



On the Rocks A7

Bag Heroes A2

Business Briefs A9

Backwater Adventures A7

Three Chords and the Truth B16

Issue 1038



The Island Moon

The voice of The Island since 1996

March 8, 2024

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Weekly FREE



Rainbow over Packery Jetty by Christopher Ghormley



By Dale Rankin

We seem to be in a period of transition Around The Island this week. We went from cool evenings when the sea fog rolls in to what felt suspiciously like the first day of summer mid-week. Now we transition into the Island New Year as the annual cycle of Island life begins anew with the arrival of Spring Break 2024 which will be compressed mostly to one big weekend this year as most of the universities and high schools which feed our spring breaks have scheduled their breaks simultaneously with the weekend of March 9 being the fulcrum. Then comes the first sweet spot of the season after the spring breakers leave and before the summer invasion after Memorial Day when we sprint through the 100-day tourist season. This summer season will also mark the first with the new connection of Island waterways which opens a new era for us Around The Island. It will be interesting as we look back a year from now on what seems destined to be the opening of a new period of transition hereabouts as crews have already begin to do excavation work on the coming Commodores bridge which is due for completion by the end of 2025.

Bubble no more...

One casualty of the Open Canal Era already are at least some of the bidders that were used to keep dead end canals aerated before there was circulation. The bidders in the canal next to Merida's have already been removed as well as some in the Commodores Canal near the site of the new bridge. The water is flowing.

A thank you to Jay...



Jay with a much deserved cupcake.

Don Patricio Bridge would not have been built, and Jay's steady leadership has given Islanders a say in the management of the growth that we see around us today. ISAC members are appointed by the Corpus Christi City Council and the President is chosen by the members. ISAC is an advisory committee to the council and the outlet for Islanders to get traction on matters of concern at City

Around cont. on A6

Sandbar in Packery Basin



The Sandbar on the lower left of the basin is visible from the air on a clear day. Photo by Augs



In last week's issue we ran a depth chart for Lake Padre and Packery Channel. In this photo a sandbar is visible just west of the entrance to the lake from Packery Channel. The bar was not part of the recent dredging project in the channel.

The depth chart above is from Island resident Tim White shows the depth at the bar and surrounding water.

Seashore Celebrates Texas Independance Day

Story and photos on page A2



Ski Basin Bash looking for new location

By Dale Rankin

The organizer of the annual Ski Basin Bash held each August on the 634 undeveloped parcel of land known formally as Cape Summer will not be held at that location in 2024. Event organizer Brent Wideman said this week he is in negotiation to move the site of the event for 2024.

"We have a couple of places we are looking at," Wideman said. The move comes after a lawsuit by the owners of the property Axys Capital Management, LLC. seeking a permanent injunction removing the event which draws hundreds of people each year citing the risk to the property owners who are not part of putting on the event.

Aside from the injunction the suit filed by plaintiff Axys Capital Management, LLC against defendant Brent Wideman and his company BWide Entertainment also seeks \$250,000 in damages from last year's event. Sources said this week negotiations are underway to settle the lawsuit pending a formal agreement to relocate the event in 2024.

A little Island history

Texas Rangers Cross the Rio Grande and Attack Cattle Rustlers in Their Own Lair

Editor's note: This is the latest in on ongoing series of stories based on the book Taming the Nueces Strip by Texas Ranger George Durham. Durham was a member of a troop of Rangers recruited by Ranger Captain L.H. McNelly in 1875 to rid the area between the Rio Grande River and the Nueces River of bandits who had been raiding ranches and towns, including Corpus Christi, and stealing cattle to drive into Mexico where they were sold for

History cont. on page A5



Texas Rangers troop circa 1875

Plans for Bob Hall Pier due to be released March 18

Construction could begin in July

By Dale Rankin

The public will get its first look at the 100 percent design plans for the new Bob Hall Pier at a special meeting of the Nueces County Coastal Parks Board on Monday, March 18, according to Precinct 4 Nueces County Commissioner Brent Chesney. Chesney said the plans are being reviewed by county officials this week and are said to include 160 drawings for the new pier. Nueces County Commissioners got a report on the plans at their Wednesday meeting with the next step of advertising of bids to go out on April 1 and remain open through May 15. Pre-bid meetings for possible bidders will be held during that time. Chesney said the best case scenario will be for bids to be opened on May 15 with a recommendation for the award of the bid at the May 22 meeting of the Commissioners Court. He said the permits for the pier are in place and if current plans hold construction on the pier could begin in July, 2024.

Island Moon Rain Report

Jan. 1 – Feb. 29

2024 2023 2022 2021

<u>Padre Island</u>			
Aquarius			
n/a	0.36"	2.77"	n/a
Cayo Cantiles			
3.89"	0.58"	2.57"	3.97"
Dyna St.			
3.91"	0.70"	3.34"	n/a
Elbow St.			
3.99"	0.61"	3.33"	4.11"
Reales St.			
4.39"	0.52"	n/a	n/a
Scallop St.			
4.33"	0.64"	2.70"	4.84"

Mustang Island
Boardwalk Ln.
4.22" 0.83" 4.28" 5.24"

Source:
Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow Network
Tom Cullinan

Bag Heroes of the Month



By Neil McQueen
Co-Chair Texas Coastal Bend Chapter
Surfrider Foundation

Our Cleanup Heroes this month are the **Friends of Padre!** Founded by renowned fishing guide Billy Sandifer, this organization holds a giant cleanup every year at Big Shell Beach in the Padre Island National Seashore. During this year's cleanup, 2,000 volunteers removed enough trash to fill 7 roll-off containers!

Aaron Baxter with Friends of Padre says "We'd like to thank all of our sponsors

and volunteers for making the 29th annual Billy Sandifer Big Shell Beach Cleanup a success. Without their support, this event would not be possible, and for that we are truly grateful. Cleaning 30 miles of beach in a single day is a true feat and we know that Billy would be proud of what was accomplished. As always, the event brought a diverse group of volunteers from all walks of life working towards the common goal of keeping Padre Island beautiful. Please consider joining us next year on February 22nd for our 30th anniversary Big Shell Beach Cleanup. Like Billy always said, «You are my heroes!»

Merida's Ribbon Cutting

The Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at Merida's Tapas and Cantina this week.



Seashore students celebrate Texas Independence



Seashore Learning Center students celebrated Texas Independence Day at the 19th annual Lone Star Stampede. Each grade level two-stepped, with additional performances of the "Chicken Dance" by kindergartners and the "Cotton Eye Joe" by 3rd and 4th graders. The event ended with a sibling dance and the finale, a parent dance in which parents two-stepped with their children. The event is a family favorite and a rite of passage for SLC students, who return years later to thank Coach Gabe Fernandez for teaching them the all-important two-step! Photos by SMA journalism students



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Letters to the Editor

AM WHEEL. HEAR ME SQUEAK.

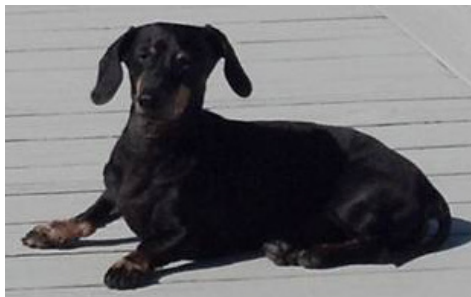


The DMV wants to hear from you...

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) strives to provide premier customer service. To help us on our path of continuous improvement, the department would appreciate your feedback through a brief online survey that will take approximately four (4) minutes. Your anonymous input will be incorporated into a report submitted to the Texas State Legislature in June 2024.

We truly appreciate your time and willingness to complete this survey. This link will be available through March 31, 2024. For more information about TxDMV, please visit www.TxDmv.gov.

Letters to Riley P. Dog



Dear Riley P. Dog,
My name is Kaiser von Michelob or Mick for short. I am a twelve year old Black and Tan Miniature Dachshund. Since you had a friend that was a Doxie, I'm sure you understand the Kaiser which reflects my German heritage and certainly I view myself as an Emperor. The Michelob is because my Dad likes Michelob, for my moves like Jagger, and my big floppy ears. I'm sure there's history behind your name, too, Riley.
I wanted to let you know that I totally agree that we Island Dogs have it made. My parents tell me frequently that I do not own the whole Island, but I know better. I don't get to go out much other than when we travel in our Motor Home. I like the Motor Home; you get to check out a lot of neat places without ever leaving your home. Anyway because I don't travel in the car that much, I get anxiety when I travel thinking that I'm going to the Vet again. My Vet is across the big bridge because when my parents moved here there was not a Vet on the Island. Doc Heaton says I need to take trips to places other than her office and Texas A&M where I also go for treatments periodically. So lately my parents have been taking me to the Sea Wall. It really is a neat place. I enjoy walking and really like the ladies. Unfortunately, we've noticed that some of the Dog Parents are not as well behaved as the Dogs. Most do not clean up after their Dogs. My Mom does not understand; she has colorful bags for me and some even have funny car-

Parting waters...

We know from Biblical stories that Moses and his followers crossed the Reed Sea (called the Red Sea in the Bible) and we know that the Reed Sea is no longer there due to the fact that the digging of the Suez Canal caused it to drain and cease to be. And we know the Upper Lagoon that starts at the south side of Corpus Christi Bay used to go dry nearly all the way south to Pita Island when a strong north wind blew in during the winter months so we can assume that a strong wind blew enough of the water out of the Reed Sea for Moses to cross, in part because it is known that the Reed Sea was a shallow sea in most places. And we know the Karankawa Indians and other tribes lived on Padre Island at times and were able to cross from Flour Bluff to Padre Island anytime of the year but it was easier to cross when the wind blew the water out in the winter times.

Before the Intracoastal Canal was dug most of the water was only about six inches deep which made for chasing down drum with a jig pretty easy because in the summer months the drum were weak from the high salinity of the lagoon, so we can assume the Indians chased down a lot of drum for food

with their spears.
We also know the Indians ate the bulbs of the reed plants that grew along the shoreline of Flour Bluff. There were a lot of oyster beds in the shallow water around Dead Man's Hole which could be easily opened by tossing them into a fire for a few seconds. The upper lagoon was pretty much of a paradise for the Indians although not a holy land like Moses lived in.
We know that most American Indians had no written language other than drawings of animals on rocks and caves. Despite no written language the Karankawas left their mark on Padre Island, Flour Bluff, the Laguna Madre and the Coastal Bend. I believe if Moses had known that the Mongolians had made it into North America, he would have followed them into the "Land of the free and home of the brave," where modern miracles happen, such as when the United States won World War II and prevented a dictatorship.
Bobbie Kimbrell
Flour Bluff
Editor's note: Bobbie Kimbrell has been a resident of Flour Bluff since the early 1940s where he was a commercial fisherman prior to his retirement.

toons. I'm sure your Parents clean up Riley; now if we can just get the other Parents to cooperate.
The real reason that I am writing, Riley, is that I'm on the "Crap List" and it's all your fault. You see Riley, I have a real sensitive stomach. I only get to eat my Dry WD Dog Food and IAMS Low fat Dog Bones. Anything else and I'm spending way too much time with Doc Heaton over the bridge. Week after week, I read your articles and especially your love for hot dogs. I know I'm a Wienie Dog so enough with the hot dog jokes.
Anyway, since reading your articles I've been dreaming of hot dogs. Finally a couple of weeks ago, I sniffed out a hot dog in a plastic bag which was in one of my Mom's Recycle Grocery Bags that was in the garage. She stages all the groceries there and then brings them in to unpack. She had unpacked most of the bags when she noticed I was not in the kitchen and that the hot dog was not in the bag. She found me in the Living Room in the midst of little pieces of plastic. There was no hot dog, no bun; only me and little pieces of plastic wrapper remaining. You are so right; it was heaven! My Mom panicked and called Doc Heaton. I had to take lots of medicine which I hate. My Dad yelled at me and now I'm on the Crap List. Riley, you got me in trouble! I think it best if we both stay away from hot dogs. My Dog Bones really are pretty good. Hope to see you at the Sea Wall and please tell the other dogs to have their parents clean up after them. Until then, woof woof! Mickey

*Hey Mickey,
Since you can't eat hotdogs send them to me. I can eat 'em just fine.
I scored a hotdog and several handfuls of treats at the big parade last weekend. My humans were busy and Dr. Christi was hid*

behind a giant dog and my friend Mark kept slipping me treats then I went to the Back Porch and got two French fries and a chew toy. I was working a nice tourist lady for a piece of her hamburger but my humans saw me and Mayday slipped in there and scooped me. Stoopid Humans!

