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Issue 1043



The voice of The Island since 1996

April 12, 2024

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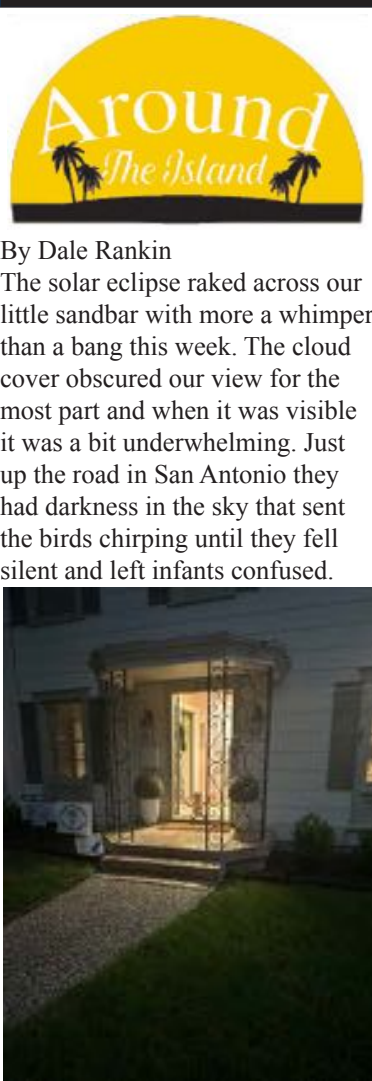
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The Island Moon

Weekly FREE



Sea Star. Photo courtesy of the Harte Institute



Smash and grab on Compass Street

Last Friday a smash and grab thief victimized a businessman on Compass Street in front of the Island Moon office. The business owner had gone to the bank to pick up the payroll for his workers and briefly left it in his truck, when he returned he found the truck window broken and the payroll missing. This is the third such crime of this nature we have heard of in recent months and is an indication that thieves are surveilling local banks on Fridays looking for business owners withdrawing large amounts of cash. A previous crime occurred when a business owner stopped at a home improvement store after visiting the bank while leaving his payroll under the seat of his truck only to return to find his window broken and money missing. The thieves follow their victim from the bank and wait for an opportunity.

Michael J. Ellis Seawall maintenance

The first meeting was held this week to begin the process of establishing a long-term plan for the maintenance of the Michael J. Ellis Seawall. A total of \$15 million in funds from The Island's Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 has been committed for the repair and maintenance of the now twenty-five year-old structure which was rebuilt after Hurricane Allen in 1980. Private ownership of the seawall means public funds cannot be spent to repair it and the plan now taking shape is to form a public entity to place ownership of the seawall in to free up the funds. It is not just residents along the seawall that benefit from its protection. The flood maps released by FEMA three years ago show

Around cont. on A6

Bids for Bob Hall Pier Construction due May 9

Includes \$2 million for restaurant structure

By Dale Rankin

Advertisements for bids for the rebuilding of Bob Hall Pier went out this week and bids on the \$19.5 million project are due back to Nueces County on May 9. The bids include \$2 million in funds for the rebuilding of the restaurant building on the pier, according to Precinct 4 County Commissioner Brent Chesney. Work on the new 1253-foot long pier is expected to begin by the end of 2024, according to county officials. Nueces County Commissioners approved the final plans for the pier in March and in a separate

Bob Hall cont. on A7



The existing structure will be included in the new design.
Photo by Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Port Aransas Sandfest April 19–21

The Largest Beach Sand Sculpture Competition in the USA hits the beach in Port Aransas April 19-21. Sandfest 2024 features sand sculptures, food, shopping, and live music on the Port Aransas beach between markers 13 and 17.

That location is a slight change and means that the general parking lot by the North gate will now be located at beach marker 9 with the exit at Avenue G (marker 0). The South end general parking entrance will be at marker 19 with the exit at 17.5. Sandcastle Dr. will still be closed to through traffic. There will be no public RV parking lot inside the bollards.



Photo Ronnie Narmour

Gates open each day at 9 a.m. and the event includes an amateur sand sculpting category along with Master and Semi-Pro, sand sculpting lessons for children, a beer and wine tent, a music stage with Bri Bagwell at 5:30 on Friday, and Micky and the Motorcars at 6 p.m. on Saturday and music through the day on both days. The Masters' gallery for sculptures opens a 9 a.m. on Sunday with sculpture demonstrations by the Amazin' Walter at 10 a.m. followed by the Dunebillies on the music stage at 10 a.m. The Master

Sandfest cont. on A3

By the numbers...

How The Island voted

Editor's note: The following numbers for the February party primary elections are as follows as reported by the Nueces County Clerk's office.

Republican Primary

Padre Island

1969 Total Island voters 22%

8459 total registered Island voters

Presidential

76% 1498 votes Presidential Donald J. Trump

20% 314 votes Nikki Haley

1.4% 29 votes Ron DeSantis

5 votes Chris Christie

4 votes Vivek Ramaswamy

2 votes Asa Hutchinson

2% 37 votes Uncommitted

U.S. Senate

89% 1720 votes Ted Cruz

U.S. Rep. District 27

68% 1392 votes Michael Cloud

23% 437 Scott Mandel

4.6% 88 votes Chris Mapp

4% 77 votes Luis A. Espindola

Vote cont. on A3

A little South Texas history

Finding Spanish coins on Padre Island in 1968

Editor's note: The following story comes to us from Long John Latham's True Treasure Magazine in June, 1968. Last week we left our treasure hunters camped on Padre Island and under scrutiny by the local Constable after a run-in with the owner of a tow truck involving a discussion at the point of a gun. This week they begin their hunt for Spanish treasure in the sands of Padre Island.

By Stanley Bandranke

While having breakfast we discovered we were not alone.

History cont. on page A5



Spanish Reales

Island Mobility Plan Open House

Monday, April 15, Seashore Middle Academy

The final open house for review of the Padre/Mustang Island Mobility Plan will be held at 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 15, at the Seashore Middle Academy cafeteria, 15437 SPID. The meeting will be the last chance for public input before the plan is finalized. The plans is being created by the City of Corpus Christi to create cart and pedestrian paths to link all of Padre and Mustang islands.

By the numbers

Padre Island Real Estate Activity

February 1 – February 29

By Cindy Molnar
Realtor Coldwell Banker Island, Realtors

Waterfront Homes Sold

15874 Punta Espada Loop
13737 Cayo Cantiles Street
15014 Tesoro Drive
13748 Cayo Gorda Court

52 Waterfront Homes Listed From \$489,900.00 to \$2,375,000.00

Real Estate cont. on A3

Nueces County Appraisal District Board of Directors Election

Early Voting begins April 22

Early Voting will begin on Monday, April 22, for three seats on the Nueces County Appraisal District Board of Directors. The voting, which culminates in the May 4, General Election, will allow voters to directly elect three members of the board for the first time.

Under new rules appointees to the Appraisal Review Board, (ARB) which hears appeals from property owners, must have the approval of two of the three new members of the Board of Directors who will be elected in May. Campaign financial disclosure reports for candidates running for the three seats in the May balloting will not be available for public viewing until after the election under current state election laws. The May election came out of the last session of the Texas Legislature and eventually the elections will be moved to the November election cycle which will require filing of campaign finance reports prior to voters going to the polls. Early voting runs April 22-April 26 with balloting from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on April 29 and April 30 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at:

□ Briscoe King Pavilion
15820 Park Rd. 22 on

Voting cont. on A3



No need to go to the Hill Country to enjoy bluebonnets. Drive by 14340 Indigo, next to Ullberg Park. Janet and Jeff Granger planted a few small bluebonnet plants four or five years ago. Now their yard is full of bluebonnets plus an array of well adapted plants. The Island Gardeners are happy to have the Grangers as their March Yard of the Month.



Sean Hunter sings with Jim Dugan on his birthday at Shorty's last Sunday.

Photo by Ronnie Narmour



There are a couple of these pilgs between Bob Hall and the National Seashore. Makes for interesting artwork.

Photo Jace Tunnel

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Barbara and Rev. Ken Ritchie with thier daughter, Meredith at the LA Marathon with the Moon!



Long-legged, with long, straight, heavy bill and usually with shaggy neck feathers. Two color morphs: dark morph (all slaty and reddish brown) and scarcer white morph. Unlike Little Blue Heron, these are not age-related: the birds are dark or light for life. Photo By Riekie Roncinske



Former City Council member Greg Smith and family took the Moon to Montserrat, Spain this week.



Right: The Crested Caracara is the only falcon that collects material to build a nest. Other falcons lay their eggs in an old nest built by another species or in a scrape on the ground. The oldest recorded Crested Caracara was at least 21 years, 9 months old when it was identified by its band in 2015 in Florida.

Photo By Riekie Roncinske

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Letters to the Editor



Disfunction at the PIPOA

By Marvin Jones, Past PIPOA Board President

The New Board President quits the Board after three days.

The PIPOA’s bylaws (the governing document that controls the process and procedures of the Board) were ignored and violated by the Board. On March 23, 2024, the Member’s Annual Meeting and the Board’s Annual Meeting were scheduled with appropriate announcements as required by the bylaws. Unfortunately, the Board’s Annual Meeting (required to happen immediately after the Member’s Annual Meeting) was ignored by the Board. The sole purpose of the Board’s annual meeting is to elect officers for the coming year. That is, the Board at this meeting elects the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. This process usually takes no more than 15 minutes. Apparently, some members of the Board wanted to go to the Yacht Club boat show instead of having the board’s annual meeting. The result of not electing Board members was the PIPOA had

no officers including President and Treasurer. The bylaws do not provide an alternative method to select the officers should the annual board meeting not happen. At the PIPOA’s Board’s regularly scheduled Board meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, the Board conducted an election for officers. Well, here we go again. Electing officers at any meeting requires advance notice on the agenda. There was no advance notice on the agenda, which is a violation of State Law. Therefore, the election of officers was invalid. Apparently, the Board learned of their misdeeds and held a Special Board Meeting via Zoom on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 4:00 PM. This was not an in-person meeting by the Board but a Zoom meeting that allowed members to dial in. Sandy Graves and I dialed in to watch this meeting. I do not believe that any other members attended the meeting, and it was not recorded for Facebook. The Board elected Herb Bradley as President, Steve Brown as Vice President, Ray Singleton as Treasurer, and Tom Gottmoller as Secretary. The validity of the Officer’s election, which requires officers to be elected at the Annual Board Meeting, comes into question. In this case, the Annual Board meeting never happened--- Oh, but wait, there is more! On Monday, April 8, 2024, at approximately 8:00 AM, the newly elected President Herb Bradley resigned as President and resigned from the PIPOA Board. President Herb Bradley only lasted three days. You have to wonder what happened to make him quit over the weekend. On that Monday night, the Board held a meeting in the PIPOA office. At this meeting, it was

decided that Steve Brown, the Vice President, would be the new President. This meeting was unscheduled and unannounced. Thus, it is a secret and illegal meeting per State Law. Steve Brown cannot be elected President without a scheduled, announced, and open Board Meeting. I think the members are entitled to an explanation as to why this group of Board members has shredded the bylaws and Texas State Law. In the last year, four Board members have resigned, and the entire original Architectural Control Committee (ACC) has resigned. Two Board members who were eligible to run for reelection did not. Two ACC Coordinators resigned. Currently, there is not an ACC Coordinator. All three of the inspectors resigned and have not been replaced. The PIPOA has only two office staff members left. The receptionist is filling in for the ACC, and the remaining Admin is doing everything else. There must be a reason why all the above people have been leaving the PIPOA. I believe it is time to begin a discussion. I am saying that we only need to begin a discussion about doing away with the PIPOA. The bulkheads, boat ramps, and other common areas, including the canal bottoms, could be transferred to a quasi-government management district. This district could maintain the bulkheads and raise bond money in the event of a natural disaster. Certain aspects of the covenants could be replicated in the City Code and enforced by the City. The discussion on this should be open to everyone. This change would not be a simple matter. I am neither for nor against this change, but I do believe it is time for a discussion. What say you?

