and in bureaucratic terms, this week I believe the project showed a little life.

The main issue discussed was the steep, short, and fast exit for the area when coming from OTB. You had better know what you're doing, or you'll be like many others and bounce over the curb, across traffic, and into the salt flats. It's really tight, not well lit, and by the time you read the "exit" sign, you've already exited. Then after you take a Mario Andretti corner, if it's at nighttime, you can't see where the road is, because there's no stripes, to help you find the hairpin turn. And as there's no lights down there, you get the feel of a back alley in New York City after dark. Not very inviting for tourism.

When the water is up, if you miss the road, you are in some serious trouble as the mud comes right up to the road. There were some deep ruts when we were on the site visit, and I can't imagine what the out-of-towner thought of the area when they got stuck immediately. Welcome to town! Guess we should put up a tow truck sign instead of fixing the problem?

The other thing we looked at was the erosion that is occurring on the northeast side of the causeway. When that fun little northern hit last week, we got a 2.5-plus foot storm surge right there that licked away more of the asphalt and put debris up on the road. I pointed that out during the site visit, and I think the people with me really saw what is going on. I think some eyes were opened, and hopefully things will

get off high center. Thanks to Councilman Dan Suckley for organizing that meeting.

ISAC meeting

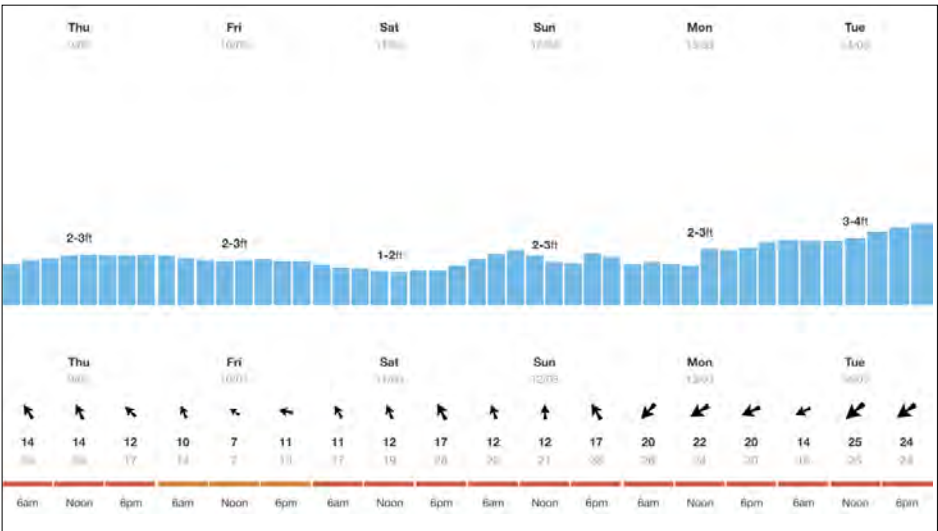
Well, we missed quorum the other day at the Island Strategic Action Committee. I won't call out the folks who had better things to do, but you know who you are. We were slated to get our "wish list" together for the upcoming TIRZ #2 meeting that is scheduled for March 21st. There's been some back-and-forth lately that we needed to get out in front of, but I guess that will have to wait. We were also going to get some pretty good updates on some projects from the city staff, but I will wait until the next meeting that way I don't steal their thunder. They've been getting some things done. There's a positive update from Austin on the second causeway, and we were going to tear off into pervious vs. impervious cover. Next month, I suppose.

CCA banquet

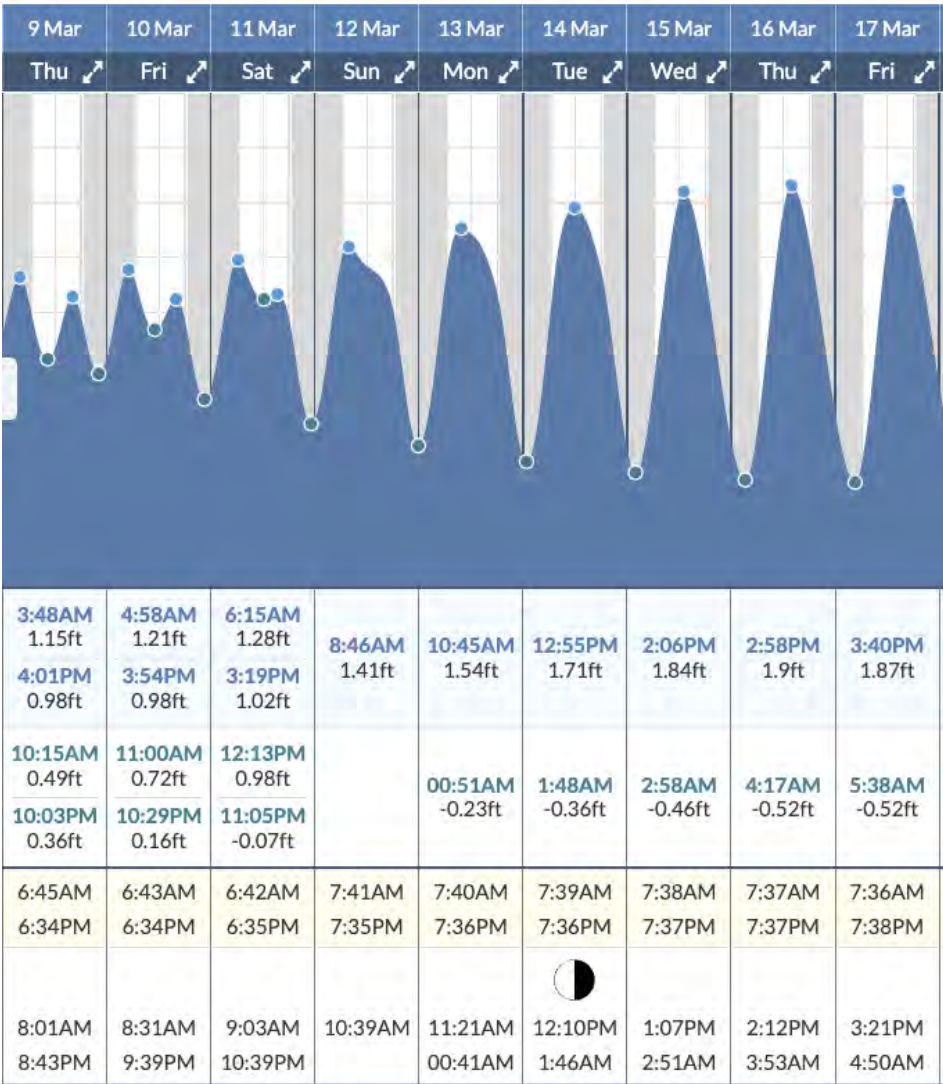
If you're reading this Wednesday evening or Thursday morning this week, there may be time to join us at the CCA banquet, March 9. There will be a few odd tickets at the door, but you'd better be there early. Joey and I are auctioning off a trip down the Laguna. Should be fun. I'll have more wrap up from the event next week.