In case you didn't hear about it this is National Annoy a Cat Week. If you live with a cat like me make sure to give them a shout out and remind them that they are just cats and we dogs have all the fun. Stoopid Cats!

This is a good time to be an Island dog. Nice and cool and plenty of Winter Texans to work for treats. That's all for now because my nose is already sore from hitting the space bar. If you have any hotdogs left over please send them to the Save the Riley P. Dog Foundations, International Falls, Minnesota. I've lost some pounds and I sure need to find them.



Riley P. Dog on in the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade March 2014



Stoopid Cats! They get the best beds.

Hello Island Dog Lovers.

The Riley P Dog Park is now a reality, and some of you are already enjoying the benefits for you and your four-legged best friend. The park is located at the west end of Whitecap between the Yacht Club and Water Treatment Plant. Look for the cell tower and small building as a landmark. The dog park is toward the back of the property after you drive through the front gate. There is still more work to be done to improve and enhance the park. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization, so we rely entirely on private donations from Island residents as well as donations from corporate and business owners. In coming weeks we will be adding a double gate system at the entrance to the park and plan on dividing the area to segregate small and larger dogs. We also rely on volunteer Friends of the Riley P Dog Park to provide ongoing maintenance, and their help is greatly appreciated.

As more funds are raised, we plan to add features that will make this facility something we can be proud of. We welcome input from all residents as an important part of the process. Stay tuned for future updates. Barkingly Yours. Jed Blaich. Treasurer Riley P Dog Park.

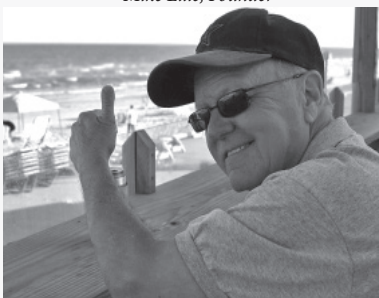


Padre Island Dog Park @Rileypdogpark



Moon Monkeys

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Riley P. Dog



About the Island Moon

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Moby Dicks	Snoopy's Pier
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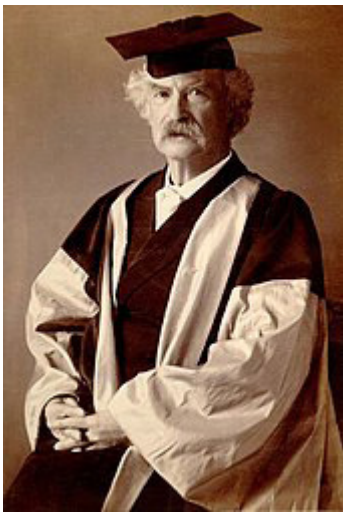
Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis

Samuel Longhorne Clemens

Writer Part 4

Dotson's Note: In the late 1890s, he spoke to the Savage Club in London and was elected an honorary member. He was told that only three men had been so honored, including the Prince of Wales, and he replied: "Well, it must make the Prince feel mighty fine." He visited Melbourne and Sydney in 1895 as part of a world lecture tour. In 1897, he spoke to the Concordia Press Club in Vienna as a special guest, following the diplomat Charlemagne Tower, Jr. He delivered the speech "Die Schrecken der Deutschen Sprache" ("The Horrors of the German Language")—in German—to the great amusement of the audience. In 1901, he was invited to speak at Princeton University's Clisophic Literary Society, where he was made an honorary member. Thanks to my mother, Golvie E. Clark Lewis, William Faulkner, and Wikipedia, for the facts contained in this report and to my mother for the photos.



Canadian Visits

In 1881, Twain was honored at a banquet in Montreal, Canada where he made reference to securing a copyright. In 1883, he paid a brief visit to Ottawa, and he visited Toronto twice in 1884 and 1885 on a reading tour with George Washington Cable, known as the "Twins of Genius" tour.

The reason for the Toronto visits was to secure Canadian and British copyrights for his upcoming book *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, to which he had alluded in his Montreal visit. The reason for the Ottawa visit had been to secure Canadian and British copyrights for *Life on the Mississippi*. Publishers in Toronto had printed unauthorized editions of his books at the time, before an international copyright agreement was established in 1891. These were sold in the United States as well as in Canada, depriving him of royalties. He estimated that Belford Brothers' edition of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* alone had cost him \$10,000 (equivalent to \$330,000 in 2022). He had unsuccessfully attempted to secure the rights for *The Prince and the Pauper* in 1881, in conjunction with his Montreal trip. Eventually, he received legal advice to register a copyright in Canada (for both Canada and Britain) prior to publishing in the United States, which would restrain the Canadian publishers from printing a version when the American edition was published. There was a requirement that a copyright be registered to a Canadian resident; he addressed this by his short visits to the country.

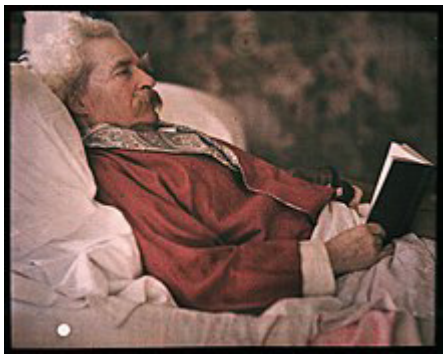
Later life and death

"The report of my death was an exaggeration." — Twain

Twain lived in his later years at 14 West 10th Street in Manhattan. He passed through a period of deep depression which began in 1896 when his daughter Susy died of meningitis. Olivia's death in 1904 and Jean's on December 24, 1909, deepened his gloom. On May 20, 1909, his close friend Henry Rogers died suddenly.

In April 1906, he heard that his friend Ina Coolbrith had lost nearly all that she owned in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, and he volunteered a few autographed portrait photographs to be sold for her benefit. To further aid Coolbrith, George Wharton James visited Twain in New York and arranged for a new portrait session. He was resistant initially, but he eventually admitted that four of the resulting images were the finest one's ever taken of him. In September, Twain started publishing chapters from his autobiography in the *North American Review*. The same year, Charlotte Teller, a writer living with her grandmother at 3 Fifth Avenue, began an acquaintanceship with

him which "lasted several years and may have included romantic intentions" on his part.



Twain - 1908

In 1906, Twain formed the Angel Fish and Aquarium Club, for girls whom he viewed as surrogate granddaughters. Its dozen or so members ranged in age from 10 to 16. He exchanged letters with his "Angel Fish" girls and invited them to concerts and the theatre and to play games. Twain wrote in 1908 that the club was his "life's chief delight" In 1907, he met Dorothy Quick (aged 11) on a transatlantic crossing, beginning «a friendship that was to last until the very day of his death».

Twain was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) by Yale University in 1901 and a Doctor of Law by the University of Missouri in 1902. Oxford University awarded him a Doctorate of Law in 1907.

He was born two weeks after Halley's Comet's closest approach in 1835; he said in 1909:

"I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year, and I expect to go out with it. It will be the greatest disappointment of my life if I don't go out with Halley's Comet. The Almighty has said, no doubt: "Now here are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together".

Twain's prediction was eerily accurate; he died of a heart attack on April 21, 1910, in Stormfield, one month before the comet passed Earth that year.



Twain and his wife are buried side by side in Elmira's Woodlawn Cemetery. Upon hearing of Twain's death, President William Howard Taft said: "Mark Twain gave pleasure, real intellectual enjoyment to millions, and his works will continue to give such pleasure to millions yet to come. His humor was American, but he was nearly as much appreciated by Englishmen and people of other countries as by his own countrymen. He has made an enduring part of American literature."

*Twain's funeral was at the Brick Presbyterian Church on Fifth Avenue, New York. He is buried in his wife's family plot at Woodlawn Cemetery in Elmira, New York. The Langdon family plot is marked by a 12-foot monument (two fathoms, or "mark twain") placed there by his surviving daughter Clara. There is also a smaller headstone. He expressed a preference for cremation (for example, in *Life on the Mississippi*), but he acknowledged that his surviving family would have the last word. Officials in Connecticut and New York estimated the value of Twain's estate at \$471,000 (\$12,000,000 in 2024).*

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



Stuff I Heard on the Island

By Dale Rankin

The Many Deaths of Davy Crockett

This week the 188th anniversary of the fall of the Alamo was marked with a ceremony in Alamo Plaza which each year draws hundreds of Texans, some dressed in period costumes, some running for office, some tourists who either are there for the event or got stuck in the downtown traffic jam. What I learned over the years is that if you wanted to stir things up in San Antonio The Shrine of Texas Liberty was the place to do it. In recent months there have been all sorts of protests revolving around the remaking of Alamo Plaza up to and including armed militia guarding the cenotaph in case someone tried to move it. I covered a march by the Ku Klux Klan there, helped to dig up the Alamo well in search of Jim Bowie's silver, listened to enough street corner preachers there to qualify for some relief in purgatory, and once tried to interview Ozzy Osborne regarding his decision to relieve himself on The Alamo – which in fact turned out to be the cenotaph and Ozzy didn't know what the Alamo was – which got him banned from the Alamo City for a decade.

Iranians Buying The Alamo!

The Klan march came in response to a story one of my friends wrote in the old *San Antonio News* – before the merger with the *Express* – not long after the deposed Shah of Iran had come to Wilford Hall Medical Center for cancer treatment. The *News* – not known for sparing adverbs and modifiers – ran the story under the headline *Shah Comes to San Antonio to Die!* The taking of hostages in Tehran was still fresh and the story created such a stir – and sold so many rack copies – that it warranted a follow-up in which he postulated *Iranians Buying The Alamo!* The best I remember his source was a cab driver recently arrived from Iran who heard it from a guy who heard it from a guy but once again rack sales went through the roof and then the law of unintended consequences kicked in. Two local shock jock morning radio hosts picked the story up and over the course of a few days worked the local cedar chopper contingent into a frenzy.

As the story evolved it somehow came into the common mind that the sale was to be consummated on a particular day in the offices of the sacred shrine and as I sat in the musty pressroom of the San Antonio Police Station on West Nueva Street a few blocks away the police radios came to life – a riot at The Alamo! By the time I got through the crowd the festivities were all over and Alamo Plaza was on lockdown but as it turned out some unlucky cab driver who turned out to be a Saudi who was simply trying to get his fare through downtown found his way into the angry mob who turned their wrath on him - never mind that he wasn't Iranian he would do – and dragged him out of his cab to keep him from buying The Alamo. The two disc jockeys were threatened with inciting a riot and removed from the air for a few days but never charged and I learned the incendiary nature of stories regarding that little stone building there across the street from the wax museum.