Vote cont. from A1

District Attorney

48% 860 votes Jimmy Granberry

33% 599 votes Kristi Britt

18% 170 votes James Sales

(Runoff: Granberry/Sales

Port Aransas

693 votes cast

3307 registered voters 21% turnout

Presidential

74% 509 votes Presidential Donald J.

Trump

21% 140 votes Nikki Haley

1.7% 12 votes Ron DeSantis

1% 7 votes Chris Christie

.4% 3 votes Asa Hutchinson

2.5% 17 votes Uncommitted

U.S. Senate

87% 589 votes Ted Cruz

U.S. Rep. District 27

60% 376 votes Michael Cloud

20% 129 votes Scott Mandel

16% 103 votes Chris Mapp

3.5% 22 votes Luis A. Espindola

District Attorney

40% 230 votes Jimmy Granberry

33% 189 votes Kristi Britt

27% 158 votes James Sales

Democrat

Padre Island

8459 total registered Island voters

342 (4%) total votes cast

Port Aransas

3307 Total registered voters

111 (3.3%) total votes cast



Voting cont. from A1

- Padre Island
- ☐ Ethel Eyerly Senior Center 654 Graham Rd. in Flour Bluff
- ☐ Port Aransas Community Center 408 N. Alister St. in Port Aransas.

Who is running...

The filing period for the three seats has closed with eleven running for three seats on the board with candidates split into the three separate races with four candidates in two races and three in the third. Voters can choose one candidate in each of the three races. The new law requires that the winner in each race get a majority of votes making it likely there will be a runoff in some of the places. The candidates are as follows, in ballot order.

Place 1

Tony Alcoser
Floyd “Andy” Anderson
James Magill
Mark Lawing Sr.

Place 2

Joseph E. Titlebaum
John M. Cudd
Corbett “Butch” Pool

Place 3

Ed Bennett
Glenna Elliff
Shirley “Mayday” Madej
Ken L. Baker

Real Estate cont. from A1

Interior Lot Homes Sold

13990 Jacktar
15529 Dyna Street
13809 Laffite Drive
15737 Cuttysark Street
13850 Longboat Drive
15417 Escapade Street
15861 Punta Espada Loop
14010 Rudder Court
15817 Gypsy Street
13741 Hawksnest Bay Drive

60 Interior Lot Homes Listed From
\$349,900.00 To \$925,000.00

Waterfront Condominiums/ Townhomes/Duplexes Sold

14802 Windward Drive #114
14434 East Cabana Street #215
14209 Jackfish Avenue

78 Waterfront Condominiums/Townhomes/
Duplexes Listed From \$130,000.00 To
\$1,030,200.00

Interior Condominiums/Town- homes/Duplexes Sold

14721 Whitecap Blvd. #365
14721 Whitecap Blvd. #341
15650 Cruiser Street Unit A
13970 Fortuna Bay Drive Unit B

98 Interior Condominiums/Townhomes/
Duplexes Listed From \$167,500.00 To
\$699,999.00

Waterfront Lot Sold

14817 Granada Drive

17 Waterfront Lots Listed From
\$280,000.00 to \$2,550,000.00

Interior Lots Sold

15834 Gypsy Street
15841 Portillo Street

41 Interior Lots Listed From \$85,000.00 to
\$1,500,000.00

Commercial Lots

14 Commercial Lots Listed From
\$179,500.00 to \$3,500,000.00

Sandfest cont. from A1

and Semi-Pro Awards will be announced at 5:15 p.m. on Sunday followed by a performance by the Spazmatics.

Monday April 15

Activities kickoff at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 15 with Private sand-sculpting lessons by Andy Hancock followed by a demonstration of sandcastle building , followed by private sand-sculpting lessons at 9 a.m. on Tuesday and each day throughout the week. Texas SandFest began in 1997 as a small local competition for sand sculptors to showcase their abilities and was organized by the Port Aransas Art Center, formerly the Art Center for the Islands. It is held every year in Port Aransas over a weekend in April. Some volunteer spots are still available. For more information see the website at <https://www.portaransas.org>.



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Senior Moments Special to The Island Moon

By Dotson Lewis



Facts That Everyone Should Know About the Civil War

Senior Moments Special to the Island Moon

Facts That Everyone Should Know About the Civil War

Dotson's Note: The Civil War profoundly shaped the United States as we know it today. Nevertheless, the war remains one of the most misunderstood events in American history. Here are some basic facts you should know about America's crucial struggle. Thanks to Joseph Hall Clark, my grandfather, for many of the facts contained in this report, and thanks to the Library of Congress for the graphics.*



The American Civil War was fought from 1862 and 1865. between the United States of America and the Confederate States of America, a collection of eleven southern states that left the Union in 1860 and 1861. The conflict began primarily as a result of the long-standing agreement over the institution of slavery.

On February 9, 1861, Jefferson Davis, a former U.S. Senator and Secretary of War, was elected President of the Confederate States of America by the members of the Confederate constitutional convention. After four bloody years of conflict, the United States defeated the Confederate States. In the end, the states that were in rebellion were readmitted to the United States, and the institution of slavery was abolished nation-wide.

Abraham Lincoln was the President of the United States during the Civil War. He grew up in a log cabin in Kentucky and worked as a shopkeeper and a lawyer before entering politics in the 1840s. Alarmed by his anti-slavery stance, seven southern states seceded soon after he was elected president in 1860, with four more states to soon follow. Lincoln declared that he would do everything necessary to keep the United States united as one country.

He refused to recognize the southern states as an independent nation and the Civil War erupted in the spring of 1861. On January 1, 1863, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed the slaves in the areas of the country that “shall then be in rebellion against the United States.” The Emancipation Proclamation laid the groundwork for the eventual freedom of slaves across the country. Lincoln won re-election in 1864 against opponents who wanted to sign a peace treaty with the southern states. On April 14, 1865, Lincoln was shot by assassin John Wilkes Booth, a southern sympathizer. Abraham Lincoln died at 7:22 am the next morning.



Abraham Lincoln in 1865

The issues of slavery and central power divided the United States. Slavery was concentrated mainly in the southern states by the mid-19th century, where slaves were used as farm laborers, artisans, and house servants. Chattel slavery formed the backbone of the largely agrarian southern economy. In the northern states, industry largely drove the economy. Many people in the north and the south believed that slavery was immoral and wrong, yet the institution remained, which created a large chasm on

the political and social landscape. Southerners felt threatened by the pressure of northern politicians and “abolitionists,” who included the zealot John Brown, and claimed that the federal government had no power to end slavery, impose certain taxes, force infrastructure improvements, or influence western expansion against the wishes of the state governments.

While some northerners felt that southern politicians wielded too much power in the House and the Senate and that they would never be appeased. Still, from the earliest days of the United States through the antebellum years, politicians on both sides of the major issues attempted to find a compromise that would avoid the splitting of the country, and ultimately avert a war. The Missouri Compromise, the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and many others, all failed to steer the country away from secession and war. In the end, politicians on both sides of the aisle dug in their heels. Eleven states left the United States in the following order and formed the Confederate States of America: South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

The Civil War began when Southern troops bombarded Fort Sumter, South Carolina. When the southern states seceded from the Union, war was still not a certainty. Federal forts, barracks, and naval shipyards dotted the southern landscape. Many Regular Army officers clung tenaciously to their posts, rather than surrender their facilities to the growing southern military presence. President Lincoln attempted to resupply these garrisons with food and provisions by sea. The Confederacy learned of Lincoln's plans and demanded that the forts surrender under threat of force. When the U.S. soldiers refused, South Carolinians bombarded Fort Sumter in the center of Charleston harbor. After a 34-hour battle, the soldiers inside the fort surrendered to the Confederates. Legions of men from north and south rushed to their respective flags in the ensuing patriotic fervor.



Above, bombardment of Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor, 12th & 13th of April, 1861.

The North had more men and war materials than the South. At the beginning of the Civil War, 22 million people lived in the North and 9 million people (nearly 4 million of whom were slaves) lived in the South. The North also had more money, more factories, more horses, more railroads, and more farmland. On paper, these advantages made the United States much more powerful than the Confederate States.

*My grandfather called it “The War of Northern Aggression.”

Dotson's Other Note: The Confederates were fighting defensively on territory that they knew well. They also had the advantage of the sheer size of the Southern Confederacy. Which meant that the northern armies would have to capture and hold vast quantities of land across the south. Still, too, the Confederacy maintained some of the best ports in North America, including New Orleans, Charleston, Mobile, Norfolk, and Wilmington. Thus, the Confederacy was able to mount a stubborn resistance. 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

I had a call from a free-lance reporter friend from San Antonio last week asking what, if anything is going on in Corpus Christi? I began to run through a litany of projects and developments across the Coastal Bend; \$50 billion in new development at the Port of Corpus Christi, a new Harbor Bridge, deepening of the ship channel, two billion in new development on Padre Island, Port Aransas running out of land to build on, a regional parkway, a second causeway to Padre Island, struggling to get more direct flights from the airport, working with the military, convention center losing money, downtown struggling but showing signs of life, no traffic to speak of, a small but growing university, political infighting, six percent tax increase every year, overall an insular town starting to grow in spite of itself doing its best to get out of its own way but without a plan for doing so... “Sounds like San Antonio in the ‘80s” he said, and it started me thinking...he was right.

First you need a plan

In May 1983 I attended a press conference announcing the launch of what came to be known as Target '90 Goals for San Antonio. At the time it just seemed like another Chamber of Commerce operation in backslapping and boosterism, but as things developed and in hindsight I realize it was an historic moment that has ramifications still rolling through that vibrant and growing city today. The idea was simple; gather professionals from every field – construction, city planning, business, banking, sports, military, tourism, hoteliers, the arts, downtown Riverwalk retailers and suburban wrap-around shopping center builders. Mix in representatives from the Westside of town where flooding and jobs were the main concerns, to financiers pushing skyscrapers up all over the city – and task the group with coming up with a comprehensive plan that transcended politics and self-interest by the end of the decade that would be the overarching blueprint for everything from zoning rules and bond packages, to roads, taxing, legislative initiatives, tourism, and ultimately for attracting and developing attractions that would address the common complaints from those in the tourism business – how to get visitors to the city to spend more than one or two days when they visit and to visit during the shoulder season outside the normal summer season, and how to scale improvements to the downtown convention center to match realistic growth and changes in the convention business. Does any of that sound familiar?