I need a vacation. Things have been moving pretty fast lately, and I need a break. The problem is that things are moving pretty fast, and they will just pile up. I think this next week will be a great week to just hole up at the office and knock a bunch of stuff out while the crazies take over the Island. Drop me a line at tarpon-chaser@mail.com and maybe I'll see you next week here On the Rocks. X

Packery Channel Surf Forecast



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Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah

Farah's Fishing Adventures



Spring Break Fishing! Jason took this fine Speckled Trout this week while drifting with soft plastics. A Flamingo DOWN SOUTH LURE in 3' of water along the King Ranch Shoreline. Farahs Backwater.

This year's Seasonal Changes have been calling right on time. We had some significant cold weather in January and February, perfect timing on the warm up and a nice full moon at the beginning of March to kick off the rush of bait into the back bays, the migration of gamefish, and the Trout Spawn. This all adds up to an excellent year on the water.

Port A is a Buzz with the Jetty Fishing and redfish out in the lighthouse lakes area. Work the falling tide to catch reds as they exit the flats into the deeper water. Shrimp on the bottom or finger mullet at the mouth of these marsh drainages can produce impressive catches. Shamrock Cove and East flats have been a great place for redfish and trout when the tide is normal or above normal. During low tide events this area empties out and pulls gamefish out into Corpus Christi Bay. Make short drifts in the flats and coves and fish the falling tide in

the many channels in Shamrock flats.

Here on North Padre, we have the trout spawn happening right now! We have been seeing trout pushups shallow at night and stay in groups of mature fish. Larger males will tend a particular sand pocket where 1-3 large females will be laid up. They will aggressively strike small pin perch and other egg eating critters. I'm doing most of my drift fishing in 3' of water, but starting or stopping my drifts in the extreme shallows. While I'm out deep in throwing a 1/4-1/8th ounce jig head and letting it work close to the bottom. While up in the shallows I'm using a faster retrieve and blowing through with a lighter 1/16th-1/8th ounce head size.

MARKER 37 BAIT REPORT

Live shrimp flags are up and flapping in the wind daily. This means it's the perfect time for popping corks and live shrimp. A Very productive way to fish, anchored close to structure, or drifting the flats and learning new areas. Use various corks with a 2-3' mono leader of 30# leader like. I tie a #2-4 OWNER CORCLE HOOK on and always use a small split shot just a few inches above the hook to keep the shrimp down. Wade fishing anywhere on the Island with a small bait bucket and a popping cork spells FISH in capital letters. Don't continuously POP the cork, a few short and crisp pops then let it sit. Try a few of the various types of corks; some of my favorites are the WOODY CORKS hanging UP AT MARKER 37. These corks work magic with both live shrimp and lures under them. For black Drum use live shrimp, and for night fishing for giant black drum monsters live SEA LICE, on the bottom along the edges of the ICW a canal.

If you Haven't noticed it's SPRING! Give me a call and let's find YOUR day on the water here in April and May. Follow all of our daily Hookups on Facebook and Instagram at Joey FARAH'S Backwater Fishing! 361-442-8145



Redfish are on the Move! This nice 28" red was Caught on a DOA 5" Jerk Shad with a 1/8th ounce jig head in 3' of water. We were drifting the east side of Baffin Bay just before the Land Cut. Photo by Joey Farah.



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Ryan T Rogers, MD

Nature Notes

Verdin: a specialist of the desert

Rebekah Snyder



Caption: Verdins are bright, handsome, and loud!
Photo: Rebekah Snyder

Driving through the arid desert and canyon lands, the Verdin is a reminder that all places are unique and beautiful in their own way. These striking birds are desert specialists and add a flash of brightness and color to their arid world. Verdins are small songbirds (about 4.5 inches in length) and are gray overall and lighter-gray below. Their most distinguishing field characteristics is their striking yellow-golden head and throat. Upon closer inspection, you will also see a rusty-red shoulder patch on the upper part of the bird’s wing. Their dark, sharp, and slender bill provides them ample ability to forage for insects, spiders, and occasionally fruit and nectar from hummingbird feeders. Upon seeing a Verdin for the first time, you might say this bird looks almost like a bright chickadee – and if so, you aren’t terribly far off in that guesstimate. The Verdin is a member of the Penduline tits, a group of birds classified in the family Remizidae.