Most of the stories were used up

Sometime later I was given the assignment of writing a story for the *News* on the anniversary of the Battle of the Alamo and given the century and half that had passed since the event most of the stories had already been used up. I searched for a new angle and came across a book by a Corpus Christi Certified Public Accountant and amateur historian named Dan Kilgore who had been President of the Texas State Historical Association who wrote a book called *How Did Davy Die!* published in 1978 that was based on the first-ever English translation of eyewitness accounts of the battle by Mexican army officer José Enrique de la Peña released in 1975 - a copy of which I still have today - in which Pena said and Kilgore picked up that Davy Crockett did not die swinging Old Betsy at Mexican soldiers like John Wayne but rather surrendered after the fight and was executed like Billy Bob Thornton on the orders of Mexican General Santa Anna. Pena was with Santa Anna at The Alamo and gave a vivid account:

"Some seven men had survived the general carnage and, under the protection of General Castrillon, they were brought before Santa Anna. Among them was one of great stature, well proportioned, with regular features, in whose face there was the imprint of adversity, but in whom one also noticed a degree of resignation and nobility that did him honor. He was the naturalist David Crockett, well known in North America for his unusual adventures...Santa Anna answered Castrillon's intervention in Crockett's behalf with a gesture of indignation and, addressing himself to the sappers, the troops closest to him, ordered his execution." Pena's accounted squared with that of

Mexican General Martin Perfecto de Cos who was Santa Anna's interpreter at the battle and had been assigned to the Mexican delegation in Washington and recognized Crockett from his time as a congressman. Cos was later taken prisoner at the Battle of San Jacinto and related his account to Texian soldiers there. So two eyewitness accounts from Mexican officers and a book by the President of the Texas State Historical Association seemed like a heck of a lot better source than a cabdriver who heard it from a guy who heard it from a guy so I ran with it after my editor warned me that I might get death threats. I still have a copy of that story in my stringbook somewhere. I spoke to Kilgore several times and the story created another round of controversy in which Kilgore was labeled as everything from a kook to a Texas traitor to a Yankee, a claim to which he responded "I even live on the *south* side of Corpus Christi!" He did however mention that he sold a good number of books after my story appeared, out of which I did not receive a cut.

Not a new story

But it wasn't the first time that story had been heard. Less than three weeks after the battle, the *New Orleans Post-Union* reported that passengers arriving on the schooner *Comanche* brought news of the Alamo's fall, and that *"Crockett and the others tried to surrender; but were told there was no mercy for them."*

Then there is this account which appeared as appendix to the 1837 book *Col. Crockett's Exploits and Adventures in Texas*, which was sold as being Crockett's diary of his time in Texas, found among the belongings of a Mexican officer at San Jacinto but as it turned out was actually written by a Philadelphia newspaper editor; me not being the first to see the value of an Alamo story.

"The battle was desperate until daylight, when only six men belonging to the Texian garrison were found alive. They were instantly surrounded, and ordered, by General Castrillon, to surrender, which they did, under a promise of his protection. Colonel Crockett was of the number... General Castrillon was brave and not cruel, and disposed to save the prisoners. He marched them up to that part of the fort where stood Santa Anna and his murderous crew...Castrillon addressed his excellency, — "Sir, here are six prisoners I have taken alive; how shall I dispose of them? Santa Anna looked at Castrillon fiercely, flew into a violent rage, and replied, "Have I not told you before how to dispose of them? Why do you bring them to me?"

"Colonel Crockett, seeing the act of treachery, instantly sprang like a tiger at the ruffian chief, but before he could reach him a dozen swords were sheathed in his indomitable heart; and he fell, and died without a groan, a frown on his brow, and a smile of scorn and defiance on his lips."

According to the Texas Reader the source of that account was probably a letter written July 19, 1836 by Texian soldier George M. Dolson to his brother in Michigan. The letter was printed in a Detroit newspaper in September of that year. In it Dolson relates how he was asked to translate the statement of a Mexican officer who had been at the Alamo:

"He states that on the morning the Alamo was captured, between the hours of five and six o'clock, General Castrillon, who fell at the battle of St. Jacinto, entered the back room of the Alamo, and there found Crockett and five other Americans, who had defended it until defense was useless; they appeared very much agitated when the Mexican soldiers overtook to rush in after their General, but the humane General ordered his men to keep out, and, placing his hand on his breast, said, "Here is a hand and a heart to protect you. Come with me to the General-in-Chief, and you shall be saved."

The brave but unfortunate men were marched to the tent of Santa Anna...General Cos was Santa Anna's interpreter and said to my informant, "the one behind is the famous Crockett." When brought in the presence of Santa Anna, Castrillon said to him, "Santa Anna, the august, I deliver up to you six brave prisoners of war. Santa Anna replied, "Who has given you orders to take prisoners? I do not want to see those men living - shoot them." As the monster uttered these words each officer turned his face the other way, and the hell-hounds of the tyrant dispatched the six in his presence, and within six feet of his person."

I wasn't the first...

It turned out I wasn't the first reporter at the paper looking for a new Alamo angle. There was an account given to the *San Antonio Express* in 1889 by by Felix Nuñez, who

Crockett cont. on A5

History cont. from A1

ten dollars per head and then shipped to Cuba. In the last installment the troop had been tricked by a Frenchman who told McNelly that a large herd of stolen cattle was going to be driven south along the banks of the Laguna Madre into Mexico. While the Rangers waited in ambush the outlaws once again raided Corpus Christi and the area between it and the Rio Grande, rounding up 800 stolen cattle and driving them in to Mexico. Ranger Captain McNelly swore revenge and set out for the Rio Grande in search of the Frenchman. **Late 1875 in the Nueces Strip near Brownsville** After being fooled by the Frenchman bandit McNelly swore revenge. He believed the man who had lied to him was holed up in Mexico and he was determined to find and kill him. He led his troop to the King Ranch where he recuperated from his recent bout of consumption and Captain Richard King gave him a wagon to get around in. Four weeks later he was ready to ride out on the most storied of all Texas Ranger missions in the history of the force.

Headed for Mexico

McNelly made way south to Rio Grande City which was then the location of the U.S. Army’s Ringgold Barracks and a troop of U.S. Army soldiers commanded by a Major David Ramsay Clendenin stationed just across the river from the bandits’ lair in Las Cuevas, MX. The bandits’ leader was the legendary Mexican overlord Juan Cortinas and when it came to fighting Mexican bandits the U.S. Army in 1875 was about as close to useless as it could be. The Army travelled with wagon trains for supplies which meant they couldn’t catch a Mexican cattle rustler riding a three legged burro. On top of that they were under strict orders not to ride or fire into Mexico. So about they all did was stand around and watch Texas cattle disappear into Mexico and file useless reports that were sent up the chain of command to San Antonio. On his arrival in Ringgold Capt. McNelly sent the following telegram to Austin: *Las Cuevas, Nov. 19, 1875* *A party of raiders have crossed two hundred fifty cattle at Las Cuevas. They have been firing on Major Clendenin’s men. He refuses to cross without further orders. I have ordered my men up and shall cross if I can get support.* A few hours later he wired again: *I recommend crossing at one o’clock tonight. Have 30 men. Will try and recover cattle. The U.S. Troops have promised to cover my return. Ranger Lt. Robinson arrived making a fifty five mile march in five hours.* McNelly took command of the newly arrived Rangers under a half moon. He was wearing starched pants and brush jacket and even had on a black necktie. He addressed the troop. *“Men, these Las Cuevas bandits crossed a herd of 250 beeves yesterday. I’m going to bring those beeves back to Texas. (Frenchman) Pete is holed up across there. I’m going to kill him. I can’t order a single one of you men to go with me. You were hired to fight in Texas, not Mexico. I can’t order you, but I sure need you. I need every one who’ll cross with me, every one who’ll volunteer. We’ll be on our own. I can’t guarantee to bring you back. All I can guarantee is to lead you up to a dang good scrap. I won’t send you-I’ll lead you. If you don’t volunteer it won’t be held against you or show on your record. It’s squarely up to you. Take all the time you need to make up your mind. If any decide to go, step across this trail to this side.”* All twenty eight Rangers stepped across and as they began crossing the Rio Grande in a two-man rowboat the telegraph lines to Washington were buzzing. McNelly wanted the U.S. Army soldiers to cross with him, Washington viewed it as an act of war and said no.

Suicide is against the law

Word had been sent from the American consul in Matamoros to Juan Flores Salinas, owner of Las Cuevas ranch and alcalde (mayor) of Camargo, MX demanding the return of the cattle. The Army Captain on the river told McNelly to wait for a reply and maybe he would be given permission to cross his troops. “You really think so?” McNelly asked. “No,” the Army man said. “But I’ve told you what I was ordered to tell you. I’m just the Colonel’s emissary, and the Colonel is the emissary for General Ord at San Antonio, and the General is getting orders direct from Washington. I’ve got to make my report and when I do they might order me to use the army to prevent you from crossing. You’re making ready to violate two American laws - one is against mounting an armed invasion in Texas, the other is against committing suicide. That’s against the law in case you didn’t know it. But we’ll try to bring the bodies back

and bury you on this side” So McNelly had to cross before word came back from Washington to stop him. Even in 1875 Texas it was easier to ask forgiveness than permission. They reached the Mexican side under a heavy ground fog and fanned out in a skirmish line. The Captain whispered his command: “Stay in sight of the line. Move quietly, five paces behind me.” They followed a cow trail from the river through scrub willows and blackjack and clumps of hardpan sacahuista grass. They came to a rail fence and halted. The fence cut the cowtrail and could be a corral or maybe they weren’t where they thought they were. Three Rangers moved into the brush to scout and drew no fire. It was just starting to get light and they could see some sheds.

Shooting starts

A rifle shot rang out and clipped a tree a foot from a Ranger’s head. McNelly fired his pistol as it came up and the Mexican sentry fell dead. They had been discovered. The bandits were camped a mile from the river and had not expected an ambush. They woke up and came pouring out of their shed fumbling for their guns. The Rangers were within pistol range and stayed in the brush killing twelve fleeing bandits, some of whom had on the uniform of the Mexican Army. The rest scattered into the brush until all that was left behind was a woman who continued to pat tortillas like nothing was happening. She told the Rangers this was not Las Cuevas but Cachuttas, a line camp, and pointed them down a forked trail. Their guide Casoose had led them to the wrong place and now the bandits knew they were heading for the main ranch house a mile away where the bandits would have time to take cover or ride off. But for McNelly there was no turning back. He had come to kill bandits, retrieve cattle, and kill a Frenchman. The Rangers shouldered their .50 caliber Sharps rifles and jogged ahead following McNelly. They topped a small rise and could see the main camp below in a wide low spot. It consisted of a stockade closed with six- foot poles and clusters of jacales and a chapel in the center. The bandits were taking their time and were still saddling their horses as the Rangers stayed hidden low in the ground fog undetected. Four scouts were sent out from the camp to check the brush. The Rangers cocked their Sharps and took aim, waiting for the Captain to fire first. His first shot killed the lead rider and three more went down immediately. Then the Rangers opened up on the group of riders milling around on the near side of the camp.

Bad day to be a bandit

The bandits’ time in camp away from any law and their easy lives combined with the plentiful mescal had made them lazy and careless. They were taking their time in mounting their horses but they were out in the open and had no idea who was shooting at them. They were well in range of the Sharps and Durham said every Ranger shot brought down another bandit. A hit with a .50 caliber shot did a lot of damage. The survivors panicked and ran for the stockade. The sun was up and the Rangers were dug in and could see well. They poured in the fire as the leaderless bandits ran or rode in every direction. A group of them on horseback rode right at the Rangers, who they still hadn’t seen because they were looking for men on horseback. They barely got off a dozen shots before they all fell from Rangers bullets. But reinforcements began riding in from Camargo and one man was clearly their leader with a blooded horse and silver on his saddle. McNelly squinted through his spy glasses - it was Juan Salinas, the mayor. In no time he had more than one hundred men around him and was heading for the river to cut off the Rangers’ line of retreat. “Every man,” McNelly said, “break for the river or we’ll be cut off. Keep low and don’t shoot unless overhauled. Break lines and make it your own way.” The river was two miles away through heavy brush. If the men inside Cueves had known what they were up against they could have ridden in and cut the Rangers off easily. But all they knew is they had tried three frontal attacks and the brush in front of them had begun spewing bullets and nearly thirty of them were shot. To them the brush was haunted and they probed slowly.