Start with a vision

The vision came from then Mayor Henry Cisneros who saw that the way forward for the city was to get two of the major political bases that had traditionally been at odds to see that working together they could all benefit – an incoming tide would raise all boats. Generally speaking those two groups were the League of Latin American Citizens and Citizens Organized for Public Service who represented citizens whose streets and homes flooded with the slightest rainfall and who sought good jobs for their community and who saw the business community as their antithesis. The business community which had traditionally been dominated by old money who saw the other group as unrealistic and frankly in the way of progress – at least as they saw progress. Cisneros correctly saw that if the two groups, and others, could all come together under a common plan big things could happen and he tapped respected political leader and businessman Nelson Wolfe to head the project and the group got busy. They broke their project into pieces and assigned the task of coming up with each piece of the plan to those in the related industries with an oversight committee to monitor progress and keep each group pulling in the same direction. I won't belabor the outcome except to give short list of things that resulted from that plan.

The results...

The most obvious was the Alamodome, built with a sales tax not unlike the one we are about to see for the second time on a ballot here in Corpus Christi this November. The dome was built with an expiring sales tax that paid for the dome before it was built and kept the San Antonio Spurs from leaving the city. Fiesta Texas, now known as Six Flags Fiesta Texas turned an abandoned stone quarry into a theme park which spawned a golf course that eventually played host to the Texas Open and which was funded by USAA insurance with the help of the city's business community and provided jobs for people who needed them. SeaWorld San Antonio which sprang up in an open field a long way from downtown was done with the help of the land develop-

ment community. Much needed Riverwalk revitalization came as a result of comprehensive planning for downtown. I lived on the Riverwalk at the time and old buildings could be had for pennies on the dollar but half a decade later construction cranes became the symbol of a growing downtown that led to what we see there today. The expansion of the University of Texas San Antonio into a downtown campus revived a dead spot in the downtown area. When Kelly Air Force Base was shut down the structure and initiative that sprung from Target '90 turned it into a thriving public/private partnership that averted what could have been a disaster for the city. The tourism industry was built on a three-legged stool; expanded air service and airport, hotels and downtown convention facilities properly scaled, and the kind of attractions that would extend the length of stay for visitors. Again, does this sound familiar? Target '90 brought all of those items under one comprehensive roof and provided a way forward that placed San Antonio on the short list of great American cities.

A Corpus connection

Assistant City Manager David Garcia was involved with bringing all of those elements into a cohesive plan under Project '90 and he began with the airport; it doesn't matter what you build if they can't get here. The project was successful to the point that the City of Corpus Christi hired Garcia as City Manager in the 1990s to come to town and repeat the process here and once again he began with the airport. He was in the process of pushing through a final plan for development of what is now the American Bank Center when...here it comes...political infighting in Corpus Christi saw him leave just as the final touches were being put on the financing for the ABC and the plan that was finally put in place led us to the annual \$14 million deficit we are still funding there today and has left us struggling with the same questions faced two decades ago. What to build and how to pay for it?

Parable of the crabs

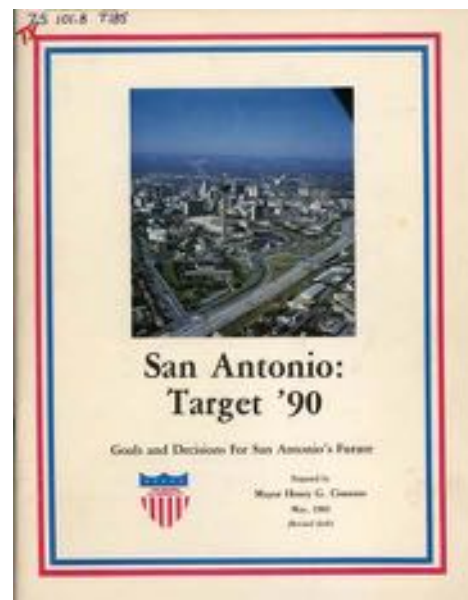
So what is the lesson to be learned? As we discussed the similarities between San Antonio in the 1980s and Corpus Christi in the 2020s my reporter friend mentioned the Parable of the Crabs that has long dominated South Texas politics and stood stridently in the way of progress here as the rest of our state has flourished. For those unfamiliar it goes like this: There is a fisherman who has two buckets of crabs, one with a lid and one without.

“Why don't you need a lid on that bucket,” the fisherman was asked.

“Well, that bucket with the lid is full of crabs that have learned they can all escape if they help each other get out of the bucket,” he said. “That other bucket is the Corpus bucket. Every time one of those crabs is about to escape another crab pulls him back into the bucket.”

If there is a lesson here it seems to me it is that growth is happening all around us but there is no overarching plan or goal that ties it all together. This muddling through approach keeps each new project in its own silo and if there is any continuity it is by happy accident. Corpus Christi has never had a visionary leader that ties the goals of the community together the way the Target '90 did and we have reached a point where it is greatly needed. Otherwise we suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous randomness. The political election cycle we now find ourselves in seems like a good place to begin in contemplation and planning for what our future is going to look like. We are passing regular record budgets without a comprehensive county-citywide plan for how to spend them.

Where and who is the visionary who can provide us with Target 2030: Goals for Corpus Christi?



Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department to Host Job Fair *On-the-Spot Interviews to Expedite Hiring Process*

The Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department will host a job fair on Saturday, April 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Gymnasium, located at 3202 Cabaniss Parkway.

The department has over 130 part-time summer positions along with over 40 permanent positions available. Prospective employees must meet certain qualifications, and some positions require specific certifications. Attendees should be prepared for on-the-spot interviews for most positions. Attendees under 18 will need a parent or guardian to be present.

Positions include

- Pool Lifeguards (Age 16 and older)
- Gulf Beaches Lifeguards (Age 16 and older)
- After-Hour Kid Power After School Program Staff (Age 18 and older)
- Senior Recreation Leader (Age 18 and older)

- Park Technician I and II (Full time; Age 18 and older)
 - Kitchen Worker (Full time; Age 18 and older)
- Job seekers must provide
- Picture Identification
 - Proof of education (High School Diploma or G.E.D.)
 - Social Security card or work card
 - Résumé (Optional)

Applicants must pass a background check and pre-employment drug test. For full job descriptions with duties, go to the City Jobs website or contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 361-826-3460.

The Corpus Christi Parks & Recreation Department is dedicated to providing quality, affordable enrichment programs for all ages and interests. For more information about the wide variety of programs and services offered by the department, visit www.ccparkandrec.com. We invite everyone to Live. Learn. Play!

Around cont. from AI

that protection from the seawall impacts the flood insurance rates of property owners from Commodores Drive to Encantada Avenue. We commend our District 4 City Councilman Dan Suckley for taking lead on addressing the issue and will have more as things develop.

Turtle season



The first Kemp's ridley sea turtle nest was found this week at Padre Island National Seashore. We will have notices here for turtle releases at PINS and at the Michael Ellis Seawall by the Texas Seaside Center as they are announced.

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Nature Notes

Nature Journaling

By Chris Schnurbusch



Drawing or painting can be a fun part of nature journaling.

Photo credit: Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

Welcome to April! This month brings rain and shine, various sunny skies and cloudy weather. Now is an excellent time to dust off your outdoor shoes and make the most of the nice weather. New activities are popping up left and right—look at pickleball! Another amazing outdoor hobby that's starting to gain more traction is nature journaling. Nature journaling is drawing or writing what you experience in nature. Whether you've heard of nature journaling before or this is your first time, now is the perfect time to start the hobby! Grab your favorite art supplies and explore the outdoors. You can modify the process any way you see fit and design your journal however you'd like.

You can sketch what you're seeing, document various interactions, ask yourself deep questions, or anything else you'd like to do in your journal. It can be a fun way to engage in the outdoors and embrace the wind, or you can sit down and seriously contemplate your thoughts and emotions. The most important 'rule' in this new hobby is to have fun with it. This is your journal, so try not to compare yourself to others or let your fear of drawing something 'bad,' stand in your way. Artistic ability has no bearing on the hobby. You don't need to get fancy or go far to fill up your nature journal. A walk in your neighborhood is bound to yield interesting journaling topics. You can document the same location in all four seasons and note the changes between each time, journal about how a certain item inspired you that day, or delve deep into your emotions and discover what aspects of nature resonate with you.

Personally, I like to use watercolors to paint birds I've seen during my walks and use pen to write what those species were up to or why I like them. If you're still not sure about what to draw in your nature journal, online resources can provide prompts or examples to inspire you.

It's easy nowadays to become so absorbed in our technology that we lose our connection with nature. It can be difficult to truly reflect inwards on ourselves if we never take the time to disconnect from our screens. The American Psychological Association says that spending time outdoors can decrease stress and promote better mental health. Pair this with the benefits of creativity, and you'll see how beneficial nature journaling can be.

Feeling inspired yet? Great, grab your journal and get on out there! Discover what's important to you, and maybe you'll find yourself falling in love with the environment during this nature journal journey (which I hope you do), take the time to consider volunteering or getting involved in your local conservation communities. We here at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory would be happy to have you!

Come celebrate Earth Day at GCBO with a family nature journaling event on Saturday, April 20th at 3pm. Kimberly Ridley, author of Matagorda Magic: The Hidden Life of a Texas Bay, will teach families to delve into nature and make lasting memories in a nature journal. Materials will be provided, and we'd love to see you there! You can learn more about this and other events on our website, www.GCBO.org.

BBB Tip

Minimizing and controlling your digital footprint

Spring season is a popular time for people to refresh or redecorate living spaces inside or outside their homes. However, the one area many people overlook while decluttering isn't the corner of a room or forgotten closet but their digital devices. Whether preferring to use a phone, laptop or tablet, consumers are turning to their digital devices to shop, bank and work, as well as connect with friends and family through social media every day. During each online session, every website visited, advertisement watched, or product purchased contributes to a user's digital footprint. That is why the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and Better Business Bureau (BBB) recommend consumers spend the time to include a digital cleaning routine in addition to refreshing their physical spaces. A digital footprint (or digital shadow) is a record of an individual's online activity that grows when they deliberately share something online or when websites and apps track their online activity. Registering email addresses with newsletters, subscriptions or memberships, downloading mobile apps, and sharing information over social media all contribute to a user's digital footprint and provide the data advertising agencies use to create targeted campaigns. While this helps consumers receive information or advertisements tailored to their individual preferences or interests, it can also increase the risk of compromised personal information.

Taking a few simple, preventative measures to safeguard personal information and reducing the size of their digital footprint can prevent consumers from losing control of their data and experiencing identity theft. Exercise good cybersecurity habits. Become familiar with the five-step approach to cybersecurity: identify, protect, detect,

respond and recover. Be cautious when interacting with links received through email or social media. Make it a habit to check for the 'lock' icon in a website address that indicates it is a secured system before making an online purchase. Protect your most vital accounts by enabling the strongest authentication tools available, such as biometrics, security keys or a unique one-time code through an app on your mobile device. Update your system and software: As simple as it is to click 'remind me later' when notified there is an update for your computer system, maintaining an up-to-date system is crucial. Having the most current software, web browsers and operating systems is some of the easiest and fastest ways to protect your most sensitive assets.