Birds of this family are related to the true tits (tits, titmice, and chickadees) but Verdins are the only species of this group found in the New World. They are restricted to the southwest deserts of the United States and Mexico. Verdins are desert specialists because of their preference for shrubby desert habitat. A “specialist species” is what scientists like to call animals that either live in a particular place or have a particular diet (or both). More importantly though, specialist species have little flexibility beyond those parameters. Because of this, they are considered restricted. Verdins are considered specialist species because they are restricted to their range and only live and reside in desert habitat. From a conservation perspective, that makes these desert habitats very important! Although small, they are strong and mighty. As yearlong desert residents, they have adapted to live in some of the harshest conditions in Texas. They withstand the intense hot summers and frigid cold winters that the desert endures, and as nonmigratory songbirds, they reside in these places all year round, never growing weary. The first Verdin I saw was in Nevada, outside Las Vegas. It was also the first time I had ever visited a desert before, and I was mesmerized by its dry and arid beauty, and the colors of the Verdin. The second time I saw a Verdin was in southwest Texas, not too far north from the border of Mexico. I was wandering along a rocky trail that led farther into a canyon when I heard the Verdin’s 2-3 notes song. I grabbed my binoculars and began to look around. I’d hear him again, and slowly, I’d follow the song I heard till I found a tiny songbird fluttering amongst a shrub. He was bright, he was handsome, and he was loud. Perched amongst the thorns, the Verdin sang his heart out without fear of being watched. A song that echoed throughout the land. A song only intended for one. His golden head beamed in contrast to the landscape, a memory that pictures just cannot do justice. In a way, Verdins are like members of the hospitality department of the southwest – ready and willing to greet you to the desert as soon as you arrive. “Thank you for visiting, we hope you come again.”

Going Native

By Ed Proffitt

Coreopsis tinctoria golden plains coreopsis Asteraceae

By Dr. Ed Proffitt

Spring Break is coming and as I prepare to shelter-in-place, I am heartened as I notice the first showy flowers of the season blooming in my yard. Coreopsis tinctoria (golden plains coreopsis) and Viguiera stenoloba (skeleton leaf golden-eye) both have a few blooms but the number of buds I see promises many more in a week or two. C. tinctoria is clearly native to North Padre Island, but it is not clear if V. stenoloba is truly native up here or only to South Padre. Both are in the Asteraceae or daisy and sunflower family along with some 30,000 other plant species worldwide. It appears as if Padre Island Mistflower (Conoclinium betonicifolium, also in the same family) is also growing nicely and should (soon, I hope) pepper the area near the pond in lavender. All in all, it’s going to be a lovely spring on our Island home. Let’s focus on one of these species and will discuss the others in future weeks. Coreopsis tinctoria is also called golden coreopsis or tickseed because its seeds can resemble ticks -- NOT because it promotes the bloodsuckers! It is an annual wildflower native to the central, western and southern U.S. and introduced widely elsewhere. Although there are other species in this genus, for brevity I’ll just refer to it by the genus name coreopsis from here on. This coreopsis produces beautiful yellow flowers with deep red centers that will brighten any garden. Locally, it’s typically 1 to 2 feet tall, although can be up to 4 or 5 feet elsewhere depending on conditions. Don’t worry if it dies back in late fall or winter, because it’ll pop back up from seed in the spring. In addition to being showy, this species has other uses. A nice yellow or orange dye can be made (visit www.wildcolours.co.uk/html/coreopsis.html for more detail) for those interested in such things. Native Americans used extracts from this species to treat a variety of ailments, and



some people suggest making a tea from dried leaves as a substitute for coffee....me, I’ll take my morning latte thank you very much. This nice plant does best on sandy soil in full sun but can tolerate light shade. It is reasonably drought tolerant but may do best with a little watering during the hottest times of year. It does not tolerate “wet feet” so keep it in well-drained areas. The seeds do not require any cold treatment to promote germination. You can sow them directly into your yard or grow in pots and replant where you want them. Removing dead-head flowers will encourage the plant to produce more flowers and will also prevent unwanted spreading in your yard. This is a favorite of many pollinator species, especially several bee species and some butterflies, so you will be promoting conservation of various important pollinators by planting Coreopsis. It has also reportedly been used in the early stages of prairie restoration to facilitate later-arriving plant species. Overall, it’s a great plant for Going Native to promote both beauty and wildlife habitat.

Reviewers Reviewed

By Pastor Kris Bair



I have a beef to share. I’m really tired of not bad reviews so much, but bad reviewers. Although I admit, I do despise rottenly conceived and written reviews. A number of problems arise when it comes to reviews, whether it’s books or products. Let’s consider products first. Reviews come from people who have purchased and used the product being reviewed. And they can be a valuable source of info. But Amazon learned early on that those selling the products were flooding rave reviews for the products they were promoting. What’s a consumer to do? Amazon, and probably others, have responded by noting if the reviewer verifiably bought the product. If that verification isn’t there, skip the review. I’m grateful for that. What I’m NOT grateful for is reviewers who are idiots. Here’s an example. Our electric hot water kettle has worked well for nearly a decade. It was a Christmas gift--one I rejoiced in because it had an automatic shut-off so the GP (Great Provider) wouldn’t burn the house down. A few weeks ago, that automatic shut-off quit working, and the GP instructed me to get a new kettle because it hadn’t taken him long to forget to turn it off, and he has let it boil dry--twice. So yesterday I spent hours looking at electric hot water pots on Amazon and reading the reviews. Aaaargh. I’ve developed some criteria for evaluating product reviews and the first one is that if words are misspelled in the review, if grammar is blissfully ignored, I move on to the next one. I move on a lot! The reviewer who named the pot a “kellte” instead of a kettle deserves to suffer for reporting his pot problems. Or maybe “pot” problems were the cause of his brain malfunction. Who knows? Another reviewer noted that “the bottom started to develop rust spots in a moth or two.” Huh? I’ve had ants migrate into my pot, but not moths. Reviews begin with a star rating, but poorly written reviews are sprinkled liberally among both positive and negative star ranks, and reading them guarantees a headache. The solution? Don’t buy so much stuff! Then there’s no need to read reviews.

And that’s a good solution, except that my most consistent expense is books, most of them digitally formatted. Book reviews are abysmal. And not just those reviews from the “great unwashed.” The New York Times used to be a pretty good source for selecting good books--back when their standards for what makes a good book were more than just book sales. But now, the criteria seems to be how many copies of other titles their authors have sold. And the “expert” reviewers are not trained critics, but other authors—who like to pat each other on the back. Pulp fiction has always sold well, but that doesn’t mean it’s mostly prime reading. When the Kindle store throws a list of contemporary books, “best sellers,” my way, I’d like to see some reviews that are more than “here’s what happened in this book,” or “this book is the best book I ever red” [sic], or “This book is a waste [sic] your time.” Or this real-life example: “The book drug and was doll.” Sigh.