War on Mexico!

Back across the river the U.S. Army Lieutenant Guy Carleton was burning up the telegraph keys. It turned out he was quite the writer who eventually turned out several books and stories about what he observed from his perch on the north side of the river that day. What he didn’t know he made up; Texas had declared war on Mexico! The first band of Rangers had been wiped out! The rest were surrounded and

Crockett cont. from A4

claimed to have been a veteran of the battle:

“He was a tall American of rather dark complexion and had on a long cuera (buck skin coat) and a round cap without any bill, and made of fox skin, with the long tail hanging down his back. This man apparently had a charmed life. Of the many soldiers who took deliberate aim at him and fired, not one ever hit him. On the contrary he never missed a shot. He killed at least eight of our men, besides wounding several others. This fact being observed by a lieutenant who had come in over the wall he sprung at him and dealt him a deadly blow with his sword, just above the right eye, which felled him to the ground and in an instant he was pierced by not less than twenty bayonets. This lieutenant said that if all Americans had killed as many of our men as this one had, our army would have been annihilated before the Alamo could have been taken. He was about the last man that was killed.”

Finally there is the account of Captain Rafael Soldana of the Tampico Battalion:

“A tall man, with flowing hair, was seen firing from the same place on the parapet during the entire siege. He wore a buckskin suit and a cape all of a pattern entirely different from those worn by his comrades. This man would kneel or lie down behind the low parapet, rest his long gun and fire, and we all learned to keep at a good distance when he was seen to make ready to shoot. He rarely missed his mark, and when he fired he always rose to his feet and calmly reloaded his gun seemingly indifferent to the shots fired at him by our own men. He had a strong, resonant voice and often railed at us, but as we did not understand English, we could not comprehend the import of his words further than they were defiant. This man I later learned was called, “Kwockey.”

“When the final assault was made upon the walls these men fought like devils. ‘Kwockey’ was killed in a room of the mission. He stood on the inside to the left of the door and plunged his long knife into the bosom of every soldier that tried to enter. They were powerless to fire upon him because of the fact that he was backed up against the wall and, the doorway being narrow, they could not bring their guns to bear upon him. And, moreover, the pressure from the rear was so great that many near the doorway were forced into the room only to receive a deadly thrust from that long knife.”

“Finally a well-directed shot broke the man’s right arm and his hand fell useless at his side. He then seized his long gun with his

left hand and leaped toward the center of the room where he could wield the weapon without obstruction, felling every man that came through the doorway. A corporal ordered the passage cleared of those who were being pressed forward, a volley was fired almost point blank and the last defender of the Alamo fell dead.”

No back door...



U.S. Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez, four of his children and wife Bertha (walking up behind them) were on hand when the Kennedys arrived Nov. 21, 1963, at San Antonio International Airport. Cecil Stoughton /JFK Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

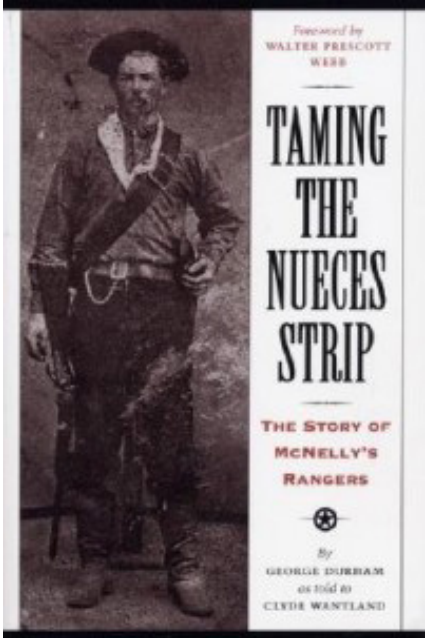
So How Did Davy Die? I don’t know, I wasn’t there and the people who were tell different stories. In the end I’m not sure how much it matters. I’m reminded of a story from November, 21, 1963 the day before President John Kennedy was killed in Dallas. More than 100,000 people lined the streets of San Antonio to see Kennedy who ended up trapped inside The Alamo by the crowd and the press. “Is there a back door to this place?” Kennedy was said to have asked. Maury Maverick, whose son was himself an Express-News columnists who I came to know, replied: “There is no *back door* to the Alamo Mr. President. That’s why we had so many dead heroes.” I figure no matter how he died Davy knew that when he arrived. This is the West son...when the legend becomes fact print the legend.



Texas Rangers

arranging terms of surrender. The consul at Matamoros send word to his man in Camargo to go advise McNelly to surrender to the Federales. But McNelly had a trick up his sleeve. Rather than just running for the border or making a stand in the brush he had his men give ground as the riders approached but did not fire. The incoming bandits thought they were being led into a trap and approached slowly giving the Rangers time to reach the river. The Sharps riffles being fired from behind the Rangers kept the incoming riders from getting close enough to fire with their repeating rifles. The Rangers dug in on the south bank of the river standing ankle deep in water and waiting for the riders to approach. They were outnumbered five to one and out of rifle ammunition. On the Texas side the Army Captain had brought in half a company to keep the fight from crossing the river. As a large group of riders closed in on the Rangers the soldiers on the Texas side opened up with a Gatling gun they had mounted on the far bank and then the soldiers opened up with rifles. Their commanding officer later swore a shot had landed on the Texas side and he thought they were under attack. The site is marked today on the Mexican side with a plaque that reads: *To citizen Juan Flores Salinas who fighting died for his country November 20, 1875.* It wasn’t just Salinas, all his men died there - more

than thirty men at that spot alone. Some of the U.S. soldiers took off their uniforms and swam across in their underpants to join the fight - one of whom was a Captain who later became a General. More men from Las Cuevas were on the way and more soldiers coming across the river. Already more than fifty men on the south side of the river were dead – no Rangers – and the fight wasn’t over. An American fighting force had shot men wearing Mexican Army uniforms on Mexican soil. Things were heating up down the Rio Grande. **Next time: A Mexican standoff.** Dale Rankin



Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon

Sugar Ray Robinson-Boxer Part 5



By Dotson Lewis

*Dotson's Note: I finally got to the **LAST PART** of the Sugar Ray Robinson saga, thanks for hanging in there. Thanks to Bill Morgan, Joseph C. Nichols, Bert Sugar, Ron Flatter and Lou Jenkins for the facts contained in this report and to Lou Jenkins for the photos.*



Robinson Held Aloft By Gene Fullmer And Carmen Basilio In 1965

Robinson has been ranked as the greatest boxer of all time by sportswriters, fellow boxers, and trainers. The phrase “pound for pound” was created by sportswriters for him during his career as a way to compare boxers irrespective of weight. Hall of Fame fighters Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis, Roberto Durán and Sugar Ray Leonard have ranked Robinson as the greatest pound-for-pound boxer in history. In 1997, *The Ring* ranked him as the best pound-for-pound fighter in history, and in 1999 he was named «welterweight of the century», «middleweight of the century», and overall «fighter of the century» by the Associated Press. In 2007 ESPN.com featured the piece “50 Greatest Boxers of All Time”, in which it named Robinson the top boxer in history. In 2003, *The Ring** ranked him number 11 in the list of all-time greatest punchers. Robinson was also ranked as the number 1 welterweight and the number 1 pound-for-pound boxer of all time by the International Boxing Research Organization. He was inducted into the Madison Square Garden Walk of Fame at its inception in 1992.

Robinson was one of the first African Americans to establish himself as a star outside sports. He was an integral part of the New York social scene in the 1940s and 1950s. His glamorous restaurant, Sugar Ray's, hosted stars including Frank Sinatra, Jackie Gleason, Nat King Cole, Joe Louis, and Lena Horne. Robinson was known as a flamboyant personality outside the ring. He combined striking good looks with charisma and a flair for the dramatic. He drove a flamingo-pink Cadillac and was an accomplished singer and dancer, who once pursued a career in the entertainment industry.

According to ESPN's Ron Flatter: “He was the pioneer of boxing's bigger-than-life entourages, including a secretary, barber, masseur, voice coach, a coterie of trainers, beautiful women, a dwarf mascot and lifelong manager George Gainford.” When Robinson first traveled to Paris, a steward referred to his companions as his “*entourage*”. Although Robinson said he did not like the word's literal definition of “attendants”, since he felt they were his friends, he liked the word itself and began to use it in regular conversation when referring to them.

In 1962, in an effort to persuade Robinson to return to Paris, where he was still a national hero, the French promised to bring over his masseur, his hairdresser, a man who would whistle while he trained, and his trademark Cadillac. This larger-than-life persona made him the idol of millions of African American youths in the 1950s. Robinson inspired several other fighters who took the nickname “Sugar” in homage to him: Sugar Ray Leonard, Sugar Shane Mosley, and MMA fighter “Suga” Rashad Evans.

*Ring Magazine

Dotson's Other Note: OK Moon Monkeys, are any of you boxing fans? If so, where do you rank Sugar Ray?



By Andy Purvis

Onion Rings

Reid Ryan, the one time Houston Astros's President and older son of Texas pitching legend, Nolan Ryan, once told a story about him and his dad at a Houston Astros's luncheon, held here in Corpus Christi, at the Solomon Ortiz Center. Seems that his dad, Nolan, had pitched earlier in the day, and they decided that the two of them would go out to dinner together. They went to a fine restaurant there in Houston and ordered a large order of onion rings as an appetizer. This large plate of onion rings was placed between them as they sat opposite of each other at the table. Now if you have lived in Texas for very long, you know that onion rings in Texas are known as 1015's. The name 1015's refers to the month and the date they were invented (October 15). They are the biggest, sweetest onions found anywhere in the world. While they sat waiting for the main course to be served, Reid said he noticed two middle-aged ladies a couple of tables over turning and looking at him and his dad. They continued to stare and look over at them for quite a while. Nolan had noticed also and whispered to Reid, “They are probably going to come over and ask for an autograph or something. Don't worry about it; I'll handle it.” “Sure enough,” said Reid, “after about ten minutes or so, one of the ladies got up and approached our table.” When the lady got to their table she said nicely, “Please excuse me. I don't mean to bother you, but could my friend take a picture?” “Sure,” said



Nolan Ryan

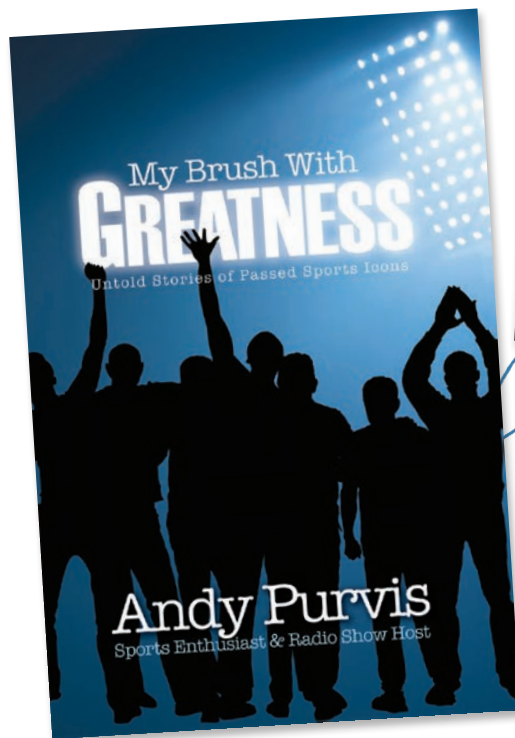
Nolan, figuring that this would be quick and pain-free. So, the lady goes around to the other side of the table and bends down so her face is right above this plate of onion rings. Her friend hurries over to Nolan's table and takes a picture of the other lady and the plate of onion rings. “It is at this point,” says Reid, “that my dad and I realized that they did not know Nolan Ryan, the future Hall-of-Fame pitcher.” After the picture was taken, the lady who had approached their table first said with a huge smile “Thanks so much. We're from Washington State and we've never seen onion rings that big.”