Browser privacy. Many websites use files called cookies to personalize user experiences and provide targeted ads. Website browsers, such as Chrome, Safari, Firefox and Microsoft Edge, allow users to adjust their privacy settings and delete or manage cookies. Changes made on one device do not carry over to other devices, so adjust these settings on any device you use to access the internet.

Smartphone privacy. Most mobile devices allow users to control whether they receive targeted ads based on app usage and browsing activity. Settings include: resetting advertising identifiers, tracking control, location control and ad personalization. Toggling these settings will change the permissions of apps and browsers used on a mobile device. The Digital Advertising Alliance and the Network Advertising Initiative also have free opt-out tools for consumers who wish to stop receiving targeted advertisements. Learn more about adjusting privacy settings for your devices at FTC.gov.



Business Briefs

By Mary Craft
mkay512@aol.com

The Cuban restaurant at Marker 37 will have the covered patio along the trailer/commercial kitchen enclosed with air conditioning/heating but it will also be able to be opened up when the weather is nice. Chef Angel who has been at Snoopy’s for years and who was born in Cuba is working on the menu with his son Daniel who is currently in the kitchen at The Pearl and will be the chef at The Cuban. The building next door, that will have the indoor seating, is currently being remodeled. Chef Luis who is the new executive chef will oversee all the restaurants at Sunset Island. He was a chef for over 20 years in Italy until Covid when he returned to his native Puerto Rico. Luis will be concentrating on The Cuban initially until it gets going and may add a couple of Puerto Rican dishes to the menu. Later he will be mainly at The Pearl. He took his culinary skills to Europe because colleagues he respected said that’s where they really know how to cook. He chose Italy over France because “In France they know how to make a filet mignon in 50 different sauces but in Italy they know how to make a filet mignon 50 different ways.” When Luis posted his resume on ZipRecruiter he got offers from across the country but decided on Texas. “Then I saw Corpus Christi and that is “Body of Christ” and I am Catholic and it was like I was sent a message.” His six and eight year old children will attend Seashore Learning Center. May 1st is the target date for The Cuban.



The Cuban mural artist Tim Charo

Bob Hall cont. from A1

move dedicated an additional \$1 million from a combination of funds from different sources to add a restaurant structure. The pilings on the new pier will be made of treated steel filled with concrete and will be surrounded by a protective sleeve made of ultra- high molecular weight polyethylene (UHMW) which is designed to extend the life of steel pilings by 15 years, according to designers. The pier surface will consist of five by thirteen-foot wide wooden panels designed to pop off during high wave and water events which sit atop 33-foot long concrete support beams. The railings will be of wood construction at a height of three-and-one-half feet. The plans do not include benches or shade structures, but do include lighting under the pier. The plans call for two sets of public restrooms, one set is to be located in the free area of the pier, a second set behind a gate where a fee is required. It also includes a concession area which will be operated by the county. The plans approved by county officials in March included the restaurant structure which was then at 30% design. In anticipation of adding the restaurant building the

Calypso Drive & Dive at the old Sonic should be open by the end of April. It will have a full liquor bar with specialty cocktails and frozen drinks. The burgers will be fresh never frozen. Should be a great place to grab food and a frozen Margarita on the way to the beach and it is golf cart accessible.

Mother Clucker Farms will bring their fresh eggs to Champs Meat Market when they open, hopefully by June, in the old Donut Palace next to Island Cleaners. You will be able to purchase rainbow chicken eggs, duck eggs, quail eggs and pickled quail eggs. You know the eggs will be fresh because owner Daniel Graves is also the manager of the WB Liquors in the same strip center so delivery is no problem.



The **Subway on the Island** changed ownership a couple of months ago and there have been some positive changes. The breakfast menu is back and available most days all day and a deli meat slicer has been added so the meats are now freshly sliced. The hours have been extended to 9 am - 10 pm daily. Manager Arturo is there onsite along with his mother, Lina, who has been there 12 years so it now doesn’t really have the feel of a chain restaurant.

Tay by the Bay Dance Party will be held at Roberts Point Park in Port A on Friday, May 10th 6 - 9 pm. There will be Taylor Swift themed prizes with games and contests. Enjoy refreshments, a friendship bracelet and temporary tattoo station. It is presented by Port A Parks & Recreation and is free.

Jackfish Avenue Street Project has moved to Phase Two so cars are still going west but now on the newly paved half of the road.

CC Parks & Rec has added three benches around the Aquarius Park playground and one bench at the basketball sometimes pickleball court.

The Seawall Town Hall Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11th 6 pm at the Seashore Middle Academy gym next to Hardknocks. Join city officials to discuss the proposed Seawall Project. You will be able to watch it live on YouTube or Facebook.

plans call for the area of the pier where the structure will be located to be reinforced to allow for the additional of the building without further work. The plan approved by county officials in March call for a public space fifty-eight by fifty-eight feet which will eventually be included in the restaurant structure along with the only remaining piece of the former pier currently standing bringing the total restaurant space to 5000 square-feet. The restaurant The restaurant building, referred to as a Third Party Concession area in the plans, is estimated to cost a total of \$2.5 million with \$1.5 million remaining from original funding. The Port of Corpus Christi has agree to provide \$250,000 in 2024 and an additional \$250,000 in 2025. In addition Chesney and County Judge Connie Scott allocated an additional \$500,000 from county funds provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to reach the \$2.5 million needed for construction of the restaurant structure. There is currently \$19.5 million available for the project but the exact cost of rebuilding the pier and restaurant building are unknown until the bids are opened on May 9.

New Life Church is building a new 2,000 seat worship center next to their church on Flour Bluff Drive. There is a second church at Airline and McArde and upon completion of the new building the two campuses will be combined.

CC Gulf Beach Lifeguard Tryouts will be held on Saturday, April 13th 6 - 7 pm and also on 4/20, 5/11 and 5/18 at the CC Natatorium on 3202 Cabaniss Parkway. Online job applications can be completed at cctexasjobs.com. The pay is \$18/hour and you must be 16 or older.

The Lozano Golf Center driving range may be fully open in May and will have LED lighting for nighttime practice. They are currently using nets at the range. The Firefly lighted 9 hole course should be opening this summer and golfers will be able to play until midnight during daylight savings time and 10 pm the rest of the year according to their website. It will have three par 4 holes and the rest par 3. The course is located at 4401 Old Brownsville Road.



Spring Fling Pop Up Party featuring jewelry, soaps, candles and skin care will be held Thursday, April 11 and Friday the 12th 11 am - 7 pm at The Gathering 14814 Compass.

Steel Magnolias will be performed at the Port Aransas Community Theater Thursday, April 11th until Sunday the 28th. Tickets are \$22.

Padre Island Enrichment Club (PIE) awards five scholarships to high school seniors that reside on the Island. Students can obtain applications at their school’s counselor’s office or by contacting Maureen Dean at thorsmom1@aol.com. Deadline is Friday, April 26th and selections will be announced at the May 10th luncheon.

Indoor Pickleball has open play every Tuesday 5 - 8 pm at Seashore Middle Academy for just a \$5 school donation. The school is located next to Hardknocks.

Oso Golf Course is now easier to get a good tee time now that the Snow Birds have left. Enjoy it until the summer season begins.

Flour Bluff Youth Flag Football is accepting registrations for three Summer Flag Tournaments weekends on 6/1, 6/29 and 7/20. The age groups range from 6 and under to 16 and under. The cost is \$100 for all three.

The Corpus Christi Car Show will feature custom car, truck and motorcycles at the American Bank Center Exhibit Hall on Saturday, April 13th starting at noon. The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders will also be there for photo-ops. All of the fees received from those who register a vehicle will go to Bikes for Kids. Admission is \$10 and free for age 11 and under.

Padre Island Farmers Market will be at the Island Presbyterian Church on Thursday April 18th 4 - 8 pm. Last month I got a jar of the spicy Scary Larry Pickles and, hopefully, they are back this week because they give pickles a great twist. Another unique vendor was the EndoZondo Farms that is a family owned native Texan hemp company.



Brooklyn Pie Company will have a Seashore Charter Schools special with \$5 from every Seashore special pie purchased donated to the schools through the end of April. They added a new menu about a month ago and it includes their nine flavors of wings.

The March 2024 Padre Island Housing Report paints quite a different picture than a year ago. There are 278 active listings which is 82% more than last year and 28 closed sales is 41% less than last March. That definitely shows it’s a buyer’s market.

Chicago The Musical will be at Selena Auditorium on Thursday, April 25th 7:30 pm. This auditorium is great place to attend because seating is only around 2,500 and it has a great acoustical rating.

Camp Marlin weekly summer camps in Port A is now accepting registrations. Each week has a different theme and the cost is \$125. The camps run June 3rd through August 2nd.



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Sports

Sports Talk Special to The Island Moon



History of The NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament

By Dotson Lewis

Dotson's Note: The NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament, branded as March Madness, is a single-elimination tournament played in the United States to determine the men's college basketball national champion of the Division I level in the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Played mostly during March, the tournament consists of 68 teams and was first conducted in 1939. Known for its upsets of favored teams, it has become one of the biggest annual sporting events in the United States. Thanks to Bill Morgan for the facts and photos contained in this report.

The 68-team format was adopted in 2011; it had remained largely unchanged since 1985 when it expanded to 64 teams. Before then, the tournament sized varied from as little as 8 to as many as 53. The field was restricted to conference champions until at-large bids were extended in 1975 and teams were not fully seeded until 1979. In 2020, the tournament was cancelled for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic; in the subsequent season, the tournament was contested completely in the state of Indiana as a precaution.



37 different schools have won the tournament to date (4/12/24). UCLA has the most with 11 championships; their coach John Wooden has the most titles of any coach with 10. The University of Kentucky (UK) has eight championships, the University of North Carolina and the University of Connecticut have six championships. Duke University, and Indiana University have five championships, the University of Kansas (KU) has four championships, and Villanova University has three championships. Seven programs are tied with two national championships, and 23 teams have won the national championship once.

All tournament games are broadcast by CBS, TBS, TNT, and truTV under the program name NCAA March Madness. With a contract through 2032, Paramount Global and Warner Bros. Discovery pay \$891 million annually for the broadcast rights. The NCAA distributes revenue to participating teams based on how far they advance, which provides significant funding for college athletics. The tournament has become part of American popular culture through bracket contests that award money and prizes for correctly predicting the outcomes of the most games. In 2023, Sports Illustrated reported that an estimated 60 to 100 million brackets are filled out each year.

The first tournament was held in 1939 and was won by Oregon. It was the idea of Ohio State coach Harold Olsen. The National Association of Basketball Coaches operated the first tournament for the NCAA.