I usually decline to leave a review. I earned two English degrees learning to write them, and of course, I’m reviewing reviewers in this column, so I haven’t given the practice up completely. And I remember the GP’s ex-wife writing a scathing review of his book Good Land: Memoirs of a Farm Boy, saying SHE was his wife when I had been married to him for decades. That one a reviewed, and Amazon deleted both our reviews. With good reason. But if you’re interested in some critical commentary, I do provide it every week on a true best-seller--the Bible. To get in on the fun with us, you’ll find me at Island Presbyterian Church, Gypsy and Fortuna Bay, at 10 a.m., or you can livestream or zoom the service from links on our Facebook page or at our website. You can get more of the scoop on product reviews at our free computer classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the church at 11 a.m. Bring your phone or tablet or whatever and our tech deacon will answer any and all your questions. And don’t forget--beach worship this Easter at 7 a.m., and summer beach worship begins on May 7, following Spring Fling on May 6. More details to follow.



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Roy and Kathie Coons, Kathy and Ken Merchant traveled with the PI Moon to Australia and New Zealand. The Sydney Opera House and Harbor Bridge in the background.



Kim and Mark Bissonnette from Man O'War Court took the Island Moon to Cabo.



Island moon in Port Costa, California from Winter Texan Diane Bohlen



Took the Island Moon to Cozumel, Mexico. Pete Moreno, Denise Estachy, Rob & Kelly Tagliaferro and Mike & Julie Trogden

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Islanders Brent and Gina Baty took the Moon on their recent trip to Switzerland. The photos were taken March 4 after hiking up Monte San Salvatore in Lugano, Switzerland.



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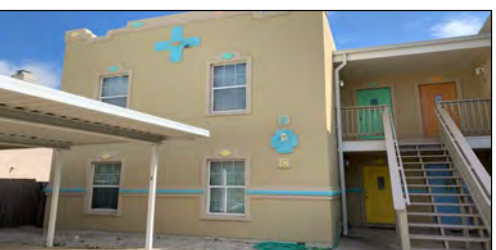
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Bag Heroes for March

Skip the Plastic's Cleanup Heroes for the month of March are the Friends of Padre. Every February, they hold a giant cleanup at Big Shell Beach in the Padre Island National Seashore. During this year's cleanup, 2,500 volunteers removed enough trash from 32 miles of beach to fill seven roll-off containers! This benefits human visitors to the Seashore and the animals that live there.



Our Intermediate teacher, Katie Doyle was surprised at her campus as she has been named a finalist for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards.

Katie Doyle was named a finalist in the Rising Star Elementary category, and Katie was 1 of 5 teachers in the state of Texas that were chosen as finalists. H-E-B representatives, production crew, and district administration were a part of the surprise that took place at Ms. Doyle's classroom. She was awarded \$1,000.00 and another \$1,000.00 went to the Intermediate campus.

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The Hornet Junior Varsity Girls Golf team took 2nd Place in the district tournament.



Green Eggs and Ham!

SLC celebrated Read Across America Wednesday, March 1st. The children enjoyed storytelling with our own Cat in the Hat Mrs. Mahaffey! Teachers campus wide were cooking Green Eggs and Ham or making crafts with the students! Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

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SCOBY Doo, Where Are You?

By Chris Jordan

Why a one-way ticket had brought me to the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands is another story. But there I was checking into the oddly-named Club Comanche at dusk. It is a hotel named after a boat that was named after indigenous peoples of North America. The joint was built in 1756 from blocks of coral stone quarried nearby. If a visitor lets themselves, it's easy to feel transported in time.

I woke at daybreak to the cacophonous crowing of roosters. Quite a few noisy boy-chickens and even more hens populate the streets of Christiansted, St. Croix. These resident fowl are quite healthy and not the least bit shy in pursuing their steady diet of people food. I popped into a deli called The Alley Galley and bought myself an egg sandwich which I and several cluckers thought was real tasty. Before long, I was off for a bit of drinking. During the day. Which makes it day-drinking. Which is notably *not* frowned upon on St. Croix. I drove to Cane Bay on the north side of the island. My first experience driving on the left side of the road went rather well despite the narrow, winding roads. The establishment I would be visiting was Off The Wall, a bar right on a low, rocky ledge only feet from the Caribbean Sea. Their slogan is "No shoes, no shirt, no problem" which I would later come to view with some resentment because going shirtless on St. Croix is definitely a problem. In hindsight it seems perfectly logical that the people in a place named The Virgin Islands would have excessive corporeal modesty. I glanced over the drink menu. I didn't know what a Dark and Stormy was, but I was feeling a little pirate-y so I ordered one. This concoction of dark rum and ginger beer over ice with lime was magnificent.



A bottle of ginger beer

And thus began my obsession with ginger beer.

The origin story of ginger beer makes perfect sense: sugar from The Caribbean and ginger from Asia are combined with water in England sometime around 1750. The fermentation was likely accidental, resulting from bacteria on the ginger root and yeast present in the unrefined sugar. This symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast (SCOBY) would come to be called *ginger beer plant*. GBP manifests in pea-sized gelatinous globs that are removed from the finished ginger beer and used to make the next batch — much like kefir grains or mother of vinegar. GBP is a very special SCOBY and rather hard to come by. You can't just go out and buy some *saccharomyces florentinus* yeast and *lactobacillus hilgardii* bacteria and throw them in together. A proper GBP is a colony of these organisms that are dependent on one another and has evolved over infinite generations. My GBP came with an adoption certificate.

There are several ginger beers available at the Flour Bluff H-E-B including the excellent Maine Root Ginger Brew or you can make your own from the recipe below. If you need help with anything



Construction on the Speedy Stop Property at 361 and Commodores
Photo: Augs



Ginger beer plant

food-related or would like to book a catered event or a chef dinner, drop me an email at theportaransascookbook@gmail.com.