Andy Purvis

Book Signing

with
Andy Purvis

Sports Enthusiast & Radio Show Host



Andy Purvis

BARNES & NOBLE
Moore Plaza - Corpus Christi, TX

**Saturday March 16
1-3pm**

Around cont. from A1

Hall. Since the committee's inception in 2010 it has been invaluable on everything from streets and parks to stewardship of the funds in the Island's Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 which funds much of the infrastructure we see going in around us. Next on the ISAC agenda is completion of the Island Mobility Plan, improvements to Commodores Park, and the paving of the long-planned paper streets – platted but never built – as well as improvements under the JFK Bridge which all taken together are the blueprint for the future of our Island. If you see Jay Around The Island thank him

for his service. So long Daylight Wasting Time Don't forget to spring your clock forward at midnight Saturday as we say so long to *Daylight Wasting Time* and welcome in *Daylight Saving Time* for 2024. We may stumble around in the dark in the morning but we get more after-work time to enjoy our Island sunsets. Hunker down this weekend everybody watch out for the annual Spring Break Island Speed Traps and say hello if you see us Around The Island.



Kip Shannon and his chicken Lucky are playing Bingo with his droppings at the Gaff. Photo by Ronnie Narmour



By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks

I’ve received several notes from a few people recently, thanks for reaching out. I always appreciate notes from you loyal readers asking for additional information or clarification on things that wind up in these hallowed columns. I know sometimes I get ahead of myself and try to wedge a bunch of information in, but hey, I’m trying to give you your money’s worth. Ha!

Little Shell

Matthew reached out to me last week and asked me what I meant by “Little Shell is coming back in the 20’s.” I had meant to catch back up with this subject, and thanks for the reminder. The Seashore, especially down in the 30’s is the location of two nearshore converging currents; one from the south and one from the north (due to the curvature of the coast). These currents carry all kinds of flotsam and jetsam, and when they converge, they deposit what they were carrying on the beach. This is the reason there is so much plastic trash on the beach, and hence the reason for the Billy Sandifer Clean Up. But these currents also affect the morphology of the beach.



Ruby-throated hummingbird

Hummingbirds

The hummingbirds are headed in town as I type this. A quick glance at BirdCast shows that birds are flying over the gulf in the next few days, however, it looks like we are getting another cold front this weekend (boo!). This will cause one of the first fallouts of the season, and there should be some good birds around in the usual haunts. I know I sound like a broken record, but get those hummingbird feeders up and keep your eyes peeled for a green breasted mango hummingbird. And it’s definitely time to think about getting the bird nest boxes and purple martin houses up.

The jetties

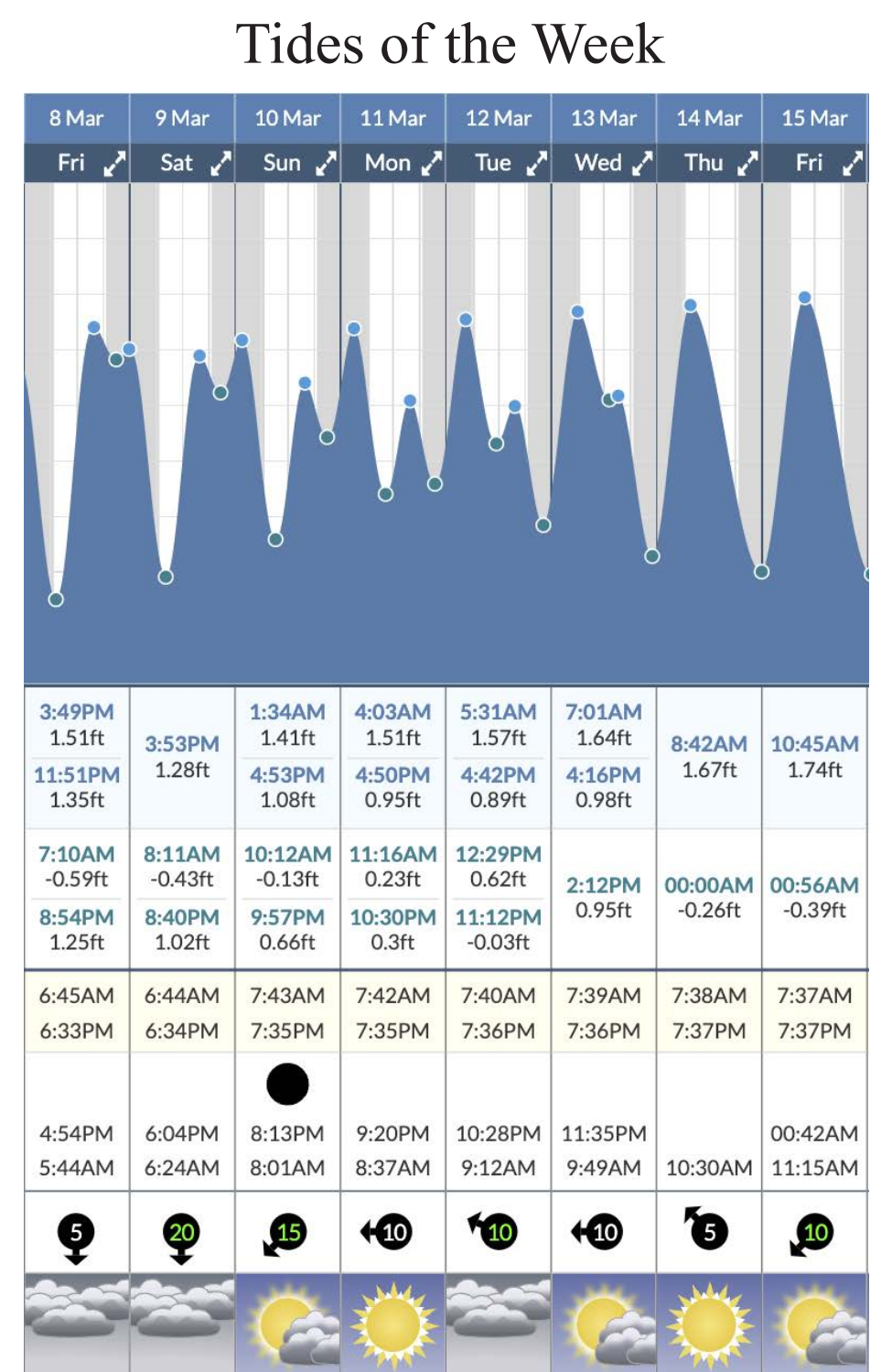
The beaches on the south side of the Packery and Port Aransas jetties are accreting; you can see that from google earths. This is characterized by a wide, flat beach. The other areas are steeper, with thinner beach faces. Down the Seashore, the converging currents erode the beach sands, but at the same time, bring in many small pieces of broken shell which build the beach up tall. The bars and guts are very deep and steep, and the beach is very narrow. The storms over the past decade had changed the currents and knocked the beach and guts/bars flat. The currents are now reforming the small shells on the beach (“Malaquite”) and the bars and guts. Big Shell is formed by the same forces, and is reforming down in the 50’s. More later, ha!


Island parks

Then our friend “Candy” reached out to me regarding some of the issues that is going on with some of the Island parks. I have a dreadful confession; I am not a constant user of our Island parks. While I have indeed lobbied for amenities at most of the Island parks, Riley P. Dog area, soccer goals at Billish and all, I have not used the track at Ulberg Park in quite a few years. I know that our parks are habitually neglected due to lack of impetus from whoever, I had no idea that it was in such disrepair. I have reached out to the chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC), and we’ll see if we can’t get something moving.

ISAC


Speaking of terming out of the Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC), our good friend Dotson Lewis is also stepping down. I want to thank him for his support over the years. Thanks also go to city staff (namely Bonnie and Heather) and our past and present District 4 representatives, Greg Smith and Dan Suckley, along with committee members, the Island Moon Monkeys, and others. There are four vacant seats, so if you’re interested, get your applications in ASAP. I will take the time next week to outline some of the progress that we’ve made over the years at ISAC. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and I’ll see you next week On the Rocks.





By Joey Farah
Farah’s Fishing Adventures


Backwater Adventures



The Spring Trout Bite is Popp’n!! This nice Speck came from a drift along the shallow sand pockets along the King Ranch Shoreline this week on a DOWN SOUTH LURES SUPER MIDELE IN Magic Grass. Farah

We have had a spring push of tide and bait here in the Coastal Bend that has sent our fishing into high gear! Streams of fresh gulf water have been pumping through the Gulf passes in Port A, PACKERY, and the New Don Patricio Pass. The water in the Upper Laguna Madre is beautiful and full of life. The water conditions towards our south are not so good. A dredge spilling mud around the mouth of Baffin last month stained the waters pretty bad, and has made it hard at times to find good quality water down there. All will be ok as soon as we start getting the bull tides from the south through the Land Cut late this month. Then we will hit the peak of spring fishing!

Soft plastics have ruled the trout bite this week. Some days we have caught over 100 trout on my boat. Lunar feeding times are important to pay attention to as well as the presence of small bait in the area you are fishing. Look for signs of different birds in the area, watch the surface while at a slow idle along shorelines and spoil areas to find zones rich in baitfish. The islands south of Bird Island Basin are a great place to both drift and anchor right now. Drifting over and along these spoil islands will give up lots of trout, reds, and black drum for fisherman using live shrimp and popping corks. Anchoring along the edge of the ICW canal is on fire for migrating black drum. The jetties are in full SHEEP HEAD PARTY MODE! Just in time for spring break. Don’t let the kids sit inside all week on the boob tube, get them outside and fishing.



Tides have been on the rise! Pushing bait and redfish up into the extrem shallow, this nice red was in the Boat Hole in just 2 in of water. DOA PEARL 3 in. Cal Shad.

MARKER 37 FISHING REPORT

THE MARKER 37 FISHING PIER IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AGAIN!! Come take the kids during operating hours to the best fishing pier in the area! Come in the morning and catch reds tailing on the inside shallows, flounder along the pier pilings, and some great trout along the drop off of the channel on live shrimp and soft plastics. The same pass will be good for you to come back around sunset and hit it again! LIVE SHRIMP has been plentiful as well as those sea lice for the big drum.

It’s spring break so slow everything in your life down and remember we are sharing our slice of paradise with many. Take your time, be safe, have some patience with young people, WE WERE ONCE THOSE IDIOTS! GOD BLESS AND HAVE A GREAT WEEK. Follow all of our fishing on Facebook and Instagram at Joey FARAH’S Backwater Adventures. Open dates for YOU, March 27,28/ April 2,3,4,11,12,15,22,



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This mighty redfish was along the rocks in Baffin Bay’s THE BADLANDS this week. I caught him on a redshad DOWN SOUTH LURES SUPER MODEL.

AI Aids in Marine Research

As a convergent researcher, student Miranda White '26 understands the critical role interdisciplinary research and collaboration plays in addressing complex challenges. Blending her experience in environmental science and statistics with a growing knowledge in risk communication, Miranda is helping the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science (CBI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) harness the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to preserve endangered sea turtles along the Texas Gulf Coast. Miranda is a Coastal and Marine System Science Ph.D. student with CBI's NSF AI Institute for Research on Trustworthy AI in Weather, Climate, and Coastal Oceanography (AI2ES). Along with a team of students from TAMU-CC and Del Mar College, they've developed a computer-based system to predict cold water temperatures in the Laguna Madre, an estuary located in South Texas between the mainland and barrier islands. The area is a vital habitat for numerous species, including economically valuable fish and endangered green sea turtles. However, dynamic conditions in the area can cause rapid drops in water temperature, causing marine species in the Laguna Madre to become "cold-stunned" and putting them at risk of injury or death. Using AI and ten years of air and water temperature data collected from monitoring stations along the Texas Coast, the AI2ES team has developed models capable of predicting cold-stunning events in the Laguna Madre up to five days before they happen. This allows stakeholders more time to mobilize efforts to protect and rescue cold-stunned sea turtles.