From 1939 to 1950, the NCAA tournament consisted of eight teams, with each selected from a geographical district. Multiple conferences were considered part of each district, such as the Missouri Valley and the Big Seven conferences in one district and the Southern and Southeastern conferences in another, which often led to top-ranked teams being left out of the tournament. The issue came to a head in 1950, when the NCAA suggested that third-ranked Kentucky and fifth-ranked North Carolina State

compete in a playoff game for a bid, but Kentucky refused, believing they should be given the bid as the higher-ranked team. In response, the NCAA doubled the field to 16 in 1951, adding two additional districts and six spots for at-large teams. Conferences could still only have one team in the tournament, but multiple conferences from the same geographic district could now be included through at-large bids. This development helped the NCAA compete with the National Invitation Tournament for prestige. In the eight team format, the tournament was split into the East and West Regions, with champions meeting in the national championship game. The first two rounds for each region were conducted at the same site and the national championship and, from 1946, consolation game occurred a week later. Some years, the site of the national championship was the same site as a regional championship and in other years a new site. With the expansion to 16 teams, the tournament retained the original format of the national semifinals being the regional finals in 1951. For the 1952 tournament, there were four regions named East-1, East-2, West-1, West-2, all played at separate sites. The regional champions met for the national semifinals and championship at a separate location a week later, establishing the format with two final rounds of the tournament (although the name "Final Four" would not be used in branding until the 1980s). The 1953 tournament expanded to include 22 teams and added a fifth round, with ten teams receiving a bye to the regional semifinals. The number of teams would fluctuate from 22 to 25 teams over the next two decades, but the number of rounds remained the same. The double region naming was kept until 1956, when the regions were named the East, Midwest, West, and Far West. In 1957, the regions were named East, Mideast, Midwest, and West, which remained until 1985. Regions were paired in the national semifinals based on their geographic locations, with the two eastern regions meeting in one semifinal and two western regions meeting in the other semifinal.

Beginning in 1946, a national third-place game was held before the championship game. Regional third-place games were played in the West from 1939 and the East from 1941. Despite expansion in 1951, there were still only two regions, each with a third-place game. The 1952 tournament had four regions each with a third-place game.



2024 Men Champions

Dotson's Other Note: This era of the tournament was characterized by competition with the National Invitation Tournament. Founded by the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association one year before the NCAA tournament, the NIT was held entirely in New York City at Madison Square Garden. Because New York was the center of the press in the United States, the NIT often received more coverage than the NCAA tournament in early years. Additionally, good teams were often excluded from the NCAA tournament because each conference could only have one bid and conference champions were even excluded because of the 8-district system before 1950. Teams often competed in both tournaments during the first decade, with City College of New York winning both the NIT and NCAA tournament in 1950. Soon after, the NCAA banned teams from participating in both tournaments.



By Andy Purvis

Fifty Years Ago

"He's sitting on 714." Most baseball fans believe it's one of the top five calls of all-time. These two guys are forever joined in baseball lore by less than forty words, spoken into microphone one early evening on April 8, 1974, by Braves broadcaster Milo Hamilton, forty years ago. It was the first game of the new season. The Atlanta Braves were at home against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Here's how the call sounded as Henry Aaron settled into the batter's box. "He's sitting on 714! Here's the pitch by Downing, swinging, there's a drive into left centerfield, that ball is gonna beee...OUT-TA HERE! IT'S GONE! IT'S 715! There's a new home run champion of all-time and it's HENRY AARON!"

Puro Milo

It was "pure" Milo Hamilton. For some of us, baseball is life. I still wonder about the places he's been, the players he's interviewed and the scores of fans he's entertained. For most of us, he's Uncle Milo. He was family; he came into our homes 162 times a year, until these last couple of years. I even listened to his call when I was at the Astros game. He always stirred my imagination. One of the secrets of baseball is that you play almost every day. Therefore redemption was only hours away. Milo used the game to help people discover themselves. They could use those discoveries to confront anything in their life. Baseball is a teacher; it reveals your heart and soul and the game is designed to reveal it to you. There will never be another like him as far as I'm concerned; I love the old man. As he got older, he began to look tired, frail, and almost sickly until he found his way into the announcer booth or onto the field of play. It was like flipping a switch. A microphone made his eyes light up like lanterns. The game simply turned him on. Milo could sing "Mary Had a Little Lamb," and make you laugh. He walked every day into his radio booth intoxicated by the promise of that day's game. He didn't like being surprised; he studied and saved his information in a satchel that may have been as old as him. He loved baseball so much; even his computer wore batting gloves. No one wanted to talk to Milo Hamilton about another announcer or player; they wanted to talk about Milo Hamilton. The longer an announcer stays with the same team the more the fans identify with that team. Fathers, sons, and sons of sons, we all become a part of his history.

Sixty-seven years of scorecard history

His educated eyes could fill books with the magic of the grand old game. Most of us know about his calls of eleven no-hitters, the grand slams, and historic home runs. For sixty-seven years, he opened his scorecard and charted baseball history. He taught us how to figure batting averages, told us how players got their nicknames and why. He described routine double-plays, the importance of a bunt single, why stealing third increases the chances of scoring by nine, and the reason so many players strike out looking. He taught us about Uncle Charlie, twin killings, chin music, and frozen ropes. Seeing-Eye singles, right down Kirby and "Holy Toledo, what a play!" became his signature calls. Every play reminded him of days gone by, when only the player, the city, and the circumstances were different. I would love to see through his eyes, if only for a moment. Listening to him call a game made me feel like a hundred dollar bill in a two dollar wallet. Writer Phil Hirsh once wrote, "Baseball is the only game you can see on the radio." Milo made it easy for all of us. His canyon deep voice was unmistakable. He was always "in" the game. You could never tell by his tone of voice whether his team was behind or ahead. Everybody wanted to be connected, to be a part of him. Let's call that a professional.



Hank Aaron

Baseball looks so easy to play from your seat. It is, in fact, the hardest of them all. The game moves at a pace where a grandfather can talk about what's happening on the field with his grandson. They see and experience virtually the same game. Milo taught me how to score a game, what to look for, how to anticipate a great play. He gave us a history lesson every night and allowed us to dream about what it would be like to play Major League baseball. All words seemed better to me when spoken by Milo Hamilton.

What you saw was what you got with Milo. Not many of us find our true place in life; that does not hold true for Milo Hamilton. I can't imagine him doing anything else. Milo has been a part of the Dennis & Andy's Q & A Session radio show for almost twenty years. Twice every year he joins us on the air, live from Houston, Texas. My partner Dennis Quinn always referred to our interviews as "Milo unplugged." On two different occasions, we took our show on the road to Minute Maid Park, and Milo was nice enough to join us there, in the booth, talking baseball. We talked old school baseball; from "Stan the Man" and "Hammerin' Hank" to "The Ryan Express." We covered everything from the disappearance of the hook slide to the tragedy of steroids and everything in between. There is never a time I did not learn something. It has been said that the greatest classroom often lies at the feet of the elderly. How true.

Hall of Fame

Milo was inducted into the Broadcast Wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1992. He was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 2000. He has been an announcer for 67 years. His first job in Major League baseball started in 1953, with the St. Louis Browns. He has also announced for six other Major League clubs.

I once told him how much he was loved as I was leaving his company. I think it may have surprised him. He didn't know how to respond, but he smiled. I'm absolutely sure he knows he's loved, but does not hear it enough. We are always more appreciative of something we had and have now lost.

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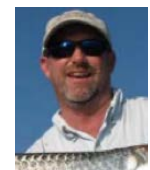
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Island Outdoors



By Jay Gardner

On the Rocks

I was standing in the back row of the Packery Channel ribbon “re-cutting” ceremony the other day, listening to all the folks pat each other on the back for getting the project done, and I had to laugh. Four years ago, we had a different assistant city manager, who was promising us at the Island Strategic Action Committee that he was “working on it.” Thankfully several of us on the committee, including then-chair Brud, Charles, and me didn’t accept that and went our own direction. Charles is friends with Michael Cloud, and a phone call from him and a few texts from Brud and me, and Michael was on it. Next, city staff really picked up the ball and ran with it. Tammy is no longer with the city, but she did some heavy lifting, as did Aimee, and Heather got involved too. The “team” barely made the deadline to get the application tweaked just right, but it finally came through and the funding came in under the wire.

Citizen Committees are important
That goes to show the importance of citizen committees and pushing to get things done, working along with staff. Unfortunately, I learned that our new Island liaison Roger Montelongo is headed for greener pastures himself. He will be doing similar work of getting projects done, although it will be out in the Carolinas. Roger was instrumental in prying the door open a bit more between the Island and city hall. He pushed hard to get the Mobility Plan funding implemented and down the road, and he did a lot of the research himself. He reached out to developers and stakeholders and got their feedback. I do want to thank the city manager Peter for hiring an Island liaison in the first place, thank Roger for his service, and wish him luck in the future.

Island Mobility Plan
Speaking of the Mobility Plan, Roger will be having his last public meeting on Monday, April 15th at the Seashore Middle School Academy from 5-6:30pm, with a formal presentation at 5:30pm. If you haven’t made any of the previous meetings, or have come up with a new idea for Island Mobility, now is your chance to show up and discuss it with the consultants and staff. I have been working with them for what seems like years, and I’m excitedly waiting to get the draft out and finalized. Make sure to show up and check it out and give your feedback, that way we can prioritize the projects and get them going. I got my hot little hands on an advance copy the other day, and they have a good handful of suggested projects. I am scheduled to be out of town, but we’ll see.

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Bird Migration
Ebird is starting to fire up with some really crazy hummingbird migrants that are being spotted up and down the coast. There was a Mexican Violetear reported in the valley the other day, and along with the Green breasted mango that was up the coast not too long ago, makes me want to put up five more feeders. The reports are starting to crank up at Blucher Park, so it will be time for some good fallouts here in the next week or so.

Water Woes
My article last week regarding the Evangeline sparked some reactions from a few folks, notably Ed from the Evangeline Groundwater Project (EGP). He corrected me on a few things, most importantly that the water they get out of the ground is TCEQ potable water, and that they only add a bit of chlorine in before sending it out into the system. No desal or reverse osmosis needed. Sinton has been pumping out of the same formation for 30+ years, which seems pretty drought tolerant to me! I didn’t have a chance to reach out to Ed this week but will soon.

Stock up on stamps
Well folks, I just read that the postal service is planning on increasing the price of stamps yet again, from the recent hike of 68 cents, adding another nickel to get to 73 cents for a stamp. So, if you use stamps like I do, go out and buy a few books. We’re still in this messed up weather pattern complete with tides to the dunes. Drop me a line at tarponchaser@mail.com and we’ll see you here next week On the Rocks.



A lot of “Mermaid’s Purses” are washing in with the high tides.



Backwater Adventures

By Joey Farah
Farah’s Fishing Adventures

Fishing Hard Times

This week has been a turn around with high winds and low tides. During drastic conditions we still find some great catches but definitely work hard for them. As of now there is a large body of stained water that has spread through most of Baffin Bay and the Laguna Madre. It started this February when a dredge barge was working the mouth of Baffin and dumping muddy material out of the channel into the flats. This is by far the most damaging practice going on in our Texas Bays. Here, it brings up the salt deposits, pollution, and settled algae blooms in the deep black mud and lets the winds and tides scatter them in all directions. This winter it stayed contained to the mouth of Baffin until the waters warmed up and winds spread it out. Right now we have a low tide that has pulled it north. This along with the fact that our oxygen drops during these low tides and winds from all directions over 30mph has made fishing tough.