Ginger Beer

Makes 8 sixteen-ounce bottles
Ready in a few days

Ingredients:

- 1 gallon spring water, divided
- 2 cups sugar
- 16 ozs peeled fresh ginger, minced
- 1 cup ginger beer plant

Preparation:

Stir the sugar and three quarts water together until the sugar is dissolved. Add ginger and GBP and pour into a one gallon container.



SCOBY Doo's Certificate of Adoption

Add additional water to bring the volume to one gallon. Cover with a cloth held in place with string or a rubber band, or use an air lock. Fermentation at room temp will likely take around three days.

Notes: GBP doesn't like chlorine or metal but it loves trace minerals. Spring water is essential and glass containers are preferred. When your ginger beer has stopped bubbling, fermentation is complete. Your ginger beer will be rather dry at this point. You can either drink it right away, or bottle it. If you want carbonation and/or sweetness, you may add a tablespoon of sugar to every 16 ounces when you bottle it. With experience, you may be able to tell when fermentation is nearing completion and bottle at that time. This is all pretty tricky so you may have to experiment in your bottling process to get something drinkable that hasn't exploded.



Fermenting ginger beer

Full Transparency and Disclosure

PIPOA News by Marvin Jones, President



News you can Use

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

ISAC (Island Strategic Action Committee)- I attended the ISAC meeting on March 7, 2023. Unfortunately, the meeting was canceled because not enough ISAC members attended to create a quorum. However, I had an interesting conversation with a City Developmental Services Department representative. We talked about the sand blowing from the Whitecap Development. He advised that the developer is putting down straw and hydro-mulch to retard the blowing sand. This is a slow process. Expect to see blowing sand with heavy wind for a very long time.

Common Area Maintenance- The yearly maintenance charge is due by March 31, 2023. Payment received after this date will incur a late fee. If you have not received a statement, please contact the PIPOA Office at 361-949-7025. There has been a problem with the last names beginning with "S" and "T." According to the post office, the statements sent to the members with "S" and "T" last names may have been misplaced at the post office. Once again, if you have not received your statement, call the PIPOA office.

Bylaw Amendment- This is the Bylaw Amendment that will be on the upcoming ballot. Simply put, the amendment says that a subdivision that reduces or eliminates the Maintenance charge shall cease to qualify for membership in the PIPOA. The Board of Directors asks that members vote for this amendment to the bylaws.

1.01 MEMBERSHIP. Membership in the Association shall be limited to owners of record title of a lot within those certain platted sub-

divisions located on Padre Island, Nueces County, Texas, identified in Exhibit A attached hereto (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "Subdivisions") that are subject to a recorded Protective Covenants and Landowners Agreement or other dedicatory instrument that obligates the owners of lots in such Subdivision to pay an annual maintenance charge to the Association (the "Maintenance Charge Covenant"). Owners of lots in a Subdivision that terminates the Maintenance Charge Covenant or modifies the Maintenance Charge Covenant in such a manner that it eliminates or reduces the amount of the annual maintenance charge obligation to be paid to the Association by the owners of lots subject to such Maintenance Charge Covenant shall cease to qualify for membership in the Association and shall thereafter no longer be a member in the Association.

Election Ballots- The ballots for this year's election have been mailed. Your vote for two Board Members is very important. Please vote online, electronically, if possible. Instructions to do this are with the ballot. If you can't vote online, then please vote and mail back the ballot as soon as possible. Please do not bring your ballot to the PIPOA office. The office will not accept them. You must return the ballot via electronic voting or US Mail. The postage is prepaid.

The Padre Isles Property Owners Association's Annual meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2023, at 10:00 AM at the Padre Island Baptist Church across from Whataburger. There are two seats on the Board up for election. Only one person signed up to run during the registration period. Therefore, there will be an opportunity for write-in candidates on the ballot, and nominations for candidates may be made from the floor at the meeting. If you are interested in being on the Board, here is an excellent opportunity.

Marvin Jones



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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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



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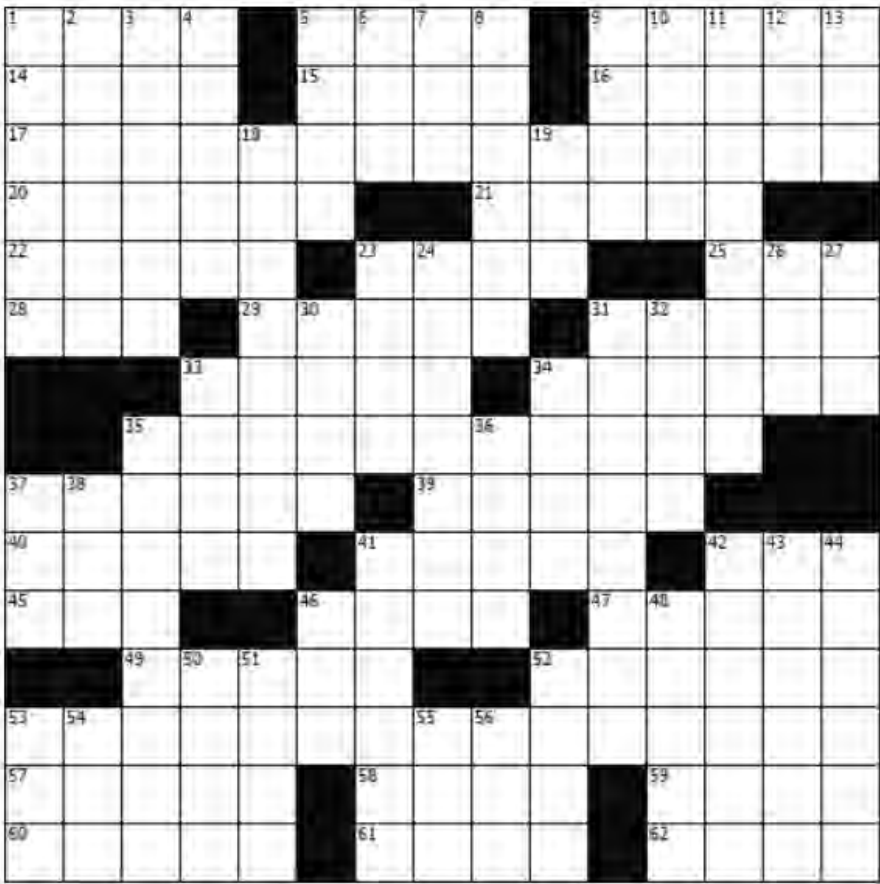
15033 S Padre Island Dr