Miranda has made considerable contributions to CBI AI2ES' cold-stunning research. Working with stakeholders within the Texas Marine Cold-water Response Collaborative, including Texas Parks and Wildlife, National Weather Service, and National Park Service, she's cultivated a better understanding of stakeholder trust in the team's predictions. She plans to refine methods for developing and communicating more accurate and trustworthy information to stakeholders so they can make informed decisions during cold-stunning events using AI-derived uncertainty quantifications.



Her contributions to CBI AI2ES' sea turtle cold-stunning research were recently recognized at the American Meteorological Society's (AMS) annual conference, where she won first place in the event's AI Conference Oral Presentations competition. "The AMS AI Conference is possibly the largest conference in the world focused on the development of AI for the environmental sciences," said Dr. Philippe Tissot, Chair for Coastal Artificial Intelligence at the Conrad Blucher Institute. "Miranda's victory is significant as it's the first time a student from CBI has won first prize in the oral competition."

Miranda's dedication to research excellence is evident, having previously claimed first place in the event's AI Poster Competition last year.

"I'm honored to be recognized by the American Meteorological Society," said Miranda. "I aim to be a successful representation of a convergent scientist within my field, and I hope this recognition emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary research and collaboration within the scientific community."

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Enters into Research Partnership with Padre Island National Seashore

Permit will allow Lone Star UAS Center of Excellence and Innovation drones to fly over federally protected land, but there is a warning for the public Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Lone Star Unmanned Aircraft System Center of Excellence and Innovation (LSUASC) announced this week they have received a research permit from the federal government that will allow them to conduct studies with their drones along the Padre Island National Seashore (PINS).

The research LSUASC will conduct at PINS is part of the national seashore's continuing efforts to support the sea turtle program. LSUASC will be able to assist and monitor in the rescue of cold-stunned turtles, and map beach erosion. UAS flights can also eventually support the monitoring of other species of wildlife, as well as map tidal areas along the Laguna Madre and grassland areas on the interior of the island in what is billed as a first of its kind research project. When the drones do take flight above the Padre Island National Seashore it will be a

rare sight, and for good reason. There is a National Park Service policy that prohibits the use of unmanned aircraft in national parks. Officials with PINS say if you are caught flying an unauthorized drone you could face a federal misdemeanor charge that comes with a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.



Going Native

Little bluestem Schizachyrium litterole

By Ed Proffitt

I like native grasses, but I especially like little bluestem (Schizachyrium spp) in the grass family Poaceae. These very pretty grasses are an important component of prairie ecosystems throughout the United States and Canada. Indeed, some species were critical components of the "Tall grass" prairie that dominated much of the interior west-midwest lands of the U.S. along with massive herds of bison. Botanists in the 1970's and 1980's listed S. scoparium as a dominant grass on South Padre Island but more recent work by Diamond and colleagues in the Padre Island National Seashore indicate that this is actually S. litterole (sometimes called shore little bluestem). Shore little bluestem is reported to occur from Texas to New England.

As a side note for you to impress friends with at parties, big bluestem, a cousin of our little bluestem, is depicted on a quarter that celebrates the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (Chase County, KS) via the America the Beautiful Quarters program. One would think that our little bluestem deserves such a honor as well. Another FYI for you, the tallgrass prairie once covered 167 to 170 million acres of North America extending from Canada through North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and a significant portion of eastern Texas, however all but 4% has been lost to development of farms and urban areas. In the early 1800's explorers and maps listed the area as the Great American Desert because of the lack of trees, despite the fact that some 500 species of grass and forbs (broad leaf, tap rooted flowers) occurred as an intact ecosystem --- not to mention the massive herds of bison! Eventually, however, someone checked the soil and found it very rich and the conversions to croplands began.

In our area shore little bluestem occurs on the leeward side of dunes and in dry prairie grasslands, as well as



sophora t shore little bluestem

being an important component in shrublands. The species typically grows to heights of 1 or 2 feet, but taller has been recorded depending on local conditions. It's a bunch grass that is easily propagated by transplanting or from seed. The base of stems are bluish in some seasons, hence the name. It grows well in sandy non-fertile soils and is reasonably drought and salt spray tolerant. It is fire adapted and quickly recolonizes via wind dispersal of seeds and surviving culms following fire. Shore little bluestem has been used to stabilize dune washovers or blowouts along with other native dune plants.

Although it doesn't produce much in the way of nectar it is still important to pollinators, as are other bunch grasses. Turf grasses do not provide bare spaces adjacent to clumps the way bunch grasses do. Some ground-nesting bees require these bare spaces. Shore little bluestem is a host plant for the larvae of several skipper butterflies, and other valuable insect species. It also provides cover for migratory birds and small mammals like our ground squirrels.

This is an attractive bunch grass that you can plant in your yard to support our wildlife and help maintain the natural feel of our island home as you keep Going Native.

HRI Sink Your Shucks Program to Recycle Shells from Fulton Oysterfest

For the first time, the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Sink Your Shucks™ Oyster Recycling Program will collect oyster shell from the annual Fulton Oysterfest festival in Fulton, Texas. Sink Your Shucks™ will also have a booth during the festival that will allow attendees to learn more about oyster recycling and the ecosystem services provided by oysters.

The festival, which takes place March 7-10, shucked over 60,000 oysters during the 2023 event. Collecting shells from an event of this scale will keep this important coastal resource out of landfills and will eventually lead to the restoration of oyster reefs in Texas bays.

Fulton Oysterfest is sponsored by the Fulton Volunteer Fire Department and features an oyster eating contest, parade, games, food, carnival rides, and more.

Each year, funds raised during the festival are used to purchase essential equipment, equipment maintenance, and training for the community's volunteer fire department and emergency services.

Sink Your Shucks™ was founded by HRI in 2009 and is led by HRI's Coastal Conservation and Restoration group. The program was the first in Texas that reclaims oyster shells from local restaurants and returns them to south Texas waters providing both substrate to form new reefs and habitat for fish, crabs, and other organisms.



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Business Briefs

By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

Bay Fishing on the 55' Bay King is now available here after servicing South Padre Island for years. It is a 3.5 hour fishing trip with rod, reel, bait and tackle supplied and leaves from Snoopy's Pier. The cost for age 6 and up to fish is \$50 and spectators age 4 and up is \$30. Through March and April trips are at 8 am and 1:30pm. The boat can accommodate up to 49 passenger but for fishing trip they limit to 25. Bay King's Head Captain Omar Salinas comes from a family of captains and fishermen. Call 742-3195 to reserve a spot or book online at buccaneercruises.com. There have been group fishing boats downtown at the T-heads but never from the Island.



Mario's Beachside Food Truck has gotten a vendor permit for mile marker 207 near the south jetty. They will be serving authentic New York pizza with dough imported from NYC and homemade sauce. They will be at the beach through August.



Island Oasis has applied for a liquor license for the former Coastal Teak unit near where Scuttlebutt's was. That's all I know so far.

My Mimi's Kitchen will be moving to Bluff's Landing Marina so customers can enjoy dining on the waterfront. It is where The Lookout Restaurant was located. Chad & Julia will be serving dinner at the same location at Papa's Seafood & Steaks. The restaurant name may be changed to a combination of the two names.

Captain's Table Seafood & Steaks has a target date of Monday, April 1st. Owner Minos was going to serve breakfast just on weekends but is expanding the hood to accommodate being able to prepare breakfast more efficiently if it becomes more in demand. They have ordered the furniture including ten booths and two large tables to handle groups.

Oh My! across from 1st Community Bank has reopened. They have a nice selection of Turkish lights that they did not have before.



Third Coast Nutrition has moved from next to Subway where they have been for two years to across the highway near 1st Community Bank. They have expanded their menu which now includes smoothie bowls and are now open Sundays.



Angie's List is now called Angi. I needed my carpeting in my two bedrooms stretched and they made it easy to find someone to do it. There was a choice of two possible carpet cleaners and I filled out what I needed on-line on a Sunday and the next morning I got a call from Joseph the owner of Clover Carpet Cleaning and set up an appointment for the following day. The other choice called later in the day. I have added a 5 star review to Clover Cleaning's other 5 star reviews.

Padre Island Yacht Club Boat Show & Market Days will be on Saturday, March 23rd 10 am - 5 pm and Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. It is sponsored by Gulf Coast Marine. Vendors include Lazy Beach Brewing and Reel Wicked Fishing Apparel. The proceeds from the \$2 entrance fee goes to the Island Blast Fireworks Show.



The 11th Annual St. Paddy's Festival will be held on Saturday, March 16th starting at noon at the lot across from Cassidy's Irish Pub downtown and down Peoples Street. There will be 12 bands including pipes and drums, vendors, several food trucks, a large kid zone and large tents for seating.



The Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra next concert is Majestic Sounds on Saturday, March 9th 7:30 pm at TAMU-CC Performing Arts Center. The concert will include a medley of Elvis favorites and a harmonica.

The PA Rockers keep things rockin' for the Winter Texans at Bernie's in Port A on Wednesdays. Their last gig this year is March 27th.

The Salty Dolphin 2nd Anniversary party is this weekend with live music and BBQ brisket.

Water recycle barrels are available for \$47.50. You make the payment at the City Hall central cashier and pick up at the warehouse off Holly Road.

Isle Mail & More and The Port Aransas Business Center has been sold to Bailee a long time employee. Scott and Andrea Ford have decided to retire.

WB Liquors has Spring Break great specials the whole month of March.

Hardknocks Sports Grill is hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, March 8th 2:30 - 5 pm. Donors will receive a Fishing for Donors t-shirt and five free wings courtesy of Hardknocks.

The Island Art Market will be at Billish Park on Saturday, March 9th 10 am - 3 pm.

Flour Bluff High School won the NJROTC State Championship for the 25th year out of 30 state appearances. They are having a Pancake Sale Fundraiser for their travel to Nationals in Daytona. The cost of the pancake breakfast is \$10 and will be on Saturday, March 9th 8 - 10 at the high school cafeteria.

The 45th Annual Fulton Oysterfest is Thursday, March 7th 5 pm, Friday 5 pm, Saturday 10 am and Sunday 10 am - 6 pm. Lots of vendors, a carnival, parade and more than a dozen bands.

Real Life Church has Vacation Bible School March 11 - 14 for grades kindergarten - 5th grade 9 am - noon. It will be at the Island in the Son Church on Highway 361 where Real Life is currently residing.

New Stride Physical Therapy will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary with a BBQ, food truck, door prizes and Ty Dietz providing the entertainment. Join the party on Tuesday, March 19th 5:30 - 7:30 pm at 14302 Nemo Court.

Random Stuff

At March Madness I like to watch teams that have players that are high NBA prospects. This year there is Duke player Filipkowski a 7 footer who can shoot threes. Purdue Edey is the tallest at 7'4". Kentucky as usual has freshmen and this year its Sheppard and Dillingham. Baylor has two players 7' Missi with a 7'5" wing span and Ja'Kobe Walter. UConn who was a #4 seed that won last year has Clingan and Castle.