Plenty to eat anytime!
The amount of small bait in all reaches of the area is amazing. Swarms of tiny minnows everywhere and hordes of tiny shrimp and crabs in our tidal areas awake at night and feed the gamefish every night. The size of most of this food source is very small compared to the lures and live baits we are using. Downsizing can help but more importantly we should try to understand when they are feeding on these specific things and counter them on the opposite lunar feedings. I’m catching my trout in areas where gamefish are feeding on mullet and pin perch at dawn and dusk, the deeper areas where



This beautiful redfish came from a hard day catching. Low tides and dirty water combined with night time feeding can make bites few and far between at times

shrimp and crabs are hiding, are a buffet during the night, but can be great mid-day and afternoon hotspots for anglers. High winds doesn’t mean bad fishing, they don’t have to see the lures they can feel them very easily. I’m sticking to large soft plastics with paddle tails so that I can create lots of vibration and displacement in rough conditions. With a lighter jig head I can hover the baits in the mid water column and allow more time for gamefish to get in position and make a successful strike.

Marker 37
Marker 37 Marina has two slips open for YOU to call home for your boat! I’m so relaxed when I pull up in the shade and out of the wind, sun, and covered from the birds. The live shrimp flags have been up every day and there is always friendly faces there to help you.

Change is just a moon phase away
Tides will roll back in and our fishing will ignite again. Spring always rolls in in pulses so don’t get turned off. A green change of tide is just a moon phase away. I am looking forward to some great and consistent weather and fishing in May! That’s when my next open dates are on the calendar. I’d love to invite all of our ISLAND FAMILY to bring their friends, family, and guests to a fun and learning day on the water. Leave your day with confidence and years of angling skills, able to read the water, and be familiar with some new fishing grounds. Just follow all of our catches of Facebook at JOEY FARAHS BACKWATER FISHING, or give me a shout at 361-442-8145



This MASKED MAN brought this trout to hand along the east side of the Laguna Madre near Bird Island this week on one of our 40mph wind days. A big DOWN SOUTH LURES SUPER MODEL, Purple Reign did the trick.

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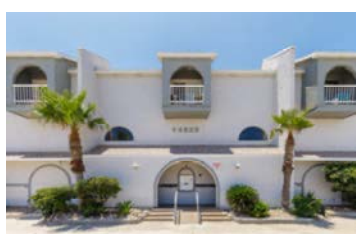
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14901 Windward #303 3BR/2.5 BTH @ 1541 sqft. Townhome @ Beach Breeze. Short walk to beach, immaculate & move in ready. **\$329,000** Call **Dorothy Ernst** 361-563-8486.



14905 Packery View Loop Just in time for summer w/ family + friends! 2/3 poolside townhome, walking distance to the beach. **\$420,000** Call **Tinker Boos** for an appt. to see at 361-563-6641.



14911 Packery View Loop Check out this best priced unit in this Great Resort. Only a short walk to the beach + relax in 1 of 2 pools. **\$420,000** Call **Tinker Boos** early for an appt. at 361-563-6641.



14911 Village Beach Dr. 2/2 gorgeous poolside townhome just a quick walk to the beach! 1041 sq. ft. & fully furnished. **\$419,000.** Call **Kim Mogford** at 361-434-8522.



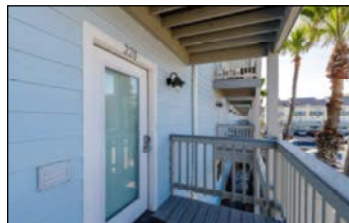
14521 E Cabana #301 1 of 2 pool side units at Marquesas Townhomes. Selling fully furnished and turnkey ready to rent or use. New interior paint, new furnishings, and new exterior AC. **\$324,900** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914.



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



14920 Packery View Loop 4 bed/ 4 bath 3-story townhome with views of the Gulf. Completely furnished. **\$585,000** Call **Kim Mogford** 361-434-8522.



14802 Windward #228 2 bed 2.5 bath condo with amazing duneside views at a beautiful beachfront property. Fully furnished and ready for island living. \$399,900. Call **Charlie Knoll** at 361-443-2499.



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



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



14428 Compass #204 Canal front 1BR/1BTH @ 636sqft condo newly renovated with paint, decor, granite countertops, and new hurricane sliding glass door and windows. **\$236,500.** Call **Randy Corpuz** 361-765-9914.



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.



15425 Fortuna Bay 303 3rd floor canal front condo selling fully furnished. 2BR/2BTH @ 1066sqft. Vaulted ceiling, fireplace, ss appliances and modern contemporary furnishings. **\$334,900** Call **Randy Corpuz** at 361-765-9914.

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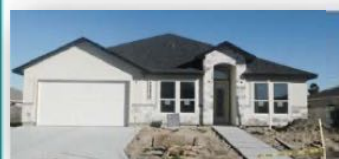


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13841 Hawksnest Bay Dr.
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15442 Cruiser St. "B"
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13906 Mingo Cay #6
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15422 Salt Cay A & D
1/1 waterfront units
\$1,000/month
each

15542 Cuttysark
3/2/2
\$2,600/month

16109 Broomsedge
3/2/2
\$2,600/month



14802 Whitecap Blvd. #203 2/2 and only feet from the beach! Great views. Completely furnished. **\$349,000** Call **Kim Mogford** at 361-434-8522.



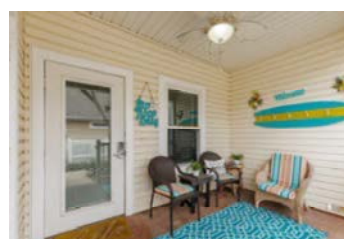
13718 Sea Horse Live on the island and not break the bank! 3BR/2BTH plus flex room @ 1684 sqft. Great NPI location with easy on/off access to Park Rd 22. **\$349,900** Call **Randy** 361-765-9914.



14213 Cabo Blanco 5BR/4BTH plus two flex rooms @ 2892sqft. Spacious custom built Empire Home with a beautiful outdoor living space that includes a fully turfed backyard. **\$674,900.** Call **Randy** 361-765-9914.



14300 S Padre Island Dr. #214 Waterfront 2 bed/1 bath condo with amazing views! Fully furnished. **\$199,900** Call **Kim Mogford** at 361-434-8522.



15209 S Padre Island Dr. #802 Adorable 1 bed/1 bath townhome outfitted in coastal decor. Fully furnished. **\$259,900** Call **Kim Mogford** at 361-434-8522



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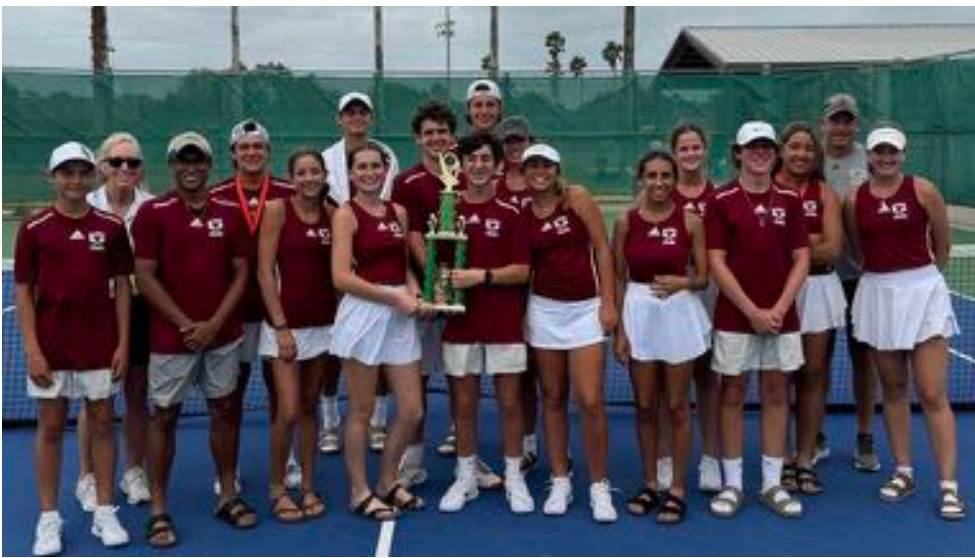
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Big Bloom Plant Sale



The South Texas Botanical Gardens held their Big Bloom Plant Sale and Community Day on Saturday. People waited in line to get in for the special \$2 entry, arriving with empty carts and wagons and some taking several loaded trips back to their car. Laura's Empanadas, a great Island food truck, was serving up breakfast and lunch, while families released butterflies and ladybugs, pet snakes, and took family photos in the flowers. Their Birdiest Festival in America is coming up April 24-28, with another community day on that Saturday.
Photos and Story By Debbie Noble



Harlingen South Elite Invitational Tournament champions. Congratulations Hornet Tennis! 1st place with 82 total points



Photos courtesy of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies

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Ribbon Cutting for CASA



Nate's Next Kid Up and CASA of the Coastal Bend held Ringing of the Bells and Ribbon Cutting for CASA of the Coastal Bend at In The Game Funtrackers this evening. Lots of great organizations came to help support as we rang the bells to draw attention to children who are victims of abuse and neglect. Mayor Paulette M. Guajardo helped Nate cut the ribbon for a new art collection which was created by foster kids in the coastal bend and which will be displayed at In the Game Funtrackers. Photos By Debbie Noble



Friends of Lynn Fowler gave him a send off at the beach on Saturday. Photo by Ronnie Narmour

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Thoughts from Reverend Ken

By Rev. Dr. Ken

Tax man. It’s that time of year again, as I scramble to file my return via E-File.

There’s a story told about a visitor from the Netherlands telling an American about the red, white, and blue in the Dutch flag. The flag symbolizes taxes she said. We get red when we talk about them; we get white when we get the bill; we get blue when we pay them. The American said the same is true for us, except we see stars, as well.

This week it’s income taxes; in time to come it will be property taxes. The Beatles sang about the tax man in protest against the reported 90% of their earnings they paid in taxes in the 1960’s. I guess it’s all relative. The tax man taxes the street, your seat, the heat, your feet wrote George Harrison. Tax man and the politics of taxes. Add a little religion and let the fun begin!

Jesus once got drawn into a discussion of taxes and politics. He was asked, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” It was a “gotcha question.” The religious leaders who asked the question figured Jesus would get in trouble no matter how he answered. If he answered that taxes are lawful, it would give offence to those religious leaders who hated the empire’s constant meddling as well as the poor who were burdened by the tax. If he spoke out against the tax, the people loyal to Rome would take news of his seditious talk to the powers that be.

Jesus was not fooled. He reframed the issue by asking to see a coin used to pay the tax. It’s interesting that Jesus’ pockets were empty. His opponents had no trouble supplying a coin on demand. Jesus said to give to the emperor the things that belong to the emperor. Give to God the things that belong to God.

The coin would have had an image of the emperor stamped into it. Give to the emperor what belongs to the emperor; give to God the things that belong to God. Human beings are stamped with the image of God. We belong to God, the God who creates, sustains, nurtures, redeems, saves, heals, and delivers. We look to Jesus.

When we look to Jesus to think about how we live our lives, there is no path to glory that sidesteps humility, surrender, and sacrificial love. There is no permission to secure prosperity at the expense of another person’s suffering. There is no evidence that truth telling is optional. There is no kingdom that favors the contemptuous over the brokenhearted and no church that thrives

for long when it aligns itself with power.