361.244.5748

Moon Crossword

Crossword Solution on classifieds page

- Across
1. Medical advice, often
5. Picker-upper?
9. Israel's Dayan
14. Naysayer
15. "Casablanca" role
16. Wanton watcher
17. 1968 Lemon Pipers hit
20. Cow-catcher
21. Clean up, in a way
22. Home seller's need
23. Acted the fink
25. Metric wts.
28. Opposite of paleo
29. Too good for?
31. Barbera's colleague
33. Kevin of "Orange County"
34. Talk over
35. 1967 Jefferson Airplane hit
37. Expose to fresh air
39. Ticked off
40. Tiny
41. King or queen, e.g.
42. Wanted poster abbr.
45. Ernie of the links
46. Groucho Marx specialties
47. More recent
49. Marathon data
52. Lamented audibly
53. 1966 Beattles hit
57. Tom of "State Fair"
58. Genesis brother
59. Flair
60. Succinct
61. Astronauts' ade
62. Drafty housing



- Down
1. Sleeve type
2. Bring to a boil?
3. Sound buy?
4. Connection
5. Hand holder
6. Words before king
7. Philosopher's study
8. Undertake halfheartedly
9. Pouting grimace
10. Cruel character
11. Half-hitch kin
12. Poulard
13. Before, in verse
18. Birthrate
19. Not funny anymore
23. What calisthenics improve
24. Production excess
26. Bearded beast
27. Was on a jury
30. Light meal
31. Emerald Isle, in verse
32. Like Death Valley
33. Genghis or Kublai
34. Having skill
35. One familiar with pins
36. "It's good for what ___ ya"
37. Leave open-mouthed
38. Slim swimmer
41. Unpolished leather
42. For a short time
43. Actor Wynn
44. Burning with desire
46. Baptist's bench
48. Long-plumed wader
50. Pandora let them out
51. Destructive digger
52. Complacent
53. However
54. Flock female
55. Gp. with 50 members
56. Embargo

Police Blotter

February 28 - March 5th

JFK Causeway to Aquarius intersection

Disturbance

13300 block SPID 8 p.m. February 27

Traffic

31 Traffic Stops

11500 block SPID 9 a.m. March 5 Crash

11800 block SPID 2 p.m. March 4 Crash

13300 block SPID 2 p.m. March 3 Crash

13500 block SPID 1 p.m. March 3 Crash

SPID/Aquarius 1 p.m. March 3 Crash

SPID/Aquarius 4 p.m. March 4 Crash

SPID/Aquarius 3 p.m. March 1 Crash

13500 block SPID 9 p.m. February 28 Crash

SPID West to Laguna Madre

Crimes against Property

14500 block SPID 5 p.m. March 4 Theft Shoplifting \$2500-\$30,000

15300 block SPID 1 p.m. March 4 Forgery

15200 block Cruiser 2 p.m. March 3 Theft of Services

15100 block Crossjack 9 a.m. March 3 Theft of Services

15300 block Dasmarrinas 8 a.m. March 3 Theft of Services

14900 block Canadian 1 p.m. March 1 Theft of Services

14500 block Compass 11 p.m. March 27 Theft of Vehicle Parts \$100-\$750

15600 block Escapade Noon February 28 Credit Card Abuse

Disturbance

14300 block Emerald Noon March 5

13900 block Longboat March 1 Noise Ordinance Violation

14100 block Jackfish 8 p.m. March 1 Building Fire

Suspicious Person

14200 block SPID 7 p.m. March 4

Quarterdeck/Lighthouse 5 p.m. March 3

Gypsy/Whitecap 10 a.m. March 3

Commodores/SPID 2 a.m. March 3

15400 block SPID 8 p.m. March 3

Traffic

129 Traffic Stops

SPID East to Gulf of Mexico north to city limits

Crimes against Person

SH 36 1/Wilsons Cut 3 p.m. Shots Fired

Crimes against Property

15200 block Windward 7 a.m. March 4 Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle

Disturbance

15600 block Gulf Beach 2 p.m. March 4 Public Intoxication

15200 block Windward 1 a.m. March 4

9300 block SH 361 Boat or Fire Rescue

Suspicious Person

14900 block Windward 5 a.m. March 4

Gulf Beach/Access Road 2 Noon March 4

Traffic

51 Traffic Stops

11200 block Gulf Beach 3 p.m. March 5 Crash

SH 361/Newport Pass Road 11 a.m. February 27 Crash

Fire Calls Stations #15-#16

February 20- February 26

- Fire Station #15 Commodores Drive**
- Rescue, EMS Incident, Medical assist- 11
- Outside Rubbish, trash, or waste fire- 1
- Dispatched & cancelled en route- 2
- Fire Station #16 State Highway 361**
- Medical assist, assist EMS crew- 1



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TMO Speaks at Inaugural Coastal Bend Music Industry Symposium and holds Music Friendly Texas Workshop in Corpus Christi

The inaugural Coastal Bend Music Industry Symposium and workshop hosted by the Texas Music Office was held Thursday, February 16 in Corpus Christi.

TMO Director Brendon Anthony and TMO Community Relations and Outreach Specialist Chip Adams were on hand to discuss the state of the music industry in Texas and to explain the Music Friendly Texas Program. The well-attended day of panels and networking, were split between music venues House of Rock and the Bay Jewel. Attendees were invited to listen and ask questions during panel discussions surrounding marketing, local resources, accounting, understanding Performance Rights Organizations, and much more.