Cara Rose and the Keep Her Wild folks had a fundraiser at the Gaff last Sunday.
Photo by Ronnie Narmour



Neesy Tompkins releasing a baby possum back into the wild at Charlie's Pasture. Photo by Ronnie Narmour

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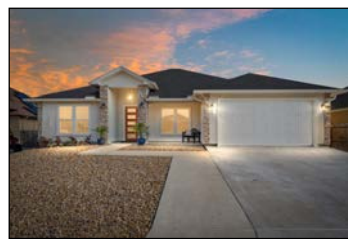
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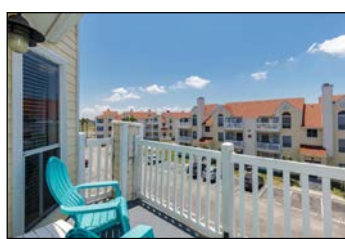
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14721 Whitecap Blvd. #395 Beautiful studio condo with vaulted ceilings with an amazing view of Lake Padre and short walk to the beach. **\$183,650** Call **Charlie Knoll** 361-443-2499



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



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



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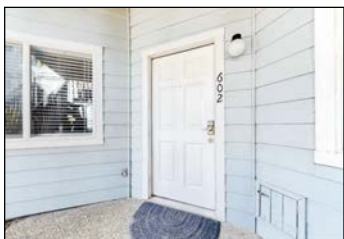
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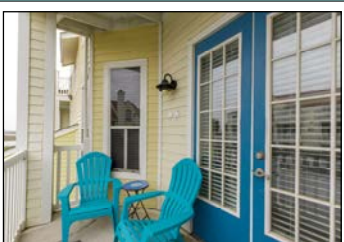
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Catherine Clark traveled to the mountains of Mexico, taking the Island Moon with her to magical and beautiful San Miguel de Allende.



Amanda Barmore and Sandy Powell traveled to Sweden at the Bothnia Sea with the Ice Breaker Polar Explorer!!!



Islanders Donnie and Shelly Greaney and David and Karen Rossi at the Venetian in Las Vegas.



We took the Moon to Colonial Williamsburg, VA. Angela and Eddie Amaral with their son and three grandkids.



Lisa Marie Garza worked in public relations at the old Waves Resort on The island. She now lives in San Miguel de Allende.



Group from Pioneer RV park, Port Aransas- cruise photo in Half Moon Cay, Bahamas.



The Island Moon went to the Garden of the Gods - Colorado Springs, Colorado, with Nicole Scofield.



Pelican by Christopher Ghormley



Mark Drew took the Moon to Phuket, Thailand!

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Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

The horrific attack on Israel by Hamas and resulting siege of Gaza by Israel seem so far away. Yet, the images are so visceral even our bridge cannot separate or isolate us.

There is a fable about a young lion and a cougar. Both thirsty, the animals arrived at their usual water hole at the same time. They immediately began to argue about who should drink first. The argument became heated, and each decided he would rather die than give up the privilege of being first to drink. As they stubbornly confronted each other, their emotions turned to rage. Their cruel attacks on each other were suddenly interrupted. They both looked up. Circling overhead was a flock of vultures waiting for the loser to fall. Quietly, the two beasts turned and walked away. The thought of being devoured was all they needed to end their quarrel.

It seems the world is spinning crazy, wild, out of control, spinning toward rage, hate, and violence. Rage is on full display in our grievance-based culture. Rage is contagious. However, rage is like drinking poison and hoping your enemy will die.

There is a liminal moment between anger and rage. Anger can often be a constructive emotion. Anger can point us to an acute awareness of wrongdoing. When anger is directed away from our own pride and toward the well-being of another person, anger can be a means to a healthy end. Anger can help recognize and address injustice, hurt, betrayal, failure, brokenness, division. Anger can be the first step towards healing and reconciliation. Even Jesus experienced anger.

However, when we become stuck in anger, rage can take over. Rage is the moment we lose all rational faculties. Restraint is trampled; we can often lose sight of the original wrong done in our rampaging quest for destruction and vengeance. In rage we tell ourselves we can and should destroy all in our path, for only then can justice be restored, and fury satisfied. Rage lies.

Rage inflames and inflates. Rage rarely solves anything. Rage assumes a story by which I obliterate you and all is resolved. Yet, it is not resolved, it just stokes up rage for explosion at a later time. Rage nev-

er produces true and lasting peace, nor justice, between groups or in relationships. This is a message to our society engulfed in politics of grievance and rage and for those relationships that are crashing against the rocks of brokenness.

There is a place for healthy anger, the emotion that can't walk past injustice and affront. But, healthy anger avoids evoking explosive rage. Healthy anger doesn't assume all fault lies with the other party. It is open to understanding that not all wrong lies on a single side. Healthy anger points parties away from mutual destruction. Healthy anger is almost always a prerequisite for true peace – a peace that doesn't pretend fury will simply burn itself out, nor presume enmity can be ignored or suppressed.

As a youth, I remember singing *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. The hope of peace lies in the love of God and the recognition of our common humanity, redeemed and restored in Christ. Peace starts with me. The fuel for peace is humility and mercy. The spark for peace is the grace and love of God. As we live in the peace of God, peace spreads.

I don't pretend to know the answer to the rage and hatred between Hamas and Israel. I pray there might come a path through mutual security, dignity, understanding, respect, and hope that can lead to peace. As Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Where there is no way, God makes a way." I pray this also for our society and for all the relationships where peace is absent. *Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.*

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

Choose kindness, compassion, and love; do justice and make peace; welcome the stranger.

pastor@islandpresby.com



Eternal Light

by Bob Skipper

The stars light up the midnight sky,
With a distant ethereal glow.
The moon glides on its eternal path
And lights the sand below.

Tide and surf echo the sound,
Of the rhythmic changing earth.
Changing from darkened chaos
To her natural starlit birth.

Peace and love can all be found,
Upon the golden sands.
Eternal light that shines on high
And brightens all the land.

So, walk the shore and feel the life,
From sea to shining sea.
Know the peace and fulfilling love,
Throughout all eternity.



Padre Island Rotary Club Invites the Community to Nite at the Races April 11

By Linda Moyer Walsh

We are excited to announce we are bringing back an Island Favorite activity after 7 years, "Nite at the Races 2024," a unique blend of fun and fundraising. Follow us on Face Book for pictures of past "Race Nites". Slated for Thursday, April 11, 2024, this event is more than just a fundraiser. "Nite at the Races 2024" is an innovative, interactive event where participants can experience the thrill of horse racing in a fun, simulated environment.

Padre Island Rotary Club is extending an open invitation to the entire community to join in on this exciting event at HardKnocks Sports Grill. It's an opportunity to have fun, meet new people, and most importantly, contribute to meaningful causes. Tickets for "Nite at the Races 2024" are now available on line. You can also reserve a 4-top or 8-top table on line as well. Those interested in purchasing tickets, or learning more about the event can visit <https://padreislandrotary.org/nite-at-the-races>. You can also visit the Padre Island Rotary Club face book page and click on the event at top of page.

Get out your Derby Best! There will be a parade of interested participants for the Best Ladies Derby Hat and the best Derby Outfit for Men. The winners will each receive a \$100 VISA gift card. The evening will include simulated horse races and betting with Island Bucks (funny money). You can also purchase a horse for \$20 cash, 10 horses per race and if your horse wins, you win \$100 and a bottle of champagne! Doors will open at 5:30. A buffet dinner will begin at 6:00, and races begin at 7:00. When you enter you will receive an envelope with your dinner ticket, a door prize ticket and \$1000 in Island Bucks (funny money). This will enable you to place one bet for each race. Minimum bets are \$100 Island Bucks. If you run out you can always buy more, \$10 US Dollars will buy you \$1000 Island Bucks.

We have some awesome raffle items donated by various business partners and individuals supporting the goals of our Rotary Organization. You will be able to purchase raffle tickets for \$10 each and put your ticket in the jar in front of the item you want. At the end of the evening you can also trade your Island Bucks (funny money) winnings in for raffle tickets. \$1000 Island Bucks buys One raffle ticket. We will have the

drawings at the end of the evening. We have a fantastic Beach Shrimp boil and bonfire for 10 including chairs, music and games. A Beach Day in Port A for 2 including umbrella, 2 chairs, table and food delivery. Jewelry. A Certificate for 4 people to play golf at Lozano/Oso Golf Course, A chartered fishing trip for 2 in the Upper Laguna Madre and Baffin Bay, Kentucky Derby Gift basket, A shrimp Boil and Bonfire for 20. Other beautiful gift baskets and we are still receiving items all the time. If you would like to donate a gift item or basket contact Linda Walsh by email; lawalshva@yahoo.com

The proceeds from "Nite at the Races 2024" will go towards various community service projects. These projects range from local environmental efforts to educational initiatives, such as the enhancement and maintenance of Maryanne's Way Memorial Park at the end of Whitecap and the addition of a Memorial paver park. The Butterfly and Bee Gardens partnering with our Seashore Schools and the community to preserve and protect natural habitats on the island helping to save the endangered Monarch butterflies and increase the bee population. We will educate students and community individuals with the help of local naturalists and Master Gardeners. Various programs to help and serve our local Veterans. The SIL program, Supervised Independent Living, a partnership with TAMU-CC and the Department of Family and Protective Services to help young adults aging out of Foster Care to transition from foster care to independent living at TAMU-CC while earning a degree. Adoption Awareness is one of our most endearing projects held two times per year at various locations in our community. Partnering with the Department of Family and Protective Services we provide a memorable day for children in the foster program to help facilitate adoptions with vetted individuals, while providing these children time to reunite with siblings for a fun day with games and food. These projects and many more are aimed at enriching our Island and its residents.

For more information on The Padre Island Rotary Club contact Linda Moyer Walsh at lawalshva@yahoo.com and our FB page, Padre Island Rotary Club. The club meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at HardKnocks at 5:30 pm in the back meeting room. Come and join us anytime and get a glimpse of what we are all about.



Dr. Joan Holt with UTMSI was at the Gaff helping with Nature Preserve Plant Sale last Sunday. Photo by Ronnie Narmour

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| 3. Language maven | 26. Dud on wheels | 48. 24 minutes of
basketball |
| Partridge | 27. Place associated
with the historic date of
1836 | 50. Switch sides |
| 4. Some emperors | 28. Engender | 54. Type of panel |
| 5. Element in some
lamps | 30. Old Ford | 56. Palliates |
| 6. Winglike | 32. Hearth heap | 57. Perron part |
| 7. Jazz composition
with a fast rhythm | 33. Lorelei's river | 58. Tibetan monk |
| 8. Pogo, for one | 34. "La vita nuova" poet | 59. Follow protocol |
| 9. Gallivant | 36. Turning point | 61. Scandinavian
metropolis |
| 10. Comparison
standard | 37. Obedience school
order | 62. Beehive State |
| 11. "Teen Age ____" (Rick
Nelson) | 41. Raised fiber | 63. Ancient musica
instrument |
| 12. Newborn's need | 44. TV installment | 64. Word at a bar |
| 13. Ex-senior | | |

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14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
In addition AA meetings are held Friday 7 PM and Sunday 8 AM at
The second Gazebo on the **Boardwalk behind Brisco King Pavilion**

A good day's work. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

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Ballots mailed for Padre Isles Property Owners Association Board of Directors

Ballots for the Padre Isles Property Owners Association have been mailed. Early votes will be counted at the 2024 March 23, 2024 Annual Meeting where members can also cast ballots. Three of seven Board of Directors seats are up for election. The seats are currently held by Drew Diggins, Ray Singleton and David Rossi, respectively.

The candidates for the upcoming 2024 Board elections are

Charles Cantu, Jr.
Chul Kim McGuire
Drew Diggins (Incumbent/President)
George Reed
Kevin Tansey
Michael Gdfula
Ray Singleton (Incumbent)
Thomas Gottemoller

The 2024 Board Candidates' resumes may be viewed on the Community Website: www.padreislespoa.net.