Jesus will not allow us to carve out separate domains of human loyalty, as if we could serve empire and Jesus. The gospel of Jesus does not equal good citizenship. Nor does it call us to totally disengage. Christians navigate the world as citizens of a country and citizens of the kingdom of God. Whatever we render in taxes, whatever our political worldview or loyalties, Christians must never forget we belong entirely to God in Christ. The image of God is encrypted on our souls.

Figuring out what this means for our daily life, as citizens and believers is rarely easy. The complexities of life, family, community, and relationships make for great challenge. We must always remember that if our political worldview and agenda perfectly equal God’s, we can be sure our idolatry of power is in play.

Figuring out our taxes is easy; yes, we are wise to pay them. What’s much harder is living out our convictions with a Christlike humility and compassion. We don’t have the option of fudging on love, mercy, peace, and justice for some greater political end. We can’t isolate our political choices and actions as if they don’t reflect who we are as image-bearers of the Creator. If everything belongs to God, then our spiritual lives and our political lives must cohere.

It’s time again for the tax man. Give the emperor what belongs to the emperor. Our first loyalty, however, is to a realm that will remain long after earthly empires rise and fall. Earthly powers’ realm is limited and temporal. God’s reign is eternal and all-encompassing. Give to God what is God’s. Give God everything.

Just a quick note, remember beach worship at the end of Whitecap Blvd begins May 5, 8 am! Hope to see you there!

Speaking of loyalties, 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



By the wind sailors. Evelyn Pless-Schuberth

Skipper Tales

Traces

By Bob Skipper

We have shared so much together,
This beauty that bonded with me.
We’ve shared lots of good and bad times,
And that’s the way it will always be.
She’s left traces of her footprints,
On the sands and shore, left behind.
But the best of all the traces she left,
Were the traces she left on my mind.
She moves with the rhythm of changing tides,
Her heartbeats are traces of pure gold.
But the ones I remember so vividly,
Were the traces she left on my soul.
I think of the love she has hidden away,
She’s determined to make a new start.
And the traces she shared unselfishly,
Were the traces she left on my heart.
Photo by Deborah Kay Smith-Barney



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Going Easy On You...

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

Knuckle-Cracker

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

Mind-Numbing Frustration

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

Brain-Buster

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

Island Crossword
Crossword Solution on classifieds page

Across

1. Cicatrix

5. The Sundance Kid's girl

9. Legit

14. First rate

15. Sound from a chapel tower

16. Wear away

17. Religious image

18. Type of lily

19. Showed more than once

20. Start of a quip

23. Flamenco dancer's exclamation

24. It's in all living cells

25. One holding property in trust

29. Tater

31. James' creator

34. '70s hair style

35. More of the quip

38. Saturday AM TV star

39. Way back when

40. Cry of dismay

41. More of the quip

45. Defeat

46. Tarzan player Ron

47. Acorns, in maturity

48. Highlands misses

50. Georgia, once

51. Crony

52. End of the quip

59. Odorless, colorless, inert gas

61. Jai ____

62. Apothecary measure

63. Demonstrated

64. ____ contendere

65. Madame Bovary

66. Word with sea or iron

67. Actress Verdon

68. Giraffe's prominence

Down

1. Uttered

2. Ms. Chanel

3. Soon, ere now

4. Big budget item

5. Shoulder ornament

6. To the point

7. Like a tuned drumhead

8. Supplicant's request

9. Portico's cousin

10. It may have boxes and boxers

11. Heavenly Father

12. Mrs. Cantor

13. Lair

21. "Average" guy

22. Definitely the case

25. Cleanse the entire body

26. Run ____ of the law

27. Literary element

28. Kind of wait

29. Edible bulbs of a lily

30. Teen's big night

31. Waits for the green

32. Degrade

33. Homes for hatchlings

36. Untalented artist

37. Captures the felon

42. Johnny Cash's daughter

43. Tale

44. Glee

49. TV alien from Melmac

50. "The ____ of Kilimanjaro"

51. "The Power of Positive Thinking" writer

52. Borodin's prince

53. Mild expletive

54. Radiance

55. Utopia

56. Stadium cover

57. Fighting force, briefly

58. Summit

59. Fireplace find

60. Greek letter



On Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at approximately 2pm, the Corpus Christi Police Department received information from the Kleberg County Sheriff's Office and the PINS Park Rangers that they located a deceased male at the Padre Island National Seashore. CCPD has confirmed with Kleberg County Sheriff's Office and PINS Park Rangers that the deceased male subject is not Caleb Harris and is not associated with the disappearance of Caleb Harris.

There is no foul play suspected. If you have information regarding the disappearance of Caleb Harris, please contact the Corpus Christi Police Department at

(361) 826-2840

or you can submit an anonymous tip at Crime Stoppers (361) 888-TIPS (888-8477). The tipline number set up by the Harris family is

(361) 826-2950



Port Aransas police on Wednesday, April 10, identified the woman who died after the truck she was in accidentally drove into the ship channel in Port Aransas on Monday, April 8.

Lynna Koehn, 58, of Blanco was found dead in the wreckage of the truck when first responders recovered the vehicle on Tuesday, April 9, said Sgt. Joseph Rivas, of the Port Aransas Police Department.

Daniel Darliek, 54, of Port Lavaca, got out of the water on his own after the accident. He was treated for minor injuries and released from the scene after he gave police a statement.

An investigation has indicated that Koehn drove the truck into the channel by accident, Rivas said.

Police Blotter April 1-April 7

JFK Causeway to SPID/Aquarius Intersection

Disturbances
11600 block SPID 9 pm April 4
Suspicious Person
10800 block SPID Midnight April 5

Traffic
26 Traffic Stops
13400 block SPID 2 am April 2
Crash
14000 block SPID Noon April 1
Crash/Hit and Run

SPID West to Laguna Madre
Crimes against Person
13900 block Flintlock Dr. 10 pm April 2 Assault

Crimes against Property
14900 block Canadian Mist 8 pm April 6 Theft of Services
13600 block Port Royal 2 pm April 6 Trespassing
14800 block Compass 3 pm April 5 Theft of Services
14800 block Compass St. 1 pm April 5 Burglary of a Vehicle
14300 block Cruiser 2 pm April 3 Burglary

Disturbances
14900 block Canadian Mist 10 am April 5
14600 block SPID Midnight April 5 Noise Ordinance Violation
14400 block SPID 5 pm April 3
15700 block Finistere 2 pm April 4 Noise Ordinance Violation
Suspicious Person

14700 block SPID 4 pm April 7
Cobo De Bar Circle/Carlos Fifth Ct. 4 pm April 7
Verdemar Dr./SPID 2 pm April 5
15200 block Caravel 3 am April 7
14000 block Whitecap Blvd. 3 pm April 6
15000 block Aquarius Dr. 10 am April 4

Traffic
151 Traffic Stops
SPID/Jackfish 10 am April 6 Crash
Commodores Dr./SPID 7 pm April 3 Crash
13900 block Windjammer 5 pm April 3 Parking Violation
Gypsy St./Hawksnest Bay Dr. 1 pm April 1 Parking Violation
SPID East to Gulf of Mexico – north to the City Limits
Crimes against Property
15100 block Leeward 6 pm April 2 Trespassing
14800 block Windward 6 pm April 6 Trespassing

Disturbances
100 block Beach Access Road 3 10 am Fire (Controlled burn)
Suspicious Person
15800 block SPID 10 pm April 7
14600 block Viento Del Mar 2 pm April 3
100 block Zahn Road 4 am April 1
Traffic
86 Traffic Stops
9000 block SH 361 11 pm April 5
DWI



Help us spread the word about sea turtle nesting season!
With nesting season beginning in late March, we are urging Texas beach visitors to stay vigilant, drive slowly and avoid disturbing nest sites to help protect imperiled sea turtles, including the endangered Kemp's ridley and the threatened loggerhead and green sea turtles. By reporting your sea turtle nesting sightings promptly from March through September, you can directly contribute to the success of these nesting attempts and help recover sea turtle populations on the Texas coast.
If a nesting sea turtle is seen, we advise visitors in Texas to quickly report the event by calling 1-866-TURTLE-5 (1-866-887-8535). After observing and reporting a sea turtle, visitors are asked to remain at the site until a biologist arrives. If it is not possible to stay until a biologist arrives, visitors are asked to carefully mark the site by laying pieces of beach debris, such as pieces of wood or other debris, in a large circle around the nest area so biologists will be able to find the nest when they arrive.
Together, we can help these vulnerable species thrive once again. Photo of a National Park Service biologist recording data on a Kemp's ridley sea turtle. Photo by NPS.

There are still a few volunteer slots for Texas SandFest.

Here is some info on the changes with KPABs involvement this year. KPAB first initiated recycling at Texas SandFest in 2017! Thank you to all of our volunteers who have worked hard through six SandFest events to prove that it can work. Last year, we recycled 1180 lbs of aluminum and 980 lbs of cardboard - estimated at 28,320 cans and 908-12 in boxes! We are so proud to announce that aluminum and cardboard recycling has now become

a part of the SandFest waste management! Way to go KPAB and Texas SandFest! KPAB has purchased more recycling bins to use at the event and these will be available for other events in Port Aransas to borrow. So - KPAB doesn't need to schedule a separate workforce of volunteers to work recycling for the event. We highly encourage our volunteers to sign up to volunteer through SandFest to help with other needs. You can help before, during or after the event.



Each year, Texas SandFest hosts a raffle for an ultimate golf cart giveaway. This year's is a six-seater beauty. If you want to try your luck at an easy way to win a brand-new golf cart, this is for you.



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Individual and group rates available
Go to Padre Boat Tours on Facebook!

Legendary Port Aransas Captain Dee Wallace inducted into the Texas Saltwater Fishing Hall of Fame

To no one's surprise legendary Port Aransas Captain Dee Wallace has now been inducted into the Texas Saltwater Fishing Hall of Fame.
Anyone who has spent any time in Port Aransas in the past half century has probably run across Captain Dee. He attended school in Port Aransas before there was a high school and became a boat caption there after working overseas.
Dee was a pioneer in bringing no-kill fishing tournaments to Port Aransas and has judged the contests for more than a decade using videos to identify fish in catch and release tournaments. He moved back to Port Aransas full-time in 2002 and in 2015 entered the Poco Bueno Fishing Tournament as Captain of the Hasta Luego and won first place. He was also involved with the Deep Sea Roundup Fishing Tournament for 21 years. He continues in an officiating role for tournaments such as the Dean Hawn Fishing Tournament and Houston Big Game Fishing Club's Lonestar Shootout Billfish Tournament. He is on the Board of Directors for the Texas Legends Billfish Tournament and has managed that tournament for the last three years. He is also on the board of the Port Aransas Ladies Powder Puff Tournament.

A long history

Dee began as a boat captain in the oil industry running ocean-going boats between Trinidad and Venezuela before running boats along the East Coast from the Great Lakes to Florida and crossing the Atlantic to Normandy where he lived for four years while overseeing the building of the French Look for Jean Paul Richard, a wealthy and world renowned French light tackle fisherman. Once the French Look was complete he captained it halfway around the world from France to Australia to Brazil. In recent years he has captained annual fishing expeditions to Nova Scotia in pursuit of tuna.