Brendon and House of Rock’s Casey Lain helped kick off the day’s events, and Chip conducted Corpus Christi’s Music Friendly Texas workshop. This is the first step to becoming certified in our Music Friendly Texas program. Industry experts, including Mitch Ballard from BMI, John Troup from SESAC, Stephanie Brazeal from House Of Rock, Melody Martinez from Freddie Records and many more helped make this a great and highly informative day for attendees.



Pelican By Lu Ann Kingsbury



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Open Enrollment

March 1-31

State Law for Dissolution of Emergency Services District

Editor’s note: Precinct 4 Nueces County Commissioner Brent Chesney has asked the county’s legal department for a ruling on whether the Board of Directors of ESD #2 can call an election regarding the proposal to combine operations with the Corpus Christi Fire Department. Here is the applicable state law.

Sec. 775.052. PETITION FOR DISSOLUTION; NOTICE OF HEARING. (a) Before a district may be dissolved, the district’s board must receive a petition signed by at least 10 percent of the registered voters in the district.

(b) If the petition is in proper form, the board shall set a place, date, and time for a hearing to consider the petition.

(c) The board shall give notice of the hearing. The notice must include:

- (1) the name of the district;
- (2) a description of the district’s boundaries;
- (3) the proposal that the district be dissolved; and
- (4) the place, date, and time of the hearing on the petition.

(d) The notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the district once a week for two consecutive weeks. The first publication must occur not later than the 21st day before the date on which the hearing will be held. Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 775.053. HEARING. (a) At the hearing on the petition to dissolve the district, the board shall consider the petition and each issue relating to the dissolution of the district.

(b) Any interested person may appear before the board to support or oppose the dissolution.

(c) The board shall grant or deny the petition. Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 775.054. ELECTION TO CONFIRM DISSOLUTION. (a) On the granting of a petition to dissolve the district, the board shall order an election to confirm the district’s dissolution.

(b) Notice of the election shall be given in the same manner as the notice of the petition hearing.

(c) The election shall be held on the first authorized uniform election date prescribed by the Election Code that allows sufficient time to comply with the requirements of law and that occurs after the date on which the board grants the petition.

(d) The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the following: “Dissolving the _____ Emergency Services District.”

(e) A copy of the tabulation of results shall be filed with the county clerk of each county in which the district is located.

(f) If a majority of those voting at the election vote to dissolve the district, the board shall proceed with dissolution. An election to create a new district in the boundaries of the old district may not be held for at least one year after dissolution.

(g) If a majority of those voting at the election vote against dissolving the district, the board may not order another election on the issue before the first anniversary of the date of the canvass of the election. Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 775.055. ADMINISTRATION OF PROPERTY, DEBTS, AND ASSETS AFTER DISSOLUTION. (a) After a vote to dissolve a district, the board shall continue to control and administer the property, debts, and assets of the district until all funds are disposed of and all district debts are paid or settled.

(b) The board may not dispose of the district’s assets except for due compensation unless the debts are transferred to another governmental entity or agency within or embracing the district and the transfer will benefit the district’s residents.

(c) After the board issues the dissolution order, the board shall:

- (1) determine the debt owed by the district; and
- (2) impose on the property included in the district’s tax rolls a tax that is in proportion of the debt to the property value.

(d) Each taxpayer may pay the tax imposed by the district under this section at once.

(e) The board may institute a suit to enforce payment of taxes and to foreclose liens to secure the payment of taxes due the district.

(f) When all outstanding debts and obligations of the district are paid, the board shall order the secretary to return the pro rata share of all unused tax money to each district taxpayer. A taxpayer may request that the taxpayer’s share of surplus tax money be credited to the taxpayer’s county taxes. If a taxpayer requests the credit, the board shall direct the secretary to transmit the funds to the county tax assessor-collector.

(g) After the district pays all its debts and disposes of all its assets and funds as prescribed by this section, the board shall file a written report with the commissioners court of each county in which the district is located setting forth a summary of the board’s actions in dissolving the district. Not later than the 10th day after the date it receives the report and determines that the requirements of this section have been fulfilled, the commissioners court of each county shall enter an order dissolving the district.



Three Chords and the Truth

By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Spring has sprung...



Its Spring Break time in Port A.

We made it! Spring Break is officially upon us. Daylight Savings time will spring forward this Sunday and the first official day of spring is on March 20th. But what does that mean to us, you might ask. First you'll probably notice that our *Winter Texan* population will have begun their mass exodus and will be replaced in April and May by families with second homes here and a lot of *Day Trippers* and fishermen. The time period after *Spring Break* and before summer is historically "our time." The weather is warm, the wildflowers are everywhere and nobody is spitting on our collective necks...yet. Every year on our Spring Break comes along. I go into my time honored routine of documenting the arrival and intensity of the Spring Break barrage. I'll be there with my trusty camera when the Spring Breakers start to circle their weapons and assemble their stripper poles. I want to give a shout out to our local cops and hope for their safety and patience during Spring Break. I have done several "ride arounds" with **Chief Burroughs** during Spring Break in past years and let me tell you, it's no walk on the beach out there. Our officers do a good job of keeping it safe and fun. Believe me, there's always some knuckleheads out there that will take it too far. Many locals hide out during this period. Not me. I want to see it with my own eyes but don't worry, I'll take lots of pictures. Here we go again folks. There's no turning back now.



David King and Garrett Wieland of the Independent Thieves played Bron's Backyard last Friday.

On the local front...

There hasn't been a whole lot of music going on in Port A lately but all that's about to change. I'm really excited about this upcoming season. I know *Bron's Backyard* is beefing up their game. They've rearranged things around the compound and the place looks great. They installed new professional stage lighting and enlarged the stage. People seem to really like the family atmosphere they have going on over there. **Jimmy Jam** got the ball rolling with their new food offerings this fall and I know they plan to apply for a mixed beverage permit soon. And I also know *Shorty's* is doing their best to get back open before summer. I stopped by there last week and those boys are flat getting after it. **Chris Jordan** was building a new bar. Plus, I saw **Tommy Saad** at *Treasure Island* last Saturday and he's pumping up for the season as is **Kip Shannon** at the *Gaff*. And there's activity in the flats area where I'm told we are soon to see a new venue in the making where *Shorty's* was and where the *Palm Fest* folks plan to have their events.