There is also a referendum item on the ballot which reads as follows:

"Owners of single-family residential lots may lease the entire residence and lot, provided each lease shall be in writing, and is for a minimum duration of 30 consecutive days. Owners of residences designated as a condominium or a townhouse may lease their residence for less than 30 consecutive days if permitted by any applicable condominium or townhouse regime and zoning laws."

Padre Isles Property Owners Association, Inc. Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Seashore Learning Center

15801 S. Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78418

Doors open at 9:00 AM; Meeting begins at 10:00 AM

NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. INTRODUCTION OF ELECTION TRUST (Vote Tallying)
4. APPROVAL OF 2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
5. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR
6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
7. 10:30 AM – VOTING ENDS
8. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM
9. PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE POA (WORKING FOR YOU)
10. ELECTION RESULTS
 1. BOARD ELECTION RESULTS
 2. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE DECLARATIONS
11. SEATING OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS
13. COMMUNITY DISCUSSION WITH BOARD MEMBERS
14. ADJOURN

Ten Years ago in the Island Moon Barefoot Mardi Gras!



American Legion Post 229 *The Islander Post*

Happy Birthday and Women in the Military

By Ken Ames

March is a big month for the American Legion. March is Women's History Month and March 8th, is International Women's Day, and we remember the achievements of women in the military, K9 Veterans Day is March 13th, the American Legion turns 105 years old on the 15th, the 25th is Medal of Honor Day, and the 29th is Vietnam Veterans Day.

Women have been stepping up to answer the call of the military since the beginning battles for our country and have continued throughout our nation's history. It all started in 1775 when General George Washington asked congress for "Nurses to tend to the sick and injured." 1948 saw Congress pass the Women's Armed Services Integration Act that enabled women to serve as permanent, regular members of the armed forces in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and the Air Force. In 1976, women are admitted to all service academies and are authorized to serve the same overseas tour lengths as men. 2016 saw all military occupations and positions become available to women. In the years between these milestones' women served in multiple capacities and pushed the military to become an example of women's equality in the workplace.

K-9 Corps

K9 Veterans Day, March 13th, is a day set aside to commemorate the service and sacrifices of American military and working dogs throughout history. It was on March 13, 1942, the Army began training for its new War Dog Program, also known as the "K-9 Corps". Today's military working dogs are valued as important members of their units and even have their own retirement ceremonies, awards and medals, rank, and memorial services.

On March 15th, 1919, in Paris, France, 1,000 officers and men of the American Expeditionary Forces formed a service organization for veterans and was later ratified by Congress. The American Legion, also known as The Legion, played the leading role in drafting and passing the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944,

commonly known as the "G.I. Bill". This year marks the 105th birthday for our organization.

Medal of Honor Day

March 25th was established in 1999 as National Medal of Honor Day. On that day in 1863, the first Medals of Honor were presented to six members of Andrews' Raiders. The Medal of Honor is the United States' highest award for military valor in action. The Medal is a distinguished award, presented to those who have shown gallantry and intrepidity, at the risk of their own lives, above and beyond the call of duty. Out of the 41 million who have served in the U.S. military, the Medal has been presented to only 3,517 service members. Among these recipients, 19 are double awardees, which means that there have been 3,536 Medals of Honor awarded.

Vietnam Veterans Day

Vietnam Veterans Day commemorates March 29, 1973, when U.S. President Richard Nixon officially withdrew the American combat forces from Vietnam. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the holiday and honors not only the former soldiers but their families who supported them before and after the war. Of the 500,000 troops sent to fight, 15,058 were killed, with another 109,527 wounded. Most of these soldiers received a less than stellar homecoming and not only had to fight their internal struggles, but they also had to face the judgment of a populace angry at their government's role in an unpopular war.

If you are out and happen to see someone wearing a ball cap or shirt signifying prior service, give them a quick Thank You for their service. You would be amazed how much it lifts our spirits.

Post 0229

If you would like more information on the American Legion, you can check out our Facebook page at: American Legion Post 0229 "The Islander Post", our email address is: americanlegionpost0229@gmail.com. For those interested in the American Legion Auxiliary, the contact email is: mandy.margeson@gmail.com.



Pelican By Nicole Scofield



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By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com

Godfather of Austin blues passes...



W.C. Clark, the Godfather of Austin Blues died this week.

Veteran bluesman **Wesley Curley “W.C.” Clark** died this week in Austin. He was 84. Dubbed the “Godfather of Austin Blues” W.C. had been in hospice care since his final performance at the *Giddy Up* in Austin on February 20th. Born and raised in Austin, Texas W.C. was active on the local/regional blues circuit for over 50 years playing his first gig at the age of 16 at the *Victory Grill* in East Austin. He was a mentor to such greats as **Stevie Ray Vaughan**, **Jimmy Vaughan**, **Charlie Sexton**, **Derek O’Brien**, **Denny Freeman** and many more. He recorded on the *Alligator* and *Blacktop* record labels and worked with many bands and musicians such as **Angela Strehli**, **Lou Ann Barton**, **Joe Tex**, **Blues Boy Hubbard**, **Southern Feeling**, **Kaz Kazanoff**, **Marcia Ball** and on, and on. Clark won the 2003 *W.C. Handy Award* for “Blues Song of the Year” for his composition “Let It Rain” and was nominated for the 2004 *W.C. Handy Award* for “Male Soul Artist of the Year”. He was also inducted into the *Austin Music Hall of Fame* and also won various *Austin Music Awards* for both *Best Soul* and *Best Blues*. *Blues Revue Magazine* said, “Clark conjures the vocal power of **Otis Redding** and **Wilson Pickett** and the guitar of **Steve Cropper** and **Albert King**.” *Living Blues Magazine* called him “a first-rate and funky, passionate and powerful performer...a singularly skilled leader among modern blues artists.” And *Guitar Player Magazine* said W.C. was, “Armed with a powerful, gospel-approved voice, Clark delivers his songs with God-fearing intensity.” Also, along with keyboardist **Mike Kindred**, W.C. wrote the SRV hit “Cold Sho”. I knew W.C. for many years when I worked the bars and music scene in Austin. I was around him quite a bit when he was the bass player for **Triple Threat Revue** with Stevie and Lou Ann and I worked at *Antone’s* in the ‘70’s. We often called him, “the hardest working man in show business.” It wasn’t unusual for W.C. to play every night of the week. W.C. was ALWAYS around making music and it’ll take the Austin blues community some adjusting to move on without him. He was such a sweet man and his legacy is strong. RIP pal. You will be missed.

Festering den of sin...



Spring Break 2020... the Festering Den of Sin

Here it is... *Spring Break* is upon us. It appears that the powers that be have released ALL the Texas colleges on the same week this year. What could possibly go wrong? Judging from past experiences, I’d venture to say we can expect 50,000 young adults to start knocking on our doorsteps starting this weekend. And with that barrage of spring breakers comes the storied *Festering Den of Sin*... I might have mentioned it a time or two. First they will find a good spot down past the bollards and start to circle the wagons and set up camp. Next comes the stripper poles and loud music and a week of heavy partying. Our men in blue will be out there to keep things to dull roar and trust me; you want to stay on their good side. It’s a very trying time for our policemen and patience tends to run short. And usually every year at *Spring Break* we get a good cold front or rain storm which drives the crowd indoors to the bars and restaurants,

which is a good thing for our economy. I’ve been watching them stock up the IGA shelves to maximum capacity all week long. I think we’re ready. Let’s do this thing.



Kip Shannon and his chicken Lucky’s Chicken Poop Bingo will soon to be a deal at the Gaff

I did get out and about a bit last weekend. I caught the **John Cortez Blues Band** at *Shorty’s* last Saturday and the **Dunebillies** at the *Gaff* for the *Keep Her Wild* fundraiser with **Cara Rose**. Also the folks from the *Port A Nature Preserve* were there with some left over native plants from the plant sale last weekend and **Dr. Joan Holt** from UTMSI was overseeing that. I also stumbled on the first *Chicken Poop Bingo* event at the *Gaff* last weekend. It was a dry run and was unannounced as **Kip** wanted to give his new hen **Lucky** a chance to feel things out before the big crowds show up to bet on which numbers **Lucky** would poop on. Leave it to the *Gaff* to stay creative and fun. Speaking of which, the **WORLD FAMOUS BELT SANDER RACES** will happen this Saturday at 3:00 and smart money is on the **Moon Monkey**... make that the brand new **Moon Monkey Too** that pit boss **Rust Daniels** just built for me. I can’t wait to try it out.

DO NOT MISS LIST
Coming this weekend...



The Dunebillies played a fundraiser for the Keep Her Wild folks at the Gaff last Sunday.

Bron’s Backyard will come back online this weekend with blues rocker **Rich Lockhart** playing there on Friday the 8th and the most excellent S.A. icon **Chris Boss** playing on Saturday. The 80’s cover band, the **Groove** will be there on Sunday, veteran bluesman **Bushbullit** plays will play on Tuesday, **Rudolf Llanes** with **Starlite** and the **Moonbeams** will play on Wednesday and the **OTB Band** will play on Thursday... that’s coming out of the shoot strong. *Shorty’s* will have **Starlite** on Friday and **Heavy Soul** on Saturday. And over at *Treasure Island*, **Tommy Saad** has been busting his hump to finish some massive remodeling on his outdoor stage area. He’s got the **Jam Band** playing on Saturday. And at the *Gaff* this Friday, our Cajun pals **Boudreaux and Pousson** will be on hand to get the folks dancing. They’ll be back there on the 14th. **Jim Dugan** will be there on Saturday. And on Sunday the 10th, **Coach Dude Dugan** and **Ty Dietz** will play their usual gig at *Shorty’s*, **Brad Ethridge** will play the *Sand Bar* and my old friend **Chadwick Lee (Catfish) Hunter** will play the new *Beach Bums* bar. That ought to hold you for a spell. Be safe.

And, that’s the truth



The Jam Band will play Treasure Island on Saturday the 9th.



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Chris Boss from San Antonio will play Bron’s Backyard on Saturday the 9th.



Heavy Soul with Louie Mandel, Landin Martinez and Andrew Jueig played Shorty’s on Saturday the 9th.

LIVE MUSIC TONIGHT

Friday, March 8
45th Oysterfest 2024
@ Fulton
Starlite & the Moonbeams @ Shorty’s
Rich Lockhart @ Bron’s Backyard
Boudreaux & Pousson @ Gaff
TBA @ Treasure Island
Michael Burtts @ Doc’s
John Cortez @ Vernon’s
Raul Ayala @ Rockit’s
Chainlinks @ House of Rock
Scarecrow People @ Brewster Southside
Kolby Cooper @ Brewster Downtown
Jam Band @ South Texas Icehouse
John Cortez @ Vernon’s
Left Right Left @ Exchange
Cruise Control @ Sugar Shack
Groove @ La Playa
Downtown
O.B. Gonzales @ Grunts
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard’s
Aaron Jacobs @ Tannins

BRON’S BAR & GRILL BACKYARD NOW OPEN!
PORT ARANSAS, TX
RICH LOCKHART
CHRIS BOSS
THE GROOVE
BUSHBULLIT
STARLITE
OTB BAND

MARCH 8
MARCH 9
MARCH 10
MARCH 12
MARCH 13
MARCH 14

Treasure Island
TBA
JAM BAND
CARSON MILLER
NATIONAL NOBODYZ

MAR 8
MAR 9
MAR 15
MAR 16

SHORTY’S
SELFIE EVERY THURSDAY

STARLITE	MAR 8
HEAVY SOUL	MAR 9
JIM DUGAN, TY DIETZ	MAR 10
TRIPTONITE	MAR 15
FUNK ROCK STEREO	MAR 16
JOEY ST. VINCENT, TY DIETZ	MAR 17

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