A judge's life

As a judge in the Deep Sea Roundup Dee watched videos of catches to determine tournament points often finding himself on the receiving end of unhappy comments from anglers. When asked if he ever received any death threats from angry fishermen Dee replied, "If I don't get at least three a year it's a slow year."
On one occasion the writer witnessed an angler argue with Dee as they watched a video to determine if the catch was a white or blue marlin.
"You can see the fin right there," the man insisted. "It's a blue."
"I don't see it," Dee said, as he squinted at the screen.
"Come on man," the fisherman said. "I need the points."



In his Port Aransas drawl Dee replied, "It's not that kind of tournament son" and the matter was settled.
Dee achieved legendary status when he successfully delivered the motor yacht of San Antonio Spurs owner Peter Holt to Florida after two previous unsuccessful tries by other captains. The problem was a ghost in the electrical system which caused one of the twin screws to shut down making the vessel hard to steer and each time the previous captains had returned to Port Aransas.
"Are you going to turn around if one of the props quits working," Dee was asked. "If I did I would never live it down," Dee said, and was as good as his word. When one of the props quit not long after leaving Port A Dee successfully docked the boat along the Gulf Coast before delivering it to Florida while towing a 40-foot fishing boat. Congratulations to Dee for his induction into the Hall of Fame and we look forward to seeing him around Port Aransas.
Dale Rankin



Captain Dee shakes hands with Port Aransas resident Helfner Appling Jr.

2024 MUSIC LINEUP TEXAS SANDFEST

Friday

Rich Lockhart 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Sarah Hobbs 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Bri Bagwell 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday

Coastal Benders 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
SA Lights 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Squeezebox Bandits 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Micky and the Motorcars 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday

The Dunebillies 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
The Selfless Lovers 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
John Elijah Band 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Spazmatics 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.





By Ronnie Narmour
ronnienarmour@gmail.com
On the local front...



Jim Dugan and family stare at the sun on Monday.

There was an eclipse this week. Why didn't anybody tell me? Just kidding... you couldn't miss it even if you tried. It was kind of nice getting a brief reprieve from all the lousy news. We got to celebrate a moment of darkness... which is similar to the lousy news I suppose. I digress. It was a cloudy day here in Port Aransas on Monday so I got to stare directly at the sun without going blind and I must admit; it was kind of cool. I didn't have any major epiphany or find religion or anything but I did enjoy the moment of calm in the middle of the day. The news guys dissected the event thoroughly. There were mass gatherings and weddings and wedding proposals and live shots of where the sun once was and then wasn't. So now what? It's hard to top the sun going dark and all the associated media hoopla but there's a lot going on around here. For one thing, the weather is trying its best to get in sync with springtime. It's still a little iffy but I'm convinced that we will, in fact, get our fifteen minutes of spring any time now. These sweeping storm systems going border to border across the map are bound to subside sometime. I'm seeing the wildflowers in bloom and our garden is looking strong. Plus, the calendar says it's spring. So bring it on, if only for a little bit, I look forward to those fifteen minutes. Before you know it, summer will rear its ugly head we won't be nothing but hot. And I'm talking hotter than the hinges on the gates of hell complimented by the relentless invasion of tourists spitting on our collective necks. Sound familiar? You get used to it... not.

Happy Birthday Shorty's...



Joe King Carrasco will play Shorty's 78th Anniversary this Saturday at 4.

This is a big weekend for Shorty's Place, being that it's their 78th Anniversary this Saturday! That's big news in the dive bar arena. Shorty's opened in 1946 by Mack Daniel and Gladys "Shorty" Fowler and was operated by their family until 2012 when local restaurateur, Edwin Meyers bought the business from Joy George. When his lease ran out at the flats location in November 2022 Meyers cut the building in half, picked it up and put it on the back of a big truck, hauled it down the street four or five blocks and planted it in the big middle of town, where it lives today. It still has the feel of the "old" Shorty's when you walk into the new location, but it kind of does a head trip on you when you leave... as in, "where did the Coast Guard Station go?" We got used to it though. The cool thing about the new location is that it redefines the area known as "downtown Port A" or at least the "entertainment district." Shorty's is now within spitting distance of most of the other bars in town; The Gaff, Treasure Island, VFW, Red's Riviera, The Salty Dog not to mention most of the popular restaurants in town; MacDaddy's, Lelo's, La Playa, The Venetian Plate, The Crazy Cajun, Castaways and The Tortuga Grill, The Pizzeria, etc. are all within a short walking distance of Shorty's. The annual anniversary

party and the yearly Pig Party are both time honored traditions that give Port A some of its colorful history. This year Shorty's welcomes back one of the greatest artists of Texas music history with the undeniable King of Tex Mex Joe King Carrasco y los Free Mexican Air Force. Joe King has played Shorty's many times through the years and really loves Port Aransas. I've known Joe for many years and I'm close to his family in Oregon. These days he spends much of his time between France, Mexico and Texas and is adored all around the world. Right now he is finishing up his "Eclipse Tejas" tour of Texas and we are grateful he included Shorty's in this run. BTW, one of the shows Joe played on this tour was a high profile show on Town Lake during SXSW for the Steamboat1874 reunion show with Vallejo, Patrice Pike, Ian Moore, Bob Schneider and Soul Hat. Joe King is simply the best! Also on the bill will be soloist Peter Salas and local faves Heavy Soul.

Scattered shots...



John Cortez with Jody Jennings and Matt Perez will play Bron's this Friday.

It was a great week of music last week. I actually made it out to see seven different shows. Shorty's had a couple of top shelf performances by Funk Rock Stereo and the red hot blues man John Cortez. I'm starting to see both of those bands more and more on the local scene. They are definitely two bands to see. Bron's had blues rocker Rich Lockhart and the big ten piece horn band Cruise Control. I swear Cruise Control just keeps getting better and better. That lady singer of theirs, Lisa Lehman is a firecracker! And Treasure Island also had a couple of winners last weekend with the National Nobodyz on Friday and country band Tumble Dry Low on Saturday. The lead man for Tumble Dry Low, Brian Kasik is super talented.



Cajun-Zydeco masters Boudreaux & Pousson will play Shorty's this Friday.

DO NOT MISS LIST
Coming this weekend...



Tryptonite will play Bron's this Saturday.

Coming this weekend on Friday Shorty's has the great Cajun/zydeco band Boudreaux and Pousson, Buddy Cortines of the band Bottle and Bandits is at Treasure Island and Mike McClure is at the Third Coast Theater. On Saturday the super hot jam band Tryptonite will play Bron's, Carson Miller will be at Treasure Island plus the Gaff will have their bi-monthly Belt Sander Races at 4:00 with Minnesota Al providing the tunes... and of course I already mentioned Shorty's Anniversary show with music all day and all night. Also SandFest is on the April 19- 21 and it's Earth Day on the 22nd with the Human Peace Sign at the beach. The fun never stops around here, does it? Be safe out there!!!

And, that's the truth



SandFest 2024 will be here April 19th.



Earth Day this year is on Monday, April 22. Human Peace Sign on the beach at 4 PM in Port A. Photo by Steve Coons

LIVE MUSIC
TONIGHT

Friday, April 12

Boudreaux & Pousson @ Shorty's
John Cortez @ Bron's
Buddy Cortines @ Treasure Island
Mike McClure @ Third Coast Theater
Clark Bros @ Virginia's on the Bay
Tryptonite @ Pelican Lounge
Robert McCoy @ Pearl Oyster Bar
Stoney LaRue @ Brewster Downtown
Cover Tones @ Executive Surf Club
Cruise Control @ South Texas Ice House
Tres Matts @ Exchange
Raul Ayala, Joseph Martinez @ Rockit's
Chainlinks @ Annex
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
18 Hours @ BUS
Michael Anthony Perez @ KBob's
The Groove @ La Playa by the Bay

Saturday, April 13

Joe King Carrasco, Heavy Soul, Peter Salas @ Shorty's 78th Anniversary
BELT SANDER RACES 4:00 @ Gaff
Jim Dugan @ Gaff
Tryptonite @ Bron's Backyard
Carson Miller @ Treasure Island
Billy Snipes @ Island Italian
Clark Bros @ Virginia's on the Bay
Fish Fest @ Conn
Brown Harbor
Raul Ayala @ Pelican Lounge
John Cortez @ Boat House
Ruben Limas @ Pearl Oyster Bar
The Groove @ Rockits
Young Classics @ Exchange
Jonmikael Mrez Band @ Brewster Downtown
Alexismyrisa & Her Vatos Locas @ House of Rock
Michael Anthony Perez @ Tillos Alice
Joey St. Vincent @ Lulu's Landing
Cruise Control @ Sugar Shack
Jules Taylor @ Joe's

JOHN CORTEZ
TRIPTONITE
CHRIS BOSS
RUBEN LIMAS
GROOVE

APR 12
APR 13
APR 19
APR 20
APR 21

Treasure Island

BUDDY CORTINES
CARSON MILLER
BACK PEW REVIVAL
SPLENDIFEROUS
FUNK ROCK STEREO

APR 12
APR 13
APR 19
APR 20
APR 26

SHORTY'S

SELFIE EVERY THURSDAY

BOUDREAUX & POUSSON	APR 12
TRIPTONITE	APR 19
DREAMING IN COLOR	APR 20
JIM DUGAN, TY DIETZ	APR 21
CBDB'S	APR 26

78th Anniversary
Saturday, April 13
Joe King Carrasco (4-7:30)
Heavy Soul (8-12)
Peter Salas (12:30- 3:30)

The Port Aransas Cookbook

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Crabshack Shoreline
Brian Winfrey @ Blackbeard's
Lucky Dogz @ Executive Surf Club

Sunday, April 14

Fish Fest @ Conn
Brown Harbor
Jim Dugan, Ty Dietz @ Shorty's
Brad Ethridge @ Gaff
Clark Bros @ Virginia's on the Bay
Ruben Limas @ Blue Marlin
Jerry Ward @ Pelican Lounge
Raul Ayala @ Rockits
Jennifer Gayle Bradley @ Blackbeard's
Catfish Blues Jam @ Rialto Theater

Monday, April 15

Alonzo Cruz @ Pelican Lounge
Chuck Almarez @ Blackbeard's

Tuesday, April 16

Open Mic w/Rev Matt @ House of Rock
Louie & Celeste Duo @ Exchange
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Los Locals @ Palm Republic

Wednesday, April 17

Brad Ethridge OPEN MIC @ Gaff
Cleartone's @ VFW
Billy Snipes @ Doc's
Ty Dietz @ Vernon's
Dave's Duo @ Katz
Art Barrera @ Pelican Lounge
Ruben Limas @ Blackbeard's
Mantel Jennings @ Exchange

Thursday, April 18

Selfie @ Shorty's
Robt McCoy & Luis Villarreal @ Gaff
Clark Bros @ Virginia's on the Bay
Twin Tribes, Dark Synth @ House of Rock
Jam Night @ Exchange
Brad Brown @ Blackbeard's
Ruben Limas @ Island Italian
Raul Ayala @ Rock Bottom
Michael Anthony Perez @ Brewster Southside

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