The Free Beer Band played Bron's Backyard last Saturday.

Scattered shots...



The Jam Council played Treasure Island last Saturday.

Me and my **Mermaid Gal** did get out a bit last weekend. *Bron's Backyard* had a couple of shows going on with the **Independent Thieves** and the **Free Beer Band**. They've been closed this winter except for their cart rentals and will have their bar and restaurant back open on the weekends until *Memorial Day* when they'll kick it into high gear. BTW, they moved their *Corn Hole* tournaments to Thursdays. We also made it by *Treasure Island* for a little **Jam Council** with veteran guitarist **Donald Aguirre**. It was a slow night but that's all about to change. BTW, did anyone else catch **Linda** from *Treasure Island* was in Port A on TV last Sunday night? She was on the *Magnolia Network* on a show called "Beachfront Bargain Hunt" where she played a home buyer and decorator on North Padre Island. She did an excellent job and you know she was perfect for the role if you've ever checked out the furnishing at *Treasure Island*... very classy.

DO NOT MISS LIST Coming this weekend...

OK! Who we got? On Thursday night **Brad Ethridge** will play the *Gaff*. On Friday the big ten piece horn band, **Cruise Control**, will play *Bron's Backyard*, **John Elijah** is playing at *Kody's* and **Bottles and Bandits** will play *Treasure Island*. On Saturday, the *Gaff* will have their bi-monthly BELT SANDER RACES at 3 PM and the **Moon Monkey** is ready to go with new racer design and this time I mean it... the **Moon Monkey** will abide. Also on Saturday, the rowdy psychedelic jam band **Triptonite** will play *Bron's*. I've seen these guys a couple of times and all I can say is... get ready to party. These cats take NO prisoners. Play on Saturday, **Red Tide** is at the *Treasure Island*, there's a **KISS** tribute band at the *Port A Community Theater*, **John Cortez** is at the *Packery Bar*, there's a big reggae/ska show at the *House of Rock* with **Kash'd Out** and **Cydeways** and the *CC Artwalk* will be going on downtown. On Sunday, spring forward one hour...it's *Daylight Savings Time*, the *CBDB's* will be at *Bron's* and singer-songwriter extraordinaire, **Ty Dietz**, will be at *Kody's* and **Tumble Dry Low** will be playing some country music at *Bernie's Beach House*. On Monday and Tuesday, March 13-14, **Bubba Flex** will put on his karaoke show at *Bron's* and on Wednesday they will have the **Groove** plus there's a "Jamming Circle" at *Woody's Last Stand* every Wednesday.

On the horizon...

On Thursday, March 16, *Bron's* will have the fun classic rock band **Dreaming in Color**. On Saturday, March 17, we will celebrate *St. Patty's Day* in Port A with a good old fashion "Pub Crawl" which leaves the *VFW* at 1 PM, then on to the *Gaff* (1:00-2:30), *Salty Dog* (2:30-4:00), *Red's* (4:00-5:30) and then back to the *VFW* at 5:30. Also on *St. Patty's Day*, the mighty, mighty **Ruben V** will play *Bron's*, the **OTB Band** will play *Treasure Island*, there's a *St. Paddy's Day Festival* in downtown Corpus and a *Crawdaddy Cook-off* in Rockport. That ought to hold you for a while. Be safe out there.

♪♪♪ And, that's the truth ♪♪♪



Bottles and Bandits will play Treasure Island on Friday.



Triptonite will play Bron's this Saturday.



Coach Dude Dugan will play the Gaff on Saturday.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Thursday.

March 9

Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian
Downtown
Eli Brown @ Scuttlebutts
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's
Jam Night @ The Exchange
Michael Burtt's
Michael @ Brewster
Southside
Tempress @ House of Rock
William Beckmann,
Slade Coulter & Jacob Stelly @ Brewster
Downtown

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MAR 10
MAR 11
MAR 12
MAR 15
MAR 16

Brewster Southside
Chuck Briseno Band @ Pelican Lounge
JonMikael MREZ @ CC Art Walk
The Groove @ Rockit's
Julian Lopez @ Blackbeard's
Jam Band @ The Exchange
Ruben Limas @ Blue Marlin

Sunday.

March 12

Daylight Savings Time
CBDB's @ Bron's Backyard
Carson Miller @ Gaff
Ty Dietz @ Kody's
Tumble Dry Low @ Bernie's
Jerry Ward @ Pelican Lounge
Jennifer Gayle
Bradley @ Blackbeards
Ruben Limas @ Gully's
Eli Brown @ The BUS
Damm Right Duo @ House of Rock

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MAR 10
MAR 11
MAR 17
MAR 18



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Friday.

March 10

Cruise Control @ Bron's Backyard
Dunebillies @ Gaff
Bottles and Bandits @ Treasure Island
John Elijah @ Kody's
Red: A Tributer to Taylor Swift @ Brewster
Downtown
Michael Burtt's @ Pelican Lounge
Barbara Jenice @ Scuttlebutt's
Chainlinks @ House of Rock
Scarecrow People @ Brewster South
The Groove @ Sugar Shack
Rockport
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Jam Band @ La Playa by the Sea

Saturday.

March 11

BELT SANDER RACES 3 PM @ Gaff
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Triptonite @ Bron's Backyard
Red Tide @ Treassure Island
KISS Tribute @ PACT
John Cortez @ Packery Bar
Kash'd Out, Cydeways @ House of Rock
Afterglow @ CC
Harley Davidson
Pecos & the Rooftops @ Brewster
Downtown
Meza Band @



Ides of March 15

The Groove @ Bron's Backyard
Open Mic w/ Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Jammin' Circle @ Woody's Last Stand
Damon Scott @ House of Rock
Michael Burtt's @ Pelican Lounge
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Billy Snipes (1 PM) @ Pier 99
Billy Snipes (6 PM) @ Scuttlebutt's

Thursday.

March 16

Dreaming in Color @ Bron's Backyard

TEXAS RED'S RIVIERA
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